

Khaleda's house

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Meanwhile, the BNP chairperson has declined a government proposal for her to have arthritis therapy at a city hospital and instead suggested that the authorities send doctors to the sub-jail where she has been detained since September 3 last year, said a source.

medical board's recommendations will suffice.
"Everyone believes that this government has been detaining her in cases filed for political reasons. Now it is their responsibility to decide which process to follow for her release."

"She would be out automatically once the false charges against her are withdrawn," he continued.
Asked about the other things incidental to her release, her lawyer Nasir Uddin Asim yesterday told The Daily Star that the decision in this regard rests with the former prime minister.

"She has already asked the government to send her sons abroad for better treatment and till now she hasn't changed her mind," he said.

Govt yet to act

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commercial or industrial institution or establishment (c) the members of any profession"
The proposals further said, "No political party shall establish its office or branch or committee, by whatever name it may be called, in any country other than Bangladesh."

Once the ordinance is amended in line with the EC proposals, political parties will have to amend their constitutions to de-link their units and front organisations from them, an EC official noted.

Pakistan lift Kitply Cup

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Mahendra Singh Dhoni swung Shahid Afridi's long hop one-handed for a six over square-leg, but next ball, the leg-spinner struck with the next ball when Dhoni, on 64, holed out in the deep cover boundary where Nasir Jamshed took his third catch as a substitute fielder.

The full-house crowd, which did not move from their seats, went into a frenzy that has been a trademark of the Dhaka crowd and which brought back memories of the Independence Cup final in 1998.

But it was paceman Gul's accuracy that swayed the balance towards Pakistan with his regular wickets. He started by removing dangerous opener Virender Kohli, who top-edged to Jamshed at mid-off and then young Rohit Sharma jabbed at a short one and also gave Jamshed his second catch.

Left-handed Yuvraj Singh kept India in the hunt for long but kept losing partners whenever a partnership was needed. He and Raina added 73 for the fifth wicket but when the pair fell, Dhoni was left to do bulk of the work with the tail. The Indian skipper struck three boundaries and two sixes in his 59-ball knock.

Earlier, it was that second wicket partnership between Salman and Younis that made sure Pakistan were on top of India. A short burst of rain threatened the start after Shoaib Malik elected to bat first but the skies cleared up by the time Kamran Akmal fell in the tenth over to Irfan Pathan.

The Salman-Younis pair started off slowly but once the spinners came on, they extended their repertoire of shots. Younis was particularly harsh on anything that was on middle or leg stump and his three sixes off leg-spinner Piyush Chawla took him out of his slump. At the other end, young Salman brought

Rivers void of life

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creatures in the sediments vary on the basis of pollution level," said Prof Dr M Fazlul Bari of the Buet department.

In the third time, the team found some leech, aquatic worms and small snails, said Shah Alam, research assistant of Prof Bari.
"Third time we collected samples from the Buriganga after rainfall. We guess some creatures came with the water from outside; otherwise there's no way of getting there," added Alam.

During the study the researchers collected samples and tested those in pre-monsoon and post-monsoon seasons.

In the post-monsoon season the oxygen level increases slightly but yet not enough, the researchers say. They found that oxygen levels were .7 and .25 in Chadnighat point, .27 and .63 in the Noral near Trimohini, and .27 and .63 in the Turag in Tongi before and after the monsoon respectively.

Besides the rivers around the city, 25 spots in Mymensingh, Sherpur, Jamalpur and Tangail, three in Gazipur, three in Narayanganj and three in Chadnighat, Tongi and Trimohini came under the research.

The selected sites represent a gradient of river pollution from less polluted and moderate polluted to severely degraded stretches of rivers.

The researchers have found the Turag, Balu, Buriganga and

Shitalakkhya to be the most affected rivers.

They say the waters in these rivers are affected by industrial effluents and wastewater. The water is also affected by municipal sewage disposal, faecal contamination, agro-chemicals and large amount of suspended sediments carried by upstream flow.

The level of discharging waste material into the rivers is so high that the condition of the rivers could be even worse, the researchers warned.

"Still these rivers have flowing waters, so the pollution level goes up and down. Otherwise, the situation would be even worse," said Prof Bari.

Moreover, every day 100 tonnes of solid waste including trimmings of finished leather, shaving dusts, hair, fleshing, trimming of raw hides and skins are dumped into the Buriganga, posing a serious threat to the environment.

Besides, industrial waste from a few thousands industries in Savar, Ashulia, Tejgaon and old parts of the city and its suburbs is getting directly mixed with the river waters, polluting the rivers for decades.

Lack of proper management, more than two-thirds of the city sewage is falling into the rivers garlanding the city which is another major source of water pollution.

School children

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to the caretaker government, speaking at the event as the chief guest said, "The commitment of hundreds of young minds to shun corruption and their aspirations make us optimistic about building a corruption free Bangladesh."

She said that it is the young people of today who can build a better Bangladesh.

"We should vote for such people in the elections who will work against corruption once they win," Sultana Kamal said, adding that there are adequate laws in the country to prevent corruption but these laws are not implemented or used.

Executive Director of TIB, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, said that he felt sorry that so far we have not been able to build a corruption free Bangladesh, but expressed hope that today's youngsters would be able to accomplish their dreams and build a country free from corruption.

He urged all to resist the 'culture of impunity' that now prevails in the society to curb corruption. Abu Talib Miah, director general of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), urged all to build a social movement against corruption.

He said that the people have to decide whom they want in power to run their country. "If honest people come to power, the drive against corruption will continue in the right direction," he added.

Abu Talib also said that many government officials are engaged in corruption and the ACC is taking action against them.

The ACC director general, in his speech, pointed out that raising the government officials' salary is not the main way to curb corruption. Corruption did not lessen during the previous government's tenure when they increased the government salary scale.

A seminar, debates, music and a fashion show marked the day-long festival.

Alternative farming

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proven to be high yielding, he said.

The Institute of Media and Communication Studies organised the workshop titled 'Global Warming and Food Security in Coastal Areas of Bangladesh' in Chhayanati Sanskritik Bhaban in Dharmadoni of the capital, as a part of a series of workshops on climate change.

Saying that rising sea level, changes in temperature, rainfall, hydrological patterns and salinity, also land degradation and climate extremes like frequent floods and cyclones, will result in loss of agricultural productivity and crop yields, Dr Atiq stressed the need for integrating the issue of climate change in both sectoral and national development policies and programmes.

While presenting the keynote, Dr Atiq, executive director of Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies also chairman of Climate Action Network South Asia, touched upon various aspects of climate change including its causes like greenhouse gas emission and global warming, rising sea level, rapid melting of icecaps, and changes in flood and drought regimes.

"It is estimated that the sea level will rise 1 metre by no later than 2050, causing one fourth to one fifth of the country to go under water, displacing 13 percent of the population," Dr Atiq said.

From now on climate extremes like cyclones and floods are likely to occur with increasing frequency and ferocity due to the global climate change, he added.

"Back to back flooding in one season and super cyclones like Sidr and Nargis in the same region within a short span of time were not happening before," he said.

For their geographical locations, countries like Bangladesh are likely to be the most affected by the global climate change, and developed nations which are more responsible for such changes, should take responsibilities to protect the countries bearing the brunt, Dr Atiq noted.

"The flood regime will change inundating more areas, and drought will cover more areas of the country's western part," he said.

In addition to increased salinity, waterlogging will also become a major problem contributing to loss of crop diversity and agriculture productivity, resulting in displacement of people from their homes and occupations.

"All of these together will cause food insecurity, malnutrition, hunger and poverty," Dr Atiq warned, putting out a call for a multiple but combined and accelerated efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to help the population adapt to it.

4 of a family

FROM PAGE 17, and father-in-law Rashid, 70.

They hailed from Bazargan village in Hajiganj upazila of Chandpur district.

Police said the accident occurred at around 3:30 am when family members of Dr Mujibur, who was a diabetic patient, were bringing him to Dhaka Birdem Hospital by the ambulance.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Habiganj Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Maddhapara mine

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changes in its design at that time.

MGMCL's mother organisation Petrobangla is hopeful that these oddsities can be overcome soon. "There was a lack of initiative to find customer for the rock. The Roads and Highways Department has recently agreed to buy 1,20,000 tonnes of rock over the next five months and the railway is taking a small amount. We hope the sale will increase gradually. Now the mine is producing 1,100 tonnes of rock in one shift per day. We hope in the near future we can operate two shifts to double the production," said a Petrobangla high official.

The MGMCL is cautiously optimistic. "Before we see any breakthrough, we must close down the faulty crushing and sorting plant and install a couple of small crushing and sorting plants that will produce rock in sizes the market has a demand for," said a source, adding each of these small plants will need around Tk 50 lakh to install.

The mining authority sells boulder rock at \$15 per tonne (plus \$0.9 as VAT) and crushed rock at \$16 per tonne (plus \$0.9 VAT). The prices of crushed and boulder rock imported from India are slightly less than these rates. The mine is costing the nation \$158 million. An Investment Committee in 2005 identified that a total of \$120 million has been invested in the mine. Of this sum, Bangladesh paid more than \$71 million although it is the borrower, while lender North Korea gave \$49 million. But as the project was going nowhere, the MGMCL has conditionally taken over the unfinished mine in May last year.

The mine was supposed to produce 16.5 lakh tonnes of rock annually - 5,500 tonnes daily - from 2000. Instead, however, it is now producing 1,100 tonnes a day as some work remains unfinished.

At a meeting with Namnam on May 26 the MGMCL identified as many as 35 defects or outstanding work at the mine. Some of the very important tasks include non-construction of a Skip Replacement Building, non-supply of main fan with a reversal system, flawed roadways in three levels, flawed permanent support of underground pump station and unfinished stope preparation work. Of these, the work for stope preparation alone demands a cost of Tk 30 crore.

Another important unfinished task is a 12-year project development plan to be supplied by Namnam. An expert of MGMCL said, "Since it is an underground mine, we must have a clear plan before we proceed and extract rock because in the near future, land will subside. If we do not have a plan, structures on the surface will be affected."

Regarding this plan, Namnam says this must be done in cooperation with the project's consultant Kopex, with which it had disagreed on issues regarding surface subsidence theory. Kopex did not sit with Namnam to resolve this issue. "Without this understanding, Namnam cannot frame the plan," says Namnam.

On the other hand, Kopex's consultancy ended last year following some bureaucratic bottleneck. Therefore, this issue remains totally in the dark. RESOLVING CRISIS WITH NAMNAM The energy ministry will hold a

meeting with the MGMCL, Namnam and Petrobangla tomorrow to find a solution to the mine's problems and discuss Namnam's demand for a loan repayment instalment of \$6.5 million as the sixth instalment. According to MGMCL's legal adviser Dr Kamal Hossain and Associates, as the mine remains incomplete, the sixth instalment is yet to be due. This occasion will arise on expiry of six months after completion of the remaining work. The schedule of payment and the amounts of 6th-26th instalments cannot be properly determined before resolving the contractor's total investment for which completion of the remaining work in accordance with the contract is a pre-requisite, it said.

The legal adviser, however, said, "Should the employer (the government) be convinced that in the interest of performance of the remaining contract works without any further delay, the contractor should be provided with some fund, this can be done only as advance to be adjusted in future against payment of instalment."

In addition to leaving the mine unfinished, Namnam owes the MGMCL about Tk 104 crore as liquidated damage and payment of various bill payments and interests. This sum includes bills for electricity, explosives, hard rock, services from Bapex and Geological Survey of Bangladesh. The MGMCL also feels that Namnam's bank guarantee of \$4.2 million should be extended for one year as the project's guarantee period has been extended up to May 2009.

Monday's meeting will discuss these issues. Besides, to resolve the disagreements between Namnam and MGMCL, Petrobangla is appointing British consulting company IMCL to review problems of the mining project as the "sole expert".

"This is being done as per the agreement with Namnam. This is a pre-arbitration solution to resolve disputes," said a source. Petrobangla is currently negotiating the financial terms with IMCL, which is a consultant of the Barapukuria Coal Mine Project. Once the financial issue is finalised, IMCL will review the project and file its report within two months and both Namnam and the MGMCL will abide by the set of recommendations in the report.

"We hope this will resolve all the disputes with Namnam," the source added.

Wari murder

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two shotguns - and 64 rounds of bullet from a cement store in Mirpur neighbourhood and from the trio's residences in the old part of the city.

They said they killed Ashiqur Rahman Apu on their friend Irfekhar Beg Jhalak's request as APU refused to renew house rental with him.

Even though the arrested had been involved in crimes for a long time, they always managed to slip away without being reported as law enforcers have not yet traced any cases against them.

Police now suspect that the criminals also used to rent their firearms to other criminals.

Govt working

FROM PAGE 1
confidence is created," he said when asked about the latest developments regarding the release of detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her two sons Tarique Rahman and Arifat Rahman.

About remarks made by Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) Convener Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, the education adviser said, "We do not bother about who said what. It is not right to react to each and every comment... We have challenges ahead to overcome and we are trying very hard to conquer the challenges and do our duty."

The inaugural function of the conference was held at the auditorium of Theatre Institute, Chittagong with President of BEA, Chittagong chapter, Prof M Sikander Khan in the chair. Zillur was the guest of honour.

BEA Central General Secretary and noted economist Prof Abul Barkat, Convener of Conference Preparatory Committee Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and General Secretary of BEA, Chittagong chapter Khorshedul Alam Quaderi also spoke on the occasion.

Obama

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saving plans for workers even if they contribute no money to them. Workers would automatically be enrolled unless they choose to opt out, he said. That way, he said, "most people will save more."

He also vowed to spend \$150 billion over 10 years to establish a "green energy sector." It would require greater fuel efficiency in cars and devote more money to solar, wind, and biodiesel energy.

Taking audience questions, Obama praised Thursday's Supreme Court decision to allow detainees at Guantanamo Bay to challenge their imprisonment in federal courts. Enforcing habeas corpus rights, he said, is "the essence of who we are."

Even when Nazis' atrocities became known in the 1940s, he said, "we still gave them a day in court" at the Nuremberg trials. "That taught the entire world about who we are," he said.

McCain sharply criticized the court ruling, saying it would hamper the war on terrorism.

Obama said McCain would be likely to appoint Supreme Court nominees who would allow states to outlaw abortion. "You're just one justice away from that," he said, alluding to the court's narrow ideological divisions.

McCain spokesman Tucker Bounds said Saturday that Obama was railing against "the very energy policy that he voted for." Obama told the Wayne audience that he voted for an energy bill "that was far from perfect" because "it contained the largest investment in renewable sources of energy in our nations history."

Democrats have carried Pennsylvania in the last four presidential elections, although narrowly at times. Obama lost badly in the primary here to Hillary Rodham Clinton, and he is struggling to attract white working-class voters who heavily favored her.

Should McCain manage to win Pennsylvania and its 21 electoral votes, Obama would have to compensate in other areas, such as in the Rockies, where Republicans have done well in recent campaigns.

Parties react

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Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon termed Dr Karzai's remark "wail of inability" and asserted Sheikh Hasina's release proved that the cases against her are political.

Menon said they want trial of the corrupt but alleged that the anti-corruption drive was used as a tool against politicians and political parties. He said even the ACC chairman once stated that it is the government and not the ACC who arrested politicians.

"I did not expect such comment from him," said the leftwing party's leader, adding, "If you spit upward, it will fall on you."

BNP Joint Secretary General Nazrul Islam Khan described Dr Karzai's remarks as a manifestation of "broken hope", saying that he perhaps uttered it out of his personal animosity.

He said cases against Awami League President Sheikh Hasina were not proved while even trial process against BNP chairperson has not started.

"We all want an acceptable election through a meaningful dialogue," Khan said, adding, "Why this objection if the government changes its position to make the dialogue productive and election credible?"

Showing the reason for dropping one parliamentary seat in the district, Chief Election Commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda noted that the population decreased in the area because of river erosion. "Many people have left Manikganj for shelter in Dhaka and Dhamrai," he said.

"We didn't make anything new. The delimitation made in the past was followed by us," he told the complainants during the day's hearings.

Election Commissioners M Sohul Hussain and Brig Gen (ret) M Sakawat Hussain and Commission secretary M Humayun Kabir were, among others, present.

Petitioners under the parliamentary constituencies of Manikganj-1, 2 and 3 and Jamalpur-3 and 4 in the first session and Netrakona-1, 4 and 5, Mymensingh-3 and 4 in the second session and Dhaka-1, 2, 4 and 10 in the third session placed their objections before the commission.

EC sources said the hearings will be held in phases at the EC Secretariat and in Sylhet, Comilla, Chittagong, Barisal, Khulna and Rajshahi until the month-end.

Today's hearings are scheduled for Dhaka-20, Gazipur-3, 4 and 5 constituencies at 10:00 am, Narsingdi-1 and 3 and Narayanganj-2 and 3 constituencies at 12:00 noon, and Dhaka-11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 constituencies at 3:00 pm at the EC secretariat.

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EU delivers nuclear deal

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Expectations had already been low of a breakthrough, especially after repeated vows by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad that Tehran will never back down.

The West wants Iran to halt enrichment over fears it could use the process to make an atomic bomb but Tehran insists it has every right to enrich uranium to manufacture fuel for future atomic power plants.

The price of failure in the talks could be high, with the West warning that Tehran faces more sanctions from the United Nations and European Union if it does not freeze enrichment.

The United States has also never ruled out military action against Tehran and US President George W. Bush warned this week that "all options" were still open over how to end the crisis.

President Bush said in Paris Saturday that Iran has isolated its people and put the world in danger by rejecting a deal aimed at halting Tehran's uranium enrichment program.

"I'm disappointed that the leaders rejected this generous offer out of hand," Bush said. "It's an indication to the Iranian people that their leadership is willing to isolate them further. Our view is we want the Iranian people to flourish and to benefit."

French President Nicolas Sarkozy took the same approach as Bush at a joint news conference. He said the Iranian people "deserve better than the impasse into which some of their leaders are leading them."

Iran says it is enriching uranium to generate electricity, not to build nuclear weaponry a claim the West doubts is true.

Solana is due to give a news conference at around 1430 GMT but it is highly unlikely there will be any immediate response to the offer.

Elham said Iran will make its decision "after a precise examination."

Iran, Opec's number two producer, vehemently rejects Western allegations it is seeking nuclear weapons, saying it wants only electricity for a growing population whose fossil fuels will eventually run out.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has been investigating the nuclear drive for over five years but has never been able to conclude whether the programme is peaceful.

The IAEA has also angered Iran by probing documents handed over by Western intelligence that claim Tehran has been studying how to develop a nuclear weapon. Iran has said the information is fake.

"It is clear that Javier Solana has come to Iran with a scenario prepared in advance to put obstacles in front of the nation's progress," the Fars news agency said in an editorial.

Solana, by contrast, has described the offer as "generous" and "comprehensive".

Conspicuously, no meeting between Solana and the hardline Ahmadinejad has been scheduled, let alone with Iran's undisputed number one Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. He is slated to meet Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili.

Solana is presenting the offer on behalf of the five permanent UN Security Council members plus Germany, on behalf of whom he has led a hitherto fruitless set of discussions with Tehran for the past two years.

In their offer, the six major powers recognise Iran's right to use nuclear

Sharif

FROM PAGE 16
protesters outside the parliament building in the capital as well as those in the cavalcade. Protest organisers said the figure was 50,000.

Around 6,000 paramilitary troops and police were deployed in Islamabad ahead of the arrival of the lawyers. Military helicopters flew low over the protesters.

Authorities used barbed wire and shipping containers to block the parliament building in the capital and stationed armoured personnel vehicles at several points.

It was the biggest protest since Musharraf's allies lost elections in February, to be replaced in government by a coalition that is led by the party of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto and also features Sharif's party.

The coalition has vowed to restore the deposed judges, whom Musharraf sacked under a state of emergency on November 3 when it appeared they would overturn his re-election as president the previous month.

But it has been hobbled so far by disagreements over the mechanics, since bringing back Chaudhry could lead to a standoff with Musharraf and also threaten an amnesty given to Bhutto's husband on graft charges.

Sharif pulled his party's ministers from the cabinet in May over the issue.

energy for peaceful purposes in line with the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

But it also calls on Iran to comply with four UN Security Council resolutions - including three linked to existing sanctions - which call for the suspension of its enrichment activities.

The proposal is a "refreshed" version of an offer initially presented by Solana in June 2006 which offered to help Iran develop "more modern" technologies and to supply Tehran with enriched uranium for civil purposes.

Iran rejected that offer and diplomats have said the new proposal does not differ radically from the previous one.

For the first time, Solana will be handing over a "policy" letter signed by the foreign ministers of all six powers.

In it the ministers declare themselves "convinced that it is possible to change the present state of affairs," and "hope that Iran's leaders share the same ambition," according to a section of the letter seen by AFP.

AL finalises team

FROM PAGE 1
The meeting reiterated the demand for trial of war criminals. It called for unity of all progressive political parties prior of the next general election, Afruhai added.

The ALCWC expressed its satisfaction over Hasina's temporary release.

During the dialogue, the party will raise the issues of lifting the emergency, holding the parliamentary election before local government elections, permanent release of Hasina, and curbing price hikes of essentials, party sources said.

AL, one of the oldest and largest political parties in the country, had been demanding its chief's release for better treatment in the US as the precondition for its participation in the dialogues.

Following her temporary release on June 11, Hasina started off the dialogue between AL and the government by having a talk with four government advisers at night, prior to her departure the following morning.

During the dialogue she made a phone call to Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed and urged him to prepare for holding the stalled election as quickly as possible.

The ALCWC last night also decided on an elaborate programme to observe the party's 59th founding anniversary on June 23.

A team of party leaders will visit the grave of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in Tungipara, marking the day.

The meeting also discussed the proposed national budget for next fiscal year.

prisoners escaped. 15 police officers and eight prisoners were killed, he said, and another 12 police officers were wounded. More than 30 nearby shops were damaged.

Mohammad Qasim Hashimzai, a deputy minister at the Justice Ministry, said Saturday the Kandahar prison housed more than 1,000 prisoners and that more than half escaped. He said officials could not yet offer a precise figure.

Hashimzai said there was no advance intelligence to indicate a large-scale attack was imminent, but he said as a precaution, the prison's chief official, Abdul Qabir, was under investigation for possible involvement.

Wali Karzai, the president of Kandahar's provincial council and the brother of President Hamid Karzai, earlier said the prison held about 350 suspected Taliban fighters. He said all the prisoners escaped, but had no specific number. "There is no one left," he said.

Hashimzai said the prison did not meet international minimum standards for a prison. The Kandahar facility was not built as a prison but had been modified into one, he said.

A delegation of deputy ministers from the Justice and Interior Ministries left for Kandahar early Saturday.

Plans are under way to renovate all the prisons around the country," Hashimzai said. "Kandahar was one of them, but unfortunately, what happened last night is cause for concern."

Kandahar was the Taliban's former stronghold and its province has been the scene of fierce fighting the past two years between insurgents and Nato troops, primarily from Canada and the United States.

Qabir, the chief of Sarposa, said the assault began when a tanker truck full of explosives detonated at the prison's main entrance, wrecking the gate and a police post, killing all the officers inside. He could not say how many police were killed.

Soon after, a suicide bomber on foot blasted a hole in the back of the prison, Qabir said.

A shopkeeper who sells vegetables near the prison, Mohammad Hiqumatullah, said he saw prisoners run out and disappear into nearby pomegranate and