

Global financial crisis

Distressed global stocks endured another rollercoaster ride of rallies and losses after the devastating falls of Monday.

In New York, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 76.14 points to 10,031.64 in early trading one day after slumping below 10,000 for the first time in four years.

London added 0.66 percent, reversing losses from early trading, after its 7.8 percent slump Monday.

Royal Bank of Scotland shares plunged up to 40 percent as it denied reports it had sought an emergency government money. Lloyds TSB slumped 9.94 percent and Barclays 5.89 percent after the BBC reported that the three banks spoke with Chancellor of the Exchequer Darling late Monday about a possible capital injection.

Frankfurt gained 0.82 percent and Paris 1.33 percent, in similar ups and downs, after diving 7.0 and 9.0 percent respectively on Monday.

In Asia, Tokyo fell by 3.0 percent, while Sydney jumped 1.7 percent after Australia's central bank sprang a surprise interest rate cut.

Again there was no hiding from the financial panic. Egypt's CASE-30 stock index fell 16.5 percent.

The International Monetary Fund urged central banks to provide direct support to the banking system, saying some 657 billion dollars would be needed in the next few years.

The European Central Bank on Tuesday pumped 50 billion dollars (\$7 billion euros) back into interbank money markets, but it said banks sought more than double that amount.

The ECB said 67 eurozone banks had requested more than 109 billion dollars, and paid a whopping 6.75 percent for dollars made available in the daily attempt to keep cash flowing through the financial pipeline.

It announced a schedule for new coordinated action with other central banks to support the provision of dollars to cash-strapped commercial banks.

The Bank of Japan also put more billions into the system and US Treasury officials said they would act quickly to implement a 700 billion dollar bailout plan for the financial sector.

The US Federal Reserve and Treasury said they were studying making unsecured loans in an effort to keep much-needed credit flowing.

The Fed said it would start to pay interest on bank deposits and expand bank loans to up to 900 billion dollars by year-end in a bid to

Rice prices rise again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of rice witnessed a rise in the capital after the Eid vacation. In retail markets, prices of most varieties of rice went up by Tk 1 per kg while the wholesale prices increased by Tk 20-30 per maund (37.32 kg).

Yesterday, coarse rice was selling for Tk 33 a kg at retail, Parija and Lata (varieties of rice) were selling between Tk 41 and Tk 43 and Najirshah (the best quality) between Tk 45 and Tk 48 a kg.

Towards the end of Ramadan and after the Eid wholesalers increased rice prices up to Tk 40 per maund, claimed a number of retailers.

By wholesale yesterday, coarse rice was selling between Tk 1,120 and Tk 1,220 and Tk 1,400, Parija between Tk 1,180 and Tk 1,240, Minket between Tk 1,500 and Tk 1,520 and Najirshah between Tk 1,580 and Tk 1,600.

A number of rice traders at Badamtali, Babubazar and Mohammadpur Krishi Market say that in many rural areas prices of rice increased by Tk 20-40 per maund and this hike is yet to impact the capital.

Market sources said demand for rice dropped during Ramadan and went up again after Ramadan.

AL to disband fronts

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President Zillur Rahman's Gulshan residence.

"After bringing amendments in the party constitution we will apply to the Election Commission for registration," said acting General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam after the three-hour long meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star, AL Presidium member Motia Chowdhury said the matter regarding cutting links would be finalised at the meeting of the party's central working committee. She said they would talk to the EC today and finalise the matters to be amended.

Motia said after cutting link with the party, the associate organisations would run independently.

The meeting asked the EC not to allow local observers during the upcoming parliamentary election.

According to clause 25(1) of the AL constitution, Bangladesh Mahila Awami League, Bangladesh Krishak League, Jatiya Sramik League, Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, Awami Svecchhashebak League, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Awami Ainjibee Parishad, Bangladesh Tanti League, and Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad shall be regarded as the party's associate organisations.

But the Representation of the People Order (RPO) prohibits formation by any political party of any affiliated or associated organisation or body consisting of teachers or students of any educational institution, employees or labourers of any financial, commercial or industrial institution, or members of any other profession to get registration with the EC.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Syed Ashraf said the electoral code of conduct has one clause saying the EC can cancel any nomination paper even if it is valid.

"Inclusion of the clause now surprised us," he said, adding that the provision was not discussed at the three talks they had with the EC. "We will ask them where has the clause come from."

Ashraf said they would also want to know about the RPO revised a couple of days back as they did not get any copy of it.

On the AL demand for not allowing local observers, he said, "We have experience from earlier polls that local observers are partisan. I have seen BNP or Chhatra Dal leaders becoming independent observers."

"We will also write to countries that normally fund different organisations of local observers through the Asia Foundation, asking them not to give them funds," he said.

Termining former Jaijaidin editor Shafiq Rehman and Taleyah Rehman BNP partisans, Ashraf asked how their organisation Democracy Watch will observe the election neutrally and independently.

He said they would soon hold talks with the components of both the AL-led 14-party combine and the grand electoral alliance.

On party nominations, Ashraf said it would depend on formation of the grand alliance.

Recommendations for five candidates would come from the grassroots level and the AL Parliamentary Board would finalise one, he said. But in the case of grand alliance, they would finalise the process of nomination after the alliance is formally formed once AL President Sheikh Hasina returns home.

He said the AL Parliamentary Board would formally sit after declaration of the election schedule.

On the state of emergency, Ashraf said the government could keep black money holders, criminals and corrupt people away from election through implementing

existing laws and rules and there is no need to keep emergency in force for that reason.

He said they would discuss the matter with the government.

If the emergency is in force and if any political party does not take part in the poll, that party would get at least one valid reason to boycott the poll, he said, adding that the government should not give that chance to any party.

Ashraf said Hasina has informed them that she could return home on September 26 but they have not got any final date.

About HM Ershad's declaration of candidates at different electoral constituencies, he said Ershad is announcing his party's nominations, not those of the alliance. "After formation of the grand alliance we would formally publish a list of our candidates," he said.

About the AL's election manifesto, Ashraf said the draft has been readied and would be finalised at the central working committee's meeting.

On the AL's earlier statement that it would go for agitation programmes for the release of Hasina, Ashraf said, "Until our demands are met we will continue our demonstration." He expressed hope that Hasina would be released and all charges against her would be withdrawn and that she would lead the AL and grand alliance in the next election.

Syed Ashraf said they are concerned about Hasina's security when she returns home. He said they would apply to the government for her proper security. "I have already talked to the government in this regard and they assured me that they will ensure her foolproof security," said Ashraf.

Japanese duo, US scientist



Yoichiro Nambu



Makoto Kobayashi



Toshihide Maskawa

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symmetry-breaking" in superconductivity and in basic particles.

These theories are a keystone of the so-called Standard Model of physics, which explains in a unified way three of the four fundamental forces of nature -- strong, weak and electromagnetic. The fourth is gravity.

"Spontaneous broken symmetry conceals nature's order under an apparently jumbled surface," the Nobel panel said.

"It has proved to be extremely useful, and Nambu's theories permeate the Standard Model of

elementary particle physics.

"The Model unifies the smallest building blocks of all matter and three of nature's four forces in one single theory."

In the 1970s, Kobayashi and Maskawa went on to explain this broken symmetry. Their theory required that the Standard Model be enlarged by three novel families of sub-atomic particles called quarks.

Their hypothesis was borne out nearly three decades later in experiments.

Kobayashi, 64, is a professor emeritus at the High Energy

Accelerator Research Organisation in Tsukuba, while Maskawa, 68, holds the same title at the Yukawa Institute for Theoretical Physics at Kyoto University.

Nambu is a professor emeritus at the Enrico Fermi Institute at the University of Chicago.

Underpinning the theory of asymmetry is the discovery that immediately after the "Big Bang," much more matter was created than its deadly opposite, antimatter.

This excess of matter became the seed of the Universe, filling it with galaxies, stars and planets -- and eventually life.

Tariqul

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February 5 last year. After the arrest, he fell sick and was admitted to the hospital.

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star that the former minister was freed at about 8:30pm as he secured bail from the High Court.

Hearing the news, several hundred leaders and activists of BNP thronged the BSMMU to greet the leader.

After release, Tariqul went to his Shantinagar residence in the city. He is an accused in several cases, including corruption, extortion and concealment of his wealth information.

Meanwhile, former deputy minister Amanullah Aman was shifted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of the BSMMUH from the pilsons cell of the hospital as his condition deteriorated yesterday noon.

Aman's family members urged the government to send him abroad for treatment.

2 top army

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troops in three battalions are deployed in Gbarna, Buchanan and Ganta, a Bangladesh Engineering Company is located at CARL and a Bangladesh Level 2 Hospital located at CARL have been deployed in Sector III.

The Force Headquarters in Liberia with its multinational staff officers is headed by an officer of the rank of lieutenant general as Force Commander.

Official sources in Dhaka said the appointment to this post in Liberia is the highest so far Bangladesh achieved in the UN Peacekeeping Mission.

Moreover, Major General Anwar Hossain, Comilla Area Commander and GOC of 33 Infantry Division, has been appointed Chief Military Observer (CMO) in United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG).

Meanwhile, foreign ministry sources said Lt Gen Masud Uddin Chowdhury, ex-principal staff officer at the Armed Forces Division, who was appointed Commandant of NDC and later sent to the foreign ministry for diplomatic job, is now set to fly to Australia for his new job as Bangladesh high commissioner.

Dolphins

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"magic oil" have today reduced the dolphin population. Many of the rivers are today devoid of the animal that befriends humans very easily. Tales of dolphins saving human beings marooned in the sea are often heard.

The most well known dolphin in Bangladesh is the Ganges River Dolphins. They are strange looking animals with an extraordinary long snout, a tiny dorsal fin and large flippers. They live throughout the Padma, Meghna, Jamuna, Karanaphuli and Sangri rivers. Today, they are an endangered species.

Gulshan Sarbojonin Puja Committee organized the Durga puja at the Banani playground, which attracted hundreds of Hindu devotees. They also arranged different cultural programmes in the evening.

The fireworks splattered and went out to mark the occasion followed by folk song. Principal Sitmat Swami Tapananda Giri Maharaj of Sitakundu Shankar temple was also present there.

Today Mahanabami puja starts at 8:58 am.

Kumari Puja

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Since early in the morning the devotees started to arrive at the Ramkrishna temple at the RK mission only where such pujas is held.

Sri Ramkrishna says the Divine mother manifests herself more in a pure-hearted girl and that is why the Kumari puja is performed. Kumari Shakti is the basis of all creation.

According to Hindu philosophy, Kumari puja was initiated to establish the importance of women who symbolizes the power that regulates creation on the earth.

With the presence of thousands of devotees from all ages Mahastami Puja was held at the Dhakeshwari national temple, a member of the Mahaganarj Sarbojonin Puja Committee said.

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Deal signed to skip

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Chowdhury told a news briefing after the talks.

Bangladesh also gave a proposal to import gas from Myanmar to produce fertiliser which will be exported to them.

Termining the bilateral talks a 'landmark' in the relationship between the two countries, he said. "We have discussed many issues. One of those is establishing road link to China through Myanmar."

Itefkar said Bangladesh would help Myanmar build a 23-kilometre long road in its territory at a cost of \$20.3 million. Earlier a deal was signed in this regard.

"The chief adviser told the delegation that if the road is extended, road communication can be established between Bangladesh, Myanmar and China. In response, the Myanmar side said they would consider the matter," Itefkar told reporters.

He said a tripartite meeting between Bangladesh, Myanmar and China could be held in the near future to discuss the issue.

Fakhruddin also raised the issue of demarcating maritime boundary and requested his counterpart to take initiative in this regard.

During the talks, the Myanmar side assured Bangladesh of exporting rice on a regular basis but did not say anything on repatriation of Rohingya refugees.

"They may export 50,000 to 1 lakh tonnes of rice regularly. We shall hold talks with their commerce minister and businessmen to reach an understanding on the issue," the foreign adviser said.

"We requested them to devise a mechanism for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees but did not get any reaction from them," Itefkar said, adding that they would try to resolve the issue at a tripartite meeting involving the UNHCR.

About 21,000 Rohingya refugees have taken shelter in various areas in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. The repatriation process remains stalled since 2005.

"The issue of leasing Myanmar

Deal signed to skip

lands for farming is quite complex," he said adding that it would not be easy to reach an understanding over the matter.

He said Bangladesh has set a target to increase bilateral trade volume to \$500 million from the present \$140 million.

He said further talks will be held between the two sides today and tomorrow.

Referring to the reports of Myanmar's gas exploration in Bangladesh's maritime boundary, Foreign Secretary M Touhid Hossain said they did not have such information.

"They might have done it in their own territory," he told reporters.

Press Secretary to the chief adviser Syed Fahim Munaim was also present at the briefing.

Earlier, Aye, also vice-chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, was given a red carpet reception at the Zia International Airport.

The foreign adviser called on Myanmar Foreign Minister U Nyan Win, one of seven ministers accompanying General Aye, at the Sonargaon Hotel.

Giant leap

FROM PAGE 1

our friendly neighbour Myanmar," he told a banquet hosted by him and his spouse in honour of General Myaung Aye and his spouse Daw Mya Mya San at Sonargaon Hotel last night.

Members of general Aye's entourage, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, advisers, special assistants to the chief adviser and distinguished personalities attended the banquet.

Aye also addressed the function, hoping that his tour would further consolidate the friendly relations between the two governments and the two armed forces.

"The main purpose of our visits is to further cement and strengthen the existing friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries," he said.

Speaking at the dinner, the CA noted that Myanmar is Bangladesh's gateway to the Asean and as a new member of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) Bangladesh looks forward to working closely with Myanmar.

"We hope to contribute to the ARF process to promote peace and stability in the region and beyond. Myanmar, likewise, has become an observer in the Saarc. We have also been cooperating together in Bimstec and Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD)," he said.

"I've no doubt that through dialogues held against a backdrop of friendship and understanding, we'll be able to successfully address all our subjects of common interest, including the questions of refugees and maritime boundaries," he said.

Remittance

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slowdown, mainly in the US and European countries, is yet to impact the remittance inflow. They, however, apprehend that if the crisis continues it may have a negative impact on the inflow.

According to the statistics of the last fiscal year, Bangladesh received about 27 percent remittance from the US and European countries alone.

Mainly due to high growth in remittance earnings, the foreign exchange reserve is in a comfortable position despite a swell in import costs. The foreign exchange reserve stood at \$5,783 billion, Bangladesh Bank statistics said.

Import costs increased by 26 percent in the last fiscal year. Import costs increased by 34 percent in the month of July in the current fiscal year.

Hajj flights

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It was disclosed at an inter-ministerial meeting on Hajj and Hajj Camp Management for 2008 presided over by Religious Affairs Adviser AF Hassan Ariff at the ministry's conference room yesterday.

The hajj flights will end on December 2 while the return hajj flights will start on December 12. All necessary information will be available on the website www.bdhajinfo.org.

"There will be a qualitative change in hajj management this year as necessary preparations were made in advance," said Adviser Hassan Ariff.

Necessary steps were taken early on to rent houses for hajj pilgrims in Mecca and Medina, he said adding that the private hajj agencies have already completed about 60 percent task of renting houses for pilgrims there.

Biman officials at the meeting said they would be able to publish the complete schedule of hajj flights by the next week.

The hajj officer at the Dhaka Hajj Office said they would send letters to the ballotee hajj pilgrims informing them about the date and time of hajj flights after getting the flight schedule.

The hajj officer said necessary steps have already been taken for installing scanning machines, computers and bank booths and also deploying security guards and volunteers at the airport.

Officials concerned of the health department told the meeting that they would form a medical board at the Ashkona hajj camp in the capital's Uttara on October 20.

Islamic Foundation Director General Mohammad Fazlur Rahman and joint secretary of the religious affairs ministry AHM Afzal Hossain, among others, were present.

Upazila poll

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the parliamentary elections will be held in December as per the declared date. "There's no chance of extending the timeframe for party registration."

Dispelling confusion over holding the general elections in time, the CEC said the commission is not facing any problem in holding the elections in time. "We've no problem in holding the elections."

About the second amendment to the revised Representation of People Order (RPO), Huda said now unregistered political parties will have to get aligned with registered parties through "merger" to participate in the general elections.

The Council of Advisers on Monday finally approved a second amendment to the revised RPO to facilitate the political parties' registration with the Election Commission by submitting their provisional party constitution.

In the wake of political parties' vehement opposition to holding upazila polls before the stalled ninth parliamentary election, the EC already changed its earlier decision to hold upazila polls this month in phases.

And finally, Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in his September 24 address to the nation disclosed the EC's decision that the parliamentary polls will be held on December 18, and upazila polls on December 24 and 28.

Different political parties including Awami League and BNP have been demanding deferral of upazila polls, arguing that holding of two crucial polls in a free and fair manner is not possible within such a short span of time.

Meanwhile, the EC is taking preparations for holding the parliamentary and upazila polls according to the announced dates.

As part of preparations for upazila polls, the EC on Sunday asked all deputy commissioners (DCs) to determine the number of women's reserved seats in upazila parishes and demarcate their constituencies, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

The EC also asked the DCs to prepare the voter list for elections to the reserved seats.

According to the upazila parishad ordinance, the number of reserved

Deal signed to skip

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Pak probes

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bombings against government, military and Western targets in the front-line state and ally in the US-led war on terror.

Pakistani leaders insisted the attack would not deter them from eliminating the militant threat facing their country. Parliament is to get a private briefing today from intelligence agencies about domestic insurgent activity, which has mostly been concentrated in the Muslim nation's northwest.

The death toll from the bombing rose to 19 overnight, while 60 people were injured including minority Shiite Muslim MP Rashid Akbar Nowani.

"It appears to be a sectarian attack, because the Sunni militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi is active in the neighbouring Dera Ismail Khan district," senior police officer Iqbal Mahmood told AFP.

Taskforce

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steps to prevent this.

Our staff correspondent said: Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) officials said yesterday that the test result of melamine presence in Cadbury chocolate would be made available by next week.

The private laboratory 'Plasma Plus' might submit their report of melamine testing to the BSTI by first half of the next week, said deputy director (testing control) of BSTI Dr Ashish Ratan Sen to the Daily Star.

The BSTI also has been continuing its investigation to trace melamine in infant milk formula and Cadbury Chocolate, but it may take some more time, he added.

The BSTI has completed its tests on some dairy products to identify toxic substance and would submit its reports to the commerce ministry after conducting tests on all genres of dairy products, he said.

The department of the Chemistry of Dhaka University also reported that they had almost completed their task in this regard.

Meanwhile, the government has urged all to avoid consumption of suspicious milk products and chocolates. The customs were also directed not to allow imported food items without BSTI certification tag that they do not contain 'melamine'.

The BSTI is also going to set up an information cell at its office today, BSTI sources said.

Saifur asked

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him in the case.

The eight others are former BNP ministers Aminul Haque and state minister AKM Mosharrar Hossain, former Jamaat minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid, former acting secretary to the energy and mineral resources ministry Nazrul Islam, former Petrobangla chairman SR Osmani, former Petrobangla director Mainul Ahsan, former managing director of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCML) Sirajul Islam, and Hossaf Group Chairman Moazzem Hossain.

On September 25, the ACC approved charge sheet against BNP Chairperson and former premier Khaleda Zia and 15 other accused for illegally awarding a contract for operating Barapukuria coal mine to a Chinese company.

In the charge sheet, the IO mentioned that the accused caused a loss of about Tk 159 crore to the public exchequer by illegally awarding the contract to China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC), abusing power.

The IO also said the charges brought against them were primarily proven, and they should be brought to trial.

ACC Assistant Director Shamsul Alam filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station in Dhaka on February 26 this year.

The IO sought Saifur, Nizami, Mojahid, Aminul Haque, AKM Mosharrar, Nazrul Islam, SR Osmani, Mainul Ahsan, Sirajul Islam and Moazzem Hossain as fugitives in the case.

He appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against them, and orders to confiscate their properties, as they did not obtain bail from any court.

Advocate Abdur Razaque Khan appeared for Saifur while advocate Abdul Aziz Khan stood for the ACC in the HC yesterday.

Besides, an HC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Anwarul Haque and Justice Ziaul Karim Chowdhury granted bail to Nazimuddin in the case filed on April 9, 2001.

Barrister Mahbuddin Khokon stood for Nazimuddin.

EC unaware

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report of allegations about disturbance, rigging of ballot papers or election not being held justly, honestly and fairly, then after being satisfied about the correctness of the report or allegations, Election Commission would be justified to cancel the results of the election and direct re-poll...," observed the Appellate Division.

Exercising its inherent powers, the EC in 2004 cancelled the election results of Daulatkhan Municipality sent by the returning officer concerned on grounds of gross irregularities. None challenged the EC decision at the higher court.

Meanwhile, new laws have empowered the current EC to cancel candidatures for gross irregularities in the election.

Referring to the SC verdict, legal experts said the EC definitely has some inherent powers regarding election results. It is not compelled to publish poll results sent by returning officers and can cancel them on grounds of irregularities, they said.

When his attention was drawn to the landmark verdict, CEC Huda expressed his ignorance about it, saying he would look into the matter.

In the verdict, the Appellate Division also said it is the responsibility of the EC to see that the election is conducted justly, honestly and fairly and not to encourage demonstration of muscle power in the election.

Cabinet returns

FROM PAGE 1

Powertek's offer stands at Tk 3.15 per unit while other developers now implementing small power projects seek Tk 2.28 to Tk 2.79 per unit.

But the power ministry forwarded the bid proposal in line with the recommendations of the tender evaluation committee of the Power Cell, and another committee headed by Power Development Board (PDB) expert Alamgir Kabir.

Both the committees observed that Powertek's high tariff was justified since the cost of building a power plant has doubled in the last 10 years.

The Bibiyana tender initially attracted pre-qualification bids from AES, Chevron, Powertek, Kepco, Summit and Malaysian YTL late last year. Local Summit group was conditionally selected at first, but then in January it was arbitrarily disqualified and YTL was also disqualified. Previously qualified for the Sirajganj 450 MW power project, Summit repeatedly requested the Cell to reconsider its bid but that was ignored.

Soon after the pre-qualification, Powertek and Kepco announced their consortium, and AES announced its withdrawal. Finally, when the bid submission date arrived in July, Powertek appeared as the lone bidder.

Bangkok bursts

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without specifying how many soldiers had been deployed.

Prime Minister Somchai Wongsawat -- who has only been in his position for three weeks -- said he would not declare a state of emergency or resign as the protests escalated.

"I will continue my work," he told reporters.

Government medical officials said 358 people had been injured, at least 20 seriously, as police tried to disperse several thousand protesters surrounding parliament to try to prevent Somchai from giving his first policy speech.

The address went ahead but the special parliamentary session ended after two hours and protesters blocked lawmakers inside, forcing Somchai and five aides to climb over a fence to escape the mob, an AFP correspondent said.

Police bombarded the demonstrators with tear gas throughout the day to try and disperse about 8,000 protesters. They eventually created an exit for the trapped politicians, who hurried out of the building.

The political turmoil began here in late May when protesters launched their campaign to overthrow the government because of its ties to Thaksin, who was ousted in a September 2006 coup.

Supporters of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) stormed Bangkok's main government compound on August 26 and have been barricaded there since, also protesting the government's plans to amend the constitution.

Late Monday, thousands heeded a call from a protest leader to march on parliament for a "final battle."

Parliament went ahead with its session on Tuesday morning despite a boycott by the opposition Democrat Party in protest against the crackdown.

Thai media, meanwhile,

Emergency

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remove them, he said.

Stating that violence, intimidation and vote-buying are election-time reality in Bangladesh, the adviser said the government wants to continue with the emergency powers keeping the security of women and minority communities in mind.

"For the international community has already realised this. The European Union will follow suit soon," he said.

He hoped that political parties would understand the matter and help the government ensure that there is no post-election violence.

On the government's dialogue with the BNP, Zillur said, "The dialogue will be held soon. I hope it will be fruitful."

He said the government is planning to start dialogue at the grassroots level again to know whether there is any doubt about the election and what the people want.

No date for it has yet been finalised, he added.

Law adviser AF Hassan Ariff, LGRD Adviser Manwarul Iqbal and Communications Adviser Gulam Quader also attended the hour-long meeting.