

## Nuke answer

**FROM PAGE 1**  
body to implement and run the project, said speakers who represented Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), the private sector and International Finance Corporation (IFC).

A plant cannot be so large that it generates more than 10 percent of the total peak supply to the national grid. Otherwise, such a plant may cause the whole grid to fail. It means that the national grid should have a peak supply of 10,000MW to have a single unit 1,000MW nuclear plant. The speakers said if the country goes for nuclear power now, the national demand would hit around 10,000MW anyway by 2016.

Towfiq-e-Elahi picked a suggestion from another discussant to address this issue. "If our grid is connected to the regional [India or Myanmar] grid, then the 10 percent issue can be addressed. We would like to extend our grid to the regional network during our government's tenure."

He pointed out that even if the country had enough gas, the energy sources should be diversified. Nuclear power should be one of the choices.

"We are open to new ideas. We are committed to nuclear power. It is sad that our engineers went to other countries to build nuclear power plants while we sat for decades. But let us start now," Towfiq-e-Elahi said.

In addition to ensuring highest level of safety, the government needs to address one of the main impediments to nuclear power, ensuring purchase of nuclear fuel. This can be a geopolitical issue as only a few countries produce and sell uranium, the fuel that needs to be replenished every 18 to 24 months.

The other constraint is dumping the radioactive nuclear waste, which is still a globally debated issue. While it does not emit harmful gases, nuclear waste is an environmental issue. Most plants preserve the nuclear waste at the plant site, while some waste is dumped underground in deserts. A speaker suggested that Bangladesh should strike a deal with the fuel supplier to take back the waste.

A 1,000MW nuclear plant running at 80 percent factor for one year generates waste of 78 cubic feet, the roundtable was told.

Presenting a paper, Abdul Matin, former chief nuclear engineer of BAEC, said currently there are 436 nuclear reactors in the world generating 372,000MW power. Forty-four reactors with 38,848MW capacity are under construction. By 2030 there will be 862 reactors in the world generating more than 800,000MW.

He said nuclear electricity

## Dr Wazed

**FROM PAGE 1**  
deteriorating for the worst after 2:30pm, and he breathed his last around 4:25pm, doctors said.

His body was taken to his Sudha Sadan residence in Dhanmondi from the hospital around 5:25pm. Hundreds of citizens including ministers, state ministers, lawmakers, leaders of Awami League and its associated organisations, relatives, and admirers thronged Sudha Sadan to express their condolences to Dr Wazed's bereaved family members.

The youngest among four brothers and sisters, Dr Wazed Miah, survived by his wife Sheikh Hasina, son Saeed Wazed Joy, and daughter Saima Wazed Putul. Family sources said Joy and Putul were on their way home from the US and Canada yesterday.

Dr Wazed authored many books including Fundamentals of Thermodynamics, and Fundamentals of Electromagnetics, and got a PhD degree from Imperial College London. He got married to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 1968.

Dr Wazed's first namaz-e-ja'za will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital today at 10:00am, then his body will be taken to his village home Fathepur in Pirojganj of Rangpur.

He will be buried in his family graveyard after a second namaz-e-janaza there. Family sources said he will be buried next to the graves of his father Abdul Kader Miah and mother Moyzennas. As the news of Dr Wazed's passing away spread in his village, people expressed profound sorrow.

He lived a quiet life in Sudha Sadan after his retirement. He was also known among relatives and friends as 'Sudha Miah'.

President Zillur Rahman expressed his profound sorrow at the death of Dr Wazed Miah. In a condolence message, he said, "The country has lost an eminent scientist at his death."

The nation will recall with respect the contributions of Dr

generation cost is cheaper than coal or gas fired power in most countries. The cost of power from nuclear energy in France is 3.93 cents per kilowatt while it is 4.42 cents for coal power and 4.30 cents for gas power. In Japan the cost of nuclear, coal and gas-generated electricity are 6.86 cents, 6.91 cents and 6.38 cents respectively. In the USA nuclear power costs 4.65 cents, coal 3.65 and gas 4.90 cents.

Matin explained why there was a renewed interest in nuclear power worldwide. "World's fossil fuel reserves are limited and depleting fast. There is growing concern about emission of greenhouse gases from the combustion of fossil fuels and the consequent global warming and climate change. At the same time, nuclear power provides a safe, environmentally clean and economically viable alternative source of power generation," he said.

He noted that if 50 percent of our 13.5 trillion cubic feet of gas is dedicated to electricity, it will provide 3200MW for 30 years. If 90 percent of 1,000 million tonnes of the country's coal is dedicated to power generation, it will produce 15,750MW power for 30 years.

The country's power demand will shoot to 5,720MW next year, 9,211MW in 2015, 14,172MW in 2020 and 20,823MW in 2025. Presently the country can supply up to 4,162MW of power.

In the short term, Bangladesh may import electricity from neighbouring countries, improve plant efficiency, import Liquefied Natural Gas and take up conservation measures. In medium term, the country may go for coal and gas exploration, interconnect the national grid with neighbouring countries, go for two 1,000MW nuclear powerplants in Rooppur, to be in commission by 2016 and 17.

In the long term, the country should use coal on a large scale for power and take up four 1,000MW nuclear plants for base load in Chittagong and Khulna to be in commission by 2022 and 2026.

**Hizb ut-Tahrir**

**FROM PAGE 16**  
teenage boys were in attendance.

The Hizb ut-Tahrir operatives were holding the meeting without prior permission they needed to do so, he added.

Besides the leaflets, a laptop, CDs and a banner were recovered during the raid.

In primary interrogations, the arrestees admitted they are members of the Islamic outfit suspected to have links to militancy.

OC Wazed said the others were not detained as they were there believing it was going to be a religious gathering.

## Lanka shelling hospitals

**Says rights group**

AP, Colombo

Human Rights Watch on Saturday accused Sri Lankan forces of repeatedly striking hospitals in the northern war zone with indiscriminate artillery and aerial attacks that have killed scores of people, the sources added.

The New York-based group claimed military commanders responsible for ordering or conducting such attacks "may be prosecuted for war crimes."

The accusation came amid growing international concern for an estimated 50,000 civilians caught in the fighting between government forces and the separatist Tamil Tigers.

In the latest clashes, naval vessels destroyed two rebel boats after a sea battle off the northeast coast Saturday, killing at least 14 rebels, a military statement said.

On Friday, troops pushed further into the rebel territory, capturing an earthen fortification. The military said soldiers found 35 bodies of rebel fighters killed in the fighting.

There was no comment from rebels and it is difficult to verify the military's claims because reporters and independent observers are barred from the war zone.

Government troops in recent months have ousted the rebels from their strongholds across the north and say they have cornered the Tigers in a sliver of land just four kilometres-long on the northeast coast.

## US sees

**FROM PAGE 16**

The State Department also said the (ruling) Awami League failed to make good on promises to enact into legislation democratic-reform ordinances approved by the caretaker government.

The ruling party rejected caretaker government measures to decentralise government and to clearly separate judicial functions from the executive branch. Parliament did enact, however, caretaker government measures to fight terrorism and money laundering that received strong support from the US government and other countries that provide Bangladesh counter-terrorism assistance.

The government was rocked by a mutiny by border guards on February 25-26, 2005 in which more than 50 army officers were murdered, said the State Department.

In primary interrogations, the arrestees admitted they are members of the Islamic outfit suspected to have links to militancy.

OC Wazed said the others were not detained as they were there believing it was going to be a religious gathering.

## Infighting grips

**FROM PAGE 16**

On the other hand, some younger junior leaders and a section of senior leaders, who still have a chance of being included in the new full-fledged committee, are demanding a fresh central committee excluding elderly leaders who are above the age of 40, married, and involved in professional lives, the sources added.

The two-year tenure of the existing central committee, with Azizul Bari Babu as the president and Shafiqul Bari Babu as the general secretary, is expected to end in 2006.

Most of the central leaders of the Babu committee are above 40, and many of them are involved in different professions, the sources said.

President Sultan Salauddin Tuku also contested the last parliamentary election on BNPs ticket.

The sources said BNPs high-ups might declare a fresh JCD central committee soon after reorganising BNPs district committees in line with BNPs Chairperson Khaleda Zia's instructions.

But since the emergence of the row, a tension has been prevailing within JCD.

Some JCD leaders and activists even got involved in an altercation at a hospital in the capital a few days ago over who will and will not find places in the next full-fledged committee, according to the JCD sources.

"Some top most leaders

## Outlaw killed in 'crossfire'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

An outlawed party leader was killed in a shootout between Rab and his cohorts at Khaskarra village in Alamdanga upazila of Chuadanga district early yesterday.

"But we the junior leaders, want fresh leadership giving priority to young leaders," he said, adding, "JCD should come out of the grip of existing elderly leadership."

JCD General Secretary Shafiqul Bari Babu and Senior Vice-president Sultan Salauddin Tuku are allegedly lobbying for a convening committee while Organising Secretary Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel, Joint Secretary Amirul Islam Khan Alim, and some other top leaders of Dhaka University unit are demanding a fresh full-fledged committee.

Shafiqul Bari Babu however said, "A convening committee might run JCD for a while after BNPs district committees are reorganised."

"Some leaders expressed their demand for a convening committee to the chairperson while some others proposed a full-fledged committee," Babu said adding there is no internal feud in JCD except some competition for being in the leadership.

Tuku said, "We are demanding a convening committee, so we may reorganise grassroots committees before forming the new central committee, as the older generation has the experience for doing that."

## 55 Taliban

**FROM PAGE 1**

launched a full-scale offensive in Swat this week to halt the spread of Taliban control in districts within 100km of the capital.

But the fighting has caused hundreds of thousands of terrified residents to flee, adding a humanitarian emergency to the nuclear-armed nation's security, economic and political problems.

Witness accounts indicated that scores of civilians have already been killed or injured in the escalating clashes in Swat and the neighbouring Buner and Lower Dir districts.

On Saturday, medics at the hospital in Swat's main town, Mingora, were rushing to treat dozens of residents caught up in the fighting.

Riaz Khan, a 36-year-old schoolteacher, his wife and two daughters occupied four of the beds, the shrapnel wounds on their arms and legs covered by bandages.

Khan said his other two daughters were killed three days earlier when a mortar shell hit their home near Mingora.

"We buried our daughters on Thursday when the army relaxed the curfew," he told an Associated Press reporter. "We reached the hospital only with great difficulty."

Nisar Khan, one of only three doctors left at the hospital, said there were about 25 war-wounded among the 100 patients.

The unidentified bodies of three women and a man apparently killed in the fighting were also being kept there, even though the hospital had no morgue, he said.

There were scuffles Saturday between police and dwellers of one of the still-crude camps mushrooming around the city of Mardan, just south of the war zone.

Television image showed

dozens of men making off with blankets and tins of cooking oil. A policeman thumped one looter with the butt of his rifle while a man wearing a T-shirt bearing a UN logo urged others to return their booty.

"When people are desperate, it's hardly surprising that things like this happen," said Ariane Rummery, a spokeswoman for the UN refugee agency.

The agency has registered some 150,000 people fleeing the latest fighting. Pakistani and UN officials say the total number displaced may reach half a million.

Pakistan's army is fighting to wrest Swat and neighbouring districts from militants who dominate the adjoining tribal belt along the Afghan frontier, where US officials say al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden is likely holed up.

Taliban militants seized much of the area under a peace deal, even after the government agreed to their main demand to impose Islamic law in the region.

US officials likened the deal to a surrender. Pakistani leaders said the agreement's collapse had opened the eyes of ordinary citizens to the extremist threat.

In the latest fighting, helicopter gunships attacked militant hide-outs in Mingora and killed 15 enemy fighters, a military statement said.

An estimated 30 to 40 more died in clashes in more than a half dozen other locations, the statement said. Four soldiers were wounded.

The army has accused militants of causing civilian casualties with indiscriminate mortar fire.

However, it has declined to discuss the toll on innocents, and the army's account of the fighting could not be verified independently.

## Project for disabled

**FROM PAGE 16**

support for the whole project." Higher officials of the social welfare ministry, including its secretary Quomarjan Nessa Khanam, could not be contacted after repeated attempts. It also urges the government to take necessary action to launch the project formally to provide services and better prospect for the millions of persons with disabilities as well as disadvantaged children in the country. Pointing out the reason behind the negligence of government official, JPUS governing body member Zahirul Alam said the WB gave a condition before the government that an independent body would be able to implement the project. He said some progress have already been made to launch the programme, including recruitment of project staff, approved by the planning commission on behalf of JPUS.

But the project money remains unused, as the government officials are reluctant to play their roles in starting the project activities, sources said. Though Social Welfare Ministry Secretary Quomarjan Nessa in a report published in The Daily Star on April 1 claimed that they are trying to rehabilitate PWDs with trainings, assistance and development programmes through JPUS but the ministry is yet to take any initiative to launch the project formally.

But the project money remains unused, as the government officials are reluctant to play their roles in starting the project activities, sources said. Though Social Welfare Ministry Secretary Quomarjan Nessa in a report published in The Daily Star on April 1 claimed that they are trying to rehabilitate PWDs with trainings, assistance and development programmes through JPUS but the ministry is yet to take any initiative to launch the project formally.

He, however, said contrary to propaganda by some quarters, the word Bismillah will not be dropped from the constitution, and nor will Baksal [one-party rule] be reinstated.

The issue came to the fore after the government recently filed an application with the apex court to withdraw the appeal against the landmark HC verdict delivered in August 2005.

Immediately after getting the news of Dr Wazed Miah's death, the BNP chairperson asked the party secretary general to postpone the protest programme.

"If the parties fail to come up with a consensus by the deadline, the president might extend it or ask the parties to form a simple majority government on Sunday," said Rajendra Dahal, the president's press advisor.

"The decision has been taken to show respect to the noted scientist [Dr Wazed Miah]," Rajendra Dahal, BNP office secretary, told The Daily Star last night.

Immediately after getting the news of Dr Wazed Miah's death, the BNP chairperson asked the party secretary general to postpone the protest programme.

"If the parties fail to come up with a consensus by the deadline, the president might extend it or ask the parties to form a simple majority government on Sunday," said Rajendra Dahal, the president's press advisor.

"The decision has been taken to show respect to the noted scientist [Dr Wazed Miah]," Rajendra Dahal, BNP office secretary, told The Daily Star last night.

Immediately after getting the news of Dr Wazed Miah's death, the BNP chairperson asked the party secretary general to postpone the protest programme.

"If the parties fail to come up with a consensus by the deadline, the president might extend it or ask the parties to form a simple majority government on Sunday," said Rajendra Dahal, the president's press advisor.

"The decision has been taken to show respect to the noted scientist [Dr Wazed Miah]," Rajendra Dahal, BNP office secretary, told The Daily Star last night.

Immediately after getting the news of Dr Wazed Miah's death, the BNP chairperson asked the party secretary general to postpone the protest programme.

"If the parties fail to come up with a consensus by the deadline, the president might extend it or ask the parties to form a simple majority government on Sunday," said Rajendra Dahal, the president's press advisor.