

10 minutes' shock

FROM PAGE 1
last few sittings but yesterday it was an outburst.

With the efforts of a number of Jatiya Party lawmakers, who sit on the borderline of the opposition and treasury benches, and a few ruling-party lawmakers led by Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, the situation did not worsen.

The BNP-led opposition, however, stormed out of the House at 8:05pm saying Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Faroque was not given the floor to speak during the chaotic session.

The situation went wild when BNP lawmaker Shammi Akhtar, elected to a reserved seat for women, spat venom on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman while speaking on the thanksgiving motion on the president's address.

Shammi in her speech said none uttered "Innaillillah..." (a line from the holy Quran recited by the Muslims when they hear the news of someone's death) after the killing of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. "Even an Awami League leader living in London during that time said 'Alhamdulillah [praise to Allah], Bangladesh has got rid of a Pharaoh', Shammi said sparking huge protest.

Before Shammi, Awami League lawmaker Zobeda Khatun taking part in the discussion had labelled Ziaur Rahman a "killer and betrayer".

After Shammi finished her speech amid huge protest by the treasury bench lawmakers, Chief Whip Abdus Shahid took the floor and said the words the BNP lawmaker used "cannot be uttered in a civilised society".

"As a Muslim, she destroyed the sanctity of the House by using those words," Shahid said. He urged the deputy speaker to expunge the words.

At the end of yesterday's sitting the deputy speaker said he would expunge all unparliamentary words from the house proceedings.

After Shahid concluded his speech, the opposition chief whip stood on his feet and sought the floor to speak. But the deputy speaker did not allow him to speak and gave the floor to Awami League lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim.

Taking the floor, Rahim launched a verbal attack on opposition leader Khaleda Zia's family life after the country's independence. He said Ziaur Rahman refused to take back Khaleda Zia after the country's independence.

At this point, BNP lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee leaped out of his chair rushed towards the borderline of the treasury bench. He was followed by AM Mahub Uddin Khokon and Ashraf Uddin Nizan and several others.

A number of ruling Awami League lawmakers including Joyanal Abedin and Nazma Akhtar had also left their chairs and rushed towards their opponents.

Several legislators from Awami League and BNP brandished fists and showed slapping gestures at each other. BNP lawmaker Shammi used a pencil as a make-belief gun and sprayed

GD can be

FROM PAGE 16
Bangladeshi expatriates living in any foreign country will also have access to the online facility, he said.

Sahara said the ruling Awami League introduced the modern facility in police stations as part of the implementation of its electoral pledge of having a "Digital Bangladesh".

Shah Alam said 41 police stations under the DMP would provide six types of services in the first phase and other police stations across the country in phases.

To get the service, a person has to log in to www.police.gov.bd and click the link "Citizens' help request" for filing a general diary. He or she can click the desired links for other services.

"Now those who only need general diary numbers don't have to go to police stations as police will send them the numbers after filing of general diary", he said.

Shah Alam said people will enjoy the facility for filing general diaries on "not very urgent things" like snatching, loss or theft of certificates, ID cards and documents, or issues involving security guards, servants, caretakers and tenants.

Border force

FROM PAGE 1
that started around 11:00am at a multipurpose shed, which is used for indoor games.

Last year, some 2,500 BDR personnel were present at the Darbar of Maj Gen Shakil Ahmed, who was brutally killed among 57 army officers during the 33-hour-long mutiny.

"That day the soldiers left the Darbar Hall with the slogan 'Jago', the BDR chief said, adding, if the soldiers would not leave the hall, it was not possible for any force to commit such heinous killings.

"The heinous killings and mutiny have belittled us before the nation," he added.

"We are observing a curtailed week this year showing respect to the martyrs killed during the Pilkhana mutiny and hatred towards those who committed the crime."

He also expressed gratitude to the prime minister for tackling the mutiny and violence in a democratic way.

Though many people think BDR is weak on the border, it is not so at all, he said.

The DG said the Indian Border Security Force has more outposts in short distance than BDR, adding that Bangladesh would also increase its outposts and reduce system loss.

Work is underway to set up 90 new outposts, he informed.

Gen Mainul expressed satisfaction as the BDR men from Dhaka and elsewhere are coming forward to give witnesses' deposition in the mutiny cases.

He however expressed frustration, as a large number of arms of the paramilitary force remain seized since the mutiny. If the arms are not in good shape, the force will have to buy new ones at a cost of huge sums of money.

The BDR officers and personnel, who performed exceptionally well in 2009, received awards on the occasion that concluded at 12:20pm.

However, some of the operations were suspended since the mutiny and prizes on those sections also remained suspended.

At the beginning of yesterday's Darbar, Gen Mainul delivered an inaugural speech to the soldiers in presence of journalists. He later exclusively spoke to the soldiers after the prize giving ceremony where journalists were not allowed to be present.

This was the second Darbar being held there after the mutiny. The first one was held on August 17 last year.

University

FROM PAGE 16
Mohammadpur in the capital.

Witnesses said a gang of eight to 10 local criminals swooped on Shovon with sharp weapons, iron rods and bamboo sticks in front of Pagla mosque in the area around 6:30pm. Shovon was returning home after a game of cricket at Kishoreganj stadium.

The attackers, however, escaped the scene.

Locals rushed Shovon to Kishoreganj Sadar Adhunik Hospital with fatal injuries in his chest, back and abdomen. He was later shifted to Zahurul Islam Medical College Hospital in Bajitpur where the doctors declared him dead at 8:30pm.

Victim's uncle Shaful Islam Fakir said Shovon tried to stop drug peddling in his area which enraged the local criminals and resulted in his early death. Shovon used to live in Dhaka and visit home during vacations, he added.

A case was lodged with the Kishoreganj Sadar Police Station in this connection.

Officer-in-Charge of the police station Mir Mosharrif Hossain said they were trying to nab the killers.

Indo-Bangla

FROM PAGE 16
Bangladesh signed the agreement with India this January. Seventeen secretaries of different ministries and divisions and a number of high government officials attended the meeting.

Moshir Rahman asked the secretaries to work in coordination and give feedbacks of their respective areas to move forward with the joint communiqué.

"We have decided to fix a timeframe to implement all the major issues of the joint communiqué. We also decided to review the progress of implementation time to time, if possible every month," Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told The Daily Star last night.

"We also discussed with importance the use of \$1 billion to be given by India as per the joint communiqué. Most of the fund will go to communication and shipping ministry for improvement of rail and road networks and river dredging," said a secretary of a ministry.

Some secretaries told the meeting that areas such as construction of railway lines from Indian Biorol to Dinajpur, settlement of maritime boundary demarcation and outstanding land border issues would take time while there is progress in electricity supply to Dahagram and Angorpota and talks on border management and security.

Nightingale Medical

FROM PAGE 16
which implies that the 50-seated Nightingale medical college had to run a 250-bed hospital but the authorities did not follow it, sources said.

Raisuddin Sujan, a third year student of the medical college, told The Daily Star, "We are happy to hear that the government has decided to migrate us to other private medical colleges."

He demanded return of their tuition fees amounting to Tk 8-10 lakh saying, "We have already lost one academic year."

Shujan urged the government to ask the private medical colleges where they will be transferred not to take any admission fee.

"If Nightingale medical college returns our admission fees, we will give it to the new medical college," he said.

The Nightingale college authorities did not allow the investigation team of DGHS on February 13 to investigate the college activities, sources said.

Muhith missing

FROM PAGE 1
Bangladesh is seeking funds for 12 different projects including reopening of jute mills shut down earlier.

GEF, a multi-donor trust fund, finances government environmental projects having trans-boundary environmental impacts. It funds projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants -- through World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and different UN organs like UNDP, UNEP, and FAO.

Pulak Chatterjee, executive director of the World Bank also a GEF council member from South Asia, and Bangladesh State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud addressed the meeting as well.

Muhith said the process of GEF fund disbursement is time consuming. "We have to reform it in order to tackle the problem of climate change," he added.

He said loss of biodiversity, and the scourge of poverty also adversely affect the environmental balance, requiring attention and fund for amelioration.

He however added that GEF has also done some good work over the years.

Muhith said the South Asian Constituency meeting, ahead of the next GEF council in June this year, will pave the way towards strengthening endeavours for resolving trans-boundary environmental issues.

Dr Hasan Mahmud also said the process of GEF fund disbursement is still a lengthy one. "Access to funds should be flexible, so that we are benefited," he said.

Since the issue of climate change has taken precedence in the global environmental discourse, other issues like rapid urbanisation and industrialisation are not getting adequate attention, he pointed out.

He said now it is time for channelling some funds to other environmental programmes as well.

When asked about the Bangladesh finance minister's comments, World Bank Executive Director Pulak

PM irked

FROM PAGE 1
She regretted that the government is holding regular ECNEC meeting and finalising various development projects but the projects are not being implemented in line with the expectations.

"It seems that there are weaknesses in formulating and implementing development projects. Such things cannot continue anymore," she stated.

Official figures show 35 percent of the Tk 30,500 crore original Annual Development Programme for the current 2009-10 fiscal year could be implemented in seven months to January.

Hasina said all government officials must work with a sense and feeling of responsibility and accountability towards the people.

She further deplored that some of the government officials lack pro-people mentality though there are many others who give their best in the efforts for bringing prosperity in people's life through implementing the government schemes.

"It cannot be that we only go on enjoying fruits of the hard labour of the masses like farmers and labourers--we have many things to give back to those who through their round-the-clock work have kept our economy vibrant and strong," she said.

Hasina disclosed that she came to know that directors of

CID seeks

FROM PAGE 16
into the country.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Shahdat Hossain fixed March 24 for hearing on the petition.

The case was filed with Sutrapur Police Station in May 2006.

The other five are BD Foods officials Mohammad Mainuddin and Abu Bakar Siddique, former employee Nazmul Haider Bhuiyan Bulbul, Kazi Zafar Reza of Rainbow Enterprise and Abul Bashar of Green Heaven Enterprise.

They along with Badruddoza obtained bails from the High Court earlier on different dates.

Zafar and Bashar after being arrested on May 7 and 12 of 2006 gave confessional statements before magistrates. The two confessed that they were involved with smuggling heroin to the UK following Badruddoza's directive.

Badruddoza was arrested on May 14 the same year after Nazmul and his accomplice Mokhlesur Rahman Nayan, a cargo handler, confessed to a magistrate that they had smuggled 22.5kg of heroin to the UK on instructions from Badruddoza.

He was also shown arrested in a case filed in connection with the 22.5kg-heroin smuggling case filed with Motijheel Police Station in May the same year.

Later, Badruddoza was remanded for 17 days on different dates. He was granted bail from the HC on July 9, 2006.

Law to protect

FROM PAGE 1
establish good governance in the country.

Shafique mentioned that many people now do not dare to inform the authorities about cases of bribery, misdeeds and other offences in different offices.

The meeting was attended by among others State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, Law Commission Chairman Justice MA Rashid and its member Prof Shah Alam, senior lawyer Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Asian Development Bank's Country Director Paul J Heytens.

Earlier in the day, briefing the media at his office Qamrul Islam brushed aside BNP leader Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir's allegation that the government is influencing court in dealing with cases against Senior Vice Chairman of BNP Tarique Rahman.

Arrest warrant against Tarique was properly issued by a trial court since his lawyers had not submitted to it the High Court orders staying the proceedings against him, he said.

Meanwhile, the warrant issued on Monday was withdrawn on Tuesday.

Qamrul said the BNP-led government in the past, and not the present government, had influenced the judiciary in handling cases.

5,000 NGOs

FROM PAGE 1
Talukder, also a BNP lawmaker, said the subcommittee would oversee whether there is anomaly in selecting NGOs and spending of the fund.

About the increasing pirate attacks in the Sundarbans, the parliamentary body has decided to ask the home ministry to launch a joint operation of police and Rab to protect fishermen and forest officials of the area.

It has also recommended scrapping licence and closure of all brickfields, which were set up without following rules and adding to pollution.

The watchdog also asked the foreign ministry to encourage more Indians in voting for the Sundarbans so that the largest mangrove forest becomes one of the world's new seven wonders.

Meanwhile, the parliamentary standing committee on religious affairs ministry rejected a proposal for sending hajj pilgrims to Makkah by ships.

A number of private shipping companies recently sent the proposal to the shipping ministry. With a positive gesture, the shipping ministry forwarded the proposal to the religious affairs ministry, said a press release from the parliamentary secretary.

It said, "The committee unanimously decided to reject the proposal."

Two important terrorist commanders named Muhammad Tufail alias Abdullah and Muhammad Iqbal were killed by security forces in an exchange of fire, the military announced overnight in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The gun battle happened late Monday on the outskirts of Peshawar, a military spokesman told AFP.

The military said Iqbal belonged to Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Taliban faction in the lawless district of Khyber, which straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting against the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan.

"He was a key supplier of suicide bomb jackets and explo-

Suicide blasts kill 33

FROM PAGE 16
ahead of Iraqi polls

AFP, Baquba
Three powerful co-ordinated suicide attacks in the central Iraq city of Baquba killed at least 33 people and wounded 55 yesterday, just days before nationwide parliamentary elections.

The blasts, the deadliest to hit the country in nearly a month, spurred police to clamp an immediate curfew on the city, 60km north of Baghdad and one of Iraq's biggest.

The attacks came despite heightened security across the country ahead of Sunday's vote and after the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, threatened to disrupt the election by "military means."

Two near-simultaneous suicide vehicle bombs ripped through the provincial housing department's offices and a nearby traffic intersection at around 9:30 am (0630 GMT), while a man later blew himself up at Baquba's main hospital where victims were being treated.

The three bombings killed 33 people, a security official from Baquba operations command said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The (third) suicide bomber tried to blow himself up against the police chief when he came to see the wounded in the hospital."

Police chief Major General Abdul Hussein al-Shimmari escaped unharmed but members of his personal security team, including police Colonel Nabil Ibrahim, were wounded. Diyala provincial health chief Dr. Ali al-Timimi was also injured.

An advisor to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Ali al-Mussawi, said "terrorists" were bent on disrupting Sunday's vote.

"They want to cause confusion and stop the people from voting because the elections are a big threat to terrorists," he told AFP.

"They have put all their efforts into jeopardising the elections."

The first vehicle in Wednesday's attacks crashed through the entrance to the provincial housing department's compound, which sits next to a police station, before exploding.

Moments later at a nearby traffic intersection, a suicide bomber triggered the explosives packed into his vehicle, creating a powerful blast. The hospital bombing occurred a

Taliban attack

Pak school, concert

AFP, Peshawar
Taliban militants blew up a boys' school and assailants threw grenades into a music event, killing a student, in separate incidents in north and southwest Pakistan, officials said yesterday.

The boys' school attack took place overnight in the Spin Qabar area of Khyber, a lawless district that straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"All four rooms of the government boys' primary school were completely destroyed. Taliban are responsible," Khyber's top administrative official Shafirullah Khan told AFP, adding that no one was hurt as the school was closed for the night.

Islamists opposed to co-education and advocating Sharia law have destroyed hundreds of schools, mostly for girls, in northwest Pakistan in recent years -- including 16 last month.

In the southwestern province of Baluchistan, unknown attackers hurled three grenades into a cultural show at an engineering university in Khuzdar district, some 300km south of the provincial capital Quetta.

One student was killed and 13 wounded, district police chief Nazir Ahmad Kurd told AFP.

"This was an attack on a cultural show while students were enjoying music," he said.

Earlier Pakistan's military said Wednesday that a supplier of suicide jackets and explosives who operated a key inter-city network had been killed during a gun battle with soldiers.

Two important terrorist commanders named Muhammad Tufail alias Abdullah and Muhammad Iqbal were killed by security forces in an exchange of fire, the military announced overnight in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The gun battle happened late Monday on the outskirts of Peshawar, a military spokesman told AFP.

The military said Iqbal belonged to Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Taliban faction in the lawless district of Khyber, which straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting against the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan.

"He was a key supplier of suicide bomb jackets and explo-

Suicide blasts kill 33

FROM PAGE 16
ahead of Iraqi polls

AFP, Baquba
Three powerful co-ordinated suicide attacks in the central Iraq city of Baquba killed at least 33 people and wounded 55 yesterday, just days before nationwide parliamentary elections.

The blasts, the deadliest to hit the country in nearly a month, spurred police to clamp an immediate curfew on the city, 60km north of Baghdad and one of Iraq's biggest.

The attacks came despite heightened security across the country ahead of Sunday's vote and after the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, threatened to disrupt the election by "military means."

Two near-simultaneous suicide vehicle bombs ripped through the provincial housing department's offices and a nearby traffic intersection at around 9:30 am (0630 GMT), while a man later blew himself up at Baquba's main hospital where victims were being treated.

The three bombings killed 33 people, a security official from Baquba operations command said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The (third) suicide bomber tried to blow himself up against the police chief when he came to see the wounded in the hospital."

Police chief Major General Abdul Hussein al-Shimmari escaped unharmed but members of his personal security team, including police Colonel Nabil Ibrahim, were wounded. Diyala provincial health chief Dr. Ali al-Timimi was also injured.

An advisor to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Ali al-Mussawi, said "terrorists" were bent on disrupting Sunday's vote.

"They want to cause confusion and stop the people from voting because the elections are a big threat to terrorists," he told AFP.

"They have put all their efforts into jeopardising the elections."

The first vehicle in Wednesday's attacks crashed through the entrance to the provincial housing department's compound, which sits next to a police station, before exploding.

Moments later at a nearby traffic intersection, a suicide bomber triggered the explosives packed into his vehicle, creating a powerful blast. The hospital bombing occurred a

Taliban attack

Pak school, concert

AFP, Peshawar
Taliban militants blew up a boys' school and assailants threw grenades into a music event, killing a student, in separate incidents in north and southwest Pakistan, officials said yesterday.

The boys' school attack took place overnight in the Spin Qabar area of Khyber, a lawless district that straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"All four rooms of the government boys' primary school were completely destroyed. Taliban are responsible," Khyber's top administrative official Shafirullah Khan told AFP, adding that no one was hurt as the school was closed for the night.

Islamists opposed to co-education and advocating Sharia law have destroyed hundreds of schools, mostly for girls, in northwest Pakistan in recent years -- including 16 last month.

In the southwestern province of Baluchistan, unknown attackers hurled three grenades into a cultural show at an engineering university in Khuzdar district, some 300km south of the provincial capital Quetta.

One student was killed and 13 wounded, district police chief Nazir Ahmad Kurd told AFP.

"This was an attack on a cultural show while students were enjoying music," he said.

Earlier Pakistan's military said Wednesday that a supplier of suicide jackets and explosives who operated a key inter-city network had been killed during a gun battle with soldiers.

Two important terrorist commanders named Muhammad Tufail alias Abdullah and Muhammad Iqbal were killed by security forces in an exchange of fire, the military announced overnight in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The gun battle happened late Monday on the outskirts of Peshawar, a military spokesman told AFP.

The military said Iqbal belonged to Pakistan's Tehreek-e-Taliban faction in the lawless district of Khyber, which straddles the main supply line for Nato troops fighting against the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan.

"He was a key supplier of suicide bomb jackets and explo-

Suicide blasts kill 33

FROM PAGE 16
ahead of Iraqi polls

AFP, Baquba
Three powerful co-ordinated suicide attacks in the central Iraq city of Baquba killed at least 33 people and wounded 55 yesterday, just days before nationwide parliamentary elections.

The blasts, the deadliest to hit the country in nearly a month, spurred police to clamp an immediate curfew on the city, 60km north of Baghdad and one of Iraq's biggest.

The attacks came despite heightened security across the country ahead of Sunday's vote and after the leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), Abu Omar al-Baghdadi, threatened to disrupt the election by "military means."

Two near-simultaneous suicide vehicle bombs ripped through the provincial housing department's offices and a nearby traffic intersection at around 9:30 am (0630 GMT), while a man later blew himself up at Baquba's main hospital where victims were being treated.

The three bombings killed 33 people, a security official from Baquba operations command said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The (third) suicide bomber tried to blow himself up against the police chief when he came to see the wounded in the hospital."

Police chief Major General Abdul Hussein al-Shimmari escaped unharmed but members of his personal security team, including police Colonel Nabil Ibrahim, were wounded. Diyala provincial health chief Dr. Ali al-Timimi was also injured.

An advisor to Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, Ali al-Mussawi, said "terrorists" were bent on disrupting Sunday's vote.

"They want to cause confusion and stop the people from voting because the elections are a big threat to terrorists," he told AFP.

"They have put all their efforts into jeopardising the elections."

The first vehicle in Wednesday's attacks crashed through the entrance to the provincial housing department's compound, which sits next to a police station, before exploding.

Moments later at a nearby traffic intersection, a suicide bomber triggered the explosives packed into his vehicle, creating a powerful blast. The hospital bombing occurred a

Taliban attack

Pak school, concert