

Labour MP admits incident in Parliament

BBC ONLINE

Labour MP Paul Farrelly has admitted he "wrestled" a man to the floor inside the Houses of Parliament.

The MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme described the altercation as "a John Prescott moment" and said it was an act of self-defence.

The Daily Mail named the man as Bjorn Hurrell, and said he was left with a cut above his eye.

Scotland Yard said it had not received complaints about the incident.

The altercation happened on Thursday evening during a karaoke party at Parliament's Sports and Social club.

Farrelly told the BBC he was waiting for some guests in the club, a staff bar in Parliament.

He said: "There was a man there behaving very rudely and badly and pushing people, and I had a word with him about his behaviour."

Farrelly said the man took a swing at him and pushed him to the ground. When he got up the man "clearly wasn't going to stop", so Farrelly said he acted in self-defence and pushed the man to the ground and restrained him.

"It's always regretful to respond to provocation, but actually I think any normal person who is capable of defending themselves would have done exactly as I did."

"It happened to John Prescott a few years ago. It seems to have happened to me now."

Farrelly added he had not

heard from the police, but he would be very happy to help them and explain he was acting "entirely in self-defence".

Friends of Hurrell, who delivers newspaper in the Palace of Westminster, told the Mail he had been enjoying the karaoke night he helped his mother organise.

The friends claimed the altercation began at the bar, and Farrelly then confronted Hurrell in a corridor outside the bar.

EGG THROWING
Friends said Hurrell kept repeating "remember you're an MP", but Farrelly continued and ended up wrestling him to the ground.

A friend told the Mail: "Bjorn was really shaken up that he had been attacked, let alone in the Houses of Parliament by an MP."

The Mail carries a picture of Hurrell, 46, with a cut and swelling over his left eye, and says he is due to make a formal complaint about Farrelly's behaviour to Parliament.

Farrelly is a strong critic of anti-social behaviour, saying on his website: "Decent people should not see their lives blighted by nuisance and anti-social behaviour, nor should our children be led astray by a mindless minority."

In 2001, Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott brought the election campaign to life when he hit a voter who threw an egg at him in Rhyl.

Beximco

FROM PAGE 1 agreement is subject to regulatory approval.

Based on the current market price per Singer share, the deal amounts to more than Tk 945 crore.

"We will now apply for approval from the Securities and Exchange Commission," said Rahman.

Singer Bangladesh is the latest on Beximco's recent list of buying moves.

Considered one of the largest conglomerates in the country, Beximco had earlier bought stakes in five-star hotel The Westin, GMG Airlines and Scholastica Group.

A senior official of Singer Bangladesh said the 55 percent stake had been owned by Singer Bhold BV of the Netherlands. The deal covers 12,34,124 shares or a 55 percent stake of Singer, said the official. Of the remaining 45 percent stake, 20 percent is blocked shares and 25 percent is owned by general shareholders.

Details on other partners of the Beximco-led consortium were not immediately available.

Singer is a popular household name in Bangladesh for its home appliances. It sells goods from refrigerator to micro-woven, laptop and motorbike and has outlets across the country. It also sells other companies' goods at its Singer Plus outlets.

Replying to a query, Rahman said there would be no change in the existing Singer Bangladesh management. "I am happy with the present management," he noted.

In a statement, Stephen H Good man, Singer Corporation's president, said: "I am extremely pleased by the opportunity the company has to place majority control of its Bangladesh operation with a distinguished group of Bangladesh investors."

"I anticipate that with majority ownership in local hands and the Company's existing, excellent management continuing in place, revenue and profit growth at Singer Bangladesh will accelerate."

Singer Bangladesh listed on the Dhaka Stock Exchange in 1983. The company logged Tk 26.36 crore in profit after tax in the third quarter, up from Tk 20.38 crore in the previous quarter. Its paid-up capital is Tk 22.4 crore.

The price of each Singer share closed at Tk 7,660 on the prime bourse on Thursday.

Beximco has several companies listed on the stock market.

League leader

FROM PAGE 1
Officer-in-Charge Nazrul Islam of Sutrapur Police Station said Dela, a land broker, is an accused in nine cases for murder, extortion and mugging.

Locals said hearing gunshots around 1:00am, they rushed to the spot and found Dela lying with bullet injuries on KB Road near an orphanage in the area.

Dela's younger brother and the local clinic took him to a local clinic at Sutrapur and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead around 1:50am.

Dela's mother Piari Begum said that after receiving a phone call around 9:30pm on Friday, Dela left his family residence at Faridabad in Gandaria on his bike. Before leaving he told his mother that he had some important work to do and would go to his Banasri residence after finishing up the job.

Roma Akhter, the victim's wife, and Piari said Shariful had been issuing death threats to Dela over the last few months.

Earlier in 2000, associates of the local DCC ward commissioner and Shariful killed Dela's younger brother Faruque, and a few years back Dela's another younger brother Wasim was gunned down and maimed, they said.

They suspect that cohorts of the commissioner and Shariful killed Dela.

Roma said she and Dela with their three kids used to live in Faridabad residence but fearing attack by the ward commissioner and Shariful they moved into the residence in Banasri Project in Rampura after the killing of Faruque.

On assurance of the local lawmaker Mizanur Rahman Khan, Dela recently started visiting his family members in Old Dhaka, she added.

Faruque Hossain, officer-in-charge of Gandaria Police Station, said they were yet to know the motive of the arrestees behind the killing.

Decision on Eid

FROM PAGE 1
Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted distant warning signal No.2.

All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice.

New MJ record to be released

AFP, Los Angeles

A new album by Michael Jackson is to be released next month, including never-before-heard songs by the self-styled King of Pop before his death last year, his record company said Friday.

"Michael" has been produced by the late star's estate in collaboration with Epic Records, which will put a teaser clip on his website this weekend, followed by one of the singles, "Breaking News," from Monday.

The cover artwork for the record, to be released December 14, shows images of the eccentric singer at various stages of his career, dominated by one of him being crowned by cherubs with a biblical-looking star in the background.

"The creative process never stopped for the King of Pop who was always planning for his next album," Epic said in a statement on the Jackson website.

"Unbeknownst to many fans around the world, (he) was writing and recording songs continuously everywhere from a friend's home in New Jersey to studios in Las Vegas and Los Angeles with a small group of handpicked collaborators."

And it said: "Now, through the unique stories that will be told about the songs that comprise 'Michael,' fans will get mind-blowing insight into how this artist worked."

The record will also give his fans "a chance to hear the songs he most recently created along with tracks that Michael had a desire to bring to fruition," it added.

The record company gave no further details about the songs on the album. A film, "This is it," was released last year with footage of rehearsals by Jackson for a series of London concerts he was preparing for before he died in June at age 50.

The new album's cover

artwork was created by painter Kadir Nelson in 2009, it noted.

"In the oil painting, Kadir -- who is known for story telling through his art -- takes us on a journey through some key moments and important people in Michael Jackson's life," it said.

Sweater

FROM PAGE 1
hour's break, and exchanged brickbats.

Protesters beat up Anwar Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of Detective branch of Gazipur police, as he was taking photographs of the clash. They also tried to snatch his pistol but failed, witnesses said.

Assistant Superintendent of Police (sadar circle) Md Akhteruzzaman, Joydevpur Police Station Sub-inspector Rafiqul Islam and Miran Hossain are among the injured, said Abdur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station.

Police put up barricade at Chandra crossing, some two kilometres from the spot, to prevent the agitators from spreading to adjoining areas.

Normalcy returned to the area around noon after local lawmaker AKM Mozammel Haque brokered an agreement between the workers and the authorities.

Haque held a meeting with representatives of the owners and workers on the factory's main building premises to negotiate a deal between the two sides.

Workers put forward a 10-point demand including announcing Friday as weekly holiday and increasing their salary and other allowances.

Kamaluddin Ahmed, managing director of the factory, admitted that the unrest broke out over low pay.

"We've decided to pay the workers Tk 45 per piece [of sweater] as per their demand. In addition, each worker will get Tk 800 to Tk 1,000."

Solution lies

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water sharing, Sheikh Wahiduzzaman, water resources secretary, said there has already been some progress on regional cooperation.

"During the secretary-level talks (in March) in Delhi, the Indian side agreed in principle to include Nepal in the water talks."

Wahiduzzaman said, "The government will start construction of the Ganges Barrage in 2012 and re-excavate the Gorai river to ensure fresh water for the Sundarbans, where salinity is already causing havoc."

Nepalese water resources expert Iswer Raj Onta said, "It has to be studied what will be the impacts on India, Bangladesh and Nepal if China diverts the Brahmaputra water for its increasing demand for water."

"Water issue should be people-oriented rather than country-oriented. It is also becoming a political issue. So, politicians of all these countries must unite to solve it."

Dr Kashem, a local expert, suggested that basin manage-

ment approach for solving water issues must be taken up as a development issue.

Citing Article 9 of the Ganges Treaty, Kashem said that for regional basin management programme for water sharing, the principles of no harm to any country, equity and fairness must be strictly followed.

A member of the Bangladesh-India Joint Rivers Commission, Mir Sajjad, informed the seminar that since the prime minister's visit to India (in January), Delhi is regularly sharing all water-related information with Dhaka. And it is vital for flood warning.

Economist Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, who chaired the seminar, said talks on regional cooperation have continued since 1990 without much success. "It is time, may be not too late, to agree on common interests, and act."

Common issues such as water sharing, arsenic contamination and ground water depletion must be addressed by all unanimously, he said.

Tribute to '71

FROM PAGE 16
Dipu Moni is scheduled to place the foundation stone on Wednesday during a two-day visit to the Indian State.

The Tripura forest department is building the park in memory of those who sacrificed their lives to liberate Bangladesh, according to Jiten Chowdhury, forest minister of the state.

The park will house a statue of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and a museum to preserve arms and ammunition used in the Liberation War, and many old photographs, literature and newspapers of those days.

Jiten Chowdhury said a 52-foot tower would be built in the park from where parts of Noakhali and Feni districts could be seen. The entire project costs Rs 2.3 crore.

The park is just on the border and near Trishna Wild Life Sanctuary and can be a great attraction for tourists from India as well as Bangladesh, he added.

A very significant part of the 1971 war history links Tripura.

Chottakhola was one of the base camps of Mukti Joddhas (freedom fighters) from where they launched guerrilla attacks against Pakistani army in Noakhali, Feni and parts of Comilla.

Many Indian troops and

Nizami

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yesterday. The investigators visited killing spots in Baushgari of Demra union, Dhulauri, Karomja of Santhia yesterday and interviewed a number of war crimes witnesses.

Santhia is the birthplace and election constituency of Nizami.

Earlier on Thursday and Friday, the probe team visited places in Pabna sadar and Ishwardi upazila where Pakistan army and their collaborators had set up camps and torture centres during the Liberation War.

"In the investigation we learnt that in 1971 some eight to nine hundred innocent people were killed in Demra in a day and another 21 in Dhulauri," Razzak said.

Talking to the probe team, Md Shajahan, a Liberation War veteran, recalled the Dhulauri carnage.

"Following Nizami's directives, local collaborator Sattar razakar led the Pak army to Dhulauri on November 27, 1971. They killed 21 people including nine freedom fighters. The collaborators had attacked me but I was saved by the grace of the Almighty. Still I am carrying the wound in my body," said the freedom fighter.

Another war hero, Jahurul Haque of Santhia claimed, "Nizami was the organiser of the collaborators. He used to make plans and direct his associates. Most of the war criminals are relatives and followers of Nizami."

The collaborators, widely called razakars, led by Nizami committed mass killings in Baushgari, locals said. Asad, one of the razakars, led the occupation troops to the remote village where the Hindus had taken shelter.

In Baushgari some 350 people were killed on that night. The entire Demra was turned into a graveyard as eight to nine hundred people were martyred, locals told the team.

However, some people were chanting slogans in favour of Nizami while the witnesses were talking to the probe team. But nothing untoward had happened, investigators said.

Earlier in a press briefing on Friday, the probe team said Nizami, top-tyre Jamaat leader Abdus Subhan, also the former lawmaker from Pabna; and Moulana Ishaque, former minister of Pakistan government, were the leaders of collaborators.

Subhan and Ishaque are still at large. Asked about their arrest, prosecutor Abdur Rob Howlader said the tribunal investigators would decide when to arrest the duo.

Canals

FROM PAGE 1
BAPA General Secretary Dr. Abdul Matin alleged that despite the prime minister's numerous directives to evict canal grabbers, some influential people and party men are obstructing the recovery.

He opined that the taskforce for canal recovery could not produce any results due to adverse political pressures.

Nagorik Uddog Executive Director Zakir Hossain strongly criticised the Awami League lawmaker Aslamul Haque's move to resist anti-grabbing drive.

Other demands include strengthening the drive to recover illegally occupied canals, taking preventive measures to combat re-occupation of wetlands, restoration of navigability of canals through dredging and measures to remove illegal political influence.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) leader Ruhin Hossain Finer, BAPA Joint Secretary Mihir Biswas, Citizen Rights Movement Secretary General Tushar Rehman also spoke among others.

Office attacked

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At least 1,000 unemployed youths have been provided training under the first phase of the programme and 1,000 more are listed for the training in the second phase scheduled to start from November 7, said Miraz.

The government introduced the programme at upazila level to train and recruit HSC-passed unemployed youths under various ministries for two years.

Meanwhile, Subhas Chandra Biswas, Kashiani Upazila Nirbahi Officer, expressed his firm resolve to take necessary actions against those responsible.

Abul Kashem, officer-in-charge of Kashiani Police Station, admitted the incident but denied to comment on it.

No signs of N Korea nuclear processing: US envoy

AFP, Tokyo

There are no signs North Korea has resumed nuclear activity at the site where it previously produced weapons-grade plutonium, a former US envoy was quoted as saying yesterday after a trip to the country.

Charles Pritchard, former top negotiator with North Korea, was quoted as saying that the Yongbyon complex -- where the isolated state processed plutonium for past nuclear tests -- did not appear to be in operation.

"My reaction is that the reactor, the 5-megawatt reactor, remains shut down, the cooling tower is still destroyed," Pritchard told reporters after a five-day trip to North Korea, Japan's Kyodo news agency reported.

"So at this point, I don't believe there is any additional reprocessing or anything going on" at the reactor, the former top US negotiator with Pyongyang said at a Beijing airport, according to Kyodo.

South Korean Defence Minister Kim Tae-Young said in October that Pyongyang was restoring facilities at the Yongbyon nuclear reactor, its source of weapons-grade plutonium in the past.

He added it was "quite possible" that Pyongyang was also enriching uranium for nuclear weapons.

The Chosun Ilbo newspaper in South Korea reported in October, citing unidentified government sources, that North was preparing for a third nuclear test. But US and South Korean officials said there was no evidence of this.

Pyeongyang had invited Pritchard, Washington's special envoy to the North under former President George W. Bush, to visit the country. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported last month, citing a diplomatic source.

Pritchard, who also served as senior director for Asian affairs for former president Bill Clinton, now heads the

Washington-based Korea Economic Institute.

Six-party talks aimed to curb the North's nuclear ambitions have been at a standstill since the last meeting in December 2008.

In April 2009 North Korea stormed out of the forum involving two Koreas, China, Japan, the US and Russia. A month later it conducted its second nuclear test.

The North has recently said it is willing in principle to return to the long-stalled nuclear disarmament talks. But Seoul and the United States say it must first improve cross-border ties and show a commitment to disarmament.

Biden to meet with Netanyahu today

AFP, Washington

US Vice President Joseph Biden today will meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who is coming to the United States after a Republican victory that is unlikely to ease US pressure on Israel over stalled peace talks.

The White House said Biden, who will be in New Orleans, Louisiana this weekend, will meet with Netanyahu at 1:30 pm central time (0630 GMT), but offered no other details.

The latest round of Israeli-Palestinian talks was reopened in Washington September 2 but broken off September 26 when Israel allowed the expiration of a moratorium on new construction in the occupied territories likely to be part of a Palestinian state.

The Palestinians are calling for a new moratorium, but Israel has rejected this.

On October 9, the Arab League gave the United States an additional month to try to save the peace talks.

Obama wins

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blames for harbouring anti-India militants.

Pakistan-based militants killed 166 people in a 60-hour rampage through India's financial hub, gunning down their victims at luxury hotels, a train station and a Jewish centre. India says elements in the Pakistan state were behind the attacks.

"We visit here to send a very clear message," Obama said after meeting victims' families at the luxury sea-front Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, the iconic landmark where TV images showing it in flames after battles between militants and commandos came to symbolise the massacre.

"In our determination to give our people a future of security and prosperity, the United States and India stand united."

Saturday's Taj speech highlighted the diplomatic test for Obama. Indians want a strong statement against Pakistan for fostering militants, but Washington must tread a fine line between appeasing New Delhi and supporting US regional ally Islamabad.

But Obama's trip is also about business, with China now ahead of the United States in trade with India.

The \$10 billion in deals will support 54,000 jobs in the United States, White House aide Michael Froman said.

The White House also announced Obama would support India's membership of four global non-proliferation organisations, a move that will reassure New Delhi -- left out of these groups after its 1998 nuclear tests -- that Washington is recognising its global clout.

Obama will also visit Indonesia, South Korea and Japan on the Asian tour that will see Washington push to prevent countries unilaterally devaluing currencies to protect their exports, a top theme at the Group of 20 heads of state meet in Seoul next week.

Obama flew by helicopter to the Mumbai seafont before heading to the Taj hotel. Onlookers pressed up against police barricades along the motorcade's short route.

With armed police at every road intersection, southern Mumbai was turned into a fortress with police outnumbering onlookers. Snipers kept vigil on the top of buildings along the route.

Across town, police took the precaution of removing coconuts around Mani Bhavan, where Indian independence hero Mahatma Gandhi stayed while in Mumbai and which now serves as a museum that Obama visited on Saturday.

The 2008 Mumbai attack was launched by militants who arrived by boat from Pakistan, coming ashore near the Taj. It increased tension between the nuclear foes, who have been to war three times since independence from Britain in 1947.

TOUGH SELL
TV stations were abuzz with most Indian commentators surprised about the softness of Obama's Taj speech.

"This was a guarded statement," strategic analyst Mahroof Raza told the Times Now news channel. "No mention of Pakistan conveys that Pakistan is key to their (Washington's) Afghan policy... and, therefore, Pakistan will not be brought to book."

The opposition also criticised the speech.

"Knowing fully well that Pakistan and Pakistani machinery has been used for perpetrating terror in India, by not acknowledging it he has disappointed the country as a whole," said Rajiv Pratap Rudy, spokesman for the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party.

Obama heads to New Delhi on Sunday. His Saturday-to-Tuesday trip to India started just four days after his Democratic party sustained big election losses tied to the weak economy, raising doubts over how much the trip can yield given pressures at home.

On the agenda will be lucrative defence ties. The United States has held more military exercises with India in the past year than any other country, and US firms Boeing and Lockheed Martin Corp are bidding for a \$11 billion deal for 126 fighter jets.

Washington still faces a host of hurdles, including Indian worries that signing defence pacts -- which are necessary for the US arms sales to go through -- may land New Delhi in a wider entanglement with the US military.

Also, an increase in US visa fees, a ban on offshoring by the state of Ohio and the Indian IT industry's portrayal in campaign publicity as a drain on US jobs have set a frosty tone in India.

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