

Pakistan

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Islamabad said yesterday no decision had been taken on the US request.  
US investigators, who have been sifting through a huge stash of material seized in bin Laden's high-walled compound, want to question his three wives as they seek to trace his movements and roll up his global militant network.

A Pakistani government official denied that permission for the US questioning of the women had been given, saying local investigators had yet to finish their inquiry.

"It's too early to even think about it," said the official, referring to the US request to question the women.

Pakistan says the three wives, one from Yemen and two from Saudi Arabia, and their children, will be repatriated and Pakistan was making contacts with their countries but they had yet to say they would take them, the official said.

Bin Laden was shot dead on May 2 in a top-secret raid in the northern Pakistani town of Abbottabad to the embarrassment of Pakistan which has for years denied the world's most wanted man was on its soil.

The government is under pressure to explain how the al-Qaeda leader was found in the garrison town, a short distance from the main military academy.

Pakistan Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, in his first major address since bin Laden's killing, rejected suggestions of incompetence or even complicity in hiding the al-Qaeda leader.

"Allegations of complicity or incompetence are absurd," Gilani told parliament on Monday, saying it was disingenuous for anyone to accuse Pakistan of "being in cahoots" with al-Qaeda.

US President Barack Obama said on Sunday that bin Laden likely had "some sort" of a support network inside Pakistan, but added it would take investigations by Pakistan and the United States to find out the nature of that support.

Pakistan's main opposition party has called on Gilani and President Asif Ali Zardari to resign over the breach of sovereignty by US special forces who slipped in from Afghanistan on helicopters to storm the bin Laden compound.

CPB blast

**FROM PAGE 20**  
before the court of Metropolitan Magistrate Keshob Roy Chowdhury.

Farid, arrested on April 26 at Tongi, has just finished a four-day remand in connection with the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami rally in 2004. He was shown arrested on April 28 in the CPB rally blast case.

In the remand prayer, the CID inspector mentioned that another Huji leader Abu Zandal in a confessional statement to magistrate on October 10, 2010 told about Farid's involvement in the attack on CPB rally.

Five people were killed and 50 others were injured in the incident. So he [Farid] needed to be questioned to trace the others involved in the attack, added the IO.

CPB President Manzurul Ahsan Khan filed the case with Motijheel Police Station following the attack alleging an anti-state element.

Police arrested 12 people at that time but CID submitted the final report on December 17, 2003, as accurate, impartial and reliable pieces of evidence were not found to prove charges against the arrestees.

3G mobile

**FROM PAGE 20**  
School in the capital.

The telecom minister said new generation, especially the students, could play an important role in implementing Digital Bangladesh.

"We would be able to provide laptops to the students at low cost to reduce burden of the students on textbooks," he added.

Local lawmaker Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin and Jinnat Ara Saleha, headmistress of the school, also spoke on the occasion.

Disband Rab

**FROM PAGE 1**  
HRW report and said Rab opened fire only for self defence.

She made the comment after Adams along with his colleague Pema Abrahams handed the HRW report to her at her office yesterday afternoon.

Rab chief Mukhlesur Rahman refused to make any comment in this regard reasoning he has not seen the report.

Rab headquarters, however, told news agency UNB that the report was baseless and one-sided.

Rab Director (Legal and Media Wing) Commander Sohaih went on record to say that the force has been working under the laws of the land and within the legal framework. "We are not above the law," he said.

Adams said, "A death squad [Rab] is roaming the streets of Bangladesh and the government does not appear to be doing anything to stop it."

Despite commitment made by the government to end the killings and to punish perpetrators, no Rab official has ever been prosecuted for a "crossfire" killing or other human rights abuses so far.

The report said Rab often sends standardised press statements in which the Rab unit concerned claims that criminals were shot and killed in "crossfire" after they or their accomplices opened fire on Rab.

It said many victims have been executed in Rab custody and bodies of those killed often carried marks indicating torture.

The report blamed the government for the impunity culture which Rab enjoys in committing crimes.

It referred to a statement made by Home Minister Sahara Khatun in January, 2011. In the statement she had said, "What will the law enforces do, save themselves or die, when criminals open fire on them?"

The report mentioned Port and Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan's comment

that crossfire killings are not human rights violations and such killings have helped bring extortion and other crimes under control.

HRW also said Rab has recently begun carrying out enforced disappearances, which is the worst form of human rights violations and it also started killing people without acknowledging any role in the deaths.

Brad Adams said the inclusion of army personnel in the composite force has worsened the situation as the training of army and law enforces are different.

The army is trained to deal with enemies and consequently they are accustomed to using arms, said Adams, adding that the army should be called in only during emergency or any calamity.

The report made recommendation to the government and the international community to put an end to extrajudicial killings and other human rights violations by the force.

It said Rab or its replacement should be an entirely civilian institution. Its officers and rank and file members should no longer be drawn from the military, which has a different culture, ethos and training from police.

The government should create a new unit with police or a new institution with a different operating culture that will uphold rights and lead the fight against crime, it said.

In the event Rab is retained, establish an independent commission to assess Rab's performance and to identify all those involved in extrajudicial killings or any human rights violations, it mentioned.

It also pleaded for international cooperation for UN special mechanism to visit Bangladesh and conduct investigation into crossfire killings and make recommendation, imposing a ban on Rab personnel involved in crossfire killings from taking part in UN peace-keeping missions.

BNP takes time

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the issue with the senior leaders and policymakers of the party. We will announce our position tomorrow [Wednesday] at a press conference," acting Secretary General of BNP Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told The Daily Start at 11:50pm.

The meeting was attended by Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Rafiqul Islam Mia, MK Anwar, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Fakhrul Islam and Supreme Court Bar Association President Khandaker Mahub Hossain.

Meanwhile, two allies of BNP in the four-party alliance led by it -- Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) -- expressed deep concern over the judgment that declared the caretaker government system illegal.

In a statement, Jamaat said, "Present political reality proves that a free and fair election is not possible under a political government, and without a caretaker government system."

BJP Chairman Andaleeb Rahman Partha said caretaker government system is a must for holding a credible election in the prevailing political atmosphere in the country.

Contacted earlier, Moudud Ahmed gave his "personal reaction" saying the SC verdict might create further political and constitutional crisis in the country.

Moudud, also a former law minister, termed the verdict "self-contradictory" and said, "On the one hand the court said caretaker government system is unconstitutional and undemocratic, and on the other it suggested holding the next two elections under caretaker government."

Meanwhile, BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the House Khaleda Zia has been opposing appointment of Chief Justice Khairul Haque as

No wrong in system but in politics

**FROM PAGE 1**  
into a deep political turmoil and eventually delayed the elections by two years.

Riled, the then opposition parties led by AL waged a movement saying they would not accept KM Hasan as chief adviser since he was involved with BNP in the past.

KM Hasan, however, declined to be the chief adviser when the time came. Instead of exploring the other constitutional avenues to find a caretaker admin chief, the then president Iajuddin Ahmed appointed himself as chief adviser.

AL and allies refused to participate in the general polls slated for January 22, 2007. Ten days before the election day, Iajuddin imposed a state of emergency and appointed Fakhruddin Ahmed to replace him as chief adviser.

Fakhruddin-led government, which ruled the country for two years, held the ninth parliamentary election in December 2008.

Some of its activities during the two years laid a new layer on the controversy over the caretaker government system.

Questions arose whether the nation should do away with the system. Even a petition was filed challenging the legality of the caretaker provision.

Observers have long criticised the provision for

**WHAT CONSTITUTION SAYS**  
(Article 58C)

3) The President shall appoint as Chief Adviser the person who among the retired Chief Justices of Bangladesh retired last and who is qualified to be appointed as an Adviser under this article:  
Provided that if such retired Chief Justice is not available or is not willing to hold the office of Chief Adviser, the President shall appoint as Chief Adviser the person who among the retired Chief Justices of Bangladesh retired next before the last retired Chief Justice.

4) If no retired Chief Justice is available or willing to hold the office of Chief Adviser, the President shall appoint as Chief Adviser the person who among the retired Judges of the Appellate Division retired last and who is qualified to be appointed as an Adviser under this article:  
Provided that if such retired Judge is not available or is not willing to hold the office of Chief Adviser, the President shall appoint as Chief Adviser the person who among the retired Judges of the Appellate Division retired next before the last such retired Judge.

5) If no retired judge of the Appellate Division is available or willing to hold the office of Chief Adviser, the President shall, after consultation, as far as practicable, with the major political parties, appoint the Chief Adviser from among citizens of Bangladesh who are qualified to be appointed as Advisers under this article.

appointing former chief justice as caretaker government head. They likened it to holding out carrots to the judges of the apex court.

They feared the provision may induce the judges to work in favour of a political government.

Besides, they noted, it leaves room for superseding

of judges, as the party in power would want to ensure its favoured person become chief adviser of the next caretaker government.

**HOWCG PROVISIONS CAME**

In 1994, when BNP was in power, a by-election in Magura was rigged in favour of its candidate.

US, Pakistan at crossroads: Boehner

AFP, Washington

US House Speaker John Boehner said yesterday that the United States and Pakistan must decide whether they are "real allies" in the fight against Islamist extremists after Osama bin Laden's death.

"I do trust them, but I think it's a moment when we need to look each other in the eye and decide, are we real allies? Are we going to work together?" Boehner, the top Republican in the US Congress, told NBC television.

"And if we are, you're either all in or you're not in," said the lawmaker, who echoed concerns about how the Al-Qaeda leaders was able to live unperturbed for years just a stone's throw from a top Pakistani military academy.

Limon

**FROM PAGE 20**  
Medical College Hospital (SBMCH) in Barisal around 4:00pm, reports our Barisal correspondent.

The hospital authorities paid for the trip and provided other support for his immediate transfer to Pangu, said Dr Abdur Rashid, director of SBMCH.

Before starting for Dhaka, the 16-year-old told reporters that he could not move freely even after obtaining bail from High Court.

"I am freed from jail, but not yet free from legal hassle of facing two cases. I do not know what lies ahead...my education remains suspended," an emotional Limon said.

He was admitted to SBMCH on May 4 and had been undergoing treatment in a prison cell.

The High Court on Thursday granted six months' bail to him in a case filed by Rapid Action Battalion. The jail authorities freed him on Monday and moved him to the orthopaedic ward of SBMCH.

A Rab team on March 23 shot Limon in the left leg while he was on his way to bring back a herd of cattle home at Chhaturia village. His leg had to be amputated.

Meantime, his mother demanded a fair investigation into the case she filed against six Rab personnel for maiming her son.

She also urged the government to provide Limon a job and withdraw the false cases against him.

Meanwhile, since the

Caretaker system

**FROM PAGE 1**  
1996) is prospectively declared void and ultra vires the Constitution."

"The election to the Tenth and the Eleventh Parliament may be held under the provisions of the above mentioned Thirteenth Amendment," it said.

"The parliament, however, in the meantime, is at liberty to bring necessary amendments excluding, the provisions of making the former Chief Justices of Bangladesh or the Judges of the Appellate Division as the head of the Non-Party Care-taker Government," the verdict added.

Introduced in 1996 through the 13th amendment to the constitution by a controversially elected parliament, the system of non-party caretaker government has seen the holding of three successful parliamentary elections in 1996, 2001, and 2008 that were considered free and fair by both local and foreign observers.

The immediate past chief justice is the first choice to become the head of a caretaker government with the formal title of chief adviser.

Two former chief justices, Justice Habibur Rahman and Justice Latifur Rahman served as chief advisers respectively in 1996 and 2001.

Fakhruddin Ahmed, a former governor of Bangladesh Bank, held the

office to oversee the 2008 parliamentary voting after street protests, led by Awami League and its allies, forced then-president Iajuddin Ahmed to quit the post of the chief adviser.

The caretaker system was also hailed as appropriate for Bangladesh which has a history of bitter political hostilities and mistrust.

Awami League, led by then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, pioneered the movement for introducing the non-partisan caretaker system.

Her bitter rival Khaleda Zia, then the prime minister, vehemently opposed it. This time the Supreme Court verdict has been welcomed by Awami League, the current ruling party. Opposition BNP said it will wait to give its reaction.

The verdict triggered mixed response among lawyers with some calling it contradictory and Attorney General Mahubey Alam hailing it.

Mahubey Alam said the verdict is "right in principle". The next two parliamentary elections will be held under caretaker governments if the constitutional provisions are not amended, he said.

If the next two elections are not held under caretaker governments, chaos and unrest will take place in the country, he added.

Senior lawyers Barrister

After that, AL and allies began campaigning for the caretaker government provision in the constitution. They argued that the general elections would not be free and fair unless under a non-partisan government.

Their movement gained momentum after the Mirpur by-election, another controversial election during the BNP rule (1991-1996).

Though the idea of the caretaker provision became increasingly popular, the then BNP government ignored the demand and held a farcical general election on February 15, 1996, which was boycotted by AL and other major political parties.

After the stage-managed election, a parliament session was convened, but that lasted only 11 days. In the face of a fierce movement by the opposition, the party had to introduce the caretaker government system in the constitution.

Five years before the caretaker system came into force, an interim government led by the then chief justice Shahabuddin Ahmed oversaw a national election after the fall of autocrat HM Ershad. Even after that election, which was widely appreciated at home and abroad, AL alleged that "Sukhhko Karchup" (subtle rigging) had been employed to have BNP in power.

Rafique-ul Huq and Khandker Mahub Hossain, president of the Supreme Court Bar Association, termed the SC verdict self contradictory, saying the SC declared the 13th amendment illegal, but suggested holding next two parliamentary elections under this law.

Barrister M Amir-ul Islam said the parliament has to play a responsible role in finding an alternative to the caretaker government system.

Barrister MI Farooqui, who stood for the petitioner, expressed satisfaction over the SC verdict, saying it is good for the nation and the constitution.

Earlier, the SC heard for 10 days opinions and arguments from eight amici curiae (friends of the court), and the counsels for both sides of the appeal.

Of the amici curiae, Dr Kamal Hossain, TH Khan, Mahmudul Islam, M Amir-ul Islam, and Rakanuddin Mahmud gave opinions in favour of the caretaker government system.

However, two jurists -- Rafique-ul Huq and Dr M Zahir -- suggested alternatives to the system.

Amicus curiae Ajmalul Hossain and the appellant's counsels MI Farooqui and Mohsen Rashid placed arguments against the caretaker government system.

Polling ends in West Bengal

Over 84 pc turnout in last phase

PTI, New Delhi

An estimated 84.8 per cent turnout was recorded during the sixth and last phase of the West Bengal Assembly elections which passed off peacefully, the Election Commission announced yesterday.

"The polls were held absolutely peaceful and totally incident free," Deputy Election Commissioner Vinod Zutshi told reporters at the end of polling.

Asked whether the poll percentage in the State this time was the highest ever, he said it could be termed "maximum" compared to 2006 Assembly and 2009 Lok Sabha polls.

Three helicopters were used and a special observer was deployed over and above general and expenditure observers to ensure peaceful polling in 14 Maoist-hit constituencies spread over three districts, he said.

There was poll boycott in one booth because of local issues, he said.

Asked about reasons for the large turnout, Mr. Zutshi said this was because people came out without any fear and reached polling stations to exercise their franchise.

The Commission has also been taking all possible measures ever since the announcement of the poll schedule to instill confidence among the people, he said.

Blast kills two police in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

A bomb attack targeting a court in northwest Pakistan yesterday killed two police constables including a female officer and wounded six other people, police said.

"It was a bomb blast. Two police constables including a policewoman were killed and six others were wounded. There are two police officers among the injured," said Qureish Khan, district police chief in Pakistan's Nowshera district.

The attack took place at the main entrance of the district courts in the town of Nowshera, about 35 kilometres east of Peshawar. The district courts are located close to several military and other government buildings.

The target of the attack was the district courts, Khan said, adding that bomb disposal experts had informed him that a remote-controlled device was planted at the main gate of the district courts.

SQ Chy

**FROM PAGE 20**  
"safe home" where he was taken from Dhaka Central Jail around 9:10am. The interrogation ended at about 5:00pm.

"He behaved like a mad man. He lied and talked rubbish most of the time," the member said requesting anonymity.

However, the interrogators extracted valuable information about his involvement in some of those crimes, said Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the investigation agency.

"The information he gave will help us advance our probe," Hannan said. He, however, would not disclose any information.

The team led by Abdur Razzak quizzed him over his role, activities and political affiliation before, during and after the 1971 war.

When the investigators showed Salauddin different evidence and documents on his involvement in killing of Nutan Chandra Singh during the time, he first laughed at them.

He then said: "I will get you someday," another member quoted Salauddin as saying.

Salauddin, however, claimed that the allegation of war crimes against him were false.

The investigation agency will appeal to the International Crimes Tribunal to quiz him again if need be.

Dinajpur robbery

**FROM PAGE 20**  
According to the case statement, 15 to 16 masked men armed with sharp weapons looted valuables worth Tk 7 lakh from Rajendra's house and swooped on him.

As the family was preparing to file a case, wife of local lawmaker Monoranjan Gopal called Rajendra's nephew Kishore and asked him to wait until Gopal, who was abroad then, talked to them, some family members of Rajendra told The Daily Star.

Rajendra, who had sustained injuries on his whole body and was undergoing treatment at Dinajpur Medical College Hospital, has returned home Monday.

robbery a number of local leaders of ruling Awami League visited Rajendra's house.

While visiting the family, local MP Monoranjan told reporters that it was a robbery incident. He insisted that there was a "misunderstanding" between police and villagers.

On condition of anonymity, some villagers told The Daily Star that the MP discouraged the family to sue police saying that it would not be a good idea.

Despite repeated attempts till 7:00pm yesterday The Daily Star could not reach the MP to verify this information.

"Being members of the Hindu minority, it is quite impossible for the victims to ignore all these pressure

and sue the police although the robbers were kept confined in front of hundreds of villagers," said Kasim Uddin, a witness who lives about 300 metres from Rajendra's house.

Taposh Devnath, another nephew of Rajendra, however said, "We did not see any police during the robbery. Interestingly, immediately after the robbery he claimed that they were sure about the involvement of police."

Meanwhile, Kaharol police filed a general diary (GD) Friday in connection with setting fire to a police van during the clash. On the same day Birganj police recorded another GD in connection with vandalism in their police station.