

CG issue

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her [Khaleda's] two sons facing corruption charges and development activities in the country," said Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraf Islam.

Addressing a press briefing at party chief's political office in Dhanmondi, Ashraf said the BNP chief does not believe in the caretaker government system.

Ashraf, also the LGRD and cooperatives minister, alleged that without provocation, the BNP called for the hartal and set fire to at least 16 buses in the capital and tried to kill a policeman in Rajshahi.

The BNP chief would have to shoulder the responsibility for the countrywide violence and anarchy created in the name of hartal, he said.

Had the BNP joined the discussion on constitutional amendment with the special committee, this crisis would not have developed.

He also said he hopes that the opposition leader would join parliament and place her formula on the caretaker government system, if she has any. The special committee would place its final report before the House soon and after thorough debate on the matter a final decision would be made.

It was parliament which would do whatever necessary on the issue to make the next general election free, fair and credible, he said.

Referring to Khaleda Zia's Friday press conference, he said, "She demands restoration of the caretaker government system but she said she won't accept immediate past chief Justice Khairul Haque as chief adviser. Isn't it duplicity and double standards?"

Justice Khairul would be the chief adviser if the caretaker government system remains, Ashraf said, adding that rejecting the Supreme Court verdict is tantamount to contempt of the highest court.

He alleged that the opposition leader held secret meetings with absconding war criminals during her recent visit to the USA and the UK.

Muhith trashes

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percent as estimated by BBS for the outgoing fiscal year.

The CPD also said the BBS estimate could misguide the policy makers, affect the government credibility and make people dub it as a political score.

The government should set up an independent expert group to scrutinise the provisional estimate, it added.

The minister said the finance ministry last year disagreed with the BBS over the growth projection, but finally accepted its estimate.

In this fiscal year, Muhith said, the ministry accepted the BBS estimate as there was no difference of opinion.

On the CPD estimated growth, the minister said the World Bank and International Monetary Fund have made different GDP growth projections; CPD may make another.

"They [CPD] made their assumption about the GDP growth, but the government received data from BBS and accepted. There is no scope to do anything else," Muhith said. "I don't see anything to quarrel over."

**TALKS WITH MORIARTY**  
Also yesterday, in the context of his talks with the US ambassador over Grameen Bank's present situation, Muhith said the GB board of directors will select their next managing director.

The minister said he had told Moriarty that the microfinance bank is the national pride and will remain so.

He agreed when the US ambassador said containing inflation and maintaining payment balance are the major challenges in the upcoming national budget, Muhith told the reporters.

Talking to the journalists, The US ambassador said companies of his country are eager to invest in the energy sector of Bangladesh.

Intelligence

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on the DU violence to the parliamentary body investigating the incident, probe body chief Rashed Khan Menon told reporters after a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

Golam Mohammad and Shamsul Alam appeared before the committee to give statement.

The parliamentary standing committee on education ministry formed the four-member sub-committee on August 1 last year.

A violent protest broke out on the DU campus over a brawl between an army man and a student during a football match on the university playground on August 20, 2007.

In their statements, Fakhruddin and Moeen claimed atrocities against teachers and students of Dhaka and Rajshahi universities were done on instructions from top and field-level intelligence officials, said Menon.

The probe body chief said they will give Fakhruddin and Moeen another chance to appear before the committee to give their versions on the issue.

"If they want, they can also give statements through video conference," said Menon.

"But if they do not respond, the committee will submit probe report holding the two responsible for the

violence and atrocities on teachers and students," he said.

Menon said the two former DGFI officials claimed they acted upon the instructions from Fakhruddin and Moeen.

"Whatever we had done, we did on instructions from Fakhruddin Ahmed and Moeen U Ahmed," Menon quoted Golam Mohammad as saying in the meeting.

Shamsul Alam told the meeting that they did not intend to get involved in the matter or arrest students and teachers.

The committee recorded testimonies of a number of Rajshahi University teachers, who blamed the top brass of intelligence agencies and the last caretaker government for the clashes between students and the army.

Menon said they will finalise the probe report soon and place it before parliament.

The probe body asked the then DGFI officials ATM Amin and Fazlul Bari to be present in yesterday's meeting. But they did not show up.

Menon said they could not contact the two.

Earlier, the then chief of general staff Sina Ibn Jamali told the committee that they had acted upon instructions from the top brass of the government and the army at that time.

Teesta treaty

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year. The minister-level talks will be held before that.

The two countries have been discussing the Teesta water sharing issue for over two decades. Besides, talks on sharing waters of six more rivers -- Monu, Khawai, Muhuri, Gomti, Dhorla and Dudhkumar -- are also going on between the two countries for years.

Bangladesh badly needs the Teesta water, especially during the dry season -- December to March. At times in December and January, water flow goes down to less than 1,000 cusec from 5,000 cusec as India withdraws water.

An agreement on sharing the Teesta water was envisaged in the joint communiqué issued after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India in January last year.

Earlier, Dhaka proposed equal sharing of the Teesta water keeping 20 percent for the river flow. India wanted 55 percent of its water after leaving 20 percent for the river flow.

Officials in Dhaka, however, said India is seeking a 15-year treaty on sharing the Teesta water, and also tagged with it sharing water of the Feni river during the dry season.

Dhaka, however, defers tagging the Feni issue with the sharing of Teesta water, and made clear its position that the first priority of Bangladesh is the Teesta and six other rivers. And it seeks a next generation comprehensive water-sharing agreement later, which will cover all the 54 rivers shared by the two countries.

Diplomatic sources said India is firm on sharing the Teesta and Feni waters at a time. Sharing of the Feni water is very important to India since it has been sup-

plying water (treated) form this river to nearby localities with the consent of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Secretary Nirupama Rao arrives in Dhaka today in the run-up to Manmohan Singh's proposed visit to Bangladesh.

During her two-day visit, she will hold Foreign Secretary-level Consultations between the two countries tomorrow when all aspects of bilateral relations as well as sub-regional issues will be taken up.

On top of the agenda of the consultation is the agreement on the Teesta river for which the water resources secretaries of the two countries meet in New Delhi today.

Our New Delhi Correspondent Pallab Bhattacharya reported that the two secretaries will "fine tune" the agreement on water sharing, expected to be signed during the Indian premier's visit.

The two countries exchanged draft agreements on the Teesta river water sharing during the 37th Ministerial-level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) meeting in New Delhi on March 17-20 last year. India also presented some principles upon which it wanted to close the deal.

The last secretary-level talks of the JRC held in Dhaka on January 10 this year also discussed water sharing of the common rivers.

"While we have agreed on a framework, we still need to fine-tune it," a top Indian water resources ministry official said.

The two countries share 54 rivers. In 1996, they signed a treaty on sharing the Ganges water.

\$615m loan

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including assistance for regional cooperation, climate change, energy, transport, governance, and primary education projects.

The vice president will be accompanied by Sultan Hafeez Rahman, director general of ADB's South Asia department.

In addition to ADB, the World Bank (WB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) are also contributing to the construction of the Padma Bridge as co-financiers.

The government already signed a \$1.2 billion credit agreement with the WB on April 28, another \$415 million credit agreement with JICA on May 18 and \$140 million credit deal with IDB on May 24.

Greenhouse

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Another: The tsunami-triggered nuclear disaster in March apparently has sidelined Japan's aggressive policies to combat climate change and prompted countries like Germany to hasten the decommissioning of nuclear power stations which, regardless of other drawbacks, have nearly zero carbon emissions.

"Japan's energy future is in limbo," says analyst Endre Tvinnereim of the consultancy firm Point Carbon. The fallout from the catastrophe has "put climate policy further down the priority list," and the short-term effect in Japan -- one of the world's most carbon-efficient countries -- will be more burning of fossil fuels, he said.

And despite the expansion of renewable energy around the world, the Paris-based IEA's report said energy-related carbon emissions last year topped 30 gigatons, 5 percent more than the previous record in 2008. With energy investments locked into coal- and oil-fueled infrastructure, that situation will change little over the next decade, it said.

Fatih Birol, the IEA's chief economist, says the energy trend should be "a wake-up call." The figures are "a serious setback" to hopes of limiting the rise in the Earth's average temperature to 2 degrees Celsius (3.8 F) above preindustrial levels, he said.

Any rise beyond that, scientists believe, could lead to catastrophic climate shifts affecting water supplies and global agriculture, setting off more frequent and fierce storms and causing a rise in sea levels that would endanger coastlines.

The June 6-17 discussions in Bonn are to prepare for the annual year-end decision-making UN conference, which this year is in Durban, South Africa. Even more than previous conferences, Durban could be the forum for a major showdown between wealthy countries and the developing world.

Poor countries say the wealthy West, whose industries overloaded the atmosphere with carbon dioxide and other climate-changing gases over the last 200 years, is not doing enough to cut future pollution.

A study released Sunday supports that view.

Aug 21 attack

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Chowdhury at the jail gate in connection with the grenade attack on an Awami League rally on August 21, 2004.

Akhand, investigation officer of the case, in the petition said chief of Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) Mufti Abdul Hannan in his statement on April 7 mentioned five people who were involved in the attack.

They are Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed; Rezzakul Haider Chowdhury, former director of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence; Abdur Rahim, former director general of National Security Intelligence; acting Huji chief Maulana Shawkat Osman and its Nayeb-e-Ameer Maulana Abdul Hannan Sabbir.

During their interrogation, they named the grenade suppliers and the patrons of the attack that killed 23 people including AL leader Ivy Rahman and injured many including then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.

Maulana Abdul Rashid, vice-chairman of non-government organisation Al Markajul Islam, also gave statements before a magistrate in connection with the attack, said the IO.

During the further investigation, 12 people including former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babar and Jamaat leader Mojaheed were arrested in the case.

SQ Chowdhury was interrogated on the basis of the confessional statement of Mufti Hannan.

The petition also says CID needs more time to arrest those who are on the run.

With this time, CID has been given over 22 months and a half in 11 phases to probe the case.

Suicide blast kills six in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

A bomb ripped through a passenger vehicle parked at a bus terminal near the north-western Pakistani city of Peshawar yesterday, killing six people and wounding 11 others, police said.

The bomb was planted at the terminal near a market in Matani, about 20 kilometres south of Peshawar, which lies near Pakistan's lawless tribal region on the

Afghan border, senior police officer Kalam Khan said.

"We have reports that six people were killed and 11 wounded," Khan told AFP. He said the injured had been rushed to the hospital in Peshawar where the condition of one woman was critical.

"It appears to be a remote controlled bomb placed in a passenger vehicle waiting to leave for a rural area," Peshawar police chief

Mohammad Ijaz said, adding that three other vehicles were also damaged.

He quoted witnesses as saying a man boarded the vehicle and left after leaving a package inside, telling people that he would be back soon.

Shortly afterwards a huge blast ripped through the vehicle. The casualties were mostly among the passengers, he added.

Onus now on JS

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independence in the constitution.

It proposed to maintain Islam's status as the state religion, keep the Arabic phrase Bismillah ir Rahmanir Rahim above the preamble, and to keep allowing religion based politics in the constitution.

Two members of the committee -- Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Haque Inu -- however gave notes of dissent on those three proposals.

The committee proposed to mention in the constitution that followers of all other religions including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Christianity will get equal rights and respect from the state.

It recommended elimination of all kinds of communalism, giving any political status to any particular religion, and misuse of religion for political purposes.

It proposed to stop dis-

playing the portraits of the president and the prime minister in the offices of all government, semi-government, autonomous, and educational institutions, and in Bangladesh foreign missions abroad.

It however suggested making it mandatory to display the portrait of Father of the Nation Bnagabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in all those places.

The recommendations will be submitted to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her final review, said sources.

**SOME OTHER PROPOSALS**  
-- A ban on amending the constitution's fundamental structure.

-- Scrapping of the government posts of chief adviser and advisers.

-- Reinstatement of Bangalee nationalism in the constitution. Identification of the nation as Bangalee, and citizenship as Bangladeshi.

-- Introduction of a new

clause for safeguarding and developing the environment and wildlife, under which the state will protect natural resources, biodiversity, water bodies, forest, and wildlife, and preserve and develop the environment for the present and future generations.

-- The state will ensure participation of and equal opportunity for women in all spheres of national life.

-- The state will take steps to flourish, develop and preserve the unique characteristics, regional culture, and heritage of the indigenous, ethnic minority people.

-- Scrapping of clause 25 that says the state will endeavour to consolidate, preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic solidarity.

-- Increasing the number of reserved seats for women in the parliament to 50 from the current 45.

Industries must run ETPs

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Hasina said air and sound pollution have emerged as one of the major environmental problems in the country. She called upon the drivers and all concerned not to play whistle unnecessarily to prevent sound pollution.

The premier said her government with the support of World Bank has been implementing "Clean Air and Sustainable Environment" project to prevent air pollution.

About brick fields, one of the major sectors for environmental pollution, she said her government has taken steps to introduce environment-friendly modern technology in the kilns to protect environment.

Hasina called upon all concerned to find out alternatives to bricks for construction of building.

The premier said her government has taken steps

to protect the four rivers--Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu--around the Dhaka city by restoring their navigability. Process is underway to shift the Hazaribagh tannery to Savar to this end, she added.

Referring to the country's vulnerability to climate change, she said that ironically, Bangladesh has to face the severe consequences of climate change although it is not responsible for global warming.

As the developed countries emit the maximum quantity of greenhouse gases, they should come up with more funds so that the vulnerable countries could tackle the situation effectively, the premier said.

She said her government has already formed Climate Change Trust Fund and allocated Taka 1400 crore to the fund.

Apart from this, the PM

said it has also formed Bangladesh Climate Change Resilient Fund with the support of development partners.

Hasina said Bangladesh has already received \$129.5 million commitment from development partners to implement various programmes to face the climate change consequences.

She expressed hope that development partners will come up with more commitment for the fund.

Later, the premier inaugurated the three-day environment fair on the BICC premises.

Presided over by State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud, the function was also addressed by Secretary to the ministry Mejbaul Alam and Director General of the Department of Environment Monwar Islam.

Guru no more

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was taken off at about 10:20am.

Azam Khan left behind two daughters and one son and a nation to mourn his death.

During the country's Liberation War, he inspired fellow freedom fighters in the training camps of India and in battle fields with his songs. He also fought against the Pakistani occupation army under sector-2 of the liberation force.

In June last year, he was diagnosed with oral cancer and was treated in Singapore, where he received chemotherapy. Eventually, he was admitted to Square Hospital in the capital on May 22. With his health condition remaining unchanged, the pop star was moved to CMH on June 1.

A talented singer, composer and guitarist born on February 28, 1950, one of his lifetime's greatest feats lies after the independence when he emerged as a symbol for the youth just returning from the battle fields of the bloody war.

It was then that Azam Khan startled the nation with a new genre of music blending western music with spiritual folk songs. In

a piercing voice, guitar in hand and drums in the background, he sang of the realities of life and of the common people and won hearts of millions, especially youths. Generations of music lovers adored him for his simple but gorgeous tunes.

Some of his popular pieces include: "Ore Saleka, Ore Maleka", "Jibone Kichu Pabona Re", "Ami Jare Chaire", "Asi Asi Bole Tumi", "Obhimani" and "Railliner oi bostite."

Another goes: "Hey Allah, eto sundar duniay kisu robena re/ hey Allah, hey Allah re. Taka, dhan, bari, gari sab jabe haoai urey," (nothing would be there for you in this beautiful world: money, wealth, mansion and car, all would evaporate.)

Despite immense popularity, the guru suffered financial hardship but never sought any help from anybody. He rather spoke about his sense of dignity, his friends said.

As the news of his death spread, singers and musicians flocked the CMH amid restriction on movements in the cantonment area.

Prime Minister's Special Assistant Mahbulul Alam

Hanif told reporters that Azam Khan's body would be taken to Shaheed Minar this morning for the people to pay tribute.

He will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard after his namaz-e-janaza at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the afternoon, Hanif added.

Azam Khan has departed from the world leaving behind a legacy of love, justice, courage and of sacrifice.

For in one of his songs he says: "Nei kono obhijog/ Jome thaka dukha tile tile hoese pahar soman/ Nei khono obhijog..." (I have no complaint / Accumulated sorrows have formed a mountain/ I have no complaint...)

9 HC judges

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this morning.

The nine judges are Justices M Moazzam Husain, Soumendra Sarker, Abu Bakar Siddique, Md Nuruzzaman, Md Moinul Islam Chowdhury, Obaidul Hassan, M Enayetur Rahim, Naima Haider and Md Rezaul Hasan.

President Zillur Rahman on June 2 confirmed their services.

Two guards killed in Afghan bank attack

AFP, Kabul

Two security guards were killed yesterday in a bomb blast targeting an Afghan bank where government employees were thought to be collecting their wages, police said.

The blast happened after explosives were left in a bag at the gates of a branch of a bank in Maydan Shahr city, capital of Wardak province in central Afghanistan.

"It exploded at around 11:50am local time resulting in the martyrdom of two bank security guards," the interior ministry said in a statement.

It is thought that the intended target was government employees who were collecting their salaries from the bank.

Thousands rally in Australia for carbon tax

AFP, Sydney

Thousands of Australians rallied around the nation yesterday to support a tax on the carbon emissions blamed for global warming, as a new report outlined the risks of climate change for sea levels.

In Sydney, demonstrators gathered at Prince Alfred Park as part of the "Say Yes" campaign, carrying banners that read: "Say yes to cutting carbon pollution" and "Cut carbon pollution, unlock clean energy."

"Today is a big day, because today Australians will ask their government for a price on carbon," rally organiser Simon Sheikh, who is also the national director of the activist group GetUp, said.

Govt slated

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Khan Menon, Workers Party; and Mayeen Uddin Khan Badal, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, strongly criticised the cabinet's decision.

"The cabinet can't reject the proposal," said Menon, president of Workers' Party. Suranjit said none appeared before the standing committee when they were asked to be present and the prime minister was misguided by her advisers and other non elected cabinet members.

Defending the cabinet, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraf Islam said the matter dawned on the lawmakers only after reading newspaper reports.

"You don't know for sure whether the cabinet rejected the proposal or sent it for further review to the ministry concerned," the minister told lawmakers.

This led to more arguments and criticisms on the floor.

Deputy Speaker Shawkat Ali asked Ashraf to clarify the cabinet's decision as he was present at that meeting.

PM says door

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Not doing so, they are causing huge sufferings to the mass people in the name of hartal," she said.

It can not be accepted that someone will call hartal against court verdict and set vehicles on fire and burn people to death, the PM said.

In a note of humour Hasina said hartal may be environment-friendly as vehicles do not ply on roads, reducing air and sound pollutions.

"But you have no right to prevent people from attending their workplaces to earn their livelihoods. You can not force labourers or rickshaw pullers to go on fasting," she said.

BNP may reach an agreement that they would call one hartal every month for the sake of environment, but would not obstruct routine work of the common people, the premier humorously added.