

## Help fight

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two years.  
To address the electricity problem, the premier sought more foreign investment in this sector, saying that her government is creating a congenial investment atmosphere in the country.

She said that her government has formulated a new national education policy putting emphasis on science and technology-based education.

The government, Hasina said, is determined to achieve cent percent literacy in the country by 2014 and introduced school feeding system to prevent dropout and increase enrolment, which is yielding positive result. She also sought British cooperation in this regard.

She mentioned that the present government is channelling more fund for improving the lifestyle of rural people.

The fund will be given for enhancing school enrolment, ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation as well as for capacity building of police and election commission, she added.

Thanking the premier for her all out support in establishing Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Duncan requested her to provide a piece of land to the Acid Survivors Foundation for building a world class hospital with joint collaboration of the foundation and the British government.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephan Evans, Ambassador at-Large M Ziauddin and Secretary to the PM's Office Molla Waheeduzzaman, among others, were present.

## Mob beats

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house of Khalil Mia and held the family members hostage at gunpoint at about 1:00am.

At one stage of looting, the robbers stabbed Khalil's two sons--Badal and Salauddin--indiscriminately as they tried to resist the miscreants.

Hearing the scream of family members, neighbours announced the presence of dacoits by a loud speaker and surrounded the house.

When the robbers tried to flee the scene, angry mob caught two of them after a chase and beat them, leaving the two dead on the spot.

The injured two brothers were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Police sent the bodies of two robbers to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsies.

## CID warned

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Begum Chamon Chowdhury of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court granted 10 days' time to complete the probe into the killing case.

Time will not be extended anymore, the judges said when chief counsel of the prosecution Syed Rezaur Rahman completed his arguments before the courts.

Both the judges passed the order after CID's Special Superintendent of Police Abdul Kahar Akand, also the investigation officer (IO) of the cases, submitted time petitions on Tuesday.

The courts have so far given over 22 months' time for the CID to finish further investigation into the cases.

During further investigation, 12 people including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Jamaat leader Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid were arrested in connection with the cases.

BNP leader S Q Chowdhury was also interrogated at the jail gate in this connection.

## Militant links

Four Pakistani majors questioned

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's army, under pressure to root out Islamist sympathisers in its ranks, said yesterday it had questioned four majors over links to the banned Hizb-ul-Tahrir Islamist group.

Their questioning followed the arrest of a brigadier who was serving in military headquarters in the garrison town of Rawalpindi.

# UK wants

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Replying to a question on the political situation and the issue of caretaker government at the press conference, he said they want to see free, fair and honest elections in future, but the issue of caretaker government depends on the people of Bangladesh to decide.

Pressed to comment on the issue of caretaker government, Duncan said there is a deep feeling on both the sides (government and opposition) and they are facing each other with strong opinion on this.

Asked if the UK would mediate to resolve the dispute between the government and the opposition as it did in 2007, he said, "We did not mediate and that is not our role."

Duncan yesterday met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister AMA Muhith and State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud.

Asked about his views after the meetings with the prime minister and the leader of the opposition, Duncan said he would encourage both the political parties (ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP) and their supporters "to look at politics differently and serve the people."

He went on, "Focus less on how to attack opposition," as in the end politicians have to look to the future and not to the past.

He told journalists after meeting Khaleda Zia, "It (holding free and fair elections) is an internal matter of Bangladesh. As a minister of another country, I have nothing to say but I hope

people and political parties will find out a resolution for sustainable democracy," he said.

Duncan also hoped democracy in Bangladesh will be nourished with a vision of future, rather than venom of disliking each other as opponents.

At the press conference, he said the UK has already pledged one billion pound sterling as development aid for Bangladesh over the next four years. He suggested effective delivery system and establishment of rule of law at all levels to implement the development projects.

Asked if 6.7 percent GDP growth can lead Bangladesh to a mid-income economy by 2021, the UK minister said this is not enough for Bangladesh that requires 9-10 percent economic growth. He noted that it is not the number but it must be seen who is benefiting from the growth. Economic growth must benefit everybody.

During his stay, Duncan visited char areas of Gaibandha to see how poor people are earning their livelihood through innovative ways under a British-funded project.

He also visited burn victims at the Acid Survivors Foundation, which is dedicated to combat and eradicate acid violence. He expressed concern over the growing number of acid victims and said it needs to be addressed.

British High Commissioner in Dhaka Stephan Evans made introductory remarks at the press conference.

## Nazmul Huda

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hesitation, he said in a statement yesterday.

"And the talks should be held outside parliament with active participation of the two top leaders [BNP chief Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina]," the statement read.

According to him, a chance for talks on holding free and fair elections has been created after the Supreme Court has scrapped the system, and BNP should use this opportunity.

Huda, a former member of the party standing committee, said the Election Commission can play a vital role in getting the two leaders on the table.

In the statement, he apologised for "expressing his personal opinion", which he had to do for "lack of opportunity".

Nazmul Huda, who was twice minister, was expelled from BNP on November 21, 2010, for "breaking party discipline". His primary membership in the party, however, was reinstated on April 6 this year.

## 31st BCS exams

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Mir Mosharraf Hossain, public relations officer of Public Service Commission, told The Daily Star.

A total of 141,465 candidates sat in the examination on May 27 to vie for 2,108 vacant posts under general and professional or technical cadres.

The country's biggest government job recruitment examinations were held in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal cities.

## KL to fingerprint

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The regularisation will start shortly and will be completed in three months, said the ministry at a meeting with representatives of the labour-sending countries.

Those working in Malaysia illegally will have two weeks to register without facing any repercussions, the deputy prime minister said.

"There will be no action taken against them (if they surrender within two weeks)," Muhyiddin told reporters after chairing a special Cabinet meeting on foreign workers.

He, however, could not say how many were expected to surrender, or how many job positions would need to be filled.

The amnesty will protect the workers from unscrupulous agents who might help them travel and work illegally for a substantial fee, officials said.

Taking fingerprints will also allow the government to keep tabs on foreigners if they attempt to enter the country in the future under a different name, they added.

Authorities estimate there are some two million illegal immigrants working in Malaysia.

## 4 pirates killed

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The elite force seized four light guns, two 9mm pistols, one shutter gun, one single barrel gun, 141 bullets and a trawler used by the pirates from the spot in Bagerhat district.

Acting on a tip-off, Rab personnel went to Boro Shelar Khal in Supoti on three trawlers and challenged a gang of at least eight pirates who were roaming around the area on a trawler around 9:30am.

The gang opened fire on the law enforcers prompting them to fire back, said Major Sabbir.

The four were killed on the spot during a one and a half hours long gunfight. The other pirates disembarked on the bank of the canal and fled the scene, he added.

Later, Rab members recovered the bodies and seized the firearms. Khandaker Rafiqul Islam, superintendent of police of Bagerhat, said Jalfikar was an accused in four cases including murder and abduction.

A team of law enforcers from Sharankhola Police Station started for the spot in the afternoon.

# 4 killed in UP polls violence

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class VII student, was killed after police fired at some supporters of a chairman candidate around 9:30pm, reports our district correspondent.

Mozammel Haque, officer-in-charge of Ulipur Police Station, said supporters of Saiful Islam, a chairman candidate of Hatia union, tried to snatch ballot boxes during counting at Dighol Hailla Government Primary School polling centre.

Police baton-charged them triggering a clash that left 25 people injured.

Witnesses said Bayezid, 14, and Nazmul, 17, sustained bullet wounds when police shot 14 rounds of bullet to bring the situation under control.

The two were rushed to Kurigram Sadar Hospital.

Bayezid was shifted to Rangpur Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries around 11:30pm on Tuesday.

The OC admitted to firing shots but said they are not sure if Bayezid was killed by their bullets.

Sources at Rangpur

Medical College Hospital said they found four holes in Bayezid's head but it is difficult to say before an autopsy whether he was hit by bullet.

In Narsingdi, some supporters of Moslem Mia, a member candidate of Nuralapur union in Sadar upazila, hit Delwar Hossain, 32, with a stick following a quarrel at Shyamtoli polling centre on Tuesday afternoon.

A supporter of another member candidate Mazharul Islam, Delwar died on his way to hospital.

Anwar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station, said the incident happened immediately after the polls result was declared.

In another incident, Kamal Miah, 45, was killed and more than 50 were injured in a clash between supporters of chairman-elect Abdul Haque Sarkar and defeated candidate Ismail Hossain of Nilakhya union in Raipura upazila.

At least 10 houses were vandalised and valuables worth Tk 5 lakh were looted during the two-hour clash that took place at Amirabad

village in the union around 3:00pm.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals, including the sadar hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Tension was high in the area since Haque was declared winner in the polls held on June 18.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports, a chairman candidate, who was severely injured in an attack by supporters of a rival candidate on June 15, died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital on Tuesday afternoon.

A group of supporters of Nazirul Haque Talukder hacked Riazuddin Dulal, 40, on his way home, leaving him critically injured.

Dulal was the son of Abdul Quddus Sarkar of Tarati village under Phulpur upazila.

Police said Dulal and Nazirul fought for the chairman post in the election held on June 2, but both lost.

Khandaker Ferdous Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Tarakanda Police Station, said the two had a longstanding dispute over establishing supremacy in the area.

# Poverty declines

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28.4 percent in the same period.

However, the country did not do well in terms of redressing inequality. The Gini co-efficient that measures income inequality fell slightly to 0.458 in 2010 from 0.467 in 2005. A higher Gini coefficient implies more concentration.

The survey showed a marked improvement in nutrition levels across the country, primarily because of consumption of more diversified food basket. Other welfare indicators related to human development, access to services, and social welfare schemes also saw tremendous progress.

Per capita intake of food items a day increased by 5.5 percent -- 6.21 percent in urban and 3.5 percent in rural areas -- to 999.9 grams in 2010 from 947.8 grams in 2005.

The food consumption pattern also saw a change. The average quantity of rice intake decreased to 416 grams from nearly 440 grams in 2005, while consumption of wheat,

potato, meat and fish rose.

Per capita calorie intake a day increased by 3.6 percent to 2,318.3 kilocalorie in 2010 from 2,238.5 kilocalorie in 2005. It went up by 4.1 percent in rural and 2.3 percent in urban areas.

The average monthly household income rose to Tk 11,480 in 2010 from Tk 7,203 in 2005 at the national level, Tk 9,648 from Tk 6,096 in rural areas and Tk 16,477 from Tk 10,463 in urban areas.

Demographic trends also helped improve the quality of life. The average size of household decreased to 4.5 in 2010 from 4.84 in 2005.

Wahiduddin Mahmud said poverty pockets are changing. Rangpur and Rajshahi divisions had traditionally been known as the country's poverty pockets. Now Barisal has joined the list with nearly 40 percent poverty, second after 42 percent in Rangpur.

"Barisal takes over Rangpur and Rajshahi, may be for the impacts of climate change," said Mahmud.

Salinity has been on the rise in the region, he pointed out.

AK Khandker said the survey data will help determine the goals and strategies for the Sixth Five Year Plan, keeping in mind the targets under Vision 2021.

The HIES is a major source of socio-economic information at the household level in Bangladesh. It provides data on household expenditure, income, consumption, savings, housing conditions, education, employment, health, sanitation, water supply, electricity usage and other areas.

The total sample size was 12,240 households in 2010 and the survey was done from February 2010 to January 2011. The preliminary analysis of the data was completed in four months.

Riti Ibrahim, secretary of statistics division, Sanjay Kathuria, acting head of the World Bank country office and Shahjahan Ali Mollah, director general of the BBS, also spoke.

# Call for credible probe

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expressed concern over whom to seek justice from. He pointed out statements made by the prime minister's defence adviser and Home Minister Sahara Khatun trying to brand not only him but also his family members as criminals.

Talking to journalists after the visit, Malhotra said the available description of the event and statements made by Rab and the government are contradictory. "It is a mockery... you have so many contradictions within the system. There is a need for impartial and independent investigation to see what actually happened," Malhotra added.

The Amnesty International team urged the government to fulfil its promises made two and half years ago before the election. The team said Amnesty International is not aware of a single instance of prosecution of a Rab personnel.

"If faith of a common person of Bangladesh is to be reinstated in the system, this is a high time for Bangladesh," Malhotra said, adding, "This is a unique opportunity for Bangladesh to show, through the Limon's case, that credible investigations are being conducted and justice is being delivered, obviously through a fair trial.

Some sort of accountability have to be put in place to make sure no such violation takes place in future."

On the government investigation into the Limon's case, Malhotra urged impartial intervention in every investigation rather than ones being merely completed by Rab personnel or government officials. She urged the government to make probe reports public.

Limon told the team that he is preparing to sit for the HSC examination. He is unable to see his parents for

over a week as their stay is not permitted at Gano Shasthya Nagar Hospital in Dhanmondi.

"You are very brave, Limon. You are seeking truth and justice," said Malhotra.

"We are here to push so that justice is delivered to you and you are properly rehabilitated and compensated," she added.

As the team bade farewell to Limon, journalists present there asked for his reaction.

Sitting on the bed with his only leg dangling, a calm and determined Limon in a single breath said, "There is none but the prime minister from whom I can seek justice at this moment. I want punishment if impartial and independent investigation finds me guilty. If not, I want punishment to those who held me by the collar of my shirt before shooting me holding the gun against my leg."

# Cost of violence immense

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down to around Tk 14,000 for permanent injury, and Tk 32,000 and Tk 67,000 for attending family and district courts respectively for the victim and her family.

The cost borne by the perpetrator's family was broken down to loss of income due to hiding (Tk 1.34 lakh) and imprisonment (Tk 10.69 lakh).

Dr Julia Ahmed, team leader of the study, Cost of Violence Against Women or COVAW chaired the workshop.

"This is the first time that we have considered how much money is spent because of domestic violence," she said.

She said 2.05 percent of

the country's GDP -- almost equal to the total government expenditure on the health and nutrition sector -- is lost because of domestic violence.

She talked about the types and categories of cost that people related to these crimes, including the emotional and psychological costs. These types of costs were termed intangible costs while the monetary costs were called tangible costs.

Julia said these costs drain the resources of a country and costs are borne not only by individuals and their families but also by the community and state at large.

The workshop was told

that a 1999 research by United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA) found between 47 percent and 60 percent of married Bangladeshi women become victims of wife beating and that 65 percent of men consider violence against women justified.

Another research carried out by International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR, B), in 1998 attributed 14 percent of all maternal deaths in Bangladesh to physical and emotional violence.

Executive Director SAP Bangladesh Syed Nurul Alam was present at the workshop.

## BNP asked

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they said though the Supreme Court has declared 'void' the caretaker government system, BNP can place its opinion on the issue.

Urging them to return in parliament and express their views on the caretaker government (CG), Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad, however, blasted BNP saying they always used to engage in conspiracy on how to capture power using the Army.

Referring to an SC verdict on the 13th amendment to the country's charter, the information minister said though the highest court has declared the caretaker government system 'void', they (BNP) can express their opinion in the parliament.

Earlier in the morning, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas appealed BNP to come up with an 'alternative proposal' on the CG system.

A number of lawmakers including Momtaz Begum also called upon the opposition to return in parliament and place their proposals.

Ministers and lawmakers censured BNP for what they said issueless anti-government movement.

On Tuesday some ministers and AL lawmakers said the door is not closed yet for talks on the caretaker government issue even though the cabinet has approved a draft bill for amending the constitution.

The ministers and AL leaders made the remarks in and outside the House apparently in response to BNP leader Moudud Ahmed's comments following the cabinet's nod to the bill on Monday.

Moudud told newsmen that all the doors have been closed for discussions.

## Taka

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immigration. This man is also known to be close to ruling Awami League.

Another bigwig's son is said to have bought a private aircraft which he keeps in Dubai. It is now an open secret in the city.

But even without the working of black money in stocks, taka is likely to come under severe strains in the coming months for two major reasons.

First, the requirement for diesel import will drastically increase because of setting up of quick rental power plants. Two years ago, the total fuel import was 3.5 million tons which has increased to 5.2 million tons this year. It is expected to increase by over 40 percent to 7.2 million tons.

With oil price hovering over \$110 a barrel and rising, a huge amount of dollar will be required to import this quantity. This will surely put taka under strain.

In addition, high commodity price will keep pressure up on foreign exchange reserves.

Secondly, inflow of dollar looks feeble. Remittance flow has stagnated. Export has increased significantly. But the fact remains that a little of that export proceeds can be retained because over 75 percent of the earning is from readymade garments. And in garments sector, the chunk of the proceeds is again used to buy cotton, yarn and fabric.

So the net retention of foreign exchange is little.

On the other hand, for a population of 160 million, import of fabrics and yarn for local consumption is huge and none of it is re-exported. So when the global commodity market is high, forex reserves will dwindle further.

And if that happens, other things like inflation will start looking uglier.

There might not be many immediate remedies. But fixing the capability to utilise more foreign aid is one way to increase reserves. Tapping more manpower market is also important to keep remittance flowing. And if one has to channel black money into the economy, let it be in the real sector directly or through bonds. That will help diversify exports and increase reserves in the long run.