

BNP asked

FROM PAGE 1
held in a free and fair manner.

They said the government, if necessary, is ready to enact new laws or amend the existing ones if the opposition lawmakers place their proposals regarding the caretaker government system or the Election Commission (EC).

Taking part in a discussion on the proposed budget for 2011-12, they also strongly demanded stern punishment of those involved in the recent share market scam.

They said the government that came to power through a landslide victory has lost the support of millions for the share market disaster. They urged the government to regain people's faith by punishing the culprits in the scam.

Speaking on the caretaker government system, Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad said, "We must get rid of this system."

He said the caretaker government was introduced with the aim of holding free and fair polls, but no poll under it was held neutrally. The parliament has the supreme authority to decide whether the caretaker government system will exist.

The debate centring the much-talked-about issue should be resolved through discussion with all, added Ershad.

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury called upon the opposition to rerun to parliament and place proposals on the caretaker government issue if they have any.

Criticising the opposition's anti-government movement on the issue, she said such agitation will not bring any result.

The constitution has the provision of interim government system to hold national polls, said Suranji Sengupta.

"If necessary, we may enact laws regarding strengthening of EC where the EC may be given all power including the authority to run the home and defence ministries during the interim government period. The interim government will only do routine work during its tenure," Suranji said amid thumping of desks by alliance MPs.

He called upon Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to come to parliament to get involved in this process.

He also urged Khaleda to send even four representatives to take part in the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, which is now scrutinising the bill on the 15th amendment, which was placed in parliament on June 25.

Gaddafi faces

FROM PAGE 20
should now abandon him.

Italy's foreign ministry said the decision of the three-judge court, set up in 2002 to try war crimes, confirmed that Gaddafi had lost all "moral legitimacy" and could have "no role in the future of his country."

Thousands have so far died in the fighting, while around 650,000 others fled the country. Another 243,000 Libyans have been displaced internally, according to UN figures.

Moreno-Ocampo said on Sunday that the war crimes in Libya will not stop until Gaddafi is arrested.

"Crimes continue today in Libya. To stop the crimes and protect civilians in Libya, Gaddafi must be arrested," he said.

In his submission, Moreno-Ocampo said Gaddafi had a personal hand in planning and implementing "a policy of widespread and systematic attacks against civilians and demonstrators and dissidents in particular."

The Libyan strongman also ordered sniping at civilians leaving mosques after evening prayers. His forces carried out a systematic campaign of arrest and detention of alleged dissidents, it said.

"Gaddafi's plans were carried out through his inner circle, which included Seif al-Islam, Gaddafi's de-facto prime minister and his brother-in-law Al-Senussi, considered to be his right-hand man," the submission said.

Transit fees

FROM PAGE 1
given transit facilities without reasonable fees.

"There has never been allowing of transit facilities without payment. Nor has India ever made such a request," he told a lecture titled "Connectivity: Economic and other aspects" at the Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

He said India will pay a realistic fee including the cost of administration, maintenance of the infrastructure, wear and tear cost and depreciation as is done elsewhere in the world.

"We'll look into the best practices around the world and determine our best interests," Rizvi said, adding, "We won't let down our country."

Asked how such a sensitive matter will be settled when Bangladesh has failed to resolve many other contentious issues like water sharing and border disputes, the adviser said all the issues will be resolved within the tenure of the present government.

But he said fixing the rate is complex and it cannot be settled at once. "The government has formed a number of committees to examine the transit issue, and the usage fee will be determined based on its recommendations."

He ruled out all the debate

and confusion centering transit and connectivity.

"Connectivity does not mean a one-day traffic or movement of Indian goods through Bangladesh but it is to connect Bangladesh to its immediate neighbours -- Bhutan, India, Nepal, Myanmar and China; to other countries of South, East and West Asia; and through the Asian Highway to the world beyond."

"It is being portrayed as an imposition by India against the free will of Bangladesh and solely in the interest of India. It is even being described as a surrender of sovereignty. But Bangladesh citizens are too smart to be fooled," the adviser told the lecture organised by the Economic Reporters' Forum.

Tariff Commission Chairman Mozibur Rahman said the \$7 billion to be invested to build the infrastructure for transit facilities can be recovered in three to four years.

"There is no doubt that Bangladesh will economically benefit by allowing transit," said Mozibur, who also heads the transit committees.

He added that limited transit can be introduced in a year by linking Chittagong Port with Agartala of India.

More BNP bigwigs

FROM PAGE 1
rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004 killed 23 Awami League leaders and workers and injured over 300.

Two cases were filed in connection with the blasts -- one under explosive substances act and the other for killing people.

A Dhaka court on August 3, 2009, ordered further probe, as the investigation had failed to unearth the sources of the grenades used and identify the masterminds behind the attack.

Thirteen of those to be included in supplementary charge sheets have already been shown arrested in the cases. They are SQ Chowdhury, Mojahed, former state minister for home Lutfuzzaman Babai, former director general of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI) Major Gen (ret'd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury, former DG of National Security Intelligence Brig Gen (ret'd) Abdur Rahim, Khaleda's nephew Saiful Islam Duke, city BNP leader Ariful Islam Arif, Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) leaders Moulana Sheikh Farid, Moulana Abdur Rouf, Moulana Abdul Hannan Sabir, Huji founder and Islamic Democratic Party (IDP) chief Abdus Salam, Pakistan-based militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) leader Abdul Malek alias Golam Mohammad and Yusuf Butt alias Majid Butt.

CID investigators are also convinced about involvement of BNP lawmaker Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad and former DGFI official Lt Col (sacked) Saiful Islam Joarder.

Harris Chowdhury and Saiful Joarder are still on the run, while the agency has reportedly sought the Speaker's permission to arrest opposition lawmaker Kaikobad.

Contacted, Investigation Officer Abdul Kader Akhund declined to make any comment about seeking the Speaker's permission.

Among the detainees, Huji leaders Farid, Rouf and Sabir, IDP leader Salam, and LeT leaders Golam Mohammad and Majid Butt have admitted in the courts their involvement in the attack. They have also disclosed names of their associates.

According to Salam's statement, Harris, Babar, former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Rezaqul Haider, Abdur Rahim and a number of Huji leaders met several times at the Hawa Bhaban before the August 21 attack, said prosecution sources.

Babar helped Moulana Tajuddin, an accused in the case and Pintu's brother, to flee the country after the blasts, Salam added.

In their confessional statements, LeT leaders Butt and Golam said Tajuddin supplied the grenades used in the August 21 attack. He had been helping Pakistan-based LeT to transport arms and ammunition to militant organisations.

"Gaddafi's plans were carried out through his inner circle, which included Seif al-Islam, Gaddafi's de-facto prime minister and his brother-in-law Al-Senussi, considered to be his right-hand man," the submission said.

Some police officials said they think the seized ammunition and explosives were being smuggled for the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), a terrorist group in the north-eastern Indian State of Tripura.

Khalequzzaman supported introduction of EVM but emphasised the need for removing technical faults to prevent vote rigging.

In their confessional statements, LeT leaders Butt and Golam said Tajuddin supplied the grenades used in the August 21 attack. He had been helping Pakistan-based LeT to transport arms and ammunition to militant organisations.

"Gaddafi's plans were carried out through his inner circle, which included Seif al-Islam, Gaddafi's de-facto prime minister and his brother-in-law Al-Senussi, considered to be his right-hand man," the submission said.

Expressway

FROM PAGE 20

proposed bill that none could claim the compensation if any house, installation or establishment of land are changed which would go against the public interest.

In this case, if any person or organisation claims compensation, it would be rejected by the deputy commissioner, the bill proposed.

The bill also proposed for making provision to file appeal with the deputy commissioner by the aggrieved person within seven days after denial of the claim.

Provision has also been made in the bill to give proper order within five working days after filing any appeal.

The bill has also a provision that if the appeal is rejected, the petitioner will have to shift his or her houses, establishments at his or her own cost and responsibility.

If the petitioner does not shift the houses or installations, the deputy commissioner can hold an open auction and deposit the money to the government exchequer by selling those houses and installations, the bill said.

Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Land Ministry AKM Mozammel Haque and lone independent lawmaker Mohammad Fazlul Azim proposed for three amendment proposals.

However, other amendment proposals brought by Azim were rejected in voice votes.

BTCL staff

FROM PAGE 20

Rana, 30, was a lineman at BTCL office in Mogaibazar.

The elite force members conducted the raid at the flat at around 7:30am and also seized illegal VoIP equipment worth around Tk 60 lakh.

Of them, Tajuddin, Liton, Hossain Ahmed, Anisul Mursalin and his brother Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Moulana Abu Bakar, Moulana Liton alias Juban, Uzzal alias Ratan, Rafiqul Islam Sabuj and Khalilur Rahman.

They falsely implicated one JojMiah.

EVM likely

FROM PAGE 20

said yesterday.

The government on May 5 declared the Narayanganj municipality as Narayanganj City Corporation and appointed its administrator on June 23 this year. As per the law, the election should be held before November 5.

The CEC said voters will get to know the system if it is introduced in different local government polls before the general election, which is due in 2014.

He made the remarks during talks with Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) as part of EC's ongoing dialogue with the registered political parties at the commission secretariat.

The EC on June 7 began dialogues with the political parties for their opinions on some key provisions of the Representation of the People Order, appointment of election commissioners and introduction of electronic voting machine.

However, BNP and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami did not join the talks. BNP instead sent a letter to the EC as to why it is not joining the dialogue.

Asked about this, the CEC said: "We're preparing the answers. They [BNP] raised a number of issues in the dialogue. But the comments they made are baseless."

A six-member delegation led by BSD General Secretary Khalequzzaman attended yesterday's dialogue with the EC.

Khalequzzaman supported introduction of EVM but emphasised the need for removing technical faults to prevent vote rigging.

According to Salam's statement, Harris, Babar, former BNP deputy minister Abdus Salam Pintu, Rezaqul Haider, Abdur Rahim and a number of Huji leaders met several times at the Hawa Bhaban before the August 21 attack, said prosecution sources.

Babar helped Moulana Tajuddin, an accused in the case and Pintu's brother, to flee the country after the blasts, Salam added.

In their confessional statements, LeT leaders Butt and Golam said Tajuddin supplied the grenades used in the August 21 attack. He had been helping Pakistan-based LeT to transport arms and ammunition to militant organisations.

"Gaddafi's plans were carried out through his inner circle, which included Seif al-Islam, Gaddafi's de-facto prime minister and his brother-in-law Al-Senussi, considered to be his right-hand man," the submission said.

Some police officials said they think the seized ammunition and explosives were being smuggled for the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), a terrorist group in the north-eastern Indian State of Tripura.

Following the recovery, police undertook a large-scale search operation and recovered more bullets and 59kgs of RDX from different areas.

A senior police official in return for anonymity told this correspondent during the investigation that the masterminds behind the smuggling could not be identified for political pressure.

Some police officials said they think the seized ammunition and explosives were being smuggled for the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), a terrorist group in the north-eastern Indian State of Tripura.

Khalequzzaman supported introduction of EVM but emphasised the need for removing technical faults to prevent vote rigging.

In their confessional statements, LeT leaders Butt and Golam said Tajuddin supplied the grenades used in the August 21 attack. He had been helping Pakistan-based LeT to transport arms and ammunition to militant organisations.

"Gaddafi's plans were carried out through his inner circle, which included Seif al-Islam, Gaddafi's de-facto prime minister and his brother-in-law Al-Senussi, considered to be his right-hand man," the submission said.

Budget not pro-people

FROM PAGE 20

because such privileges always discourage honest taxpayers.

"The proposed budget is nothing but a document of wrong and confusing directions. The strategy of collecting fund for implementing the proposed budget is surreal," said MK Anwar, member of the national standing committee, the highest policymaking body of BNP, at a press conference in the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

Replying to a query, he said those who looted money from share market are now demanding scope for whitening their money.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith proposed the Tk 1,63,589-crore budget for upcoming fiscal year in the parliament on June 9. But BNP did not give any formal

reaction on the budget proposal till yesterday.

The opposition asked the government to increase allocation for power and energy sector and to finalise coal policy without further delay as they think it would not be possible to resolve power crisis unless steps are taken for large scale coal or gas-based power plants.

In the written statement Anwar said tax on commercial building is set to increase from Tk 2,000 to a range between Tk 12,000 and Tk 15,000, which is very high and will obviously be borne by customers; it should be revised.

BNP also took stance for raising the threshold of minimum income tax to Tk 3 lakh. It said, "Talented officers will quit civil service since they get less than their counterparts in private

sector."

Referring to the finance minister's statements on transit in the budget speech, Anwar, also a former minister, said, "BNP is not against the steps that ensure the country's economic development. But before finalising the decision we must know how Bangladesh will be benefited by giving transit facilities to India."

"Did the government conduct any study on possible impact of transit as it has to be considered from political, economic, environmental and security perspectives," he asked.

Party chairperson's advisers Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, Osman Farrukh, Abdul Awal Mintoo and Sabihuddin Ahmed, among others, were present at the press briefing.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION
BWDB defers demolition drive to check buildings' list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) yesterday postponed its drive along the Mohammadpur flood protection embankment to recheck its list of illegal structures.

The Dhaka district administration and BWDB were jointly executing the drive.

Ranojit Kumar Pal, sub-divisional engineer of BWDB, said they suspended the drive as some people have claimed legal ownership of their establishments.

"We will resume the drive from July which will continue for 54 work days," he said, adding that they have already worked for six days.

Ranojit said they had started the drive on May 12 and were supposed to conduct the drive on around a 30 km stretch from Abdullapur to Waiseghat within 60 working days. The government has decided to construct a four-lane road there.

According to him, the drive has already freed five kilometres of area by evicting around 200 big concrete and around 2,000 small structures.

After demolishing the structures the BWDB will set up boundary pillars on the recovered land and hand it over to the Roads and Highway department, he added.

657 more BGB

FROM PAGE 20