

## 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 stigma."

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 Suranjit 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," Suranjit 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.

## Expressway

FROM PAGE 20  
proposed bill that none could claim the compensation if any house, installation are established or types 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 were accepted in voice votes.

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 Moghbazar.

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.

M u h a m m a d Rahmatullah, an ASP of Rab-3, who conducted the drive, said Soheli started the business with a friend about a year back after renting the flat, where he lived with his family.

Though Soheli's salary as a temporary employee of BTCL was only Tk 5000 per month he paid a rent of Tk 20,000 per month for his flat, he said.

Rab was trying to trace out his friend, he added.

A case will be filed soon against him with Ramna Police Station, the ASP said.

## Trial stalled

FROM PAGE 20  
other accused were arrested but all except truck driver Altu Mia were freed on bail.

Police recovered 99,999 bullets and 174 kgs of RDX from different areas of Kahalu and Dupchachia upazilas of Bogra, Naresh Mukherjee, assistant public prosecutor of Bogra, said on Saturday.

A senior police official who was involved with the recovery told The Daily Star back then that those were being carried from Habiganj in a pineapple-loaded truck allegedly to be smuggled to Tripura, India.

According to the case statements, Kahalu police recovered 62,100 bullets and 115 kgs of RDX from under stacks of pineapples in a truck parked close to a brick kiln in Jogarpara village on the night of June 27, 2003.

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.

## 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.

## JS body devises new formula

FROM PAGE 1  
parliament expires.

During the three months, an elected political government will stay in office as the provision of caretaker government system will not exist in the charter once the amendment bill is passed.

The bill was sent to the standing body with a two-week time to review and place a report. Yesterday the committee sat for the first time.

In 1996, the 13th amendment to the charter introduced the provision of caretaker government that would assist the Election Commission in holding parliamentary polls within 90 days of a parliament's dissolution.

Recently, the amendment was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court.

However, according to the article 72 (1) of the constitution, the period between the end of one session and the first sitting of the next session of the House shall not exceed 60 days.

"This provision will not be applicable during the last 90 days of a parliament. It means parliament will not function during the election period. We decided to propose bringing a change to this effect in this constitutional provision," Suranjit Sengupta, chief of the parliamentary body, told The Daily Star yesterday.

In that case, the Election Commission may make code of conduct for MPs who will contest the polls seeking re-elections. Even parliament may enact new law to this effect, a member of the committee said.

The parliamentary body at yesterday's meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban also discussed the power and functions of the cabinet which will stay in office during the time.

Talking to this correspondent a number of committee

members said the cabinet led by the prime minister would act as an interim government or a caretaker government that would not take any policy decision.

Rather, it would discharge routine work and provide all out support to the EC for holding a free and fair parliamentary election, they said.

The committee members said a political consensus is necessary to bring such amendment to the constitution to turn an elected government into an interim one during the election period.

"But we may not make such proposal right now. The main opposition BNP should come up with proposals, if they have any, on the interim government," Suranjit said.

He said the committee will finalise the bill today and he will submit the scrutiny report in parliament tomorrow. The bill is likely to be passed this month.

Asked how the issue of interim or caretaker government will be settled, Suranjit said passing of the bill does not mean the door for negotiations is closed.

The opposition may come up with proposals at any time since the elections will be held after around two and half years, he said.

"If they come with an open mind, the constitution could be changed again to finalise the structure of the interim government," he said.

Also on Sunday, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury talking to The Daily Star at her office at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban said the ruling and opposition parties can hold talks on ways to limit the functions of the interim government and to strengthen the EC.

At the meeting, a number of committee members stressed the need for discussion with BNP to resolve the political stalemate over the caretaker government row.

## Hartal likely next week

FROM PAGE 1  
Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night sat with her senior party colleagues to chalk out the agitation programme. They were considering to call hartal for sometime in next week, party insiders said.

Against the backdrop of placement of a bill in the House for the fifteenth amendment to the constitution, BNP decided to resist the move by any means. The bill recommended abolishment of the caretaker government (CG) system.

Tougher agitation programmes will be announced today against the government's "conspiracy to drop the caretaker government system," said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, acting secretary general of BNP.

Party policymakers believe conviction of Khaleda's younger son Arafat Rahman Koko in a money laundering case and the parliament's move to drop the CG system from the constitution are nothing but a challenge to BNP thrown by the government.

According to them, the common people and most of the political parties are in favour of the CG system. BNP's stance for continuing with the system will be very popular and ultimately would force the government to meet its demand.

"An anti-government movement will be forged step by step under the leadership of Khaleda Zia to ensure the system stays in the charter," a member of the party's standing committee told The Daily Star last night, seeking anonymity.

The chairperson herself will take decision regarding the agitation programmes, he added.

The leader of the opposition in parliament already demanded the House keep the provision unchanged in the constitution. She also maintained talks can be held on who will lead the next caretaker government.

She insisted her party would not participate in the next national election under any political government.

The CG system is a form

of government system in which the country is ruled by a selected government for an interim period during transition from one government to another, after the completion of tenure of the former.

Charge sheet  
FROM PAGE 20  
added.

Arrested from a relative's house on June 15, Sumon is now in jail following orders from a Dhaka Court on Sunday. Earlier, Sumon was on remand for six days in four phases.

Rumana, an assistant professor of the International Relations Department at Dhaka University, has gone blind in a brutal assault by her husband Sumon who dug his fingers into her eyes.

Ophthalmologists in Bangladesh and India confirmed that her left eye has been completely damaged while the retina of the other one is not responding to her brain.

Following the attack, Rumana's father Manzur Hossain filed an attempt to murder case against Sumon with Dhanmondi Police Station.

## 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 structure.

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 Abdullahpur to Waisehat 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 the Roads and Highway department, he added.

## 657 more BGB

FROM PAGE 20  
to two years, 55 to one and a half years, two to one year and three months, 67 to one year, 34 to nine months, 47 to six months while 89 to four months each.

"The verdict was finalised considering the gravity of charges, service records and contribution of the jawans or their parents in the Liberation War," Rafiqul Islam said before pronouncing the judgment.

The court made the verdict impartially after analysing the evidence. The sentences came into effect yesterday, he added.

One but all the 667 accused were yesterday produced before the court set up at the Darbar Hall of BGB (former Bangladesh Rifles) headquarters. It exonerated an accused, who died last month, from the charges.

The court began the trial proceedings on March 31 last year and the verdict was made after 48 days of court proceedings.

According to prosecution lawyers, 58 prosecution witnesses were cross-examined on the depositions they gave against the accused while 86 defence witnesses stood up for the accused.

Three army officials of the battalion -- Commanding Officer Lt Col Lutfor Rahman, Maj Maksumul Hakim and Maj Mominul Islam Sarkar -- were killed in the mutiny, prosecutor Maj Khan Muhammad Alauddin told newsmen.

Members of the court also included Lt Col Mojammel Hossain, Major Sayeed Hasan Taposh and Deputy Attorney General Md Sohravardi. Lawyers Md Manjur Alam and Monjur Mohammad Shahnewaz Tipu assisted the prosecutor.

## Man shot

FROM PAGE 20  
Tanakar's house around 11:30pm while he was asleep.

The miscreants shot him dead and left the scene immediately.

Asked, Md Naimuddin, officer-in-charge of Baghaichhari Police Station, could not ascertain any involvement of the victim with any political party.

Earlier on Sunday morning, Bijoy Singh Chakma, 37, an activist of United People's Democratic Front, was shot dead in Ranganamati allegedly by the members of rival faction of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity.