

## UK inflation surges on higher tuition fees

AFP, London

Annual inflation in Britain surged to a higher-than-expected rate of 2.7 percent in October largely owing to massive hikes in the country's university tuition fees, official data showed yesterday.

The Bank of England's target rate is set at 2.0 percent.

"The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) annual inflation stands at 2.7 percent in October 2012, up from 2.2 percent in September," the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said in a statement.

"The main upward pressure came from the education sector (university tuition fees) with smaller upward contributions from food and non-alcoholic beverages and transport," the ONS added.

## 8pc growth

opportunities and challenges," unveiled at the Westin Hotel in the capital.

Both GDP (gross domestic product) and remittance would play an important role in improving the nation's income status, the Washington-based anti-poverty lenders said.

Speaking at the event, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said that to attain the status of a middle-income country by 2021, Bangladesh has to attract more investment, mainly foreign direct investment.

"Of course, there are different ways of looking at this: some see the glass is half empty while others see the glass is half full," he said in response to doubts whether the country could achieve the goal.

Last year, the country had a pretty good sum of \$1.1 billion in FDI but that was not enough, Muhith added.

Admitting that a lack of infrastructure was a major hindrance to the development of Bangladesh, he said decentralisation of the administration was also necessary to boost the economy.

Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue, however, was critical of the WB report for downplaying the importance of the domestic economy.

He said the consumption of the middle-class in this year was projected to be \$44 billion, which was much higher than the GDP of many countries.

The targets, mainly raising productivity and investment, set in the WB report would be difficult for Bangladesh to achieve by 2021, he added.

Ellen Goldstein, WB country director, Bangladesh, said the country has to engage in more businesses to achieve its 2021 target.

She said Bangladesh needed to continue serving the global migrant market and promote safe migration in order to accelerate growth and reduce poverty at home.

Zahid Hussain, a senior economist of the World Bank, who presented the report, said that to push the GDP growth to eight percent, there has to be an increase in investment in physical infrastructure and human development, an accelerated productivity growth and the outward orientation of the economy.

## Bicycle bomb kills two in Pakistan

AFP, Quetta

A bicycle bomb apparently targeting security forces killed two people and injured nine others in Pakistan's troubled southwestern province of Baluchistan yesterday, police said.

The device exploded on the road from Baluchistan's provincial capital Quetta to the airport as a convoy of the government paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) passed nearby.

## Testimony against

FROM PAGE 20

The 58-year-old witness identified Mojaheed in the dock who listened to the vivid description Rustam gave about the crimes committed by Pakistan army and its auxiliary forces.

According to prosecution documents, Motiur Rahman Nizami was the chief of the Al-Badr high command of the whole of Pakistan while Mojaheed was chief of East Pakistan Al-Badr in 1971.

Earlier, Zahir Uddin Jalal, the second prosecution witness in the case also known as Bichchu Jalal, testified that Mohammadpur Physical Training College was the headquarters of the Al-Badr force where "Al-Badr Commanders Nizami and Mojaheed" in association with the Pakistani army used to train Al-Badr men.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice ATM Fazle Kabir with members Justice Obaidul Hassan and Judge M Shahinur Islam recorded Rustam's testimony before adjourning the case proceedings until today when Rustam would face cross-examination.

During his 45-minute testimony, Rustam said his father was a guard of Mohammadpur Physical Training College in 1971 and he along with his family members were living in the fourth-class staff quarters in the college compound.

Occupying the college on the night of March 25, 1971, the Pakistani army picked 100/150 East Pakistan Regiment members from Pilkhana and kept them detained inside the gymnasium of the college.

"After some days, Pakistani army tortured them to death," said Rustam adding, "After a few days, Pakistan army picked common people, freedom fighters, intellectuals and women and tortured them."

"Keeping them confined to the principal's quarters in the college, they used to torture women and their torture was so severe that some women were killed due to torture," said the witness, adding, "They cut off breast of the women who protested and some of the women died for this reason."

Three-four months into the war, the training of Razakars and Al-Badr forces began at the college ground, said Rustam.

"One day, when I was on my way to the market, I saw Ghulam Azam, Nizami Shaheb and Mohammad Mojaheed Shaheb at the college gate in a vehicle of Panjabis [Pakistani army]," said Rustam.

"I didn't know them. On-duty Razakars and Al Badr members were saying that Ghulam Azam, Motiur Rahman Nizami and Mohammad Mojaheed arrived at the college and then I identified them," said Rustam.

"They went inside." Rustam had decided to go to India for training to fight for freedom.

"Four-five months into the war, I met Bichchu Jalal on the way to the freedom fighters' camp at Atibazar of Keraniganj. Jalal was familiar to me," said Rustam.

Jalal told Rustam that as he was living inside the training college, the main camp of Al-Badr force, Rustam did not need to go to India, rather he should collect and supply information about the camp to freedom fighters, said the witness.

After that Jalal and their fellow freedom fighters decided to attack the training college, said Rustam.

Jalal in his testimony before the tribunal had said Rustam was their informant.

He said six-seven months into the war, the Pakistani army, Razakar and Al-Badr forces started to bring intellectuals, lawyers, and singers and tortured them.

"Pak Sena [Pakistani army personnel], Razakar and Al-Badr members killed many of the detained people while torturing them at the students dining hall [of the college] and dumped their bodies at Rayerbazar killing field and other areas," said

Rustam.

Some were killed at Rayerbazar too, he said.

"Pak Sena, Razakar and Al-Badr members brutally killed more intellectuals, singers and freedom fighters bringing them to the college camp seven-eight days ahead of victory [December 16]," said Rustam.

Rustam said he found 100-150 gouged out eyes of people behind the physical training college and showed them to Jalal.

On Victory Day, when the Pakistan army left the college for cantonment, Razakars and Al-Badr members fled the camp shaving off their beards and moustaches," said Rustam.

"Before leaving the camp, they slit the throat of the Bangalee physician who lived inside the camp and looked after them. I recovered the body of the physician."

The day after the victory, Rustam found nine heads beside the gymnasium, said the witness.

Mojaheed is facing seven charges of crimes against humanity, including murder, genocide and hatching a conspiracy to kill intellectuals during the nine-month-long war.

Meanwhile, former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam's son Brig Gen (dismissed) Abdullahil Amaan Azmi yesterday spent one and a half hours of his deposition in correcting grammatical and spelling errors of his first day's testimony at Tribunal-1.

Azmi yesterday signed a copy of the testimony with a note for correction which came to the notice of the tribunal.

Before recording the testimony at about 2:15pm yesterday, the tribunal Chairman Md Nizamul Huq brought up the matter and expressed unhappiness with the defence counsel's performance.

"Monitor is set up before you [defence], the prosecution, and us [the tribunal judges] and in the dock of the accused to avoid mistakes," he said.

"Do you perform your responsibility properly?" Justice Nizamul Huq asked the defence counsels.

The tribunal also reminded the defence that from now on it would not amend depositions and if there were mistakes in future, the defence would be responsible for that.

The proceeding of the case was adjourned until November 18.

Meanwhile, another eyewitness yesterday testified that in presence of a Pakistani army officer, war crimes accused Abdul Alim interrogated detainees at a Pakistani army camp in Joypurhat during the Liberation War.

Solaiman Ali Fakir, a detainee at the army camp at Joypurhat Sugar Mill who had faced the so-called interrogation, yesterday testified against Abdul Alim in the crimes against humanity case at Tribunal-2.

Solaiman, the sixth prosecution witness in the case, also said along with other Shanti Committee leaders, former Convention Muslim League leader Alim was present when Pakistani army attacked Panchbibi on April 20, 1971.

Earlier, Abdus Samad Mondal, Solaiman's nephew who was also detained at the army camp, testified that Alim along with a Pakistani army officer used to hold "trials" of people detained at the camp and kill captives issuing "verdicts".

During his one-hour testimony, the 71-year-old witness from Panchbibi gave a description about his confinement very similar to his nephew's.

Alim, the 81-year-old politician and former minister of Ziaur Rahman's cabinet, was present in the courtroom yesterday during Solaiman's testimony.

On June 11, the tribunal framed 17 specific charges of crimes against humanity against Alim, which included genocide, murder of Bangalee civilians, and burying people alive.

## No MP quota

FROM PAGE 1

The lawmakers' quota would not be introduced for the admission in public schools either, Education Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

The proposal for lawmakers' quota in enrolment in non-government schools, made by the parliamentary standing committee on education ministry, drew huge flak after the education secretary following a meeting on admission policy on Sunday had told the media that the percentage of seats under the lawmakers' quota would be finalised the following day.

The decision, however, remained stalled. Meanwhile, two rights organisations -- Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and Ain o Salish Kendra -- on Monday challenged the government move in the High Court.

The education ministry has also dropped the proposal for introducing quota for the children of officials of Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education (DSHE) and all education boards, and non-resident Bangladeshis.

However, the existing 5 percent quota for freedom fighters' children and grandchildren, 2 percent for the physically disabled, and 2 percent quota for the children of education ministry officials and employees have been kept in the amended policy.

The children of teachers, employees and managing committee members of a private school will get the quota benefit in the very school subject to obtaining pass mark in the admission test.

Asked about the reason for keeping quota for education ministry employees, Nahid said it was because all other ministries have some facilities for their employees, but those of his ministry had nothing but this.

The education minister said they had brought a few amendments to the policy.

The admission fee will remain the same. In Dhaka metropolis, the schools enjoying partial monthly payment order (MPO) can charge at best Tk 8,000 in admission fees, session charge, and other fees for Bangla version and Tk 10,000 for English version.

Each admission form of these schools will be Tk 200.

The schools enjoying MPO for all teachers in the capital can charge at best Tk 5,000 for all the fees during admission. The price of the admission form will be Tk 150.

Admission form for all the others schools across the country will be Tk 100.

According to the policy, lottery system is mandatory for the beginners while admission tests will be held for enrolment in class-II to VIII.

However, the test for class-II and III will now be held on 50 marks unlike last year's 100 marks, said the minister.

The written test for other classes will be on 100 marks and enrolment in class-IX will be based on the results of Junior School Certificate and Junior Dakhil Certificate exams.

## JS session

FROM PAGE 20

proceedings of the session.

The 15th session will be a brief one and is likely to continue till Nov 28, sources in the Parliament Secretariat told The Daily Star last night.

Presided over by Speaker Abdul Hamid, the Bac meeting will be attended among others by Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad.

Talking to this correspondent, Lutfur Rahman, a BNP lawmaker, said they would not attend the session.

"I am staying at my constituency in Cox's Bazar as I did not get any directive from the party high-ups to come to Dhaka and join the House," added Lutfur.

The BNP-led opposition has been boycotting the House since March 24, 2011.

## Shibir strikes terror

FROM PAGE 1

announced a nine-day agitation programme beginning from November 5 to press home its demand for the immediate release of the party's top leaders, including those facing war crimes trial. Till Monday, more than 200 policemen, at least 300 people and three journalists were injured during clashes between the police and Jamaat-Shibir men across the country.

They ended their protest programme yesterday through a targeted attack on the law enforcers in an unprecedented manner, leaving about 20 policemen injured in Dhaka, Khulna and Cox's Bazar.

Noticeably, the police role during these attacks throughout the week seemed very unusual. They either tried to escape those attacks or were just silent observers, witnesses said.

Only a few policemen went on a counter attack, mainly in self-defence, they added.

Never in the past had police played such a passive role during a political violence.

THE RAMPAGE

It was about 4:15pm. Hundreds of vehicles were stranded on both sides of Farmgate-Karwan Bazar road in a heavy traffic. All of a sudden, around 50 Shibir men started vandalising vehicles -- BRTC double-deckers, private cars, motorbikes, human haulers.

They also vandalised three news vans of ATN News and set fire to two police motorbikes at Karwan Bazar, police said.

The Jamaat-Shibir men indiscriminately beat up pedestrians, injuring at least 30 people, including 15 policemen, witnesses said, adding that at least 30 vehicles were damaged by the attackers.

Traders on both sides of the road shut their shops fearing vandalism, with people running for their lives.

As one group continued the rampage in Karwan Bazar, another group coming out of a lane opposite The Daily Star building, was trying to hack Lokman Hossain, general secretary of ward-26 Jubo League. When about 20 policemen went to Lokman's rescue, the Jamaat-Shibir men swooped on them, snatching a rifle from one of them and beating him up with it, police said.

Traffic sergeant Abdul Aziz and sub-inspectors Abdur Razzak, Md Helal, Shahidul Islam Shahid and Md Shaheen are among those injured. They were taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital and Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

Lokman was admitted to a private hospital at Farmgate. Police arrested more than 25 Shibir men for vandalism and attacking the law enforcers in the capital and 87 others in Khulna, Joypurhat, Bagerhat, Chapainawabganj and Cox's Bazar.

At Farmgate, an angry mob beat up two Shibir men -- Borhan Uddin and Ismail Hossain.

Around 4:30pm, the Shibir men attacked the police escort of the law minister at Karwan Bazar, injuring three policemen. One of them was badly hit and was taken to a hospital, Mahub Shafique, son of the law minister, told The Daily Star.

Mahub said he was in the car of Akshir M Chowdhury, assistant personal secretary to the minister. The Jamaat-Shibir men attacked and damaged his car, but the minister escaped unhurt.

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said the Jamaat-Shibir activists attacked his police escort in efforts to foil the trial of crimes against humanity. He vowed the trial would go on.

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandakar said, "I think they [Jamaat-Shibir] have a gang of thugs for carrying out such activities and we will not spare them. They are committing criminal offences and we are taking action against them in this connection."

In Cox's Bazar, Shibir men launched attacks on police when law enforcers intercepted their procession around 3:00pm yesterday, reports our district correspondent.

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## Armed yet

FROM PAGE 1

"Otherwise, I could have gunned down at least one or two of the Shibir men. Capturing at least one attacker from the spot [near The Daily Star Centre] could have helped us identify others."

He was coming out of Al-Razi Hospital at Farmgate with a bleeding nose around 5:00pm.

Four locals, who helped him keep standing, said his treatment was not possible in this hospital as the injuries were grave.

Razzaq was looking to his fellow officers but did not find any as they were busy with tackling the Shibir attack aftermath. He made several phone calls.

During this conversation, he shot into the air from his pistol and said "The pistol seems OK now."

Like Razzaq, Constable Helal, who suffered injuries to the hands, was waiting for treatment. "Such hit-and-run attacks are new in the city; we don't have proper equipment to save us in such a situation," he said.

Around 5:45pm, Jibon, cameraperson of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was seen taking Razzaq and Helal to Samorita Hospital at city's Panthapath on a CNG-run auto-rickshaw.

## Little Parag

FROM PAGE 1

Parag, a KG-1 student at Heed International School in Old Dhaka, was then rushed to the capital's Square Hospital since the abductors had hit him in the head with a pistol butt, said Pradeep.

Family sources said they got the child back for a hefty ransom while intelligence officials of the Rapid Action Battalion said the victim's family had paid the abductors Tk 50 lakh.

The money was handed over at a place a few kilometres from Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital.

An armed gang of four had kidnapped Parag, son of businessman Bimol Chandr Mondol of Shuvadda Pashchim Para in Keraniganj. The criminals had also shot his mother Lipi Rani Mondol, elder sister Pinaki Mondol and their driver Nazrul Islam.

The four, riding on two motorbikes, intercepted Parag and his two sisters, mother and driver while they were about to get into their private car for going to school around 7:15am. The criminals sped away picking Parag on one of the bikes.

Lipi Mondol was admitted to the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital at Mohakhali, Pinaki to Pongu Hospital and the driver to Mitford Hospital.

Some sources said the boy was dropped near Nupur Community Centre by the abductors' men.

Dipu Sarkar, 40, a relative of Parag's family, said, "A security guard of a local market told me that a child was found here. He also asked me to check whether the boy was my relative's son."

For this reason, any study on the people's highest institution in democratic system, Parliament, must be carried out with unquestionable responsibility, alertness and scientific methods," it added.

## TIB study

information ministry statement yesterday.

"It [also] appears that the [TIB] research work was carried out on a negative notion . . . conducting it under a certain set of negative questions for selected respondents," it added.

The reaction came nearly a month after the Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) released a study report alleging nearly 97 percent lawmakers were found involved in "negative activities".

Soon after the report was published, the information ministry sought TIB clarification on particular 31 points. After reviewing the graft body's clarification, the government yesterday came up with its "primary reaction".

The ministry statement said "The formal reaction [of the government] will be expressed by the information ministry through a press conference on November 18."

The legislative bench of the state or parliament was the basic pillar of democracy on which the people laid their "consent to rule", it said.

"For this reason, any study on the people's highest institution in democratic system, Parliament, must be carried out with unquestionable responsibility, alertness and scientific methods," it added.

## Man 'detained for ransom'

FROM PAGE 20

High Court yesterday.

Family members of the detainee, Imam Hasan alias Badal, claimed they had given Tk 40,000 to Raju Ahmed, a sub-inspector of Rab-2, at the capital's Agargaon community centre. But the officer said Badal would not be freed unless Tk 1 lakh was paid.

Since then, nearly eight months have passed.

Badal's father Ruhul Amin and rights organisation Odhikar filed the petition seeking HC directives on the government to produce Badal before the court and release him immediately.

Contacted, Rab-2 official Shafiq said the elite crime busters did not know anything about Badal's detention. He also said no one named Raju worked for Rab-2. "One Raju Ahmed served here till 2010. He was later transferred to Rab-9."

Ruhul, a hawk by profession in Panchagarh, alleged that SI Raju had threatened him with dire consequences including his son's death if he disclosed

the incident.

The petitioners said Badal, who used to work at a shutter and grill-making factory in Tejgaon, was abducted from Anwar Park at Farmgate on March 5. Babul, one of the abductors, called Ruhul and demanded ransom for his son's release.

Ruhul immediately contacted Rab-2 seeking help for Badal's release. On March 6, the elite force called him saying they had rescued his son and arrested two abductors -- Babul and Zahid.

The Rab-2 personnel asked Ruhul to come to Dhaka and receive his son.

Ruhul and his wife Minara Begum came to Dhaka from Panchagarh on March 12 and went to the Rab-2 office. However, officers there asked them to lodge a case against the abductors first.

Accordingly, the two went to the Tejgaon Police Station, but the officer-in-charge refused to record a case and forced them to leave the station. Later that day Ruhul managed to file a general diary with the police station.

On instructions from Rab officers, Ruhul went to the office of deputy commissioner (Tejgaon zone police) for help in registering a complaint regarding the abduction.

DC Mohammad Hossain informed him that his son had been in the custody of Rab-2 and directed him to go there.

On March 13, Ruhul went to Rab-2 office and met duty officer SI Raju Ahmed. The SI asked him to file an application seeking release of his son. As Ruhul submitted the application, Raju demanded Tk 1 lakh. He told Ruhul that failure to give the money would cost his son's life.

Badal's father paid the SI Tk 40,000 the same day but did not get back his son yet.

After hearing the petition, the HC bench of Justice Syed Rezaat Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif issued a rule on the government to explain in a week why it should not be directed to produce Badal before the court.

Adilur Rahman Khan appeared for the petitioners.

More than half of all casualties last year were civilians, while 130 were military personnel with the identity of a further 41 unknown, according to the study, which is based on information from the government, NGOs and the media.

The real number is believed to be higher, the group said, with access restricted to many of the areas peppered by landmines, such as northern Kachin State where ethnic rebels are fighting Myanmar's army.

Landmine

FROM PAGE 20

of the deadly weapons, a study said yesterday.

Myanmar, one of the most heavily mined countries in the world, is beset by festering insurgencies that have left remote border areas littered with mines and other unexploded ordnance.

But there have been no reports of new mines laid this year in what would be a major breakthrough as the nation emerges from decades of military rule, the Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitors said.

At least 84 people were killed and 293 wounded by landmines and other unexploded ordnance in 2011, compared with 36 deaths and 238 injuries the previous year, the study found.

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