Punish culprits immediately

HC asks govt over 2001 post-polls violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately take appropriate legal actions against those responsible for atrocities and offences committed after the 2001 general elections.

After accepting the judicial probe report on the 2001 post-polls violence, the court expressed dissatisfaction over the government's not taking any serious steps against the offenders. During a hearing on a pending

writ petition, it ordered the home secretary and inspector general of police to take steps against the offenders in accordance with the probe report.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain also asked them to submit a report before it on May 11 after complying with the order.

Manzill Murshid, president of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, had moved the writ petition in 2009 seeking HC directives on the government to form a judicial commission to probe the 2001 postelection violence.

against people responsible for the incidents of atrocities and violence after the 2001 polls and put them on trial following the HC order, Deputy Attorney General Biswojit Roy told The Daily Star.

He added that police could arrest the offenders after cases were filed against them. Following a High Court order,

the previous Awami League-led government on December 27 of 2009 formed the three-member commission, headed by retired district judge Mohammad Sahabuddin to probe attacks on the then opposition Awami League supporters, particularly the minority communities.

The commission submitted the probe report to the home ministry on April 24, 2011.

It found that at least 25 ministers

and lawmakers of the BNP-Jamaat government were involved in atrocities on Hindus and opposition men in 15 months after the 2001 polls. Former ministers Ruhul Quddus

Talukder Dulu, Abdus Salam Pintu, Matiur Rahman Nizami, Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Tariqul Islam and Maj (retd) Hafiz Uddin The government has to file cases Ahmed were among 26,352 people

found involved in the post-poll offences.

The commission also found that over 200 women belonging to minority communities were gang-raped allegedly by the then ruling BNP-Jamaat alliance activists.

The barbaric act was intended to force them to leave the country. Their only fault was to cast vote for Awami The commission mentioned over

3,625 incidents including 355 as politically motivated killings. The remaining 3,270 were incidents of rape, arson attack, and looting by the then ruling BNP-Jamaat men. The incidents took place in different

areas of Bhola, Barisal, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chittagong, Feni, Comilla, Khagrachhari, Sirajganj, Pabna, Rajshahi and Natore.

The home ministry on April 1 this year published the probe report through a gazette notification as per an HC order.

Deputy Attorney General Biswojit Roy yesterday submitted the gazette notification containing the probe report to the HC bench.

Govt opens probe

FROM PAGE 20

The leak of question papers of public exams has become a recurring phenomenon in recent times, with the government apparently failing to take protective measures to stop the menace. A syndicate has been involved with

leaking questions and circulates questions of different exams through SMS of mobile phones, sources said. Allegations are rife that question

papers in the recently held SSC exams were reportedly leaked, but the government rejected the claim without going for any further investigation. In November last year, the ques-

tions of some papers of Junior School Certificate Examination were leaked at many places, but the Dhaka Board's probe committee did not find any proof of leakage.

The question papers of last year's Primary Terminal Examination were also leaked. The ministry's probe committee found proof of leakage of English and Bangla papers in four districts.

But it did not cancel the examina-Yesterday, the board postponed the

English second paper exam over the question leak. The examination will now be held on June 8 at 10:00am with fresh question papers. Dhaka board officials, on condition

of anonymity, said they came to know about the leaked question paper on Wednesday afternoon. "Initially we received phone calls

about the leaked question paper. But we got a copy of the leaked question via fax around 8:00pm yesterday [Wednesday]. The fax copy matched the real one and we postponed the exam," said a top official. He said moderation committees

had prepared several sets of question papers and two sets were selected through lottery for printing. "We are really in the dark as to who had leaked the questions."

A number of guardians said the question paper of the English first paper had also been leaked and many

of them had got the questions through SMS (short messaging service) two days before the exam. Prof Taslima Begum, chairman of

that the probe committee formed by the board would submit its report in 15 working days. Talking to reporters at the Secretariat, Nahid said, "The high-

the Dhaka board, told The Daily Star

ministry] will investigate the allegations and make specific recommendations on what needs to be done." for security of question papers of all

"The committee will find out who were involved with this leak and we will take stern action against them."

tolerate it as we have taken so many initiatives to improve the standard of education. We won't allow any misdeeds which will ruin all these efforts."

I'm married

month and leads a reclusive life with her brother in a village in western part of Gujarat, according to media reports.

Modi, a former activist of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), a hardcore Hindu nationalist group, refrained from specifying his marital status in nomination papers for Gujarat state legislature elections in 2001, 2002, 2007 and 2012

Congress party had often taunted Modi to mention about his marital status, adds our New Delhi correspon-

Modi and Jashodaben parted ways after just two weeks of their nuptials and the marriage was never consum-

mated. The declaration by the BJP leader about his marital status in an affidavit is reported to have come after strict legal advice that he come clean on the marriage.

As per the Representation of the People Act, 1951, every candidate is required to declare even assets held in the name of the spouse. However, Modi in his affidavit this time says he has no information about the assets of ashodaben.

Modi had in election speeches in recent months flaunted his single status and at a rally in February said, "I have no family ties, I am single. Who will I be corrupt for?"

Jashodaben had recently told a newspaper that she and Narendra

marriage and since he left "we have had married him off as a child but he never been in touch".

Express in February, she said, "I know he will become PM one day." Asked if Modi ever told her he was

quitting the marriage, she said, "He told me once that "I will be travelling across the country and will go as and where I please; what will you do following me?

with his family, he told me "why did you come to your in-laws' house when you are still so young, you must instead focus on pursuing your studies.

"The decision to leave was my own and there was never any conflict between us. He never spoke to me about the RSS or about his political

"When he told me he would be moving around the country as he wished, I told him I would like to join him. However, on many occasions when I went to my in-laws' place, he would not be present and he stopped coming there. He used to spend a lot of time in RSS shakhas. So I too stopped going there after a point and I went back to my father's house."

Asked why she has never remarried, Jashodaben said, "After this experience, I don't think I want to. My heart is not into it."

Yesterday, Modi's elder brother Somabhai Damodar Modi issued a Whether he did it intentionally or not

walked away because he wanted to In an interview with The Indian serve the country.

the BJP, Somabhai said, "Our parents

had not studied much and we were a

poor family. To them Narendra was like any other child. In such context our parents conducted his marriage in a tender age with Jashodaben, but it

not kept any contact with the family," marriage was just a formality as he left

her father's home and spending her life working in the education sector.

"The incident [Modi's marriage]

His another brother Prahlad said Modi has never denied that he is a married man and in the earlier election forms he had kept the column of wife blank, reports DNA India.

In the earlier election [affidavits] the column [about spouse] would have been left blank due to some reasons.

Development Studies, thinks taking

low-cost foreign loans is nothing bad,

but upon maturity, it may create severe

Such loans are also affecting the

The latest figure on exports showed

The BB for the last 3-4 years has

local lenders, who say they are losing

it grew only 6.36 percent in February,

reflecting a declining trend in the

been buying US dollars from the

market to keep the exchange rate

stable, though it claims to follow

the floating exchange rate policy,

meaning that demand and supply

pressure on forex reserves.

many of their trusted clients.

sector for the past few months.

Jamaat man killed in clash with AL OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Jamaat activist was killed and five others were injured in a clash with Awami League men in Belkuchi upazila of Sirajganj on Wednesday night. The dead is Alamgir Hossain, 35,

son of Buddu Mia of Chardhul village. Protesting the death, Jamaat-e-

Islami Belkuchi upazila unit has called a half-day hartal here for Sunday, Shahidul Islam, a district unit working committee member (Rokon) of the party, said. Alamgir was an activist of the

upazila unit Jamaat, Shahidul added. Quoting locals, police said there

had been a longstanding conflict between Abdul Majid, an AL leader, and Aslam Master, a Jamaat leader, over establishing supremacy in the

The clash broke out following an altercation over a trifling matter in Chardhul village at about 10:00pm. The groups, equipped with lethal

weapons, attacked each other, leaving six people injured. Of them, critically injured Alamgir died on the way to Belkuchi Upazila Health Complex.

Abdul Hai, officer-in-charge of Belkuchi Police Station, said police arrested two suspects in connection with the incident.

A case was filed.

Another witness

FROM PAGE 2 "I went to [Prof] Chitta [Ranjan Roy]

Sir's house. Sova [sister of Chitta] told me that his brother and [another professor] Ram Krishna [Adhikary] babu had been picked up by the Pakistani army," he said. Sova also told Ratan that Azhar had been there when the army picked them up. The witness said Sova had

advised him to contact a student of Carmichael College, who had good connection in Rangpur Cantonment. "The student told me that they [detainees] all had been shot dead near Damdama Bridge in Rangpur."

Ratan yesterday identified war crimes accused Azhar in the dock.

Sova on April 8 testified that she had seen ATM Azharul Islam with the Pakistani occupation army when her brother, Prof of Carmichael College Chitta Ranjan Roy, was picked up on the night of April 30 1971. Meanwhile, the defence submitted

a reply to the contempt petition filed over an article criticising the verdict against former Jamaat chief Ghulam Azam. The tribunal fixed May 12 to hear that. The prosecution filed the petition

after Human Rights Watch posted an article on its website on August 16 last year, claiming that the trial of Ghulam Azam was "deeply flawed" and "it had not met the international standards" "Judges had improperly con-

ducted an investigation on behalf of the prosecution," the article said expressing concern over "collusion and bias among prosecutors and judges". Ghulam Azam, considered by

many as the symbol of war crimes during the Liberation War in 1971, was jailed for 90 years on July 5 last year by the ICT-1.

New threat

FROM PAGE 20

The alert is the result of the discovery of an internet bug called 'Heartbleed', which is able to bypass computer security settings.

As a result, personal information such as passwords and credit card details has been accessible.

Heartbleed, so called because it creates a 'bleeding' leak of security, is a flaw in OpenSSL, the software used by the majority of websites to keep data secure.

The programme works by encrypting data - such as emails, instant messages, bank details or passwords - making it look like nonsense to hackers. When a line of communication is

secure and information encrypted, the user sees a padlock on the page. When software is active, one com-

puter may send a 'heartbeat' - a small

packet of data - to check there is still "This type of overseas borrowings another computer at the other end. had led to the Asian crisis (in 1997) However, a flaw in the programming when borrowers had to pay a huge meant it was possible to trick the amount of foreign currency loans at a computer at the other end by sending it

a packet of data that looked like one of these heartbeats. This made it possible for hackers to impersonate the website and steal the

encryption keys, revealing the data being sent. The bug was found simultaneously by a Google security researcher and a small

Finnish security firm named Codenomicon and disclosed on Monday night. Many companies have installed a

'patch' to fix the flaw, but there are still many that are vulnerable as service providers must install the update.

PM asks people

FROM PAGE 20

Tarique Rahman's widely criticised claim on Tuesday night that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had illegally become prime minister in 1972. His comment came less than two

weeks after he had claimed that his father Ziaur Rahman was the first president of Bangladesh, for which he all anti-liberation forces and the took a lot of flak. Hasina yesterday said those people

not want development of the country. They are busy with sycophancy and were distorting history for this purpose. She said, "It's an era of technology and the history of the whole world

never wanted Bangladesh. They do

can be learnt through information technology." Hasina said Bangabandhu was arrested on March 26, 1971, for

declaring the independence of

the country and the nation

responded to his call and liberated the country. Hasina said the first government of Bangladesh was formed on April 10, 1971, and it took oath on April 17 and Col Osmani was made chief of the

armed forces on April 11.

On the formation of the parliamentary form of government, the premier said Bangabandhu returning home on January 10, 1972, held a cabinet meeting the next day with then prime minister Tajuddin Ahmad and others.

The meeting unanimously decided to introduce the parliamentary form of government. Following gazette notification of the decision,

Bangabandhu became the prime minister of Bangladesh, added Hasina, daughter of Bangabandhu.

She yesterday came down heavily on the BNP and its founder Ziaur Rahman. She said Zia had declared himself the president after the murder of Bangabandhu in 1975 and he had rehabilitated and rewarded

killers of Bangabandhu. Hasina, also the president of Awami League, said the BNP-Jamaat wanted to stop the 10th parliamentary elections through killings and striking terror so that they could bring undemocratic forces to power.

RAUSHAN ERSHAD During her concluding speech,

the Leader of the Opposition in parliament Raushan Ershad said people want to get rid of the existing "politics of vengeance" between the Awami League and the BNP. "People do not want to see sick

politics anymore. The main aim of politics is welfare of people," Raushan Amid clapping of treasury bench MPs, Raushan said Bangladesh

would not develop if the division existed. Raushan said Jatiya Party wants to show that they are the real opposition who want to work to strengthen the

The 10th parliament formed through the January 5 national elections went into its maiden session on January 29. The inaugural session was prorogued yesterday after 36 sittings.

country's democracy.

Bablu made JP secy general Hasina appointed Bablu as one of her

appointed the party's secretary general in recognition of his "significant role" in the party.

"This order will be executed immediately," he added. Hawlader, who rose to the post of

secretary general in 2002, however remains in the party as a presidium member. Party insiders said Bablu is known

to be loyal to Ershad's wife Raushan

Ershad, who is running the show in the

party right now. The former first lady is also the opposition leader in the House and her core followers led by Bablu and Anisul Islam Mahmud, another JP presidium member, maintain good relations with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The pro-Raushan group played a key role in bringing the JP in the January 5 one-sided and controversial election by making Ershad inactive in the party.

In the polls-time government, comments.

adviser. Ershad, a former military dictator

known as a political chameleon, in November last year backtracked from his earlier decision about participating in the January 5 polls. He announced that the JP would

not take part in the election as it was not inclusive. On December 12, he was "forcibly"

Hospital from his Baridhara residence and kept there until the election was over. Hawlader was also against taking part in the election and it irked the ruling Awami League high-ups, added

taken to Dhaka's Combined Military

the source. Besides, Bablu has had conflict with Hawlader in the party for years, added the insiders.

A JP leader claimed the Anti-Corruption Commission decided to enquire Hawlader's "illicit wealth" and this is also a reason for his removal.

Hawlader could not be reached for

ACC to probe allegations

FROM PAGE 2

amassed wealth illegally from government's test relief schemes and food for work projects. Huge discrepancies have been found between the wealth statements Swapon and his wife submitted to the Election Commission in 2008 and 2013, he added.

Meanwhile, ACC Deputy Director Harunur Rashid quizzed Ziaur Rahman Khan, former legal adviser of Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha, in the case filed against BNP leader Moudud Ahmed and his brother Manjur Ahmed on charges of grabbing a piece of public land worth over Tk 300 crore in the capital's Gulshan.

In the case lodged in December last year, Moudud was accused of abusing power as minister to grab the public property.

AL bars Star from covering

FROM PAGE 1

Yesterday, the AL invited the media to cover a press briefing at the same venue. But in a departure from standard practice, The Daily Star was not invited to the briefing.

Journalists from the print and electronic media, who went there to cover the event, were surprised when staff at the AL chief's office inquired about their identities to make sure that no one from The Daily Star was there. Interestingly, though the AL

barred the daily from covering its programmes, the party in its official facebook page uploaded a cartoon published on The Daily Star's front page yesterday. Contacted by The Daily Star, AL

Assistant Secretary Syed Abdul Awal Shamim said, "Don't you know that there is an embargo on The Daily Star regarding coverage of our programmes? We are not inviting you to any Awami League programmes." When asked what had prompted

the ruling party to make such a move, Shamim advised this correspondent to talk to either AL Office Secretary Abdus Sobhan Golap or Assistant Publicity Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil.

Though calls were made and short messages were sent to his mobile phone, there was no response from Golap.

Contacted over the phone, Ukil

said, "The party has asked us to bar The Daily Star from covering events at party offices, Gono Bhavan and the Prime Minister's Office."

Asked about the reasons behind it, Ukil declined to make any comment. He, however, suggested that The Daily Star could get reports from news agencies which cover events at AL offices, the Gono Bhaban and the PMO.

Meanwhile, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu said there was no official order to prevent the daily from covering events at the PMO or the Gono Bhaban.

"I cannot say why the Awami League is not allowing The Daily Star to cover party programmes. I have to know it first," Inu told a Star reporter at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday afternoon.

AL President's Media Adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury told this correspondent yesterday, "No official order has been issued to bar The Daily Star from covering these [events at the PMO, Gono Bhaban, AL offices)." "If there were any prime ministe-

rial instructions in this respect, I would have been aware of them since I handle media affairs for the prime minister. As far as I know, there have been no such instructions," he added.

Forex reserves hit \$20b also contributed to the growth," said FROM PAGE 1

Abu Hena.

and remittances, the two main drivers of foreign currencies inflow, have been witnessing a downtrend for the last few months.

The country's foreign reserves yesterday surged to \$20.03 billion, placing Bangladesh second only to India in the subcontinent, said Deputy Governor Abu Hena Mohammad Razee Hassan of Bangladesh Bank (BB) at an impromptu press conference at the bank yesterday.

The reserves stood at \$19.04 billion on March 19 and \$1 billion was added to that in the last 20 days alone. The current reserve is equivalent to the bill of six months' total import of the country. As of yesterday, India held \$303

billion in reserves, which was slightly less than \$10 billion in Pakistan. "A stable exchange rate has helped

However, the remittance inflow continues to slide, dropping 5.3

percent in January on the back of declining numbers of migrant workers. The country received \$1.25 billion in remittance in January this year against \$1.32 billion for the same time," Monzur said. month a year ago. Only 4.5 lakh migrants got oversees

jobs in 2013, down by more than 33 percent from 2012, according to the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit. Data show the BB approved \$1.19 billion in foreign loans in 2013,

\$1.49 billion in 2012 and \$819 million in 2011. In the first three months of this year, the central bank has Monzur Hossain, a research fellow of the market will determine the

approved nearly \$500 million foreign currency loans. us build up the reserve. Remittances of Bangladesh Institute of exchangerate.

powered committee [formed by the

It would also recommend measures public exams under the ministry so that such incidents do not recur, he added.

The minister also said, "We won't

Modi split three years into their statement explaining that their family In a statement sent to the media by

turned out to be just a social formality "When I came to Vadnagar to live for the sake of it." "Modi, after leaving the house has Somabhai said, adding, "Service to the nation was his only religion. So he left home and this material world. His

> the house soon after his marriage. "Even Jashodaben has been living at

> which had occurred 45-50 years ago is to be seen in the background of a poor and traditionally orthodox family."

"He has never denied it [marriage].