Nahid hints at meeting on salary row

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following public university teachers' threat to close their institutions, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday hinted the cabinet committee on removing salary discrimination will soon sit to discuss their demands.

"I've talked to the finance minister and will again speak to him today [yesterday] to fix the date and time for the committee's meeting on teachers' demands," he told reporters, replying to a query at his secretariat

"In the meeting, we'll talk about how to solve the problems."

Nahid's comments came two days after the federation of public university teachers threatened a complete shutdown of their institutions if their demands on the new pay scale are not met by this month. Asked about the teachers' threat,

the minister said he would continue his efforts to solve the ongoing prob-"We have been and will always be

with the lawful demands of the teachers as they are our main driving

"We want that the teachers get the highest facilities and benefits," Nahid

Teachers of all 37 public universities under the banner of Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association have been staging protests over the 8th pay scale since May, saying their status is downgraded in the pay scale.

They said the selection grade professors enjoyed the top grade along with secretaries and major generals in the Seventh National Pay Scale. Senior professors were placed in Grade-2 and professors in Grade-

The new pay scale retained the grades of professors and senior professors but did not separately mention the selection-grade professors, which has become one of the issues of the agitation.

The demands include bringing parity in salaries and allowances between senior professors and senior secretaries, and between professors and secretaries; upgrading the status of teachers in the warrant of precedence; and entitlement to official cars and other allowances that bureaucrats enjoy.

Separate pay scale for the university teachers is another demand they have voiced.

Taliban FROM PAGE 16

unrest.

"The air was filled with smoke and dust and I could not see anything.

"When the dust settled and I stood up, it looked as though someone had butchered the people in the line. There was only blood and flesh in the row where people were previously standing."

Ehsanullah Ehsan, spokesman for the hardline Jamaat-ul-Ahrar faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (Pakistani Taliban), claimed responsibility. "This office was attacked because it

is an important institution of the

infidel state of Pakistan," he said in an email, vowing further attacks. CRACKDOWN ON MILITANCY Pakistan has been battling an Islamist insurgency since 2004 after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan caused fighters to flee across the border, where they began to foment

More than 27,000 civilians and security personnel have died in attacks since that time, according to the South Asia Terrorism Portal, a monitoring site.

But overall levels of extremistlinked violence have dropped dramatically this year, with 2015 on course for the fewest deaths since 2007 -- the year the Pakistani Taliban

umbrella group was formed. Analysts have credited the fall to military operations against the Taliban in the tribal areas of North Waziristan and Khyber where they are

headquartered, as well as in the country's largest city of Karachi. Authorities have also taken steps

to shut down insurgents' sources of funding and arrested thousands for inciting hatred. The crackdown came in the after-

math of a Taliban school massacre in December 2014 in which more than 150 people, mainly schoolchildren, were killed.

Separately in Baluchistan in the southwest, a water tanker belonging to paramilitary forces hit a landmine in Mastung district yesterday, killing one soldier and wounding two others, according to a military spokes-

A third soldier was killed and a fourth injured when their vehicle

struck an IED in the town of Turbat, he added. Police and security forces launched a search in Turbat, hunting down and

killing three separatist rebels.

BNP men come under attack

FROM PAGE 1 cases" over the past six weeks.

CLASH OVER RUMOUR Three people were injured in a clash between activists of the Awami League and the BNP over a rumoured incident of ballot-stamping at a polling centre in Bajitpur municipality of Kishoreganj last night.

Witnesses said supporters of the BNP-nominated and AL-rebel candidates surrounded Bangabandhu Govt Primary School centre at Nitarkandi around 9:00pm after a rumour spread that AL men were secretly stamping the 'boat' symbol, allocated to the ruling party favourite there, on the ballot papers for the mayoral election today.

At one stage, the groups locked into a clash in which three people -- Khalil, Jalil and Abul -- were injured.

Later, police brought the situation under control.

Locals also caught two people with

firearms and handed them over to the police. Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Mostafizur Rahman of Bajitpur Police Station denied the allegation of ballot-

stamping, but confirmed the incident of violence. In Dhaka, BNP Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed briefed the press at the BNP's Naya Paltan central office

around 10:30pm.

Referring to the Bajitpur incident, he said the government with the help of the administration was out to manipulate the election results in favour of the AL candidates.

He also asked the BNP leaders and activists to stay in the polling stations until the results of today's municipal elections were announced. MOREANOMALIES

In Sherpur municipality, police arrested at least 11 polling agents of BNP's mayor candidate Abdur Razzaq on Monday night. Razzaq said the arrests were made at

the behest of local AL lawmaker Atiur Rahman, an allegation rejected outright by the district police. In Kuakata municipality of

Patuakhali, at least five people were injured in a clash between the supporters of AL-endorsed mayor hopeful Abdul Bareque Mollah and his rival Abdul Aziz from the BNP at Melapara around 12:30pm.

Moulvibazar district BNP president Naser Rahman alleged police were concerned contributed to this report

arresting BNP leaders and activists in some 5,000 were detained in "false Moulvibazar municipality on instructions from the ruling party leaders.

City

Similar allegation was raised by the raiding BNP men's houses in them," Monirul Islam, general secretary of the district BNP, told the press.

Police harassment of the BNP activists was also alleged in Swarupkathi municipality of Pirojpur and Sreepur of Gazipur.

the residence of Monirul Islam Hawlader, chief election agent of the BNP's mayor hopeful in Raipur municipality of Laxmipur.

gating it but declined to elaborate on the incident. In Bhabaniganj municipality of

Rajshahi, some election camps of the BNP-nominated mayor candidate Abdur Razzaq were vandalised in the early hours yesterday. Razzaq blamed the ruling party for this but the AL's mayor aspirant In Alamdanga of Chuadanga, BNP-

sponsored mayor hopeful Mir Mohiuddin alleged that the supporters of the AL's mayor candidate had attacked his men and were intimidating them.

Robiul Alam, a BNP rebel candidate in Rangamati municipality, was injured in an attack by unidentified miscreants on Monday night.

In Chittagong's Sitakunda munici-

pality, Siraj Ud Daula Chuttu, a rebel

AL candidate, was "forced to quit" the mayoral race yesterday. He alleged over 100 crude bombs were hurled at his residence between

"AL men have been threatening me since I decided to contest the polls on my own," he said.

candidate had forced him to withdraw from the elections. In Mirkadim municipality of

campaign office of AL-sponsored mayor contender Shahidul Islam Shahin early yesterday. Shahin blamed the supporters of AL rebel candidate Mansur Ahmed Kamal

denied having a hand in this. Our correspondents in the districts

Re-tender likely

FROM PAGE 16

hesitated in participating the future projects."

The letter added that China would appreciate if the authorities reviewed the project in line with the terms and conditions of the tender and made "professional decisions to award the contract to the deserving lowest evaluated bidder."

Re-tender of the power project might delay its implementation by around a year, officials said.

A number of Chinese companies with partners from Bangladesh and other countries participated in the tender process. The firms include Chinese Shanghai Electric with Italian Alsaldo, Chinese Guangdong Power Engineering Co, Guangdong Electric Power Design Institute with French Alstom, Bangladeshi Energypac with Chinese Hubei Electric Corporation and Chinese Dongfang Engineering Corporation with Greek JP Avax consortium.

Harbin-Jiangsu had quoted \$292 million to construct the power plant, while Shanghai Electric-Alsaldo consortium offered the lowest bid of \$183 million. Four more bidders quoted prices less than that of Harbin-Jiangshu as per the PDB's read-out price announcement on July 13 this year.

The tender requirements specified that the contractor will arrange funding for the project on behalf of the government.

According to official papers, the PDB's tender evaluation calculated the per kilowatt project cost of Harbin-Jiangsu at \$1,022, the highest among all the six bidders. The lowest cost of \$718 was offered by Shanghai-Alsaldo.

But the evaluation committee ranked Harbin-Jiangsu as the lowest bidder by giving it high marks on the financial and other components of its proposal.

This prompted different bidders to lodge complaints. As most of the bidders are Chinese, they informally lodged complaints with the power board and the ministry. However, the Greek firm J&P-AVAX

formally complained: "we feel that there is an effort within the authority to try to accept and evaluate the consortium of Harbin-Jiangshu and bring them in the position of the preferred bidder which did not offer the guaranteed data as per tender specifications, and therefore should be immediately The letter, signed by Theodoros

Arseniou, director of energy of J&P-AVAX SA, said the Harbin-Jiangshu consortium's offered price was \$27 million higher than that of J&P-AVAX SA's. The PDB floated the tender in May

with a bid deadline of July 2, which was later extended to July 13. Twenty-four companies or joint ventures initially bought tender documents, but only seven of them submitted bid proposals. TENDER EVALUATION

CONTROVERSY

The Harbin-Jiangsu proposed to produce 357 MW electricity, but the other bidders followed the tender limit of 300 MW. One of the requirements said

Jhalakathi district BNP. "Police are Nalchhity municipality only to harass

Several crude bombs were hurled at

Local police said they were investi-

there rejected the allegation.

Monday night to yesterday morning.

Earlier, another rebel in Chittagong alleged that the AL-nominated mayor

Munshiganj, miscreants torched a

for the incident. Kamal, however,

the tender evaluation committee would not consider the proposal if any company proposed to generate less than 200 MW or more than 300 MW. The excess power produced would not also be used for evaluation of per kilowatt power cost.

But the PDB calculated Harbin-

Jiangu's per kilowatt-hour power cost

on the basis of the "heat rate" of 357 MW although it was showed as a 300 MW plant. Consequently, the PDB calculated Harbin-Jiangshu plant's heat rate at 6,382 kilojoules per kilowatt-hour, which should have been 7,784 kilojoules. In power plant technology, a higher

heat rate means it is less energy efficient. Therefore, the PDB evaluation showed Harbin-Jiangshu's plant to be more energy efficient and cheaper than it actually was. Some co-bidders drew the attention

of the power ministry on the issue. One of the complaints filed anonymously claimed that this anomaly alone would pass a hidden cost of at least Tk 500 crore on the country. But the PDB argued with the minis-

try that there were nothing wrong with the evaluation and Harbin-Jiangshu was found to be the lowest on the basis of considering all the aspects of their proposal. Harbin repeatedly made the head-

lines back in 2005 when it completed the 80 MW Tongi power plant with more than 450 technical glitches. The plant tripped on the day of inauguration and continued to perform poorly for the next couple of years. During the tenure of the last care-

taker government, a corruption case was filed against Giasuddin Al Mamun, friend of BNP leader Tarique Rahman, accusing him of taking bribe in exchange of awarding the Tongi plant contract to Harbin. In 2006, Harbin was blacklisted by

the state-run Eastern Refinery Ltd for failing to install and launch a 3 MW power plant.

Kurdish autonomy plea is 'treason' BBC ONLINE

Turkish President Recep Tayyip

Erdogan has condemned as "treason" a call by prominent Kurdish politician Selahattin Demirtas for Kurdish autonomy. "What the co-leader has done is

treason, provocation," Erdogan said, referring to Demirtas, co-leader of the Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP). At the weekend the HDP and other

pro-Kurdish groups called for self-rule in Turkey's mainly Kurdish south-east. Turkish prosecutors have launched an investigation into those comments. The Turkish military has stepped up

operations against the rebel Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which is fighting for Kurdish self-rule. The army says it has killed more than 200 PKK militants in the latest fighting.

Int'l incitement

FROM PAGE 1

fallout of the events there may be impacting Bangladesh.

The president didn't rule out the possibility of foreign involvement in the recent rise in militant activities in Bangladesh.

"Because, you know, these things [militant activities] have been going on for quite a while in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and different Islamic coun tries. There may be international instigation behind what is happening there."

In Bangladesh, the recent attacks on an Ashura gathering and on mosques have worried many. Incidents such as attacks on mosques happen frequently in Pakistan, he noted. But the situation in Bangladesh

would never be like the one in Pakistan or Afghanistan, said Hamid "Some [quarters] may try. But I

still believe that Bangladesh can never be turned into [a country like] Pakistan or Afghanistan." The president said there might be political instigation behind "the

present situation". Some parties do

communal politics, which could instigate militant activities. Most of the Bangladeshis don't

believe in such activities, he said. The state has to deal with the mat-

ter firmly, and at the same time, initiatives have to be taken to create social awareness about it, added Hamid.

Balaknama

FROM PAGE 16

NGO that works for the rehabilitation of street children. By one estimate, more than 10

million children live on the streets and are forced into work in India. From working as a street performer

with her father to rag picking to support the family, Chandni's life has been a tale of grinding poverty. The NGO's outreach programme enthused her to join a school and

also gave her a modest stipend to

keep her from going back to rag

picking. It also trained her as a reporter. "I am very proud of editing this paper because it's one of its kind in India. Children whose childhood have been robbed, have gone hungry, begged, been abused and forced to work write about other children who are going through similar tribula-

tions," says Chandni. "It's not only cathartic but also gives each one of us a sense of purpose. We can only become better from here."

She manages a bureau of 14 reporters who cover Delhi and neighbouring states of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Most reporters narrate their copy to colleagues in the Delhi office on the phone because they often have no access to e-mail or fax. Chandni conducts two editorial

meets every month to keep a sharp eye on the content. The broadsheet is priced at two rupees (three cents) and is financed and published by Chetna. But it has been struggling to find advertisers and has not received any funding

from the government.

Are police willing

FROM PAGE 16

arrested, and also the correct names and addresses of the assaulters could not be

obtained," stated the final report. It also said the report was submitted for a quick disposal of the case without

causing unnecessary delay. "Why were the two alleged offenders freed? Why was it not investigated?" asked Ayesha. She also claimed that she came to know from very reliable sources that those two men caught by public

had connections with the ruling party. Ayesha opined that the government too was not giving due importance to violence against women issues, and that the police administration's activities only reflect the wishes of the high-ups.

"If our photographs and information are available in our national IDs and saved in some centralised location, why the sex offenders, whose images were obtained, could not be identified?" asked rights activist Khushi Kabir. "This sends a clear message to the

society that if you have connection to power then you can get away even with murder," she said. She also alleged that

the offenders had links with the proruling party student body.

"They [police] don't have the willingness to find them," said the rights activist.

Liton Nandi, president of Bangladesh Chhatra Union's Dhaka University chapter, who rescued a number of women on that day, said the report reflected the culture of impunity that exists in the country.

"Through this report the state pro-

tected the oppressors of women," he

said, adding that the police administration considers such incidents to be common during festivals and thus do not take those seriously. Pragati Barman, a fourth-year student of Bangla Department at Dhaka

University, said the final report proved police's failure to ensure a safe and secured environment for women. "Police and the DU authorities have

failed miserably," said Tanjim Uddin Khan, associate professor of International Relations at DU. He added that the DU proctorial team was not qualified and equipped enough to deal with new types of crimes taking place on the campus nowadays.

110 journos killed FROM PAGE 16

Deloire said.

violence against journalists" and demonstrates the failure of initiatives to protect media personnel, the report said, calling for the United Nations to take action. In particular, the report shed light

on the growing role of "non-state groups" -- often jihadists such as the Islamic State group -- in perpetrating atrocities against journalists. In 2014, it said, two-thirds of the journalists killed were in war zones.

with "two-thirds killed in countries 'at peace'." "Non-state groups perpetrate targeted atrocities while too many governments do not comply with their obligations under international law,"

But in 2015, it was the exact opposite,

"The 110 journalists killed this year need a response that matches the emergency. A special representative of the United Nations secretary-general for the safety of journalists must be appointed without delay." The 67 deaths bring to 787 the total

number of journalists who were murdered, knowingly targeted or killed in the course of their work since 2005, the Paris-based organisation said. In 2014, there were 66 such fatalities. France was the scene of an unprecedented attack on the press in January,

Charlie Hebdo, killing 12 people, including eight journalists. "It was an unprecedented tragedy," RSF said. "A western country had never suffered a massacre of this kind in the

past. "Charlie Hebdo's journalists and employees have been living under close protection ever since. Some of them still have to keep changing their place of residence."

In Syria, the northern town of Aleppo was described as "a minefield" for profes-

sional and citizen-journalists alike. "Caught between the various parties to the conflict since 2011, journalists are liable to end up as collateral victims, being taken hostage by a nonstate group (such as Islamic State, the Al Nusra Front or the Free Syrian Army) or being arrested by the Assad

Japanese freelance reporter Kenji Goto, whose execution by the Islamic State group was unveiled in a macabre video in January. INDIA DEADLIEST ASIAN

The RSF report also singled out India, where nine journalists had been murdered since the start of 2015, some of

ers for covering illegal mining. India saw five journalists killed in

them for reporting on organised crime

and its links with politicians and oth-

"Their deaths confirm India's position as Asia's deadliest country for media personnel, ahead of both Pakistan and Afghanistan," RSF said, urging the Indian government to establish "a national plan for protect-

In Bangladesh, four secularist bloggers were killed in acts claimed by

"The passivity of the Bangladeshi authorities in the face of this bloodbath has fostered a climate of impunity that is extremely dangerous for citizen journalists," RSF said. The report also placed the spotlight on 54 journalists who were held hostage at the end of 2015, 26 of them in Syria, and 153 journalists who were in prison, 23 of them in China and 22 in Egypt.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিভাগ ডাক, টেলিযোগাযোগ ও তথ্যপ্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয় www.ictd.gov.bd লজিন্টিক সেবা শাখা

তারিখ: ২৮.১২.২০১৫ খ্রি.

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বিল প্রদান করা হবে।

আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ

(খ) সর্বশেষ বিক্রয় ও খোলার তারিখে সরকার কর্তৃক ছুটি ঘোষণা করা হলে পরবর্তী কার্যদিবস বিক্রয় ও খোলার দিন হিসেবে গণ্য হবে। (গ) কোন অসম্পূর্ণ দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না, কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকেই যে কোন/ সকল অথবা আংশিকভাবে টেন্ডার 59. স্থগিত/বাতিল করার অধিকার কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

বিশেষ দ্রষ্টব্য: দরপত্রের সাথে যে সকল দলিল পত্র দাখিল করতে হবে তার বিবরণী শর্তাবলীসহ টেন্ডার ডকুমেন্টে বর্ণিত আছে।

হাফ সেক্রেটারিয়েট টেবিল + টি টেবিল

কাঠের চেয়ার + কাঠের রিভলবিং চেয়ার

রিভলবিং চেয়ার + ডাবল সোফা+সাইড রেক

(ঘ) প্যাকেজ ও লট সুস্পষ্টভাবে উল্লেখপূর্বক পৃথক দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। (ঙ) কাজের পরিমাণ (কম/বেশি) কর্তৃপক্ষ নির্ধারণ করবে এবং উদৃত দরের হারের ভিত্তিতে সম্পাদিত কাজের পরিমাণের উপর

সহকারী সচিব

১টি+৩টি

২টি+১টি

৭ট+৩ট+১টি

ফোন: ৮১৮১৩৯৮

regime," RSF said. Those murdered in Syria included

COUNTRY RSF Secretary General Christophe

> the course of their work and four for uncertain reasons, which is why it ranked below France where the cause of death was known.

ing journalists".

when gunmen opened fire at the offices of the satirical magazine local jihadists.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি স্মারক নম্বর: ৫৬.০০.০০০০.০১৭.০৭.০১৬.১৫-৩০৯