100MW power shortage

**Notebooks flood market** 

Talks on joint PSC

# JS business hit hard

10:20 am for the quorum. All the three MPs, whose starmarked questions were selected for the day, were not there in the House. Two of the three ministers who were supposed to answer them were also absent. As a result, the absentees were substituted by their colleagues.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed replied to the questions for Civil Aviation and Public Works Minister Mosharraf Hossain while lawmakers Atiur Rahman, Jalaluddin Talukdar and Abdul Latif Siddiqi raised the queries on behalf of Haji Mohammad

From Page 1 But due to infrastructural weak-

ness, DESA can supply around 500

during the summer due to frequent

power disruptions and low voltage as

DESA's infrastructure cannot cope

with the extra demand for power

tion of '2000 capacitor banks' is

needed to overcome the problem of

low voltage in the capital and DESA

plans to install 1888 by March 15. It

has already installed 538 and the

work is going on. A top official of DESA however

admitted that they would not be able

to fully meet the demand for power

in the city this year. " But DESA can

assure that this year the city dwell-

From Page 12

notebook printers has managed to

leak out contents of different text-

books in connivance with some unscrupulous NCTB employees

and printed notebooks ahead of the

those notebooks under fake names

with no registration and office

address. They are distributing these

books with the help of some book

Despite excessive price -- a

notebook costs three times the price

of a textbook -- students and parent

are found thronging different book-

message to its distributors has

informed that it would start distrib-

only 14 books out of 60 at the sec-

ondary level," a source said quoting

English and Arithmetic for classes

six, seven and eight. Bengali prose

From Page 12

company 47.5 per cent stakeholder

But in its January 4 letter, Chev-

ron wrote that Petrobangla should

not suggest what Texaco would do

with its share in the future. It was

Texaco's business and, therefore,

According to sources,

Petrobangla has forwarded this

letter to the Prime Minister's Office

for further directives on block 9

negotiations. However, sources

believe that the government itself

has lost enthusiasm in resolving the

issue, which was even hammered by

further progress in this regard now,"

a Petrobangla source said. "It has

been decided in November that if

Chevron continues to twist the

matter further, the government

would shelve the matter till the next

resolve the block 9 crisis, the gov-

ernment sent a draft IVA to Chevron

for its consideration. Sources said

that the draft outlined the proposed

equity ratio between Chevron.

Texaco, Tullow Oil and BAPEX, the

four companies with which the

government is interested to sign the

In late October Chevron told

Last November, in its bid to

"There is hardly any chance of

the US government last year.

should be left alone.

of block 9.

elections.

He said the books are of Bangla,

uting books on January 21.

the Pustaka's faxed message.

Meanwhile. Pustaka in a faxed

"The Pustaka would distribute

shops in the city for the notebooks.

wholesalers at Banglabazaar.

The printers have published

arrival of textbooks.

DESA officials say that installa-

The city dwellers suffer much

MW on an average.

Selim, Joynal Abedin Hajari and Mostafizur Rahman Fizu respec-

The Chair postponed all the three urgent notices on issues of public importance following requests from three ministers concerned, with two of them being absent. Two out of the three MPs who submitted the notices also did not turn up.

In an apparent bid to make up the mandatory one-hour questionanswer time, the Chair in a rare practice allowed 35 lawmakers to make supplementary queries on

ers suffering due to power disrup-

tion and low voltage will be within

installation of three 132 KV trans-

mission lines are likely to be com-

pleted by mid -March this year,

improving the power supply situa-

planned to complete the project by

March last year but due "DESA's

luggishness," it has been delayed,

The transmission lines

Siddhirganj-Maniknagar, Ulon-

Moghbazar and Tongi-Ulon-

Bashundhara would make trans-

mission of power from the National

He also added that Pustaka is yet

Despite the ban, notebooks are

to inform people of the availability of

sold at different bookstalls in the

city, sometimes in the very presence

of police. However, neither the law

enforcers nor the board pays heed to

supposed to be distributed free of

cost through different schools

across the country, are found on sale

at different markets. Unscrupulous

booksellers sell the books at a higher

price, thanks to their non-

Many schools in the city have

already started taking classes, albeit

at a leisurely pace. Some reputed

schools have appealed to students to

Petrobangla that instead of holding

repeated meetings with Tullow to

resolve the block 9 issues, the gov-

ernment should send it the draft

JVA and the initialled PSC docu-

ments. Chevron would place these

documents to its executive commit-

tee for a final decision and the

company would give the final feed-

which is also the apple of discord

between the two dominant compa-

nies in the deal. Chevron and Tullow

Oil, the three foreign oil companies

Oil as the operator of the block

during seismic survey operation.

Chevron would take over after a gas

discovery was made (or during the

Chevron, which had been ham-

mering hard for signing of the PSC

since December 1997, has recently

had pressure applied from the US

government level. The PSC for

block 9, said to be the most prospec-

tive in the country, was initialled

with Chevron, Texaco, Tullow and

BAPEX in March last year. But due

to repeated disagreement between

Chevron and Tullow, the PSC was

The JVA also designates Tullow

According to the three-page JVA

back afterwards accordingly.

get 30 per cent equity each.

development period).

not ultimately signed.

donate old books to their juniors.

availability at the schools.

Textbooks of primary level,

Grid much easier for DESA.

Geometry are for class nine.

the rest of the books.

the illegal practice.

Initially, the government had

Besides, DESA officials said

acceptable level," he said

one source pointed out.

As soon as the question hour was over, the half-empty (due to boycott of the opposition parties) House started witnessing gradual departure of the lawmakers belonging to ruling Awami League and the pro-government

Jatiya Party.

The House lacked quorum at about 11:20 am and the dearth continued until it was adjourned at 1.10 pm, with the members quitting gradually. At the time of adjournment, there were only 39 members including two ministers, a state minister and 16 MPs from the women's quota.

### JCD body

JCD leader of DU yesterday. "We will no longer oppose the new leadership when we see ourselves represented in the central

body," said another rebel leader. When contacted, Shahabuddin Laltu said last night that the fullfledged central committee would be announced before Tuesday's discussion meeting marking the founding

anniversary of JCD. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is expected to be the chief guest at the meeting scheduled to be held at the Engineering Institute.

### Census

From Page 1 Sources concerned said the BBS has failed to create adequate awareness among the masses.

"The Taka 50 crore census project might not yield desired and poetry, English, Algebra and results due to inadequate public awareness about it," one source

> The BBS gets at least 10 years to take preparations for a population census but started sticking of posters in the capital and elsewhere only two days ago, the source said. "It has printed six lakh posters, two lakh brochures and prepared four thousand banners, which are not enough for use in the 64 districts of the

When contacted, a top official of the BBS however said they would be able to create adequate public awareness about the census before it begins. BBS has already arranged Radio and TV spots and advertisements in national dailies.

"The objectives of 4th census are to create local and national level benchmark database in a computerised system to help formulate macro and micro plans and prepare devel-

opment programmes," he said. About three lakh people would be engaged in conducting the census. There would be 2,50,000 enumerators, 45,000 supervisors, 2,017 zonal officers, 460 upazila/ thana census coordinators, 113 district census coordinators, 35 regional census coordinators, eight divisional census coordinators and a census commissioner, said another official

The questionnaire of the census focuses on "housing and household characteristics and individual characteristics." There are 28

A post-enumeration check will be conducted two weeks after the

The first population census was and the third in 1991.

#### Chakoria From Page 1

pital and Chakoria Upazila Health Complex.

No case was filed in this connection till writing of this report at 8:00 A tense situation was prevailing

at Rajapalong area.

#### PDB accepts From Page 1

has a longevity of 35 years. However, it noted that the plant would need an overhaul on the 26th year and that would cost around 25 million dollars. But the value of the plant would be 31.4 million dollars even after undertaking the overhauling.

AES had signed a contract with the government to provide electricity for a levelised 2.79 cents for the next 22 years.

forcible confinement of the Chief

Justice and all his colleagues in their

lounge for more than an hour. They

chanted slogans, used extremely

uncharitable language and lay

themselves down on the ground

(with a view to preventing the judges

from walking away) in a trade union

like manner, which shocked the

whole nation. The condemnation

was instant and widespread which

created a natural sympathy for the

ruling party and the government,

that the opposition lawyers were

using the sacred premises of the

Supreme Court for partisan politics.

But even before the public could

recover from that shock, they have

been dealt a bigger shock by the

government in the form of so-called

The most astounding thing about

the government's move is that some

of its leaders actually thought that

by making a totally unknown lawyer.

junior of a junior lawyer in the

Supreme Court, act as the com-

plainant it will be saved from being

held responsible for this action. The

'logic' put forward to the high chair

by some over-enthusiastic ministers

behind this move was that since it

legal action against the lawyers.

# PM opens eco-park at Sitakunda

CHITTAGONG, Ian 17: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated a botanical garden and ecopark at Sitakunda here with the aim to preserve gene pool of plants and maintain ecological balance, reports

The botanical garden and ecopark, first of its kind in the country. has been set up on 1,996 acres of land with a panoramic view on the foot of Chandranath Hills, 35-km off the port city.

The first phase of the project cost Tk 3.57 crore while the revised project cost has been fixed at Tk 9.98 crore. The five-year project is expected to be completed by fiscal 2003-2004.

Main objective of the project is development and preservation of genetic pool of different varieties of plants, gardening and management of different varieties of bamboo. cane and herbal plants and collection and preservation of valuable plants and bio-diversity.

The project will also create scope for eco-tourism, provide physical infrastructure for tourists and opportunity for education and research by students and research-

ers.
"This eco-park will not only preserve biodiversity and different

species of wildlife, but also make arrangements for eco-friendly tourism." the Prime Minister said.

She urged the scientists to work for preserving and nurturing the wildlife in the hills of Chittagong by creating a gene pool.

She said the government has been implementing massive programmes for the development of environment and preservation of forest resources in the country and for facilitating researches in this "We are also encouraging tree

plantation and afforestation," she said adding the government has taken a 20-year action plan for afforestation.

The Prime Minister planted saplings of Palash and Neem tree in the eco-park.

Chaired by Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, the function was also addressed by Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma and Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

Kahar said he recovered an old knife

occurrence. He further told the court that he recorded statements of 28 witnesses and submitted the chargesheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka on February 22, last year.

Nikunja Bihari Debnath, 55, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, was stabbed to death by a gang of muggers near Swadhinata Sangram sculpture on the Dhaka University campus on January 11

Assistant public prosecutor ASM Rafiqul Islam appeared for the state while Advocates Abdul Motaleb Miah and Abdur Razzak for the accused.

### Two dacoities

From Page 12 immediately announced the presence of dacoits over microphone.

In the meantime, the dacoits left the spot with six tolas of gold ornaments in presence of a patrol police team, local people alleged.

The injured were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. In another incident, six dacoits

entered the residence of businessman Mobarak Hossain at Lake Circus Road in Kalabagan area. The dacoits entered the house by cutting the grill at about 3 am yesterday.

The gang looted Tk 1.20 lakh in cash and more than 20 tolas of gold

# ornaments worth about Tk 2:70

# Order on Death Reference

Opposing this, the defence lawyers said they need adequate time to prepare the case after going through the split verdict of about 800 pages. They also argued that the Third Judge should take the death reference of all the 15 accused in the case and that it would require

The split verdict was given by Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Huq.

Justice Amin had acquitted five out of the 15 accused sentenced to death by trial court for murdering Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members on August 15,1975 at his residence. Justice Huq had confirmed the

death sentence of all the 15 who are former military officers. Justice Fazlul Karim took up the case at 10-30 am yesterday and the

hearing ended at 11-35 am. He told the state attorneys and the defence counsels that the Chief Justice had sent copies of the split verdict to him for his decision. " Since they (the two judges) have agreed upon 10 death refer-

ence, I have nothing to consider on that aspect. But I have to consider the matter of five who had been acquitted by one judge." he said Khan Saifur Rahman , counsel

for one of the five -- Lt Col (rtd)

Mahiuddin-- said there is also the matter of another accused, Captain (rtd) Majed. He mentioned

From Page 12

unleashing terrorism, they are now

calling hartals for protecting the

Sitakunda Awami League president

Abul Kasem Master, was also

addressed by Forest and Environ-

ment Minister Syeda Sajeda

Chowdhury, Labour and Employ-

ment Minister M A Mannan, Hous-

ing Minister Engineer Mosharraf

Hossain, CCC Mayor A B M

Mohiuddin Chowdhury, AL leaders

adds: Hasina said Khaleda Zia was

now shedding crocodile tears for the

freedom fighters after joining hands

with killers, rajakars and autocrats

to capture power through illegal

Leader of the Opposition in Parlia-

ment Khaleda Zia if she would give

the responsibility of the Ministry for

the Freedom Fighters to Matiur

Rahman Nizami or Golam Azam of

another public meeting at

Banshkhali Ideal High School

was not the government but a pri-

vate citizen who lodged the case the

public will not associate the govern-

ment with this act. (We always knew

that our leaders take us for fools, but

never thought it was to that extent.)

The points to note here is that the

most relevant minister and the most

relevant law officer, namely the law

minister and the attorney general,

were totally bypassed in carrying out

this action. The fundamental prin-

ciple, on which the cabinet form of

government is based, as against the

presidential form, is that it func-

tions as a team. But in our case the

most important team players knew

nothing of it. In fact most of the

cabinet members and almost all of

the leading party figures came to

know of it with the rest of us mortals.

more and indicates the vengeful

nature of the move is the involve-

ment of Morshed Khan in the PSA

case against the lawyers. We single him out in our discussion not

because he is rich and powerful, as

the PM never tires of repeating

(though being rich and famous

should not disinherit anyone from

the due protection of law) but

because his example serves to

What mystifies the public even

ground in the afternoon

She said this while addressing

Hasina said that while in power.

Iamaat.

The Prime Minister asked

Another report from Banshkhali

M A Salam and Rafiqul Anwar MP.

interest of an individual.

She said after violating rules and

The meeting, presided over by

Chittagong.

was upheld by both the judges but on different counts-- murder and conspiracy to murder.

His arguments were tered by Serajul Huq, Special Prosecutor in the case. He said the reference for the five had been sent to the Third Judge under Section 378/429 of the Penal Code.

Justice fazlul Karim observed that the matter was yet to be before the court. All the issues would be settled later.

Serajul Huq then sought attention of the court to preparation of the paper book. He said, "We shall try our best to prepare the paper book. It would not take much time. We are concerned and want expeditious hearing." He was backed by Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam and Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Chouhdury Manik.

Khan Saifur Rahman and Abdur Razzak Khan, another defence lawyer, drew the attention of the court that they were yet to get certified copies of the judgement Saifur said they should get the copies now "so that there could not be any interpolation".

The judge then said he has got copies of the judgement and that there is 'no scope for interpolation.' Additional Attorney General

Khaleda had never uttered anything

about the welfare of the freedom

fighters but now she was talking all

In a blistering criticism she said

the husband of the opposition

leader, General Zia, killed the free-

dom fighters to cling to power.

"General Zia had killed a large

number of armed forces personnel

about the freedom fighters when

one is now in movement with the

rajakars like Matiur Rahman

Nizami and Golam Azam," she said.

Kabir Chowdhury as candidate of

Awami League for the next general

election and urged the people to

vote for boat for continuing the

upgraded to Pourashava if Awami

League is voted to power for a sec-

She said Banshkhali would be

Earlier, on her way to the public

The 521.23-metre bridge will be

completed in three years at a cost of

Political intimidation in legal garb

illustrate most dramatically and

graphically the partisan use of the

law by this government. On the day

in question he was present on the premises of the Supreme Court for

the hearing of his writ petition

against a previous PSA case. The

most venerated lawyer of the coun-

try, Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed, was

representing him in the case in a

particular courtroom. How could he

be involved in the activities of a

section of lawyers, happening some

distance away? The only link is that

Morshed Khan belongs to the oppo-

sition and so do many of the lawyers

This writer had termed the PSA

"Mini-Martial Law" when it was

being passed. We opposed it then

and we do so now. In the face of

government protest we said that the

law was a 'black law' and that noth-

ing good would come of it. We pre-

dicted that more than using it

against the criminals it would be

used to harass those who opposed

the government. We think we stand

amply vindicated. Today there is a

panic in the public mind as and

when this law would be applied

against them. Take the instance of

Morshed Khan's son. He was physi-

who were doing the mischief.

meeting, the Prime Minister laid the

foundation stone of a bridge on the

development activities.

ond term.

river Shankha.

Tk 43.49 crore

Hasina introduced Sultanul

"It is ridiculous for one to speak

in his bid to perpetuate power."

this with an ulterior motive.

Mahbub-e-Alam rose to object strongly to Saifur's contention. But the judge said that he did not take it

**Opposition politicising** 

## From Page 1

Kibria

meeting showed that the rate of classified loans for all banks decreased by 12.62 per cent during last year. The nationalised commer cial banks (NCBs) reduced their classified portfolio by 14.45 cent from 42.69 per cent in 1999. However, it increased by 1.83 per cent for the private commercial banks (PCBs). In 1999, the classified loan amount for the PCBs was 29.65 per cent.

Tk 2162 crore loans and reschedrescheduled Tk 240 crore. But against Tk 2364 crore

declassification and Tk 1829 crore ised in cash.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of chief guest and lead the procession She is expected to announce fresh programmes, including a country-

special guests.

is planning to call a countrywide hartal in the last week of this month demanding repeal of the 'black' Public Safety Act and withdrawal of cases filed under it against their leaders and activists.

Meanwhile, Khaleda Zia yesterday held a meeting with the secretaries general of BNP, JP and Jamaat and representatives of the Central Liaison Committee at her 29 Minto Road official residence.

of a case under PSA a gainst BNP lawmakers Barrister Nazmul Huda M Morshed Khan and 15 other proopposition lawyers.

cally assaulted by some goondas.

Nothing has happened against them

but Faisal is an accused under the

PSA. Today if one gets accidentally

caught in a street melee he or she is

totally at the mercy of the police as

to whether a PSA case will or will not

be lodged against him or her. Whatever little support there was at the

initial stage behind this reprehensi-

ble law none of it exists today. If the

PM would take the trouble to ask her

own party leaders and workers -- not

the perpetual 'ves Netri' savers -- she

would know how deeply PSA is

hated and how much popularity and

credibility she and her party have

the question of a reader who walked

into our office yesterday and asked,

If a political party can misuse power

so arrogantly and blatantly just a few

months before the election, then

what will happen afterwards if it wins it?" The ruling party would be

well advised not to disdainfully

brush aside this question as being

just of one reader and that too of an

English daily. We think that this

once glorious and still mighty party's

leadership should seriously con-

sider this question. We are certain it

We would like to conclude with

lost because of it.

A statement presented at the

During the year 2000, the NCBs and PCBs declassified TK 2364 crore loans and rescheduled TK 1829 crore. The NCBs declassified uled Tk 1588 crore while the PCBs declassified Tk 202 crore and

rescheduling last year, Tk 1265 crore and Tk 312 crore were real-

As a result of such declassification and rescheduling, the banks could transfer Tk 401 crore from the suspense account to income statement which was only Tk 215 crore

### Hartal likely

From Page 1

the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia will address the rally as wide hartal in the last week of this

Sadeque Hossain Khoka, City BNP President and convenor of the All-Party Action Council (APAC), will preside over the rally. Acting Chairman of JP Roushan

Ershad, Jamaat Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami and IOJ Chairman Azizul Haq will address the rally as BNP sources said the opposition

The meeting discussed

# **PSA** case stayed

judges violating seniority. The lawyers include BNP MP Barrister Nazmul Huda, Convenor of Sanmilito Ainjibi Parishad.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed appeared for the lawyers and Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed appeared for Morshed Khan. Assistant Attornev General Subroto Neogi represented the

In his submission at the crowded court room, Maudud Ahmed said the case against the lawyers lacks "ingredients" of PSA. The case is totally arbitrary and filed with a mala fide intention. The accused are distinguished lawyers of the Bar. They include the former president and the secretary of the Supreme Court Bar Association and officials of its Executive Committee", he added.

There is no guideline in the PSA leading to its arbitrary use, which ultra vires the Constitution, he argued.

At this stage, the court asked AAG Prabir Neogi to put up his arguments

He said, "Since there is a principle set in the case against Morshed Khan and another in petition No. 76/2001, I have no objection to any order of by the

The court then asked Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed to clarify if there s any precedence of such a case. Ishtiaque Ahmed said that on the day of occurrence, Morshed Khan came to the court with him

that day, your lordships were pleased to issue a rule. He was not party to the lawyers' programme He has been entangled in this case absolutely arbitrarily and with a mala fide intention".

Earlier, explaining the background of the sit-in by the lawyers. Maudud Ahmed said, "Some irregularities were seen in the recent appointment of two judges in the Supreme Court. This is a matter for SC lawyers. of concern We have no prejudice against the judge who are distinguished judges of this court. The two judges who were superceded in the process are also distinguished judges of this court".

He argued that the lawvers' sitin was peaceful. But at one stage, a group of pro-government lawyers with an ulterior motive tried to disrupt the programme, which led to indiscipline for some time. At this stage, senior lawyers like Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Dr M. Zahir, M A Malek. Rokanuddin Mahmud went to the Chief Justice. On return, Ishtiaque Ahmed said he had discussions with the CJ and urged them to go away. The sit-in was withdrawn and all of them left. We were waiting since there was a dialogue between some senior lawyers and the government regarding this matter. One week later, we came to know on Tuesday evening that a pro-government lawver filed a case under the PSA

# Case against lawyers

From Page 12 the case," Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru told The Daily Star while asked about it last night

Competent sources in the ruling party said that at least two influential ministers were consulted by a small group of pro-AL lawyers of the Supreme Court before filing the

Unwilling to be named, the angry ruling party leaders viewed that the rowdy protest by the pro-opposition lawvers at the Supreme Court exposed their design to make the Chief Justice controversial, who is due to head the next caretaker government

But implicating BNP MP Morshed Khan, who was at the court on that very day to attend hearing of a writ he filed against PSA. had exposed the political motive behind the case, they argued. The leaders also ridiculed the charge against Khan that he

The AL leaders are of the common view that the case has tarnished the government's image. A law officer of the government also shared the same view. Neither the law minister nor the

acted as a terrorist.

fresh case against a group of lawyers controversial law is being challenged before the High Court, it was reliably learnt. Since the case against the Supreme Court lawyers was lodged

office of the Attorney General, the

chief law officer of the government,

was consulted before initiating a

by a pro-ruling party lawyer, the government cannot avoid shoulder ing its responsibility, the aggrieved AL leaders maintained. Talking to The Daily Star, an

influential minister wondered why he did not come to know anything

# PSA case "naked tyranny"

From Page 1 Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Nazmul Huda MP, Abdur Rab Chowdhury, Zainal Abedin, Mahbubuddin Khokon and BNP chief's Advisor M Morshed Khan MP clearly proved that the 'black act was introduced by the fascist Awami League government solely to suppress and oppress its opponents in a barbaric way," the statement said.

The MPs alleged that the AL government kept the ruling party men involved in terrorism, robbery, toll extortion, forcible occupation of property, tender snatching and killings since the enactment of the black law and is blatantly abusing it opposition leaders and

They recalled that such 'one sided application and abuse' of any black law had also taken place

after the independence.

The AL government, sensing its imminent fall, has intensified its repression on the opposition, they said and warned of dreadful consequence if it does not stop this, withdraw the false case and repeal the

PSA immediately. The signatories to he statement include Prof AQM badrudozza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman. Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Oli Ahmed, Shaikh Razzak Ali, Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain, Kurshid Jahan Haq, MK Anwar. Maior (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Barrister Aminul Haq, Amanullah Aman, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Ehsanul Haq Milon and Manjurul

# Jalal's family

Ahsan Munshi.

From Page 12 Mohammadpur Thana, said that he did not receive any instruction from the CID till last night.

On January 8, police claimed in the court that leading witnesses in the Jalal murder case, i.e. his family members, could not be traced. But, during an interview with The Daily Star Halima Khatun, wife of Jalal said that she and her children were told by the Public Prosecutor to 'keep away' until he summoned her.

Following a Tuesday report on Halima's 'disappearance' in The Daily Star, one of our correspondents met her in just three hours

In the two most recent applica-

tions of the PSA in the case of 16

lawyers and Morshed Khan the

honourable High Court virtually

stayed its implementation. If we

recall correctly, more than 99 per

cent of the applications of the

Special Powers Act -- SPA -- (the

precursor of PSA) were later

turned down by the Higher Courts,

then we can arguably predict that

the PSA will most likely meet the

same fate. So why not do the

citizens a favour, save the public

from their present constant anxi-

etv. and earn vourself some well

deserved credit-before the elec-

tions by scrapping the wretched

PSA.

our words will fall on deaf ears and

our suggestion.

If our recent history is any guide

is not just of one reader.

and learnt that the Public Prosecutor had asked her to keep away from the court.

Meanwhile, the High Court on Sunday issued a suo moto rule on the government to explain why a new Public Prosecutor (PP) would not be appointed in accordance to the informant's choice in the murder case, discharging the present PP Qamrul Islam.

A Division Bench of the court

comprising Justice Ali Asgar Khan

and Justice SK Sinha issued the rule and directed the investigation officer (IO) of the case to ensure security of the witnesses. The court issued the rule taking

into cognizance a report published in The Daily Star on January 11.

The Bench also asked the authorities concerned to produce documents of the case before it within 24 hours.

### Congo president

Congo president

From Page 12

was fatally shot by former deputy defence minister Dieudome
Kayembe during a row inside the palace with senior generals over
their prosecution of the war against rebels and "foreign inwaders".

Later, Minister-Delegate for Defence Goderhoid Tehamlesso,
speaking in Tripoti, also said Kabiah had been killed and had died two
hours later in a Kinshasah loopinent, Kabila's main military ally in
the DRC war, however, indicated that the president had died while
being flown to Harare for emergency medical treatment.

"It was a last-minute decision to fly Kabila to Zimbabwe but
unfortunately he died on the plane," a Zimbabwea government
official told the state-run ZIANA news agency.

Zimbabwe's Defence Minister Moven Mahacht iold ZIANA:

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torces in the fighting int his carret up the sast central African country, officials in Kinshasa were quick to dispel fears of a power vacuum.

To ensure continuity in the management of state affairs and safeguard property and people, the government ... decided to entrust control of government action and the military high command to General Joseph Kabla; "Sakombi, also information minister, said in a statement released to AFP ... Kabla had made his son army chief in the war against rebels, Kabla had made his son army chief in the war against rebels, Country since the conflict phose out in August 1998.

Rwanda backs the main rebel Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD), which is strong in the eastern Kivu provinces and the north of Kabla's mineral-rich native Katanga province in the southeast. Uganda backs an RCD breakaway group, based across its own border, as well as the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC) based in the norther Equateur province; arts of the country have been secured by Zimbabwean troops backing Kabla, along with Angolan and Nambian solders.

Tcham'lesso said the attack on Kabla had been "ordered by Rwanda, Uganda and Congo Brazzaville" - blaming not only the backers of the rebels, but also the country on the far shore of the Congo rive, which has sought to remain neutral in what diplomats have dubbed 'Affica's world war.

"He fired of the (presidential) guard stormed into the room where he had of the (presidential) guard stormed into the room here he had of the development of the threat of the state wice before being gunned down by other bodyguards, he added.

Some diplomats carlier reported that Kabla's son had also been shot in the incident, but this went unconfirmed. The sequence of the province of the province of the search of the president o

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