### Bangabandhu Murder Case

# Expeditious trial demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Government leaders and ministers in Parliament yesterday deman-ded expeditious trial of the Bangabandhu murder case for the sake of strengthening democracy and rule of law in the country.

Participating in the thanksgiving motion on the President's new year speech, some of them were critical of the role of judiciary saying that the entire nation was anxiously awaiting delivery of justice."

Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Surunjit Sengupta said judiciary is part of democracy. "As the legislature is part of democracy, judiciary is also accountable to the people".

He criticised the delay in the trial process and said: "The judiciary has no right to delay justice."

The lawyer cum legislature termed the delay and "embarrassment" of the court in hearing the Bangabandhu murder case "a mockery of justice". This, he said, was only possible for lack of a supreme judicial council.

He warned that the iron curtain of "contempt of court" would not stop the people from seeking

Referring to the filing of case against the Public Safety Act, Sengupta pointed out that those senior lawyers did not speak or wage movement when the Anti-Terrorism Act was passed.

He disapproved of the appearance of the senior lawvers of behalf of industrialist M Morshed Khan "because the later had

really hesitate to come here if such

a chaotic situation prevails. They

will relocate whatever investment

they have made. If this situation

continues, Chittagong will have the

fate of Calcutta from where inves-

tors fled due frequent 'Bandh' and

Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority Commodore Golam

kept operative round the clock

now, even on weekly holidays, to

cope with the congestion created

during the long Eid holidays and hartals after it.

Eminent lawyer Barrister

Ishtiaque Ahmed, assisted by Dr

Kamal Hossain, M.A. Malek

Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed,

Rokanuddin Mahmud, moved the

after he and his son were accused in

a PSA case for ransacking a sweet-

meat shop and looting Tk 45,000

that till hearing of the petition, the

petitioners must not be harassed.

The court had also gave directive

This was the first time that

constitutional validity of PSA was

challenged in the High Court since

it was enacted in February 2000.

from it in Chittagong city

Morshed Khan filed the petition

PSA: Hearing

Naxal activities.

Hartal scare grips Ctg

wealth and muscle power." He tions and form the caretaker said Awami League does not act for influential people, rather it always works for the commonman

Shipping Minister A S M Abdur Rab also demanded quick disposal of the Bangabandhu murder

Rab, a JSD leader, also demanded trial of the killing of four national leaders inside the Dhaka Central Iail, of General Manzur, Colonel Taher and others, which, he said, the Prime Minister also demanded.

Referring to the absence of opposition from the House, he said democracy can't be effective without participation of all.

"We have to stay in the House and speak for the people. Absence of the elected members means showing disrespect to the verdict of the people," the Shipping

"People are not concerned about who goes to power and who sits in the opposition. They want their representation for which they had voted," he added.

Rab warned that the opposition has to answer to the country's womenfolk because the parliament could not pass the bill relating to the extension of tenure of the reserved women seats that will expire early next month.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in his deliberation accused the opposition BNP of joining hands with anti-liberation and autocratic forces.

Referring to the movement of the opposition, he said the present government would declare elec-

"We have been forced to resched-

ule operational programmes to

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) gave

tackle the situation"

administration in due time. Thanking President Shahabuddin Ahmed for his new ear's speech in parliament and highlighting the achievements of the government, Education Minister A S H K Sadique said the country has marched ahead towards self-reliance under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.He mentioned the progress made in various sectors, particularly in education, health and infrastructural development.State Minister for Information Prof Abu Saveed said the Awami League has always worked for the socioeconomic emancipation of the people.Referring to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia's 'threat of a mass upsurge," he said it is only Sheikh Hasina who can initiate a mass upsurge.Prof Abu Sayeed gave a brief description of what he called the luxurious lifestyle of Begum Zia. Sheikh Hasina has time and again proved to be a leader of the commonman, he said.Jatiya Party MP Advocate Fazle Rabbi lauded the dynamic leadership of Sheikh Hasina and said the country marked remarkable progress in all sectors, including infrastructure, during the last four-and-a-half-year.On the issue the judgement of Bangabandhu murder case, he reminded the proverb, "justice delayed is justice denied" and demanded speedy progress of the trial for the sake of democracy.

Altaf Hossain Golondaz and Eakhi Rakhain also took part in the discussion on the President's

ALPP meets today
A meeting of the Awami League

Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held at 9 am today at the party's conference room in the Sangsad Bhaban, reports UNB.

# Listing PLCs FROM PAGE 12 Latifur Rahman told the meeting.

a break-up of one day's loss in the port city due to hartal. The loss is Tk 100 crore in import

business, Tk 60 crore in export trade, He said it is also not clear Tk 60 crore in industrial production, whether such offerings will come Tk 3 crore in frozen foods, Tk 30 crore under the IPO guidelines.

in garment factories and Tk 35 crore "If not, the move will involve in government revenue, sources in companies to list their securities CCCI said. and commence trading without going through the SEC and comply-'Operation cost' for businessmen for a 20-feet container is 640 US ing with IPO guidelines. The dollars at Chittagong port due to requirement will, thus, lead to hartal and other disruptions. It is 220, conflicting systems of listing and 360, 420 and 216 dollars in Colombo, IPO procedures which can be vul-Bangkok, Pakistan and Singapore nerable and misused by unscrupurespectively, they claimed. lous market players and dishonest SEC personnel," Rahman said.

Paper book In other words, there will be trading of stock without requisite FROM PAGE 12 appointed the third judge to hear disclosures and transparency as required under IPO. In all likelithe split verdict regarding the five hood, it will damage the capital accused in the Bangabandhu murder case. market.

Justice Fazlul Karim on January "We strongly feel that the listing 17 fixed February 14 for the next should be optional and if any comorder in the case. pany decides to list itself, then its He had also directed the prose cutors to prepare the paper book of formalities.

the case by January 31 and ensure their distribution by February 11. "For this, the existing guidelines on premium on IPO offerings need An order on the petitions is to be clearly laid down," Rahman likely today, court sources said.

President

UN peacekeeping missions, who

to serve the repressed and helpless

FROM PAGE 12

The paper book which was sent to the office of the Attorney General on Monday contains the verdict of the trial court, pronounced on November 8, 1998.

## PM urges political parties

the killers of Bangabandhu and

December 26.

arrested or disturbed.

shelter provided to the killers by the previous regimes virtually encouraged the assassins Besides, individual interest and

question of domination in some

areas sometimes led to the use of few political parties, which do not have any faith in democracy, use illegal arms to serve their political purposes. The Prime Minister said her

government took some specific steps to ensure rule of law by holding trial of Bangabandhu's killers and to discourage the use of illegal "Since use of illegal arms is an

impediment to the rule of law, we are determined to stamp out illegal use of arms from society," she told Parliament She said it is the usual responsi-

bility of the government to recover arms, dig out its sources and bring the culprits to book. The law enforcers are alert about it.

"We believe, it is possible to control the use of illegal arms if the people voluntarily extend help to the government and the lawenforcing agencies," Hasina said. This problem could be tackled had there been cooperation from political parties. She said the government has

undertaken some specific steps to maintain law and order, to recover illegal arms and its import. The Prime Minister informed

the House that some 22,077 firearms, 67,710 bullets and 168,410 explosives were so far recovered since Awami League assumed power in 1996. The government declared gen-

eral amnesty to allow misguided terrorists of southwestern region to return to normal life. As a result 2,755 terrorists had surrendered while 2,073 arms were deposited,

### 11 Shahjalal Varsity students STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Bangabhaban vesterday

Showcause on

Shahjalal University authorities have issued show cause notices on 11 students for ransacking office rooms at the administrative building and confining the vicechancellor and other officials of the university on January 23 and 24.

Secretary of the Disciplinary Committee issued the notices vesterday asking the 11 to explain within seven days why disciplinary action would not be taken against them.On January 26, the university authorities field a case against seven students on charge of assaulting some teachers and confining the members of the academic council at the administrative building.

A commotion has been created among the students due to filing of the case and issuance of showcause

Group -- Pustaka, Shuktara and

Free Press -- were awarded the job

of printing and distributing over

eight crore board textbooks for the

just over 6.5 lakh books of second-

ary level. The Beximco trio did not

ask for the sell order from the

NCTB," the sources in printing and

Banglabazaar as the Beximco

concerns distributed only a few

books through their pre-enlisted

dealers, which are all too inade-

Beximco has monopolised the

sales through receiving dealership

since NCTB has solely awarded the

gigantic job to one party," another

source in printing and publication

He said booksellers have been

Previously, textbooks were

capitalising on the crisis of non-

widely sold on the open market and

this was the first time in the history

There was no book at wholesale

"Beximco has so far distributed

country's 2.5 crore students.

publication industry said.

quate for the demand.

availability of textbooks.

#### Akimul murder: Judgement today STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing a meeting of the high officials of police department at

Judgement in Akimul murder case will be delivered today by M Hasar Imam, Additional District and Sessions Judge who is in charge of the special Court for trying all cases against top terrorist Ershad Shikdar and all his accomplices.

Akimul, an operator of Lockpur Fish Processing Company Ltd was chopped to death by Shikdar himself at the Skidghat on February 25 1998 for having sex with Khodeja Khodeja is the first among four

wives of Shikdar who has already been sentenced to death in six The body of Akimul was dumped

into the river Bhairab along fish landing ghat soon after the murder. The cases was revived on September 28, 1999 according to confessional statement under 164

by Ershad's chief body guard Noor-

Two out of eight accused in this murder case are still at large. They are Khodeja Begum and Jainal

Booksellers compel students

that only a few dealers were exclu-

sively nominated by Beximco

elsewhere in the country thronged

the wholesale markets for books

but most of them had to return

areas also advised guardians and

students to contact after mid-

February because they were unable

to scarcity of books in the whole-

sale market," said one bookseller of

Commissioner Motiur Rahman

declined to talk, saying that he was

new classes in new academic

sessions without books as the

National Curriculum and Textbook

Board (NCTB) has failed to provide

books to the secondary students

due to awarding the printing job to

inexperienced printers.

too tied up to talk to the press.

When contacted DMP

Students have started attending

"We could not collect books due

Retail booksellers of different

Booksellers of the city and

Group, he added.

empty-handed.

to collect books.

New Market.

### Former BNP MP assaulted by partymen in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

A former BNP MP from Rangunia was assaulted by his rivals in Chawkbazar area in the city Monday night, police and party sources said.

at 9 pm when a motorcade of was returning from Rangunia.Partv insiders blamed the supporters of Salauddin Kader Chowdhury for assaulting Alam.

Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, accompanied by his supporters was returning from Rangunia after holding a meeting there, party sources said. However, Nurul Alam filed a case with Kotwali thana accusing some unidentified persons for the attack.

nation as we would not be able to

compensate for the loss," one

earlier said the process of sending

books to different districts was on.

books of secondary level would

reach students by the end of

January," said NCTB Chairman Dr

der the responsibility to put an end

to the miseries of students and

their parents, another leader of

Bangladesh Mudran Shilpa Samity

climb, as it is now obvious that the

Beximco concerns would not be

able to complete the distribution

process before the first week of

The NCTB went ahead with its

plan of awarding printing and distribution right of 8.12 crore

textbooks to a sole publisher,

despite being repeatedly cautioned

by the leaders of the printing and

publication industry, he alleged.

February, he said.

The prices of textbooks would

The NCTB must have to shoul-

Tapan Kanti Chowdhury.

The NCTB authorities had

We hope more than 50 per cent

guardian said.

#### group of rival BNP activists attacked Nurul Alam at Chawkbazar He also wondered why the Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, MP.

Press reports anger JS Panel chairman

STAFF CORRESPONDENTF

Angered by press reports on his action in the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday, Panel Chairman Abdul Latif Siddiqui yesterday advised journalists to focus their attention to the absentee opposition lawmakers in stead of taunting the Chair.Referring to the opposition boycott of the parliament, the member of the five-strong panel of chairmen suggested that the journalists should rather worry about those who are acting against rules. Why don't you criticise those elected public representatives who are neglecting their sacred duties in the House and are conspiring to make the parliament as well as the government ineffective through unconstitutional means?'

On Sunday, Siddiqui allowed **Education Minister ASHK Sadique** to speak on a motion of thanks overruling Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid's decision who had already closed the topic for discussion.

In a bid to justify his decision on Sunday, the panel chairman reiterated that his move was to correct a mistake through which the relevant minister was dropped from the list of discussants who thanked the prime minister for adopting the National Education

newspapers did not report on the lapse that deprived the very archi-

Siddigui then referred to Rule 315 of the Rules of Procedure of parliament that reads: "Whenever any inconsistency or difficulty arises in the application of these rules any member may, with the consent of the Speaker, move that any rule may be suspended in its application to a particular motion before the House, and if the motion is carried the rule in question shall stand suspended."He also mentioned about Kaul that he said permits such corrective move. The national dailies published reports on Sunday's unusual practice by

the Chair referring to Rule 294 that

states: "A member shall not speak

on a question after the Speaker has

collected the voices both of the

Ayes and of the Noes on that ques-

tect of the crucial education policy.

Home Ministry FROM PAGE 12

rallies so that in case of such incidents, the victims can be identified Political parties must keep volunteers and first aid facilities. The probe body during its inves-

tigation interviewed leftist leaders. witnesses, victims and officials from police, DGFL NSI and SB. Till yesterday, the CID could not

make any headway in detecting the culprits responsible for the bomb explosions.

## Red-tapism thwarts

International BV, the only computer manufacturer in that country, as the project implementation agency. An inter-ministerial meeting approved the 'price offer' and the 'commercial contract' with the Dutch company.

But the education ministry at a meeting of the Cabinet Purchase Committee on December 20 last raised several questions in this regard and the meeting termed the offer "unsolicited". The committee then asked the Dutch authorities to float a tender in the Netherlands and make a fresh offer for computer procurement, some sources said.

The Dutch Ambassador in Dhaka then sent a letter to the ERD Secretary saying, "The grant com-

ponent of ORET/MILIEV applications is provided from Dutch public funds. To ensure that these funds are not misused there are measures to prevent corruption and unfair practices.

The ERD in a letter to the education ministry on January 1 requested it to take a decision for procurement under the ORET egulations. Officials of the Dutch Embassy

at a meeting with ERD officials recently said the proposal was not unsolicited as stated by the Purchase Committee and that Tulip is the only Dutch manufacturer. "So there should be no question regarding the transparency of the Netherlands funds," the meeting

## DCC's mockery

FROM PAGE 1 quito menace

Frantic efforts for protection from mosquito begin with the sunset. There is no let-up even during daytime in some areas, they

But DCC men are seldom seen, many of them alleged.

When contacted, a se concerned in DCC claimed that their men have already destroyed about 80 per cent of mosquito larvae. Only some 'hidden sources' of larvae coupled with flying mosquitoes have caused the menace now, he said.

Six hundred DCC men equipped with 400 fogger machines and 600 hand sprays are engaged in control-

ling mosquito in the city, he said. Many residents said stagnant water in surface drains is an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. Experts also said the problem could be solved by nearly 30 percent only by keeping the surface drains clean through flow of water.

DCC grants Tk 50 lakh a year to each ward commissioner for development work, conservancy and cleaning surface drains. But most of the surface drains have turned into

canals of dirty stagnant water. Moreover, each ward commissioner has under him 35 sweepers who are paid by DCC.

mosquito menace, DCC's Chief Health Officer Dr Mohammad Ashraf Uddin said, "I can not say that we have entirely controlled mosquito. But we have been able to control it to a large extent".

"Mosquito invasion may be more in a few areas, but the situation is at a tolerable level in the city", he claimed.

In the budget for 2000-2001 financial year, DCC allocated Tk 13 crore only for mosquito control. The budget was increased following the sudden out break of dengue and it will be revised again, DCC sources

# The Daily Star celebrates 10th year

"Ît is an irreparable loss to the

means closing the possibility of economic progress," he said. President Shahabuddin praised pledged that it would continue its the role of Bangladesh's police in efforts to establish people's right to

brightened the image of the coun-"Information is a right, not a try abroad. privilege in a democratic society,' Dispatching female police officials for the first time to work Terming the readers as the main

with the UN mission is a matter source of strength of the paper, he that merits special mention, he expressed his commitment that it said adding that steps should be would always keep their interest taken to send more women police above everything. for UN missions. Azimur Rahman, chairman, Five female police officials were sent for the UN in East Timor. At board of directors, Mediaworld

Limited, appreciated the dedicapresent, 196 police officials are tion and efforts made by the daily's working in four UN missions in the staff members to establish truth. three continents of the world. which is the best friend of the news-The President also appreciated the establishment of Police Staff Other members of the board College and also women police including Latifur Rahman, investigation centre in the capital

Chowdhury were also present. Speaking on the occasion Home Minister Mohammad renowned columnist from India Nasim, Home Secretary MM Reza, Secretary to the President Kuldeep Navar hoped that democracy would take deep root in this Mohammad Ismail Hossain and subcontinent where it would also Inspector General of Police M Nurul Huda were present during be established that people have a the meeting. right to know.

Nayar said that the people as well as journalists would have to sacrifice a lot to establish democracy. Journalists will have to struggle to establish people's right of knowledge because every ruler will try to prevent them from getting information, he commented.

Nancy Wong Ali, wife of late SM Ali, came all the way Australia to participate in the celebrations at the invitation of The Daily Star. Renowned personalities who

attended the function include Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Sports and Culture Obaidul Quader, State Minister for LGRD Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandker Delwar Hossain, former finance minister M Saifur Rahman MP, M Morshed Khan MP. Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Barister Moudud Ahmedv, Barister Nazmul Huda MP, Rashed Khan Menon, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Saifuddin Áhmed Manik, Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Harunur Rashid, DG BIISS Maj Gen Jamil D Ahsan, former foreign secretary Farouq Sobhan, former secretary Abdul Muyeed Chowdhury, World Bank country representative Fedrick T Temple Chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue and renowned economist Rehman Sobhan, economist Devapriya Bhattacharia, Atiur Rahman, Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, Dhaka Chamber President Benajir Ahmed, Dhaka stock exchange chairman Shahiq Khan, Khushi Kabir of ADAB, actor Alamgir and

singer Runa Laila. Among the editors present were Bazlur Rahman of the Sangbad, Golam Sarwar of the Jugantar, Atikullah Khan Masud of the Janakantha, Motiur Rahman Chowdhury of the Manabjamin, Motiur Rahman of the Prothom Alo. and Chief Editor and Editor of the Financial Express Moazzem Hossain and Reazuddin Ahmed respectively.

## Sit-in around Sectt Feb 18 Quake toll may hit 100000

with 16,557 others injured. With

In the highest estimate from an Indian official, Defense Minister George Fernandes said Tuesday that the death toll could go as high as 100,000, citing the high populations of the two main cities destroyed: Bhuj, with 150,000 inhabitants, and

"This is my personal assessment," Fernandes told The Associated Press, acknowledging the difficulty of making accurate assessments. "I have been to those areas and I have seen it myself."

The Gujarat state government yesterday had a more conservative

estimate. Home Minister Haren Pandya, reacting to Fernandes's estimate, emphasized it was the defense minister's "personal assessment.

Shamsur Rahman and Rouf

"I don't want to dispute that figure," Pandya said. "According to our assessment, it could be between 15,000 to 20,000.

Damage was estimated at up to dlrs 5.5 billion. Six aftershocks with magnitudes ranging from 3.3 to 4.5 rocked the Bhuj area through the night until Tuesday morning, the Indian Meteorological Department said. There were no reports of new damage of casualties.

Rescue workers kept up the grim task of digging into the stony debris of ruined buildings in what they said was an increasingly futile search for survivors. But not without success:

16-year-old Keten Rathod may very well be the last person pulled from the wreckage alive in Anjar.

with his dead grandmother for 96 hours before he was dug out of 2 meters of concrete "I was shouting for help or sleeping for most of the time," said Keten,

who could only move a few inches while caught between two pillars at his house. "I was also crying for my grandmother and worried about my

about 10 am.

"When I heard the people dig-

said. He was dehydrated, but otherwise suffered no serious injuries. His family had given up hope until the soldiers started shouting

"I thought they were all dead," said Keten's mother, Naina Narbheram, who was at a friend's house when the earthquake hit.

Aid workers said they expected Ketan to be among the last survivors as they passed Tuesday afternoon the critical 100-hour mark since the quake struck.

"We talk about a limit of 100 hours, when after that the chances of finding someone alive drop dramatically," said Jochen Jakowski, the leader of a German rescue team in Anjar. "It is close to a world record if we find someone after 100 hours.

## FROM PAGE 12 Turning on CHT peace agree-

"People are uniting under the banner of the four-party alliance," she told her audience in the hill districts.

She said Awami League govern-

ment is plotting to foil the meetings

of the opposition parties in various

areas across the country, as they are

afraid of public meetings. "Conspiracy is going on to stop the opposition politics by applying the Public Safety Act," she said. The PSA is not being applied despite the ruling party terrorists are involved in the bomb explosion at Paltan

Maidan on January 20, she added.

Referring to the attack on a journalist at Feni she said, government is encouraging terrorism. "Legal actions are not being taken when a ruling party MP is openly patronising terrorism.

ment, Khaleda said rights of Bengalee people had been violated.

She told the rally that when Awami League first came to power in the post-liberation period, it gave birth to Shanti Bahini, "they (AL) are now hoodwinking the countrymen in the name of peace deal." She said the ruling party is

plundering state wealth in the

name of development and pur-

chases as well as smuggling out

monev abroad. "Terrorism, killing,

rape have increased manifold," she BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Oli Ahmed, Abdullah Al Noman, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, Giasuddin Kader Chowdhury and Barkatulla Bulu and Shafiul Alam Prodhan of Jagpa

also addressed the meeting.

many bodies still caught in the ruins of homes and buildings, predictions of the ultimate death toll have varied widely.

Anjar, with 80,000 people.

He was caught in a small space

parents.' He was found only after the army had brought in a crane to start removing heavy slabs of concrete. A soldier heard his cries for help and he was removed from the ruble at

ging for me, I started crying," Ketan

that someone was alive.