# Plight of rare birds and animals

### Tanguar Haor and Saapchhari forest remain unprotected

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT** 

Environmentalists and nature lovers have called upon the authorities to conserve biodiversity in Tanguar Haor and Saapchhari forest in north-eastern region of the country to save the wild animals and birds there.

The call was made at a discussion on Tanguar Haor and Saapchhari forest at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Organised by Bangladesh Bird Club, the discussion was also participated by Minister for Land Shamsul Islam, Nazir Hossain, MP from Sunamganj; Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) Anwar Faruq and Prof Aminul Islam, former vice-chancellor of Agriculture University. President of the club Enam-Al Haq presided.

A short video on Saapchhari forest in Habiganj district, which is only two square kilometres in size and adjacent to a tea estate, was also shown on the occasion. It focussed on the plight of the wild animals and birds including Hoolock Gibbons and some species of rare birds and animals Once the forest was home to black bears. The film made by Dr Ronald Halder, a dentist by profession, also showed an attempt in 1988 to change the forest species by planting Eucalyptus, Acacia and other foreign species of trees and

Enam Al-Huq, a bird watcher and photographer, in his introductory speech spoke on Tanguar Haor, the only Ramsar Site in the Bangladesh should protect the site as per the Ramsar Convention it signed in 1992, he

The Haor in Tahirpur upazila of Sunamganj district hosts hundreds and thousands of migratory birds and is the last habitat of Pallas' Eagle in the country. It badly needs proper conservation. A total of 176 birds have been counted in the wetland. The latest census in February this year showed that the number of birds seeking shelter there reached an estimated 500,000, which include some endangered species. There are six types of endangered species such as Pallas' Eagle and two species of geeseBairds Pochard and Feruzinas Pochard, nature lovers

This year's census showed their number was nearly 100,000. That was the world's highest number of geese camping in one single wetland. Eight pairs of Pallas' Eagle were found to be nesting in the huge haor and this was something rare in the world today. This shows the wetland deserves 'total protection' by the authorities from poachers, they

Uncontrolled fishing and introduction of duck farming are causing problems for the birds to obtain food. If the wetland is properly managed under the care of wildlife experts as a proper Ramsar Site. it could become an attractive tourist spot, environmentalists felt

Poachers of birds and animals, wood cutters and those extracting sand are posing a great threat to Saapchhari forest. If the forest in its pristine form is not allowed to exist, its wildlife would not survive. The forest is a potential tourist attraction, they thought.

Land Minister Shamsul Islam advised officials and all others concerned to take care so that Tanguar Haor and Saapchhari forest with their bio-diversity could survive under proper management.

"If we fail to conserve nature, our next generation would be deprived of the unique gift of nature." he added

Nazir Hossain. MP. drew attention of the authorities to the 'unprotected state' of Tanguar Haor for the past three years.

# AL lawmakers

tion parties"

AL will sit immediately with all political parties, except the antiliberation ones, to launch the movement, he said during the briefing at the office of the leader of the opposition in parliament. The ALPP meeting decided to

face the "black law" politically and legally, he said. We will also seek opinion from

the world community against enactment of this law," he said. The meeting was presided over

by Deputy Leader of the Opposition ın Parlıament Abdul Hamıd.

Zillur said the meeting rejected the Act as its provisions and clauses "contradictory to the Constitution and against democracy, human rights and humanity". It is a toll to repress the opposition, Awami League in particular, the meeting resolved.

Taking advantage of the law, the government will appoint anyone from the ruling party as magistrate to try cases under it, he said.

Regarding bail provision in the law, he said investigation authorities will submit their reports within seven days. "How a person will seek bail within this short time?" There will be no scope for self-defense, he said. "It is worse than martial law".

Suranjit Sengupta, a veteran parliamentarian and constitution expert, pointed out that under the law, power of arrest has been vested with "a citizen instead of law enforcers, which is against the

#### Home Ministry says No BCL activist tortured in Ctg jail

The Home Ministry on Saturday said that no activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was tortured inside the Chittagong Central Jail.

The ministry termed the news item published in a section of press. which said that jail police injured some BCL activists, as "false and

Some contraband items were recovered from an activist of BCL during a regular inspection in the prison cell, the ministry said. It said investigation was on to detect the source of entering those items into

"There was no incident of hunger strike or demonstration inside the jail by the BCL activists," the minis-

# Dengue back again

The virus causes the infection transmitted by the female species of the Aedes Aegypti mosquito. It is found in tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world predominantly in urban areas.

Dengue virus is transmitted to humans through the bites of an infective female Aedes mosquito. The mosquito acquires the virus by feeding on blood of an infected person.

Once infected, a mosquito can transmit virus to multiple persons. In fact, the mosquito can transfer the virus to its next generation by laying eggs, which can stay dormant for up to a year.

Humans are the main host of the virus that circulates in blood of an infected person for 2 8 days approximately the same time as they have fever.

Dengue fever is flu like illness that affects infants and adults alike. The infection causes mild fever, pain behind eyes, muscles and

joints, and often causes rash. Dengue haemorrhagic Fever (DHF), a complicated form of the infection, can be fatal and is characterised by high fever, bleeding phenomenon and often with enlargement of liver. Commonly, the

fever causes sudden temperature accompanied by facial flush. There is no specific treatment for dengue. But with proper manage-

recover if the body fluid loss is

WHO currently estimates that there are 50 million cases of dengue infection worldwide every year. Two fifth of world's population are at risk

#### Khaleda

FROM PAGE 12 and soft loans and income generat-

ing programme for the poor women. The success in microcredit and empowerment of women and their dignified position in the society, particularly empowerment of poor womenfolk in Bangladesh, would work as an inspiration for developing countries. Sam said.

The Microcredit Summit Campaign director said Khaleda Zia has been nominated to co-chair the summit for her government's steps and success in empowering

The prime minister thanked Sam for the invitation and said she would to accept it, if her schedule for November permits

Mexican President Vicente Fox has also been invited as another cochairman of the November summit and he has accepted the invitation, Sam told the prime minister.

Foreign Secretary Shamser Mobin Chowdhury and Grameen Bank Managing Director Dr Mohammad Yunnus were present.

Termination order

## HC issues rule on govt, BSS management

BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued rule nisi asking the government and BSS authorities to show cause within four weeks why the validity of Employees Service Rules 1995 of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

The court also directed the respondents to maintain status quo till the rule is disposed of.

A division bench comprising Justice M A Matin and Justice Mohammad Marzi Ul Hague passed the order upon three separate writ petitions filed with the court chalenging the Employees Service Rules 1995 of BSS and termination of staff under the rules.

News Editor Kazi Maksudul Hasan, Senior Sub-Editor Amirul Mumenin, Senior Reporter Manoj Kanti Roy and Senior Reported Suvash Chanda Badal filed the writ challenging the validity of the Employees Service Rules 1995 of

### **BNP** activist slaughtered in Barisal

A BNP activist was slaughtered at Fultala in Babuganj upazila Monday

Police said the assailants attacked Shah Alam, 35, while he was returning home from the local bus stand at about 11:00 pm. They chopped him severely and then slaughtered.

The killers fled the scene boardng a tempo.

Although the victim was a BNP activist, police said there was no political motive behind the killing. They suspected that Shah Alam was killed over land dispute

A case was filed with Babugani

#### Graft case

FROM PAGE 12

Although the task was completed as per specifications, the minister ignored the PDB's opinion and arranged an additional payment of \$ 4.5 million for remedial work on the project site, the FIR alleged. Mohammad Zahid Hossain,

Inspector of the Bureau of Anticorruption (BAC) filed the case on January 8 against Rafigul Islam and former secretary for power, Arobindo Kar.

Zahid Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the CMM's Court, Dhaka yesterday against Rafiq. Arobindo Kar's name was dropped from the charge sheet as his involvement in connection with the case was not found during

Meanwhile, the accused was granted ad interim bail by the High urt on January 12 granted bail for three months from the date of issuing the order.

Rafigul Islam appeared before the CMM's Court yesterday for

#### Mockbul

FROM PAGE 12 The court heard the appeal on Monday and gave the order yester-

It was alleged that on February 3 last year former Awami League MP Alhaj Mockbul Hossain, former chairman of Bangladesh Muktijoddha Central Command Council Prof Abdul Ahad

Chowdhury and 80 others attacked Jame Arabia Madrassah in the city's Mohammadpur area and looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh. Later, Hafez Mohammad Zahid Hossain filed a criminal case with

Mohammadpur thana on January 17 accusing 70 people, including Mockbul Hossain and Ahad Chowdhury.
Mockbul was arrested from his

Mohammadpur residence in the early hours of December 2 last year. He was arrested without any specific allegation.

Later, he was shown arrested in dozen of specific cases, including Sajal Chowdhury murder case.

## Rice import

FROM PAGE 1
The government also increased supply of rice from its stock for food for work programmes. The stock is now at 3.49 lakh tonnes in different

Official sources said the government encourages import to avoid any crisis as its internal food procurement target was not fulfilled in the last harvesting season

#### Shikal editor

grabbing. The chief editor said the UNO did not send any rejoinder to the newspaper before filing the

Following another report on the alleged corruption of Nezarat Deputy Collector (NDC) Masumur Rahman, the NDC filed a defamation case against the editor on April 2, and he was arrested.

Atiar Rahman, account assistant of the District Cooperative Office, filed the third case on April 4 after the local daily published a report on the clandestine practices of District Cooperative Officer Ajoy Kumar

The editor was arrested on April 3 on a court order and was released

Kibria expresses concern

# **Decision to close** bank branches ill-considered

Former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday expressed deep concern over the government decision to close down over 500

branches of the state-owned banks. In a statement, he remarked that the "hasty and ill-considered" decision was taken without taking into account its long-term negative implications for the economy. He urged the government to

review the decision and continue the banking reforms without closing down the rural branches. The government has ignored the fact that several million rural people

Kibria arqued. He said the closure of the branches in Sylhet, Chittagong, Noakhali. Comilla and other areas with significant expatriate workers will adversely affect the flow of

will be deprived of banking facilities.

The ex-minister apprehends that hundi operators would replace the banks when those branches are closed and the rural people would be enmeshed by money lenders.

Terming the government policy "anti-people and discriminatory", he said it will stifle the long-term economic progress. "It will be a retrograde step to withdraw the facilities of a modern banking system from a sizeable segment of the popula-

"They are not being offered any alternative. Besides, some branches have been identified as loss-making branches simply because they have very little invest-

The former finance minister

mentioned the steps taken during

the past Awami League's rule to reform the financial sector and bring discipline to the banking system. 'The percentage of nonperforming loans was brought down to 33 per cent and the regulatory and legal foundations were laid for a

sustained reduction in this ratio." Following the measures taken by the Awami League government all the banks made profits in the fiscal 2000-01 and the banking system was attaining international standard. Kibria claimed.

# Chhayanaut prepares

including the Ramna incident, which

have taken place over the years. The committee has convened

only one meeting since its formation, sources said. Two separate cases -- one on the bomb blast and the other on the

killing -- have been under investiga-

tion for about a year, with 13 people

arrested. Lawyers for the three accused --Enayetullah, Abdul Awal and Habibur Rahman -- contended that the Pahela Baishakh victims were killed in firing not in bomb blasts,

and had their clients freed on bail. The traditional Bangla New Year celebration turned into a gory tale of deaths, when a devastating bomb explosion left seven people killed on the spot and at least 20 injured. The death toll climbed to ten within hours with two more having died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital and another in the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

A timing device triggered the main explosion, claimed the police. But witnesses said the bomb was being carried by a man and might have gone off prematurely on

The investigation officer (IO) of

sioner, could not be reached for comments despite efforts. Whenever he was sought, his office told The Daily Star that he was "out of his office or very busy".

The Ministry of Home Affairs, which has raised the alarm about the country's internal and external security through a circular on March 11 last, virtually did nothing about the bomb blast.

An official at the home ministry said the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) had been asked to take adequate security measures for all cultural functions welcoming the Bangla New Year. In January 2001, an explosion at

rally of the Communist Party,

Bangladesh (CPB) at Paltan

Maidan in the city left four people And in 1999, a bomb attack on a similar open-air concert in Jessore killed ten people. The function was organised by the left-leaning cul-

The explosions came in the wake of a stand-off over the date of the last general election, which had prompted a series of strikes and a flurry of clashes

tural organisation Udichi.

# EU envoy

FROM PAGE 12

Union is ready to assist Bangladesh in trade, investment and diversification of Bangladeshi products in further strengthening bilateral cooperation.

About the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), he said the EC supports peace process in the hills and is ready to assist development of the

EC First Counselor JV Ketelsen and economic and Information Officer Zillul Hve Razi were present. Earlier, during his meeting with President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury at the Bangabhaban,

the EU ambassador said he would

continue the endeavour to

strengthen friendship and dialogues

in vital areas of cooperation

He said the cooperation agreement between the EC and Bangladesh on partnership and development which came into force in March last year provided ample opportunity on the basis of respect for human rights and democratic principles to deepen the relation-

between the EC and Bangladesh.

ship. "It will be a particular task of my mission to contribute to the implementation of the agreement to its full potential. Within the framework of our bilateral relationship, the European Community will continue supporting Bangladesh in its commitment to build and reinforce democracy and the rule of law, to further liberalise the economy and trade regime...." he said.

## West Bank towns

Some 100 Palestinian men, women and children were trapped inside a building in the camp and appealing to aid groups for help as they came under Israeli fire, a camp resident

"One hundred Palestinians have been under fire for over four hours, we tried to talk to the army but they shot at us." Abu Hussein told AFP by phone. Helicopters could be heard in the background flying low.

"We can't do anything but call human rights organisations everywhere we can think of," he added. Abu Hussein explained that the people, among whom were "20

women and many children", had

taken refuge in the building "after

their houses were bulldozed by the armv" An AFP reporter close to Jenin, on the Israeli side of the Green Line dividing Israel from the West Bank, saw four Apache helicopters fire six missiles into the camp within a

space of 20 minutes. Israeli forces earlier won cautious US praise yesterday by pulling out of the northern West Bank towns of Qalqilya and Tulkarem, but at the same time they moved into a village in the south, killing three Palestinians in the ongoing hunt for suspected militants. US Secretary of State Colin

Powell, receiving an angry Arab

response as he tours the region

before heading to Jerusalem on

Friday, told Israel the pullback from

the two towns was "encouraging"

but not enough

"Let us hope that this is not a little bit of this and a little bit of that, but the beginning of a pullback," Powell said after meeting Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdel Aziz in

encirclement of the two towns, which lie right on the border and are seen as springboards for bloody anti-Israel attacks. Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erakat said the operation was just window-dressing and made no

real difference. Despite the with-

Israel said it would tighten its

drawal foreign media were still being prevented from going in. The army said it had dismantled extremist groups in Tulkarem and Qalqiliya, echoing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's statement Monday that it would only withdraw totally when Operation Defensive Walls

And as Israeli troops and armour quit the two towns, more piled into the village of Dura near Hebron in the southern West Bank. Three Palestinians were killed in

the raid, sources in the village said

was complete.

two of them apparently hit by Israeli helicopter fire as they left a mosque. Israel has also occupied villages scattered across the West Bank in its 12-day sweep for militant groups which has sent shockwaves through the region, causing tensions and oil prices to soar

# New law to curb crimes

Disruption Crimes (Speedy Trial) Act, 2002", it provides for instituting special courts to try offenders in a period ranging from 30 to 60 days and suggests rigorous imprisonment from two to five years for crimes disrupting social peace.

The legislation came into being within a week after the parliament scrapped a similar law enacted by the immediate past Awami League Offences under the law include

hindrance to normal air, rail, road and river traffic movement, vandalism on transport and public and private property, mugging, illicit toll collection, terrorism in public places, obstruction to tender bidding, and obstruction to works of government officers and employees and their relatives.

Before walking out of the House, lawmakers of the Jatiya Party (Ershad) and the Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League (BKSJL) vehemently opposed the passage as they apprehended that the new law would be used to suppress anti-government street agita-

They also called it a black law which in reality would deny justice in the name of speedy trial

The opposition MPs observed that fair and appropriate execution of existing laws was enough to curb crimes and concluded that the enactment of the new law was politically motivated.

They asked the home minister, who had piloted a bill in this regard, to drop certain provisions especially the one allowing the court to accept audio-video tapes and telephonic conversations as evidences. Because, they argued, pictures and taped conversations could easily be doctored thanks to technological advancement. Defending the new legislation,

down punishment to the criminals much more quickly. "There will be an intense monitoring to check abuse of the law." he said, referring to criticism that the new law would be used against the ruling coalition's political opponents

Home Minister Altaf Hossain

Choudhury told the parliament that it

would help restore peace and hand

'We have enacted this law to face a quarter attempting to cause a sharp decline to the law and order by patronising crimes to embarrass the

aovernment." The home minister said the government would have enacted the law anyway had it not scrapped the Public Safety Act. But he declined that the two laws were

identical. Trying to justify the provision for speedy trial of criminals in the Law and Order Disruption Crimes Act (LODCA), he said delayed trial let the criminals go scot-free and deprive the victims of justice.

He referred to the old adage. "Justice delayed, justice denied" to cancel out Jatiya Party MP GM Quader's argument who quoted another maxim, "Justice hurried, iustice buried".

Angered by some guarded criticisms of the LODCA by JP lawmakers GM Quader and Golam Habib Dulal and the KSJL's lone MP Abdul Quader Siddiqui, the home minister said one should not talk only because he or she had been allowed to talk. In a clear indication to the perceived loyalty of the JP and KSJL to the BNP-led coalition government, the minister said: You cannot butter both sides of a bread.'

The home minister then alleged that the people witnessed farce in the name of trial and punishments even without trial during the 1972-75 Awami League regime. "The fivemonth old child was jailed, 33,000 political activists were imprisoned and 30,000 people were killed at the time," he said amid cheers by the treasury bench.

This prompted Quader Siddiqui to jump to his feet. He described the home minister's statement that also ridiculed Siddiqui for sympathising with Shihab, the schoolboy recently killed after being kidnapped in the city, as offensive and dirty. "The home minister will bring debacle not only to himself but also to the government he represents." the KSJL lawmaker said before staging a stormy walkout.

Four of the 14 JP MPs present at the time followed suit protesting the home minister's comments.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar

allowed him to speak but he has left. So, what's the point of my showing good gesture?" the speaker won-

However, three of the six independent MPs present in the house staved back.

There were 145 of the 220 treasurv bench members present when the House unanimously passed the law at 8.10pm. They include Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and most of her cabinet colleagues.

The LODCA bill was passed two days after it was introduced in the parliament. It did not go through any scrutiny, as the relevant parliamentary standing committee is yet to be formed.

Security in and outside the parliament building was tightened, as the House passed the stringent law amid growing criticisms by different quarters.

According to the fresh law, the police will produce the offenders before the court within 24 hours of their arrest and press charges against them within next seven days if the offenders are caught in the act. In such a case, the process of trial would be completed within 30 days from the date of submission of the charge sheet. If the accused is not caught

the charge sheet within seven days and the trial would be completed in the next 60 days. The fresh law also has a provision for trial of the accused in absentia. It also provides for a two to five years' jail term for bringing false charges. It also allows a magistrate

immediately, the police will submit

to record a witness's statement right on the spot. A court will accept as evidences audio- and videotapes and recorded conversations. The LODCA enables the trial and the appeal courts to grant bail to the accused or the convict but the court will have to record the ground for such action. The government will set up one or more special tribunals

in every district and the metropo-

lises with first class magistrates

heading them.

# Dhaka, Delhi

FROM PAGE 1 Trade negotiators will sit briefly at

9:15am today before the Indians catch the noon flight back home. And if a consensus is reached the 1980 bilateral trade agreement may be extended by another six months.

A scheduled press briefing was cancelled without notice. Some 50 local and foreign journalists were kept waiting for about two hours at the EPB office, the venue of the meeting. Neither of the two secretaries was available for comments. Pursued by the waiting news-

men, EPB Vice-chairman Abu Saleh at about 6.40pm said, "No agreement has been reached. They (Indians) sought time until tomorrow morning. Yesterday's talks started from the point where it trailed off on the first day. In the face of over US\$1

Bangladesh wanted India to implement its premier's commitment to allow duty-free access to 25category products. However, the Indians were rigid to barter its transshipment demand with Dhaka's free access to 25-

billion trade deficit with India,

category products that include 191 As both sides held to their points, the meeting broke down at around 11.00am and the negotiators left the venue. The Bangladesh delegation immediately met Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhuy and informed him about

the hitch. At 2:30pm, the Indian delegation also met the minister to explain its

position According to sources, Chowdhury told the Indian delegation that this could neither be the end of talks nor the last meeting. He also told the delegation that it is not logical to expect everything to be settled at this meeting.

All unresolved issues could be discussed at a later stage, the minister is learned to have told the Indian delegation. The Indian delegation then went

back to the meeting: talks resumed at around 3:00pm and ran through 6:30pm. At one stage, Commerce Secretary Suhel Ahmed and his Indian counterpart Dipak Chatterjee went to a separate room and had discussions on the sidelines. At one point, it seemed that the

ice was beginning to melt and both sides showed some interest to budge from their rigid positions.

#### Cyber cafe FROM PAGE 12

Police from Mohammadpur thana went to the spot later. The duty officer at the thana, when contacted last night, said that policemen including plainclothes ones went to the spot immediately after the incident but they were yet to return.

According to Bangladesh Computer Samity, there are more than 100 cyber café s in the capital. It would be difficult for their owners to run business if recurrence of such incidents is not stooped, some sources pointed out.

# Hasina: Shopowners

tion leader Khaleda Zia did not

reciprocate in the same spirit. Rather, she had threatened to call hartals for days together." "We have our back to the wall We can strike back, but I don't want retaliation because I always like to

avert strife for the greater interest of

the country. Unfortunately, they (the

government) do not consider this aspect," she said Quoting from the home minister's statistics given at the parliament a few days back. Hasina said some 1705 murder cases were lodged during the last five months. She noted that the country image is

at stake because of 'criminal activities by the BNP-Jamaat axis'. Earlier, the shop owners said nartal is taking toll on the economy and some two million shop owners across the country and their dependents have become its vic-

They said shop owners do not

belong to any particular political party, and they bitterly criticised the two scrapped laws -- PSA and antiterrorism act -- as tools to victimise the opponents. They also condemned the gov-

ernment's initiative to enact another stringent law, which, they feared, may be used for political purpose. Dhaka City Corporation Mayor

Mohammad Hanif, Bangladesh

Mob kills FROM PAGE 1 In the city, 21 alleged muggers and robbers were killed in mobexecution in December -- six in Sutrapur, five in Dhanmondi and

quate manpower," said a high PDB official on condition of anonymity. A large number of officials and

vear but most of these posts remain

employees go into retirement every

cers. 225 are vacant. On the other hand, in Class III and IV officer categories there has been nearly no recruitment in the last couple of years.

out of 1.810 posts for Class II offi-

IV officer categories, sources Out of 6,168 vacant posts, 11,078 fall under the Class III three

recruited against ten vacancies," said a PDB official

ues, the PDB would not be able to

Former PDB chairman and power-sector expert Nuruddin M Kamal said that the PDB was overloaded with manpower at the bottom level, but there was a vacuum at the top affecting its overall perforChairman Amir Hossain Khan, Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners Association President Helal Uddin General Secretary Masud Kader

and Vice-president Rezaul Islam

### also spoke at the meeting. Hasina

was not spared and w

recently by criminals."

FROM PAGE 1 Hasina noted that, "Even the residence of the in-law of BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and my uncle Sheikh Kabir

Shahabuddin Ahmed and noted lawyers Barrister Ishtiag and Dr Kamal Hossain were vocal against the Public Safety Act (PSA). "I would now like to know their

opinion about the new law," she

The former prime minister

recalled that former president

Shyampur each, two in Demra and Tejgaon each and one in

Hazaribagh. Of the six in Sutrapur,

He believes that vacancy at the

PDB performance. "There is no

need or scope for new recruitment

four were killed in a single incident.

# **Personnel crisis**

low level will in no way affect the

to those vacant posts. Out of 2.232 posts for Class I officer. post on its board is vacant," he said, 320 are vacant at this moment while adding that the posts of members

The number of vacant posts has been extremely high in Class III and

officer category, followed by 7,912

If the existing situation contin-

#### Kalurghat FROM PAGE 1 division with State Minister for

should be filled immediately.

If the flow of human resources

development process gets stuck,

the posts of engineers will remain

vacant, he said. "You cannot expect

an engineer fresh from the univer-

sity to perform well, unless you give

Liberation War Affairs Redwan Ahmed in the chair.

them proper training."

Minister Shahjahan Siraj, Shipping Minister Colonel (Retd) Akbai Hossain (Bir Pratik), Works and Housing Minister Mirza Abbas, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadek Hossain Khoka, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, State Minister for Civil Aviation Mir Nasir Uddin, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman and State Minister for LGED Ziaul Huq Zia

#### of Class IV category. "Only three or four officers were Information Minister TariquI Islam, Environment and Forest

operate in near future, due to manpower crisis, observed another

attended the meeting

#### vacant, sources in the PDB say. However, he termed vacancy in The recruitment ratio has been the PDB board "simply unjustified". very low for vacant Class I and II "The decision-making process in officer posts over the last few years. the PDB becomes critical, if any