



PHOTO: STAR

Children perform a dance number at the Swadhinata Utsav 2004, a daylong get-together of the students participating in the outreach programme of the Liberation War Museum, yesterday.

## AL's main objective not to unseat govt: Jalil

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday said his party's main objective was not to unseat the government, but to realise its 15-point demand for welfare of the people.

"We don't need to go for the

oust-government movement if it meets the demands by February 10," Jalil said at a press conference at party's Dhanmondi office in the city.

Jalil said activities of the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government don't prove any sincerity to materialise the demands. He said the AL

would launch one-point movement by April if the government fails to meet the demands during this period.

The press conference was organised to protest attack on journalist Shafiqul Haq Mithu of Pirojpur, imposition of Section 144 on a protest rally of journalists and declaring Sechchha Sebok League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim unwanted by local Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal.

Referring to the recent call of BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan for discussion with opposition, Jalil said it was nothing but a "political stunt" to confuse the people. "They have lack of sincerity. On the one hand, they call for discussion and on the other, obstruct political activities."

He said when a journalists' club in Pirojpur arranged a protest rally on January 27, Jubo Dal and JCD cadres announced another rally at the same venue at the same time. Instead of taking any action against the ruling party cadres, the local administration imposed Section 144.

"Does it not prove that those cadres were involved with the attack on journalist Shafiqul Haq Mithu?" he said, adding that repression on journalists in Barisal division with direct patronage of the home minister and a state minister have crossed all records.

Central leaders Mohammad Nasim, Obaidul Kader, Akhteruzzaman and Abdul Mannan Khan were present.

## Trader shot dead in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Assailants gunned down a trader at Keraniganj near Dhaka on Thursday night.

The victim was identified as Nasir Ali, 38, a BNP worker and garment trader at City Heart in Paltan in the city.

A gang of more than 13 sprayed bullets on him near his residence at Kobutarpara, Alinagar at 1.25am and fled the spot.

Relatives of Nasir rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Rina Nasir, wife of the victim, filed a murder case with Keraniganj Police Station accusing seven by names.

The victim told the names of the accused before dying, said the duty officer of the police station.

## Resignation of home minister demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 11 party alliance yesterday demanded the resignation of the home minister for law and order slide in the country.

In a statement to the press, Coordinator of the alliance and Convenor of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal Khalequzzaman said

the government is totally failure to protect the life of the people.

He said the murder of a UP chairman in a bomb blast just after the killing of journalist Manik Saha in Khulna testifies that there is no law and order in the country.

Khalequzzaman also demanded a statement from the home ministry on the killings of eleven journalists in Khulna in last ten years.

## 1669 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,669 people, including three identified criminals, on various charges during their countrywide drive in last 24 hours till 6am yesterday.