

'Dual rule' pushing country towards disaster: Saber

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of introducing a 'dual rule' in the country by allowing her son to exercise broad powers from the Hawa Bhaban, dubbed as the alternative power centre of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

"Khaleda Zia is the prime minister but her son has become the prime authority," Saber, also politi-

cal secretary to the opposition leader and AL President Sheikh Hasina, said while addressing a public meeting at the city's Basabo area organised by the Sabujbag Thana unit of Awami League.

"Such dual rule is fast eroding governance and pushing the country toward a disastrous situation," he observed.

Touching upon the AL's 15-point demand, he said, "Our demands are logical and timely."

Asserting that there is no alternative but to oust the present government, Saber said the BNP-Jamaat regime was hastening its downfall with misrule and misdeeds.

He said people are frustrated with the present rulers due to their inability to live up to people's expectations even after two and a half years in office.

"The 30-month rule of Khaleda Zia is marked by violence, murder, rape and price-hike of essentials," he added.

Criticising the prime minister, finance minister and commerce minister for defending the price hike, the AL leader said: "Price of all products including rice, lentil, oil, salt, onion, garlic, milk, fish, meat and other daily necessities are exorbitant."

He said the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government has unmasked its autocratic character by trampling on people's democratic rights and freedom of expression.

"Autocratic rulers were never able to cling to power resorting to violence and repression and the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government will have to face the similar fate for its persecution of political opponents," he added.

AL presidium member and former minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir also spoke the rally attended by city AL leaders.

Bridal party robbed of gold ornaments, Tk 25,000

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk five lakh from a bridal party at Bandar on Thursday.

The members of the bridal party along with bridegroom Hasan Ali Ujjal, 28, were going to Nagral of Madanganj in a microbus and a bus when a gang of 12 robbers intercepted them at Dewanbagh at around 3.00pm. They also fired two rounds of bullets to create a panic.

The bridal party was coming from Sirajdikhan of Munshiganj district.

The gang took away 47 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 25,000 and two cell phone sets at gunpoint. However, no-one was injured.