

## Crossfire is a new pretext

**FROM PAGE 12** what the government is doing now is nothing but gross violations of human rights," said the AL chief adding, "Crossfire is a new pretext for killing people."

"Some four lakh false cases have been filed against the Awami League activists throughout the country since the present government took office in 2001.

"The Rab men would soon start killing our people and the slayings would be justified by these false cases," she said.

Amid tight security measures taken by the government, yesterday's rally was held peacefully. Thousands of people from different parts of the capital, adjacent districts and elsewhere in the country joined the rally. They carried banners, placards and posters inscribed with various antigovernment slogans.

Referring to the capital punishment of notorious Ershad Sikder, Hasina claimed that her government ensured punishment of the criminals through justice and with the help of regular law enforcing forces like police and BDR.

She said the prime minister does not have any confidence in armed forces and different other law enforcing agencies and that is why she resorts to the special force.

"The Rab has already killed over 200 people in the name of crossfire. But the force remains mysteriously silent to armed cadres loyal to Jamaat-e-Islami," she added.

Referring to the August 21 grenade attack, she asked the prime minister why has not any of the culprits behind the attack been arrested even after over four months of the incident.

Hasina spoke on various other issues including price hike of essentials, 'politicisation of the administration and the judiciary', food crisis, and 'corruption by the prime minister's family'.

Accusing the government of

patronising the killers of Bangabandhu she said BNP-Jaamat-led regime had even issued a backdated passport for Colonel (retired) Noor so that he could stay abroad without any hassle.

Urging the people to join the ongoing movement to oust the government, the leader of the opposition in parliament said, "There is hardly any sense of security among the people and they no longer want the coalition government to be in power."

Hasina also congratulated the members of Bangladesh Cricket team on winning their maiden Test victory.

Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Quader, Mohammad Hanif and Abdul Mannan, among others, addressed the rally.

## Death threat

**FROM PAGE 12** demanded a toll of Tk 4 lakh and said if he refuses to comply with the demand, they would kill him.

Bhuiyan informed RU proctor, register and Mother Police Station of the incident. The same callers threatened Prof Anwarul Islam of pharmacy department and demanded Tk 4 lakh from him as well.

Besides, the men claiming to be JMB men phoned at the residence of late Prof Khondokar Azizul Haque. They asked Azizul's wife to take Tk 2 lakh from her daughter Proma Khondokar, a pharmacy department teacher and nephew Zia Uddin, a psychology department teacher, and get it ready for them (JMB men).

Meanwhile, RU register Abdus Salam has filed a complaint with Mother Police Station about the threats received since the killing of RU teacher Muhammad Yunus on December 24.

## 3-NATION ENERGY MEET Mosharraf leaves for Yangon today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain leaves for Yangon today to attend January 12-13 meeting on regional energy cooperation, including the proposal of a transnational gas pipeline that will carry gas from Myanmar to India's Tripura and then to West Bengal through Bangladesh.

The energy ministers of India and Myanmar will also join the meeting.

Petrobangla Chairman SR Osmani and a foreign ministry official will accompany Mosharraf.

The prime minister (PM) has formed a secretary level committee to scrutinise various aspects of the proposed transnational gas pipeline.

The secretary level committee will submit a set of recommendations to be discussed by finance, energy and foreign affairs ministers, sources said.

Then they will discuss the matter with the PM. The government wants to finalise its position on the issue before the upcoming Saarc summit in Dhaka.

Earlier Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said instead of pursuing the pipeline proposal with India as an independent issue, Bangladesh will try to settle, along with this matter, other outstanding issues like Bangladesh-Nepal transit through India and removal of tariff barrier for Bangladesh exporters to India.

Myanmar government's invitation to Bangladesh and India to the Yangon meeting on energy cooperation this month came as a sequel of Myanmar's recent hammering at the eight-year old pipeline issue.

The cabinet committee earlier shelved a transnational gas pipeline project proposal submitted by a private company on the grounds that such a scheme needs political decision at the tri-national level and the governments concerned need to be involved in it.

In the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

## Saifur blushes

**FROM PAGE 12** Bangladesh's second largest apparel market after the European Union, he mentioned.

Bangladesh's apparel export to US is declining over the last few years. As there is no quota facility now, garment exporters feel that duty-free access to US market could help Bangladesh greatly increase its ready-made garment export to the world's largest economy.

The BGMEA delegation brought to Saifur's notice issues like 'derogatory' GSP (generalised system of preference), services at Chittagong port and customs. The minister assured them of all cooperation from the government side, delegation sources said.

Anisul recalled that it was Saifur Rahman whose decision in 1991 (finance minister also then) to lift investment embargo on garment sector had led to a boom in the industry, eventually turning the sector into the highest export earner. In 1989-1990, an embargo on new investment in garment sector was imposed.

Meanwhile, Anisul yesterday filed an appeal with the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, against a lower court order on January 3 regarding appointment of an administrator to the BGMEA.

Judge Mohammad Rafiqul Islam fixed today for hearing on the acceptability of the appeal.

The commerce ministry on

Thursday appointed an administrator to the country's largest trade body following the lower court ruling.

The High Court on Sunday stayed the appointment.

## Extortionist

**FROM PAGE 12** Police rescued and admitted him with serious burns to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where he was declared dead at 11:30am.

Accomplices of Pichchi Hannan have been extorting money from the traders of Hadir arat at Karwan Bazar for a few months, said the traders, adding that they burnt the criminal as a warning to the extortionists.

In Khilgaon, Anwar Hossain, 32, a CNG-run three-wheeler driver, and his three aides snatched Tk 30,000 from rickshaw passenger Azhar Hossain in Malibagh Chowdhuripara.

As Azhar cried for help, locals chased the four, caught Anwar and beat him up.

Laundry employee Tajul Islam was injured as Anwar's accomplices threw hand bombs while fleeing by the three-wheeler.

Tajul with splinters in the legs and hands, and alleged mugger Anwar were admitted to the DMCH.

Police seized four hand bombs from Anwar.

## 'Look East' policy

**FROM PAGE 1** with these countries, China in particular. It blasted the ministry's handling of the Taiwan issue.

The parliamentary body observed that the government policy on Taiwan has affected relations with China, a 'trusted friend' of Bangladesh. It asked the ministry to make good the damage through boosting relations with that country.

"It is unfortunate that relations with China have deteriorated over the Taiwan issue," said a ruling party lawmaker at the meeting, referring to the move to open an office of Taiwan in Dhaka last year which was later shelved.

In the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of sharp criticism by both the ruling and opposition party lawmakers at the meeting, the foreign ministry officials put the blame on the Board of Investment, which gave permission to open a Taiwanese trade office in Bangladesh.

About the Look East policy, members of the committee said there was no real progress in the government's move to strengthen relations with the far-east countries.

"We have to strengthen ties with these countries, specially China and Japan. We have asked the foreign ministry to initiate steps in this regard," Ziaur Rahman Khan, chairman of the committee, told reporters after the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body observed China had shown interest

in the case of