

# Govt conspires to eliminate progressive intellectuals

## Speakers tell meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat alliance is killing the leaders of the opposition political party as part of its conspiracy to eliminate progressive and pro-democratic intellectuals.

They called for a united movement by all sections of people to oust the government immediately.

The meeting was organised by Sammilito Ainjibi Samannoy Parishad at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the city.

"No intellectual is safe when an honest politician like Shah AMS Kibria could be killed in a grenade attack," said Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, convenor of the parishad.

The grenades used in Dhaka, Sylhet and Habiganj are not homemade and require special training to

throw. So how these attacks could take place without the knowledge of the government, he questioned.

The forces, who do not believe in democracy and want to establish a Taliban state, are behind the all killings under the direct patronisation of the government, said Barrister Shafique Ahmed.

He said the defeated forces of 1971 began their operation by killing Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman along with his family members and that operation has got its momentum in recent times.

Barrister Shafique said after occupying the secretariat and educational institutions the government is now trying to capture the courts by appointing partisan judges in a bid to establish one-party regime in the country.

The speakers demanded the probe

into the grenade attacks by a special tribunal under the United Nations saying that the Interpol, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Scotland Yard would not be able to probe the matter independently as the government's own agencies will guide them.

They also demanded resignation of Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar for his negligence in managing a helicopter to carry SAMS Kibria from Habiganj to Dhaka.

After the meeting, the lawyers took out a procession that was clubbed by the members of armed police and Bangladesh Rifles in front of the Shikha Bhavan. Two senior lawyers fell down on the road when a policeman pushed them back.

However, ignoring the police block, the lawyers marched ahead and held a rally in front of the National Press Club.

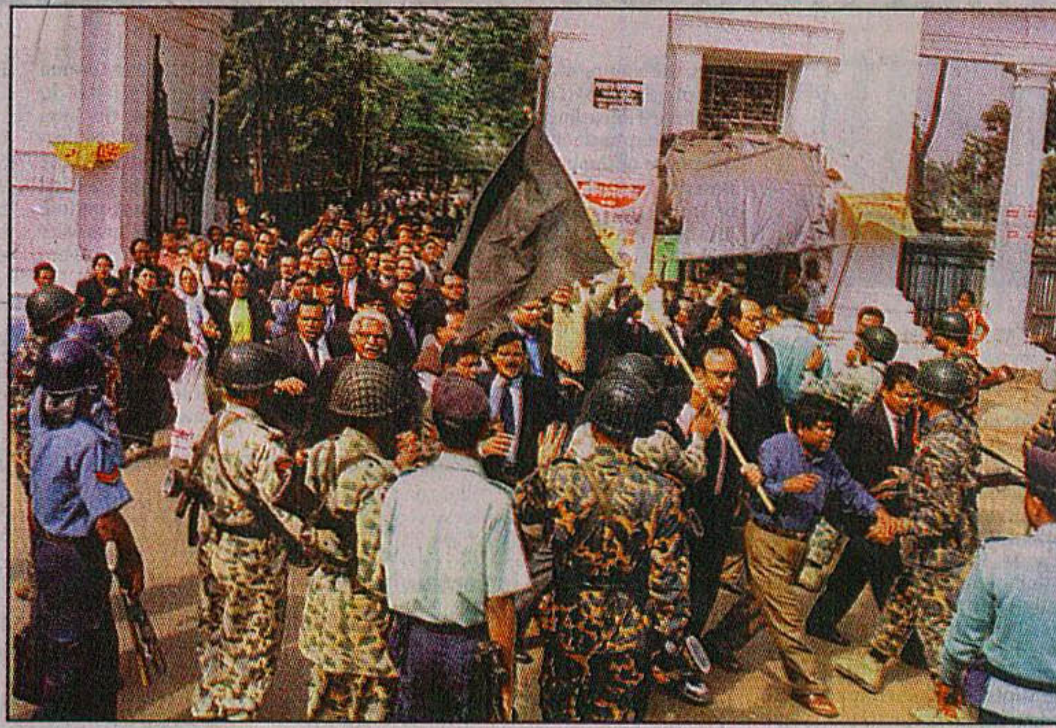


PHOTO: STAR

Police and paramilitary BDR intercept a procession of lawyers as they tried to march down the road from the High Court during hartal hours yesterday protesting the Habiganj grenade attack that killed former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and four other Awami League activists on Thursday.

# Call for ban on grenade production

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Peace activists yesterday called for a worldwide ban on production of grenades and conventional bombs as these are being used against humanity.

If there is a necessity for Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and restriction on the use of landmine, it is high time that the countries must stop manufacturing grenades and conventional bombs, said advocate Syed Shah Alam, founder of the World Peace Organisation, at a discussion.

"Bangladesh is one of the countries most devastated by the use of grenades," he said.

Shah Alam said the United States, the United Kingdom and the Scandinavian countries are among those producing such deadly device and "our clear call is that they ban its production."

"It is obviously an inhuman act

to produce grenades being used for killing people," said advocate Khorshed Alam.

Renowned diplomat and senior politician Shah AMS Kibria, among other four, is the latest victim of grenade attack in Bangladesh, said court reporter Zubaidul Islam.

"We must act unitedly against the production of bombs, grenades and weapons of mass destruction and killing of humans across the world," he said.

He also called on the bomb-producing countries to use the money for the welfare of people.

Advocates Khalilur Rahman, Md Shahidullah, Nazrul Islam and Rafiqul Islam Aka also spoke.

Held at Dhaka Bar Association auditorium, the discussion was organised as part of an international campaign against the production of grenades and conventional bombs.

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# FEAR OF 'CROSSFIRE DEATH'

## Over 200 prisoners in Khulna prefer jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Over 200 Khulna District Jail inmates, mostly criminals fearful of 'crossfire death', prefer being behind bars to getting freed, said jail sources.

A high official of the prison said most of those criminals had asked their lawyers not to move any petition for bail.

A Khulna jail source said all of those inmates face severe criminal charges including murder. According to jail code, they are to be treated as dreaded criminals.

"We are scared of Rab (Rapid Action Battalion)," said a notorious criminal who had been sentenced to death in Awami League leader SMA Rob murder case. The Daily Star talked to him on Friday in the visitors' room when his relatives went to see him.

"There are strong grounds for me to get bail from higher court. But I'm afraid I might get killed in crossfire if I get out of jail," he said.

Meanwhile, the Khulna District Jail authorities have taken special security measures restricting movement of convicts and under-trial prisoners, said Jail Superintendent Farhad Mian.

Without a prompt and vigorous investigation anchored firmly in the due process of law, those responsible for these acts of terror will not be brought to justice and a climate of impunity will prevail.

The high commission also extended its condolences to the bereaved families of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and of the other victims who were killed.

It also expressed sympathy for those injured in the attack and wished their early recovery.

# Canada condemns Habiganj carnage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Canadian government has expressed shock and concern over the brutal January 27 attack on the opposition rally in Habiganj and condemned it in the strongest terms.

The High Commission of Canada in a press release yesterday called on the government of Bangladesh to investigate thoroughly the January 27 attack and similar incidents over the past year.

The Presidency University (PU) authorities have postponed the national seminar on 'Sustainable Management of Urban Solid Waste' due to unavoidable circumstances.

The Centre for Excellence and Professional Development of the university organised the seminar which was scheduled to be held on the campus today.

The new date will be announced later, says a press release.

# Criminals hurl bombs on mob in Ctg: 2 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were injured when a mob of criminals hurled bombs on a mob chasing them at Chawk Bazar in the port city yesterday.

Bishu Aich, 32, a shop employee, was injured critically as a bomb exploded on his head. He is now undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Another injured Joyal was given the first aid.

Police and witnesses said the gang of three criminals attacked a business firm of Abdul Jabbar Sawdagor at Chawk Bazar Market at around 11.30am.

# ENGINEER MURDER Dispute with neighbour may have led to killing: Police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A feud with a neighbour may have led to the killing of engineer Abdul Hamid Biswas at Dakkhin Khan in Uttara on Saturday, police said yesterday.

A gang of criminals entered the house of Hamid, a consultant of LGRD, cutting open the grille of the kitchen in the early hours of Saturday and shot him dead. His daughter Farah Hamid was also shot.

"We are almost certain that a dispute with his neighbour Joyal Mollah over naming a road and some other matters could be the motive for the killing," said Officer-in-Charge of Uttara Police Station.

Sayedda, wife of Hamid, filed a case against five members of their neighbour on Saturday night. However, police declined to disclose the names of the accused for the sake of investigation.

The law enforcers arrested Bipu, a relative of Joyal's family, yesterday suspecting his involvement in the killing.

Local Union Parishad member Nurul Islam said there was a dispute between Hamid and Joyal. He, however, could not say whether it was an incident of robbery or a pre-planned killing.

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