

## Kibria family warned

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my husband," Asma Kibria told a press briefing at her Dharmundi residence. She was announcing the 'silent, peaceful protest' programme taken up for today to demand impartial investigations into all political killings and a stop to violence. The countrywide programme starts from 3:00pm to continue till 3:30pm.

Alleging that the government has been harassing them in many ways, she asked, "Don't I have the right to seek justice in a democratic country?"

Referring to a particular news item aired recently on a private television channel owned by a ruling party member, she said it was used to propagate a threat against Kibria family. She, however, did not utter the name.

Rejecting allegations of tarnishing the country's image, she asked, "How could seeking justice damage the reputation of the country?"

"The government has already smeared the country by killing internationally-famed economist SAMS Kibria," she added.

Mrs Kibria called upon people from all walks of life, especially the pro-liberation forces, to unite in opposition to the rise of religious extremists. "Wherever you are, please join these protest."

Asma asked people to wear black badge and stand in an open space with a black flag in hand for today's protest.

She said that the family would also launch an international campaign against the killing of the former finance minister.

Seeking a robust role by the country's freedom fighters in the movement, she said their presence will renew the spirit of the youth and remind them of the great courage that Bengalis once showed to earn independence.

She said this when a delegation of the Mukti Joddha Sangsads led by Dr ABD Zafarullah and Mohammad Salahuddin visited her at the Dharmundi residence.

Recalling the contribution of freedom fighters to freeing the country,

## Bhuiyan blames

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Bangladesh and political situation in Nepal," Bhuiyan said, adding, "The political crisis in Nepal is an internal matter and the security situation in Bangladesh is quite good."

"The killing of Kibria is an isolated incident and such an incident does not prove that the government is unable to ensure security for a few weeks," he said.

He said the AL is trying to reap political benefit from Kibria's killing.

BNP will hold a rally at Muktangan in the city and all the districts across the country on February 7 protesting 'destructive politics of AL', Bhuiyan said.

## Georgian PM

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Zhvania, 41, was at a friend's apartment when the leak occurred, Interior Minister Vano Merabishvili said in a live broadcast on Rustavi-2 television.

"It is an accident," Merabishvili said. "We can say that poisoning by gas took place."

## Ministry asked

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approval again, but the committee sent it back to the ministry saying the proposal needed to be trimmed down.

The committee felt that the ministry was offering the contractor excess benefits. The 5km Jatrabari to Gulistan flyover project is being awarded to Belhsa-Acom JV, a Bangladesh-UAE-India joint venture.

It (cabinet body) instructed the ministry to revise the proposal in conformity with the newly approved Bangladesh Private Sector Infrastructure Guideline (BPSIG) within 15 days.

Belhsa-Acom JV has been enlisted in the private infrastructure projects. This is the first such enlistment since the BPSIG was approved a few months ago.

The proposal did not reflect the (BPSIG) guideline. We have told (the ministry officials) to trim the proposal as per the guideline," Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman told journalists after the cabinet committee meeting.

The proposal says the government will acquire land for the project and give it to Belhsa. And the government will pay demurrage to the private developer if the traffic flow over the flyover is less than 70 percent of the estimated flow.

The Belhsa consortium has also been offered exemption of tax, VAT and excise although a year ago the cabinet committee had clearly said that this was not acceptable.

"They suggested tax, VAT exemption. We said this is not possible. Our local investors are not given this opportunity-- why will we give it to the foreign companies? It is not possible to give such benefits by distorting the fiscal or monetary system," said Saifur.

The flyover toll rates proposed by the ministry range between Tk 5 and Tk 200. For a single trip on the flyover, a motorcyclist will have to pay Tk 5 each time, a CNG autorickshaw Tk 10, car Tk 35, minibus Tk 100 and trailer Tk 200.

The toll rates should be

## Indian train collides with tractor: 42 die

AFP, New Delhi

try from Pakistani repression, she said "My husband was one of you and I know that even his own modest contributions to the struggle for liberation had not gone unappreciated. You, the 'band of brothers' who won freedom for our country, is one short of a member today."

"Still, enough of you are left to make a difference, to turn the tide of the battle, and to sweep away the forces of evil," she added.

The delegation requested Asma Kibria to lead the movement against violence and anarchy instigated by the axis of anti-liberation forces.

Replying to a query, she said they did not request postponement of the Saarc Summit. But the government could have done that on its own, she said adding, "Kibria had drafted the original Saarc charter. I feel bad when I see lights glow bright as part of holding the Saarc summit."

Earlier, leaders of Mukti Joddha Sanghati Parishad and Amra Mukti Joddha Santan met her to express solidarity with today's programme.

Organisations that expressed solidarity include Communist Party Bangladesh (CPB), Sammilito Aijibji Parishad, Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad and Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad.

Our CU correspondent adds: The Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) yesterday expressed their solidarity with today's 30-minute 'silent protest'.

Cuta in a statement said they would come up with all-out cooperation for the movement spearheaded by Asma Kibria.

The Cuta leaders also requested the civil society members to gather on the local Shaheed Minar premises at 3pm today to register protest at the brutal killing of SAMS Kibria.

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