



PHOTO: STAR

Politicians, professionals and academics observe one minute's silence at a citizens' condolence meeting in memory of former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday. Sammilita Nagorik Samaj organised the meeting.

## Citizens' meet demands fair probe into Kibria killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Politicians, professionals and academics yesterday paid tribute to slain former finance minister and Awami League leader Shah AMS Kibria and recalled his contribution to the War of Liberation and diplomatic arena.

At a citizens' condolence meeting, they also demanded a fair investigation into the January 27 grenade attack that killed Kibria and four others in Habiganj.

They called on the pro-liberation forces to be united against those who are carrying out such attacks across the country.

Sammilita Nagorik Samaj, an organisation of different professional bodies, arranged the condolence meeting at the Central Shaheed Minar. "Kibria was one of the civil servants in the then East Pakistan who left his job immediately after the country's independence was proclaimed," said

Abdul Jalil, general secretary of the Awami League.

He blasted the government for its failure to ensure security even for the opposition lawmakers.

The government is trying to cling to power by eliminating the pro-liberation forces, Jalil said and called on all to be united to resist such activities of the ruling alliance.

Reza Kibria, son of Kibria, said his family will continue their movement until the killers are brought to book.

"I want a proper investigation and trial of the killers of my father. If everybody works together, it will be possible to bring the killers to justice," he said, adding that the movement launched by his family will be peaceful.

President of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique said Kibria was a successful finance minister of the country.

He said the January 27 grenade

attack took place because of the government's failure to track down the masterminds of the August 21 grenade attack.

Prof Anisuzzaman said although the criminals are carrying out bomb attacks one after another, the government has turned a blind eye to such destructive acts.

He recalled Kibria's contribution in mobilising public opinion abroad during the liberation war.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, Workers Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas, Justice KM Sobhan, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, AL leader Dr SA Malek, President of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Nasiruddin Yousuf and Editor of The Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury also spoke.

## 8 women AL leaders get bail

### Lawyers allege torture by police, outsiders in custody

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Metropolitan Magistrate Shafiq Anwar yesterday granted bail to eight women Awami League leaders arrested during hartal hours on Sunday.

The court gave the order upon a bond of Tk 2000 each with two guarantors.

Earlier, the defence lawyers told the court that police and a group of unknown people assaulted them physically and mentally in their custody.

The leaders are Nazma Akhter, Keshoara Gulshan Salma, Biplobi Al Majhi, Sahida Zaman Shuva, Anjuman Ara Rina, Jharna Kar, Parul Akhter and Tania Alam Munshi.

Moving the bail petitions, Advocate Sahara Khatun told the court that Khilgaon police arrested the eight female leaders from a procession during hartal hours at Khilgaon Railgate area at about 11:00am on February 6. Later, they were taken to Balur Math at Matuail outside Khilgaon Police Station. After a while, a group of unknown people went there on a microbus and hurled abusive language to the leaders, the lawyer said.

Sahara said the opposition political parties called the hartal protesting the killing of former finance minister and AL Advisory Committee member Shah AMS Kibria.

The leaders were beaten by police and forwarded to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on Sunday afternoon after showing them arrested in a case

filed with the same police station on January 29 on charges of setting ablaze a minibus, Sahara Khatun told the court.

She appealed to the court on February 6 to write down her submissions about the torture on the leaders. But the court did not do it and rejected the bail petitions and ordered to send them to the Dhaka Central Jail.

## Saudi food for the distressed

UNB,Dhaka

The Saudi government has sent 200 metric tonnes of food for the distressed families in Bangladesh.

Abdul Rahman Bin Ibrahim Al-Saloum, a representative of Saudi Finance Ministry, handed over the food items to Food and Disaster Management Ministry Secretary Muhammd Fazlur Rahman at the ministry yesterday.

The government thanked the Saudi government for providing the food assistance.

The food items include rice, bicut, powdered milk, salt, noodles and pulses.

"The foodstuffs will be distributed among the distressed families in villages soon," an official release said.

