

# Saber accuses

**FROM PAGE 12**  
To cite an example of the 'BNP's role in patronising killers of Bangabandhu', he said some officials of the foreign ministry and the Bangladesh mission in Canada arranged through forgery a Bangladeshi passport for Major Noor, one of the convicts in the Bangabandhu murder case.

He said the government did not even deny the passport affair of Major Noor when reports about it surfaced in the media.

"Our investigations too suggest that the government had provided him with a fresh passport. We would come up with the evidence in due course," Saber said.

He observed that the BNP government gave Noor the Bangladeshi passport to enable him to flee to another country when the Canadian government put pressure on the Bangladesh government to bring back Noor, who was illegally staying in Canada.

The present climate of impunity is not confined to recent acts of political terrorism, rather it goes far beyond as the government allows even the murderers, who have been sentenced to death by the country's highest court, to operate with sheer impunity, Saber, also the AL organising secretary, added.

He blamed the government for what he termed its obstruction of the course of investigations into the August 21 grenade attack, the killing of

Ahsanullah Master MP and Shah AMS Kibria MP, and the attack on the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

Referring to other political killings and to the recovery of huge arms caches from Chittagong and Bogra, he said, "We have noticed that investigations into these incidents were either obstructed, delayed or twisted under an evil plan - even the main accused has been killed."

Besides, Saber alleged that the government is using delay tactics in executing the verdicts in many a settled case to protect the convicts.

The political secretary to the AL president said there has not been any progress in the investigation of the August 21-grenade attacks that left 24 people dead. Whereas, the government acted promptly to arrest and punish the alleged culprits who threatened to blow up Hawa Bhaban.

Saber blasted the government for halting the inquiries into the previous bomb attacks. If the inquiries opened during the last AL rule were allowed (by the present government) to be completed, then the situation would have gotten so bad, he added.

He said now is the time when nothing but the rule of lawlessness reigns. Instead of accountability and transparency, whims and caprice are increasingly becoming the language of governance.

# AL to join JS to protest

**FROM PAGE 1**  
today on joining the parliament session that resumes this afternoon.

Opposition Whip Faruk Khan told The Daily Star, "We should join the parliament session as part of our anti-government movement."

The ALWC, which sits this morning, will also take some crucial decisions in light of the volatile political situation prevailing since the death of Kibria in grenade blasts on January 27, sources said.

The ALWC meeting is likely to witness a lively debate as the party policymakers are reportedly split in their approach to joining parliament. While some of them have already expressed to the party chief their views in favour of joining, others suggested for an all-out movement including the boycott of parliament.

"It is almost certain that we are not joining parliament today. Hopefully, we would join the session from the next day to participate in the discussion on presidential address," a senior AL leader said adding, "We should not lose the opportunity to blast the government by participating in the discussion."

Meanwhile, AL lawmakers have already submitted about 40 notices to the parliament secretariat demanding discussion on different issues. If the party decides to join parliament, AL deputies said they would submit more notices in a couple of days.

Earlier the party lawmakers had demanded that the scheduled

business of the House be adjourned to have discussions on, among other issues, deaths in 'crossfire' and alleged government support for Bangla Bhai men. The AL has long been demanding discussions on the issues, but the speaker had repeatedly rejected the demands while the treasury bench refused to discuss those in parliament.

**JS SESSION RESUMES**  
The 15th session of the Jatiya Sangsad that began on January 31 without the main opposition resumes this afternoon. AL lawmakers boycotted parliament in protest at the speaker's refusal to defer the presidential address for a day and adjourn the House after adopting the obituary reference to the former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

After President Iajuddin Ahmed addressed parliament amidst absence of AL and Jatiya Party (Ershad) lawmakers, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar adjourned the session till 4:30 pm of February 8.

Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain would place thanks giving motion on the presidential address in parliament and the discussion is likely to start from today, parliament secretariat sources said.

Three other bills including one for proposing a ban on advertisement on tobacco products and smoking in public places will be placed in parliament. Besides, at the beginning of the session, a one-hour question-answer session will be held.

# BTRC to pay Tk 48

**FROM PAGE 12**  
the Infrastructure Investment Facilitation Centre (IIFC) to provide consulting services for fixed telephone licences.

According to the agreement, the IIFC was to prepare the request for proposal (RFP) document, evaluate the bids, issue letter of intent, and negotiate the deal on behalf of the BTRC. To do this job, the BTRC would not require to pay anything to the IIFC.

The IIFC however failed to deliver and kept on falling behind its schedule. Finally, the disappointed BTRC dumped the IIFC and began processing the private fixed telephone licences with its own resources in 2004, two years after appointing the IIFC.

The IIFC, which is the consulting company of the Economic Relations Division under the finance ministry, claimed Tk 1 crore from the BTRC for the services it had failed to deliver.

Khandker Abu Bakar, BTRC's then commissioner for legal and licensing department, had vehemently opposed paying the IIFC as there was no such provision in the agreement. But his fellow commissioners favoured payment.

"I clearly wrote in the file that BTRC may, at best, reimburse IIFC's costs in their unsuccessful venture," said Khandker Abu Bakar. "But they never produced any expense vouchers in this regard."

Abu Bakar firmly believes the IIFC never spent more than Tk 10 lakh to hire the Canadian consultants. Moreover, the Canadian government paid for those consultants as a grant to the IIFC. "Therefore, BTRC should not have paid anything to IIFC," say the former commissioner.

"We received the finance ministry's green signal and Khandker Abu Bakar had reluctantly consented to the amendment of paying to IIFC," admitted Syed Marghub Murshed, BTRC's former chairman.

He also admitted that such concession would not have been made to any private outfit. "IIFC has received less than half of the amount it had claimed and we have just transferred the fund from the government's one account to another," said the former regulatory body chief without justifying it.

Abu Bakar, however, expects audit objection to this controversial payment to the IIFC, which the new set up of BTRC commissioners may face.

The government, meanwhile, is

# Outlaw dies in 'crossfire'

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushlia**

A regional leader of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) was killed in 'crossfire' in Shihala village in Daulatpur upazila yesterday. Shahin Mollah, accused of 10 criminal offences including two murders, was arrested from his house in Shihala village Sunday, Daulatpur police said.

They added that after interrogation, they took him to his village to seize his firearms. As police reached Pakkola Bridge at about 3:45am, PBCP cadres opened fire on them, they said.

The law-enforcers claimed Shahin made an attempt to escape and was caught in the line of fire and died on the spot. Police seized one pistol and eight bullets.

# Politicians

**FROM PAGE 1**  
.government. When he wanted time to think on the matter, the police official left the gunman. Asked to comment on the matter, Rakan told The Daily Star, "No comment."

Among the AL leaders AMA Muhi, Amir-Ul-Islam, KM Shafullah, Sajeda Chowdhury, Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim, Abdus Sahid, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Dr Abdur Razzak Bhola and Asaduzzaman Noor were given gunmen.

The government earlier appointed gunmen to 51 secretaries of the government in March last year and later in May to 119 VIPs.

Some editors of different dailies were also provided with gunmen then.

# Opposition

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) and 11-party alliance are set to announce almost identical programmes including a 48-hour hartal on February 16-17. Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) also announces a separate month-long programme today.

Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina today addresses a press conference in the city at 6:00pm.

JSD (Inu) and 11-party alliance will also hold separate briefings at 3:00pm and 12noon.

The BDB is set to announce its programmes at a news conference at 11:00am.

Sources said the combined opposition would announce yet another round of anti-government movement programmes on February 21.

# ACC

**FROM PAGE 1**  
dissolved the Bac.

Justice Sultan insisted that the ACC act automatically puts the Bac staff under the ACC payroll. But Miah said the act dictates that the Bac staff do not belong to the ACC until they are screened under a rule that has not been framed yet.

Miah was also aggrieved that the ACC was taking some decisions without holding any meeting of the three-member body.

Sources said the ACC in December abruptly took its first anticorruption move by sending a letter to secretaries to different ministries asking them to report on the whereabouts of about 2,000 government vehicles.

In mid-January, when Miah received a file on this matter from the chairman, he wrote strong notes terming the inquiry "illegal". This enraged the commission chairman and the other commissioner, sources said.

The chairman had also sent him a file saying that some of the ex-Bac staff would be hired by the ACC temporarily. Miah again objected to it saying that "this is not possible."

The ACC at a meeting on January 15 decided that the government should withdraw immediately the five former directors of the Bac, as the commission could be not run smoothly.

But on January 31, the chairman alone in a letter requested the government not to withdraw three of these five and allow them to work with the commission for a temporary period. This enraged Miah.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet Division in a letter to the ACC on January 29 said that some of the Bac officials had been holding 'non-existing' positions and issuing letters on behalf of the ACC.

"This is illegal and contrary to service discipline," the letter said adding that if necessary the government will take legal steps against them.

But till date some former Bac officials are using such non-existing designations. A Bac official as the director (administration) of ACC issued a letter on Sunday regarding an internal meeting on the commission's activities.

The government has so far approved the creation of 36 different posts in the ACC. The ACC yesterday finalised a draft structure for the posts. It will now need government approval for appointment against the posts.

If this structure is made effective, the ex-Bac staff who have been working in the ACC will not be able to continue working there. This prompted some of these officials to persuade the chairman to change this draft, sources said.

Justice Sultan noted, "We shall soon write to the government to allow the ACC to expand its areas of activity so that we can investigate scams related to foreign exchange, passport, forgery etc."

# Kibria's son slates

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Speaker's statements need to be carefully analysed.

He continued, "My father might have lived had he been transported to Dhaka by helicopter. The Speaker has failed in his duty to help arrange this [helicopter] and my family, I and all our friends across the country want to know why."

Like others holding office in the BNP-Jamaat government, the Speaker has acted with impunity in the past and hidden behind a web of lies and deceit, Reza added.

Dr Reza, speculating that perhaps the Speaker had given instructions "not to be disturbed under any circumstances," put forward a question whether the Speaker was aware of the circumstances that would ensue.

He added, "Note that he made no effort to go to the BIRDEM hospital when much of Dhaka became aware of what had happened and a large number of people had gone there to await the arrival of the ambulance carrying my father."

Referring to the statement of the Speaker, Reza said, "He is displeased with me and I with him because of his 'wilful negligence.'"

Reza speculated that the Speaker either had a "diplomatic illness" lasting just until Shah AMS Kibria was dead, or that he fell asleep at 7pm and could not be awakened, or even perhaps that he does not have a television or radio set.

He said society is now running by a government that can not even help arrange a helicopter or even an ambulance for a 73-year-old person. Dr Reza ended by saying, "I am not making anyone responsible. I have just presented available facts."

Later Asma Kibria said, "I want a trial for the government. There has to be a complete neutral investigation and punishment of the killing."

She said, "I know if people join with us the government will be bound to have the trial." She urged people all strata of life to join the silent sit-in to be held on February 12 from 4.30pm to 5pm. Another programme will be announced on February 9, she added.

Meanwhile, in a demand for trial of the killing of Kibria, they will likely start a signature collection programme today, using waterproof red felt pens for the signatures on a 10-year long and 45-inch wide US-made cloth at districts levels, with the help of women and human rights organisations. A human chain will follow, Asma Kibria said.

# Habiganj BNP

**FROM PAGE 1**  
picked up Saturday from his house in Dhaka.

Habiganj police showed him arrested under Section 54 for 'suspicious movement' the next day.

The police have so far arrested six BNP activists after the January grenade attack, but did not place any of them under the carnage cases. One of them has been sent to jail, while five others including Quaiyum are on remand.

Investigators are now verifying at the field level the clues and information they got from the four people, other than Quaiyum, during remand.

Two cases were filed after the attack on an Awami League rally that left former finance minister lawmaker SAMS Kibria and four others dead.

Criminal Investigation Department is probing the murder case, while the officer-in-charge of Habiganj Police Station is investigating the other case filed under the Explosives Act.

# RU postpones recruitment of teachers' in Arabic deptt

**RU CORRESPONDENT**

Authorities of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday postponed recruitment of seven teachers in Arabic department on an ad hoc basis.

The decision came after The Daily Star had carried reports on the 'controversial' recruitment. The RU authorities had planned to recruit seven teachers in Arabic department without the knowledge of the concerned planning committee.

Earlier, two of the six-member planning committee met the RU vice-chancellor and submitted a protest letter. They also expressed their concern saying the authorities did not inform them about the selection.

Sources said groups belonging to ruling BNP and Jamaat and Ahle Hadith in RU forced the postponement, threatening the authorities with agitation if their candidates are ignored.

The chairman of Arabic department, Prof Dr Abdul Haque confirmed the postponement and said the VC ordered for it in the wake of newspaper reports.

# 5yr-old girl raped

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a neighbour in Kathapur village in Savar on Sunday.

Titu, 18, lured the girl into his room at about 2:30pm and raped her, sources said.

As the girl cried out, a neighbour rushed to the scene and found Titu dash off from his room.

The girl was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

The duty officer of Savar Police Station admitted the incident and said they are trying to arrest the youth.

# BNP holds

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The BNP leader and minister asserted that the government would ensure trial of the killing of Kibria, and unearth all bomb blast incidents to punish those responsible.

Turning to violence during the hartals, he said the AL has resorted to killing of police personnel and innocent people because it is losing public support.

He asked the AL to give up efforts to make political gains from killings and to join parliament session.

The main opposition party might get around 40 seats in the House if elections take place now, Bhuiyan thought.

The BNP will announce similar rallies at all upazila headquarters on February 14, Bhuiyan said.

Chaired by city BNP chief and Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khokha, the rally was addressed, among others, by ministers Dr

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar, Tariqul Islam, Nazmul Huda, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Shahjahan Siraj, Amanullah Aman, Kurshid Zahan Haq and Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and party leaders Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Barkatullah Bulu, Salahuddin Ahmed, MP Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, MP Abdus Salam, Abul Kashem Chowdhury and JCD leaders Azizul Barea Helal and Shaful Bari Babu.

# Seven held

**FROM PAGE 12**  
activists and 20 others unidentified people in connection with the attack on the police.

Nalitabari AL leaders Abdul Halim and Mukhseder Rahman Lebu and BCL leaders Jahangir Alam and Tariqul Islam are also accused in the cases.

# Project proposal

**FROM PAGE 12**  
The finance minister has now initiated a revision of the ADP. Yesterday, the minister sat with Planning Commission members and finalised a policy for the revision.

"Flood-related projects will get the highest priority in the revision," said a planning ministry top official. "The twin floods of last year had caused the nation a damage of around Tk 12,000 crore. We had earlier asked different ministries to send us lists of projects which are related to flood rehabilitation. They have sent us the lists."

He mentioned that the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) would provide about Tk 2,500 crore for implementation of projects related to flood rehabilitation. "Besides, we will reallocate unutilised or low priority funds of different ministries to these flood rehabilitation projects."

The government will also emphasise completing the 290 projects which are scheduled to end within this fiscal year. For this, the government will enhance their allocations, if necessary.

Out of the 330 new projects, the government has approved 109. The remaining projects will be listed again in the next year's ADP and dropped from the current one.

There are some projects which have legal battles over them. This led to suspension of their implementation. They will be reviewed within this month and the government will decide whether some of them can be pursued or not.

The revised ADP will also make increased allocation for road construction and repair in Dhaka. Besides, the government will increase allocations for a number of new municipalities.

If the prime minister has some priority projects, the revised ADP will accommodate them, sources said.

There are 158 foreign-aided projects without any allocation. If the government can convince foreign donors to release funds through negotiations, the projects will be added to the revised ADP. Otherwise, they will be dropped.

# Cop firing kills 1

**FROM PAGE 12**  
The injured, Abdul Karim, 30, Jalal, 12, Liton, 40, Tipu Hazari, 30, Rafiqul Islam, 35, Hanif, 32, Shafiq, 16, Paltu, 18, Siraj, 22 and Mamun, 18, were admitted to Kishoreganj General Hospital at about 5:30pm.

Of them, Jalal, Rafiqul, Liton, and Karim were later shifted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

More than 100 others, including Magistrate Amirul Islam and Assistant Police Superintendent Joyanal Abedin, were injured when the BNP and AL activists were locked in a clash.

Awami League has called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Kishoreganj district today to protest the police action.

According to witnesses, Mizanul Haq, former AL MP, came here from Dhaka to hold a series of rallies to protest the killing of former finance minister SAMS Kibria in Habiganj grenade attack. He was scheduled to hold a rally at Shibir Bazar near Gujadia Bazar yesterday afternoon.

Mizanul was leading a big procession of party activists, who were wielding sticks. Police led by two magistrates obstructed the procession at Gujadia Bazar and requested Mizanul to go for the rally, leaving behind the sticks.

But the militant AL activists broke the police barricade and confronted the BNP activists who were holding an anti-hartal rally at Gujadia School ground.

As the situation went out of control, police fired more than 200 teargas shells and gunshots in a bid to disperse the warring groups.

Police Superintendent Mallik

# Nepal

**FROM PAGE 12**  
or his representatives through an international mediator on an agenda that included elections to a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution.

"The Maoist issue must be debated in the democratically-elected house because there are no military solutions," Bood told AFP after crossing into Uttaranchal's Champawat district on Saturday.

# DCCI meets PM

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The newly elected executive committee of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) met the prime minister at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

Led by the DCCI President Saiful Islam, the 22-member delegation included, among others, Senior Vice-President Monzur Ur Rahman, Vice-President Afsar Karim Chowdhury and director AYM Kamal.

At the outset of the meeting, the DCCI president put forward a number of suggestions for immediate implementation by the government for the survival of country's industries in the present global free-market economy.

The suggestions include bringing local laws and rules in conformity with the international trade laws and discipline, including making Sunday the weekly holiday.

The DCCI chief called upon the government to form productivity council to increase efficiency in production, widen export basket and for socioeconomic development of the rural areas.

The business leader also suggested short, medium and long-term plans for management of the chaotic Dhaka traffic that is deterrent to productivity. The short-term plans include making some of the roads one-way while mid-term solutions include construction of circular road around Dhaka and determining speedways.

For improving the living condi-

Fakhrul Islam said they were compelled to open fire to avert the bloody clash and bring the situation under control.

Condemning the police action, Mizanul said the BNP under the banner of its student front JCD organised a rally to frustrate his public meeting in connivance with the police.

Education Minister M Oman Farooq, MP of the area, told reporters by phone after the incident that the JCD rally was scheduled earlier. As the rival groups were poised to hold rallies within 200 yards, the administration deployed police at Gujadia Bazaar to avert any clash.

"I regret the incident," he said and expressed sympathy for those who fell victims to the police action.

# Ctg hartal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Bonorupa at around 1:30pm during the hartal.

Witnesses said she was beaten by the policemen who were in action chasing a pro-hartal procession passing the area.

Shameema received injuries to the chest, back and right hand. After primary treatment in Rangamati, she was shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in the afternoon as her condition deteriorated, family sources said.

The hartal was enforced by district unit Awami League (AL) in protest against Sunday's attack on a pro-hartal procession allegedly by the ruling BNP men that left 20 AL leaders and activists injured.

The police did not allow the AL men to hold rally or bring out procession during the hartal. They chased the pickets and pedestrians and resorted to baton charge when they tried to gather at the main points of the town.

However, the four-party ruling alliance brought out a procession and held a rally on the DC office premises at noon, where Deputy Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan spoke.

The ruling BNP men lodged four cases against 65 AL leaders and activists blaming them for Sunday's incident in the town.

tions for foreign buyers visiting Dhaka, he said areas like Gulshan should be strictly earmarked residential and high-rise commercial buildings should not be allowed.

He urged the government to ensure improvement in utility connections like gas, water and power.

To cope with the highly technical WTO situation, he suggested that the government should properly utilise foreign-trained bureaucrats for improving negotiating skill during international agreements.

Saiful Islam also called for improving banking facilities for women entrepreneurs and taking up policies for providing technical expertise to SMEs.

Welcoming the newly elected executive committee of the DCCI, the prime minister assured that her government is always sincere in providing necessary support to the private sector.

Responding to the suggestions, she reminded that the government has set up technical training centers in divisional headquarters to build up skilled manpower.

She said the government is considering the idea of making some of the city roads one-way and will be starting waterways around the capital very soon.

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury and Adviser to the Commerce Ministry Barkatullah Bulu were also present.

# Twin suicide blasts

**FROM PAGE 12**  
mounted frequent attacks on Iraqi security forces, but failed in their bid to wreck the Jan. 30 election despite sending several suicide bombers to polling centers.

Since then there have been dozens on attacks, but few as deadly as Monday's.

Also Monday, insurgents shelled a police station in Mosul with more than a dozen mortar rounds, killing three civilians, a police official said.

There was still no word on the fate of four Egyptian engineers who were kidnapped in Baghdad on Sunday as they left their home to work on an Iraqi mobile phone project.

The abduction appeared to be part of an ongoing attempt by militants to disrupt the rebuilding of Iraq and came two days after the brazen kidnapping of an Italian journalist.

Giuliana Sgreni, a reporter with the communist newspaper Il Manifesto, was bundled into a car by gunmen as she conducted interviews on a Baghdad street in broad daylight.

An Islamist militant group that claims to have kidnapped her said on Monday it would "soon" decide her fate.

"We in the Jihad Organisation are still interrogating the prisoner and the legislative committee ... will issue a ruling in this regard soon," said the statement, signed by the Jihad Organization and posted on the Internet.

The group made no mention of a deadline it had set in an earlier statement which threatened to kill Sgreni by Monday if Italian troops did not leave Iraq.

In a separate Internet statement, al-Qaeda's group in Iraq denied it was involved in the kidnapping.

Italy has been an important ally of the United States in Iraq and has about 3,000 troops in the country, based mostly in the southern city of Nassiriya.

More than a week after the historic election, the result remains unknown, although electoral officials were expected to release updated partial results later and hope to complete the process by Thursday.

The count so far puts a religious Shia coalition in the lead by a long way with two-thirds of the vote, based on results from 35 percent of polling centers.

Boyed by its strong showing, the coalition is insisting it should get the prime minister's job in the new government. The post is currently held by Iyad Allawi, a secular Shia whose bloc is in second place with only 18 percent of the vote.

However, since most of the votes counted so far have come from Shia areas, results could change quickly - particularly when results from the Kurdish-dominated north are tallied. (Reuters, AP)

# Gas pipeline

**FROM PAGE 12**  
January 24 and India also suggested February 17-18 for the meet.

The press release also expressed the hope that the Technical Committee deliberations in Yangon will be successful, thereby paving the way for the early signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the gas pipeline.