

## Saber accuses

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To cite an example of the 'BNP's role in patronising killers of Bangabandhu', he said some officials of the foreign ministry and the Bangladeshi 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 within 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 government.

## Outlaw dies in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A regional leader of Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBPC) 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 Bazar at about 3:45am, PBPC 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

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

Among the AL leaders AMA Muhib, 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 Bholi 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.

## Opposition

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Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu) and 11-party alliance are set to announce almost identical programmes including a 48-hour hartal on February 16. Bikala Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) also announces a separate monthly 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

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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 not be 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-yard 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.

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## RU postpones recruitment of teachers' in Arabic deptt

OUR 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 'controversy' 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.

## 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.

## 5yr-old girl raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A five-year-old girl was allegedly raped by a neighbour in Kathalpur 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

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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, Bhuyan thought.

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

Chaired by city BNP chief and Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka, the rally was addressed, among others, by ministers Dr Khanda Mosharrif Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar, Tariqul Islam, Nazmul Huda, Abdulla Al Morshed, 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, Abdus Salam, Abdul Kashem Chowdhury and JCD leaders Azizul Bari Bari and Shafiqul Baru.

## Seven held

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activists and 20 others unidentified people in connection with the attack on the police.

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

## Project proposal

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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.

The group was just five days before the bomb blast on the Press Club premises, which seriously injured Hasan and three other Kushtia journalists.

## Cop firing kills 1

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The injured, Abdul Karim, 30, Jalal, 12, Liton, 40, Tipu Hazari, 30, Rafiqul Islam, 35, Hanif, 32, Shafiq, 16, Paltu, 22, 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.

Education Minister M Osman Farooq, MP of the area, told reporters by phone after the