### 30 AL men hurt

police charged batons and fired teargas shells to disperse a procession of the AL's youth wing in front of its Bangabandhu Avenue office.

Police went into action as the procession tried to break through police barricade after a rally on the party office premises, protesting the activities of militant groups in the country, repeated grenade attacks and price spiral of essentials.

The agitating opposition activists threw stones and damaged a number of passenger buses during a nearly half an hour clash with police that broke out soon after 5:00 pm.

Two policemen were injured in the clash. Sergeant B Amin had a fracture in his left hand and Faruk Hossain, a navek, in his leas.

Mirza Azam was given first aid for head injury Of the other injured, 20 were sent

to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. All are Jubo League workers of different ward units in the city. To protest the police action. Jubo

League will stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow, its Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok

He accused police of attacking

their peaceful procession without any provocation.

Earlier, addressing the rally, leaders of the AL and its youth front warned of tough programmes if the government tries to hinder their planned March 2 rally in the capital where opposition leader Sheikh Hasina is likely to announce the next phase of the oust-government movement.

Fall of the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government is now only a matter of time, they said and urged opposition workers and members of the public to intensify the current movement to end the misrule of the

The leaders accused the government of harbouring religious extremist groups and said antiliberation forces want to avenge their defeat in 1971 by turning the country into a dysfunctional state.

Speakers at the rally included AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Quader, Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Jahangir Kabir Nanok and Mirza Azam. City unit Jubo League leader Mohiuddin Mohi presided

"The papers submitted by the

government give the impression that

the government wants to divide the

judiciary and not separate it (from the

AAG Mohammad Ali then submit-

Rarrister Amir-Ul Islam, who has

ted, "We are taking initiatives to do it

been involved in the case for the

separation of the judiciary since 1999,

was also present at the court yester-

day. He said, "Three drafts have been

formulated for the separation of the

judiciary. As far as we know, none of

ese reflects the 12-point directive."

the Law Commission for review.

directives in this regard.

He proposed sending the drafts to

The court however rejected his

The nine government officials who

faced contempt charge were present

at the court yesterday. Advocate TH

Khan represented them. However

there was no hearing on the contempt

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan

the Asian Cooperation Dialogue

(ACD) in Islamabad on April 5-6. But

it could not be confirmed if Jiabao

would visit Dhaka after the ACD

Bangladesh at the dialogue in the

as the Chinese prime minister on

Al-Higma Chief

'We are not at all worried about

Kawsar or his position, but we are

really anxious about those who are

quiding Kawsar." said an investigat-

several lawyers and businessmen

of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj,

as well as an Islami Chhatra Shibir

leader of Khulna, have backed Al-

. "We are still checking his state-

Kawsar once claimed one of his

"He (Kawsar) repeatedly

patrons to be the Dubai-based

mafia don Daud Ibrahim, but later

denied the statement, saying, "I said

became involved with Al-Higma

even after being freed on bail in a

previous sedition case," said an

anonymous source, explaining why

the same charges were drafted

case against Kawsar on March 20,

Police filed their first sedition

Sources at the court said the trial

dates for that case have been kept

shifting because the post of CMM

has been lying vacant since

trates cannot hold trial of a sedition

have a long history of run-ins with

the police and the government. He

was first arrested on charges of

launch an armed struggle to turn

Bangladesh into an Islamic state.

"Simple metropolitan magis-

Kawsar and his organisation

December 17 last year.

case," said a lawyer.

ments and keeping a close eye on

certain individuals in the region,"

Higma on various occasions.

Quoting Kawsar, police said

Morshed will represent

Earlier, Zhu Rongji visited Dhaka

The Chinese premier will attend

Chinese PM

FROM PAGE 12

told reporters.

January 12, 2002.

ing source

said an official

it to gather attention."

proposal and noted that the Appellate

Division itself is the last post to see the

proceedings in implementing its

executive)." the court noted.

### SC asks govt

repeatedly been seeking time for submitting documents and implementing the task.

So far the government has sought time on 20 occasions showing various excuses since the Supreme Court issued a 12-point directive to the government in 1999 to implement the separation of the judiciary.

"Take time for the entire year of 2005 or for eternity -- is it a separation or a hide-and-seek?" the court angrily

"We want to see the separation of the judiciary in the light of the 12-point directive of the Supreme Court and the constitution. Everyone's responsibility is to carry out their tasks according to the constitution, but in this case it is not being done so," the court added.

"How this order (12-point directive) will be implemented depends on the sincere intentions (of the government)," the court pointed out.

On behalf of the government, Additional Attorney General (AAG) Mohammad Ali stated. "The government has taken the initiative to separate the judiciary from the executive as per the 12-point directive."

"Will the government implement the Supreme Court's directives as per the wisdom of the president or Khalilur Rahman (a senior assistant secretary)? Don't separate the judiciary from the executive as per the theory of Khalilur Rahman," the court said.

Khalilur Rahman is one of nine senior government officials against whom the Appellate Division had issued a contempt rule late last year for distorting the judgment of Masdar Hossain versus Bangladesh case popularly known as judiciary separa-

One of the judges then pointed to an attempt of distorting the 12-point directive by a bureaucrat and reminded again: "The government initiative must follow the Supreme Court directive and the constitution."

The court said the draft rules and other documents related to the separation of the judiciary submitted by the government were all unclear. This prompted the court to order the government to finalise them and re-submit

#### Saifur satisfied at Washington meet outcome

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman vesterday expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the donors' meeting in Washington and said the donors praised Bangladesh's development efforts in different areas including social sector.

"I was confident that there would be no tough decision against Bangladesh in the Washington meeting," Saifur told

"They (donors) expressed concerns about some noneconomic issues only," observed

2003, pressing a charge sheet He however once again against him and 11 of his links five expressed his disappointment days later on March 25. The case is now under trial at the chief metropolitan magistrate (CMM) court.

over the donors' meeting outside Bangladesh and without any government representation. "Any meeting on Bangladesh

should be held here instead of in a foreign country. The World Bank also share the same view." he said.

Asked about possibility of future meetings like the Washington one. he said there will be routine meetings with the Bank, the International Monitory Fund (IMF) and Local Consultative Group (LCG) in Dhaka to discuss different aspects of Bangladesh's develop-

South Asia Praful C Patel and discuss the outcome of the Washington meeting.

### JS session resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Quorum crisis feared

The parliament session resumes today after a four-day recess, while uncertainty of smooth functioning of the House is foreseen as quorum

crisis is likely to deepen further. A large number of the ruling party lawmakers have remained absent from the House proceedings for the last two weeks although the ruling party whips communicated with the party lawmakers with urge to join the House, sources said.

With absence of the main opposition Awami League, the House that began its session on January 31 witnessed quorum crisis almost every day due to the ruling party lawmakers' thin appearance.

Besides, Jatiya Party (Ershad), the second largest opposition in parliament, which boycotted the House on Thursday, is planning to stage a walk-out in protest against 'non-realisation' of its demand by the government, party sources said. The House was forced to adjourn

its sitting for four days on last Thursday due to quorum crisis. Earlier on February 10, speaker adjourned the sitting for the

#### Rab sets free listed criminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested on Friday night a listed criminal and Jubo Dal leader but set him free within hours, giving rise to

Rab yesterday gave contradictory versions to different national and local dailies about the identity of the Jubo Dal leader.

Tipped off, a team of Rab personnel in the guise of a bridal party went to a marriage ceremony at a community centre in the port city's Bahaddarhat area at about 9:00pm and caught Md Shafiqul Islam, a listed criminal and vice president of Chittagong south district unit of the ruling BNP's youth front.

He was taken to Rab-7 headquarters at Patenga but released the same night.

Shafiqul is an accused in 12 criminal cases for murder, abduction, robbery and other crimes, sources said.

Meanwhile, Rab officials yesterday morning told reporters the arrestee was Nurul Absar, an innocent person, and not Shafigul. But in the afternoon, they confirmed released as they found he was on bail in all the 12 cases

SAARC SUMMIT

#### Islamabad yet to communicate with Dhaka

UNB. Dhaka

Bangladesh has not yet received any official communication about Pakistan's reported intention to hold the stalled Saarc summit in Dhaka in mid-April.

Indian news agency PTI said quoting a Pakistani daily, the Nation, that the current Saarc chair had conveyed its intention to all member-states about the mid-April

"We've not received any formal request from current Saarc chair Pakistan," Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told reporters yester-

He however said, "I think the Saarc chair is trying to find a date convenient to all member-states, including host Bangladesh."

He added that it should also be looked into whether the reasons, for which a member-state had pulled out from the Dhaka summit scheduled for February 6-7, are still there or not. "I don't know whether that situation or their position has changed.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that the member-states will soon find a consensus date for the 13th summit of the seven-nation South Asian forum.

"Our commitment to the Saarc is total," he told the reporters.

### 5 of a family die in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Five people of a family, including two children, were killed in a road accident on Dhaka-Paturia highway in Bathulia in Dhamrai upazila in the early hours yesterday.

The dead are Tazul Islam Khan, 42, and his wife Rahima Begum Mukta, 35, their daughters Tania Akhter, 20, and Tonni Islam, 6 and son Apu Khan, 12. They hailed from Zoar Sahara in Badda in the capital.

Police said the accident occurred at about 4:30am when the

home after visiting his father-inlaw's house in Barisal, said his brother Abdul Haque Khan.

# Bodies may arrive

several ethnic and political armed militias, were killed at Bangladesh time 2:15pm Friday in one of the bloodiest attacks on a UN peacekeeping mission in recent years.

Eight of them were members of Bangladesh Army and one of Bangladesh Navy. They were part of a company protecting a camp for internally displaced people

According to the ISPR release, after an emergency recovery operation, the nine bodies were kept at the Bangladesh battalion headquarters in Bunia, the capital of Itura province of

With Friday's casualties, 48 Bangladeshi soldiers have been killed while in UN peacekeeping duty in the

**DHAKATO CONTINUE** PEACEKEEPING

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said, despite Friday's casualties, Bangladesh will continue participating in UN peacekeeping

He also mentioned that though many other countries had pulled back their troops earlier from Congo, Bangladesh did not "However we are thinking to be more cautious in the missions," he added.

Paving tribute to the dead peace keepers, the foreign minister told the press yesterday, "We are in close contact with the UN headquarters and the UN mission in Congo to bring the bodies back home at the earliest He said the government had talks

with the UN headquarters on a possible route to fly the bodies in but did not

On compensation to the victims families, Morshed said the UN will do it as per its procedure and they will also get benefits from Bangladesh as per CONDOLENCE

Condolence messages poured into Dhaka yesterday from across the

Paying homage to the murdered peacekeepers, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called on the transitional government of Congo to make every effort to find and hold accountable those responsible for the attack.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer said, "Nothing can justify the attack on soldiers who were entrusted by the international community to

that the German government condemns the criminal attack in the strongest terms.

Fischer said, "In these hours, our thoughts are with the families and friends of the murdered peacekeep-

#### **BEREAVED FAMILIES**

Of the nine killed in peacekeeping mission, Captain Shahid Ashraf Khan hailed from Kahalu upazila of Bogra district. Warrant Officer Sohrab Hossain Talukdar haled from Dhuly Gathy of Netrokona, Sergeant Sirajúl Haque from Mehendiganj of Barisal and Corporal Ataur Rahman Sarker from Palashbari of Gaibandha

Leading Seaman Nurul Islam hailed from Monglaport of Bagerhat district, and privates Abdus Salam (1) from Arajee Choraikhola of Nilphamari, Abdus Salam (2) from Charbongkhari of Manikgani, Zahirul Islam from Shibganj of Bogra and Belal Hossain from Astodrone of

People from crosswalks of the society thronged the houses of the murdered peacekeepers to condole the bereaved families

BDNEWS reports: A pall of gloom descended on Choraikhola village of UN peacekeeper Abdus Salam (Ĭ) as the news of his death spread. Salam had gone to Congo on August 14 last

His wife Sirajunnahar Lovely, a sub-inspector of police at Rangpur Kotwali Police Station, was wailing and repeatedly fainting. His eightyear-old daughter was crying aloud while his one and a-half-year-old son remained speechless.

His father Akbar Hossain was wailing and muttering. Wiping tears, Akbar said, "I want to bury my son with my own hands." He requested the government to make arrangements to

Salam's maternal uncle said "We are concerned about when we will get the body. The government did not inform us anything regarding this."

Our Manikganj correspondent reports: Private Abdus Salam (2) shifted to Thakurpara village in Kaliakair upazila of Gazipur district two years ago after the Padma river had eaten away their ancestral village of Charbongkhari

He left behind his wife Fatema Begum, son Adnan, 6, and daughter

## BB finds MD's hand

FROM PAGE 1

and Policy Department (BRPD) and Anti-Money Laundering Department of the central bank do so, the sources

According to a circular of BRPD, the banks should collect photographs of every account holder and his or her nominee while opening an account. But the Premier Bank branches did not comply with the rules in most cases.

Besides, the Anti-Money Laundering Department has a guide-line – 'know your customer' – that clearly says what to do in opening bank accounts. A client is supposed to fill in a

prescribed form of the bank concerned with his or her own signature, mentioning name and address and providing

photocopy of passport or a domicile certificate from local ward commis-"But it was found that in some cases accounts were opened without filling in such forms," a source added.

The BB probe team also found that some accounts did not have any address of the account holder while same address was mentioned in opening several thousand accounts, sources said.

In some cases the branches did not take the initial deposit needed for opening an account while no transaction took place against the accounts. "The way these bank accounts

have been opened is a criminal offence," said a former top official of the central bank. "It is clearly understandable that these accounts have been opened with a specific motive."

There may be some mistakes in opening one or two accounts. But hundreds of accounts have been opened in this particular case and it is obvious that it cannot happen without the involvement of the top management, a private bank official said. According to sources, the BB has

almost finalised an interim report of its investigation into the scam. The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on February 12 suspended a Tk 55 crore public floating of Premier Bank after around 25,000 fake beneficiary owners' (BO) accounts were found in its preliminary

investigation.
The Bangladesh Bank on February

### Curb terrorism

of leading women activists, while staging a candle light vigil at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

"Stop killings in the hands of Rab Cheetah. Cobra and so called Bangla Bhai," they said in a written statement at the vigil attended by top women activists, eminent cultural personalities, teachers, human rights activists and NGO workers.

sense of insecurity in the public mind. they demanded fair and transparent probe without government interference into each of the killings and grenade and bomb attacks. The government must bring back people's trust in the country's laws,

Expressing concern over the

judicial system and public institutions. thev said. People of all age groups lit candles in several rows at the foot of the Shaheed Minar in the evening and

makers Tareg and Catherine Masud and painter Rafiqun Nabi, among others, were present.

14 launched an investigation into the Premier Bank public floating scam

after being informed officially by the

It is mandatory to mention a bank account number, the branch name and a BO account number in case of applying for shares in IPO. On the other hand, it is also mandatory to mention a bank account number and the branch of a bank while opening a BO account.

Apart from the Dhaka Stock Exchange, many small as well as big investors suspect that the Premier Bank might have tried to manipulate the initial public offering (IPO) process.

**RU Polls** 

### **Pro-BNP** panel bags most posts

**RU CORRESPONDENT** 

Ruling BNP-backed White Panel bagged most of the posts and the Awami League-backed Yellow Panel University (RU) bodies yesterday.

election could not be known until 8:00 The elections were held for the RU bodies including syndicate, senate,

However, result of the senate

academic council and finance committee at Juberi Bhaban from 8:30am to RU Registrar Abdus Salam con-

ducted the elections as the returning officer. At least 830 teachers cast their

#### Khaleda warns

Politics of development and production would prevail upon acts of violence and plotting for power, she told a huge public meeting at Sapahar government degree college ground.
"They (indicating her main politi-

cal opponent) want to go to power through troubled waters," the PM told her audience. Khaleda said that when her

government is carrying out develop-ment activities aiming to attain selfreliance in all sectors, a political party is creating unrest, chaos, anarchy by unleashing destructive activities like arson attacks as well as frequently enforcing hartals. They want to push back the country by weakening the national economy.

She also claimed that her political adversaries told foreign countries not to help Bangladesh.

They are not friends of people of this country...They have no friends in the country but have masters abroad. We have friends abroad, not any mentors." Khaleda said. adding that BNP is the friend of the people of Bangladesh. She said people know the party

that has done nothing for the country while in power and now, while out of demanded discussions on the power, doesn't want that the governissues. "We want to have the explament carry out development work. nations of the law ministry about the Earlier, the prime minister inaugu rated Sapahar 50-bed upazila health double murder." complex and Sapahar power substa-

tion at Joypur. She also distributed goats, sheep, sewing machines and computers under poverty-reduction programme among handicapped and poor peotion lawmaker.

#### Student 'poisoned by husband' finally dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mousumi Hasan, a student of University of Asia Pacific, died at Ibne Sina hospital in Dhanmondi yesterday allegedly due to injection of poison by her husband.

Mousumi, 22, was declared clinically dead on February 22. She was admitted to the Dhaka

Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) on February 16 night after she became ill at her in-laws' house in Mohammadour

Mousumi's parents transferred her to Ibne Sina hospital the next day when she was senseless.

Mousumi's father Daud Hasan alleged that Mousumi's addict husband Ariful Islam Emon, 25, injected her poison sometime on February 16, as Mousumi protested Emon's taking drugs with the money given for buying an air cooler Mousumi took Tk 24,000 from her

father on February 16 saying that she would buy an air cooler and gave it to her husband the same day, he said.

Mousumi's family received the dead body after autopsy at DMCH morgue.

Mousumi's father filed a case with the Mohammadpur Police Station on February 22 under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

#### Annan's sympathy FROM PAGE 1 unidentified militia groups near Kafé

n the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). He extended his deepest sympa-

thy and condolences to the Bangladesh government and the families of the victims, who have sacrificed their lives in the service of peace, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Transitional Government of the DRC to make every effort to find and hold accountable those responsible for this reprehensible and criminal attack. He also vowed the killings would not deter the UN's mission in the

The secretary general called on the

troubled African nation. "He reaffirms that this attack will not deter the UN mission from carrying out its mandate in helping move the peace process forward in the DRC," his spokesman Fred Eckhard said in the statement.

### Brac chief

FROM PAGE 12 Advancement Committee) and Grameen Bank offices in different areas. Abed said "we earnestly hope that the government will ensure an environment favourable to development and progress" by tracking down and routing out "the root causes of such destructive

acts ' He also pointed out that "the organisations [Brac and Grameen Bank] are pursuing poverty alleviation and development programmes in furtherance of the Millenium Development Goals to which our

government is fully committed." He mentioned that Brac, the country's leading non-government organisation, alone has 2,667 offices and works in 68,408 villages of Bangladesh with 4.81 million women and 1.44 million children engaging more than 90 thousand full- and part-time employees. "For the security of all these offices and people associated with Brac we have to depend on the government,

Abed appreciated the recent government steps against the forces behind the attacks, and said. "We hope that as a result of the government action the situation will improve and that such incidents will

JS body

in the same year. The judgement was delivered in absentia The second issue to be discussed at the parliamentary body meeting is the appointment of 19 additional judges to the High Court

that evoked controversy, sparking

severe criticism from the lawyers and the opposition parties. They termed the appointment 'political' and the Supreme Court Bar Association started a movement demanding cancellation of the appointment. One of the judges was withdrawn last year after he was

accused of tampering with his LLB The parliamentary body would also discuss the much talked about judicial inquiry commission report on the August 21grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital that killed 23 and injured over 200.

The government formed a one

member probe commission comprising a High Court judge who submitted a report pointing fingers to a neighbouring country for the attack. The government however did not make the report public. Talking to The Daily Star yester-day, Committee Chairman

Khandakar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed said, "We will discuss the issues as those were raised for discussions." Awami League lawmaker and committee member Suranjit Sengupta on Thursday's meeting

presidential amnesty to a convict of "We also want to know the fate of the judicial inquiry commission report on August 21 grenade attack. The law minister earlier said the report will be made public, but he did not keep his word," said the opposi-

## GDP growth rate

Minister M Saifur Rahman at the

Planning Commission. The move follows the government's conviction that the country's economic growth, inflation and unemployment are not being properly monitored. As a result, it is unable to take right decisions at right times, said a meeting partici-

The meeting was also of the opinion that financial year 1995-96, the current base year for compilation of growth rates, is by now a decade old and outdated, and so decided to re-base the data compilation. "Rebasing would relate to refixing a new base year for computng constant price GDP," said a meeting source.

The two committees will have separate mandates. One of them will be the steering committee and decide the action plans to be implemented by the second one

Eminent economist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud will head the steering committee, which will also comprise Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed former secretary Dr Golam Rabbani and a few others of similar stature.

The member of the General Economic Division of the Planning Commission will head the implementation committee, which will also have the director generals of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

#### Morshed denies FROM PAGE 12

name of religion. nunted down. "There is a difference between

nternational terrors and local goons,

he said, asserting that there are no

international terrorists in the country. He said the government will not spare any person or group engaged in any anti-state activities by capitalising on Islam. A large number of Islamic thinkers hailed the government decision for launching a crack down on Islamist militants, he added.

The minister also rejected a suggestion that the government ban on two radical Islamist groups came in the wake of donors' meeting in Washington on Feb 23-24.

The government had earlier banned Harkatul Jihad in Rajshahi, he

In the latest action against the Islamist extremists, the government on Feb 23 banned Jagrata Muslim Janata, Bangladesh and Jamaa't-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh and arrested one of their chiefs, Prof

It was decided that the committees will plan and conduct countrywide economic surveys with the

help of local consultants. "One cannot take realistic economic decisions without having correct statistics," Saifur told the press following the meeting. "For instance, if we cannot figure out whether the cost of living has gone up by 6 percent or by 8 percent, we cannot take the measures appropri-

ate for the situation." "Once upon a time, jute was an important sector. Now it's not. Now textiles, pharmaceuticals, food and beverage, and construction sectors are growing fast and contributing more to the GDP." he noted. "That's why we should give appropriate focus on them in the annual national

accounts compilation process." The minister said, "We hear a lot about unemployment. But in reality we see people working everywhere. This calls for getting a true picture of

the employment scenario." Besides the secretaries of the planning and finance divisions, and BB governor, officials of leading donors, Planning Commission, BIDS, BBS, economists and university teachers participated in the

#### Madrasa evicted from CPA land

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Cta

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday evicted a 30-yearold madrasa in a daylong drive to recover a sizeable stretch of the encroached government land worth over Tk 1 crore. The Halishahar Jameya Gousia

Naimul Ulum Madrasa was built by Abu Mohammad Naimi on a CPAowned nine katha land in the Saltgola Railway Crossing area way back in 1976. After Abu Naimi's death in 1995, his descendants erected a shrine naming after him. The madrasa went under the encroachers completely since 1991, sources said.

CPA Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the five-hour drive starting from 10:00am with the help of two platoons of police and port workers.

"The madrasa was located very close to the port's container terminal, and a portion of the land was being used for commercial purpose," Munir Chowdhury told The

Daily Star. A notice was served to the grabbers on Thursday to vacate the land, he said.

## Abdul Latif passes away

treatment at home, family sources

As his condition deteriorated, he was taken to Suhrawardy Hospital where doctors declared him dead He left behind his wife, two sons two daughters and a number of

disciples, well-wishers and admirers

to mourn his death. His body, now preserved at the Birdem Hospital, will be taken to the Central Shaheed Minar at 11am tomorrow for his innumerable admirers, disciples and well-wishers to pay their last respect.

His namai-e-ianaza will be held on the Dhaka University campus after Johr prayer tomorrow and he will be laid to eternal rest at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in

AHSANULLAH KILLING

#### JCD leader hired killers, says witness

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Killers hired by a Jativatabadi Jubo Dal leader assassinated Awami eague lawmaker Ahsanullah Master, a prosecution witness in the case told a court yesterday. "Jubo Dal leader Nurul Islam

Sarker, prime suspect in the murder

case, hired the killers," said

Mahbubur Rahman alias Mahal

while giving his statement before Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1. Mahal appeared before the tribunal in a wheelchair, as he was bullet-hit in the attack on the AL

lawmaker on May 7 last year. He told the court how the killers led by Jativa Chhatra Samai leader Nurul Islam Dipu carried out the He was also cross-examined by a

defence lawyer on behalf of accused

Nurul Amin. He will be crossexamined again at 2:00pm today. Mahal told the court that Dipu, Shipu, Tipu, Chhoto Ratan, Khokon, Alamin, Faisal, Bulu, Roni, Monir and Dulal opened fire on Ahsanullah with pistols and revolvers.

The AL lawmaker attended a conference to form a committee for the Sechchhasebok League. Another group of Mahbub, Anu,

Kana Hafiz, Bara Ratan, Sohag, Jahangir, Salam, Amir, Mohammad Ali and Moshiur also took part in the shooting, the witness said. Twelve of the 30 accused in the case were present on the dock during

the hearing. Of them, Kabir Hossain,

Avub. Pappu Sarker and Alamin are

on bail, while Dipu and 17 others are

Born at Rai Pasha village in Barisal Sadar in 1927, Latif was a government officer in various capacities from 1974 to 1993 and worked as deputy director (music) of

ment under information ministry. During his long career, the great folk maestro contributed a lot in promoting music and other cultural activities in the country.

the mass communication depart-

inspired it through his writings and patriotic songs He was the first composer of the

the 1952 Language Movement and

He actively participated in

Amar Ekushey song, "Amaar Bhaiyer Rakte Rangano Ekushey February.... His songs also acted as inspiration to the freedom fighters during

the Liberation War in 1971.

Abdul Latif achieved many awards from the government and scores of socio-cultural organisations as a mark of recognition to his invaluable contribution in the field of

music and cultural arena as a whole. He got Ekushey Padak in 1979 and Swadhinata Dibash Padak in

### How it happened

They were protecting a camp at

He was also a fellow of Bangla

FROM PAGE 1 Congo were returning to Kafe, about 4km northwest of Banbat.

people who fled their homes in recent weeks because of the attacks by The soldiers, led by Captain Mazhar and Captain Shaheed, were part of a larger group and returning their base camp walking through

rugged vegetation amidst heavy rains.

The two patrol teams fired back on

the guerrillas in a bid to build resis-

Banbat that houses thousands of

All on a sudden, a group of about 100 tribal armed guerrillas swooped on them with heavy firing killing all of them on the spot. The killers were believed to have been hiding along the road and pounced on the patrol as it

tance. But due to heavy rains and indiscriminate gunfire by the militias, the teams became separated from each other. All the soldiers of the team led by Captain Shaheed were killed in the gunbattle. Hearing the news, two teams of Bangladeshi soldiers led by a lieuten-

ant colonel rushed to spot from the base camp by an airborne helicopter and an army vehicle as a back up It took about two hours to reach the

remote spot, where the incident took place. Later, the bodies of the heroic soldiers were flown to the base camp by a helicopter.

#### cheating locals on September 24, 2002. He started reorganising his family's Dhaka-bound yellow taxikept vigil for an hour and rendered Saifur will fly to Paris tomorrow cab collided with an unidentified group after he was freed on bail on protest songs to attend a ministerial level meet-Hamida Hossain of Ain O Salish December 21, 2002. vehicle coming from opposite ing titled 'the second high-level Kendra. Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, direction. The five died on the spot. forum on enhancing the effective-The home ministry then banned Shaheen Anam of Manusher Jonno, However, Tania's one-year-old the organisation on February 9, ness of development aid'. During Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Ajay daughter Amreen escaped unhurt. 2003 after Kawsar, during a press the visit, he is scheduled to meet Roy, theatre personalities Sara conference the day before, Tazul was driving his own taxi World Bank Vice President for Zaker and Tarana Halim, noted film described the organisation's plan to