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KIBRIA KILLING PROBE REPORT

8 BNP men made the attack

Political dominance motive, mastermind unknown

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A high-powered government probe has identified eight BNP men as responsible for the January 27 grenade attack on Awami League meeting at Baidder Bazar in Habiganj that killed five people including former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria and injured 70 others.

In their analysis, the investigators said the attack was aimed at

establishing dominance in the local politics of Habiganj as well as at securing the local constituency. But, they failed to identify the mastermind.

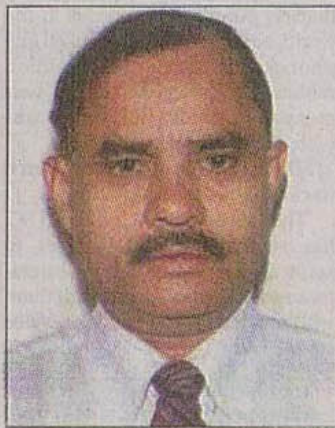
Of the eight activists of ruling BNP and one of its front organisations, six are now behind bars and the rest two on the run.

Of the six held, four have given confessional statements. Sources

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Shah AMS Kibria, the main victim



A Quaiyum, planner of the attack

Tax dodgers' list may be published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is contemplating publishing a list of tax defaulters in the same way the loan defaulters are exposed, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said.

The minister revealed the plan while replying to questions from reporters at a discussion of the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) in the capital.

Asked if the government would face any political problem in publishing such a list, Saifur ruled out such possibility. "Rather some of you may face problems," he told the reporters.

National Board of Revenue (NBR) sources said the NBR will soon submit a proposal to the government to enact a law in the next budget session under which a list of tax defaulters can be published.

Donors are also hammering on the NBR to take stringent measures

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Donors can leave if they can't adjust to our policy

Saifur grills them for 'political interference'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday blasted bilateral donors for 'interfering with the internal politics of Bangladesh' and said, "If they can't adjust to our internal policy and economic programmes, they can leave! We, too, are not interested in their programmes!"

At a discussion with the Economic Reporters Forum (ERF) in the city, Saifur said, "The donors have to align with our policy, not us with theirs."

The comments followed queries of journalists on whether the government has changed its attitude towards bilateral donors, as the prime minister in her speech in parliament on Tuesday and Saifur in

his earlier statements had blasted the donors.

"We've not changed our attitude. But the nature of Bangladesh's aid relationship that existed in 1972 or 1980 no longer exists. That kind of dependence doesn't exist too," Saifur quipped. "Now there is no more that sort of bilateral donors or partnerships."

"There are some countries, who can leave, if they can't adjust to our internal policy and programmes," he added.

Saifur referred to a recent aid meeting in Paris where Bangladesh presented a position paper on aid, and said the donors accepted the paper in which he hammered away at the idea of 'performance-based aid,

rather than condition-based aid.' A performance-based aid has specific target achievement indicators, while a condition-based aid carries with it donors' dictates on how the government should utilise it, he explained.

"Donors sometimes try to impose their own policies and programmes," the finance minister noted. "But dictating conditions for aid is not acceptable." According to him, "If performance-based aid is given, we expect to get more loans."

In support of the prime minister's parliament speech, Saifur said, "In the name of handing out bilateral aid, it's inappropriate to interfere in the political process of a country."

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

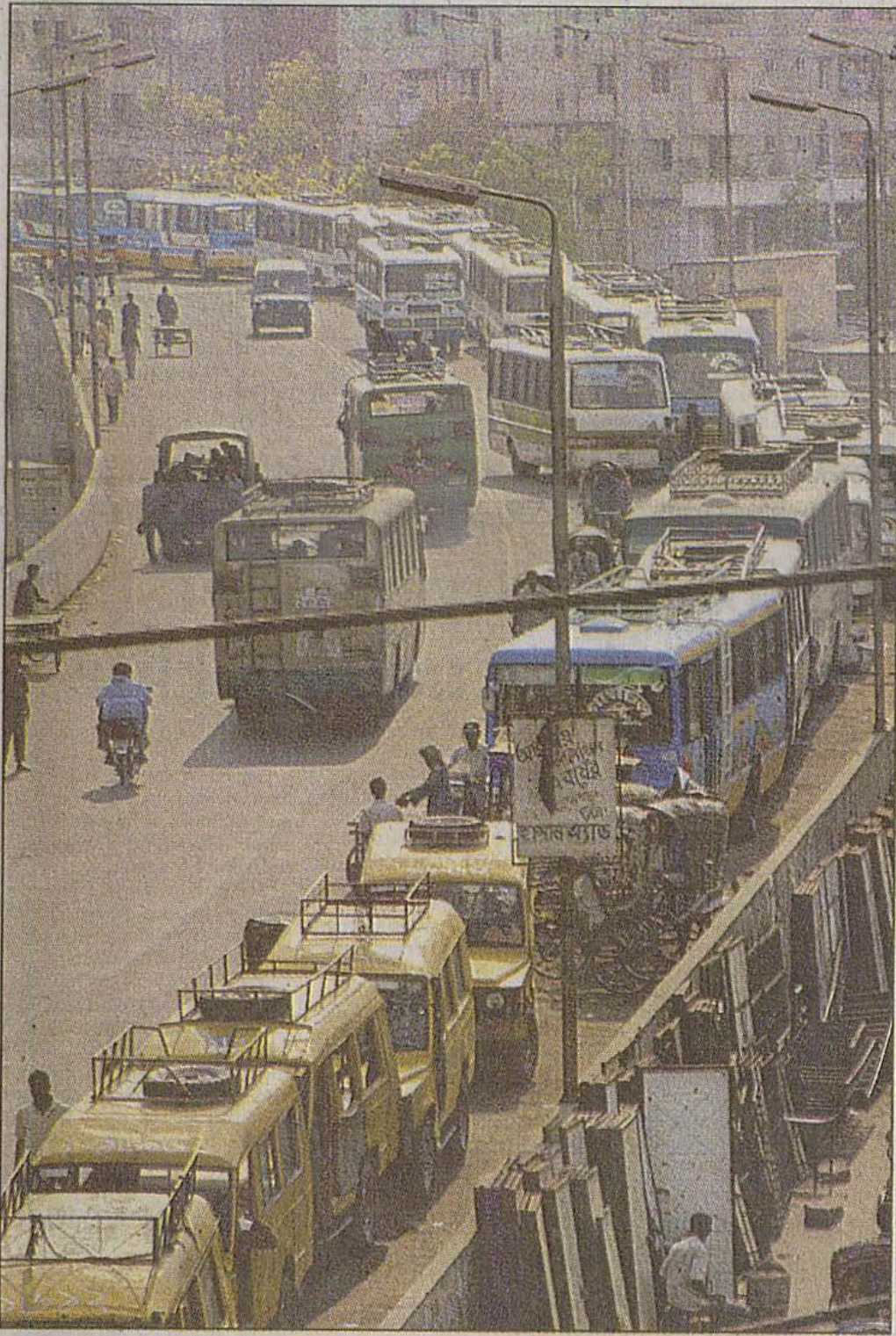


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ
The Second Buriganga Bridge has now become a free parking space for buses and other commercial transports, defeating the purpose of having a bridge there.

Indian HC terms fencing legitimate action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Indian High Commission in Dhaka in a statement yesterday termed fencing work by the BSF within 150 yards of the zero-line a legitimate activity and said the fencing has no defence potential.

"However, in carrying out this legitimate activity of constructing a fence, BSF has been experiencing resistance from the Bangladesh side which has led to occasional tensions caused by unprovoked firing by the BDR along the border," the statement said.

India has requested Bangladesh

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

India for Saarc summit between Mar 24-Apr 18

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has suggested that the coming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit, to be held in Dhaka, could take place sometime between March 24 and April 18.

Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed yesterday said in a written reply in Lok Sabha that External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh had suggested that the summit could now be held during the recess of the Indian parliament in March/April.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

BSF to suspend fencing within 150 yards of zero line

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) will stop construction of barbed wire fences within 150 yards of the 'zero line' until the thorny issue is resolved at the highest level of the governments of Bangladesh and India.

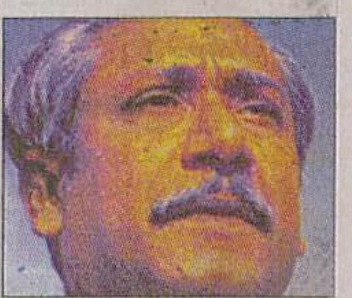
This was decided at the high-level meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and BSF at Agartala on

its second day yesterday, BDR sources said.

Both the sides also agreed to combat smuggling and drug trafficking through the border.

The BDR delegation at the meeting handed over a list of criminals from Bangladesh staying in India and the BSF team gave the BDR a list of Indian criminals 'hiding' in Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



Bangabandhu's 86th birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 86th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, architect of the nation's independence, will be observed today.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CHILD TRAFFICKING Dhaka off US blacklist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has finally been withdrawn from the US blacklist published last June that details those countries failing to adequately fight international sex trafficking, the outgoing Home Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq said yesterday.

The list comprising 10 nations could lead to cutoffs in non-humanitarian and non-trade-related US aid, the US Department

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CCC polls May 9

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Election to the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) will be held on May 9.

The Election Commission (EC) in a gazette notification in Dhaka yesterday announced the election schedule.

According to the schedule, the date of submitting nomination papers to the returning officer is

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

CANTONMENT Indigenous people protest against land acquiring

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hundreds of indigenous people in the hill district Bandarban yesterday gathered at the Ruma Upazila Parishad premises to protest against the decision to acquire land for extending Ruma cantonment.

The cantonment authorities recently took an initiative to acquire

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Khaleda's remarks echo partners' voice

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

What Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said in parliament about the existence of Islamist militants in Bangladesh was an echo of the recent remarks of her party's coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote leaders in and outside the House.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

PM speech draws opposition flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of the mainstream opposition parties yesterday sharply reacted to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's speech in parliament on Tuesday, saying she cites the conspiracy of foreigners in domestic politics only to hide her govern-

ment's failures.

The prime minister's remarks about foreigners' interference and rejection of the opposition demand for reforms in the caretaker government system amounted to arrogance, they said.

Leaders of the main opposition

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

HABIGANJ BY-POLLS Reza Kibria not willing to contest

UNB, Dhaka

Reza Kibria, son of slain politician Shah AMS Kibria, dismissed the possibility of his contesting the parliamentary by-polls to his father's seat in Habiganj-3 as well as joining active politics.

"I don't think it is appropriate to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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Tendulkar in 10,000-club

AFP, Kolkata

India's Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday became the fifth batsman in the history of cricket to complete 10,000 Test runs, achieving the feat in the second Test against Pakistan here.

Tendulkar, who turns 32 next month, achieved the milestone in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Celebrating

PRAN

RFL

Corporate Day 2005

WHY PRAN?

PRAN is a concept: a way to fight poverty and hunger in Bangladesh in the shortest possible time through employment generation.

PRAN stands for:
"PROGRAMME FOR RURAL ADVANCEMENT NATIONALLY"

"প্রগতি রূপায়নে অগ্রণী নবোদ্যম"

We don't see why we should remain poor given the gifts endowed by nature such as fertile soil, water, year round growing season, a river system for easy and cheap transportation and a hard working people who are farmers by tradition.

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