# 22 to walk gallows

tenced to death belong to the ruling BNP, three to main opposition Awami League (AL) and two to

The mastermind of the gruesome killing, BNP's youth wing Jativatabadi Jubo Dal Jeader Nurul Islam Sarker, who is a brother of Tongi BNP leader Hasan Sarker, is currently behind bars along with 11 others. Sixteen other convicts have been evading arrest, while two others were acquitted.

Judge Shahed Noor Uddin of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 pronounced the verdict in a jam-packed courtwhere authorities braced for unprecedented security yesterday in the wake of hundreds of onlook-

worker, respected personality and people's representative has been deprived of driving drug peddlers and criminals out of his constitu-

his welfare services for the people," the judge noted.

entering college although he had passed the SSC examinations. And the future of some others, including Mahfuzur Rahman Mahal, who has been crippled, has been made

death Nurul Islam Sarker, Nurul Islam Dipu, his brother Shahidul Islam Shipu, Mohammad Ali Mahbubur Rahman Mahbub, Amir. Sved Ahmed Moinu, Jahanigr alias Boro Jahangir, Hafiz alias Kana Hafiz, Anwar Hossain alias Anu, Faisal, Jahangir (1), Shohag alias Shoru, Lokman Hossain alias Bulu. Al Amin, Ratan Mia alias Boro Mia. Roni Mia alias Roni Fakir, Ratan alias Chhoto Ratan, Abu Salam alias Salam, Moshiur Rahman alias Moshu, Khokon and Dulal Mia. Those who are to serve life terms

are Ohidul Islam Tipu, Monir, Rakibuddin Sarker alias Pappu

Hossain, now in custody, and Abu Haider alias Mirpuira Babu, who is The convicts behind bars are

Sarker, Mohammad Ali, Mahbub, Amir. Boro Jahangir, Shohag, Dulal, and Nurul Amin.

would be effective from the day of their arrest or surrender.

The convicts sentenced to death can appeal to the High Court in 30

doubt the conspiracy, motive and action of the perpetrators of the grisly incident.

The judge observed that there was no room for sympathy and kindness for people who shot dead such a popular and respected teacher as Ahsanullah Master and youth Ratan, and crippled others. Only exemplary punishment can stop and deter such a heinous

their counsels termed the verdict 'one based on emotion instead of logic' and said they would challenge

Gunmen shot and killed Ahsanullah, also the president of Jatiya Sramik League, and Ratan. and wounded 17 others in a staccato burst of fire at a biennial conference of Awami Shechchhasebak League, the AL's volunteers front, at Noagaon near the legislator's house in Tongi on May 7 last year.

The lawmaker and others were about to leave when a group of gunmen led by pro-Jatiya Party Jatiya Chhatra Samaj leader Nurul Islam Dipu started firing from behind the stage on its eastern side.

The scene at the trial vesterday was one of high security. Over 500 policemen threw a safety cover around the courthouse in the morning and ran checks on court-goers, observers, political activists and journalists in the court building pefore letting them in. The courtroom of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 on the fourth floor came under neightened security measures due to hundreds of people who turned out to witness the delivery of the verdict in the sensational killing.

AL leaders Motia Chowdhury, Obaidul Kader, Haji Selim, Rahmat Ali, Tongi Municipality Chairman Azmatullah Khan and other party activists also went to the court.

AL activists chanted slogans against the killers and held shoes up n the air when the convicts were being taken away in prison vans. Police took the 13 accused in custody to the dock at noon.

The judge took his seat and started reading out excerpts of the 61-page judgement at 12:10pm. The judgement came 344 days after the incident.

Matiur Rahman, brother of Ahsanullah, filed a murder case with Tongi Police Station on May 8 against 17 people, identifying Nurul Islam Sarker as the mastermind. The CID (Criminal Investigation Department) later completed its vestigation in 60 days.

Confessing to his involvement in the killing, accused Mahbub said Sarker planned the killing of Jubo League leader Mahfuzur Rahman Mahal after he had 'falsely implicated' Sarker, his brother Rakib and Mohammad Ali during the AL rule. They wanted to settle an old score with Mahal and had planned to kill him at the Shechchhasebak League conference on the day of the incident," Mahbub told a magistrate. CID Assistant Superintendent

Khalequzzaman pressed charges on July 10 last year against Nurul Islam Sarker and 29 others, and dentified Nurul as the mastermind of the assassination Ahsanullah was assassinated

because his popularity stood in the way of the local BNP leader's becoming a member of parliament, and because he took a decisive stand against drug-peddlers, including Nurul, the charge-sheet Ahsanullah, who was elected

from the Gazipur-2 constituency in 1996 and 2001, was set to stand for the forthcoming parliament elections from the same seat. "For his popularity. Ahsanullah was the main target of the BNP and was killed according to directions from the BNP high-ups," the plaintiff said in the FIR (first information report).

Special Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdul Latif Talukder and advocates M Shajoar Hossain, Sahara Khatun, Mohammad Ali, Abdur Rahman Hawlader and Momtazuddin Mehedi moved in the court for the state. Advocates Nazrul Islam, ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Sanaullah Mia. Kalimullah Mazumder. M Shahjahan and Emdadul Haq Lal appeared for the accused.

VERDICT BASED ON EMOTION' Defence lawyers said the court handed down death sentences even though the charges were not proved through firsthand evidence 'No witness said before the court that Nurul Islam Sarker plotted the conspiracy, the court gave him the

"The allegations and the evidence are weak and cannot prove beyond doubt the involvement of the accused in the murders," Kalimullah said. "The court cannot just hand down such capital punishments in such a manner. We'll go to the higher court and hope we will get iustice there and the accused will be acquitted.

punishment out of emotion,"

Sanaullah told The Daily Star.

Sarker, the mastermind, told The Daily Star, "I've been falsely implicated, the prosecution failed to produce any evidence against me."

Special PP Abdul Latif Talukder, however, said firsthand witnesses proved the involvement of the convicts while the confessional statement of Mahbub corroborated

"People who witnessed the accused firing in broad daylight disclosed their identities and Mahbub revealed the conspiracy was plotted at a house at Morkun in Tongi," he said.
QUICK EXECUTION

Ahsanullah's family expressed satisfaction at the verdict and demanded its quick execution.

"We will never get back our father. But this verdict is a great consolation for us." said Jahid Ahsan Russell MP, Ahsanullah's

"We will be truly happy when the judgement is executed." he said at a press briefing after the judgement. Plaintiff Matiur Rahman said: " hope the High Court will uphold the judgement and the killers will get

exemplary punishment." "The judgement reflects the rule of law -- all the people behind the gruesome murder have been punished," IO Khalequzzaman told The

This verdict will provide consolation to the victims' families and act as a deterrent to such crimes," he

### Govt gets readv

FROM PAGE 16

analyse any emergence of 12 known and all unknown diseases. All healthcare providers and facilities will be involved to gather information on the diseases. Under the outbreak investigation

surveillance, the IEDCR will be responsible for detailed investigation and reporting on recently unknown and known diseases. The IEDCR have selected eight

sites to study disease transmission under the sentinel surveillance strategy. These are Kaliakoir, Daudkandi, Potia, Golapgani, Sharsha, Bakerganj, Nilphamari and Shibganj.

Routine disease surveillance will involve collection of data on all diseases reported to upazila health complexes. The director of Management Information System (MIS) will be responsible for outlining the pattern of common diseases.

EPI surveillance would involve data collection on poliomyelitis. tuberculosis (bronchial), diphtheria, pertusis, tetanus and measles, EPI fieldworkers will be engaged mainly in vaccine-related information, like reaction to vaccines, coverage of vaccination and feedback from parents. The EPI programme manager will be responsible for this surveillance.

Under the institutional surveillance, all medical colleges and specialised institutions will be equipped to report on routine diseases and their causes

## Qatar keen on hiring

President lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban on the last day of his two-day visit to Bangladesh.

Stressing the need for direct airlink between Bangladesh and Qatar, the emir said Bangladeshi workers can avail the opportunity of direct air

Welcoming the emir, President laiuddin said the relationship between the two brotherly countries is excellent. He said there are 60,000 Bangladeshis living in Qatar. He emphasised expansion of the cooperation between the two coun-

technology as well as agriculture. The president also mentioned the necessity of credit transfer and exchange of visits for teachers between Bangladesh and Qatar.

tries in the field of science and

"The population of Bangladesh is increasing fast," he said and apprised the leader of Qatar of government measures for population control and microcredit for economic advance of the country. The emir billed the relations

between the two countries as "very

He asked the Qatar finance minister why an aviation agreement between the two counties was not signed. The finance minister replied: "W have discussed the matter.'

The emir invited President lajuddin Ahmed to visit Qatar. The president accepted the invitation and also reciprocated by inviting the monarch to visit rural areas of Bangladesh in future.

In-charge of Foreign Ministry and Deputy Prime Minister of Qatar Shaikh Hamad Bin Jasim Bin Zaber Al-Thani, Economic and Commerce Minister Shaikh Mohammad Bin Ahmed Al-Thani, Finance Minister Yusef Hossain Kamal and Qatar envoy to Bangladesh Ibrahim Mohammad Abdul Rahman Al-Abdullah were present on their side. Foreign Minister M Morshed

Khan, Foreign Secretary Hemayet Uddin, Bangladesh envoy to Qatar Maroof Zaman, Secretary to the President M Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, Military Secretary to the President Major General ANM Muniruzzaman and Press Secretary to the President M Muklesur Rahman Chowdhury were present

Meanwhile, Emir of Qatar Shaikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani left Dhaka yesterday morning ending his two-day visit to Bangladesh

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan saw him off at Zia International Airport. Advisor to the foreign ministry Reaz Rahman, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and high civil and military official were pres-

### IOJ withdraws

FROM PAGE 16 Moinuddin Ruhi told journalists at a

press conference vesterday after-

Earlier on April 9, the IOJ city unit at a press conference had named its convenor Moulana Iqbal Bin Yaqub as their mayoral candidate for the

Moulana Iqbal at that time said the IOJ was compelled to declare a separate candidature to give a befitting reply to the disregard they received at the instigation of Jamaat-e-Islami from BNP leader Mir Nasir over the issue of sharing commissioner posts in the upcoming CCC polls.

The IOJ leaders present at the press conference at the Chittagong Press Club vesterday, however, mostly remained silent on their past revolt and strong stance against Mir Nasir and Jamaat-e-Islami Campaigns go on for Mohiuddin,

# Lawyers scuffle

continue boycotting Faizee's court until the issue of Faizee's LLB certificate is resolved. The progovernment lawyers and government law officers, however, opposed the SCBA decision. Some 50 lawyers led by SCBA

President advocate Mahbubey Alam and Secretary advocate Enayetur Rahim came to the courtroom at 10.35am yesterday to stage demonstration against Faizee's presence at the bench When the protesting lawvers

were entering the courtroom, the pro-government lawyers and law officers tried to stop them. The proboycott lawyers chanting slogans in favour of their boycott programme got inside the courtroom The pro-government lawyers led

by ruling BNP's Law Affairs Secretary advocate Jainul Abedin then raised counter-slogans terming the SCBA leadership "illegal." In the slogans they named several rival lawyers shouting that they will be "skinned.

the law officers that they should respect SCBA decision, some of sharply. you? Go back to your Bar office," said one law officer. Another said the Bar president has no business in the courtroom.

from both the camps got up on the

room and brought out a procession that marched on the Supreme Court premises. The pro-government lawyers also brought out a proces-Talking to journalists, SCBA

President Mahbubey Alam later said they staged the demonstration as judge Faizee took his bench yesterday despite the SC Bar's request to him not to sit in the courtroom. "But when we went to his court-

room today, we saw a number of non-SCBA members, several assistant attorneys general and deputy attorneys general were sitting there. A few outsiders were there," he alleged. "When we proceeded to say something to the judge, they (pro-

The pro-government lawyers meanwhile urged the chief justice to take legal steps against those who created chaos in the courtroom. They blamed the SCBA leaders for

government lawvers) tried to stop

the scuffle. The SCBA leaders said they will continue to stage demonstration on every working day against Faizee's presence at the bench.

The SCBA executive committee held an emergency meeting yesterday evening to discuss fresh The pro-government lawyers

also held a meeting in the evening and decided that they will stage a sit-in in front of the offices of the SCBA president and secretary.

FROM PAGE 16
The SCBA has also decided to

When the SCBA president told

tables and were locked in a scuffle as judge Faizee watched sitting silently in his chair. The pro-boycott lawyers chanted slogans asking him Fifteen minutes later, the proboycott lawyers came out of the

she alleged. AL on European Parliament resolution On the European Parliament's

us. They behaved indecently with us and shouted indecent slogans," he a credible general election.

ers but we are not allowed to speak

European Parliament of the happenings in Bangladesh, and its views concerning the Jatiya Sangsad.

and Jahid Ahsan Russell MP, son of Ahsanullah Master, were present at the briefina

guit the High Court bench in February as his job as an additional judge was not confirmed, had filed the writ. He alleged that the chief justice had promised to confirm him after six months' extension. But he did not keep his promise.

and transport facilities when he was

## Mujibnagar

acting president in the absence of Bangabandhu, who had been arrested by the Pakistani occupation forces on March 25, 1971. The occupation forces on the same night also massacred thousands of unarmed Bangalees in Dhaka and

Tajuddin Ahmed as the prime minister led the country's nine-month Liberation War that ended with the surrender of the occupation forces on December 16. Installation of the government began with a guard of honour led by

president took the salute and hoisted the national flag. The main opposition Awami

a contingent of police. The acting

chief Sheikh Hasina today chairs a party discussion on Mujibnagar Day at Paltan Maidan in the city at 3:00pm. In Dhaka, the national and party

flags will be hoisted at Bangabandhu Bhaban Dhanmondi and also at the AL's Bangabandhu Avenue headguarters at 6:00 this morning.

The AL has also taken up a series of programmes at Mujibnagar in observance of the day, says a party

## **BJP** factions

FROM PAGE 16 general of the Matin-faction.

On the other hand, leader of the Matin-faction Dr MA Matin yesterday expelled Saifur Rahman, secretary general of the Jativa Party (Naziur).

Earlier on Wednesday Dr Matir had declared the sitting BJF Chairman Naziur Rahman Manjur removed from the party for making

'anti-party' and 'anti-four-party alliance' statements. In reply, Naziur at a presidium meeting on Thursday expelled party adviser and presidium member

Matin for his anti-organisational

activities.

A press statement signed by Moidul Islam as acting secretary general of the BJP (Matin) on Thursday said that 11 presidium members including four lawmakers at a presidium meeting on Wednesday unanimously decided to remove Naziur from the post of party chairman and selected Dr Matin as the new chairman.

The statement said Naziur without any discussion in the party forum had issued statements in the media and misled people about the BJP and the four-party alliance. Naziur in statements published

in the media had recently blamed ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami for "spreading religious extremism and instigating militant activities across the country". He also warned that Jamaat will be responsible for any potential split in the alliance. Following Naziur's remarks, four

BJP lawmakers--Kazi Anwar Hossain, Kazi Alauddin, ABM Amin Uddin and Dr Matin--in a statement on April 11 asked Naziur to retract his remarks or face disciplinary

action. They also met the prime minister against the backdrop of

deep split within the BJP Naziur Rahman Manjur, however, withdrew his remarks under government pressure, party

sources said requesting anonymity

### Final Indo-Pak

"The Australia series was very tough but it was a learning opportunity for youngsters in the team," Inzamam told reporters on Saturday.

"This tour was very important ... The main thing on this tour is the way we have fought back. That is why we are in this position." Sunday's high-profile match will

mark the tour's climax with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf attend-

#### ACC

FROM PAGE 16 does not specify what sort of experi-

ence, educational qualifications and age should qualify one for the post of ACC secretary, the petitioners

They also contended that ACC Chairman Justice Sultan served as chief election commissioner (CEC) in 1990. According to the constitution, a person who has held office as CEC shall not be eligible for appointment in the service of the Republic.

Finally, regarding the ACC's notice on the school headmaster asking him to furnish ACC with information the petitioners said the notice becomes illegal when the formation of the ACC itself is ques-

## BSF goes back Bangladesh internationally.

"We have not changed our position

and will continue protesting against construction of barbed-wire fences in any area within 150 yards of the zero-line, because it's a violation of the 1974 agreement between the two countries. BDR will continue operating as per the treaty and the decision of our government," he The BDR DG regretted that the

Indian side has brushed aside the major concerns of Bangladesh like existence of Swadhin Bangabhumi. erstwhile Shanti Bahini and other Bangladeshi miscreants and insurgents residing in and operating from India and their camps there. Replying to a volley of questions,

the BSF chief outright denied any bid to push in Bangla-speaking Indian nationals and said, "There has been no push-in of any Indian national to any country or the territory of Bangladesh. The allegation of push-in is absolutely false and am assuring that no Indian national will be pushed in to Bangladesh." When his attention was drawn to

the push-in of 34 Indian nationals through Naogaon and Joypurhat in the last four days when the conference has been running. ooshaharv said he has no knowl edge about any such push-in to Bangladesh in the last four days or any other time. Turning to border fencina. he

said it is a continuous process and has been happening for the last 20 years. "In some areas we are repair ing the old fences and in some pockets completing the fencing BDR raised objection about some areas of compulsion, where we need fencing, although the areas fall within 150 yards of the zero-line." On the allegation of anti-

Bangladesh miscreants' and insurgents' camps in India. Mooshahary said, "I totally disagree with these allegations... There is no anti-Bangladesh camp or organisation in Indian territory." He rather made a counter allegation that there are a large number of anti-India insurgent camps in Bangladesh. "We have definite information

that insurgents are being provided Bangladesh," the BSF chief alleged But the BDR DG dismissed this

allegation. He said Bangladesh never gave any shelter to any insurgent, adding the Indian allegations are merely to destroy the image of

over to the BSF DG some 10 book-

Sources said BDR has handed

lets and documents on anti-Bangladesh insurgent camps with their locations, telephone numbers, etc. BDR DG Chowdhury said the booklets and lists submitted to the BSF chief were to inform him about the nine Swadhin Bangabhumi Movement organisations, four Swadhin Bangabhumi terrorist bodies, 90 anti-Bangladesh camps, 30 terrorist leaders (Shanti Bahini and others), 21 drug traders, 20 Phensidyl factories, 10 notorious illegal arms traders and 444 miscreants residing in and operating from

The BDR also submitted paper cuttings on killing and abduction of Bangladeshi nationals by BSF and Indians and expressed concerns at Indian media's continued propa-

ganda against Bangladesh. The BDR DG said the BSF chief has promised to check smuggling of Phensidyl from India and to take necessary steps to close the factories manufacturing the drug.

have requested the BSF not to kill our citizen at the border...but to hand back our nationals alive, not their bodies.' About co-ordinated patrolling along the border, he said it would

Maj Gen Chowdhury said, "We

start soon through discussions at sector commander-level. About the conference, the BSF chief said both the sides developed

greater understanding and that it would help them remove the existing irritants between the two forces. He said the BDR's approach at the meeting was constructive and positive towards maintaining peace

agement. At the talks, the BDR DG led a 22-member delegation, while his counterpart led a 16-member team. The BSF team is due to leave Dhaka

and harmony and for border man-

The next round of BDR-BSF talks will take place in Delhi at sometime in September or early

## Musharraf in India

Kashmir, bilateral cooperation in environment and forestry, and mechanism for permitting the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs to visit holv shrines in the two countries. Índian Foreign Secretary Shyam

Saran told a media briefing New Delhi hopes Musharraf's trip will be a "very important and relaxed" one, saying, "we're looking forward to a very constructive visit. "We trust our respective cricket teams will put up a display of their

skills and sportsmanship tomorrow (Sunday) and it'll also provide us to discuss matters of mutual interest, he added. Musharraf flew to Jaipur by a special Pakistan International

Airlines flight from where he took an Indian Air Force helicopter to Ajmer before returning to Rajasthan capital and flying to New Delhi. He was scheduled to hold a

meeting with Indian External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh and attend a dinner hosted by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in Delhi yesterday evening. The Pakistani president and

lunch to be hosted by Indian President APJ Abdul Kalam. After talks between Singh and Musharraf, the two countries may come out with a joint statement.

talks at the palatial Hyderabad

House. Musharraf will also attend a

select group of editors at a five-star hotel tomorrow morning before wrapping his three-day visit and flying to Manila.

Musharraf will interact with a

Unlike Musharraf's official visit to

India in July 2001, his trip this time is informal' but it has all the trappings of a state visit. The Pakistan president had expressed his desire to watch a cricket match of the ongoing India-

This is the second meeting between Musharraf and Singh after their first interaction in New York on the sidelines of UN General Assembly session last September.

Pakistan series and India also

extended him an invitation.

nate Musharraf's talks with Indian leaders are Kashmir, bilateral cooperation in trade and energy and more confidence-building mea-

## Morshed hits out

present government is very much concerned about welfare of the people and is only accountable to them. " We'll appear before the highest court of the people after five years and they will give the final

binding on anyone. 'Since they (opposition) are not winning confidence of the people at home, they are trying to draw sympathy from outside. They should cry on

the shoulders of the people of Bangladesh, not on the shoulders of others." he said.

it as a model. He said: "It should not be wise to part of any person... If the caretaker system is faulty, doesn't it mean that all the three elections were wrong?"

and we're ready to reflect the will of the people, who are the best judge. About the grenade attacks on opposition meetings on August 21 Kibria murder case and Chittagong arms haul case were finalised and

killing by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), he asked: "Should the government keep mum when a handful of criminals and rapists would endanger the life and property of 14 crore people?" "Such laws are there in many European countries, including the UK. Under Homeland Security Act no such criminals are spared."

added: "We have never said Rab is to enhance the capacity of lawenforcers to deal with the hardened

On the freedom of press, the foreign minister said press in Bangladesh is now enjoying full freedom. "I always say that we have no control over the weather and the press in Bangladesh--and we jealously hold it as our achievement."

other countries. On functioning of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), he said the ACC is functioning inde-

## Quaiyum wants

Court (Cognisance-1) of Habiganj told the petitioner that it may consider Quaiyum's statement if the investigating officer (IO) of the case takes a supportive initiative.

charged for the January 27 grenade The petitioner for the hearing. who is also the plaintiff of the Kibria killing case, advocate Abdul Majid Khan, however, sought time from the court. The court fixed April 30 for

Eight chargesheeted accused,

including Quaivum, who are now in

Habiganj jail, were produced at the

court yesterday. Two others are

absconding On behalf of Quaiyum, advocate Afrag Afgan Chowdhury submitted to the court that while he was in the police custody Quaiyum wanted to make a confessional statement to the IO but that was not accepted. But he wants to tell something to the

court.

for Quaiyum's bail but the court rejected the prayer. While talking to The Daily Star, advocate Majid said, "Since Quaivum wants to say something. the IO can accept his confessional statement under section 164 of the CrPC in the other case on Kibria's killing that is still under investiga-

# Widows queue

band," Shaera said dejectedly. Nazrul could not draw his last month's salary and was going to draw it on April 15, Shaera said. Factory authorities told her they would nav her later after drawing up a list of victims and how much they

the factory management will give the another widow.

owe them, Shaera reported.

here," she said. "I don't know whether I would ever get that money." Moni, who was also waiting at the same place with her mother to receive her late husband's salary for the last two months, did not say a single word. The body of her husband. Monir. was pulled out from

and food given as relief by volunteer organisations at the site. "God took away our lone breadwinner and also forced us out in the open. There is no-one left to look after us." said the sobbing woman. **RESCUE EFFORT CONTINUES** 

ued their search for some 200 people still trapped under the debris. Of the five bodies they recovered from the rubble vesterday, three were identified as Azizul Islam, Mizanur Rahman and Nurul Amin. The identities of the remaining two

Rescuers from the army and the Fire

Brigade and Civil Defence contin-

handed over the unidentified bodies to Savar Municipality authorities, who will bury them at Talbagh in "The three other bodies are still

lying at our station. We will hand them over to the [municipality] today, if no-one comes up to claim them. said the duty officer at Savar Police Station yesterday. Rescuers have removed the mid-

section of the roof of the third floor of

the collapsed structure. They reck-

oned the death toll would rise sharply when they remove the entire roof of the floor by tonight. Meanwhile, relatives reported two more workers -- Abdul Barek and Gias Uddin as missing, pushing the number of missing people to 100

yesterday.

room for rescue operations at the site, rescuers have removed 50 percent debris in the middle, 55 percent in the northern and 60 percent in the southern part. "We hope to complete the opera tions by the end of this week," said

According to the army control

The factory authorities yesterday morning held a Quran Khatam at the site, which would continue until the end of the rescue operation. They have also begun collecting the wreckage of machines.

After six days of fighting for life,

Abdul Gafur, 20, who suffered

serious wounds in the chest and

**DEATH OF INJURED** 

Brigadier General Nizam Ahmed,

who is co-ordinating the rescue

back in the building collapse, died at the DMCH vesterday. Rescuers pulled out Gafur, a production operator, from beneath the rubbles 15 hours after the collapse. He was shifted to the DMCH from Combined Military Hospital at Savar Cantonment yesterday noon.

His uncle Abdul Kuddus said

Gafur and his father migrated to

Savar from village Nil of Harirampur portrait of Sheikh Muiib at in Manikgani when he was a student Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:30am. of Class V. Gafur, the main breadwinner of their five-member family, started working at a garment factory

Hasina also mentioned the grenade attacks on her rally in August last year, the British high commissioner to Bangladesh, AL leader Suraniit Sengupta, Sylhet

Hasina terms

have escaped punishment.
"It was a planned political killing

and we believe high-ups of the BNP-

Jamaat-led ruling coalition were

involved in it," said Hasina, also

president of the main opposition AL

at an impromptu press briefing

trial of some local leaders of the BNP

who were directly involved in the

killing of the lawmaker from Tongi

she said. "But it was not possible for

local leaders to kill such a popular

political figure without green signal

added pointing fingers at two top

leaders of the party.
"We have witnessed similar

strategy of the government in the

charge sheet of the killing of Shah

AMS Kibria (former finance minister)

where only local BNP leaders have

been accused of the killing but the

said the verdict has at least proved

the BNP is involved in the killing of

that BNP high-ups are involved in

killing prospective and popular Awami League leaders across the

country but they denied it outright,"

said Hasina. "It is now proved in

court that BNP leaders, whatever

their party position, are involved in

Ahsanullah Master, she said, it was

necessary to investigate whether the

conspiracy was made at the residence of a top BNP leader's business partner

at Gazipur, or a 'bhaban' in the capital

verdict, Hasina said," It is not a

question of rejection or acceptance

punishment of the mastermind to

press note a few hours into the killing

of Ahsanullah attributing it to internal

feuds of the local AL, Hasina said,

"The government tried to save the criminals from the very beginning."

and other ministers also made

statements in parliament blaming

the killing of Ahsanullah on internal

that BNP leadership lies and it

always wants to blame her party for

She went on, "The home minister

But this verdict has also proved

Asked whether she rejects the

. What we are saying is we demand

Referring to the home ministry

To unearth the conspiracy of killing

The opposition leader however

We have been alleging for long

mastermind saved," Hasina said.

opposition leaders.

killing our (AL) leaders."

was linked to the killing.'

stop such killings in future."

conflicts of Awami League.

every crime."

from the BNP high command,"

The government has arranged

vesterday at her office in the city.

FROM PAGE 16

Bogra and in Dhaka. In all such incidents, the government tried to save the culprits by putting the blame on the opposition,

Mayor Badruddin Ahmed Kamran,

huge ammo hauls in Chittagong,

resolution on Bangladesh, the opposition leader said it has properly projected the situation in the country. She said the Members of the European Parliament (MEP), like the people of Bangladesh, felt that reforms in the caretaker government system and the Election

Asked about her party position on the MEPs' view that the opposition should join parliament, Hasina said, "We are eager to join the House but the government does not allow us to speak there for the people. They (government) kill our sitting lawmak-

against the killings." She said the AL will apprise the Senior Awami League leaders

HC decides Abdus Salam Mamun, who had to

He further alleged that he was denrived of official accommodation

FROM PAGE 16 commander of the armed forces. Syed Nazrul Islam was made

elsewhere in the then East Pakistan. The Mujibnagar government with

League (AL) and its front organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day across the country. Leader of the Opposition and AL

Hasina will place a wreath at the

part of the sixth and final one-day international cricket match betweer India and Pakistan before they hold

#### and January 27, he said the government had categorically condemned these heinous acts and already brought some perpetrators to justice. He said the charge sheets in the

Among the issues likely to domi-Indian premier watch today the first

### sentences will be executed subject to the approval of the High Court," the judge said.

As many as 17 of those sen-

room in the old town courthouse, "An ideal teacher, a social

and the nation has been deprived of "Ratan has been deprived of

uncertain," said the judge. The judge later sentenced to

Sarker, Ayub Ali, Jahangir (2) and Nurul Amin. The court also convicted them to two life terms, to run The court acquitted Kabir

Rakib, Ayub, Jahangir (2), Monir, Punishment of the fugitives

The AL lawmaker was murdered out of political vindication and for establishing supremacy in the locality, the court said in its verdict. It also observed that the prosecution has proved beyond a shadow of

crime," he noted. Ahsanullah's family said they were happy with the punishment of the convicts, but the convicts and

responding to the European Parliament resolution on Bangladesh. In his reaction, Khan said the

In an oblique reference to the opposition for encouraging such resolution in the Euro Parliament, the foreign minister observed that the resolution was adopted in presence of only 98 out of 732 MPs of the parliament whose decision is not

Referring to the plea for reform in caretaker government system, Khan said all political parties and people approved the nonparty caretaker government and the three elections were held in a free, fair and impartial manner, which were acclaimed worldwide. Many countries are now thinking of introducing

change a system out of bugbear on However, the foreign minister said, " Let the opposition come to pendently having separate budget parliament and speak out their sugand manpower, free from interfergestion. We're all reasonable people

perpetrators brought to book without any political considerations.

"Let there be a referendum on Rab. and we are sure 99 percent people will support it. People have neaved a sigh of relief following the Rab action," he said. He, however, the permanent solution; we are trying

On human rights, another issue raised by the critics, he said Bangladesh has never been censored by the UN Human Rights Commission as happened to many

ence of the government. The foreign minister, however, welcomed a part of the resolution that urged the opposition to end the boycott of parliament, shun undemocratic practices and enter dialogue through full participation in the democratic process in parlia-

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On the reported extra-judicial The court was yesterday scheduled to hear the chargesheet of the Kibria killing case in which 10 people, including Quaiyum, were attack and murder in Habigani

> hearing the chargesheet. Advocate Maiid told the court that he needed time as he has got a copy of the chargesheet but did not receive any other relevant documents such as confessional statements of the accused and witness

Advocate Chowdhury pleaded

Advocate Maiid filed two cases after the January 27 grenade attack -- one is Kibria killing case and another under explosive sub-

stances act. The police is vet to

submit chargesheet in the second

# At one point, several lawyers

could not manage enough food for Nadia since the death of my hus-

outstanding pays of the victims to their relatives today," said Kamala, "But it seems to be a rumour, as we have not found any management man

"We have come here hearing that

under the debris on Monday. Aleya, her mother said, "We owe Tk 1,500 to our landlord and the grocer near our house." She said they have been living on the water

could not be known. Savar police have already