

## Tk 50 lakh bounty each on JMB, JMJB chiefs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bounty on Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman or Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) operations commander Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai has been set at Tk 50 lakh, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar said yesterday.

Earlier on September 11, the government had announced the bounty without mentioning the amount.

Asked about it, Babar disclosed the amount to journalists after a review meeting on law and order with senior officials of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at the Rab headquarters.

Advertisements regarding the bounty were published in newspapers on September 12. The ads contained 10 separate photographs, five each displaying different possible appearances of the two militant leaders, and phone-fax numbers and email addresses for contact.

## Edict banning shopping by women

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An edict was announced yesterday at Haripur bazar of Jaintapur upazila in Sylhet putting a ban on shopping by women in the bazar. A ban on selling commodities to women was also imposed.

The announcement was made through loudspeakers in the market in the name of some local

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Sangu resumes gas supply at low flow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Sangu Gas Field here resumed operations yesterday, some 19 hours after an abrupt halt due to a technical glitch at around 4:15pm last Thursday.

But, as the gas supply flow remained below the required level, Karnaphuli Fertiliser Factory (Kafco) and Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory (CUFL) that use gas as a raw material could not go back into pro-

duction as of 7:30pm yesterday, when this report was filed.

However, the restored supply did enable Raozan Power Plant and Karnaphuli Paper Mills restart normal production.

The shutdown of the gas field on Thursday was soon translated into snapping of the gas supply to different destinations, forcing suspension of operations of different power plants and fertiliser factories in Chittagong. Operated by Cairns Energy PLC under

a production sharing contract the gas field in Block 16 produces around 172 million cubic feet gas per day.

Sources said the production in the gas field resumed at around 11:10am while the client installations started receiving gas supply, though less than normal, since late afternoon.

"Start-up activities have already begun at our factory. But, it is unlikely to go into production even tomorrow [Saturday], as it would

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 2 killed in 'shootout' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two top criminals—one in Madaripur and the other in Pabna—were killed in 'crossfire' between members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and their cohorts early yesterday.

They are Liakat Ali Sheikh alias Leku, 45, chairman of Badarpasha Union Parishad (UP) and joint convenor of the BNP Rajoir upazila unit under Madaripur district, and Tayeb Ali, an accused in 12 murder cases filed with Chatmohor Police Station in Pabna.

According to our Madaripur correspondent, Rab-4 members

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Fresh Khatme Nabuwat ultimatum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh (IKNMB) yesterday threatened to oust the BNP-Jamaat government by any means necessary if it fails to pass a bill in the parliament declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims by December 23.

At an agitation rally at Nabisco Intersection in the capital after the Jumma prayers, the IKNMB leaders warned that the situation may go out of their control on December 23 when they will lay their scheduled siege to the Ahmadiyya Mosque at Bakshibazar in the city.

"We are ready to be martyred for upholding the dignity of our prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM), but shall not compromise with the government that assumed power

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 4 YEARS OF OPPOSITION PARTIES

# Strategic flaws hinder role in, outside JS

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The opposition bench in the last four years of the 4-party coalition rule could not play its due role in and outside parliament owing to strategic weakness, lack of vision and, to some extent, repression by the ruling alliance leader, BNP.

The main responsibility of the failure mostly lies with Awami League (AL) and Ershad-led Jatiya Party (JP)—the biggest two of the five opposition parties represented at the current Jatiya Sangsad (JS).

The opposition camp, which in our Westminster-type democracy

traditionally forms and runs a shadow cabinet, failed to mobilise the masses on a string of crucial issues including essentials price spiral, uprise of Islamist militancy, repeated bomb attacks, and law and order downside.

The parties could not unite in or outside the House in public interest. Neither could they put enough pressure on the government or launch any strong movement to correct the situation.

Contrary to parliamentary norms, the main opposition AL and the second largest JP also differed in their parliamentary affairs strategies. While the AL seemed to prefer keep-

ing away from parliamentary proceedings, the JP tried to keep up a good relation with the treasury bench staying in parliament in an apparent bid to ensure development allocations for its constituencies.

### ADISAPPOINTING MAIN OPPOSITION

Despite the existence of a number of issues of public concern, the AL failed to marshal any mass participation in its antigovernment movements. It lacked an active participation in the JS, while its political activities mostly remained confined to sporadic street agitation on unimportant issues.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Janajuddha kills 5 BNP men in 2 days

### Revenge for crossfire?

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party seems to have started 'avenging the deaths of its operatives in crossfire' by killing the ruling BNP men in the southwestern districts.

According to sources, the outfit has killed five BNP men in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah and Narail in a span of eight hours on Wednesday and early Thursday.

The party holding sway over the southwestern region had vowed on a number of occasions to take revenge on the ruling alliance for 'engaging' Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and other law enforcement agencies to 'slay at

least 150 of its cadres in 10 districts since June last year'.

The BNP men who were killed between 8:00pm Wednesday and 4:00am Thursday include Sahin alias Saheb Ali 32, of Kotchandpur upazila in Jhenidah, Afaz Uddin 45, of Daulatpur upazila in Kushtia, Nazrul Islam, 50, and Swapan Bairagi of sadar upazila in Narail and Zamir Ali, 36, of Jibon Nagar upazila in Chuadanga district.

Police said the Narail killing took place at about 8:00pm, Chuadanga 9:00pm, Jhenidah 11:00pm Wednesday while the Kushtia murder was committed at about 4:00am Thursday.

In a statement issued,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO STAR

Gulshan Society and Bapa jointly form a human chain at Gulshan in the city yesterday demanding restoration of Gulshan South park. For "development works", Dhaka City Corporation recently took control of the park area that had remained occupied by illegal settlers for years.

## Save Gulshan South Park, develop it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and civil society leaders yesterday formed a human chain, demanding preservation of Gulshan South Park and developing it into a full park in accordance with the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkho (Rajuk) Master Plan.

The human chain jointly organised by the Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Gulshan Society near the Gulshan Shooting Complex also urged the government to immediately rehabilitate the poor, who used to live in the park and had recently been evicted.

Gulshan Society President Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, who was the chief guest of the programme, said any open space and lake, including the Gulshan

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6