

JMB admits to killing Ansars in Natore

Warns of further attacks on Dec 31

BDNEWS, Rangpur

The suicide squad of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday claimed the responsibility of the killing of three Ansar men at Bamihal police camp in Singra upazila of Natore.

The Islamist militants on Wednesday ransacked the police camp at remote Bamihal in the Chalan Bil area, killing the three Ansar men and wounding several others. They also took away eight rifles and one light machine gun (LMG) from the camp.

One Sohag of Adarsha Para in Rangpur, identifying himself to be an ehars (suicide member) of the JMB, faxed a hand-written letter to the local newspaper Juger Alo,

claiming the responsibility of the incident and warning of more blasts.

Rangpur will experience deadly attacks on December 31, the letter said, adding that "Mission December 31" is the code name for JMB's next operation.

The letter claimed that bomb blasts will take place at around 1:30pm on Saturday.

It said the JMB men are not frustrated following the arrest of JMB military commander Sunny and other regional commanders. "We took oath under a new leadership and are determined to complete our next missions," the letter added.

Tarique sees foreign hands in militancy

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Senior Joint Secretary General of ruling BNP Tarique Rahman suspects foreign conspiracy behind the rise in militant activities in the country.

"Those who will control the market if the industry in Bangladesh fails to flourish and those who'll benefit from instability in the country might have a hand in the militant activities," he said in an interview to private television channel ATN.

The eldest son of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Tarique said conspiracies against Bangladesh are not anything new, those had started since the days of Nawab Sirajuddowlah.

Replying to another query, he said, "The components of the four-party alliance run their respective parties. They go to people with their own ideology," he added.

On the grassroots level BNP representatives' conferences that he had organised across the country, he said, "The conferences have made the party even stronger. Through those, the people and the leaders and supporters of the BNP learnt about the government's activities."

"We will get the fruits of those conferences in the next general election," he observed.

Tarique Rahman asked for opinions of about 60,000 workers and leaders at the conferences held between January 4 and March 29, 2005. On the basis of those opinions, he has submitted a report to Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Gas reserve

FROM PAGE 1

give Bapex funds from the Annual Development Programme (ADP). Bapex should be given financial autonomy to make its own earning and benefit both itself and the nation. Otherwise, the gas supply situation will be grim, they think.

There have been little exploration activities during the BNP-led coalition rule. All major explorations were undertaken by the previous Awami League government.

If the government continues to sit idle, officials and experts say, the country will fail to meet its targets of millennium development goal (MDG) affecting the targeted GDP growth rates.

The MDG wants Bangladesh to attain a GDP growth of over seven percent, which is hard to achieve but not impossible. "If we can just ensure a smooth power supply, we can achieve an additional GDP growth rate of 1 percent, for instance," said one official.

Even with the current gas demand when the GDP growth is 5.5, the country needs 16 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of new gas till 2025. If it wants to meet the MDG, the country needs seven percent GDP growth and 26tcf new gas till 2025. And to achieve GDP growth rate of above seven percent, it needs 35tcf new gas.

The government's draft final Gas Sector Master Plan being prepared by British consultant Wood Mackenzie says that the proven gas reserve of 9.2tcf will be able to meet the country's forecast demand till 2011. Petrobangla provided these figures.

Even if the country can tap a probable gas reserve of 14.4 tcf (inclusive of the proven reserve), the crisis starts from 2015. If a possible reserve of 22tcf can be tapped, the crisis will begin from 2019.

"The earliest period when gas supply may potentially fall short of demand is 2010-2015," the draft master plan says. This situation demands proper appraisal of the discovered fields to prove the potential, probable and possible reserves as well as the urgent need for new exploration drilling to prove the potential yet-to-find (YTF) resource, the plan adds.

Sensing an inevitable crisis, Petrobangla made some homework earlier this year and came up with some realistic suggestions to resolve this. It marked seven off-shore blocks, which are not deep sea ones and which were previously opened for the second round block bidding. It also marked 11 on-shore blocks which were previously opened for the second round bidding with different block identification. Besides, it proposed the second round bid's two blocks open for the bid.

"In total there are 20 blocks which can be open for a third round block bidding. We can open these blocks after just deciding some incentive packages because some of them were previously explored and oil companies may not be interested in those," said one source.

Such incentives can include

Petrobangla's advance committee to purchase gas from an oil company that discovers gas from a least lucrative block. For such blocks, the government may also offer the oil companies a higher gas price.

Petrobangla also thought of another 20 deep sea blocks which need to be identified first to go for future exploration. "Deep sea blocks demand heavy investment. Even if we find big gas reserve there, it will take quite a long time and substantial amounts of money to bring that gas to some use. We will need them in future but opting for deep sea blocks will not give us any immediate solution," said one expert.

The energy ministry however brushed aside the idea of opening the existing 20 blocks and opted for the deep sea 'spec survey' which would cost about \$10 million.

Sources said the ministry was actually promoting someone's business interest over the national interest. The spec survey will take at least a year to complete.

The energy ministry last week sought cabinet approval of the spec survey. The cabinet did not approve it and formed a committee headed by Health Minister Mosharrar Hossain to 'review' it.

Energy ministry Adviser Mahmudur Rahman had objected to the cabinet decision saying that it will jeopardise future gas supplies. But officials and experts say his position is not proper.

"We have some down to earth options deserving government attention. We already have the Bibiyana gas field under development. This is a major field and it will increase our total proven gas reserve within a year," said one expert.

Besides, Petrobangla has initiated a \$20 million three dimensional survey financed by the Asian Development Bank in the existing fields of Titas, Bakhrabad, Rashidpur, Kailashitla and Sylhet. Once these surveys are complete and new gas layers are identified, the country can have new gas at minimal cost.

"Bapex was awarded two blocks -- 8 and 11-- last year. It has the capability to conduct seismic survey extending 750 line km to 800 line km. But the Planning Commission would not give it the required fund. So it has limited its tasks to 300 to 400 km. At this rate, it will take ages to finish the survey and start drilling four to five wells," he pointed out.

It will take \$9 million to complete the survey and \$6 million to drill each exploratory well. "If Bapex is allowed to sell its gas at the rates of the other oil companies, it can give the government more than Tk 100 crore a year and save itself another Tk 100 crore. It is just a matter of decision. But nobody is paying any attention," he noted.

NSU student

FROM PAGE 16

27 for Tk 20 lakh ransom.

Police arrested abductor M Selim, 30, and his three accomplices.

Carrying NSU student Foyzal Zaman Khan Sanjoy in their family car, driver Selim abducted him from their Baridhara residence on December 27.

Sanjoy's expatriate father Helal Khan was scheduled to come to Bangladesh from USA the next day.

Selim drove back to the house alone and the family members observed something suspicious about Selim while they were receiving a phone call with the demand of Tk 20 lakh as ransom, family sources said.

Selim also started receiving frequent phone calls that added to their doubt.

Sanjoy's family members filed an abduction case accusing driver Selim and house peon Bachchu Miah and police arrested the two.

Following their statement, police rescued Sanjoy from a shanty village under Joydebpur thana of Gazipur district and arrested Titu Hasan and Aminul Islam who were guarding a tied up Sanjoy there.

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Mob beats

FROM PAGE 16

their source Kamal went to the market at around 10:00am and harassed and picked up vendors who refused to pay the increased toll, sources said.

Local restaurant owner said the cops tried to detain a respectable person of the locality, also owner of a store in the market, as he requested the lawmen not to harass the hawkers.

"Over 50 agitated hawkers and local people gathered and beat up Constable G Nabi and Kamal while the other cops fled the scene," he said.

Later, a large contingent of police rushed to the spot to rescue the constable and the informant and brought the situation under control, witnesses said.

The agitated people staged a demonstration on the road in protest against the police harassment, disrupting traffic for around 20 minutes, they said.

Asked about the incident, SI Mostaq told journalists that they went to the market "to evict the hawkers and an illegal rickshaw garage occupying both sides of the road".

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41,050 applicants

FROM PAGE 16

Khaligao Govt High School, Nawabpur Govt High School, New Govt Girls' High School, Islamia High School and Mohammadpur Govt High School. The admission tests for these schools will be held on January 1.

The admission tests for Motijheel Govt Boys' High School, Narinda Govt High School, Dhaka Govt Muslim High School, Banglabazar Govt Girls' High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Boys' High School, Govt Science College, Dhanmondi Girls' High School and Dhanmondi Quamrunnesa Govt Girls' High School under category-B will be held on January 3.

The schools under category-C include Dhanmondi Govt Boys' High School, Armanitola Govt High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Girls' High School, Tikatuli Quamrunnesa Govt Girls' High School, Dhaka Collegiate School, Gono Bhawan Govt High School, Tejgaon Govt High School and Tejgaon Govt Girls' High School. The admission tests for these schools will be held on January 5.

Meanwhile, admission tests at the city's non-government schools are going on.

Although there are many non-government high schools in the city, intense competition in the admission tests can be seen mainly at some renowned schools like Vigarunnesa Noon School, Holy Cross School, Ideal School and Willes Little Flower School.

As many as eight students are contesting in the ongoing admission test for a seat in the Vigarunnesa Noon School.

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31st night

FROM PAGE 1

decided not to allow any unrestrained celebration and that anyone found drunk on the street will be arrested.

A huge contingent of law enforcement members will rule the Dhaka streets and thoroughly search vehicles that are to enter the posh areas of the capital.

Besides, traffic ban will come into effect on streets around the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), Nilkhet, Palashi, Boxibazar, Chankhar Pool, Nimtoli, Government Employees Hospital, and High Court.

Deployed alongside the police, the doctors will carry out test on the people out on streets and legal action will be taken if anyone is found drunk, according to a decision by the home ministry.

The government earlier asked the bars in the capital and elsewhere to keep the shutters down during the year-end celebration.

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10 Sudanese migrants killed in Cairo clash

UN refugee agency 'shocked'

AGENCIES, Cairo/ Geneva

Ten Sudanese migrants were killed yesterday in clashes with Egyptian police trying to dismantle a protest camp where hundreds of migrants had lived for months demanding resettlement outside the country, Egypt's Interior Ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement that the migrants' leaders attacked police after officers tried to persuade them to leave the city park where the camp had been set up, resulting in "chaos and a stampede."

Thirty migrants, mostly elderly people and children, were wounded and transferred to a nearby hospital, where 10 of them died, the ministry said.

Twenty-three policemen were also wounded in the clashes.

The Sudanese set up the camp Sept. 29 as a protest against the U.N. refugee agency nearby after it stopped hearing the cases of Sudanese seeking refugee status in the wake of the January peace deal that ended their home country's 21-year civil war.

Asylum-seekers generally must gain the status to be resettled in countries such as the United States, Australia and Britain.

Thousands of security forces moved in before midnight and closed off the area, surrounding the camp. In the early hours Friday, the Sudanese began dismantling the protest camp, while government buses waited nearby to transport them away.

But when many of the Sudanese refused to leave even after the camp was dismantled, police fired water cannons, drenching the protesters.

At times the Sudanese num-

bered up to 2,000 in the impromptu camp. At least three refugees have died in the camp, including a 4-year-old boy who succumbed to pneumonia earlier this month.

About 30,000 Sudanese are registered as refugees in Egypt, and estimates of Sudanese living in the country have ranged from 200,000 to several million.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees said last week that it had reached a deal with some of the protest leaders, promising to resume hearing some migrants' cases and offering a one-time payment of up to \$700 for housing in Egypt.

But most of the migrants rejected the deal, saying they wanted promises of resettlement abroad.

Meanwhile, the head of the UN refugee agency said he was "deeply shocked" that Egyptian riot police forcibly broke up a three-month protest outside UN offices in Cairo in which 10 Sudanese refugees were killed yesterday.

"I am deeply shocked and saddened by the tragic events early today in Cairo," High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Guterres said in Geneva.

"Although we still do not have all of the details or a clear picture of what transpired, violence left several people dead and injured.

"There is no justification for such violence and loss of life. This is a terrible tragedy and our condolences go to all the families of those who died and to the injured," he said.

(AP, AFP)

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Tipaimukh dam

FROM PAGE 1

wake of the Indian government's go-ahead in November for generating 1500 MW power by building the Rs 6,000 crore dam in Manipur on the Barak, the source of water of the Surma and Kushiara in Sylhet that feed the Meghna.

Moreover, the Surma and Kushiara would fully dry up during lean period when the proposed barrage at Phulertal, 100 kilometres downstream of Tipaimukh, for irrigation purposes is built, they said.

India is not consulting co-riparian Bangladesh in harnessing water of the trans-boundary river and is not even providing the lower riparian with any information, the experts alleged.

Participants from Assam and Manipur said Tipaimukh dam would also affect livelihood of 73 villages on the Indian side alone, of which 15 would be inundated.

The ITDC, inaugurated by writer and educationist Muhammad Zafar Iqbal yesterday morning with the slogan 'Development in Harmony with Nature,' ends this evening.

It will adopt 'Dhaka Declaration' urging political leadership of both India and Bangladesh to save millions from a potential man-made disaster.

The conference opened amidst hoisting of flags of 10 countries -- Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Afghanistan, Myanmar and China, who are co-riparians for many rivers. The first working session began in the afternoon with hydro-geologist Prof Khalequzzaman of Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) in the chair.

Former member of the Indo-Bangla Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) and renowned water expert Dr Aunur Nishat gave a detailed presentation at the session. It was addressed by, among others, Awami League lawmaker Dr Abdur Razzak, Dr Zahiruddin Chowdhury of BUET, Dr KR Ranjan of Manipur University, rights activists from Assam-Manipur Devabrata Roy and Rabindranath, freedom fighter Mashrur-ul-Haq, ActionAid Country Director Nasreen Huq, and BAPA (environmental group) General Secretary Mahidul Huq Khan. Muhammad Hiraluddin, chief director of Angkar Bangladesh Foundation moderated the conference.

Expressing concern at the lack of information flow through the JRC, Dr Aunur Nishat stressed basin-based water management and involvement of all co-riparian countries in harnessing waters of cross-boundary rivers.

Prof Zafar Iqbal said India should not unilaterally build a dam on trans-boundary river. The Tipaimukh dam plan, keeping

Bangladesh uninformed, is unfortunate, he said.

Sylhet and its rivers would face desertification, said Zafar, a teacher of Sylhet University of Science and Technology (SUST).

Prof Zahiruddin feared that if a barrage is built at Phulertal, the Barak's water-flow meant for feeding the Meghna would be diverted for irrigating 1,680 square km areas in northeastern India.

In the last JRC meet in Dhaka in September, the then Indian water resources minister Priya Ranjan Dasgupti however assured Bangladesh that there would be no diversion of water for irrigation purposes. But the ITDC organisers said that the Indian Public Investment Board (PIB) last month sanctioned Rs 6,000 crore for completing the Tipaimukh project in totality by 2011.

Dr Razzak emphasised political capacity building for making better bargain with India about the ecological interests of Bangladesh.

Prof Khalequzzaman said Bangladesh might get 17,000 cusec less water than what it gets now from the Barak due to the building of the dam. The Indian government signed an agreement with Manipur state government aiming at finishing the task by 2011.

Indian rights activist Rabindranath said Tipaimukh dam would turn hundreds of indigenous people in Manipur into beggars.

Coordinator of the River Basin Friends of Assam Rabindranath feared that tonnes of rocks and mud rolling down from Tipaimukh dam construction site would choke rivers of Bangladesh.

Anti-Tipaimukh dam activist from Manipur Devabrata Roy said the project has the potential of inflicting a 'cultural genocide' on indigenous people of northeastern India.

Manipur University Registrar Dr RK Ranjan feared that when water flow would slow down from Barak to Meghna, saline water from the Bay of Bengal would intrude into mainland Bangladesh, damaging its farmlands forever.

2 Petrobangla executives

FROM PAGE 1

the lorry also died and three people riding in the truck -- Hazrat Ali, 40, Yakub Ali, 30, and Abdur Rashid, 35, -- were wounded in the accident.

The injured were sent to the orthopaedics hospital in Dhaka. Doctors said Nahin and Amit were out of danger but they will have to go through several surgeries.

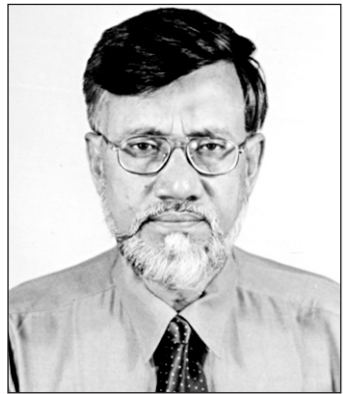
The AGM scheduled to begin at 7:30pm yesterday with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman as the

former state minister for energy AKM Mosharrar Hossain, among others, expressed condolences at the misfortune.

MISHAP AT CHAITANYA BUS STAND

In the earlier accident at 4:30am, seven people were killed when the microbus they were riding in crashed into a lorry parked at Chaitanya Bus Stand on the highway.

The police said the microbus



Quazi Shahidur Rahman



MA Baset

chief guest was postponed due to the accident, BDNEWS said.

Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman and Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla) Chairman Mosharrar Hossain Bhuiyan, who were in Sylhet to attend the AGM, rushed to Narsingdi on hearing the news. A number of colleagues, who hastened to the accident spot, brought the bodies of Shahidur, Baset and their wives to Dhaka.

Shahidur, a former student of Jhenidha Cadet College, was also working as a director of Bangladesh Petroleum Institute, besides his main duty as the Petrobangla director (Planning).

Baset, a former managing director of Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Ltd (Bapex) and Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Ltd, was attached to the office of the Petrobangla chairman.

Both of them graduated from the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and

driver lost control amid a dense fog and hit the lorry from behind, killing six of the seven passengers and himself on the spot.

The dead passengers were Imran, 35, Shah Suri, 32, Khurshid Alam, 28, Nizam Mia, 28, Mohan Mia, 32, and Rafiq Mia, 26, and the driver was identified as Suruj Mia, 45. They were returning to their village homes at Rasulpur in Sarail upazila of Brahmanbaria district after seeing some relations off at the hajj camp in Dhaka.

The lone surviving passenger, Noore Alam, was admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

The police seized the lorry and the microbus, and sent the bodies to the hospital's morgue for autopsy. Two separate cases were filed.

BDR pushes back 13 Indians

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) on Thursday night pushed back the 13 Bangla-speaking Indians pushed into Bangladesh by Border Security Force (BSF) the same day.

The BSF pushed the 13 into Bangladesh through the Kalindi river, while the BDR pushed them back through Durnumzkhali border in Shyamnagar upazila.

The Indians are Abdul Haq, Rizia Begum, Fazila Khatun, Hassan, Russell, Golam Rasul, Sirajul Islam, Oviran Nesa, Hafiz, Ayub, Rafiqul, Ali Hassan and Akram, all from South 24 Parganas in West Bengal.

Quoting them, the BDR said the Indian border guards gathered the victims on the border and forced them to cross the river by a boat at Kolkhal.

The on duty BDR men detained them as soon as they entered Bangladesh.

Contacted, 7 Rifles Battalion Commanding Officer Lt Col Golam Hossain Sarkar confirmed the incident.

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Bangladeshi woman

FROM PAGE 16

was drinking when he fired shots into the air.

The victim's family said they were planning a surprise party for her 29th birthday on 31 December.

Her husband Golam Maola and two young children were in the flat at the time of the shooting.

Maola said he was on the telephone to relatives in Bangladesh when he heard two gunshots and found his wife in a pool of blood.

Police said they had arrested 23-year-old Private Danny Carpio and would be charging him with manslaughter and criminal possession of a weapon.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown said Pte Carpio, who lives nearby, was drinking before meeting friends outside the apartment complex and shooting into the air.

Selina and Maola were born in Chittagong and came to the US in 1990 and 1997.

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Rab captures

FROM PAGE 16

Sabbir and the recovered items were handed over to Daulatpur police yesterday morning.

According to a Daulatpur police source, a group of JMB suicide bombers under Sabbir's command are staying in Khulna city under cover. They have the preparation to carry out bomb attacks at any available opportunity after receiving signal from Hafez, the source said.

Sabbir has given important information about the Islamist outfit's plan to implement in the southwestern region in January next year, the police said but did not elaborate on the matter on ground of investigation.

Meanwhile, the Rab and police have jointly launched a combing operation to arrest Hafez Mahmud and the suicide bombers.

The police believe that Sabbir also has links with the Purbo Banglar Communist Party Janajuddha and was involved in the November 19 bomb attack on policemen at Daulatpur and the November 20 attack at the Picture Palace cinema hall intersection.

The arrest of the JMB suicide bombers and other cadres is being given highest priority, keeping in view the New Year celebration on Saturday night, said a source in the Khulna Metropolitan Police intelligence.

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Tata

FROM PAGE 16

A highly placed source in Mongla Port Authority (MPA) said Tata has made the proposal to gear up the port's activities and restore its lost name and fame.

Tata in its proposal said it will make all-out efforts to modernise the port channel and construct fresh container jetties to give the port a new look to attract foreign ships.

Tata's proposal came at a time when the government has a plan to privatise Mongla Port to save it from counting continuous losses.

The source however could not confirm whether the government is still considering the plan or has discarded it.

Meanwhile, the 10-member parliamentary committee on the shipping ministry held its 24th meeting at the MPA conference room with lawmaker Golam Mohammad Siraj in the chair on Thursday.

The committee took some important decisions to revive the port. The decisions include construction of a deep see port at either Akram point or Kutubdia, permanent dredging of the Pashur river and import of fertilisers and food grain for southern and northern regions through the port.

Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain was present.

Procession

FROM PAGE 16

Bikkhubdha Deshbasi comprising Ain O Salih Kendra, Karmajibi Nari, Nijera Kori, Udichi Shilpi Gosthy, Prothom Alo Bondhu Sava and members of the civil society took part in the procession.

Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, and actress Kabori Sarwar were among the participants.

On December 14, the Martyred Intellectuals Day, Bikkhubdha Deshbasi announced that they will bring out a flag procession from the Jatiya Shaheed Minar on every Friday morning till March 26 of the next year.

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Garment worker

FROM PAGE 1

guard named Habib stopped him and started beating him. After some time, he took him to the second floor, where production manager Shamsu and other guards dragged him to the sewing room. Later the body was found hooked to the ceiling," said Jasim, an eyewitness and worker of the factory.

"Somehow the death has occurred. We will pay the victim's family compensation for the death at work. We will sit down with the BGMEA leaders tomorrow [today] and take necessary steps as per their decision," said Anwar Hossain Manik, managing director of Titanic Products Ltd. He claimed that Titanic has maintained a sterling reputation in the garments sector for the last 15 years.

As the news of Panna's death spread, hundreds of agitated workers gathered in front of the factory.

They said they sweat blood to produce the clothes but cannot wear any of them. If someone wears any and it comes to the notice of the authorities, he has to pay a huge price, as did Panna.

"Can you imagine the situation here? One of our men has lost his life for a T-shirt that costs only about Tk 60," said Rani, a worker of the factory.

Workers of a nearby factory first saw the body hanging from the ceiling in the morning. They rushed to the second floor of the Titanic garments and found Panna dead.

At the sight of the fellow worker's body, the garment workers went berserk. They locked the doors of the factory and beat up security guard Mizan.

As police reached the building, the agitators from inside demanded they [police] immediately arrest Shamsu and the

others involved in the beating-up.

Police and some worker leaders managed to enter the factory at 12:30pm. But the agitators resisted the police taking away the body until Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) leaders went there and assured them of taking necessary measures to ensure punishment to the culprits. The leaders also announced a compensation of Tk 3 lakh for Panna's family.

The workers alleged that they are often subjected to beatings and abuse.

"They often beat us up. Still we can't leave the job as they always keep a large amount from our wages outstanding. Whenever we protest the misbehaviours, they deduct a substantial amount from our salary," said Mariam, a female worker of the factory. Many others standing beside her said the same in a chorus.

"Only three days ago, Shamsu gave a severe beating to a girl at the factory," said another worker.

The workers also alleged that the factory owner has yet to pay them the overtime bill of four months and salary of one month.

The factory authorities denied the allegations. "We don't torture anyone. Had we been doing so, no one would have been working for us," said Anwar Hossain Manik.

"We did not get any formal allegation from anybody that the employer torture the workers. We can take action only if someone lodges a specific complaint," said Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Pallabi Police Station.

Police took the body to the morgue at 2:00pm yesterday. The relatives of Panna the same day filed a case with Pallabi Police Station.

guard named Habib stopped him and started beating him. After some time, he took him to the second floor, where production manager Shamsu and other guards dragged him to the sewing room. Later the body was found hooked to the ceiling," said Jasim, an eyewitness and worker of the factory.

"Somehow the death has occurred. We will pay the victim's family compensation for the death at work. We will sit down with the BGMEA leaders tomorrow [today] and take necessary steps as per their decision," said Anwar Hossain Manik, managing director of Titanic Products Ltd. He claimed that Titanic has maintained a sterling reputation in the garments sector for the last 15 years.

As the news of Panna's death spread, hundreds of agitated workers