

## 2 killed, 58 hurt

**FROM PAGE 16**  
injured four BNP activists, police said.

Staff Correspondent from Bogra reports: Nineteen people, including four women, were injured in post-upazila poll violence in Gabtali and Kahlua upazilas of the district Friday night and yesterday.

Four women were injured when the supporters of upazila unit AL president Azam Khan who defeated in upazila (UZ) polls swooped on four houses of BNP supporters following an altercation over the UZ poll result at Hossainpur village in Gabtali upazila at about 10:45am yesterday.

Victim of the incident Ziaul Hasan alleged that AL men ransacked the houses and looted valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh.

Nadira Begum, Moiful, Masuma and Komela were seriously injured during the attack.

Victim's sources said about 300 BNP supporters left the village fearing further attacks.

On the other, a poultry farm and thirteen piles of straw were set afire in Kahlua upazila while 15 BNP leaders and workers were injured in an attack at Jinir village in Adamdighi upazila Friday night.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent adds: At least 12 persons were injured in post-upazila poll violence in three upazilas of the district yesterday.

In Dumki, supporters of UZ chairman-elect Harun-Rashid Hawlader allegedly set fire to four shops owned by defeated candidate's supporter Shahjahan Sikder in Patabunia bazaar at about 2:00 am. Shopkeeper Mamun and Mosharef were wounded while resisting the attackers.

In another incident, three people were injured in an attack allegedly by UZ chairman-elect supporters in Angaria bazaar of the upazila. Six persons were also injured in another attack in Taltali bazaar of the upazila.

In Kalapara, Mamun was injured as the supporters of UZ chairman-elect supporters swooped on him at Aliganj.

## Jagannath

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The teachers of the university over the past two decades. Currently the university does not have a single dormitory for the students.

Later, at a protest rally, students gave an ultimatum of two days to the university authorities to meet their demand and threatened that they would take to the street if their demand went unheeded.

Seeking assistance from the government, VC Prof Hossain told the reporters that the demand students made are very much logical. He also said they had already formed a seven-member committee to find ways to get those dormitories back from grabbers.

## Khaleda talks

**FROM PAGE 1**  
their strategy at the inaugural session of the ninth parliament today.

She also selected her party representatives in the Business Advisory Committee, Privilege Committee and Housing Committee of parliament.

Held at the party chairperson's Gulshan office, the meeting was attended by 17 lawmakers and some senior leaders of the party.

Meanwhile, the BNP parliamentary party will sit today at 2:00pm at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban to finalise its strategy and to discuss other issues relating to the inaugural session.

At yesterday's meeting, Khaleda Zia nominated Salauddin Quader Chowdhury to represent BNP in the Business Advisory Committee. She herself will also be on the committee, meeting sources said.

Besides, Khaleda along with MK Anwar will be on the Privilege Committee while Ashrafuddin Nizan will represent the party in the Housing Committee.

The BNP chief asked the party legislators to raise important and burning issues in the House. She advised them to face the treasury bench prudently.

The opposition leader affirmed that they would join the inaugural session of parliament to make it lively, and would play a constructive role in the House.

"The party chairperson gave us instructions about the inaugural session of parliament, our role and so on," a BNP lawmaker told this correspondent last night.

Earlier, the BNP chief attended a prize distribution ceremony of an art contest for children in observance of late president Ziaur Rahman's 73rd birth anniversary. She addressed the children present at the function held at her office.

Our Rangpur Correspondent reports:

Supporters of defeated UZ chairman candidate of Pirganj Motaharul Islam Bablu allegedly damaged a pick-up van of another defeated candidate Jahangir Choudhury in Baradargah bazaar Friday night.

A case was filed with the police in this connection.

In another incident, Two hundred people led by brother of UZ chairman-elect of Nageshawri upazila Humayun ransacked the house of Joyal Abedin over a land dispute at Masterpara at 7:00 am yesterday.

Police said they damaged the furniture and other valuables and beat up its inmates.

In another incident, three activists of AL were injured in a clash between the supporters of UZ chairman candidate Rafiqul Islam Bachchu and UZ chairman-elect Baduzzaman Velu at Hatibandha bazaar under Lalmonirhat district yesterday noon.

Our Brahmanbaria Correspondent adds: Some unruly young men attacked on five women at Arashida village in Ashuganj upazila at about 4:00pm yesterday for not casting votes in favour of defeated UZ poll candidate Abu Asif Ahmed, leaving them injured.

Of the injured, Hanufa Begum, 70, was admitted to District Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

## Shocking

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Monzurul Islam of the English Department, adding that the main duty of a teacher is taking classes and exams timely rather than anything else.

"What happened today in the name of greeting officials is morally unacceptable," he said, raising question that why should teachers need to congratulate their colleagues depriving students when they can meet each other everyday?

Prof Monzurul believes a partisan mentality works behind such an attitude.

"Anything ignoring classes is not acceptable to me. Classes should be the first priority for a teacher. This is their moral responsibility to the students," Vice Chancellor Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star.

The teachers are also engaged in teaching at private universities and consultancy at the cost of DU students. This has been going on for years but no effective steps have so far been taken to put an end to such a propensity for negligence to duty.

Teachers are also blamed for overstaying overseas depriving the university students of their valuable classes.

## Fog disrupts

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and the mercury may fall after the fog is gone.

A British Airways flight scheduled to arrive at ZIA at 1:50am landed at 10 in the morning as it was diverted to Kolkata due to dense fog in Dhaka. A flight of Yemen Airways also endured similar difficulties.

The inclement weather put farmers in the northern region in an awkward situation with their growing potatoes and boro seedbeds, BSS reports from Rajshahi.

Our correspondent in Manikganj reports: Ferry services between Paturia and Daulatdia and Paturia and Kazirhat were disrupted for around 12 hours from 11:30pm Friday for the third consecutive day due to dense fog.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) sources said the Shah Mokhdum ferry loaded with vehicles was forced to anchor in mid river due to poor visibility.

Around 500 vehicles at Paturia ghat and 300 more at Daulatdia ghat were stranded causing suffering to passengers, sources said.

Ferry services between Mawa and Kawrakandi remained suspended from 10:00pm Friday to 10:30am yesterday, UNB reports from Munshiganj.

BIWTC sources said five ferries with 60 vehicles and over 2,000 passengers were stranded in mid river. Around 4,000 vehicles are now waiting at Mawa and Kawrakandi ends waiting to cross the river.

Our correspondent in Barisal reports: Thousands of launch passengers were stranded in mid river as many launches were forced to drop their anchor due to poor visibility. River communication was disrupted for six to eight hours in the southern region.

## Clarification

**FROM PAGE 16**  
specific patient undergoing treatment.

However, Major Saiful Islam Chowdhury of Rab-1 told The Daily Star that they detained one Milon who had secret links to different clinics and hospitals, including the National Heart Foundation Hospital, involved in preserving and selling illegal blood in the city's bupura area.

## Wealth cards

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Finance ministry sources explained that by powerful persons the minister referred to persons involved in government work.

The letters also said if ministers and their relatives have businesses of their own, they should not get involved in government-linked businesses to avert conflict of interest.

The NBR would verify the wealth statements to be published through the cabinet division. The letters requested the PMO to take steps quickly so that the statement can be published next year.

For the last several years, Bangladesh was among the most corrupt countries in Transparency International's corruption perception index. It was mainly because powerful persons including ministers and lawmakers tended to provide no government service without bribe. Government employees also got involved in corruption.

As a result, various donor agencies and civil society members in the past demanded publication of their wealth statements but it was not done.

Following a meeting with the NBR recently, the finance minister told journalists that they would soon publish the wealth statements.

## 200 pirates

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"In each gang there are around 30 robbers and of them only five to seven are professionals...the rest are labourers or rickshaw pullers who are hired on daily basis or are given share of the booty," Deputy Commissioner (DC) AKM Awlad Hossain of DB (south) told reporters quoting the pirates' statements.

He said during primary interrogation the detainees admitted their involvement in the killing, the robbery and disclosed the names of others in their gang.

Arrested Bhutto said they use lethal weapons for robbing people and they kill passengers, if they raise alarm, and dump the bodies into the river. He said they killed Mizanur and Kabir for interrupting their robbery.

They can commit two to three robberies a day, he added.

They had killed truck driver Mizanur Rahman, 30, and his helper Mohammad Kabir Hossain, 32, when Mizanur and Kabir along with a number of others tried to prevent a robbery at a launch.

A gang of around 12 pirates swooped on the launch in the river around 3:30am while Mizanur and Kabir were waiting at shore for their truck to be loaded with sand. Sensing a robbery taking place the two and a few others raised alarm by crying out help.

A few minutes later the robbers came to Patharghat on an engine boat and hacked Mizanur and Kabir to death, DB officials said.

Following the filing of a case, the DB investigated the incident and arrested the three.

## Dido arrives

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bangabandhu National Stadium.

"Well, it was a good first match to see. It was an exciting game and everything looked alright," said Dido, who officially takes charge from February.

"As a coach I know about the ingredients I have to work on here because I have been working in Asia for long. The factors for development of soccer is almost same in the Asian countries," said the Brazilian-born, who also holds Dutch nationality, immediately after his arrival from Amsterdam.

Dido was national coach of Vietnam and Taiwan and has also coached clubs in Holland, China, UAE, Israel, Malta and Faroe Islands.

"I still remember Aminul and Alfaz (of Bangladesh) when they played against Vietnam in the World Cup pre-qualifiers in 2001.

"I can't say anything else about Bangladesh football but want to see what facilities they have got. You need a long strategy for development, like Japan used to send young players to Brazil to learn the game. There is no short way to success in football," the 46-year-old said.

"You have to set a development plan and implement them."

Dido is expected to sign a one-year contract within this week and will be paid 4,000 US dollars per month.

He also welcomed the idea to have Argentina's Ariel Coleman as his trainer.

"He knows the Bangladeshi footballers well because he had worked here. It is an advantage. Brazil and Argentina have rivalries in football, but it does not matter for us coaches."



Family members of Abdul Malek wait for his news as they do not know if he is alive. Malek is one of over 300 illegal migrants who are missing in the Indian Ocean.

## Desperation lost

**FROM PAGE 1**  
intended to go to Malaysia. If I knew I would not have allowed him to go in that way," Madina said.

"He sold my gold earrings, nose pins and even some new utensils to raise Tk 20,000 for him to go abroad," she added.

Malek was among the 300 migrants who drowned on their way to Malaysia by engine boat.

On December 28 the Indian coastguards rescued around 100 migrants in Andaman Sea when they tried to swim ashore. They were thought to be Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh.

At least 67 of them later identified themselves as Bangladeshis and the list was sent to Dhaka for verification. Malek's name was however not on the list.

Hafez Ahmed, brother-in-law of Enayeturrahman whose name was found on the list, said he talked with Enayet now under the custody of Andaman

authorities and was convinced that Malek was not among the survivors.

The Bangkok-based refugee advocacy group Arakan Project said the Thai navy abandoned hundreds of illegal migrants on a barge in the Indian Ocean where about 300 desperate people with little food and water died.

It also said four illegal migrants were tied up and thrown into the ocean after they refused to board the Thai navy vessel.

Asked how she would manage her family now, Madina Begum said, "My father and mother-in-law are no more. I don't know how far my parents will help me."

She now wonders how to explain to their three young kids Tahera Begum, Mohammad Tarek, 8, and Saiful Islam, 4, what has happened.

Asked about his father, Tarek gave an innocent smile and just said, "Malaysia".

## Rohingyas

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The human traffickers who arrange such deadly journeys are also mostly Rohingyas said officials of Bangladesh Rifles and of the Cox's Bazar administration.

Life is not much better for them in Bangladesh either, as the country is one of the poorest in the world, which cannot afford to extend a welcoming hand to such a large number of desperately needy unwanted guests.

The fallout gives rise to obvious strife between the illegal immigrants and the unwelcoming host population.

"They are very vulnerable. And that's why they are the main target of the human traffickers," said Helal Mohammad Khan, a BDR official in Teknaf.

"Around 95 percent of those who risk their lives in the sea to go to Malaysia are Rohingyas," said Mohammad Jasim Uddin, officer in charge of Teknaf police station, adding, "The sea route for illegal migration is actually their discovery."

The Thai authorities alone picked up some 4,886 Rohingyas from the Indian Sea between 2007 and 2008, according to a media report.

Besides, there are around 600 Rohingyas languishing in Indian jails, said a police official in Cox's Bazar.

"There is a huge syndicate of human traffickers based in Myanmar, Bangladesh and Malaysia," another BDR official said.

The syndicate chooses winter as the best time for arranging such desperate journeys because the sea remains relatively calm during the season, the official noted.

Enayeturrahman, one of the 105 rescued by the Indian coastguard on December 28, told his brother-in-law Hafez Ahmed over the phone that they arrived at the Thai coast in a week after starting from Cox's Bazar, but the Thai coast guard refused to accept them and pushed them back into the deep sea instead, on an engineless boat.

"They were over 500 Rohingyas and some Bangladeshis," Hafez told The Daily Star quoting Enayeturrahman.

Enayet said they had some dry rice cereal and molasses initially on the boat, but soon they ran out of that ration and were starving for days when the boat started to drift into deeper sea," Hafez added.

ficking fee they charge is not very high, and since no document is required for the journey, only desperation do suffice.

"The fee ranges between 20,000 to 25,000 taka," said a police officer in Cox's Bazar.

Once the money is collected, the willing are picked up in groups of 20 or 30 by fishing boats from different coastal points of Cox's Bazar, Teknaf, and Myanmar, and are ferried to the deep sea to waiting trawlers or other engine boats holding promises of the journey to Malaysia, said a BDR official.

Mohehshkhali, Kutubdia Fisheries Ghat, Shah Parir Dweep of Cox's Bazar and the coastal zones of Myanmar's Rakhaine state are the usual gathering points of the desperate migrating Rohingyas, he said.

The route runs through the Bay of Bengal to Thailand and from there to Malaysia overland, he said adding that there were many incidents when boats drowned or boat engines malfunctioned in the sea, eventually getting many of the passengers killed, while many also got arrested by the Indian or Thai coast guards.

There were even cases of defrauding the desperate migrants when swindlers promised them jobs in Malaysia, but ended up leaving them marooned on islands near Cox's Bazar after a journey of a day or two by trawlers, said a journalist in Teknaf.

Those who manage to reach Malaysia also do seldom get a mentionable better life.

"These people are often sold to fish traders in the Chinese Sea, on top of that the traffickers extort a portion of their earnings," said Harun Al Rashid, a Bangladeshi working with an immigrants' rights group in Malaysia.

BDR official Helal Mohammad Khan said, "The traffickers also extort the migrants when they reach Thailand or Malaysia, through their family ties in Myanmar and Bangladesh."

A Bangladeshi who went to Malaysia with a group of Rohingyas through the sea route ten years ago, said he still has to work illegally there, with threats of arrest always hanging over him.

"Most of the time we can't go to our dormitories to sleep in fear of getting arrested. We have to sleep on the hills," the worker told The Daily Star over the phone from Malaysia requesting anonymity.

## 6 more given

**FROM PAGE 1**  
appoint a few more people as her adviser.

She has already appointed six advisers with the rank and status of ministers.

Of the six newly-appointed state ministers, four, except Shahjahan and Motahar, are first-time lawmakers. Interestingly, all six are lawyers and most of them had moved for Hasina when she was detained during the reign of the last caretaker government.

Despite being a first-time lawmaker, Tuku was made state minister as he had defeated Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami in Pabna-1 constituency.

However, Awami Jubo League Chairman Nanak had disappeared in the face of criminal charges after the caretaker government started a crack down on corrupt people and criminals. Nanak had organised a number of programmes demanding the release of Hasina.

A couple of weeks ahead of the December 29 elections, Nanak resurfaced and managed a party ticket for Dhaka-13 constituency.

AL Office Secretary Mannan Khan won in Dhaka-1 constituency, AL acting General Secretary of Dhaka city unit Quamrul Islam won in Dhaka-2 constituency, Shahjahan won in Patuakhali-1 and Motahar in Lalmonirhat-1 constituency.

On January 6, the prime minister formed a 32-member council of ministers, dropping AL stalwarts and almost the entire policy-making presidium from the cabinet.

Hasina made new state ministers in-charge of three out of eight ministries and divisions she held previously.

Official sources said the three state ministers are Advocate Md Shajahan Mia (religious affairs ministry), Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan (housing and public works ministry) and Advocate Shamsul Haque Tuku (power, energy & mineral resources ministry). They will be in-charge of the ministries but the premier will remain at the helm of the ministries.

The prime minister still retains the charge of the Armed Forces Division, Cabinet Division, ministries of establishment, defence and women and children affairs.

## 2 judges

**FROM PAGE 1**  
expedite the hearing of long pending appeal in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman assassination case.

When contacted, Law Minister Shafique Ahmed said their appointment is in process.

In the light of recommendations of the judicial commission, the government recently sent to the president necessary papers in this regard, the minister said, adding he cannot specify when the two judges will be appointed.

Earlier on October 16 last year, the commission recommended appointment of four judges of the High Court Division as Appellate Division judges. They include Justice Mominur Rahman, Justice Abdul Aziz, Justice Md Abdul Quddus and Justice Bijan Kumar Das.

Justice Quddus however retired from service on January 14.

## 10 power plants

**FROM PAGE 16**  
The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance the 150 MW Bhola project.

The government is supposed to finance from its own funds the 150 MW Sylhet and 150 MW Chandpur projects. The 210 MW Khulna project will be implemented under supplier's credit.

Power Development Board (PDB), according to the sources, is preparing a paper on the position of the projects to place it before the government's highest policymaking body.

They said the new government might give priority to implement these projects as funding has been confirmed by the donor agencies for such projects. They also said gas supply to the projects has also been confirmed by Petrobangla.

A top official at Petrobangla, however, said they are unlikely to be able to supply gas to the projects before 2013. PDB officials said these projects may not require gas before 2013 as it would take at least 2-3 years to install the plants.

## Green agenda

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and need to take the steps with the United States," Roberts said.

Marton-Lefevre said: "China could have an impact on the US - let them sit down and talk."

Key targets for Washington mentioned by the two included a green economic stimulus package, with proposals to renovate US power generation and incentives for home energy saving, federal legislation on carbon emissions, a move to end US isolation from a global climate change treaty, and federal policy on nature conservation and biodiversity.

Despite her optimism, Marton-Lefevre doubted that Obama he would be able to deliver everything he promises and gave a month to assess his administration's environmental team's actions.

At WWF, Roberts questioned the order of action.

"The haven't committed to a timetable yet, the question is

## Hillary phones Israeli, Arab, Pak leaders

Discuss regional issues

AFP, Washington

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has telephoned the leaders of Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as the leaders of Afghanistan and Pakistan, spokesman Robert Wood said late Friday.

Since taking charge of US foreign policy on Thursday, Hillary has spoken to Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, Wood said.

Speaking at the daily news briefing, Wood said Hillary has also been in contact with Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee of India, which has been hit by attacks linked to Islamist militants in Pakistan.

## Villagers beat

**FROM PAGE 16**  
leopard to death at around 10:00am.

Injured Serajul, Azahar Ali, 27, Rejaul Karim Reza, 30, Nurunnabi, 40, Mozibul Rahman, 35, Ashraf Ali, 40, and Azizur Rahman were admitted to the Nageswari Upazila Health Complex.

Kurigram Police Super Mahabubur Rahman said they handed over the dead leopard to the forest department.

## RMG workers

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Sources said Shafiq of Mohammadia Garments was injured in the accident in front of the garment factory at about 7:45 am. He was then rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Witnesses said the workers damaged 7/8 vehicles on the highway after hearing the news of the accident. A group of workers, also chased another group when the workers of Mohammadia Garments tried to call out the workers of other factories to join them.

The clash erupted as police tried to control the melee. An additional superintendent of police was also injured in the clash. Some of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The authorities of Columbia Garments closed their factory during the clash. Several workers were also injured as they tried to come out of the factory, said Abdur Rashid, officer-in-charge (OC) of Joydebpur police station.

## Muhith

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Secretariat office after a meeting with the board of directors of International Medical College from Tongi.

A few day back different dailies published reports quoting Muhith as saying that the frozen bank accounts would be restored in a week. The accounts were frozen on charges of tax dodging.

Muhith said, "There are many parties involved in the frozen accounts. As a result a decision as to what will be done regarding the accounts has to be taken through a process. The file is now lying on my table."

During the tenure of the immediate past caretaker government, 335 accounts of politicians, businessmen and others were frozen. Out of these, the bank accounts of 26 people have already been restored but 309 accounts are still frozen.

Muhith said the government will give more emphasis on subsidiary medical education in the private sector to meet the growing demand of trained nurses and technicians at home and abroad."

Prof Sahla Khatun, Major Gen (ret'd) MA Rab, Dr MA Mobin Khan, Dr Ahmed Al-Kabir, Brig Gen (ret'd) Kamaluddin and Atiqur Rahman were in the delegation.

where climate (change) sits amongst other priorities," he explained.

On top of outlining policies that break out of the previous administration's mould, Obama has nominated officials and scientists with strong green credentials to key posts dealing with energy, the interior and environment.

In his inauguration speech last Tuesday, he vowed to "roll back the specter of a warming planet" and championed renewable energy.

"Each day brings further evidence that the ways