

# Khaleda must

**FROM PAGE 1**  
At a crowded press conference at AL chief Sheikh Hasina's political office in Dhanmondi, Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister, firmly said the government did not sign any secret deal with either India or any other country.  
"Whatever protocol, deals and agreements were signed were done openly," the ruling party spokesperson said, adding, it is the international norm.  
On Khaleda's allegation of selling out the country, he said, "Does the allegation of 'selling out the country' and 'giving up independence and sovereignty' from any responsible leader like a former prime minister look decent?"  
Saying that Khaleda resorted to "lies" over the premier's India tour outcome, Ashraf said she tries to misguide the people and ensure that execution of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and holding trial of war criminals are not held.

He asked the leader of the opposition to give up "falsehood" and urged the people to remain watchful about any conspiracy by the opposition.  
Termining BNP a semi-fundamentalist political party, Ashraf alleged BNP with the help of anti-Liberation War forces, war criminals, militant organisation Huji and international terrorist organisation ULFA is trying to make people scared of India for narrow political interests.  
Ashraf termed it "completely false and out of her ignorance" what the BNP chairperson said about the share of the Ganges waters and construction of Tipaimukh dam.

He said the "self-educated" opposition leader has tried to teach the people about sharing of Ganges waters without studying the Ganges Waters Sharing Treaty.  
Although Khaleda was in power for 10 years, she did not speak against construction of Tipaimukh dam and took no initiatives to resolve the problems with the neighbour countries including India, he added.

# Row over

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Dhaka University campus.  
The deprived leaders were alleging that dedicated leaders who played a vital role after the 1/11 changeover were dropped from the committee and reformist leaders were included.

It has been alleged that Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) backed the JCD rebel factions.  
A faction led by immediate past organising secretary Ahsanuddin Khan Shipon and former social welfare secretary Abdul Alim Khokon alleged that central unit president Sultan Salahuddin Tuku is a patron of militancy and the committee is formed with aged people.  
They termed the central committee a "group of funnels".  
Activists of this faction beat up four JCD leaders the day the central committee was announced at the Madhu's Canteen. The four leaders include Entertainment Secretary Ruhul Islam Monir, Assistant Office Secretary Ziaur Rahman Zia and Health and Environment Secretary Azmal Haque Pilot.

Supporters of JCD General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim were also involved in the attack on the four leaders belonging to Tuku's group. Alim later withdrew his support from Shipon and Khokon when some of his followers were named as central committee leaders.

It may be mentioned that Shipon and Khokon also belong to Alim's group.  
The faction brought out processions and held rallies on the campus demanding cancellation of the committee in the last 17 days. They also burned effigies of Tuku.

Another faction led by former organising secretary Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel and former DU unit general secretary Saiful Islam Feroz were agitating since the partial central committee was announced in July last year.

This faction made the same allegations that Tuku has links with militancy and the central committee does not represent the students. Both the factions were agitating to press home their demand that BNP chief Khaleda Zia bestow JCD leadership on the young and genuine students.

On January 16, followers of Shipon and Khokon chased and attacked some of Tuku's men in Shahbagh when the latter wanted to enter the campus.  
Talking to The Daily Star, Saiful Islam Feroz said, "A large number of dedicated Chhatra Dal leaders were deprived of posts in the newly formed central committee. Reformist leaders who took stance against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman during the state of emergency got posts. So there had been grievances among the leaders and activists which might have led to the clash."

"I hope BNP Chairperson

He raised the question as to why Khaleda failed to hold any meeting of the Joint River Commission in her tenure from 2001 to 2006.

"Why you could not realise the fair share of even a single common river including the Teesta out of 54? Why didn't she repeal the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty in between 2001 and 2006 since she terms it anti-state?"

On the Indian cultural hegemony, Ashraf asked why Khaleda did not either launch Bangladeshi satellite channels in India or stop Indian channels in Bangladesh.

Regarding Bangladesh-India's joint move to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, he alleged Khaleda tried to provoke communalism in the country with the issue.

He said a decision would be taken to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam and 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath in Bangladesh.

Regarding Bangladesh-India's joint move to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Kazi Nazrul Islam and 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath in Bangladesh, he said the leader of the opposition gave misleading statements on the \$100 crore loan by India. About importing 250mw electricity from India, Ashraf said speaking about power does not go with Khaleda since she failed to add a single MW of electricity during her five-year tenure.

On allowing India, Nepal and Bhutan to use Chittagong and Mongla ports, he said it was an election pledge of the Awami League-led grand alliance to open up the ports for international use.

"People gave us three-fourth mandate and we will fulfil our electoral pledges even by sacrificing our lives," added the AL general secretary.

"It's not Bangabandhu or Awami League, Ziaur Rahman himself gave the opportunity to India to use the waters, road and railways of Bangladesh. This was clearly written in the Trade Treaty of 1980 and the Khaleda government also signed a similar treaty with India in 2006," Ashraf told the press conference.

Khaleda Zia will solve the problems after holding discussions with the leaders and activists of Chhatra Dal," he said.

On the ongoing internal feud, BNP's Student Affairs Secretary Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Anee, MP said JCD is a big organisation and there might be some competition and grievances among the leaders and activists over posts. But those were not the factors behind yesterday's clash, he said.

Asked why the central committee did not meet the DU vice-chancellor in the last 17 days since announcement of the committee on January 1, Anee said, "We wanted to minimise grievances of the leaders and activists by this time and there was no feud inside Chhatra Dal. Two leaders were involved in factional feud who were expelled on Sunday and after that there was no rebel group inside Chhatra Dal."

# Bangabandhu

**FROM PAGE 16**  
decision came immediately after the petitions of condemned Lt Col AKM Mohiuddin (lancer) and Mohiuddin Ahmed (artillery) and Major Bazul Huda reached before him through the official channel on Sunday.

Two other convicts Lt Col Syed Faruq Rahman and Sultan Shahrar Khan are yet to file the clemency petitions as their lawyers said they might consider seeking the mercy only after exhausting the last legal process of review of the verdict by the Appellate Division.

Despite the rejection, the apex court is set to hear the final review petitions of the death row convicts against its earlier verdict confirming the death penalty of 12 ex-army officers.

Five of them are now in jail to face the justice in person, while six are on the run and the rest has already died abroad.  
Chief State Counsel of the case advocate Anisul Huq said there was no bar for Faruq and Shahrar to seek presidential clemency within seven days after the exhaustion of the review process.

He, however, said the countdown for execution of the apex court verdict is underway as the jail code demands the death warrants to be executed between 21 to 28 days from the day it is signed.

The original trial court of the case on January 3 issued the death warrants for five of the condemned convicts in Bangabandhu murder case.  
"The countdown process will be halted only if the review petitions by the convicts are granted by the apex court," Huq said.

The Appellate Division on December 17 signed full judgment of the case clearing ways for execution of 11 convicted ex-army officers.

# Jyoti Basu

**FROM PAGE 1**  
hours," West Bengal Assembly Speaker Hasim Abdul Halim told journalists in Kolkata yesterday.

Among other leaders to pay homage would be Indian Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar, BJP leader L K Advani, Urban Development Minister Jaipal Reddy, former Lok Sabha speaker P A Sangma, former prime minister H D Deve Gowda and former minister Lalu Prasad.

Under a changed schedule, the body of the patriarch of Communist Party of India (CPI-M) will be taken from the funeral parlour, where it is being kept, to the party's state headquarters around 8:30 am.

Leaders of political parties will pay homage to Basu there, CPI(M) leader Biman Bose said.

As per his wish, Basu's body will be used for medical study and research. And preparations are on at state-run SSKM hospital to receive his body today.

He had also donated his eyes, which were removed after his death by doctors at Sushrut Eye Foundation in Kolkata.

"As a communist, I pledged to serve humanity till my last breath. I am happy now I will continue to serve even after my death," Basu wrote while pleading to donate his body in 2003.

Meanwhile, streams of mourners queued up before the CPI-M headquarters and Indira Bhavan, residence of Basu in Salt Lake locality of Kolkata, to pay their last respect as West Bengal chief minister that began yesterday.

Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited the CPI(M) national headquarters here yesterday morning and paid tributes to Basu describing him as a great patriot and an eminent statesman.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will leave Dhaka for Kolkata today to pay last respects to Jyoti Basu.  
Awami League General Secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam told journalists yesterday that the premier would lead a high-profile delegation.

The delegation includes Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, Deputy Leader of parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Syed Ashraf Islam, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, Samyabadi Dal President and Industries Minister Dilip Barua, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Deputy Office Secretary Mrinal Kanti Das.

Hasina will leave the capital at 11:00am and return at 5:00pm.  
UNB says: Two BNP leaders -- Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Ashraf Uddin MP left last night for Kolkata to pay last respects to Jyoti Basu.

They flew to Kolkata by a plane as emissaries of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

# JU teacher

**FROM PAGE 16**  
at city's Baridhara leaving a security guard bullet-hit.

The locals caught red-handed Barkat Ullah, one of the extortionists, and beat him up and later handed him over to police.

In Savar, a three-member gang riding a motorbike shot at Professor Aiyub Khan of Archaeology Department of Jahangirnagar University and snatched Tk 5 lakh.

Professor Aiyub, along with his wife Reena Khan, were on the way to Savar registrar's office after drawing the money from Savar branch of Islami Bank Ltd at around 3:00pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with three bullets in his head, hand and leg.

Officer-in-Charge of Savar Police Station AKM Nasir Ullah said they were yet to arrest the criminals and recover the money.

At Baitul Mukarram Mosque, criminals took away money and a mobile phone from trader Selim Hossain and stabbed him in the head while he (Selim) tried to resist them.

At Baridhara, armed criminals stormed into a sales centre of Gulf Auto Car at around 9:00am and fired indiscriminately. Security guard Akter Hossain, 26, was injured by a bullet in the and was admitted to DMCH.

OC Kazi Wazed Ali of Badda police station said the gun attack followed a refusal of paying a toll to the criminals.

# JCD men fight

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of the ruling Awami League, for the fighting. They announced a strike at DU for today and the day after tomorrow.

The wounded included JCD activists Mohidul Islam Hiru, Javed Hassan, Abul Hasan, Masud Khan Pervez and Iftekar Kabir.  
Javed Iqbal, Selim, Imu, Wahid, Emon, Swapan and Shovon are among the general students hurt.

Chhatra Dal President Sultan Salauddin was given treatment at the Islami Bank Central Hospital and DU Proctor KM Saiful Islam Khan at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Medical University.

The clashes broke out at around 10:40am when leaders of the new committee were on their way to the vice-chancellor's office from Madhur Canteen.

A group of JCD men, left out of the committee, were lying in wait near Surya Sen Hall. As soon as Tuku, General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim and other office-bearers entered the Mall Chhatra area, they opened fire on them.

Some activists of Surya Sen and Mohsin Hall BCL were backing the rebels, said witnesses.

Though started at first, Tuku's supporters did not take much time to return fire. Chases and counter-chases between the feuding groups continued for around 30 minutes.

Alongside firearms, both the groups used sharp weapons and hockey sticks. They also threw stones at each other.

Police shot at least 48 teargas canisters to disperse them.  
The cadres however got locked into fresh fighting at several points across the campus till 1:30pm.

Tuku and Alim took shelter at a teachers' room in the Arts Building. At 12 noon, DU Proctor KM Saiful Islam Khan and some 50 policemen went there to bring them out of the buildings safely.

But at the rear entrance, rebels backed by some BCL men forced their way through the cordon and attacked the Chhatra Dal leaders. They beat up Tuku and attempted to pierce a sharp weapon in his neck.

The proctor, Ramna Zone Assistant Police Commissioner Abdul Ahad, Officer-in-Charge of Shahbagh Police Station Rezaul Karim and two constables were hurt trying to save the JCD leaders.

The attackers chanted slogans calling Tuku a patron of militants.  
Earlier in the morning, the

new committee members came to the campus for the first time after its formation 18 days ago. They took position at the Madhur Canteen at around 6:00am. An hour later, they chased the rebel faction as the latter tried to get in the canteen.

The aggrieved leaders and workers had kept the central committee members off the campus since BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia declared the 171-member central body on January 1.

Late in the afternoon, BCL brought out a procession protesting the violence on the campus.

In the evening JCD men brought out a procession and vandalised a few vehicles at Paltan in the capital.

**NEWS BRIEFINGS**  
At the press conference at its central office, JCD called a two-day students' strike at DU for January 19 and 21. They also demanded resignation of DU VC AAMs Arefin Siddique for "not cooperating with them".

The organisation will stage demonstrations in educational institutions across the country today.

Reading out a statement, General Secretary Amirul Islam Alim said, "When the new committee was going to the vice-chancellor's office to pay him a courtesy call, a group of Chhatra League leaders attacked them."

Talking to reporters on the campus, rebel faction leader Ahsan Uddin Shipon said it was entirely an internal matter of Chhatra Dal.

"The organisation cannot be run under Tuku-Alim. They gave posts to many in exchange for money, depriving the dedicated leaders and workers."

DU VC Arefin Siddique said the fighting seems to have been designed to disturb the calm of the campus.

"Dhaka University has come out of the culture of strike. Students won't accept any programme that would hamper their academic life," he said about the strike called by JCD.

Even though JCD called for a strike, the DU VC told reporters that classes and exams would be held as scheduled.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the evening went to hospital to visit the injured JCD chief.

**DELUAR**  
BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday blamed BCL for the attack on JCD leaders at DU.

In a statement, he said the government made the attack to divert public attention from the conspiracy to "sell the country".

He said if AL does not stop "behaving like fascists, people will give it a befitting reply".

# Govt moves

**FROM PAGE 1**  
cent per minute for an international call whereas legal call handlers charge 3 cents.

"The policy recommends issuing more licences for international call handling to encourage existing VoIP businesses that operate outside the law to be under a legal framework," said BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed.

Sources in Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC) said 10 more licences would be given by March.

"We expect after issuance of new licences, government revenue from the telecom sector would increase as call termination through legal channels would boost," Zia said.

As per the amended policy, all call handlers will be responsible for compelling illegal calls go through their channels and make them legal.

The decision was made yesterday at the regular cabinet meeting, which approved in principle the International Long Distance Telecommunications Service Policy (Amendment) 2009. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting.

Among the existing six call handlers, three international gateways are mainly responsible for handling international voice calls along with the state-run BTCL.

Two other legal interconnection exchanges transmit the calls between the gateways and telecom operators, while the lone private international internet gateway is responsible for handling data traffic.

Around 60 million minutes of international calls are made to and from Bangladesh a day. In Bangladesh, VoIP has become a lucrative business as the technology offers international calls at charges much lower than that of the legal calls. Hundreds of people have been engaged in this business.

"More individuals and companies will be involved in international call termination to stop the illegal VoIP business," Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Abul Kalam

Azad said briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting.

He said the government wants to open up the telecommunications sector for all and introduce a new level of competitive atmosphere.

He said the prime minister wants to expand the telecom sector keeping in mind the "digital Bangladesh" promise.

However, Mir Nasir Hossain, president of Telecommunication Infrastructure Operators of Bangladesh, the organisation of private call handlers, said, "It is an unrealistic idea that operator can stop VoIP."

He said operators have no means to bring the illegal VoIP callers into their channel.

The cabinet yesterday also adopted a condolence reference on the death of West Bengal's longest serving chief minister Jyoti Basu.

Azad said the cabinet expressed deep shock and sorrow over the death of veteran politician Jyoti Basu.

Jyoti Basu will be always remembered as a legendary left-wing politician of the sub-continent for his life-long struggle and the outstanding sacrifices he made, the condolence reference said.

"People of Bangladesh will remember him with gratitude for his contribution in getting the equal share of water of the Ganges through the signing of the Ganges water-sharing treaty," Azad said.

The cabinet also prayed for eternal peace of his departed soul and expressed deep sympathy to the bereaved family members.

The cabinet yesterday approved handing over of coastal land for forestation and preservation of forests to the land ministry. The proposal was approved to curb occupation of forestland and illegal logging.

Azad said 12.30 lakh acres of land was kept preserved in the coastal areas of Chittagong, Barisal, Noakhali and Patuakhali districts. "More 4 lakh acres of land has emerged in the coastal areas which will be handed over to the land ministry for cultivation," he added.

# Zia's birth

**FROM PAGE 16**  
under Gabtoli upazila in Bogra.

To observe the day with due respect, BNP and its associate organisations have taken up several programmes including rally, discussions, milad mehfil, free medical camp, blood donation.

Leaders and workers of the party will place wreaths and offer special prayers led by BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia at the grave of Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city at 10:00am today.

BNP will hold a discussion meeting at 3:00pm at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in observance of the day.

The party flag will be hoisted at the BNP offices across the country and Jatiyatabadi Olama Dal will arrange a milad mehfil at Zia's grave.

**J a t i y a t a b a d i**  
Swechchaaseb Dal, a front body of BNP, yesterday arranged a rally and brought out a colourful procession to mark the day.

# Tigers lose

**FROM PAGE 1**  
maestro Sachin Tendulkar transforming his overnight 76 into his 44th hundred, Bangladesh captain Shakib Al Hasan and paceman Shahadat Hossain finishing with five wickets each.

After a remarkable bowling performance against the top-ranked Test side, Bangladesh got off to a solid start with two left-handed openers Tamim Iqbal and Imrul Kayes producing 53 runs before Indian left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan gave the breakthrough by trapping Imrul (23) in front.

Bangladesh lost two more wickets in quick succession with ICL-returnee Shahriar Nafees being undone by a gem of a delivery from lanky pacer Ishant Sharma and Tamim becoming the second victim of Zaheer.

It was a forlorn comeback for Nafees after two years as the left-hander angled his bat against a good length delivery on middle stump and could only to manage a thick edge into the safe hands of VVS Laxman at the second slip.

Local boy Tamim looked confident in the middle and hit the boundaries with ease during his 45-ball 31 that contained six fours but he was a bit lazy on the shot only to see his off-stump sent cartwheeling.

Earlier, Tendulkar was unstoppable after India resuming the day on 213 for eight but still Bangladesh needed only half an hour to wrap up the innings after the day's proceedings started one-and-a-half hours behind the scheduled start due to fog.

In the fifth over of the day, Shahadat won an edge from Ishant to wicketkeeper Mushfiq Rahim to complete his third five-wicket haul while Shakib completed the job by dismissing last man Sreesanth for his sixth five-for.

A resolute Tendulkar, who started the day aggressively, reached his 44th Test ton by smashing consecutive boundaries off Shahadat.

Tendulkar remained undefeated on 105 off 160 balls that contained ten fours and two sixes.

# All grabbed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"Canals across the country were grabbed during the past BNP-Jamaat-led government's rule. Dhaka Wasa has started recovering the city's canals," Nanok said.

In a scripted answer LGRD Minister Syed Ashraf Islam informed the House that installation of new pipes and retaining walls in sections of canals in the city is underway to eliminate waterlogging.

He said the task for installing new pipelines would be completed before the rainy season.

He also said an initiative has been taken to clear and unplug about 200 kilometres of drainage lines of the existing drainage network of the city to get rid of the waterlogging problem during the monsoon.

Replying to another query, Ashraf said changing of about 40 kilometres old water pipes in the city is underway and it is set to be completed by June 2011.

"Besides, an initiative has been taken to change all old and leaking water pipes of the Dhaka Water Supply Sector Development Project finance by Asian Development Bank," Ashraf said.

A total of 3,500 kilometres of old and leaking water pipes will be changed under the project scheduled to be completed by 2013," he added.

In reply to another lawmaker's query, the LGRD minister said the government has planned to ensure arsenic-free water for all by 2011 and sanitation for all by 2013.

Ashraf also told the parliament that the government is considering forming another 18 new municipalities in the country.

# 12 Shibir activists

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The other arrestee was one of the mess-building owners Ekramul Haque, an elderly physician and father of arrested Golam Azam.

According to sources, the mess has been run by Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami students' welfare trust Education and Research Centre (ERC) for the last one year and is known as the hostel for Shibir leaders of metropolitan (south) unit. A total of 40 students live there and carry out political activities under ERC banner.

Reportedly, Islami Chhatra Shibir helps students from remote areas by providing them shelter and academic coaching at the mess to attract them to Shibir politics.

Arrested Ekramul Haque is chairman of the Jamaat-backed ERC while AJM Obaidullah vice chairman. Obaidullah is also assistant secretary of Chittagong city unit Jamaat students' affairs division and a director of International Islamic University, Chittagong (IIUC).

Over phone Obaidullah told The Daily Star that the ERC bought the first two floors of the building from Ekramul Haque and rents to students who are loyal to Chhatra Shibir in order to help them study in the city. He claimed that the recovery

was an "arranged drama and conspiracy" against the organisation.

Meanwhile, Islamic Chhatra Shibir Chittagong metropolitan (south) unit leaders at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club also termed the incident a conspiracy.

They alleged that police raided the mess when its resident Shibir leaders were in Dhaka to attend a central conference and arrested innocent students in a false case.

They also claimed that police found nothing when they searched the building for the first time. When they came again they brought a new force with them. The new force brought arms and ammunition with them and later showed those as the seized items.

The Shibir leaders demanded immediate withdrawal of the "false case" and unconditional release of the Shibir activists. They also demanded finding of the persons behind the "plot" and punishment to them.

Abdul Jabbar, president of Shibir Chittagong (south) unit, read out the allegations at the press conference. Chhatra Shibir also brought out several processions in the area protesting the arrests.

# Haiti quake

**FROM PAGE 16**  
people desperate for food, water and medicine.

Violence has erupted as survivors fight for whatever they can find, while all around the stench of burning bodies clings to the air as tens of thousands of rotting corpses are hurriedly disposed of.

Officials fear the eventual death toll may top 200,000, and by Sunday some 70,000 had already been buried in mass graves.

International aid is trickling in but supplies remain scarce amid the enormity of a crisis the United Nations estimates affected three million people and left 300,000 homeless.

US President Barack Obama has mobilised military reserves and another 7,500 troops were to join 5,800 US forces already on the scene or in ships off Haiti.

"Time is still of the essence. We're getting better, but there is still a lot of misery in Haiti," said Rear Admiral Ted Branch, who commands the US aircraft carrier Carl Vinson strike group.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon promised after visiting the disaster zone to speed up the aid effort.

"I am here to say we are with you. You are not alone," he said after flying over the ruined capital Port-au-Prince in a helicopter.

But amidst the death and desperation were life-affirming tales of survival against all the odds.

A text message to the United Nations set in motion a relief operation that led to the rescue two days later of Maria, Ariel and Lamy after being buried for more than 100 hours under a collapsed supermarket.

"I'm seven," Ariel shouted to rescuers seeking signs of life, adding that she was stuck next to a dead man but covered with supermarket food.