

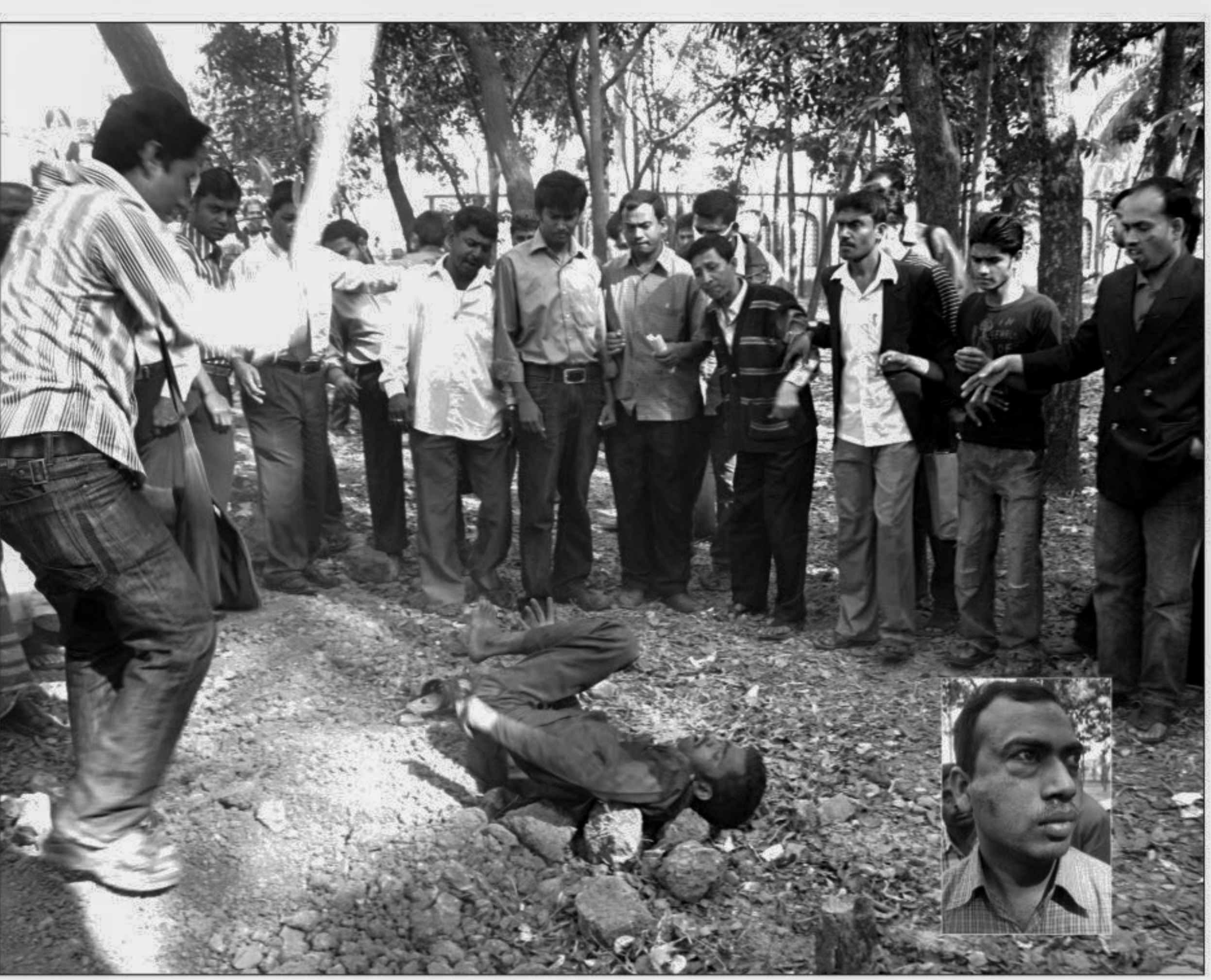
PM vents anger as waste dumping continues in city rivers

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has vented serious discontent as dropping industrial and domestic wastes into the rivers in and around the capital still continued while the government is cleaning up riverbeds of the Buriganga and the Turag.
She directed the authorities concerned to do whatever necessary to stop the unabated waste dumping in the rivers.
"Huge money is being spent on the cleansing of the riverbeds. If the dumping of wastes continues at the same time, all attempts to protect the rivers will go in vain. Such activities must be stopped."
The prime minister said this while addressing the 3rd meeting of Water Sector and Dredging Affairs National Committee at her office yesterday.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the premier also urged the owners of mills and factories as well as the city-dwellers to be caring to the rivers, canals and other water bodies in the city to protect the environment.
Regarding healthy urban life, she reiterated her government's thinking about expanding the jerry built overcrowded capital city in a modern and planned way.
Hasina further called for all concerned to change their mindset for building a corruption-free clean society.
"Corruption has to be eradicated from society for mass people's development," she said.
As the urgency of dredging the silted-up Jamuna and Padma rivers came up for discussion at the meeting, the premier asked the authorities

concerned to conduct dredging in the two once-mighty rivers in a full swing on the basis of study conducted prior to construction of the Bangabandhu Bridge over the Jamuna River.
"Do not waste time-start dredging in the two major rivers on the basis of data and statistics available on hand," she asked the officials concerned present at the meeting.
The PM said the vast tracts of land that will be reclaimed through dredging the rivers would have to be utilised by constructing houses, industries and farms.
In this regard, she gave example of Mongla Export Processing Zone, which was built on the lands reclaimed through dredging the Pashur River during the previous Awami League government.
The high-level committee also discussed vulnerability of

people living in the country's Char areas to natural calamities.
The PM in this regard stressed the need for creating forests around the Chars as an effective way to save the backwater people.
The hours-long meeting also discussed latest condition of the country's waterways, surveys conducted in the recent years over rivers and waterways, progress of dredging project in the 2009-2010 period, the number of dredgers and budgetary allocation in this regard.
Planning Minister AK Khandaker, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Land Minister Rezaul Karim Hira, Advisers to the PM HT Imam and Mashur Rahman, among others, were present.



A mob beats up a mugger at the Gulistan Park in the city yesterday, as he and his accomplices injured and robbed a pedestrian, inset, of Tk 15,000. The pedestrian, Shyam Saha, fell victim to the muggers when he was crossing the area at about 10:00am.

EU to provide Tk 95 cr for land reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh and the European Union signed an agreement worth 10 million Euros, equivalent to Tk 95 crore, for a project aimed at ensuring the people's rights to land.
"The Strengthening Access to Land and Property Rights for all Citizens of Bangladesh" project will help modernise land administration in the country.
The agreement was signed in Dhaka recently, said a EU press release yesterday.
It said such modernisation should make the system more transparent and usable for every citizen, especially poor and disadvantaged people, and should also help fight the illegal practice of land-grabbing.
"If this reform and our new projects are successful, poor people will get much easier access to land and property. We consider this an important contribution to the fight against poverty in Bangladesh and efforts to ensure equal rights for all people to own land," said Ambassador Dr Stefan Frowein, the head of the EU Delegation to Bangladesh.

Coal miners join work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
The agitating Bangladeshi miners of Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) joined their work Wednesday midnight after 48 hours of their strike over profit bonus.
The local miners decided to join work after a meeting between the leaders of Miners and Workers Union and BCMCL authorities Wednesday night. The meeting offered Tk 4,500 as profit bonus to each Bangladeshi miners and assured them of looking into their other problems, official sources said.

Zeba Food owner jailed for 15 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A mobile court yesterday sentenced a businesswoman to 15 days' imprisonment for selling and distribution of soya bean and mustard oil of Zeba brand without BSTI licence and illegal use of its standard marks.
Begum Zebunnisa Islam Zeba, owner of Zeba Food Products and Trading Corporation International at Mirpur, was also fined Tk 1 lakh.
The court also fined Dhaka Trading Corporation of Mohammadpur Tk 50,000, seized 72 bottles of mixed fruit drinks and sealed off its godown and office for selling the drinks without BSTI licence and illegally using its standard marks.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Today is the 11th death anniversary of Sultan Ahamad, a social worker of Matlab in Chandpur, says a press release.
A doa mahfil will be held at the residence of his son journalist Ahmed Matiar Rahman at Rampura after Asr prayers today.

Int'l Mother Language Institute set to open this month

WASIM BIN HABIB
The International Mother Language Institute is set to open this month, nine years after the construction work of the institute building began.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the institute on February 21, the Language Martyrs' Day, said the officials concerned. After the inauguration, the institute will formally start functioning.
Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid visited the institute at Segun Bagicha in the city yesterday and urged the officials to complete the necessary work quickly.
Initially, the institute will start functioning in its three-storey building. Later, it will be extended to a 12-storey high-rise.
"The construction of three-storey building in the first phase is about to finish and we hope to complete the necessary decoration work before February 21," Abdul Mannan, project director of the institute, told The Daily Star yesterday.
The building will house an archive, museum, language laboratory, training and research centres and other departments, he added.
The construction work under the second phase will start in July and it take over



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia speaks at her party's parliamentary party meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka
Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.
Light fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.
Light cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi division and the regions of Jessore, Chuadanga, Tangail and Srimongal may continue. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.
The sun sets in the capital at 5:47pm and rises at 6:37am tomorrow.
Country's highest temperature 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 6.2 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Morning	Evening	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.5	12.0	41	31
Chittagong	27.5	15.0	50	38
Rajshahi	26.5	09.4	67	60
Khulna	27.8	12.0	74	62
Barisal	27.4	11.0	66	66
Sylhet	27.5	11.7	57	40
Cox's Bazar	30.0	16.3	42	47

Campus incidents isolated

Says home minister
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The untoward happenings at different educational institutes were termed yesterday "isolated ones" by Home Minister Sahara Khatun and she suggested watching the actions the government is going to take regarding the incidents.
"Isolated incidents may take place and that is not a big problem. There may be tender manipulation or admission business but you see what actions we are taking in this regard," the home minister told journalists at the law, justice and parliamentary affairs ministry when her attention was drawn about the campus violence and student politics.
Asked what actions are being taken to stop the campus violence and admission business, State Minister for Home Shamsul Haq Tuku said, "We are taking the same steps that are usually being taken against the criminals."
He, however, did not elaborate.
Sahara and Tuku paid a visit to the law ministry to attend a coordination meeting with Law Minister Shafiq Ahmed and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni on bringing back the fugitive criminals of Bangabandhu murder case.

Court rejects SQ Chowdhury's criminal appeal against Sahara

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday summarily rejected a criminal appeal filed by BNP standing committee member Salauddeen Quader Chowdhury against Home Minister Sahara Khatun for calling him war criminal.
Judge ANM Basir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after SQ Chowdhury's lawyers submitted the criminal appeal challenging the legality of the lower court dismissal order.
Executive Magistrate Al Amin summarily dismissed the case after SQ Chowdhury filed it against Sahara on January 5.
After the hearing, the judge rejected the case, saying there were no elements that would breach peace and discipline on the part of the respondent.
In the yesterday's appeal, SQ Chowdhury said the lower court did not realise the contents of the complaint and the order. So by it was not proper. He, he appealed to the higher court to draw proceedings against the home minister nullifying the lower court dismissal order, SQ Chowdhury said.
In the case statement filed on January 5, the complainant said the home minister in a programme at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on December 17 last year said all war criminals, including SQ Chowdhury, would be tracked down and brought them under trial.
The complainant also said that the defendant, an influential minister, made such a comment about him without placing any evidence. Moreover, none filed any case against him for committing any activities during the War of Liberation in 1971.

ACC okays 10 cases, 26 charge sheets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Anti-Corruption Commission has approved filing of 10 cases and submission of 26 charge sheets last month against a total of 60 people including former director general of Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute.
The cases filed and the charge sheets submitted involve issues of amassing wealth beyond known sources of income, concealing information about wealth, cheating, bribery and forgery, a press release said.
The accused in the cases include former BLRI director general Kazi Imdadul Haque, former director of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha Rezaeye Azam Khan and former project director of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha ATM Mashur Rahman.
Of the accused, Abdus Sobhan, Aminul Islam, Nazmul Huda and Abdullah Hafiz were caught red-handed while taking bribe.
The accused in the charge sheets include former control operator of ACC in Gaibandha Abu Yousuf Shah, former manager of Rupali Bank Matiar Rahman and former chairman of Cox's Bazar municipality Nurul Absar.
The ACC also submitted final report in 22 cases in January relieving 55 people of different charges. Former executive director of Jamuna bridge authorities Amir Uddin Ahmed was among them.

SC upholds stay on bail to OC Rafiq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld its earlier order that stayed a High Court (HC) verdict granting bail to suspended officer in-charge (OC) of Motijheel Police Station AKM Rafiqul Islam in the sensational Kamrul Islam Momin murder case.
The five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by newly appointed Chief Justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim passed the order granting a leave to appeal petition filed by the government against the HC verdict.
The apex court also asked the government to file a regular appeal with this court against the HC verdict.
On October 29 last year, the HC in a verdict granted bail to Rafiq in the case.
Chamber judge of the Appellate Division stayed the HC verdict on November 2 last year upon a stay petition filed by the government.
The judge also asked the government to file a regular leave to appeal petition with this court against the HC verdict.
Kamrul Islam Momin, 22, a student of Dhaka Commerce College, was shot dead near his Ibrahimpur residence in the city on September 13, 2005.
Momin's father Abdur Razzak filed a murder case with Kafilur Police Station accusing Rafiq and 25 others.
Dhaka Metropolitan Police closed the accused OC on September 15 and suspended him on October 2 the same year for not reporting to Rajarbagh Police Lines.
Rafiq was sent to jail after he surrendered and sought bail in the case on October 16, 2005 and since then he has been in jail custody.

Domestic help found murdered in city flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A slaughtered body of a woman was recovered by Sher-e-Bangla Nagar police from a flat at Indira Nagar in the city on Wednesday night.
The victim was identified as Monzila Begum, 40, a domestic help at a medicine business man Makdul-un-Nabi's flat in Dhanshiri Apartment's first floor at Indira Nagar.
Sub-Inspector Abdul Khalek told The Daily Star that they recovered the dead body from drawing room of the flat and found a knife beside it.
Residents of the house told police that Monzila was alone in the drawing room at 9:50pm. Makdul and his wife were in another room adjacent to the drawing room. Hearing a scream they came out and found her lying on the floor but didn't see anybody there.
The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Morgue. Nobody came from Monzila's family till 7:00pm yesterday.
Quoting the residents of the flat police said she came to that house only 18 days ago via another woman. Makdul informed her mother in Lalmonirhat district and she was on the way to Dhaka.
Police is confused whether it's a murder or suicide. As the motive of the murder could not be known, none is arrested in the incident.

LASKAR MURDER Judicial probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leaders of five rights organisations at a press conference at National Press Club yesterday demanded judicial enquiry into the killing of Bangladesh Krishak Sangram Samity President Saifulul Laskar.
Ain-O-Salish Kendra (ASK), Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Brac, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Nijera Kori conducted a neutral investigation into the murder of Laskar.
Laskar was murdered in a thatched house near his residence at Katia Laskarpara in Sathkira on December 5.
ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda said they found during their investigation that police created barrier in the case as some police personnel were involved with the murder. They demanded security of the members of Laskar's family as the killers are threatening them to withdraw the case. They also urged the law enforcement agencies to arrest the perpetrators and exemplary punishment to the killers.
They sought intervention of prime minister, head of police department and other policymakers in this regard.
The human rights leaders also demanded investigation into the matter whether the local administration and police are playing their neutral role to arrest the criminals.
They also demanded recovery of illegally occupied khas lands and action against the land grabbers.
ASK Deputy Director Md Tipu Sultan, Nijera Kori Convener Khusha Kabir, BLAST Executive Director Hossain Ali Khan and Akram Moshin of Brac were present at the press conference.

S Arabia to provide \$45m loan

METRO DESK
Saudi Arabia will provide a loan amounting to 45 million US dollars to Bangladesh for the construction of Shitalakhaya Bridge, says a press release of The Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia yesterday.
The government of Saudi Arabia has approved the loan on behalf of its Finance Ministry/Saudi Development Fund to support the development efforts in Bangladesh.

Japan keen to support power sector

Says JICA official
BSS, Dhaka
Japan is keen to provide support to Bangladesh after completion of formulating the ongoing comprehensive power development master plan for attaining stable power supply up to 2030.
Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is conducting the formulation of the master plan on the basis of diversification of fuel resources. JICA started the work in October last year and is expected to complete by the end of this year.
JICA representative Tatsuhiko Sunouchi yesterday said necessary technology transfer from Japan would be carried out during the formulation of the master plan.
"Even after completion of the plan, Japan will be keen to provide assistance as per the request of Bangladesh," he added.
Earlier, the government had requested Japanese government to formulate the master plan on the basis of fuel diversification promotion policy in the power sector for reducing excessive pressure on gas as a source of power production in future.
Power structure in Bangladesh is heavily dependent on the gas fired power plants by using domestic gas resources and even the plan for new power plant also mainly relies on gas resources which is not practical to place too much dependence on gas resources on a long term, he said.

Chehlum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Chehlum of Hajji Mahitullah Bahari, an advisory committee member of Jashim Uddin Institute, will be held after Juma prayers today, says a press release.
On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence at Satarkul Bara Bari at Badda.
He passed away on December 14 when he was returning home from airport along with his wife after performing the holy Hajj.

Injured mother wants to see

FROM PAGE 1
WEDNESDAY MORNING
"Let me take a look at my son... I won't take much time for one last look... I cannot bear my pains, please take me to him..." she uttered the words repeatedly in a feeble and laboured voice.
Sonia wasn't informed her beloved son was already buried at Azimpur graveyard around 9:00pm Wednesday. She was told that the boy was kept at BIRDEM Hospital mortuary for a week.
The mother, who also suffered injuries on her left eyes and forehead in the accident, was taken to her residence on Lutfur Rahman Lane in Old Dhaka yesterday afternoon from National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.
She could only say that she was trying to cross the road on foot when vehicular movement was halted due to signal at Kakrail intersection and the killer bus was taking passengers at its counter opposite the school.
The moment they reached in front of the bus, it began to move and hit her son from behind, she added.
Her husband Motaleb Sheikh said, "We demand punishment to the owner of the bus and its driver so that such deaths won't take place anymore."
Shiplu, maternal uncle of Hamim, filed a case with Ramna police against driver Shamsul Rahman Wednesday night.
The police produced Rahman before a Dhaka court seeking three-day remand and were granted one day.
During a visit to the spot yesterday, it was seen that pedestrians were still crossing the busy road in front of the school on foot instead of using the foot overbridge.
On the use of the over bridge, the school authorities, police and guardians gave contradictory statements.
The guardians claim the over bridge is always occupied by drug addicts, floating sex workers and petty criminals, while the police pin the blame on the school authorities for not encouraging the guardians to use it.
The school authorities say if the police drove the criminals away from the bridge, the guardians would surely have used it.