

# Curfew slapped

**FROM PAGE 1**  
houses of indigenous people--20 in Mahajanpara, 10 in Narankhiya, four in Habongpur and three in Narikelbagan.

Indigenous people also torched at least 29 houses of Bangalee settlers--10 in Mohamadpur, seven in Shaalbagh, five in College Gate, five in Senakalyan and two in Masterpara.

The body of Anwar, son of Rawshan Ali, was recovered at Shalbagh shortly after the houses were torched there.

Twenty vehicles were also vandalised during the clashes in the district headquarters. A number of journalists, including Talat Mamun, reporter of private television ntv, were among the injured.

Bangalee settlers allegedly broke the cameras of Channel i and Desh TV when camera crew Dilip Chowdhury and Mongsapru Marma were filming the clashes.

Witnesses said the clash broke out around 11:30am after a group of settlers belonging to Parbatya Bangalee Chhatra Parishad chased a procession of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), a platform of the indigenous people.

UPDF leader Ujjal Smriti Chakma alleged that Bangalee students chanted provocative slogans as their procession reached Bhanga Bridge area.

UPDF brought out the procession as part of its daylong protests against the violence in Baghaichhari upazila in Rangamati district that left two people dead and many others injured.

Earlier, the indigenous people had also barricaded roads and waterways in Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts to press home their six-point demand. The indigenous demonstrators started gathering at more than 15 points in the town. They torched a truck in front of the Collegiate High School around 7:30am.

As the feuding groups started torching houses in the afternoon, the authorities imposed Section-144 in the town to stave off the spread of violence, reports our Khagrachhari correspondent.

The volatile situation started to calm down around 4:00pm after joint forces of the army, med police battalion and the police began patrolling the townroads.

The joint forces with megaphones asked residents to remain indoors and that if anyone was found outside, they would be arrested.

Khagrachhari Sadar Hospital sources said seven people hurt in the clashes were admitted to the hospital while 12 received first aid.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Hoque Tuku and Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder will visit the violence-prone areas of CHT today and hold meetings with the army, the indigenous people and the settlers.

"We cannot let the situation continue. We will ask all parties

# 5 foreign cos

**FROM PAGE 16**  
tender, around a dozen foreign companies purchased the document.

Since the EGCB gave only 40 days for prospective bidders to submit their pre-qualification documents, most bidders wanted to extend the time. Even though the EGCB was convinced about the necessity to extend the deadline, the project's financier Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) declined.

As a result, only five companies showed up to file their documents on the last date of submission yesterday.

Sources claim that the pre-qualification document for this Tk 1,665 crore project was manipulated to favour one particular company. The EGCB had prepared the pre-qualification document in October. Then under outside influence, the document was modified in such a way that they do not match other standard pre-qualification documents used in the country.

Sources said the EGCB's pre-qualification document is allowing bids with power generators that do not have any proven record of performance. There is no precedence of allowing the use of such generators in Bangladesh.

Besides, the EGCB has broadened the range of power generators for bidders. Usually bidders were asked to offer power generators with 10 percent plus or minus of the asked capacity (in this case 10 percent plus or minus of 360MW). But the EGCB increased the range to 15 percent.

This means a bidder can offer power generators of around 300MW or 410MW in this tender. Sources said only one company, which has developed a new-generation power generator but has no proven record for the generator's performance, meets this criterion.

to show restraint and bring an end to the clashes," the home secretary told The Daily Star last night.

Meanwhile, the government yesterday allocated 100 tonnes of rice, Tk 5 lakh in cash and 500 corrugated iron sheets for the indigenous people affected by the recent violence and torching of houses at Bagaihat-Gangaramukh of Baghaichhari in Rangamati.

The Ministry of Food and Disaster Management allocated the aid under Gratuitous Relief in favour of Rangamati Deputy Commissioner for distribution among the affected people, says a food ministry press release.

Our Rangamati correspondent adds: Members of the civil society in Rangamati formed a human chain demanding a fair investigation into Baghaichhari violence.

Around 1,000 people took part in the human chain in front of the Rangamati deputy commissioner's office around 10:00am.

They also demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the people responsible for the incident, withdrawal of army camps and removal of Bangalee settlers from the areas.

# Two women

**FROM PAGE 16**  
members of Bangladesh's gold winning team in the South Asian Games' 10m air rifle team event earlier this month, together fired 790 to win gold ahead of Indian pair Priya Agarwal (393) and Neha Sapta (389) who combined to make 782.

It was also a double delight for Ranta, who was awarded gold after finishing top with individual score of 396 while Sadia was awarded silver for the second best individual score of 394 in the competition.

The triumph also meant that Bangladesh won only their second gold in Commonwealth Shooting Championships as Sabrina Sultana first brought the laurel for the nation in the 50m rifle prone event in the second edition held in Kuala Lumpur in 1997.

It is also worth mentioning that Bangladesh won two gold medals in the Commonwealth Games with Asif Hossain Khan winning the men's 10m air rifle gold in 2002 while Abdus Sattar Nini and Atiqur Rahman won the first goal medal for the country in the 10m air pistol team event in 1990.

# Call to punish

**FROM PAGE 1**  
(ALRD) demanded that the government should form a separate investigation commission and make its report public.

Leaders of ALRD including Sultana Kamal, Khushi Kabir, Sara Hossain, Mohammad Ifteharuzzaman, MM Akash, Abul Barkat, Amena Mohsin, litterateur Selina Hossain, Sadeka Halim also demanded compensation for the victims.

They also demanded effective measures immediately to ensure security of the people.

The government should not make the incidents of rights violation a political issue. Rather, it should work for implementing the CHT Peace Agreement, they said.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR), Left Democratic Alliance and Workers Party of Bangladesh also expressed deep concern and condemned the arson attack on the houses of indigenous people.

Workers Party of Bangladesh demanded the prime minister's intervention to settle the issue and legal steps against the withdrawal Baghaichhari upazila nirbahi officer.

Nagorik Uddyog protested against "repression" of ethnic community and demanded compensation for the victims. They also demanded punishment of the criminals who carried out the arson and made people homeless.

The citizen's forum also demanded complete implementation of the CHT Peace Accord for bringing peace in the hilly areas.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has already sent a five-member team to the aid of the victims. The team will assess the damage and prepare a report related to the needs of the hill people.

Meanwhile, former adviser to the caretaker government Sultana Kamal urged the government to implement the peace accord and make the CHT Land Commission effective.

She was addressing a programme for inauguration of a library in Madaripur, reports A Correspondent from the district.

Sultana said the recent violence in Baghaichhari would not have taken place had the government withdrawn army beforehand in accordance with the peace accord.

# RIVER WASTE Govt to buy excavator from UK

BSS, Dhaka

The government is going to procure a modern excavator from the UK to remove piled up waste from the beds of the Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakkhya and other rivers.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority Chairman Abdul Malek Mia told BSS that BIWTA would procure the modern excavator from the UK at a cost of Taka 10 million from the Climate Change Trust Fund.

He said BIWTA projects involving Taka 249 million under the Climate Change Trust Fund has been approved recently.

The drive to remove polythene and other waste from the bed of the Buriganga has started on January 6 this year, Malek said.

The first phase of the drive would conclude in the first week of March. A total of 0.3 million cubic metres of waste would be revolved in the first phase.

BIWTA officials said the heap of waste on the beds of the rivers Buriganga and Turag is 10 to 12 feet high.

The BIWTA can lift waste from 50 feet under the water using local technology.

The length of the modern excavator to be procured from the UK is 60 feet. Its capacity of lifting waste is double than the local device.

# Shibir men's room raided at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police along with the authorities of Shaheed Habibur Rahman Hall of Rajshahi University yesterday found a list prepared by Islami Chhatra Shibir and containing names of 15 leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

During a raid on Shibir-controlled rooms in the hall, the law enforcers also seized over 200 books on religion including a few on jihad, CDs and a flash drive from the rooms.

Nobody was arrested in this connection, sources said.

# Siddhirganj power plant stops for gas crisis

UNB, Dhaka

The newly built Siddhirganj power plant has been shut down just within eight days of its inauguration due to gas crisis, officials sources said yesterday.

The Electricity Generation Company of Bangladesh (EGCB), a subsidiary of the state-owned Power Development Board, shut down the plant on Monday after completion of a test run, according to sources.

An official at the EGCB told UNB that despite gas crisis, they had to commence operation of the plant because of the fact that the prime minister would inaugurate it to mitigate the power crunch.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated its operation on February 14.

"Instructed by the higher authority, we had to arrange gas supply to the new plant through diverting gas from the existing 210-megawatt thermal plant at the Siddhirganj station and from other sources," said an EGCB official on condition of anonymity.

He noted that the Titas Gas Company had to cut gas supply to other industries in Siddhirganj and its adjoining Narayanganj and Rupganj industrial belt.

"About 500 small and medium-scale industries had been denied gas supply in the areas to ensure gas supply to the new plant," he said.

The official also informed that the EGCB would now conduct some other tests on the plant keeping it at halt.

EGCB officials said that they have decided to convert the newly installed Siddhirganj peaking power plant to a dual-fuel system to offset the gas crisis and keep it in operation.

"We have already started discussion with the plant's contractor," said another EGCB official.

The EGCB implemented the power-plant project and commenced the 120-MW unit-1 of the 240-MW plant under a crash course to tackle power crisis.

The other same-capacity unit of the twin-plant is supposed to come into operation within next two months.

# ADP slashed

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the projects approved in the next four months. A lump sum allocation of Tk 571 crore has been kept for this purpose.

Another policy of the government is to make more allocation to projects to achieve the goal quickly. In the original ADP, 346 projects were embarked upon for completion while the number of projects was brought down to 237 in the revised ADP.

Due to failure in implementation, allocations to power sector has been reduced by 28 percent while 8 percent in health sector, 14 percent in transport and 18 percent in physical infrastructure, water supply and public works sector.

However, allocations to a good number of sectors have been increased, as their rate of implementation was good. In the revised ADP the allocation for oil, gas and natural resources went up by 26 percent while for water resources 34 pc, rural development and rural institutions 10 pc, agriculture 5 pc, and education 3 pc.

The highest allocation of 14.94 percent (Tk 4,258 cr) went to education and religious affairs, 13.82 pc (Tk 3,939 cr) to rural development and rural institutions, and 13.61 pc (Tk 3,878 cr) to transport sector.

After the NEC meeting, Planning Minister AK Khandker told journalists that the prime minister had directed all secretaries to ensure 100 percent implementation of the revised ADP.

The PM also directed them to appoint efficient and honest persons as project directors and ensure that the project directors stay in the project area, the minister added.

Khandker also said, this year the revised ADP has been approved a bit earlier so that it is implemented properly. The project implementation would be monitored continuously.

He said if any ministry lagged behind in implementing the projects their allocations would be cut and the share would be given to those, which were ahead in the implementation process.

In the first seven months of

the current fiscal year 35 percent of the original ADP has been implemented whereas in the corresponding period of last fiscal year 31 pc were implemented.

A high official of the planning ministry said the implementation of Tk 28,500 crore revised ADP would not be possible. However, in the first six months of the current fiscal year only Tk 8,807 crore could be spent. In the last fiscal year the size of the revised ADP was Tk 23,700 crore but finally Tk 19,701 crore could be spent.

# Bagerhat SP

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Mizanur Rahman or any inquiry committee formed to investigate the allegation against him.

The court also issued a rule upon the home secretary, additional home secretary and the IGP to explain within three weeks why legal action should not be taken against the police officers, including Mizanur Rahman, for their alleged involvement in grabbing land of poor people in the name of demarcating the border of Gopalganj and Bagerhat districts.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Borhan Uddin came up with the order upon a public interest writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a human rights organisation.

The Bagerhat SP was closed and asked to report to the police headquarters in Dhaka on Saturday after receiving complaints from the farmers at Char Gobra in Gopalganj.

The farmers said in the name of demarcating district borders, over 100 policemen and 50 labourers on February 18 took away crops from their fields along the Gopalganj-Bagerhat border at Mizanur's directive.

Following reports published in The Daily Star and the daily Prothom Alo on this issue, HRPB president Manzil Murshid yesterday filed a writ petition with the HC to direct the government to take punitive action against the alleged police officers.

# DCC elections

**FROM PAGE 16**  
long time. The last delimitation was done in 1993.

"The disparity is really surprising and unacceptable," Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussein told reporters yesterday in his office after a meeting with LGRD ministry officials.

He said the meeting at the EC Secretariat discussed ways to redraw the boundaries of the wards, if possible, before the DCC election.

"We are also waiting for the court's directive," he said citing a writ petition filed with the High Court seeking redemarcation of DCC wards.

He said the LGRD ministry is authorised to redraw the boundaries of the wards and the EC will provide all assistance for it.

In response to the writ petition filed by Sajjad Hossain, a voter of the city's Pallabi area, the HC issued a rule upon the government and EC on the 15th of this month to explain why they should not be directed to redemarcate the DCC wards on the basis of population parity.

The court also asked the EC not to announce the election schedule till February 23 this year, which was yesterday. There has not been any extension of the stay order by the court yet, although it heard the matter yesterday. An HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Borhan Uddin is scheduled to resume the hearing today.

The HC bench yesterday however hoped that the EC will not announce the poll schedule till adjudication of the case.

The commission had a plan to hold the long over due DCC poll next month. But it could not announce the poll schedule as the court had issued the stay order.

Now, even if the court clears the way for announcing the election schedule, it is not going to be possible to hold the poll next month due to shortage of time. The EC must announce the poll schedule 40 days ahead of the polling day.

"It will not be possible to hold the DCC polls before May as the Higher Secondary School examination will begin in April and continue till mid-May," Sohul said. But redemarcation of the wards could be completed by that time, he added.

If the boundaries of the DCC wards are redrawn based on population sizes, the newer part of the city will see more wards while the old part is likely to lose some, the EC officials said.

Meanwhile, the EC yesterday handed over a letter to the LGRD ministry asking the government to amend the Local Government (Union Parishad) Act 2009, scrapping the provi-

sion of redemarcating the parishad wards maintaining no more than 10 percent population disparity among them, before their upcoming elections.

The act stipulates that the union parishad wards must be redemarcated maintaining no more than 10 percent population disparity among the wards of a union parishad.

But the commission wants to maintain the existing delimitation of the union parishad wards for the upcoming elections.

It fears that any attempt to redemarcate the union parishad wards now, will make it impossible to implement the EC plan to hold the elections between May and July this year, and might also cause social disorder and unnecessary litigations against the move, due to break up of many villages and mouzas.

# Khaleda's office

**FROM PAGE 1**  
They claimed Pradip is an activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student body associated with BNP.

Abdul Hamid Paban, 37, younger son of BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, was injured in the blasts, BNP leaders told The Daily Star.

He was talking to his friends outside the office, they added.

Meanwhile, doctors at the United Hospital where Paban was undergoing treatment said he did not sustain any external injury.

"He was admitted to the hospital with chest pain," said a doctor who would not be identified.

AKM Hafiz Akhtar, deputy commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Gulshan zone), said, "Pradip was arrested while fleeing the scene on a motorcycle."

Mohit and Murad, police constables who were on duty in front of the Gulshan office, told The Daily Star that the cocktails were thrown from a red jeep flanked by two motorcycles.

"Moments after the first cracker exploded, we saw another flying off the jeep. The second one landed near me and Paban," said Murad.

In a statement, BNP Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir condemned the incident and announced a protest rally for today in front of the party headquarters at Naya Palatan.

Earlier on February 15, police found two crackers near Khaleda's Gulshan office.

# SHIP-BREAKING Toxic free certificate made a must

BSS, Dhaka

The ministry of environment and forest has decided to make submission of the 'toxic free certificate' compulsory for both importers and exporters in a bid to stop import of toxic scrap ships.

The environment ministry in a letter requested the ministry of commerce to take necessary action in this regard in line with a decision taken yesterday.

A senior official of the ministry said both the importers and exporters would be held responsible for entering any polluted ship in the country's territory once the rule comes into effect.

Under the existing rules, only the importers have to submit a 'toxic waste free' certificate along with the shipping documents for official clearance before importing a scrap ship.

The decision of the environment ministry came following a recent press report published in a number of newspapers, which blamed for relaxing the existing import rules for some scrap ship importers.

Talking to BSS, State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud said, "We are making efforts to make the ship breaking industry environment friendly considering its economic benefit."

In line with the High Court order and subsequent directives of the prime minister, the Department of Environment is formulating a rule for management of toxic and hazardous wastes of scrap ships, the minister said.

The rule would be framed as soon as possible and come to effect after vetting of the law ministry, he said adding that the scrap ship traders would have to submit toxic free certificate until enforcement of the new rules.

In line with the HC directive on March 17, 2009, the government has taken initiative for making a policy named 'Ship Breaking and Dangerous Waste Management Rule' and amend the existing Environment Conservation Act to allow ship breaking industry flourish in a conducive atmosphere.

# Khaleda

**FROM PAGE 16**  
deal with the functions of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Charitable Trust since the trust is a private organisation controlled by the trust act.

He requested the ACC to inform Khaleda Zia about what statements it wants from her about the functions of the Zia Charitable Trust.

Khokon also requested the ACC to fix a date after February 24 in this regard.

In the other letter, the counsel said his client (Khaleda) signed many files as the then prime minister, but she cannot remember now when and on what issue she signed a file on the Bhairab bridge project.

The letter also requested the ACC to supply the copy of the file to her for her statements and fix a date for this purpose after February 25.

# HC rejects

**FROM PAGE 16**  
managing director of City Group of Industries Fazlur Rahman to remove the structures and jetties by February 20.

Fazlur Rahman recently filed a writ petition with the HC challenging the notice.

In the petition, Fazlur said the City Group of Industries had set up the jetties in Rupganj on permission of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority.

Earlier on January 24 this year, the HC directed the government to start within a month demolition of all illegal structures built within the boundaries of four rivers--Buriganga, Balu, Shitalakkhya and Turag--around the capital.

It issued the directive upon a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), an organisation for protecting human rights and the environment.

# Horrors of carnage

**FROM PAGE 1**  
and committed atrocities across the headquarters.

Despite repeated pleading from DG Major Gen Shakil Ahmed, they broke up the Darbar and left the hall in a clear violation of the orders from the legal authorities.

Some rogue BDR troops have brought disgrace on the 200 years old force by committing these heinous crimes, observed the prosecutor.

An exemplary punishment to them would help the nation recover from the trauma of the massacre, he added.

Supporting the complaint lodged by Nayek Subedar Shah Alam Bhuiyan against the 86, the prosecutor appealed to the court to take the charges into cognisance.

In his complaint, Bhuiyan mentioned names of all 86 accused.

The complainant was one of the 2,500 BDR men who were in the darbar hall to attend Darbar (grand conference) of the force chief during BDR week last year.

He described the roles the alleged mutineers played during the mayhem from 9:00am February 25 to 6:00pm February 26.

What they did, he said, was clearly an offence of mutiny as per the BDR Act.

Sepoy Moin of 13 Rifle Battalion entered the Darbar with arms to kill DG Shakil Ahmed at 9:25am.

Deputy DG Brig Gen Bari and some other officers could disarm him. But before they could do so, a voice rising from the troops screamed "Jago" (wake up).

As the hall dissolved into a pandemonium, DG Shakil pleaded with the troops: "Sit down, I'll listen to whatever you have to say, and none of you must leave the darbar hall."

He even asked the unit chiefs to control their subordinates.

Disobliging the DG's orders, the 86 accused on the dock had joined the other jawans and successfully dragged the meet into a chaos.

Later, they left the darbar hall and carried through the mutiny.

Both the complainant and the prosecutor alleged that even after knowing of the plot beforehand, the accused did not alert the high-ups and they did that deliberately.

Some of them directly participated in the mutiny, some helped mutineers execute their plans while some just looked on as mutineers rampaged through the headquarters, killing, burning and looting.

The prosecutor said 30 to 35 mutineers met at the soldier's mess of Sadar Rifle Battalion at 8:15am on February 25.

They split in two. While one group went to the Kote (armoury) for arms, the other approached the magazine.

At the Kote, some 20 jawans tied up Major Reazul, who was on duty there, and broke inside. They came out with more than one firearm each and left a soldier to guard the armoury.

# 2 shot at by extortionists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extortionists yesterday shot two people in the city's Darus Salam and Shyampur areas in two separate incidents.

The injured were identified as Ashikur Rahman, 26, a security guard of a house at Tolar Bagh in Darus Salam and Mujibur Rahman, 45, a furniture shop manager at Karimullah Bagh in Shyampur.

Sources said that at around 7:00am, two youths handed over a letter to Ashik on which a mobile number was written. At one stage of altercation, they shot him on his legs and abdomen. Later, Ashik was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mahmud Hasan Pavel, employer of Ashik, told The Daily Star that unknown persons were demanding toll from him (Pavel) for the last three months and he had already lodged a general diary at the Darus Salam Police Station.

In another incident,