

# Pabna killings in '71 by Naxals, not Pak army BNP may join JS

FROM PAGE 1  
 Alam said members of the Peace Committee and Razakar force were from needy families and were only involved in "stealing chickens and cattle".  
 "We didn't have to fight against Razakars," he claimed.  
 During his cross-examination, the defence witness, however, admitted that Peace Committee members and Razakars had abetted Pakistani occupational army in committing atrocities.  
 In his deposition, he described how he along with other freedom fighters had received training and led operations at different parts of Pabna.  
 At one stage, he claimed around 80-90 percent of martyred freedom fighters were killed not by the Pakistani army or their collaborators but by members of the Naxal movement. His statement created a buzz in the courtroom.  
 Alam made contradictory statements about the Naxal movement

during the cross-examination. He said Naxal was a political party but later commented that he did not know if Naxal was any approved political party.  
 Prosecutor Mohammad Ali asked him if he had known that Al-Badr and Al-Shams were formed to aid the Pakistani occupation force.  
 The witness replied, "Maybe Al-Badr and Al-Shams were formed to aid the Pakistani army."  
 Alam, who was convener of Pabna Muktiyoddha Command, said he was nominated as the convener during the rule of the BNP-led four-party alliance government.  
 He claimed it was not true that Nizami had made him convener of the command.  
 Following his cross-examination, the tribunal adjourned the proceedings until today.  
 Jamaat Ameer Nizami, who is facing 16 charges of war crimes,

was produced before the tribunal.  
 Earlier, the tribunal adjourned the date for further order on the contempt of court proceedings issued upon Khandaker Mahbub Hossain, adviser to the BNP chairperson, until November 20.  
 The tribunal made the adjournment after allowing a four-week time prayer filed by the defence.  
 The tribunal on October 6 asked Mahbub to explain by October 21 why contempt proceedings should not be initiated against him for his comments on the war crimes trial.  
 In the prayer, the defence said Mahbub could not prepare the reply due to personal difficulties.  
 On October 1, the tribunal awarded death penalty to BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury for committing crimes against humanity and genocide during the war.  
 Following the verdict, Mahbub said if voted to power, his party would try those involved in the

trial.  
**YUSUF'S CASE**  
 The authorities of Kashimpur Jail have submitted a report on the health of war crimes accused AKM Yusuf as the International Crimes Tribunal-2 is scheduled to pass an order regarding his bail today.  
 The jail authorities submitted the report on Monday. The tribunal registrar's office has handed over the report to the tribunal-2, Registrar AKM Nasiruddin Mahmud told The Daily Star yesterday.  
 Following a bail petition of Yusuf, who is historically known as the founder of infamous Razakar force, the court on October 10 asked the jail authorities to submit his health report by yesterday.  
 The 87-year-old Jamaat leader is facing 13 charges for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity and genocide committed during the war.

FROM PAGE 1  
 The BNP Parliamentary Party took the decision at a meeting chaired by Khaleda at her Gulshan office last night, said meeting sources.  
 The 19th session of the ninth parliament resumes this afternoon. On October 9, Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury adjourned the session for Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha.  
 The BNP joined the last budget session but has been boycotting the current one.  
 In the presence of the 37 opposition MPs, including one each from Jamaat-e-Islami, Liberal Democratic Party and Bangladesh Jatiya Party, the BNP chairperson said she was positive about resolving the political stalemate through talks.  
 "Our attitude is positive; we want to go to parliament soon and place the chairperson's proposal on polls-time government," an opposition MP told The Daily Star after the 40-minute meeting.  
 There was, however, no formal briefing for journalists as the Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque said the meeting was adjourned till this afternoon.  
 But talking to The Daily Star, a number of BNP MPs said they want to see the

government's formal reaction to Khaleda's proposal.  
 The Awami League-led 14-party alliance will sit today to discuss, among other issues, the BNP chief's proposal.  
 "Besides, we want to observe the meeting of the Jatiya Sangsad's Business Advisory Committee, which sits today to decide on extension of the ongoing parliament session," a BNP MP said.  
 Earlier on September 12, the Business Advisory Committee announced the current session would end tomorrow.  
 At last night's parliamentary party meeting, Khaleda asked all MPs to be available in the capital so they could join the parliament session at short notice, a BNP lawmaker said.  
 "Even we have been asked to stay in the opposition chief whip's room today. After observing the ruling party's reaction to madam's proposal we will finalise our decision on joining the parliament session," said the MP wishing not to be quoted.  
 Before the BNPPP meeting, Khaleda sat with some leaders of the 18-party alliance to determine strategy regarding the rally planned for October 25 and the DMP ban on political gatherings.

## Sri Lanka suspends final approval for casinos

AFP, Colombo  
 Sri Lanka has suspended final approval for two casinos involving a total investment of around a billion dollars after protests from within the ruling coalition's ranks, a minister said yesterday.  
 A bill giving the two separate casino hotels the go-ahead and granting them a 10-year tax holiday was due to be presented to parliament on Thursday.  
 But Investment Promotion Minister Lakshman Yapa Abeywardena said he has withdrawn the bill, which was meant to grant final approval to the projects after cabinet gave them the green light last month.  
 "The government felt that we should withdraw this bill because of the concerns raised by some of our own coalition partners," Abeywardena told reporters.  
 "There is a lot of misunderstanding and we want to address all that before we go to parliament."  
 Local firm John Keells Holdings is expected to invest \$650 million in a waterfront casino in the capital, in conjunction with a so-far unannounced foreign partner. Australian gambling mogul James Packer's company has committed \$350 million for a similar development.  
 A party made up of Buddhist monks, which is a member of the ruling coalition, has opposed the casinos, while individual monks have warned they will stage protests if the government goes ahead with the projects.  
 Abeywardena denied the bill has been axed, saying it was being reworked so that the 10-year tax holiday was confined to the hotel operations and not the casino side of the business.

## Hasina rejects BNP's formula

FROM PAGE 1  
 it ... She does not want elected representatives," said Hasina.  
 She was addressing a huge rally at Gor-e-Shaheed Boromaidan in Dinajpur town.  
 "Instead of accepting my proposal, she went back to an old formula," said the prime minister, reminding the opposition leader that it was now 2013, and her government was "taking the country forward through huge development work".  
 Meanwhile, the ruling Awami League yesterday evening postponed its today's scheduled press briefing to give its formal reaction to Khaleda's proposal.  
 AL Deputy Office Secretary Mrinal Kanti Das told The Daily Star that they had to do it due to unavoidable reasons.  
 However, party sources said the letter BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir sent to AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam yesterday would be discussed first.  
 On Monday, Khaleda Zia rejected the premier's proposal

for an all-party polls-time government and pitched for a non-partisan head of government and advisers to oversee the next general election.  
 She suggested that the AL and BNP each nominate five from among the advisers of the 1996 and 2001 caretaker governments for a 10-member advisory council. This polls-time government will be led by a person respected and chosen by both the ruling and opposition parties.  
 Khaleda said the advisers of the interim government could be elected the way the president, Speaker and women lawmakers were elected.  
 The formula came as a counter to the PM's proposal.  
 At yesterday's rally, Hasina, also the ruling AL president, alleged that the BNP chairperson had sent activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, a pro-BNP student body, to kill 1996 caretaker government's chief adviser Justice Habibur Rahman.  
 "Now she wants to include those in the polls-time govern-

ment whom she wanted to kill," Hasina told the rally organised by AL Dinajpur district unit. District AL President and State Minister for Land Mustafizur Rahman Fizar chaired the programme.  
 Seeking votes for the AL in the next general election, the prime minister said if the BNP was voted to power, the country would go in the grip of terrorism, militancy and corruption.  
 She claimed her government had done more work than it had pledged ahead of the last election.  
 People were now living in peace and security while during the tenure of the BNP-led alliance all they had witnessed were bomb blasts, militancy and corruption, she added.  
 The prime minister also alleged that Khaleda Zia had been patronising cadres of Chhatra Dal and Islami Chhatra Shibir, student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, to destroy the "congenial atmosphere in educational institutions across the country".  
 "Severing tendons, hands and

legs is the character of Shibir. They can do nothing else," she said.  
 Hasina blasted Khaleda for celebrating birthday on August 15, the national mourning day. On this day in 1975, the AL chief had lost her parents and most of the family members.  
 Senior AL leaders, including Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed and Syed Ashrafur Islam, accompanied the premier to Dinajpur and also spoke at the rally attended by tens of thousands of people from across the district.  
 Amu alleged that Khaleda had been misleading the countrymen in the name of caretaker government, which she herself did not believe in.  
 Another AL stalwart, Tofail Ahmed, termed the opposition leader's proposal "unrealistic" and "lacking constitutional base". He urged the BNP chairperson to accept the PM's proposal to hold the next election in a free and fair manner.  
**SOUND WENT OFF!**

During Hasina's speech, most of the loudspeakers used in the rally and its adjacent areas went off for at least 20 minutes from around 4:30pm.  
 This created confusion among the audience and hundreds of them left the rally venue before the PM's speech could end.  
 AL Joint General Secretary Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Organising Secretary Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Abul Hasan Mahmud Ali, lawmaker Iqbalur Rahim and party leader Mahmud Hasan Ripon, among others, spoke at the rally.  
 During the visit to the district, the PM inaugurated 37 development projects, including the 500-bed Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital, Dr MA Wazed Miah Bhaban at Hajee Mohammad Danesh Science and Technology University and a rubber dam project on the Atrai River, and laid foundation stones of eight projects, including Dinajpur Education Board

## Surprise for BNP

FROM PAGE 1  
 proposal, but they felt embarrassed by the loopholes in the formula placed to counter the prime minister's offer to form an all-party polls-time government.  
 A group of pro-BNP former civil and military bureaucrats, academics and business leaders prepared the proposal and Khaleda's speech in consultation with some foreign diplomats, anti-terrorism experts and minority community leaders, said sources.  
 More surprise awaited the majority of the BNP standing committee members yesterday, as they learnt out of the blue that the acting secretary general had written to the AL urging it to initiate talks on Khaleda's proposal.  
 "I was watching television. I suddenly noticed a scroll on a TV channel over a letter for talks. I was confused whether the Awami League sent the letter to the BNP. Then I read very carefully and found that it was the BNP that sent the letter," said a standing committee member.  
 "Then I phoned some of my colleagues in the committee and asked about it. They said they too were completely unaware of the letter."  
 Even at its last meeting on Saturday, the committee didn't discuss the issue of sending any letter to the AL for holding talks, said the BNP policymaker.  
 In her proposal, Khaleda suggested forming a non-partisan election-time government headed by a respected citizen to be chosen by consensus between the ruling and opposition parties.  
 She proposed that the AL and the BNP nominate five advisers each from among the former advisers of the 1996 and 2001 caretaker governments.  
 The two caretaker governments had 10 advisers each. But two of the advisers served both the governments. Of the 18 individu-

als in the two advisory councils, four have passed away, a few are suffering from old-age complications, and some are unwilling to take the responsibility again.  
 Wishing anonymity, another committee member said, "The party could have avoided embarrassment had it allowed us to discuss the proposal at the committee meeting. We know almost all the individuals who served as advisers in the two caretaker governments."  
 At its last meeting on Saturday, the standing committee only discussed the proposal for picking a non-partisan person as the head of the election-time government by consensus.  
 It also agreed to propose a search committee for picking a respected person to head the interim government. This proposal was also discussed and endorsed when top leaders of the BNP-led alliance met the following day, said sources.  
 But the proposal for the search committee was not included in the formula that Khaleda announced at Monday's press conference.  
 A top business leader, who helped prepare Khaleda's speech, said the party made pledges to fight militancy to allay concern of the West and India that Islamist militancy and trans-border terrorism would be encouraged if the BNP comes to power.  
 "We put emphasis on the issue on advice of some foreign diplomat friends," said the business leader.  
 Through Khaleda's speech, the BNP also gave a message that "those who were involved in ousting the BNP chief from her cantonment residence and torturing her elder son Tarique Rahman would not be victimised if BNP is voted in".  
 Former military bureaucrats had drafted this part of Khaleda's speech, said the business leader.

## Italy urges EU to adopt immigrant action plan


AFP, Rome  
 Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta yesterday urged an EU summit this week to adopt an action plan to deal with the "immigration emergency" after two shipwrecks that killed over 400 people.  
 Europe "cannot sit there and watch" these tragedies, Letta told the Italian parliament, adding: "I am hoping for immediate action".  
 He called for the EU's Frontex border agency to be bolstered, the Eurosur patrol programme to be implemented sooner than its scheduled start date of December, along with the action plan.  
 Eurosur links different EU border patrol agencies and helps them communicate with each other and share satellite and surveillance drone data.  
 He also urged "dialogue with Mediterranean countries" where the migrants come from or transit through on their journeys to Europe's borders.  
 "The drama of Lampedusa is a European issue," Letta said, referring to the Italian island where thousands of migrants crossing the Mediterranean from north Africa have landed this year.  
 A boat carrying mainly Eritrean asylum-seekers caught fire, capsized and sank within sight of the coast of Lampedusa on October 3, killing 364 migrants in Italy's worst refugee disaster.  
 On October 12, another boat with Syrian refugees capsized in high seas between Lampedusa and Malta.  
 Thirty-six bodies were recovered but officials said the death toll may have been 200 people.

## US, EU see parties on road to talks

FROM PAGE 1  
 situation is in place that a constructive dialogue can begin between the two major parties and way can be found forward for a free, fair and credible election," he told reporters after the signing of a Bangladesh-US deal on counter terrorism at the home ministry.  
 William Hanna, ambassador of the EU delegation to Bangladesh, said, "It is good to see both parties seeking to avoid the path of confrontation. Now I think it is the time to engage in dialogue. I really do think this is the time now to engage in dialogue and positive signals have been given."  
 Talking to a select group of journalists at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel yesterday, he urged both the parties to engage in constructive dialogue to bridge the gaps between them and to arrive at a politically acceptable way forward.  
 Hanna observed, "Our line is [that] dialogue is the way forward. So we really hope that it should be done by the main political parties here in Bangladesh. I don't think you need anyone to intervene. It's your affair. But it's terribly important that it should be done. The world is watching Bangladesh. We are concerned. We are expressing the concern today."  
 Australian High Commissioner in

Dhaka Greg Wilcock in a statement yesterday welcomed the recent remarks by the prime minister and the leader of the opposition proposing solutions to Bangladesh's political challenges.  
 "We encourage all sides to seize this opportunity for peaceful, constructive dialogue on a way forward," he said, adding that Australia greatly values its long-standing, thriving relationship with Bangladesh.  
 Hanna, however, made it clear that how to proceed depended entirely on all the stakeholders. "It is not up to us to say how that should be done and what the formulation will be. But we have seen it's encouraging.... We stress on the positive aspects."  
 Replying to a question, he said he would not engage in speculation about what was going to happen next. "We have been saying it for a number of years. It is nothing new what we are saying. Dialogue is the way forward. But we want to reiterate it."  
 In this context Hanna noted that all member states of the EU recently had discussion in Brussels and that they had looked at the situation in Bangladesh.  
 "We should focus on that. Really, it is time to engage. If that is done,

it can be possible to reach an agreement. But it depends on the goodwill and people should engage in that path, not in the path of confrontation."  
**TARANCO PHONES FAKHRUL**  
 Talking to BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir over the phone, UN Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Oscar Fernandez-Taranco hoped that a suitable environment will be created through discussions between the government and the opposition for holding a credible and participatory election, Khaleda's press secretary Maruf Kamal Khan quoted Taranco as saying to Fakhrul.  
 The UN official talked to Fakhrul for about half an hour, Maruf told The Daily Star last night.  
 "Taranco also informed Mirza Fakhrul that he would soon phone Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam to encourage him for holding talks to find a way out for holding a free, fair and participatory election," added Maruf.  
 During his visit to Bangladesh on May 14, Taranco had renewed the UN's call for holding a meaningful and constructive political dialogue to create conducive conditions for conducting the next general election.



**সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড**  
 (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)

সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড এ কর্মচারী নিয়োগের লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং টাইপিং স্পীড পরীক্ষা স্থগিতকরণ

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, উদয়ন উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক বিদ্যালয়, ৩/৩ ফুলার রোড, ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ক্যাম্পাস-এ আগামী ২৫-১০-২০১৩ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য সিলেট গ্যাস ফিল্ডস লিমিটেড-এর তৃতীয় শ্রেণীর বিভিন্ন পদের কর্মচারী নিয়োগের লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং ২৬-১০-২০১৩ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য টাইপিং স্পীড পরীক্ষা অনিবার্য কারণে স্থগিত করা হলো।

মহাব্যবস্থাপক (প্রশাসন)

**Directorate General of Defence Purchase**  
 Ministry of Defence  
 New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215  
 Web: www.dgdp.gov.bd, E-mail: info@dgdp.gov.bd

**Tender Notice (1st Time)**

1. Sealed tender in local currency is invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/importer/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firms in DGDP only) for supply of the following Electro Medical equipments for use in Defence Services:

Ser	Description of stores	Date of selling		Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.
a.	Electro Medical Equipment	From	To	27-11-2013	Local	216.07.072.13
	i) Portable Ventilator, ii) Multi Parameter Cardiac Monitor and iii) Body Warmer. (03 items only: Single Envelope System)	29-10-2013	26-11-2013			

2. Tender schedule with detail specifications/conditions will be available at the fixed rate (non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender will be opened at 1000 hours on abovementioned date in presence of all available bidders (if any).

ISPR/Misc/2013/3720  
 GD-3908

Major  
 For Director General