

# The Daily Star

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## BOOKS, POWER & FLYOVERS

A system will fail if the controller and users are not sincere

PAGE 7

## ANOTHER 'KILL BILL'

Director Tarantino says part-III is still a possibility

PAGE 9

## REBEL LAID TO REST

Algeria buries independence hero Hocine Ait Ahmed in his birth place

PAGE 8



# Coal power loses steam

Only two of 24 planned coal-fired power projects making progress

SHARIER KHAN

In the last six years, the Awami League government has made significant progress in the power sector virtually eliminating the phenomenon of load shedding. But this success may grind to a halt in the near future as the government's new plans to build two dozen large coal power plants are going nowhere fast.

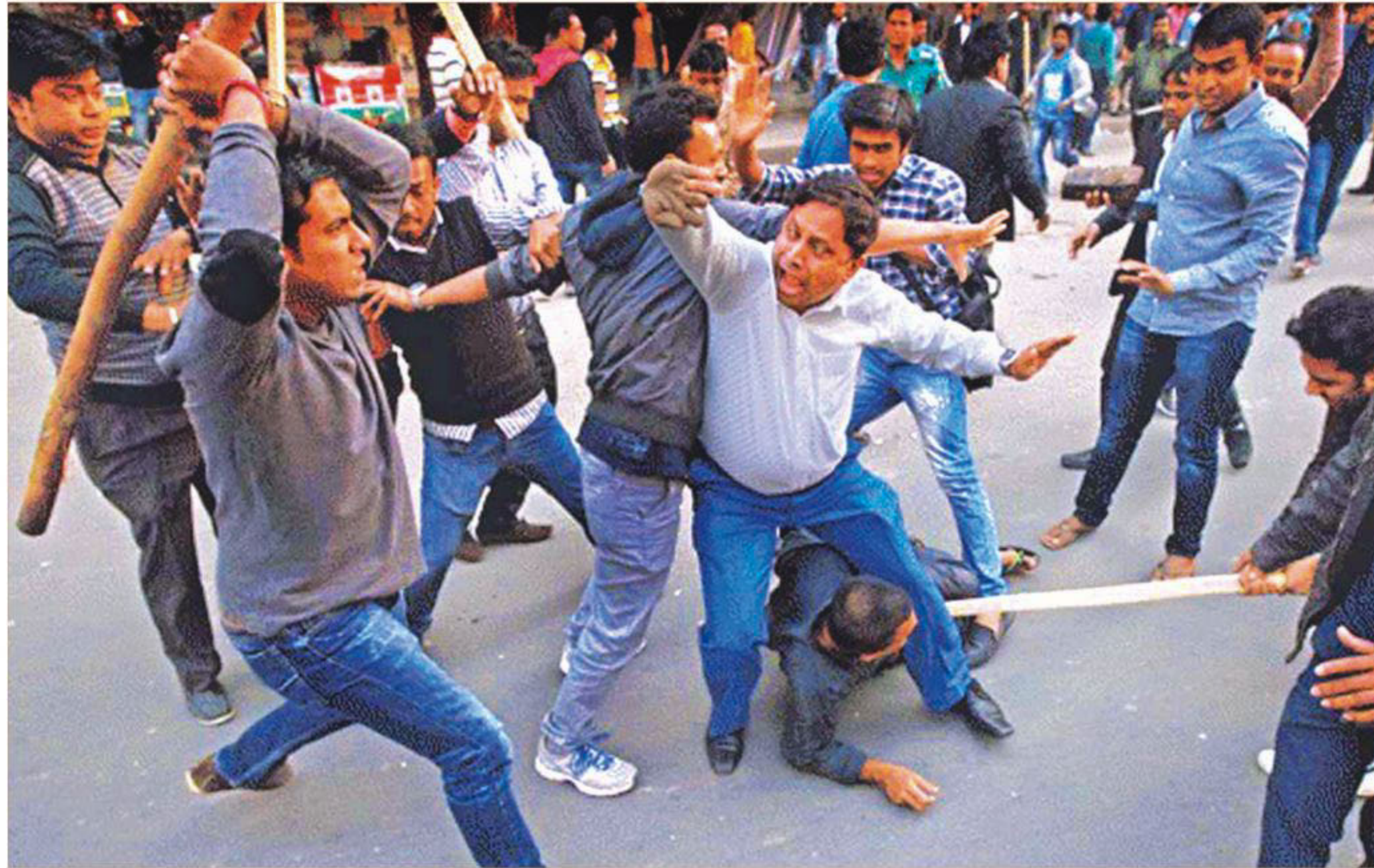
In the last four years, the government rolled out plans and bids to build large coal fired power plants totalling 20 thousand megawatt capacity—which is almost three times the electricity available to the nation today.

Coal is cheap and it was chosen as an alternative to natural gas for power generation. As gas resources are depleting fast, the government wants one third of the country's power to be generated with coal by 2030.

Out of these two dozen coal power projects, only two are actually making physical progress. These are the Rampal and the Matarbari power projects.

Sources blame bureaucratic bottleneck, lack of strong leadership in the related authorities and lack of understanding

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



BNP men and activists of Asol BNP, literally meaning "Real BNP", clash in front of the BNP central office in Naya Paltan yesterday after around 100 people went there to occupy the office. Several people were injured in the fight. The 'Asol BNP' men had to leave without success.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

## PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES Teachers go on nonstop strike Jan 11

MAHDI AL MUHTASIM

The Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) will begin indefinite work abstention at all public universities from January 11 if the government did not remove the "discriminatory provisions" in the eighth national pay scale.

The federation has demanded that the government issue a gazette notification removing the "discriminatory provisions" by January 10.

The platform of teachers of 37 public universities made the decision after a meeting at a Dhaka University auditorium yesterday.

The teachers would also wear black badges while conducting classes from today and would observe a two-hour work stoppage at universities from 11:00am on January 7, said Prof ASM Maksud Kamal, secretary general of the FBUTA, while announcing the programmes at a press briefing.

Speaking there, FBUTA president Prof SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

# 8 killed in Indian air force base attack

Pak militants blamed; Delhi vows 'befitting response'

AGENCIES

Militants launched a deadly attack on an Indian Air Force base near the Pakistan border yesterday, exchanging fire with Indian forces who, backed by tanks and helicopters, battled for more than 15 hours before wrest-

ing back control of the compound.

The assault by gunmen disguised as soldiers, in which all five attackers and at least three guards were killed, came a week after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made an unscheduled visit to Pakistani

PHOTO ON PAGE 16

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Saudi executes 47 for terrorism

Top Shia cleric among the executed

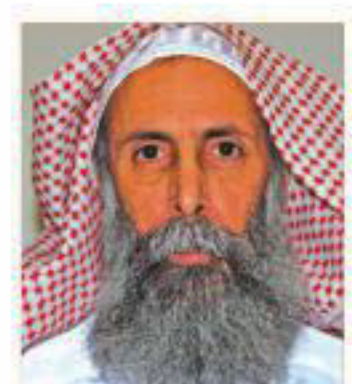
AGENCIES

Sunni Muslim Saudi Arabia yesterday executed a prominent Shia cleric, who had been behind anti-government protests, drawing angry condemnation from Shia-majority Iran and Iraq.

The execution of Nimr al-Nimr and 46 other men, including Shia activists and Sunnis accused of involvement in al-Qaeda killings, was announced by the interior ministry.

It prompted calls for demonstrations, but the brother of the 56-year-old cleric called for calm in oil-rich Eastern

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Nimr al-Nimr

**TOP QUOTE**

"Jatiya Party will be able to play the role of a true opposition party if our three ministers quit the cabinet and if I quit the post of prime minister's special envoy."

JP CHAIRMAN  
**HM ERSHAD**  
AT A PROGRAMME MARKING THE PARTY'S FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

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