

## ***Sajal's killers came from the ruling party convoy***

By Staff Correspondent

In an obvious show of strength yesterday Haji Moqbul MP from city's Mohammadpur-Dhanmondi constituency led a motorcade of more than 10 cars and a couple of minibuses at around 11-30 am. As his convoy reached the intersection of Mirpur Road and Green Road, it confronted a group of BNP activists on the run after being chased by police from Elephant Road and Mirpur Road intersection.

From the rear of the convoy, some armed men descended from private cars and minibuses and started to chase the BNP activists through the petrol pump in the corner, witnesses said. The armed men caught two young men and started to drag them towards the motorcade that waited on the Mirpur Road. At one point the men hit one of the captives in his head with a revolver and shot another in the chest point blank, witnesses said. A police officer who was leading a dozen policemen in riot gear stood silently nearby.

Few minutes later, the motorcade made a U-turn and stopped at the top of Road-3 facing towards Mirpur. Haji Moqbul Hossain sat in the front

seat of a white Pajero in which others were seen carrying guns. Other cars of the convoy were packed with activists many of whom openly brandished weapons in their hands, witnesses said. The motorcade then slowly drove off towards Mirpur.

The dead was identified as Sajal Chowdhury, 25, son of Shahidur Rahman Chowdhury, a resident of city's West Dhanmondi area, police and hospital sources said. He was an activist of JCD, his friends and brother-in-law told reporters at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police witnessed the brutal killing from Science Laboratory crossing. Fatally injured Sajal was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where attending doctors declared him dead.

The body was handed over to relatives of the dead about 3:30 pm after autopsy at the DMCH morgue. According to Niaz Ahmed, Sajal's bother-in-law, relatives kept the body at BIRDEM morgue.

"The body will be kept at the morgue until his father, a lawyer who has been at Sylhet, return Dhaka", said Niaz.