

Lankan PM offers JCD sacks **Mohsin Hall** to bow out of unit president, two others over peace effort Friday's clash **DU CORRESPONDENT**

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's beleaguered prime minister told foreign backers he was ready to bow out of the peace process with Tamil Tiger rebels and transfer responsibility to his arch-rival, President Chandrika Kumaratunga. in a bid to head off a crisis.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who returned home Friday after winning support for his leadership from President George W. Bush, met with diplomats here Sunday to make the offer, chief government negotiator G. L. Peiris said

"The government believes it is not possible to deal with the peace process unless only one person is in charge," Peiris told reporters.

Dengue claims one in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A young housewife died of dengue fever at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) yesterday morning. Mira Pakhi alias Jharna, 28, wife of

Md Mohsin of Feroz Shah Colony under Pahartali thana, was admitted to the CMCH Thursday.

BNP leader FROM PAGE 1

Abdul Wahed and Abdul Hai, brothersin-law of Hamid, were injured in the hail of bullets as they tried to save him Wahed was admitted to Rajshah Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The Detective Branch official, Wazed Ali, blamed the killing on the outlaws of Bagmara-Atrai region.

The victim's family told journalists that the outlaws of Bagmara sent a letter to Hamid, also former Ihikra Union Parishad (UP) chairman, threatening him with death after he failed in the UP elections this year.

The threat scared Hamid into leaving home and residing in a rented house in Ghospara

His family said an unidentified vouth came to their house to call him out after he broke fast. Hamid asked the youth to wait and came out of the house five minutes later only to be shot dead by the operatives outside.

The killing sent local businesspeople shuttering their shops and neighbours staying off their homes

The local BNP led by Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu brought out a procession in the city and demanded arrest of the killers and

Kumaratunga on Tuesday triggered a political crisis by sacking the ministers of defence, the interior and information, and suspending parliament for two weeks

She also declared but later with drew a state of emergency In a televised address to the nation

three days later, she made it clear she planned to hold on to the three portfolios and tightly watch the peace process because, she claimed, Wickremesinghe's initiative had "gravely" endangered the security of the state

Peiris Sunday said government could no longer run the peace process effectively without having full control over all aspects of government. "There must be coherence. If he

does not control defence, the interior and the media, it is not possible for the prime minister to accept responsibility for the process," Peiris said.

In her televised address Friday night, Kumaratunga complained that she had not been asked to sign the accord in February last year between Wickremesinghe's government and the LTTE, an omission which she said made it invalid.

"If the ceasefire agreement is illegal, then how can the prime minister accept responsibility for the ceasefire," Peiris shot back Sunday. He said the prime minister told

representatives of the United States, Japan, Norway and the European Union -- the co-chairs of the drive to raise support for the peace bid -- that he was willing to give the leadership in the process to Kumaratunga.

Syed Haque sues Taslima Nasreen for defamation

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Poet Syed Shamsul Haq yesterday filed a suit against feminist writer Taslima Nasreen and six others claiming Tk 10 crore in compensation for what he said was defamatory remarks against him in her recent

ovel "Ka" In the suit filed with the First Joint District Judge's Court, Dhaka, six other defendants are the publisher of the novel, owner of the Impression Printing House, deputy commissioner of Dhaka, inspector general of police and information and home

secretaries. The plaint of Shamsul Haq says Taslima mentioned on page 66 of the

Saudi suicide blast JCD clash

FROM PAGE 1

assistant organising secretaries Arif

Mohammad Farhad and Emdadul

Haque Emon on charge of anti-

DU unit General Secretary Hasan

other faction stayed in the hall, cam-

pus sources said. A ICD worker of the

hall, who was slightly injured during

Friday night's clashes, said they would

not tolerate any domination by the

hall unit president and general secre-

more be involved in intra-unit clashes.

during the clash that followed occupa-

The arms and ammunition, which

were recovered from a locker of the MV

Banga Lanka Thursday night, are now

lying under top security at the Boyra

Khulna Range Abdul Aziz Sarker

Staurday asked Chittagong

Metropolitan Police to detain the ship

and take its crew into custody

Human chain

repression on

activists

the assault.

FROM PAGE 1

RU CORRESPONDENT

female cultural

female cultural activists on the cam-

The human chain was formed

under the banner of 'Conscious

Teachers, Students and Cultural

Workers of the RU'. Later, speakers at

a rally demanded exemplary punish-

Sangstha leader Masudur Rahman

Former RU vice-chancellor (VC)

Prof Abdul Khalek, former Islamic

University VC Lutfor Rahman,

renowned writer Hassan Azizul

Haque, Prof Entazul Haq and Prof

Mizan Uddin among others partici-

JCD, Shibir clash

bats, hurled bombs and fired shots at

During the turmoil, the JCD activ-

Paramilitary BDR (Bangladesh

Rifles) and police opened fire and

used teargas to disperse the two

noon. No case was filed with Khulna

Police Station till filing this report last

night. The college governing body

was holding a meeting to discuss the

Shibir leaders said their party

Riot police have been deployed in

office adjacent to the college also

came under attack by the JCD activ-

ists went on the rampage on campus

their opponents, eyewitnesses said.

njured, eyewitnesses said.

Shibir and four JCD activists.

gun battle

ituation

and around campus.

pated in the programme.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of

The faction led by JCD hall unit

organisational activities

activists of the hall injured.

the clashes.

loval to a faction.

office.

Police Station.

Khulna cops

residents of the 200-house compound were Lebanese, though some Saudis live there as well as a few families from Germany, France and Italy.

A Lebanese man who was slightly injured, Gaby Kallas, 44, told AP he heard gunfire and three explosions. The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal's (JCD) The ceiling of the compound cafeteria where he and his friends were at the DU unit has sacked Haii Muhammad Mohsin Hall unit President AKM time collapsed and windows shat-Mezba Uddin and expelled hall unit tered, he said.

"A few minutes later I rushed home about two blocks away and found my family OK," Kallas said. It was unclear if three bombs had detonated or whether one set off multiple explosions.

Mamun confirmed the action after two rival factions of the hall unit at The streets were crowded at the time of the bombing because of the Dhaka University clashed Friday night, leaving at least 10 leaders and holy month of Ramadan, now in its third week, when Muslims fast during the day and have dinners and parties A faction of the JCD hall unit yesterlate into the night. day went to the campus while the

Early Sunday, Al-Arabiya TV, quoting unnamed Saudi sources, reported the discovery of an unspecified number of bodies belonging to attackers involved in the blast. The Interior Ministry official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity, said he did not know how many attackers were involved.

President AKM Mezba Uddin and General Secretary SM Younus Ali has The attack occurred a day after the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh and two other established supremacy in the hall after American missions closed for security review, warning that terror attacks Younus told The Daily Star that could be imminent in the tense Gulf they would act according to the dickingdom. tates of the DU unit leaders and no

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Amanda Batt said At least five rooms of the hall were Sunday that all known Americans had ransacked and one room was set afire been accounted for after the car bombtion of a hall room by a JCD activist ing and the United States was unaware of any American casualties. She had said earlier that one American was wounded and another was unaccounted.

Arms seized from Saudi officials toured the site ship handed to Sunday and then sealed it off. Witnesses described four residential buildings destroyed, surrounding buildings heavily damaged, and at STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna least six burned vehicles. Some said Saturday's bombers used what The arms catch that included three Mappeared to be a police car. 16 rifles was handed over to Khulna

Footage aired by state-run Saudi TV Metropolitan Police on Saturday night, showed a large crater, apparently said a senior officer of Khulna customs gouged out by an explosion.

In comments published Sunday on the Web site of Saudi daily Okaz newspaper, Interior Minister Prince Nayef said they could not rule out a connection to suspected al-Qaeda terrorist cells targeted in recent sweeps, as a number of suspects from those cells were still at large.

2nd ODI today

formed to protest FROM PAGE 1

ing live coverage The home side lost the first of the

three-match series by seven wickets at the MA Aziz Stadium in Chittagong Friday.

The Tigers will be hoping for

Adding to the al-Oaeda connection was the similiarity between Saturday' bombing and other attacks blamed on the terror network particularly the May 12 suicide car bombings of other Riyadh compounds housing foreigners, which killed 26 bystanders. Nine

attackers also died Led by Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden, al-Oaeda has long opposed the Saudi royal family, accusing it of being insufficiently Islamic and too close to the West, particularly the United States.

On Sunday in London, the Saud ambassador to Britain, Prince Turki al-Faisal, condemned Saturday's attack as the work of an "evil cult" whose "sole aim is the destruction of the kingdom."

By targeting foreigners' housing compounds, the attackers target the backbone of the Saudi economy. Saudi Arabia is home to 6 million expatriate workers, including about 35,000 Americans and 30,000 Britons. The kingdom relies on foreigners in its oil industry, security forces and health sector.

"This evil must be stopped," Prince Turki said, without naming al-Qaeda. "We call on all the people of the world to work with us in fighting this evil and ridding the international community of this plague.

Saudi authorities, under U.S. pressure to act against terrorism and extremism, have been cracking down on homegrown militants since the May 12 Rivadh attacks. Also, 15 of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11 attacks or the United States were Saudis.

In the past week, police clashed with suspected al-Qaeda sympathises in the streets of the sacred city of Mecca on Monday, killing two militants and uncovering a large cache of weapons. Three days later, two suspected militants blew themselves up in Mecca to avoid arrest and a third suspect was killed in a shootout with security forces in Riyadh

Police said the explosions in Saturday's attack were three miles from an entrance to the Saudi capital's diplomatic quarter, close to the

Saudi royal family's main palaces. Almost all the foreign embassies in Riyadh including the U.S. Embassy and most diplomats' homes are inside the diplomatic quarter, a guarded isolated neighbourhood. Several residential compounds housing Western business people are close to

the diplomatic quarter.

side

SOUADS

his key bowler.

The Bangladesh coach also did no Bashar, Alok Kapali or Rajin Saleh

leaves 6 hurt at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

Six leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured when rival factions clashed at Rajshahi University (RU) on Saturday following expulsion of four JCD activists from a hall unit.

The injured leaders are law affairs secretary of the RU unit JCD Imrul Kaves Polash, Shafin Ahmed, Abu Jafar Manik, Mehedi Hasan Payel, Firoz and Shohag. They were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital, sources said.

The JCD called a meeting at Nawab Abdul Latif hall's guestroom at 10:00pm and a ICD faction led by Polash expelled Manik, Payel, Firoz and Shohag from the hall committee. The meeting also postponed JCD activities at the hall, sources added. The clash started in front of the

hall gate when Polash hit Manik. The two groups used hockey sticks and lethal weapons against each other during the encounter, sources added. "The four activists were expelled from the party for their alleged involvement in anti-organisational activities", said Aslam Reza, general secretary of the RU unit JCD.

A tense situation was prevailing on the campus and additional police forces were deployed at the hall gate.

Stay on PSC result to recruit sub-registrars vacated

SC CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division yesterday vacated a High Court order that stayed for three months the results of the Public Service Commission's (PSC) September 26 test to recruit subregistrars.

Chamber Judge Syed JR Mudassir Husain vacated the HC stay order Earlier, the High Court stayed the result following a petition filed by the petitioner

Additional Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali filed the leave petition with the Appellate Division on behalf of the state

Abdul Halim, the petitioner, alleged that about 13,000 of the 30,000 candidates including him did not get admit cards to appear in the test though they applied properly.

Robbers loot cash from pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg Armed robbers attacked a group of Hindu pilgrims and allegedly looted

25 hurt in BNP-AL clash in Kushtia village

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Kumarkhali upazila Monday evening.

The clash took place following an

altercation over constitution of Gram

Sarkar

Police rushed to the spot and fired At least 25 including two police were five-round blank shots to bring the injured in a clash between the activists situation under control. of the ruling BNP and main opposition The injured are Sub-inspector Awami League at Chandpur village in

other and clashed.

Mafidul Islam, constable Ahad, Saruf, Awlad, Altab, Chuka, Mosarraf, Aziz, Rafik, Rahim, Selim. They were admitted to different health complexes. The Gram Sarkar formation was

standard prepaid connection with

Managing Director Dato' Ezanee Ab

Aziz told reporters at a briefing on the

Dato said the package will elimi-

Each phone will have a pre-

activated SIM card with Tk 600 worth

free airtime, 30-second pulse and a

wide range of supplementary and

value-added services including ISD

facility without any additional

The outgoing call charge of the

package named 'Ashal Phone' to

fixed phone will be Tk 3.50 for every

30 seconds plus BTTB charge and

VAT. The incoming charge from

fixed phones will be Tk 1.50 for every

30 seconds. There will be no charge

on incoming calls from mobile

of the package will start at Tk 8,299

with Rangs-Bird 8288 handsets

while the connection with the top-

of-the-line Nokia 9210 communi-

cator has been fixed at Tk 46,199.

The initial subscription charge

deposit

phones.

nate hassles of monthly bill payment.

Police said the villagers assembled at ostponed Chandpur Primary School ground at 5:00pm and were soon locked in an **AKTEL launches** altercation, as both the BNP and AL activists pressed for their own people to landline link on include as the representatives in the pre-paid service local government.

At one stage, the groups chased each STAFF CORRESPONDENT

DU JCD Telecom Malavsia International Bangladesh (TMIB), the service FROM PAGE 12 provider of AKTEL cellphone, yester-Amirul Islam Khan Alim are at odds

day launched a prepaid phone serwith Organising Secretary of the central vice, enabling its subscribers to make committee Shafiul Bari Babu and DU and receive calls from fixed phone unit General Secretary Hasan Mamun. network. Tito, who leads different hall units "AKTEL is proud to launch the

and commands loyalty of DU unit leaders, has pushed Babu to the sidefixed phone connectivity," TMIB's lines in campus politics. The infighting began early this year after the formation of ICD's new committee where Tito-led faction got crucial posts in the occasion of the launch at a local hotel. central, DU and hall committees and virtually took the control of the campus politics.

Tension has been there in the ICD since the clashes and top leaders have stayed off the campus until tension recedes, some JCD leaders said. Some mid-tier JCD leaders fear a large-scale violence may erupt any time unless the high-ups intervene to douse tension.

JCD General Secretary Azizul Bari Helal denied any factional infighting inside the JCD but said a contest for leadership is there at JCD's grassroots evel

ICD President Shahabuddin Laltu earlier told The Daily Star that some stray incidents occurred in the JCD, as it is a large organisation. He also said strict actions have been taken against those responsible for tainting the image of the organisation. "We will take necessary actions to maintain discipline and chain of command in the CD," he added.

Noor Hossain Day

FROM PAGE 12

cratic forces to unite against the ruling racy be freed) inscribed in white paint alliance to reinstate democracy. on his chest and back when a bullet pierced through his body.

Meanwhile, different political and social organisations will observe the day by holding discussions, wearing black badges and holding processions. Shaheed Noor Hossain Sangsad has drawn up programmes to mark the day. The programme includes wearing black badge, laying floral wreaths at the Noor Hossain Square, offering 'fateha' and holding 'doa mahfil' at Noor Hossain's grave at Jurain and discussion.

said Whatmore while commenting on

rule out a long awaited debut of Moniruzzaman by resting Habibu

Bangladesh (from): Khaled Mahmud

Hannan Sarkar, Nafees Iqbal

Moniuruzzaman, Rajin Saleh, Alok

Kapali, Mushfigur Rahman, Khaled

Mashud, Mohammad Rafique

Manjarul Islam, Tapash Baisya, Jamal

England (From): Michael Vaughan

Murcus Trescothick, Vikram Solanki

Andrew Flintoff, Rikki Clarke, Anthony

McGrath, Paul Collingwood, Andrew

Strauss, Chris Read, Ian Blackwell

Gareth Batty, Ashley Giles, James

Umpires: Aleem Dar (Pakistan) and

Dhaka worried

devastated a Rivadh residential com-

The minister observed that the Iraq

situation took a desperate turn and

urged the world leaders to come for

ward to lessen the sufferings of war-

states, killing up to 30 people

FROM PAGE 1

ment action.

Uddin and Habibul Bashar.

Anderson and Geraint Iones.

a proper probe. No case was filed nor was anyone

arrested until last night.

6 muggers FROM PAGE 12

Station said a gang of snatchers held a pedestrian at about 7:00pm. Locals chased the gang when the victim cried out for help and caught the four.

In another incident, a gang stabbed a housewife and looted Tk 45,000 from her in front of the Doel Chattar on DU premises vesterday evening.

Hospital sources said the gang stopped Kazi Sweety, wife of Mohammad Zafar, and demanded her valuables at about 4:30pm. As she refused to oblige, the gang stabbed her in the left hand and took away the money.

Sweety was rushed to the DMCH.

Saudi royal FROM PAGE 12

Riyadh where the United States and Britain have their embassies. The diplomat said the compound,

housing foreigners mostly from Arab states, might have been chosen as a "soft target" by militants after a recent tough crackdown by Saudi security forces.

"It could be that a group had a prearranged plan to carry out an attack and because of recent arrests acted quickly and chose a soft target. The security at the compound was not extensive," said the Saudi-based diplomat.

Diplomats said the bombers killed up to 30 people and wounded up to 100 in the devastating attack, which occurred a day after the United States warned of terrorist raids and shut its missions in Saudi Arabia.

A Saudi security official blamed al-Qaeda for the attack on the Muhaya residential compound in west Riyadh.

US soldier killed FROM PAGE 1

Anther six died when a helicopter came down Friday but investigations continue into the cause

During the main, six-week offensive before that date, 114 Americans died from hostile fire.

novel that the plaintiff had taken her and her sister to Comilla Shalban Bihar and stayed in the guesthouse of Comilla Bonunnavan Daftar.

He said Taslima, now living in the US, wrote on page 69 of the novel that during their stay in a guesthouse in Kaptai, Shamsul Haq went to bathroom many times and she found he threw up in the toilet, as he was drunk. The novel reads: Taslima was too scared to stay with him in the same

room

Taslima wrote in her novel that he had in-law and he suffered heartbreak. when she married another person. The plaintiff, describing such

halt its further sale.

FROM PAGE 12

the United States does not have a wellthought-out plan for post-war Iraq, 60 percent said their government was spending far too much money there, 75 percent were afraid the US would get bogged down in Iraq for many years without favorable results, and 54 percent thought too many US troops were in Iraq and should be brought home

Bush's overall handling of Iraq. In questions of the presidential elections one year away, Bush's lead over the contenders for the Democratic nomination decreased from a month

Bush and retired General Wesley Clark were in a virtual dead heat, 45 percent for Clark, 48 for Bush. Former Vermont governor Howard

Kerry each polled 45 percent against 49 cent for Bush.

trailed Bush 44 percent to 48, and Missouri Representative Dick Gephardt trailed Bush 44 percent to 49.

'Shamsul Haq stayed in a separate room and told Taslima many stories about his early life the next day on the way back to Dhaka," the plaint contin-

According to the complaint,

an illicit relationship with his sister-

remarks as damaging to his fame, appealed to the court for seizure of all copies of the novel and measures to Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan and

advocate Monwar Hossain moved the suit on behalf of Shamsul Haq

US voters

Fifty-one percent disapproved of

Dean and Massachusetts Senator John Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman

damage limitation after their horrible batting display in the first game where they lost seven wickets for only 66 runs. Hundreds of teachers, students and They eventually crawled to 143 only cultural activists of Raishahi because of a rearguard action. England University (RU) vesterday formed a cruised to victory inside 25 overs with human chain on the Dhaka-Rajshahi all-rounder Andrew Flintoff leading the Highway protesting harassment of

> Bangladesh, who gave debuts to three players in that match, are likely to reshuffle the team again to end their one-day blues, which now stands at 45 in a row.

Mohammad Rafique, who missed the first match after injuring his knee ment to Jatiyatabadi Sanskritik during practice, has a bright chance of playing today. The most successful Bangladesh bowler resumed training Kajol for his alleged involvement in under lights at the big bowl.

> If Rafique is fit then off-spinner AFM Akhter Uddin (Bangladesh). Jamal Uddin Babu, who made his debut Match Referee Wasim Raja (Pakistan) in Chittagong, will be left out. The game might also see the introduction of another debutant in stocky batsman Moniruzzaman. movement of people across the bor

The right-hander may bring solidity to the run-dry middle-order. Coach Dav Whatmore also agreed

that not enough runs were coming from the middle-order.

"We need to bat a full 50 overs and forget the last match," he said adding that he was considering couple of changes in his team without elaborat-

damaging several classrooms, the "Rafique will undergo a fitness test in teachers' common room and some the evening and we will wait another vehicles including a motorbike of four hours to see how his body reacts Kamrul Ahsan, a photographer of The afterwards. So, we can not confirm Daily Star. Four pedestrians were also anything before tomorrow morning,"

Frigate graft case FROM PAGE 1

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a groups and arrested 20 people -- 16 graft case against Hasina and four The principal and other college others with Tejgaon Police Station on August 7 last year on charge of corrupstaff fled the campus during the fierce tion in purchasing a naval frigate from the Daewoo Corporation of South The JCD brought out a protest Korea. procession on campus in the after-

Police pressed charges against six including Hasina on August 3 this year, alleging that she in collusion with others misappropriated about Tk 511.17 crore in the purchase. Hasina obtained bail in the case.

The case is now pending with the Special Court for Dhaka Division and the hearing on the charge framing is likely to be held on November 20.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for Hasina in the court.

England also trained at the same cash and valuables near Chandranath venue and said that they had no injury Temple in Sitakunda vesterday. worry and are expected to filed the same

The gang intercepted a procession near Premtala and looted their belongings at around 4:00am. Some of the pilgrims received slight injuries during the robbery, sources said.

Sitakunda police, later, exchanged fire with the robbers near the temple and held Liton and Bhutto for their alleged involvement in the attack However, other gang members escaped, police said.

Some 200 devotees from Nilphamari and Dinajpur arrived at the temple Saturday morning and they were scheduled to visit Adinath Temple in Maheshkhali upazila under Cox's Bazaar early yesterday, sources added.

Cars, motorcycles FROM PAGE 12

director of the Media Star, the owning company of the Prothom Alo, handed over keys of the cars and motorcycles der," he said, adding the clashes were to the staff of respective newspapers at concentrated in one area and could not a simple ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton spread to other towns thanks to govern Hotel. The Uttara Motors Limited organised the function. "We are concerned at the terrorist

Editor-publisher of The Daily Star attack in Saudi Arabia," he said of and publisher of the Prothom Alo yesterday's suicide bombing that Mahfuz Anam said both dailies are proud to provide their journalists and pound of foreigners mostly from Arab executives with the new transports.

"We have set up a new instance in journalism and enhanced the prestige of the profession by providing journalists and senior management staff with scarred Iraqi people and keep the cars and motor bikes," he said.

> Editor of the Prothom Alo Motiun Rahman paid tribute to the boards of directors of both newspapers for their vision and concerns for the staff welfare

Latifur Rahman, also chairman and managing director of the Transcom Group, said he believes this effort will inspire bright and talented youths to enter the world of journalism.

"We do not want to be anyone's mouthpiece ... we want to maintain the highest degree of professionalism and authenticity. Just be true to your conscience and write objectively without fear or favour," he told the iournalists.

Uttara Motors Chairman Matiur Rahman expressed his pleasure to be a part of this unprecedented initiative in the newspaper industry.

restore democracy in the country. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a message yesterday called upon all to work together to consolidate the hardearned democracy and build a selfreliant Bangladesh.

His death escalated the movement

to topple the autocratic ruler and

She said the name of Noor Hossain is an integral part of the history of all democratic movements. But the struggle for democracy is not over yet, she said.

Also in a message yesterday, Leader of Opposition Sheikh Hasina paid tribute to the memory of Noor Hossain.

Hasina said the autocratic ruler of that time was terrified by the mass movement for democracy and aimed to crush it by killing Noor Hossain. She said Noor Hossain's sacrifice further stirred the three-party alliance movement, which turned into a mass upsurge to oust the autocratic rule in 1990

Criticising the present government for gagging people's democratic and political rights, Hasina urged all demo-

Opposition beefs

jointed anti-government movement. Members of the Coordination Committee told The Daily Star yesterday that they would ensure participation of elected chairmen and members as well as candidates who had contested unsuccessfully in the last UP election.

Sources said, to kick-start a greater unified movement against the BNP-Jamaat -led government, the four mainstream opposition parties were trying to exploit the deep-rooted grudge of the UP leadership against the way government constituted Gram Sarkar undermining the capacity and power of the Union Parishad.

Yesterday's meeting of the Coordination Committee was held within a week of the Awami League's call for an early change over in government. Briefing newsmen in the city on

November 4, the party General Secretary Abdul Jalil called the BNP-led alliance government to step down by March-April next year paving the way for, what he said, installation of a democratic government in the country.

The very following day while having Iftar with journalists, prior to leaving the city on a weeklong visit to China, Sheikh Hasina went one step ahead to say it would be better if the changeover comes

The Sangsad yesterday organised a discussion at the Jativa Press Club auditorium where speakers said the supreme sacrifice of Noor Hossain would be remembered forever.

Leaders of the AL will place wreath at the Noor Hossain Square at 10:00am. Awami Jubo League, youth front of the AL, will place wreath at Noor Hossain square at 8:00am and organise a discussion in front of the AL central office in the afternoon.

AL's student wing Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) will bring out a procession on the Dhaka University campus in the morning.

even earlier.

Akhtaruzzaman of AL, Abdullahil Quayyum of JSD (Inu), Ruhin Hossain Prince of CPB and Fazle Hossain Badsha of WP represented their parties in the Coordination Committee meeting held at the Workers Party office yesterday.

JSD (Inu) chief Hasanul Haq Inu told The Daily Star yesterday that 'formation of an Oikkya Front (united front) was a compulsory agenda now to oust the alliance government that gave rise to armed fundamentalism in the country.'

He foresees eventual formation of a 'National Government' after the ouster of the BNP-led alliance from power.

AL Organising Secretary, Akhtaruzzaman, who attended yesterday's meeting, told this correspondent that the process of a unified movement was underway. He hoped that the upcoming national convention would 'stir the public mind tormented by the misrule of the government.'

Abdullahil Quayyum, also involved in the negotiations, expected that leaders of other opposition parties in the left-leaning 11-party conglomerate would join the unified opposition platform eventually.

country's territorial integrity undisturbed. Expressing concern over the political turmoil in Sri Lanka, Morshed hoped the situation would trail back to normal soon. On his November 4-6 Berlin visit

Morshed said the relations with Germany would be further strengthened, adding Germany was the first European country to recognise Bangladesh's independence.

He urged the German government to extend co-operation in transfer of its technology to Bangladesh and many other areas

A parliamentary delegation from Germany will visit Bangladesh in February next year, the minister said.

The trade between the two countries increased, as Bangladesh earned \$907 million last year from exports to Germany, while its import value was

\$160 million.