Industrial parks

The Cepz will develop 160 plots in the $CSM\ land, the\ prices\ of\ which\ will\ be\ fixed$

under Bepza policy. The Bangladesh Small Cottage Industries Corporation (Bsic) has prepared a project paper to set up an industrial park on the Adamjee Jute Mills

A high-level committee headed by Agriculture Minister MK Anwar has been formed to review the prices fixed for the

The project envisages to divide the Adamjee land into plots of Tk 2.87 crore an acre, Tk 95 lakh a bigha and Tk 48 lakh a half bigha. Investors will be offered a 10year instalment to buy the plots.

Of the 294 acres of Adamjee land, 214 will house industries while the rest 80 acres will accommodate infrastructural facilities including a three-star hotel, a pollution treatment plant, medical facilities, offices of banks and insurance companies and a container vard.

There will be 457 industrial plots -- 319 for garment industries, 84 for weaving units and 54 for dveing units. Work on the $industrial \, park \, begins \, in \, next \, January.$

The 200 acres Khulna Newsprint Mills (KNM) may be converted into a small

More minority in govt must for civil rights

Speakers at discussion say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A discussion yesterday urged the government to be proactive in maintaining communal harmony and ensuring civil rights of religious

Organised by Hindu, Bouddha, Christian Oikya Parishad, the meeting was attended by several prominent political leaders and members of the civil

The speakers stressed ensuring due rights of minorities in all affairs of the

Awami League (AL) presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said communalism and fundamental ism are the main enemies of democracy.

"Democracy will not progress if communal forces become active," he

Gono Forum Secretary General Saifuddin Ahmed Manik questioned the

merit of democracy in its present form."Had true democracy been established in the country, the question of

minority repression or deprivation would not have even arisen." Rashed Khan Menon, president of the Workers Party of Bangladesh, warned of

rising communalism, which he said would bring negative consequences for the country

President of Supreme Court Bar Association Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud said a return to the spirit of the original constitution was needed to guarantee secularism.

"Progress of the country will be halted unless secularism is established through constitution," he said

 $Secretary \, General \, of the \, Parishad \, Nim$ Chandra Bhoumik said minorities in Bangladesh were being harassed due to

their poor representation in state affairs. "The number of minorities in impor-

tant government jobs is very low as they are discriminated due to their religious

orientation," noted Bhoumik. Others who spoke at the function are

AL leader and former foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad President of Dhaka Union of Journalists Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan Justice KM Sobhan, Rosalind Costa, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader Nur-e-Alam Ziku, CR Dutta and Shawkat Ali.

Kadianis

FROM PAGE 12

anonymity.

to sever all contacts with the Kadianis on the basis of a Fatwa that any connection with the Kadianis was against Islam. Since then the ostracised families remained confined to their homes All Kadiani children have stopped going to schools.

A local leader of Jaamat-e-Islami of the area, Moulana Abdur Razzak reportedly issued the Fatwa.

A staffer of Hanif demanded Tk 220 for a November 19 ticket to A number of Kadianis have fled Barisal, although it was sold at Tk homes in fear of persecution by the 180 for yesterday's instant journey. fundamentalists early this month.

Alam, who will travel to Pabna a Kushtia Police Superintendent couple of days short of the Eid, Abdus Salam visited the area and held bought an advance ticket from talks with the locals on November 4. Shyamoli Paribahan at Tk 200, up He later said that the situation was under control and asked the Kadianis

Akbar, a Feni-bound passenger who fled homes to return to their booked an advance ticket from Starline Service at Tk 140 for a "Many of the families have been November 22 commute, up from Tk forced to sign an undertaking that they would embrace Islam after returning

But bus services at the city's three home," said one Sabir Ali, a Kadiani. terminals -- Sayedabad, Gabtali and "BNP leader Meherul, his accom-Mohakhali are charging day-to-day plices Pacha alias Palan, Amir, passengers the same fares as before Mozammel, and Khokan as well as Samim and Khalil of Jaamat are threatfor north and southbound com-

ening us with dire consequences. Of Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners them Khokon is a close associate of BNP lawmaker Shahidul Islam Association yesterday in a press (Bheramara-Mirpur)," said another release asked the passengers to member of the Kadianis, seeking complain to the association's office

against any bus taking extra fares.

Ministry asked to identify land-grabbers appliances and garment chemicals. 'We intend to make it a zone where

import substitutes will be manufactured,'

The BCIC also proposed to convert half

its 100-acre Chittagong Chemical

A World Bank project, Enterprise

Complex into an industrial park, but no

Growth and Bank Modernisation, has asked

the government to make investment and

create jobs using the land of closed-down

Law-enforcers

479 crime-risk

Seven thousand law enforcers includ-

ing 450 members of the Armed Police

Battalion, 440 Bangladesh Rifles (BDR)

personnel and 100 ansars are operating

in 479 crime-prone areas in the capital

of passengers, the secretary said.

suspended for taking bribe.

In all 5.347 cases were filed with the

courts and a sum of Tk 33,24,215 was

realised in fines during the first 20 days

of Ramadan. Thirteen policemen were

have also been deployed at 33 major

traffic points to ease traffic congestion.

At every point, 10 to 20 policemen and

BDR personnel have been deployed

There are 300 traffic points including 72

Forty-one teams of strike forces,

each comprising 10 BDR personnel and

four policemen, are operating in differ-

ent areas to check crimes and 10 to 20

policemen in each market for the

There are 228 markets in the capital

Asked about realising extra fare

from homebound passengers before

the Eid, the secretary said Bangladesh

Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has

prepared a list of fare for different

About the death of a man at law

said investigation into the matter

The briefing was also attended by

the inspector general of police, com-

missioner of Dhaka Metropolitan

Police, representatives of Bangladesh

Standards and Testing Institute, the

Judge Shahidur

Tk 50,000 from a client for fixing bail

from the court of a judge friend in a

President Iajuddin Ahmed

According to the constitution, if

directed the chief justice to form the

first ever Supreme Judicial Council

the council, after making the

inquiry, reports to the president that

the judge has ceased to be capable of

properly performing the functions

of his office or has been guilty of

gross misconduct, the president will,

24 despite objections by the Bar

association and senior lawyers of the

Supreme Court. They alleged that

Shahidur siphoned off association

A Satkhira-bound passenger

bought a ticket for November 25

travel at Tk 320 from Satkhira

Express, although the previous fare

funds while he was its office bearer.

Extra fares

was fixed at Tk 230.

every route.

The judge was appointed on April

by an order, remove the judge.

woman repression case.

to probe such an allegation.

BRTA and Dhaka City Corporation.

enforcers' camp in Khulna on Sunday.

routes and given it to police.

security of traders and customers.

40 being large ones.

with huge traffic flow, he mentioned.

Omar mentioned additional forces

in action at

city areas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

decision has yet been taken.

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to make a list of land-grabbers in a move to take ougher action against illegal occupiers.

on 'land-grabbing' at its first meeting yesterday asked land ministry to identify illegally occupied government, semi-government and private lands and the persons involved.

The committee headed by Cabinet Secretary Sa'adat Hossain would also place a report before the government by January with specific recommendation on ways and means to protect and recover individual and government

"We have instructed the ministry to submit a comprehensive list of occupied lands and land-grabbers in our next meeting," Sa'adat told newspersons after the meeting.

the report, the government would consider enacting new laws or setting up new institution to deal with the natter, he hinted. Land-grabbers should not only be

Following the recommendations of

Mohammod of Jatrapur UP, Abu Zafar of Rakhalgachi UP, Mahfuzur Rahman of Rarhipara UP, Khan Zahid Hasan of Moghia UP, Sirajul Islam Morol of Piliang UP, Swapan Das of Betaga UP, Azhar Morol of Moubhog UP, Rafigul Islam of Iiodhara UP, Moulana Abdul Khaleque of Panchakaran UP, Abu Taher Howlader of Sonaitala UP, Mohon Ali Biswas of Chitalmari Sadar UP and Ashok Kumar Boral of

Bagerhat police superintendent has accused the outlawed parties of creating disorder in the district.

Fiery reception

The Stop the War Coalition organised a February anti-war rally in London that drew more than 1 million Britons.

"Our message to Bush is firstly, get your troops out, and secondly, if you think you can go into another country in the same way, think again," Razuki said.

Several other European anti-war groups -- including France's Non a la Guerre (No to War), Italy's Ya Basta (Enough's Enough) and the Axis of Peace Coalition of France, Germany and Russia -- will participate.

The rallies also are expected to attract hundreds of schoolchildren. Verity Marriott, 16, who is organising student "strikes," called it truancy for a

Sir John Stevens, head of the Metropolitan Police in London, said security for Bush's visit is unprecedented. Stevens cancelled holidays for London officers and the security bill for taxpayers is expected to top \$4.7 mil-

The protests feed on widespread unhappiness in Britain about the war and its aftermath, and low regard for

In a recent poll, 59 percent of respondents said America's standing in the world has diminished under Bush, while 60 percent disapproved of his performance in Iraq. Forty-seven percent said Bush did not seem capable of being president.

The Populus polling agency interviewed 964 adults by telephone hetween Nov. 7-9 for The Times survey. The margin of error was 3 percentage

Dhaka, Islamabad

FROMPAGE 1 negative list of products (out of tariff concession) than Pakistan's," he

"Many countries have already made FTA deals and any FTA around the world is damaging our interest in that market. The best way for us to protect our interest is to get the FTA

signed," the Pakistan negotiator noted. He mentioned the Saarc countries have one fourth of the world population but only 3.5 per cent of the global

Pakistan proposed to hold the next round of trade negotiations before the Saarc summit but in the interest of Bangladesh, it will be held after the summit, Qadir added.

Elias Ahmed said at the press briefing the rules of origin should be simple. Bangladesh will keep some products out of tariff concession.

"Besides, there will be two separate lists under which one category of products will enjoy immediate tariff concession and tariff on another category will be withdrawn in phases,'

Elias said Bangladeshi exporters are not facing any significant non-tariff barriers in the Pakistani market.

In reply to a question, Qadir said Bangladesh was earlier allowed dutyfree export of jute and tea up to 10,000 tonnes a year to Pakistan. But Dhaka could utilise only 60 per cent of the quota for tea last year.

US not using GSP or terminal | Govt that can't issues to sway gas decision

Says Harry K Thomas

There is no pressure on Bangladesh to export its natural gas but such a move would help ease poverty, the United States ambassador has said.

"Bangladesh has to make its own decision (on exporting natural gas as) the world is changing (and) there is going to be competition," Harry K Thomas told the AFP and the NTV.

"If you decide for your reasons not to ncrease your country's wealth from the export of gas then you have to find other ways," he said.

Thomas, who took over office in August, denied that the US decision not to extend the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) trade privileges was a pressure on Bangladesh to export gas or to permit construction of a container port by an American company

"Energy or port projects have nothing to do with it. They are not tied at all,"

Exporting part of its natural gas "can help Bangladesh move from a poor country to a middle income country, Thomas said.

which more than three trillion has already been extracted, according to official figures. Current reserves of natural gas are expected to last until 2020.

The United States and other major donor countries have pressed Bangladesh to export gas, most likely to India, arguing that it would bring the country much-needed income.

On the GSP, Thomas said it was an agreement signed in 1991 in which Bangladesh promised to respect international labour standards, and the pact would not be renewed after January,

"Bangladesh asked for additional time and US granted that (and) in that time three years Bangladesh did not honour its commitment, but we have given over 300 million dollars worth of duty-free access," he said.

"This is not one-sided. There are no threats," Thomas said. Washington has been urging Dhaka

to allow trade unions in specialised export processing zones. Labour unions are resented in

Bangladesh because they enforce frequent strikes on a range of issues.

Pneumonia

each district is doing their routine monitoring and six more teams have been sent from the directorate to the northern and Chittagong regions as additional measures," Rahman said when asked to elaborate on the preventive measures taken.

On the question of quarantine, he said, "After the isolation of the virus which will take a couple of days, we will decide whether quarantine is neces-An estimated 76,304 children

affected with pneumonia were reported in Dhaka, Narail, Mymensingh, Meherpur, Jessore, Dinajpur, Cox's Bazar, Magura, Bandarban, Jhenaidah and Chandpur until November 13. Our Correspondent in Cox's Bazar

reports that three more children died of nneumonia in Cox's Bazar yesterday taking the tally to 44 in the last 17 days.

Two children died of pneumonia a Ukhia Upazila Health Complex, while another died at Cox's Bazar Sadar

Saber Chy sues Sangram editor, publisher

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, yesterday filed a defamation case against the editor, publisher and the Khulna correspondent of the Daily Sangram for publishing a 'false' news item on November 8.

The accused in the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka are Editor Mohammad Abul Asad, Publisher Shafiuddin Dewan and Reporter Sheikh

In his complaint, Saber said the daily ran a report titled 'conspiracy to create fresh violence in the southwestern region' in which the reporter stated 'three M-16 rifles along with 169 bullets were seized from the ship of Saber Hossain Chowdhury on November 7.

MV Banga Lanka, a seagoing vessel, is owned by the HRC Group, headed by Sayeed Hossain Chowdhury, elder brother of Saber Hossain Chowdhury.

The news item was false, fabricated and concocted and it tainted his reputation in the political field, the complainant said

Upon hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Emdadul Haque took the case into cognizance and summoned the accused to appear before the court on December 18.

Vehicles asked to avoid cantt road on Nov 21

UNB, Dhaka

functions, it said.

All vehicles have been requested to avoid the roads through Dhaka Cantonment from 6:00am to 10:00am on November 21 to help observance of the Armed Forces Day. However, vehicles carrying can-

tonment residents and invited guests have been kept out of the purview of this restriction. "A number of functions will be held at Dhaka Cantonment on the

occasion," said an ISPR release President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Iajuddin Ahmed will attend the

Hospital, the Cox's Bazar civil surgeon As many as 228 children were admit-

ted to Sadar hospital and seven upazila health complexes of the district vesterday, he added. A three-member medical team is

vorking in each union of the district to hold the disease in check.

Unofficial sources claim that at least 2,000 child pneumonia patients have been admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the district.

MPs demand allocation of Nam flats urgently

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers vesterday demanded in the Jativa Sangsad immediate allocation of the much-talked-about Nam (Non Aligned Movement) flats to them.

They criticised Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas for not yet handing over the flats

However, the issue remained unresolved as Abbas was not in the

The legislators pointed out the minister told the House in June that over 350 Nam flats would be allocated to lawmakers by July.

Taking the floor on a point of order, ruling BNP lawmaker Kalim Uddin raised the issue in the Sangsad and blamed the minister for the delay in allocation of the flats. Independent lawmaker MM

Shahin also expressed similar views. A large number of lawmakers

plauded them. Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, who was in the chair, said the chief whip was abroad, otherwise he could inform the lawmakers the devel-

DU teacher remanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday placed Shafigur Rahman, a law department $lecturer of \, Dhaka \, University \, (DU), on \, a$ three-day remand in an attempted

Ramna police produced Rahman before the court with a seven-day remand prayer for allegedly masterminding the firing at former DU vice chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury.

Rahman was arrested at an Elephant Road residence Sunday On May 25, Abu Hanif, Surya Sen

with the Jatiya Sangsad Rules of hall unit general secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League, confessed to a metropolitan magistrate that Rahman provided him with the gun to shoot at Chowdhury, police said in the remand prayer. Ramna police held Hanif on May 23

in connection with the firing.

Meanwhile, Rahman is also accused in the case of allegedly manhandling a judge. An warrant of arrest was issued against him for allegedly filing a false arson case against some DU students, court sources said.

The ex-VC escaped unhurt in an armed attack on the campus on May 11. Later, he filed an attempted murder case with Ramna Police Station.

feed the people should step down: Hasina

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government that cannot provide people food has no right to remain in power.

People no longer want this government which plunders national property while people starve, Hasina said while addressing wayside meetings at Nilphamari Sadar, Domar, Dimla, Jaldhaka and Kishoreganj upazilas of Nilphamari district vesterday.

Hasina is on a four-day tour of Nilphamari, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Rangpur, four of the northern districts affected by monga, a famine-like situa-

She said the BNP-led coalition government has turned the country, which attained self-sufficiency in food during the 'golden era' of the previous Awami League rule, into a monga-

"After Nizami (former agriculture minister) took control (of the agriculture ministry), we have seen a fall in food production, which we doubled during our time." she told the meetings attended by a large number of people.

the distressed and starving populace.

Motia Chowdhury, central leaders Sultan Mohammad Monsur, Dr Mostafa Jalil Mohiuddin, SM Kamal Hossain, Pankaj Devnath, local MP and AL Publicity Secretary Asaduzzaman Noor and Hamida Banu Shobha MP accompanied Sheikh Hasina.

Later, Hasina left for Rangpur.

ETV equipment

information," said Additional Attorney

General AJ Mohammad Ali on behalf of the government in the leave petition. He told court that the governmen was willing to hand over the equipment

The suit for declaration of chairmanship of the ETV is awaiting a court verdict.

Earlier in August, two ETV directors Abdus Salam and Nasir Chowdhury filed a writ petition, each claiming himself to he ETV chairman. The HC suggested them to resolve the issue at a proper forum. They went to the lower court to settle the dispute On August 20, the HC passed two

directives, one for the government and the other for the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), ordering the former to return the seized equipment to ETV and the latter to dispose of ETV's application for licence for frequency

allocation and broadcasting. The HC gave them 30 days to comply

But, both the government and the BTRC filed two leave petitions with the Appellate Division. The BTRC petition is pending.

Senior counsel Dr Kamal Hossain Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Advocate Abdul Matin Khosru appeared for ETV in the court. The government seized the equipment of ETV within a couple of days after

to ETV was irregular. Since then ETV is seeking permission for satellite broadcasting and frequency allocation, which the government has been refusing.

the Appellate Division on August 29, 2002

ruled that the process of awarding licence

JS boycott

FROM PAGE 1

IP for its return to parliament recalls the main opposition party Awami League's demand for apologies from the prime minister, the speaker and a state minis-

"We will take a stern decision, if our demand goes unmet," TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, JP presidium member, told newspersons after the parliamentary party meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban.

"The government is trying to force all opposition lawmakers out of the House. We will disclose everything of the mistreatment we have been subjected to in the coalition's first two years in office," he

On whether to launch an anti-

government movement, Fazle Rabbi

said, "The party presidium will decide on The IP also demanded membership of parliamentary standing committees in consultation with the lawmakers in line

The lawmakers of the second largest opposition party threatened to resign from the committees, if the demand remained unmet. "The ruling BNP formed parliamen-

tary bodies without consulting us -- a trend that violates the Rules of Procedure. We demanded retooling of the bodies, but it did not care about our demand," IPlawmaker GM Kader said. JP's walkout on Sunday, coinciding with AL's boycott since June 26 following

derogatory remarks by State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir, left the House with only two fringe groupings in opposition -- the Jatiya Party of Anwar Hossain Monju and Krishak Sramik Janata League of Kader

6 Afghan civilians killed by US air raid

At least six civilians were killed in a US-led airstrike near a Taliban-controlled district on Afghanistan's troubled southeastern border with Pakistan, a police commander said vesterday.

"US hombardment on the border town of Mangaratay area of Barmal district killed six civilians on Friday." Paktika police chief Daulat Khan told AFP by satellite phone from the Paktika capital haran, 160km south of Kabul.

The US military could not be immediately reached for confirmation or com-

Khan was unable to say what prompted the US warplanes to bomb Mangaratay, which lies a few kilometers from Barmal district, of which government forces lost control to resurgent Faliban in August.

The Pakistan-based private Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported that the people were killed by shelling by US jets as they travelled in a vehicle near the Afghan-Pakistan border.

The incident occurred less than 10km from the US army base at Shkin, dubbed "the most evil place in Afghanistan" by the US military because more US troops have

Sixteen AL men

Mohin Mahmud alias Mohin, Shafiqul Islam alias Shafiq, Nazrul Islam, Abul Kalam, Bachchu Miah, Manik Miah, Bakul Miah, Khorshed Alam, Solaiman, Taher Munshi, Bahar Miah, Commissioner of Tongi municipality Nazrul Islam alias Nuru, Kazi Kamrul, Ialal Miah and Sohel Miah.

All the accused are leaders and activists of Jubo League, Chhatra League and Sechchasebok League of Tongi thana unit.

In the bail petition, defence lawyers said the accused on September 19 sought anticipatory bail from the High Court (HC), following which the HC directed them to appear before the District and Sessions Judge's court within 30 days to seek bail. The HC also directed the police

not to arrest or harass them. The prosecution opposed the peti-

Advocates Sahara Khatun, Mohammad Israfil, Mokhlesur Rahman Badal, Abdullah Abu and Abdur Rahman

Howladar appeared for the defendants.

to power in that state. Most pre-polls

surveys had put the BIP ahead of ruling

This is the second time that the BJP

bore the brunt of a 'sting camera opera-

tion'. A similar video expose into corrup-

tion in defence deals was conducted by

the news portal Tehelca.com more than

two years ago, forcing the then BJP

president Bangaru Laxman, Defence

She alleged that Kamal raped her on

Earlier on Sunday, she dragged the

The two were neighbours at

false promise of marriage and was

going to cheat her by marrying

teacher down from his bridal car and

took him to Boalia Police Station to file

Talaimari in the city and developed an

affair two months after he joined the RU

Kamal denied the allegations,

However, IO (investigating officer)

Bhramar Chandra Ghosh said primary

probe into the case filed under Section

9 (1) of the Women and Children

Repression Prevention Act, 2000

revealed that the allegations were true.

claiming the student was a psychiatric

in January this year, police said.

Congress in that state.

RU teacher

FROM PAGE 12

a complaint.

Hospital

been killed there than any other place in Afghanistan.

The porous 2,450-kilometer (1,500mile) Afghan-Pakistan border has been hard-hit by a wave of insurgency blamed on Taliban, their al-Qaeda allies and supporters of former Afghan premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

Scores of civilians have been killed in US-led bombing since the start of the USled campaign against the Taliban regime and al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan in October 2001. US-led forces, still chasing Taliban and

al-Oaeda remnants two years after their ouster, unearthed a cache of 100 107 mm rockets and sevreal hundred mortars in northeastern Nuristan province, a spokes man said Monday.

The cache was discovered during the Operation Mountain Resolve air and ground offensive which was launched early November.

Small-caliber rockets, especially 107 mm versions, are the weapons of choice for the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

Newborn found dead in Mohammadpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a newborn girl with its head severed was recovered from Shekhertek in Mohammadpur on

Mohammadpur police recovered

the body, covered in white cloth, from a

secluded spot at road No. 13 at about 3:30pm and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. There were marks of bruises on the elbows of the one-day-old baby. Police

In another incident late Sunday Pallabi police recovered a nine-yearold schoolboy from Baunia lake behind

could not specify the circumstances

surrounding the killing of the girl.

angabandhu College Police sent the body to the DMCH for post mortem yesterday morning. Babu, a Class-III student of Proshika

Lalmatia residence at about 2:00pm Saturday Babu's father Almas Khan, a fish trader, filed an unnatural death case

School in Pallabi, went out of their

Indian minister quits Minister George Fernandez and his Chhattisgarh in the event of it being voted

Samata Party colleague Java Jaitley to quit their respective party and government posts. The opposition parties led by Congress, the CPI, and CPI (M) promptly pounced on the allegation against Judeo

to attack the BJP, demand his resignation

The development could not have come at a more opportune time for the opposition, which has been training its guns at the probity plan of the BJP in the coming legislature polls in the four states where Congress is in power and seeks to

retain its hold. Political sources said the opposition is certain to derive political mileage from the controversy involving Judeo and use it as its main plank in the coming electoral battles.

On the other hand, BJP leaders

privately admit the allegation against Judeo could affect the party's electoral prospects and take the steam out of its campaign against principal political opponent Congress. Politically, the Vajpayee government appears to be in for a tough time. The prime minister is already facing the opposition demand to clarify on recent charges that some of his ministerial colleagues had demanded perks from the

chiefs of leading public sector undertak-

ings. Keeping up the pressure, leader of

the opposition and Congress chief Sonia

Gandhi shot off a letter to the prime

minister last week to come clean on these

BNP deputy

FROM PAGE 1 Another BNP legislator Abdul Gani took a swipe at the press for what he said abusing its freedom and demanded formulation of a code of conduct to restrict press activi-

Shahidul said when Hasina was the

orime minister she did not find her husband in Gonobhaban, her official resi-"He used to stay where the servants slept," the ruling party deputy said. "How can a person, who does not have any

for people?" he wondered. Hasina kept from visiting her husband's house, Sudhasadan, during her five years in office, he alleged.

affection for her husband, have affection

Veering onto Jalil, Shahid accused him of forcibly marrying his personal assistant's wife and demanded an investigation into 'why Jalil snatched other's wife'. He also demanded another investigation into the sources of 'Jalil's huge

wealth'. The deputy speaker said he would examine Shahidul's claims if he submitted

Reacting sharply to 'the derogatory remarks against the AL president and general secretary', Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid demanded unreserved apologies from the deputy speaker and the

parliamentary and baseless," Shahid said, adding that the remarks clearly show the level of indecency.

"His remarks are indecent, un-

Hasnat said light to moderate fog might occur at places near the river basins of the northern and central parts

recorded at 14.9 degrees Celsius at Mymensingh and Sitakunda and the highest of 30.9 degrees Celsius at ssore yesterday.

Traders in Dhaka have started stockpiling winter garments.

The AL boycotted parliament on June 26 in protest against derogatory remarks by a state minister in the House and the Jatiya Party (Ershad) boycotted on Sunday protesting the comments of a deputy minister in television interviews. Winter crawls FROM PAGE 1

Night temperature may rise slightly in the northern region and remain nearly

unchanged elsewhere around the country today.

of the country in early morning. The lowest temperature was

With winter setting in, preparation to ward off the cold bites goes on.

egislator and expunction of all 'indecent

evicted, they must be fined for the to combat crimes and maintain the law industrial park. crime, he added The ambassador said "sooner or later He said critics of gas export live in "big According to a proposal of Bangladesh Grabbing individual and governyou must do what you promised to do.' houses, drive big cars," with no concern Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) Giving this statistics at a press As Hasina's motorcade passed ment lands had been a common phe-"Bangladesh will not lose the US for the "student in madrassah who through the areas, thousands of people briefing yesterday, Home Secretary the KNM's premises, close to Khulna city nomenon in Dhaka city, but over the market after GSP agreement expires as cannot afford public education, the lined up the roads to greet her. She made and facilitated with highways and water-Mohammad Omar Farooq claimed law vears illegal occupiers have gone far 5,000 items are listed under it and the rickshawpuller who cannot afford to several stops on the way to inquire about ways and power, could be turned into a and order in Dhaka and elsewhere in into remote areas, the cabinet secretary country has to diversify its exports," he send his children to public school and the theirwelfare. good industrial nark the country 'improved a lot'. Moti, brother of Ahsanullah Master MP lady on the street who cannot afford to A high official of the ministry said the She told them that the AL will stand The number of mobile courts in the The United States is a major market feed her children. by their side in times of need. She also capital has been raised to 25 from 20 to for garments, which are now the largest Bangladesh has proven recoverable urged the rich to help the poor and cover additional areas. Three mobile UP chairmen foreign exchange earner for Dhaka gas reserves of 13 trillion cubic feet, of directed her party workers to stand by courts have been asked to operate at representation bus terminals and launch terminal and Awami League presidium member railway station to prevent harassment