Japan's new PM rejects WWII 'war criminal' label

Japan's new premier Shinzo Abe risked new controversy yesterday ahead of a fence-mending visit to Asian neighbors, insisting World War II leaders tried by US-led forces were not war criminals.

The conservative leader, who has come under repeated grilling over his views on history, rejected the "war criminals" label one day after making more conciliatory remarks about Japan's past.

The people who are said to be socalled Class-Acriminals were tried and convicted as war criminals at the Tokyo tribunal, but they were not war criminals under domestic laws," Abe said during a parliamentary session.

That also was the case for my relative." he added. Abe, 52, is a grandson of Nobusuke Kishi, who served in the

wartime cabinet and helped supervise the industrialization of Manchukuo -the puppet state Japan set up in northeastern China. After the war, Kishi was jailed by US

forces as a top war criminal although he was not tried. Kishi later served as prime minister from 1957 to 1960. Abe, Japan's first prime minister

born after World War II, is seen as holding more hardline views on history than his predecessor, Junichiro

But Abe is set to visit China and South Korea from Sunday in a bid to

mend sour ties. The two countries, which suffered under Japanese rule, refused to invite Koizumi due to outrage over his repeated visits to a shrine that honors 5 million war dead and 14 "Class-A" orton war criminals.

Abe has refused to say if he will visit e Yasukuni shrine as prime minister. On Friday, he said that war criminals should have been freed when Japan signed the 1951 San San Francisco Peace Treaty, which ended

the US occupation of Japan. "Japan achieved independence by daringly accepting the condition of not freeing those imprisoned unless it has permission from the Allies, even they should have been freed under international law as soon as a peace treaty was signed."Abe said.

'Japan was not in the position capable of lodging objections over its relations with other countries when signing the treaty," he noted.

These people were not tried under Japanese laws." he said, referring to war criminals. "It's a fact that I, as prime minister. must not decide whether they are war criminals or not.

Benazir presses to return for elections

Former Pakistan premier Benazir Bhutto said on Thursday she wants to return to run in 2007 elections and accused the country's military ruler of failing to tackle religious schools that promote global terrorism.

"I've been out for a very long time --since 1999. The people need to hear from me," the exiled opposition leader told Reuters. "If the people of Pakistan honour me with that position. I would like to come back as prime minister.

Benazir and exiled former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, once a bitter rival, formed the multi-party Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy after President Pervez Musharraf seized power in 1999 in a bloodless coup.

Both want to return to Pakistan but Musharraf has vowed to block that and has dismissed a growing alliance between her Pakistan Peoples Party and Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League

He has accused both of corruption -- allegations they deny -- and most people believe that, with Sharif and Benazir outside the country, elections by the end of 2007 will return national

and provincial assemblies that will vote Musharraf in again. "If the leaders of the religious parties should be allowed to campaign in Pakistan, the leaders of the moder-

to Pakistan and campaign." Benazir said after attending a conference in Benazir said a blast near

Musharraf's army residence in the northern city of Rawalpindi on Wednesday showed that terrorism was reaching deeper into Pakistani cities, partly because militants still thrive in Islamic seminaries, or

"This is a worrying decline in the

stability of the society," said Benazir, whose two terms as premier in the late 1980s and mid 1990s were cut short nid graft accusations Benazir, 53, lives in Dubai. Wearing white traditional Muslim headscarf

she said her 10 years in opposition have been some of the worst of her life although she said she was happy for the opportunity to raise her three She disagreed with what she said

was an unfair portrayal of her father – deposed premier Zulfikar Ali Bhutto executed by Pakistan's military in 1979 -- in Musharraf's new memoirs "In the Line of Fire", and she said she wants to write her own autobi

involved in the struggle for the restoration of democracy in Pakistan. The

She urged the military-backed government to do more to oust foreign-born militants from Pakistan's ni-autonomous tribal region and to stand up to the madrasas, which she described as poorly regulated and a "breeding ground for intolerance."

The madrasas, meant to provide amic education, became radicalised in the 1980s when Pakistan, US and intelligence services began

"If we cannot control our own areas from the militants how are we going to control them from crossing into Afghanistan and destabilising (Afghan President Hamid) Karzai, "she said

programmes against the government to press home the demand for electoral reforms. "If the government does not concede the demand for electoral reforms, the people will march to

Dhaka with whatever they have to realise the demand on the day KM Hasan will take charge," Obaidul Quader, a senior AL leader, said adding that they will continue their movement on the street while the

Bhuiyan will fix his final strategy in consultation with Khaleda Zia following the meeting.

As the two parties sat for the first time in 11 years, a number of leaders and lawmakers of both BNP and AL, journalists and common people thronged the parliament much before the second round of talks started yesterday. A mood of festivity was visceral in and around the parliament building.

Accompanied by party lawmakers and leaders, AL second-in command Abdul Jalil entered the standing committee room at 10:57am. Shortly afterwards, he was joined by his counterpart Bhuiyan. Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shaheed received them amid incessant clicks

of camera shutters. But when the senior leaders

after the discussion, both BNP and AL supporters were chanting party

slogans and also brought out pro-

cessions to support their parties

Besides, the different political party leaders and activists, few enthusiastic peoples also gathered in front of the parliament building to find out what actually has been

happening in the dialogue. Vast number of reporters, photojournalists, and TV reporters were present at the parliament to cover the dialogue and some private TV channels broadcasted the event live from outside the parliament build-

AL leaders Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Suranjit Sengupta, ASHK Sadique, Obaidul Quader, Abdur Rahman, Abdus Shaheed, Col (retd) Farruk Khan, Asaduzzaman Nur, Abdul Hai and Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya accompanied Jalil to Sheikh Hasina while BNP leader also Deputy Speaker of Parliament Akhter Hamid Siddique Whip Shahidul Haque Jamal Emran Saleh Prince and Ahmed Musa accompanied Bhuiyan after yesterday's dialogue.

The two leaders, both second in command in their parties, sat at a negotiating table on Thursday for the first time in 11 years to break the impasse over the oppositionproposed reforms to the system of caretaker government, the Election Commission

Talking to journalists whip Shahidul Haque Jamal said, "We want to resolve all contentious issues through the dialogue, but everything has to be within the bounds of the constitution."

AL presidium member Suraniit Sengupta said, "The government has to be flexible if it is to agree on the reform proposals. I am hopeful that good sense will prevail in the government and the proposed reforms will be brought through the

No step yet FROM PAGE 1 in April 2005), the Bangladesh govern-

ment has not taken any measure to restore human rights and grant the citizens of Bangladesh fundamental

"Rather terrorism continues and hundreds of people have been killed by armed forces without any trial. The nostility of police has been increased in recent days," the letter noted.

It said members of the EU parliament see no reason why the Bangladesh government has failed to arrest any real culprit in connection with the grenade attack on August 21 on the public meeting of former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, when more than 24 people were killed and over "We believe that failure to punish

the real culprits, who are responsible for the grenade attack on Sheikh Hasina, Shah AMS Kibria and on other political leaders, will encourage them to carry out similar terrorist activities in Bangladesh.

'The EU parliament members believe that in order to strengthen the democracy of Bangladesh, it's foremost important to hold free, fair and transparent legislative elections."

They said the present Election Commission has failed to establish a congenial situation for free and fair

50 hurt

FROM PAGE 1 Alokdighi and Bidyabagish villages over early announcement of sehri timing by a local mosque over the

The incident has no political link, he said. Police picked up eight neonle and took them to the police

station for interrogation. The injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital and Rangpur Medical College Hospital. The condition of injured AL worker Ruhul Amin was

Bangladesh face FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh once had an agonising record against the Lankans but they managed to put on a brake on the 15-match losing streak last February with their first one-day victory against the islanders at Bogra. Still Sri Lanka have an upperhand with 16 wins in 17

Bangladesh announced a 12member squad leaving out Rajin Saleh and uncapped Mehrab Hossain are expected to decide on the final eleven after another inspection of the pitch.

The wicket at Mohali on the outskirts of Punjab capital Chandigarh has the reputation of being the liveliest in India, which has produced some cracking onedayers. Interestingly Sri Lanka's visit here last year was not an inspiring one as they suffered a huge defeat to the hosts.

TEAMS Bangladesh (from): Habibul Bashar (captain), Shahriar Nafees (vice-Mohammad Ashraful Aftab Ahmed, Sakib Al Hasan,

Khaled Masud, Forhad Reza, Mohammad Rafique, Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, Syed Rasel, Abdur Razzak and Shahadat Hossain. Sri Lanka (from): Mahela Jayawardene (capt), Kumar Sangakkara, Sanath Jayasuriya, Marvan Atapattu, Upul Tharanga, Tillkaratne Dilshan, Chamara Kapugedara, Farveez Maharoof,

30 garment workers

FROM PAGE 1

not find anyone," diver Mohammad Alauddin told The Daily Star.

have carried away the bodies through the bus windows which local people had smashed to rescue the garment workers trapped inside. Witnesses said the accident

swerved the bus to the left to let an zles. "As the driver swerved the bus, he lost control of it, and the bus fell into the river with eight feet depth of Shalepur Bridge around 1:45pm," said a helper of a truck, Mohammad Israfil, who witnessed the accident.

Fire fighters called in a crane of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to lift the sunken bus, but it failed to lift the bus as its cable snapped. The officials concerned could not say when they will be able to pull out the bus from the river.

around and found that a bus was tumbling over the concrete slope of the bridge by the river bank," said a man who was catching fish in the river at the time of the accident.

Hundreds of onlookers gathered at the spot halting traffic on the Dhaka-Aricha highway for about half an hour following the accident. Many garment workers who work

in factories in the area rushed to the spot after getting information about the accident. Tension was mounting among the fellow workers of the missing, who were not very happy with the result of the rescue opera-

Police and Rab personnel were deployed at the spot to maintain law

India close to missile deal with Israel

PTI, AFP, New Delhi

India is close to wrapping up a Rs. 1,800-crore deal with Israel for buying Spyder quick reaction air defence missile svstems

The Indian Air Force is purchasing 18 Spyder missile systems, Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi told reporters here on Thursday. The system's Python-5 and Derby missiles will give the IAF the capability to engage enemy aircraft, helicopters, unmanned air vehicles, drones and precision-guided muni-

"Price negotiations are over and the deal has been sent to the Cabinet Committee on Security for clearance, Air Chief Marshal Tvaqi said.

The system can provide air defence for fixed assets such as airbases, nuclear installations, VVIP buildings and point and area defence for mobile forces. Israel and the European consor-

tium MBDT were in the contention. Meanwhile, India is in talks with France to purchase several secondhand Mirage 2000 fighters to bolster its air force, a diplomat said Friday. "The Indian air force is seeking to

acquire some aircraft quickly," the diplomat told AFP, without giving numbers, although the Indian press has said 40 may be bought. "The figure of 40 does not match

French defence ministry officials were due to meet India's air force chief Indian air force spokesman squad-

the reality," the diplomat said.

ron leader Mahesh Upasini said the proposal to acquire the jets had "come to us from France" France and India have also been

discussing for several months a new maintenance contract for New Delhi's 52 Mirage fighters built by Dassault, the diplomat said.

Indian sources added that India's navy is also talking to Dassault about purchasing the Mirage-2000MKI, a maritime version of the French jet.

India has plans to purchase 126 ighter jets at a cost of up to nine billion dollars to replace its ageing MiG-21s. Dassault's Rafale warplane is among the contenders along with US irm Lockheed Martin's F-18 and

New Delhi is expected to issue a request for proposals in January, the sources said.

Russia's MiG-35.

India has 34 air squadrons, each with 12 operational jets, against a sanctioned strength of 40 squadrons. The MiG-21s have been dubbed

"flying coffins" by the media due to their frequent crashes. In March, India's defence ministry released figures showing that 54 MiG-21 fighter jets had crashed in the past seven years.

Depression

FROM PAGE 16 within 44-km of the depression centre is about 40kph, rising to 50kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain moderate.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number one.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay and deep sea have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution

RMG workers

demanded fixing the minimum wage at Tk 3.000.

Their five-point demand includes immediate implementation of the tripartite agreement among the workers, owners and the government, stopping discharge of the workers from the garment factories across the country and paying arrears and Eid bonus before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

Terming the recently passed Bangladesh Labour Law 2006 'undemocratic', they said it would not serve the workers' interest. They demanded cancellation of the law.

At a rally at Muktangon yesterday morning, NGWF demanded implementation of the trilateral bilateral and factory-level contracts. UFGW also held a rally at the same place in the afternoon and said the declaration of minimum wages is a 'betrayal' with the workers' movement for realisation of longstanding demands.

They urged the workers to observe a 'hartal-like' strike by obstructing roads, railways and waterways on October 15. NPAGWI at an emergency

meeting yesterday rejected the minimum pay structure and urged cancellation of the Labour Bill. They also demanded payment of

Eid bonus before the festival. Bangladesh Garment Sramik

Trade Union Kendra in press release said the latest declaration of the minimum wages would only create unrest in the industry and the government would have to take the responsibility for it.

Urging immediate payment of Eid bonus, NGWF leaders said otherwise they would observe October 13 as Eid Bonus Demand

It is not fair that the factory owners do not pay the bonus in the name of paying as per piece-rate whereas all government and nongovernment employees get it regularly, said a speaker at the rally.

Violent protests

FROM PAGE 1

Chuadanga district and put blockades on roads and railways for three hours from 8:00am protesting the ongoing load shedding and power outage.

The protesters chanted slogans and demonstrated all over the town for uninterrupted power. They warned of tougher programmes if the outage continues during the Ramadan. Locals vandalised a power sub-

station and staged demonstration by burning tyres on the highway on Thursday night, reports our RU correspondent. On the same night, students of

different residential halls of RU brought out a procession on the campus for power supply. As the procession passed through Kazla and Binodpur, locals

spontaneously took position on the highway and put barricade on the The combined rally later reached Talaimari power station and the

demonstrators threw stones and brickbats at the station They also tried to set fire to it but

police resisted. The Power Supply Division officials, who fled the station to escape the public wrath, sought additional police forces to guard the sub-station

was transmitted on Thursday and Friday, Power Development Board sources said. Expressing dissatisfaction over the power crisis, Rajshahi traders said their business in the month of

Against the demand of 45 MW

power for the areas, only 12-15 MW

Ramadan is being badly hampered due to the crisis. UNB adds from Habiganj: Power

generation at Shahji Bazar power Mayor Minu

FROM PAGE 1 city will reach 50 lakh," he said. A fresh water supply project with a cost of Tk 46 crore is also under

implementation, he added. Under the fresh-water project approved by Ecnec on October 4, around 300km-long water supply line will be installed to supply treated water from the Padma river, he said.

The mayor, however, said he had

asked the power authorities to

plant came to a complete halt as its unit-4 was shut down on Thursday morning.

Earlier, eight out of nine units of the 164 MW plant, set up before the country's independence, went out of There are around 30 govern-

Power generation at the 10 MW unit-4 tripped due to technical faults, sources said, adding that engineers are trying hard to repair the unit.

HR activists slam detention of migrants in Malaysia

AFP, Kuala Lumpui

Malaysian rights activists on Friday condemned the arrest of more than 200 alleged illegal immigrants including asylum seekers from Myanmar in a raid in the capital.

The Voice of the Malaysian People

(Suaram) said 93 ethnic Chin asvlum

seekers were among the group, which

also included migrants from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam. "Suaram deplores the indiscriminate act and the raid on the Chin Refugee Center that has been deliberately directed against those coming to

find a safe haven from political turmoil

and poverty," said executive director Yap Swee Seng. Yap said the migrants, including 27 women, were being held in the overcrowded Lenggeng detention camp in Negeri Sembilan, south of Kuala

"Suaram is concerned over prospects of prolonged detention under such deplorable conditions and potential deportation of detainees to their countries of origin where their lives will be in serious danger." he said. Malaysia since 1992 has launched

several operations against illegal workers, most of whom come from impoverished parts of Southeast Asia. But each one has led to a labour shortage followed by a new wave of illegal immigration -- a pattern which

was apparent after a blitz last year. Malaysia is one of the largest mporters of foreign labour in Asia. Foreign workers, both legal and illegal, number around 2.6 million of its 10.5 million workforce, officials say

17 killed in Pak sectarian battle for a shrine

AFP, Peshawar

Seventeen people have been killed during fighting between Sunni and Shia tribesmen over ownership of a shrine in northwest Pakistan, security officials said vesterday.

The tribes exchanged gun, rocket and mortar fire after the dispute erupted several days ago over the holy site in the restive Orakzai tribal district, a senior security official told AFP.

"We have a large presence of security personnel over there and we are trying to restore order," the official said on condition of anonym-

Officials said the trouble broke out when clerics from the rival sects both tried to occupy the shrine, with each side claiming it belonged to

Clashes also have erupted in the neighbouring districts of Khurram and Hangu, an official at the Federally Administered Tribal Areas secretariat said, without giving details Pakistan's 80 percent majority

Sunnis and minority Shias generally live together peacefully but outbreaks of sectarian violence and bombings have claimed thousands of lives in the past two decades. More than 30 people were killed

in a suicide bombing and subsequent fighting in February in Hangu. Pakistan's tribal areas are awash

with weapons left over from the anti-Soviet "jihad" in Afghanistan during the 1980s.

Mufti Hannan

was earlier placed on a 120-day remand in connection with the August 17 bomb blast cases filed with different police stations in the city. So, he appealed for rejecting his remand prayer. No lawyer stood for Hannan.

After the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Shamsul Alam granted a five-day remand.

Meantime, two HuJi members-Hafez Naim Ahmed alias Arif and Badrul Alam -- arrested in connection with the bomb attack on British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury were also shown arrested in the Ramna Batamul bomb blast case. The court fixed October 16 for hearing on the petition, seeking a 10-day remand for the two.

Ten people died and several others were injured on April 14. 2001 when bombs went off at Ramna Batamul.

On June 14, 2001, one of the arrestees, Maulana Akbar Hussain, gave a confessional statement to a metropolitan magistrate and disclosed names of Mufti Hannan and others involved in the blasts

Ship survey

FROM PAGE 16

ors' certificate a private marine surveyor has to give an undertaking that he is not involved in any business related to ship owning, operators chartering or employed in a shipping firm.

the country while four or five captains are now engaged in ship surveying without obtaining certificate from the government, sources said The shipping department recently issued a notice warning those who are working as surveyors

ment-appointed ship surveyors in

certificates or serving private companies even after getting appointments as surveyors.

without obtaining government

Hasina's meeting FROM PAGE 16 went to that house on the previous night, he said adding that he and three others managed to leave

Sayeed also claimed he had

joined the Afghan war and had staved at a madrasa in Karachi for some time. The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) produced Sayeed before a Sylhet court on

Thursday, which placed him on a

five-day remand in connection with

Sylhet following the explosion.

the bomb blast case. Sayeed along with four others were also quizzed to find out if they were involved in a bomb attack on the house of former AL lawmaker Syeda Zebunnesa Haque.

Nagorik Committee FROM PAGE 16 young professionals will be invited

to the dialogue, a CPD press

The dialogue will be organised with the collaboration of The Daily Star. Prothom Alo and Channel i.

release said vesterday

The dialogue is a sequel to a National Dialogue in Dhaka, 15 regional dialogues and the dialogue entitled 'Measures for the Caretaker Government and Action Plan for the Next Elected Government'.

The CPD is providing secretarial support to the Nagorik Committee.

A draft of the vision paper can be downloaded from the above website, the press release said.

11 killed in militant ambush in Assam

A militant group ambushed and killed 11 people, including seven paramilitary soldiers, in northeastern India's troubled Assam state vesterday, police

In a separate incident, also in Assam, seven people were wounded when a hand grenade was thrown at a police vehicle. In the ambush, the militants

opened fire on two vehicles carrying railway workers and the soldiers guarding them, said Assam state police chief DN Dutt. "The incident took place at 10:30 this morning," said Dutt. "We suspect it

to be the handiwork of a tribal militant group in the area called Dima Halam Dauga," he said. The group represents the Dimasa, a small ethnic group fighting for more autonomy. The militants operate in the

area of the attack, some 360km south of Gauhati, the capital of Assam. Four other railway workers were wounded in the ambush and the rebels fled with the soldiers' guns, Dutt

In the other incident, separatist rebels in the town of Doomdooma hurled grenades at a police vehicle, injuring three policemen and four bystanders, authorities said.

"A grenade was lobbed at a senior police officer's vehicle Thursday night

but it missed the target and

exploded seconds later," said local government official Absar Hazarika. Hazarika blamed the attack on the United Liberation Front of Asom, or Ulfa, which has been campaigning for

Assam state's independence from India for the past 26 vears. Doomdooma, about 550km east o Gauhati, Assam's capital, is a teagrowing area and a Ulfa stronghold.

The federal government unilater ally announced the truce with Ulfa in August as a goodwill gesture, but canceled it after rebels attacked a police patrol and killed a tea planter in

late September.
At least 10,000 people, mostly civilians, have died in Assam since the insurgency began more than two decades ago.

There are also several smaller militant groups fighting for the rights of

ethnic minorities operate in the area. The militants say India's central government exploits the northeast's rich natural resources while doing little to improve its poor infrastructure or to alleviate widespread unemployment.

BSMMU plans

aspects of care. It offers a support system to help the patient's family cope with the patient's illness and in bereavement.

In developed countries, palliative

care has been recognised and commonly used for the last 40 years to heal terminally ill patients through pain management, counselling, providing social security and spiritual support.
BSMMU Vice-Chancellor Prof MA Hadi approved last month the project

non-curable diseases will get physical psychological and even spiritual As prolonged hospitalisation may

paper and ordered for initiating the

outpatient centre where patients with

World powers

how tough to get with Tehran.

diplomats behind the scenes.

FROM PAGE 16

Germany, Russia and China were also sending high-level officials to the talks, but it was unclear whether they would be foreign ministers The six nations remain divided over

was too soon for sanctions, while the US, Britain and France think it's time to move ahead with limited measures. Britain announced the planned talks after hours of conflicting reports about whether the ministers would

meet, suggesting jostling among

Russia's foreign minister said it

Britain's UN Ambassador Emyr Jones Parry said Thursday he expected Iran's file to return to the Security Council "in the course of next week." He said council members would discuss the possibility of adopting "measures under Article 41 against

Article 41 authorises the Security

Council to impose sanctions that do

not involve the use of armed forces. such as economic penalties, breaking diplomatic relations or banning air The council gave Iran until Aug. 31 to suspend enrichment in return for a package of incentives or face punishments under Article 41, but the council has held off any action because of

talks between European foreign policy

chief Javier Solana and Iran's top negotiator Ali Larijani Solana conceded Wednesday that 'endless hours" of talks with Larijani had made little progress and suggested the dispute could wind up at the UN soon. But he stressed Thursday that dialogue with Iran must continue

even if nuclear talks fail. "We shall not spare any effort to try to move forward when it is possible, he said in Rome. "It is not possible at the moment, but that doesn't mean it will not be possible later."

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey

avrov said Moscow remains

opposed to sanctions against Iran for "Some members of the six nations already want to impose sanctions against Iran. We, however, think first we must continue multilateral actions,"

"I think that until all diplomatic possibilities have been exhausted, sanctions would be extreme," Lavrov told reporters in Warsaw after meeting with his Polish counterpart. "I think we need to do all we can to push Iran toward starting negotiations."

On Tuesday, diplomats said Western council members the United States, Britain and France favour an embargo on sales of nuclear or missile technology to Tehran as a first sanctions step. That would be followed by other sanctions, including travel bans on Iranian officials and the freezing of their assets.

Khatme Nabuwat FROM PAGE 16

they said the government did not pass the bill in parliament declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims as it does not want votes of those who wear caps (tupi) and who have

to the Ahmadiyya structures in Patuakhali, Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra and Satkhira, IKNMB Ameer Maolana Mahmudul Hasan Mamtazi said, "The government was forced to ban all kinds of books of the Ahmadiyyas following our move-

Referring to the siege programme

not be possible for these patients because of lack of beds and other facilities in the hospitals, palliative care aims at relieving the pain and other

sufferings of these patients, Prof Had

extended later to home care service

The outdoor patient centre will be

and indoor facilities, he said, adding Philanthropic groups need to come forward to promote the service as we often cannot do our best for budgetary According to the World Health Organisation, there are 10 lakh cancer patients in Bangladesh while two lakh

more are diagnosed every year.

According to the National Cancer

Institute, about 80 per cent of these patients come to hospitals when the disease is at a far advanced stage. Inadequate screening services limited access to diagnostic facilities few cancer specialists and the existing socioeconomic condition ultimately

suggest that more and more patients

would be requiring palliative care. The number of patients diagnosed with other incurable progressive illnesses like AIDS, motor neuron disease, end-stage kidney, respiratory and cardiac condition that requires palliative care is also significant, experts said on the eve of World Hospice and Palliative Care Day

The theme of the day this year is "Access to care for all". Over 33 million of 58 million people dying each year globally need palliative care, the experts said. Two-thirds of those in need of palliative care live in the developing countries that have less than 10 per cent of the world resources for nealth care personnel, drugs and equipment, they added. In many developed countries eople receive service fro

through the outpatient consultation centre at the BSMMU and soon it will be able to extend the service, said Nezamuddin Ahmed, associate ofessor of anaesthesiology at BSMMU. "It is obviously a timely and significant initiative. It is important to dignify

consultations, home services and

inpatient home care services.

Bangladesh has just started its journey

have been suffering from incurable diseases," said Director of National Cancer Institute Prof Shariful Alam. Under the upgrading project for National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital, a palliative care unit with 20 beds and trained staffs will start

our death, even more for those who

Graft busters to unveil Thaksin's

assets AFP, Bangkok

soon, he said.

Thailand's corruption watchdog said esterday it will publicly release hundreds of financial statements filed by ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra and every minister who served under The move is part of an anti-graft

drive by the junta that ousted Thaksin

powered anti-graft panel with the power to seize assets from Thaksin

in a bloodless coup on September 19. In one of the junta's first actions, the enerals reinstated the National Counter Corruption Commission which had been dormant for more than a year, and set up its own high-

After its first meeting Friday, the NCCC said it would release the financial records, making public detailed information about the assets of billionaire Thaksin and everyone who was in The NCCC will publicly disclose

nd other former officials.

the asset declarations of former prime Thaksin and his cabinet ministers on October 20," spokesman Klanarong Chanthick said. The release will include 208 financial records running from the start of

"Even though Thaksin is living in exile overseas, he must submit a final asset account" like any other premier

Thaksin's government in 2001, he

who leaves office, Klanarong said.

Dialogue to continue

made with Bhuiyan, Jalil told Hasina Sources said Hasina told Jalil that the development will be elaborately discussed at the ALCWC meeting today. The meeting will also discuss the next course of agitation

talks to break the political deadlock On the other hand, Bhuiyan yesterday talked to his senior colleagues in the cabinet and informed them about the development of the dialogue. He will also sit with three other secretaries general of the components of the ruling alliance today. Before sitting for the third round of dialogue tomorrow,

were leaving the parliament house

ography.
"Right now I am very much time is not right."

training their students to attack Soviet forces in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Malinga Bandara, Muttiah

Chaminda Vaas, Ruchira Perera,

Dilhara Fernando, Lasith Malinga,

and searched thoroughly, but could He said strong current might

occurred as the driver suddenly overtaking car pass by amid drizwater just at the western side of

"Hearing screams I turned

supply power to all households and mosques at least during the sehri