The Midnight Rile

Ghali in Angola to check

peace plan

the UNITA rebel movement in the Angolan hills today to check on leader Jonas Savimbi's commitment to a UN-backed peace plan. The UN Secretary General flew to the central Angolan city of Huambo, then continued by helicopter to the ramshackle village that became Savimbi's headquarters

LTTE seeks int'l help

after UNITA was driven out of Huambo in October, reports AP.

LUANDA, July 15: UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali flew into the heart of



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia distributing relief goods among the flood victims in - PID photo Shibchar thana of Madaripur district yesterday.

# Khaleda visits flood-hit Mymensingh BCL Tangail, Madaripur

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia vesterday visited the flood battered areas of Madaripur and Tangail districts and distributed relief materials among the people in distress, re- house ports UNB.

Zia saw the extent of damage of standing crops, dwelling houses and educational institutions.

While distributing relief goods to the flood victims, the Prime Minister assured them of allout government help in mitigating their sufferings.

The Prime Minister first flew to Shibchar thana under Madaripur district in the morning and then went to the worst affected areas of the thana by a mechanised boat.

While distributing relief, Begum Zia told them, "Don't worry, we're always with you. I came to stand beside you at the time of distress." She advised them to face the flood with courage and patience.

Briefing the Prime Minister, officials said all the 18 unions of Shibchar thana were inundated and more than 60,000 families affected by the flood. Parts of three other thanas of the Madaripur district were affected by the flood caused by monsoon rain and erosion by the rivers Padma and Officials further informed that

about 40,000 houses were damaged completely while some 50,000 partially. Standing crops on about 9.550 hectares of land were damaged to-

In Shibchar, over 18 kilometres of pueca road and 68 kilometres of kutcha roads were damaged by the flood which also washed away the Utrail High School and two primary

Later, the Prime Minister drove to Tangail district and was apprised of the latest flood situation in the dis-

trict. Parliament members Shahjahan trict Chhatra League President, who Sirai, Abdus Salam Pintu and Maj Gen was injured in Friday's intra-party (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan were present clash at the local Awami League of

leader succumbs

to injuries

fice, died here today, reports UNB.

district correspondent of the Bengali

Daily Bhorer Kagoi, succumbed to his

stab injures at the Mymensingh Medi

cal College Hospital at about 8:30

one BCL member Anwar Hosain Mil

ton was shot dead and Noman and

three other leaders suffered serious

admitted to the MMCH. Condition

of one of the three, AKM Sarwar, VP

of the Alamgir Monsur Memorial Col-

lege Student Union, was said to be

The namaj-e-janaza of Noman

Death of Titas

Gas official:

Probe on

By Staff Correspondent

of a Titas Gas official in the city

Thursday during a supply line discon-

nection drive.

Police is investigating the death

The Ramna police said yesterday

A top official of Titas Gas told

that they were looking for more than

one people in connection with the

The Daily Star last night that Golam

Mohiuddin, deputy manager

(vigilance), along with a team of four

went to the premises of the Dragon

Sweater on Thursday to realise out-

standing bills amounting Tk 1.3 lakh.

At 3 pm when his team disconnected

the gas line, a group of 'angry' em-

ployees of the factory entered the

room and forced the Titas Gas team

were beaten and dragged into a room

on the sixteenth floor. Mohiuddin

was also manhandled. At this stage

A lady doctor was quickly called

The Ramna police filed a case in

Titas Gas officials and employees

yesterday staged a protest against

the killing of their colleague. The

protest meeting followed the namez-

e-janaja of Mohiuddin, held at the

head office of the state owned en-

terprise. He was buried at his family

graveyard in Chauddagram, Comilla.

at the Dragon Sweater for comment

until late last night.

Meanwhile, nobody was available

who advised that the victim be taken

to the Shurawardy Hospital. At

Shurawardy Hospital, the doctors

this connection at 3 am on Friday.

declared him dead, he added.

'Mohiuddin collapsed,' he added.

He alleged that the Gas officials

to reconnect the line, he claimed.

The injured BCL leaders were

During the clash Friday evening

am, doctors said.

stab injuries.

MYMENSINGH, July 15: The dis-

Sarwarul Alam Noman, also the

The DC of Tangail informed that During the day-long visit, Begum seven out of 11 thanas of the district were affected by the flood. A total of 47 unions of the seven thanas were in undated and about 67,756 families affected by the flood.

during the briefing at the local circuit

Some 4,397 houses were washed away while 32,860 damaged partially Standing crops of 38,470 acres of land were completely damaged and on 17,065 acres partially.

Nearly 147-km pucca and kutcha roads were fully damaged and 545.64 km partially in the district. Four educational institutions were damaged and 150 affected.

Another injured, Shafiul Azam The DC told the Prime Minister Khoka, GS of the Government that adequate relief goods were be Ananda Mohan College Student ing distributed among the flood vic Union, was released from a local clinic tims and 73 temporary medical centoday.

tres were set up in the flood-hit areas. Begum Zia visited Bhuapur, Kaliwas held at Ananda Mohon College hati thanas and distributed relief mapremises and he was buried at Gulk ibari graveyard.

#### Lia avenue in Bamako

The government of the Republic of Mali have decided to name an important avenue in Bamako, the capital of Mali, after Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

A message from Bamako said that the government of Mali also selected the avenue to name it "Avenue Shaheed Ziaur Rahman" as a mark of respect towards the late leader of

The ceremonial naming of the avenue will take place shortly, said the

were affected by the flood. The dead

1000 people of four unions under

Nazirpur thana were affected as

flood water gushed through the

breaches in five cross dams vester-

shawar - were flowing 1.5 feet each

above their respective danger marks,

TNO of Nazirpur said adding that

breaches developed at some points

in the dams encircling the unions of

Malikhali, Deulbari, Maribangha and

worth Tk one crore and standing

crops on 4,000 acres of land, the TNO

DCC reviews

flood situation

An emergency meeting of the

ward commissioners of Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) was held yester-

day at the Nagar Bhaban with Mayor

Mohammad Hanif in the chair, re-

flood situation in the Dhaka city ar-

eas and urged the ward commission-

ers to send details of flood situation

to the respective regional offices of

UNB adds: Hanif vesterday vis-

ited flood-hit areas in Sultangani

union of the city and enquired about

Schoolboy killed

Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Thursday afternoon, sources said.

Mehdi, a student of class eight of

Alatunnesa High School, was talking

with his friends when the gang armed

with sharp instruments attacked him.

The meeting reviewed the latest

The flood also damaged shrimp

The rivers — Kaliganga and Bole-

UNB adds from Pirojpur: Some

#### Floods in 4 dists From Page 1 Our Shariatour correspondent reports: Three children drowned in the lief for the flood-hit in Narayanganj district. Fifty-six unions out of the 60

3, and Gansal, 4.

Sreeramkhati.

ports BSS.

the Corporation.

their conditions.

The situation in Chandpur district deteriorated further with some fresh areas in the district inundated yesterday. So far. 51 unions in the district were affected.

Road communication between Chandpur and Dhaka was cut off following damage of a portion of Chandour-Comilla road.

Both the Meghna-Dhanagoda and Chandpur irrigation projects came under serious threat due to erosion and flowing of the Meghna above its danger mark.

Our Gopalganj correspondent reports: The Dhaka-Mongla highway was threatened by the unabated erosion between Haridaspur and Bherarhat in the district.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports: Seven people were killed in the district vesterday in flood-related incidents:

The dead were identified as Belal Hossain Khandaker, 60, Sikandar Mollah, 52, Sanowar, 10, Shafiq, 12, Saidul Islam, 30, Mostafizur Rahman,

25 and Shahjahan Ali, 32. However, the flood situation in the district improved with the reces-

sion of water. But Sirajganj town still remained under water. Meanwhile, some areas in Manikgani town were inundated yesterday. All six thanas in the district

have already been affected by floods. Munshiganj town experienced flooding yesterday as waters sub-

merged some parts of it. The low-lying areas of the district had already gone under water.

# Suu Kyi

From Page 1

Democracy swept elections in 1990,

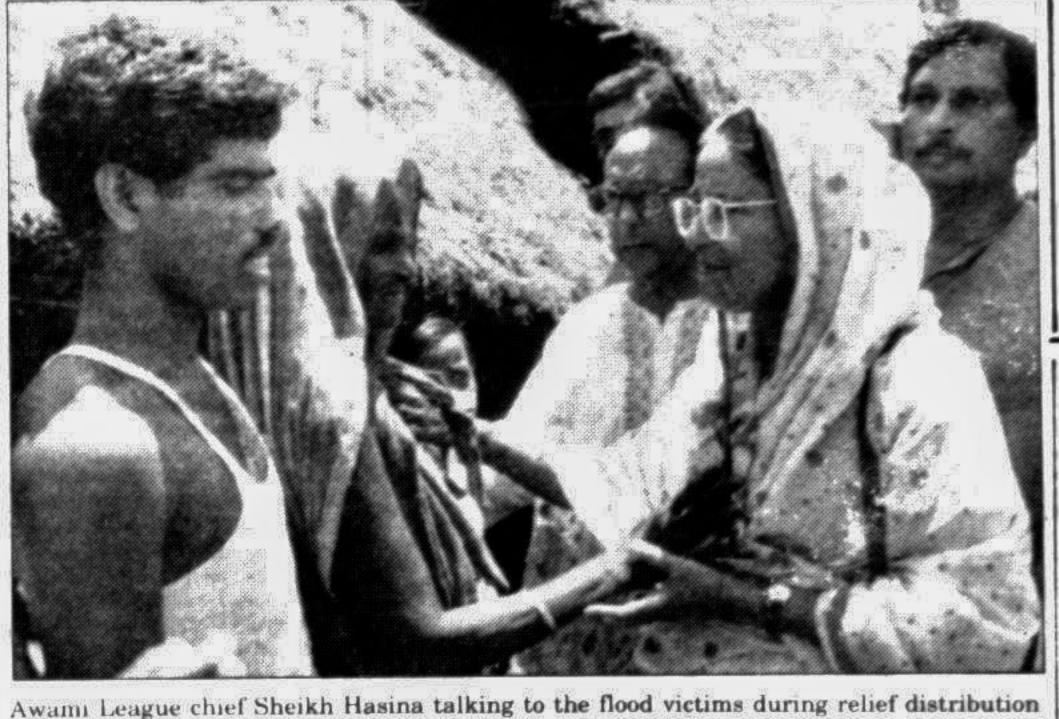
cently released Tin Oo and Kyi By DMCH Correspondent Maung, two senior members of the National League for Democracy party A teenaged boy who was stabbed they founded in 1988. by a group of unidentified youths at Badda Thursday succumbed at the The National League for

taking 392 of the 485 contested (DMCH) vesterday morning. seats, but the military never recog-The victim Mehdi Hasan, 15, son of Kafiluddin of North Badda, renised the elections result. ceived fatal injuries when a group of Aung San Suu Kyi's release still has about 20 young men stabbed him not been announced in the official near a shop at Kuril Biswa road

Myanmar media, although the article today mentioned that both Tin Oo and Kyi Maung had been set free as part of a section explaining the government's moves for national reconsolidation.

#### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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at Zafarganj village in Manikganj district yesterday.

### River dredging a must to check floods: Hasina

MANIKGANJ, July 15: Awami League president Sheikh Hasina today said river dredging is essential to save the people from recurring floods, reports UNB.

"For negligence of the government, the river beds were not dredged causing devastating floods every year," she said addressing number of gatherings in the flood-hit areas of the district.

Hasina on the second day of her tour to the flood-hit areas visited the worst affected areas of Manikgani and Pabna districts by a launch. Flood has rendered thousands of

people homeless in some villages of Shibalaya and Daulatpur thanas of Manikgani district. As the Opposition leader reached

the village of Bachamara, the launch carrying her was surrounded by a large number of people in boats and rafts. There was no dry land around. Men, women and children board-

ing small dingis and boats listened to Hasina who addressed them from the launch that carried her to different flood affected areas. Hasina visited Goaria, Jafarganj, Thakurkandi, Shamgani, Jionpur,

Char Alekhdia, Tengerhat, Rahatpur, Fakir Para and Puranpara, and distributed relief materials among the flood victims. She also crossed the river Jamuna by the launch to visit Kajirhat bazar

under Pabna district. Addressing spontaneous gatherings, Hasina said the government had allocated Tk 25 lakh for each of the ministers and MPs from her relief fund when there was no calamities.

Those ministers and MPs had misused the money in luxury and now they had nothing to distribute among the distressed people during their crying need, she alleged.

Hasina said the Prime Minister burnt the expensive helicopter fuel on the pretext of visiting the flood affected areas. From five to six lakh taka was being spent daily for the fuel for nothing, she said.

"If she (PM) spends the money for the flood affected people then it may bring some good to the people," said Hasina.

Lakhs of people were marooned by the flood, they have no food or shelter, she said adding "Our visit will draw government's attention and it will be compelled to give relief for the food-hit people.

"This government is plundering the relief money. It killed 18 farmers and established a one-party rule in a bid to cling to the power," she said. The BNP government has

snatched every rights of the people. their rights to vote and food, she said adding "we waged the movement to save the people from the misrule of the government and demanding a neutral caretaker government to conduct the next elections."

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Prof Abu Sayeed, Siddigur Rouf Khan, Momtaz Hossain and Mirza Jalil accompanied Hasina during the visit. Local leaders Moslem Uddin Khan, Golam Mohiuddin and Advocate Abdul Kashem were also

### 7 get life-term for murder

ple, including a couple, were given life term here today for killing a young man in Sadar thana nearly two years ago, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions months more in jail.

The convicts include Mahmuda Khatun, her husband Nurul Kabir, Nuru Haque and Abdus Shakur. Three other convicts Nurul Alam, Nurul Islam and Mahbubul Alam were absconding.

Shah Alam, son of one Abbas Karim of village Eidgaon in Sadar thana, was stabbed to death on the night of October 15, 1993.

#### Kashmiri rebels extend deadline to kill hostages

SRINAGAR, India, July 15: Kashmiri militants holding five western hostages said today they had extended the deadline to execute their captives by two days, until Monday, following appeals by Amnesty International, reports Reuter.

a written statement to Reuters in Srinagar, said the hostages would be killed if India does not release jailed Muslim militants by then.

the deadline to kill the hostages by two days," it said hours after releasing a picture of the two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian they abducted in separate incidents last week.

#### In a statement issued by its London office, the rebel Liberation - AL photo Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said that 245 civilians have been killed

COX'S BAZAR, July 15: Seven peo-

#### since the military launched its biggest offensive on the Jaffna peninsula six days ago.

Judge Abdul Mannan also fined them Tk 5,000 each in default to suffer six

According to the prosecution story

The little-known Al Faran group, in

"Al Faran has decided to extend

#### demn Sri Lanka's actions and use their Jaffna peninsula. influence to stop these murderous attack on the Tamil civilian popula-Mostafiz tion," the statement received here from London said.

The LITE appealed to the inter-

national community to 'publicly con-

The US State Department on Thursday refused to condemn the Church bombing while the Australian

COLOMBO, July 15: Tamil guerillas today urged the international

community to condemn a current military offensive against them in the

north and pressure the Sri Lankan

government to halt 'murderous at-

tacks on civilians, reports AFP.

### Lions official detained

By Staff Correspondent

A Lions Club official was taken to custody vesterday by the Special Branch Police for questioning about the recent incident in which some 207 Bangladeshis were sent back from Seoul for allegedly impersonating Lions Club members. Mahbubur Rahman, secretary of a

local Lions Club, was detained by the immigration authorities at the Zia International Airport on his return home in a Thai International flight at 4:15 pm. He was immediately handed over to the SB for questioning. The Bangladeshis had gone to

Seoul early this month on the pretext of attending an international Lions convention there. But they were deported for allegedly impersonating Lions club members.

On return to Dhaka, when questioned by the SB, they alleged that they gave substantial amounts of money to some high officials of the Lions Club who, in turn, obtained visa for them from the South Korean Embassy in Dhaka.

#### Fire at ZIA From Page 1

Fire fighters from three stations took more than two hours to bring the fire under control. Five units of fire brigade from the headquarters, Tongi and Teigaon rushed to the Normal activities at the ZIA re-

sumed at about 11am. Meanwhile, airport sources said

that the authorities used the domestic terminal when an Emirates flight from Dubai landed at ZIA in the morning. The main terminal, which is used for international flights, could not be used at the time because of the fire incident, the source added. Sources said that firemen from

Tongi first rushed to the spot at about 8:05 am but could not start firefighting because of the lack of breathing sets. Firefighters from the headquarters and Tejgaon then rushed to the airport. They broke open the ventilation glass to clear out the smoke that engulfed all the floors of the building. Firefighters of the Civil Aviation Authority also took part in the operation.

Fire service sources said that the fire originated from electric short circuit in the kitchen close to the can-State Minister for Civil Aviation

bdul Mannan visited the terminal building and ordered an enquiry into the incident. UNB adds: The authorities con-

stituted a +member enquiry commit-

tee to investigate into the fire at Zia International Airport yesterday. Civil Aviation State Minister

Abdul Mannan visited the fire damaged tea room on the third floor of the Airport and ordered the enquiry.

### Manpower

As a policy decision, the Saudi government sent back about 4,000 il legal Bangladeshi workers this year, the secretary said.

The Malaysian government had extended service tenures of 26,000 Bangladeshi workers in construction. hotel and other sectors. "However, there is a number of Bangladeshi workers in Malaysian detention camps, which means, illegal manpower export is there," he said. He also noted that workers in

Malaysia sometimes faced problems regarding their legal papers, but those were solved with the help of the Bangladesh Mission there Malaysia is framing laws regarding

foreign workers and Bangladesh is sending a high-powered delegation to Kuala Lumpur to talk about the Bangladeshi workers in this contest.

The Secretary added that workers going to Korea would get a minimum wage of 300 US dollars plus free accommodation and one meal a day. Since the Koreans were sensitive as regards discipline, if Bangladeshi workers behaved according to their norms, the country would import more Bangladeshi manpower.

Dr Harun said that some 35 li cences of manpower agents were cancelled last year for illegal activi-

to stop govt offensive government urged both sides to take utmost care to prevent civilian casu-

> Meanwhile, an outspoken Tamil legislator urged the Lankan government today to call of its military onslaught against Tamil rebels and instead resume peace talks to end the country's ethnic conflict.

Pararajasingham Joseph, an MP from the moderate Tamil United Liberation Front, said in a letter to President Chandrika Kumaratunga that intense air strikes accompanying the military drive had caused heavy civilian casualties in the northern

From Page 1

He hoped that the remaining refugees would go back home soon.

The FS welcomed the release of

Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Sun Kyi and described it as a "significant and positive develop-About Bangladesh's relation with India, Sobhan said, "The relation, I

consider, is still complex, as a number of problems remains unresolved. Of them, water sharing problem is the most pressing issue and we leave no efforts untouched to resolve it. The FS pointed out that satisfactory progress had been made in Bangladesh's relations with Pakistan.

Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Referring to the country's foreign policy on global issues, he expressed concern at the present volatile situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said Bosnian Serbs must vacate the UN

#### Labour attache

safe zones in the war-torn Balkan

From Page 1 ing companies had compensated the

peninsula.

workers but could not provide them with jobs for such a long time. The government recommended one of these companies for manpower export to Korea as it had a "good reputation otherwise."

Director general of the Labour and Manpower Export Bureau Abdus Sattar Khan who was also present at the press conference agreed with another questioner that some illegal "Hoondi" business existed through a chain in which some manpower agents in Bangladesh and "job brokers" or middlemen abroad were involved.

"We do not know how much money is transferred by agents to brokers abroad, but it is there," he

### Manzur murder

From Page 1

He will be escorted back to Dhaka Central Jail after the hearing. sources said. Although production warrant was

not brought here on July 1. The Assistant Commissioner (prosecution) informed the court on July 1 that Ershad and other accused could not be brought here for being

produced due to shortage of escort

issued by the CMM court, Ershad was

The four other chargesheeted accused, all retired army officers, Maj Gen Abdul Latif, Col Shamsur Rahman, Lt Col Kamal Uddin Ahmed and Major Emdadul Huq, are also scheduled to be produced in the CMM's court tomorrow, court sources said.

# Canadian counsel

#### for Ershad due tomorrow

Canadian lawyer Marcel Denis, appointed to defend deposed President HM Ershad, will arrive here tomorrow, reports UNB.

Jatiya Party leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed will accompany Denis from New York, said a JP press release yesterday.

Denis was Labour Minister of the **Canadian Federal Government from** 1991-93 and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada from

Besides legal practice, Denis is presently teaching Political Science and Criminology at Concordia University in Canada.

### SC hearing

tion parties mean 'absence' from par-

liament without leave of parliament within the meaning of Article 67 (1) (b) of the Constitution resulting in vacation of their seats in parliament? (3) Whether ninety consecutive

sitting days be computed excluding

or including the period between the two sessions intervened by proroga tion of the parliament within the meaning of Article 67 (1) (b) read with the definition of 'sessions' and 'sittings' defined under Article 152 (1) of the Constitution?

(4) Whether the Speaker or parliament will compute and determine the period of absence?

# For whose benefit is this charade?

From Page 1 said that they had gone to discuss with the PM about the problems of

their constituencies. So what is the truth? Did they, or did they not, join the ruling party? Are the public to be made total fools of? Do they think that we are devoid of any common sense, and we will swallow whatever is dished out to us? What about a clarification from the

ruling party? If their written statements to the EC is true, then is the news about their joining BNP, flashed on the government controlled news agency, radio and TV, and also published in the print media - all false? If so, then this falsehood was enacted involving the Prime Minister, because it was she who welcomed them into the BNP fold, and we saw it all on the TV.

The other day the PM, in response to a question at the OCAB function, in effect, confirmed Mahmudul Hug's joining the ruling party by her remark that "even criminals become good in the company of honest people". Begum Zia could not be telling the nation a lie? Yet three defecting JP MPs claimed the exact opposite in their written statements to the EC. Why isn't Begum Zia setting the record straight by revealing what exactly happened? Or does this misinformation stratagem suit BNP's political plans? Since none of the defecting MPs have ever contested any of the press reports about their joining BNP, then why did they make a contrary statement to the EC? What is

husbands.

The point I am making here is that a deliberate scheme appear to be operating to confuse and mislead the public, and the office of the Prime Minister, and even her person, is being used for this purpose. When it was well within the knowledge of BNP leaders that there were legal tangles to be sorted out, couldn't the JP MPs be welcomed by the party secretary general, or any of the party vice presidents, without involving the PM? The question is very much in the public mind as to what sorts of games the ruling party is playing with opposition MPs? How much is the Prime

Minister herself a partner in the de-

ception game? These questions become all the more pertinent in the latest incident involving the Jamaat MP from Jessore, Moulana Shakhawat Hossain. In this instance a big fan fare was also made, and loudly proclaimed through BSS, radio ,TV and newspapers about his joining the BNP, which he did by meeting Begum Zia. Soon enough, following a visit of Jamaat stalwarts to his house, Hossain issues a statement that "he was always, he is, and he will always remain a Jamaat member". Then he suddenly disappears from his house, and cannot be seen or heard by the press. Jamaat claims he has been taken into police custody. BNP said the Moulana is being protected from his irate former party colleagues. The question is where is

the defecting Jamaat MP? Why doesn't he himself come in public and say his piece? Jamaat has claimed that Hossain is in the home minister's house. The minister has of course denied it.

Wives of four abducted foreigners appealing to the militants in Srinagar to release their

What we would like to know is, why should the home minister's name be at all dragged into this incident. Is there a reasonable ground to suspect that there was coercion applied on

A picture released by information

ministry's press information depart-

ment (PID), and published by this newspaper showed Shakhawat Hossain meeting Begum Zia in the presence of communication minister, Tarikul Islam, and home minister Matin Chowdhury. On occasions of this type, it is the party hierarchy people like the vice-president, the secretary general, the organising secretary, etc. who should be present. Why should the two ministers be there? Since both Tarigul Islam and Moulana Shakhawat Hossain are from Jessore, one can make a case for the communication minister's presence. But what of the home minister? Will we be wrong to surmise that since the home minister was involved, so was his ministry? How will the government remove from public mind the suspicion that coercion may have been used in this defection, especially since the home minister was personally involved? Admitted, all this is a surmise, but nonetheless, ex-

tremely logical. And in the absence of transparency, we will have to follow what common sense dictates. What appears here is that deception is being resorted to at the very

- AFP photo

top. The Prime Minister's person, and her office is being publicly seen to be involved in instances and in controversies which are undignified and dishonourable for such a high office. In the former instance of six JP MPs joining BNP, deliberate falsehood is being taken recourse to, to confuse the public. It is regrettable that the Prime Minister was seen and heard (through TV, radio and the press) to be associated with it?

In the latest case of Jamaat MP opposite statements by Moulana Shakhawat have been published. He is now being held incommunicado, and the strong suspicion is, by the government? Otherwise the law enforcing agencies should have been desperate to find out, and rescue him from his captors. All this has greatly damaged the image and prestige of the office and

the person of the Prime Minister. These events have significantly given substance to the opposition claim that when it comes to winning the elections - integral part of which is creating defections in the opposition camps - the ruling party will use all the advantages of being in government, including its coercive arms, to win it.

This charade cannot be for the public good.