The Baily Star

Tapan include those for murder of

Awami League's KCC mayoral

Chairman Abul Kashem, Khulna

Jatiya Party leader Abul Kashem,

Jhenaidah's Mir Elias Hossain Dilip

(35) were arrested in Jessore town

District Jail in connection with the

trial of Rob murder case. His wife is

also an activist of PBCP and an

Charge sheet of the case was

accused in the Rab murder case.

District and Sessions Judge.

court hajat.

explosions.

police. He was kept in a separate

place while seven others facing trial

in the same case were lodged in

Tapan joined the PBCP in 1990,

leaving his job in an NGO in Khulna.

Ikhtiar Uddin Bablu.

But court officials and witnesses said the policemen gave the cadres the scope to take him away from the corridor of the court at about 12:45 pm. The cadres took him away without any obstruction, they said.

Five policemen including a Subinspector and an Assistant Subinspector were suspended and closed at the police line for negligence of duty, police sources said. They are SI Pranab Das, ASI Bashis and constables Kalam, Ayub Ali, and Al Amin.

Officials of the Judge's Court alleged that the policemen in June last year while they were favoured Tapan. SI Pranab Das trying to leave the country in a car. was seen talking to Tapan several He was later lodged in Khulna times secretly, they alleged.

None of these policemen were found near Tapan when he was taken away by his party men by exploding bombs, the court officials said.

The witnesses said the armed cadres tried to break Tapan's handcuff and shackle but as they were running against time, they dragged him into a microbus, reached Forest Ghat in 2-3 minutes and escaped in an engine boat kept stand-by. The engine boat was seen moving towards Rahimnagar in Rupsha upazilla.

A UNB report quoting a court official said Tapan was taken to the corridor of the court instead of Sub-Judge Court-2 for reasons unknown. The official preferred anonymity.

He passed Fazil from a madrassah Quoting another source, the at his native village Chandipur in UNB report said the cadres Jhenidah sadat thana. snatched away Tapan while the policemen were taking soft drinks served by unidentified youths. The 16 murder cases against his target in any killing mission.

HC hears contempt Asst director of petition against Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday posed certain questions the petitioner's counsel while hearing for the contempt petition against former prime

minister Sheikh Hasina. The division bench comprising

Justice Syed Amirul Islam and Justice Sikder Moqbul Haq set February 2 for next hearing on the question of issuance of rule upon the defendant.

The court inquired if the basis of Sheikh Hasina's statement published in weekly Thikana of New York is required to be annexed for ascertaining the allegation. It also inquired whether Hasina's comments regarding judiciary without specifying any quote can be a contemptuous act as per law. The court asked the petitioner's counsel whether the statement published in a New York weekly reprinted in Dhaka's tabloid Manab Zameen. which is a secondary publication. can be an evidentiary value for drawing contempt proceeding and

also due to meet Law Minister whether this sort of statement at all During official talks. Dhaka will focus on narrowing the huge trade ap now tilting heavily in favour of Islamabad and ask for preferential access of some export items. Bangladesh exports to and imports from Pakistan were worth \$31.75 million and \$ 84.17 million spectively during 1999-2000. The visiting Pakistan delegation will hold a meeting with the ederation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and meet the members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) to discuss prospects of bilateral trade. Indications are there that the two countries will discuss a proposal to

Khulna: PBCP men 'Indo-Pak nuclear war would stop short of total destruction' candidate SMA Rob, Phultala UP

NEWS

Nuclear experts observe

and Alfaz and BNP leader of Khulna AP, New York

He along with the seven others India and Pakistan may have was brought to the court premises enough nuclear weapons to kill from Khulna District Jail in connecmillions of people, but their stocktion with trial of the Rob murder piles most likely are not big enough case. Rob was gunned down at to guarantee "mutually assured Sonadanga on August 11, 1999. destruction." according to nuclear Tapan (38) and his wife Putul experts.

Despite repeated assurances from both sides that they won't use nuclear weapons in a first strike, the tension between them has caused much speculation about the dangers of their burgeoning nuclear programmes. India's test on Friday of a short-range, nuclear-capable Agni-I missile only adds to those fears

submitted by CID on June 13 last Making accurate estimates of the year and the trial began early this potential death toll in such an year in the court ATM Fazle Rabbi, exchange is difficult because details of each nation's nuclear programme Eye witnesses further said that are sketchy. Tapan was given special facility by

Both sides "are holding that information very close to the vest," said Steven Dolley, research director at the Nuclear Control Institute

Most experts estimate that India Police personnel on duty chased has only a few dozen weapons the cadres but retreated in the face stockpiled and enough material of indiscriminate firing and bomb available to make possibly 50 to 100 more. The Department of Defense, in a report last year, said only that "India probably has a small stockpile ... and could assemble and deploy a few nuclear weapons within a few days to a week." Estimates of

Sources said he was made the Pakistan's stockpile are also vague, top leader of PBCP in the Souththough most analysts assume it is smaller than India's. Western region as he never missed Because of the lack of available

information, scientists using mathematical models have made only educated guesses about potential death tolls One of the first was MV Ramana,

a Princeton University physicist from India. After the two countries conducted nuclear tests in 1998. Ramana calculated that a 15-kiloton bomb dropped on Bombay would kill between 150.000 and 850.000 people in the short term. The bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki had roughly similar yields, and killed about 149,000 and

70,000 people respectively. Ramana said there are too many variables -- weather, the exact yield and positioning of the bomb, altitude of the explosion -- to estimate deaths more precisely.

"There is a whole range of uncertainties. It's useless to pretend I can give an exact number." he said. The study was meant to show "that the effects of even a small bomb, a crude one like that, is horrific."

A model of a full-scale exchange was produced this month by the Natural Resources Defense Council, a respected Washington. DC. environmental group. In its model, as many as 30 million people would die, according to NRDC physicist Matthew McKinzie. It's a staggering death toll, but only about 2 per cent of the nations' combined population of more than one billion ndians and 140 million Pakistanis.

The NRDC model estimated that each side has a few dozen warheads and assumed each could get past the other's air defenses to drop 12 weapons on the largest cities. The model is based on extrapo

network, they said

lations from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, population estimates of the target cities and weather condi-

Uttara, Baridhara, Badda,

Dhaka WASA did not have any

WASA officials said owners of

newly constructed houses and

septic tanks of their own and con-

nect sewer lines with the tanks. "But

master plan for sewage disposal till

gic bombing, for example, against each other's cities. For them, the tions in January. The weapons are notion of what would be a terrible assumed to have yields equal to 25 attack is much different than the kilotons of TNT. The bombs dropped United States' or the Soviet on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were 15 Union's." to 25 kilotons, according to various estimates. rates was not included in Ramana's

The vield of the bombs in the model are "a bit higher than what was thought to be the yield of the (1998) Pakistani test," McKinzie said, "but certainly well within the range of the kind they are known to have.

Despite the massive destruction McKinzie concludes that the scenario would not result in "mutually assured destruction" (MAD) -- the doctrine credited with preventing a

superpower conflict during the Cold War. But in the India-Pakistan scenario, the study concluded, "the respective military forces would be intact to continue to escalate the

Zia Mian, a Pakistani physicist with Princeton University's Programme in Science and Global Security points out that the model "doesn't look at the larger collapse that would follow."

With both countries' infrastructures and emergency services crippled, and masses of people sick, Mian said, "the spillover effects would be incalculable."

Mian said the notion of mutually assured destruction should not be applied to India and Pakistan. The three previous wars

between Pakistan and India each resulted in fewer than 10,000 deaths on average, he said.

Access to sewer facility Attributing the existing inade-Bangladesh earlier this month.

quate sewer network to scarcity of resources, WASA MD Khandakar Azharul Haq said, "The whole Dhaka city will become a septic tank in near future if there is no development in the sector.

Another high official of WASA sewer network. If work starts this said, "Broken parts, blockade and year, the project will take five years narrow sewer lines are responsible to be completed, he said for the poor condition of the system". According to sources, flow of

Mayor Hanif sewage in sewer lines from Hazaribagh area to Nawabgani area has come to a halt due to FROM PAGE 1 blockade in the lines. The sewage Dhaka Reporters' Unity and flowing into these lines is entirely released a set of official documents falling in the Buriganga. to prove how the mayor leased out "The rapidly increasing popula-39 plots at various 'nook and corner'

tion is creating pressure on the existing narrow sewer lines which were installed long ago targeting the population at that time," a WASA official said. This is one of the main reasons behind over-flow of sewage through manholes and broken lines.

The sewage is soaked by the

Talking to The Daily Star, Viceesident of the union Abu Zafar

Mohammad Jahangir Alam,

president of the union, said Hanif

leased out DCC lands at nominal

prices to his own men and allowed

them to construct shops.

raped.

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 27, 2002

Hasina: 100-day rule acy, she said, "Still we are commi ted to our struggle for strengthening

parliamentary system."

About social unrest, Hasina

nentioned the tragic end of Simi of

Khilgaon who had to take her own

life to protect her prestige. She also

cited sad stories of how "hundreds

of girls and women", including Zohra

of Gaffargaon, Shefali, Rita Rani

and several hundred others of

Bhola. Purnima of Sirajganj, Sabitry,

a pregnant woman Sujata and nine-

year-old Mollika of Rangpur, were

She said "BNP terrorists" also

Hasina deplored that the secular

built during the Awami League rule

is now waning. Alongside "anarchic situation" on

the campus, she said, distortion of

history in books surpassed all

records of falsehood while cultural

the government in the sports sector

smeared the image of Bangladesh

internationally as FIFA suspended

Bangladesh from international

football because of "sheer

disciplines of sports, including

cricket, were replaced by son and

subjected to torture due to misrule

four-party alliance candidates now

could perceive its futility. "People

having good sense now feel

cheated today," she said, urging

them to ponder over the situation

hands with Awami League in its

struggle for restoring democracy

and a developed society. Hasina

said, "You are the strength of Awami

matter of time only to end the present nightmare "if disillusioned

people join the vast majority of

people who gave mandate for

about the October 1 election,

Hasina said after handover of power

on completion of her five-year term,

people witnessed biased activities

of the caretaker government. As a

result, people's aspiration for

exercising their voting right under

caretaker government and strength-

ening democracy could not be

"Today, general people ask themselves whom we voted for but

who went to power. We had an

expectation that the caretaker

government and the Election

Commission would not at least spoil

was not also beyond question. "As a

Hasina said role of the President

the democratic institution."

Restating her observations

Awami League at the last election."

She has the conviction that it is a

Calling upon people for joining

Peace-loving people have been

Many a people who voted for

relatives of the Prime Minister.

Efficient people in different

Moreover, undemocratic steps of

activity act squeezed.

politicisation "

she feels.

more deeply.

League.

fulfilled

FROM PAGE 1 nated. The economy was mismanaged and prices of utilities and commodities were hiked, she added

"Today, people will judge how far or at all the 100-day programme of the government was successful," she said in her critical appraisal of the present government's start-up agenda that concluded yesterday.

They've never fought a war like

World War I or World War II or

Vietnam. They've never used strate-

The effect of radiation on cancer

not going to travel several hundreds

Indo-Pak tension

'I have seen myself no evidence of a

request by the government of Saudi

Arabia that the security relationship

we have with Saudi Arabia be

changed in any way," he said.

Public purse

FROM PAGE 12 the gang to take back their money.

Salauddin Ahmed, and a police team from the Demra Police Station,

being informed, went to the spot.

The local BNP lawmaker,

Police assured the victims of

The Chinese government has

agreed to fund major portion of the

950 crore taka North Dhaka

Sewerage System. When com-

pleted, Uttara-Baridhara-Badda

areas will come under the WASA

necessary action against the fraud

or the NRDC's models

tively small.

of miles.

FROM PAGE 12

Pentagon.

pir and his gang.

of the city.

Referring to major pledges Prime Minister Khaleda Zia made to the nation, the Awami League president asked if the country got rid of terrorism.

She quoted statistics of threw acid on Champa of Narail for Democracy Watch and said some being polling agent of Awami 610 people were killed on political League grounds and some 530 women nurdered in the first 100 days. democratic image of Bangladesh

Mian said it's unlikely radiation Quoting different opinion polls would spread out of the region conducted by different private because the bombs would be relaagencies, she said facts and figures suggest that the government "Much of the fallout (would) be completely failed to contain terrorrelatively localized," Mian said. "It's

_Hasina alleged that ruling party MPs were engaged in tender forgery. Even by arresting a ruling party MP, which was merely an eyewash, the government failed to control "tender terrorism", extortion, and illegal occupation. People can tell whether "terrorism committee' was set up instead of forming citizens' committee on law and order

in villages, mahallas and towns. The United States has main Turning to the campus scenario. tained armed forces in Saudi Arabia she observed that terrorism since the Gulf War. Their presence inleashed by the Jatiyatabad has outraged Islamic fundamental-Chhatra Dal hampered education at ists, including Osama bin Laden, the educational institutions, including Saudi-born terror chieftain blamed university and college, making by the United States for the Sept. 11 examinations uncertain, while attacks on New York and the leaders and workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League were being killed

brutally The former prime minister noted that although her government had made the country food-surplus meeting a 40-lakh-ton deficit left by the previous BNP government, mismanagement in food distribution by the present government led to a silent famine" in the northern

"Corruption and unplanned steps by the BNP government caused increase in the price of rice in this peak aman season. Conspiracy is on to turn the foodsurplus Bangladesh into a beggar's basket," she said

Referring to the price spiral of essential commodities during the 100-day rule, Hasina said people became helpless in the face of hiked prices of commodities and abnormal prices of oil, gas and electricity. The opposition leader asked why

the prime minister increased the prices of kerosene, diesel, oil, electricity, water, gas etc, although it was not on her 100-day agenda. She asked why the prices of essentials were increased illogically without considering the buying capacity of people.

Hasina said her government had taken effective steps to ensure food and clothing for the people and successfully stabilised market prices.

result, the democratic institution is now on the verge of ruination." In her critical appreciation, she About the election results, she said that disregarding success or failure in the 100-day programme it must be admitted that the alliance said voting statistics show that at some places over 100 per cent votes were cast. If there had been government achieved spectacular 100 per cent vote cast at some success in repressing the minoricentres, if was shown that a particuties, unusually persecuting oppolar party got all the votes while nents, and displacing them from their homes and businesses looting Awami League got zero. everything from fishes in ponds to ripe paddy in fields.

There were instances of 104 per cent and 115 per cent votes being cast at different places, including at Cox's Bazar, Sylhet and Shariatour, she said. "Does this unusual election result give credibility to the election?

NSI killed in Satkhira road mishap UNB, Satkhira

An assistant director of National Security Intelligence (NSI) was

crossing in the town yesterday. Police and witnesses said a Satkhira-bound bus dashed a motorbike in which the assistant director, Shah Alam, was travelling

Soon after the accident local Shah Alam, hailed from Sirajganj

department. His namaz-e-ianaza was held at Sultanpur ground here vesterday

FROM PAGE 1

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury He will also call on President Á Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Daud is Moudud Ahmed and Textiles

killed in a road accident at Itagachha

He died on the spot.

people seized the bus but its driver nanaged to flee. district, was posted at Satkhira NSI

Pak minister

with his Bangladesh counterpart

FROM PAGE 12 arrest. "There are similar stories in Sandwip, Sitakunda, Anowara, Raozan

AL, BCL men

Fatikchhari upazilas and other parts of the district," he said.

Afsaruddin Ahmad said that but those were only to fill up the finding no other option, AL and BCL broken pockets in the existing activists in Chandanaish fled their homes and took shelter in the city and elsewhere.

Mirpur, Shyamoli, Kalyanpur and Party leaders at the city AL office parts of Mohammadpur, Banani, yesterday evening were seen Gulshan and Cantonment areas are preparing necessary documents vet to come under the sewer netand collecting signatures of those supposed to surrender today. work.

Fresh allegation

a study was completed in July 1998 FROM PAGE 12 with the financial assistance of The incidence of criminal activities Japan International Co-operation like extortion and mugging let up Agency (JICA) with the arrest of the BNP lawmaker and his supporters going into hiding, the residents, businessmen, shopkeepers and rickshaw-pullers in the buildings in areas where there is no area said. sewer network are suppose to build

Also president of the suspended central body of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Pintu was released on bail on Thursday.

FROM PAGE 1 Gulshan and Banani areas came under its sewer network. During last few years, a number of projects were taken up to install sewer lines

conflict.

merits for drawing contempt proceeding as per provision of the law. It further inquired if the printer, publisher and the editor of the newspaper are liable for publishing any contemptuous statement.

Habibul Islam Bhuivan aided by Advocate Joynul Abedin moved the petition when some leading lawyers appeared on behalf of Sheikh Hasina. They include Barrister Amirul Islam, Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder and Abdul Matin Khasru.

The petitioner said Hasina during her recent visit to New York made certain derogatory remarks including "Whatever will be given in writing by Maudud Saheb will become the verdict (of court).'

Her statement was reported by weekly Thikana on December 12, which was reproduced by daily Manab Zameen on December 22 last, said the petitioner.

PM: Accountability

FROM PAGE 12 Chowdhury.

The Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute from smartly turned out contingents drawn from the metropolitan police, armed police battalion, mahila police, traffic police and mounted

force Khaleda Zia distributed Bangladesh Police Award and President's Police Medal to 23 police personnel for their gallantry and professional excellence.

The recipients of Bangladesh Police Award are Additional Inspector General M Anwarul lobal. Inspector Golam Mohammad. constables Selimuddin and Abdul Hug.

President's Police Medal went to Additional Deputy Police Commissioner M Ruhul Amin. Inspector M Helaluddin, Assistant Police Commissioner M Abdul Matin Bhuiyan, ASP M Moksedul Islam, Inspector SM Badrul Alam, SI M Shakhwat Hossain, SI SM Mostaque Hossain, SI AG Makfubar Rahman, SI M Nurul Islam Siddiq, SI M Alamgir, SI Abul Kalam Azad, SI M Alamgir Hossain, SI Shah M Moniur Quader, SI Hasan Hafizur Rahman, ASI M Ansaruddin Khan, ASI M Idris Ali,

Havildar M Abul Taher, Havildar M

set up a joint chamber of trade and commerce to boost business.

Abdul Hamid and constable M Abul

directed the police to arrest anti-

social elements without fear or

their duties with honesty, devotion

and sincerity for the welfare of the

people. "The government is with

you and will be with you," she said

expressing confidence in the police

extortionists and law-breakers are

enemies of the people and the

nation as well, the Prime Minister

said those who provided shelter to

such elements are also enemies of

has proved its professionalism in

various UN missions abroad and

gained laurels, meaning that they

can play an effective role if they

carry out their responsibility with

She directed the police to weed

out terrorism from the country and

reiterated that her government was

pledge-bound to restore peace and

stability in the society. She said the

government has decided to

strengthen the force by 5000 fresh

recruits. This, she said, will include

raising of an armed police battalion.

honesty, sincerity and devotion.

Khaleda Zia said the police force

Reminding that terrorists,

favour and bring them to justice.

In her address, Khaleda Zia

She asked them to discharge

Hashem Talukdar

force

the people.

The Pakistan team will also visit the Export Processing Zone at Chittagong and meet the members of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Pintu was arrested from his Lalbagh residence on December 26 on charge of attempted snatching of auction documents of a bankrupt company's property and was sent to

jail on one-month detention. The followers of Pintu printed posters protesting his arrest and demanding his release. They also strongly lobbied with some ruling party high-ups for his release.

Arrested from the Zia International Airport area on January 12, Haji Selim is now in Dhaka Central Jail on one-month detention. With his arrest, residents of the areas heaved a sigh of relief. "We had a few better days when

Pintu and Selim were in jail," said a shopkeeper in Kellarmor area at Lalbagh

Some residents of Shahidnagar said that some youths loyal to Pintu demanded Tk 8 crore from Kalam. owner of several houses in Lalbach area

A businessman of Bhat Masjit area said Pintu's supporters again started grabbing money from people for various purposes. He said a gang of youths came to him few days ago and demanded 'contributions' to Pintu's reception.

Capriati FROM PAGE 12 1956 feat.

"I really don't know how I managed to win today," Capriati beamed

"I kept fighting. On those match points when I was down I just went for it.

Capriati turned the match on its head with some power hitting as Hingis -- in her sixth straight final here -- wilted in the heat in a repeat of last year's final

The Swiss could barely hit a ball over the net as the match drew to a close

Hingis last won a Grand Slam when she completed a trio of Open crowns in 1999 and has now gone 12 majors without winning a title

As Capriati raised her arms in the air and waved to the crowd, Hingis returned to her seat at the side of the court where she slumped, inconsolable

Red-eyed and teary Hingis collected her runners-up prize and "Today I think I am oversaid: whelmed with feelings

"Jennifer was just good for me ... I think once again I had a here great time here. I had a tough two months. I came back from surgery and exceeded my expectations. don't know whether to be pleased or cry about it.

in most cases they do not have any septic tank, and if there is any, it is connected with the storm sewerage or surface drain," said an official

In absence of sewer network in Baridhara, sewerage lines of a number of buildings are connected with roadside drains. The surface drains flow into the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara lake, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) officials said.

Following the death of thousands of fishes in Gulshan Lake, the Dhaka City Corporation closed one such outlet on a road which resulted in inundation of some points of a road by drain water.

Absence of sewer network causes similar situation in different parts of the city. The situation turns worst during rainy season when rainwater and water from sewer and surface drains inundate many roads, emitting foul smell.

earth in areas where there is no sewerage network or the sewer lines are in dilapidated condition. Continuous soaking of sewer by earth can expose the groundwater to the risk of contamination. Kazi Mohammad Seesh. Chief Engineer of Dhaka WASA, said, "We are lucky that the soil structure and depth of underground water level in Dhaka city are yet to allow such contamina-

tion of ground water", he said. WASA officials said a number of small projects have been completed and work on some others is going on to rehabilitate the existing sewer network. But the initiatives are

'inadequate', they said. Asked about expansion of the sewer network, the WASA MD said a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed during the visit of the Chinese Prime Minister to

An ordeal, everyday

FROM PAGE 1

BRTC has recently introduced five double-decker buses for women on four city routes, namely Naravangani -- Motiiheel, Gazipur --Motijheel, Mirpur12 -- Eden College, and Zero point Khilgaon --Taltala routes. These buses get a good number of passengers around office hours but very few passengers at other times of the day, which is not financially viable for their operation. Some women who take these buses regularly fear that the service may be discontinued any time due to profit considerations, and recommended introduction of single-decker buses on these routes These recent additions of

women's buses however has had very little or no impact on the total transportation scenario as the positive effect has been offset by the government ban on old vehicles, or it may have even worsened the situation

The situation presents a moral dilemma for the suffering women passengers. Although many have actually lauded the government initiatives to stamp out old vehicles for environmental considerations, they are nevertheless hurt by the implications of the ban.

"Some more women's buses and the introduction of 'sitting service' would certainly help. Also

rude behaviour of transport workers some new routes could be opened," Rumana says almost apologetitowards her and her co-workers.

Women are often subjected to sexual harassment while boarding a bus. Female passengers usually have to put up with eve teasing, indecent gestures and other sorts of sexual harassment by some male chauvinist passengers. Even some helpers and conductors sometimes get into the fray. Rafiqul, one of the helpers of a bus on the Mirpur- Gulistan route said they have no problem taking women passengers if there are seats available. "Generally we do

not take women if there is no seat, as it would be difficult for a woman to stand through the whole time." Rafiq maintained righteously, in a feeble attempt to uphold the ludicrous social stigma attached to

Besides, women's seats are generally located near the engine

Rahela Akther, a garment worker of Kuril regularly takes the bus to go to her workplace at Malibagh. The number of buses plying the route is very few and the buses are generally very overcrowded.

"My income is very limited and I

alleged that the mayor has almost ruined the DCC financially. He said the mayor also reached deep into the employees' pocket and, for the last seven years, has been spending at will even from the employees' provident fund. Now that the fund is empty, many retiring personnel of the DCC are unable to withdraw their money.

Shahjahan Majumdar, an employee of the DCC, said: "Just check, how much was spent for sports and picnics at the DCC. And yet, we never actually had any such events.

At the Nagar Bhaban, the office of the mayor, officials said Hanif leased out acres of public land in the last three months.

When asked, Mayor Hanif denied the charges and said if the employees have any complaint, they should come to him and discuss the issues.

being marooned at a bus stop.

to improve the situation

Besides, she said, the govern ment scored unprecedented success in making the administration stagnant by forcing government officials into retirement, transfer OSD and retrenchment and in distorting the history of the liberation

The opposition leader said the chain of command in police administration snapped and the entire police department was made ineffective through retirement, transfer and other punitive mea-

sures by the alliance government. "The administration was made scared and stagnant making way for a permanent anarchy and chaos through retirement, transfer and OSD. Three major generals of the army were terminated without reasons.

Hasina mentioned that the situation reached such a pass that even the World Bank was compelled to advise the government to restore stability in the administration. Newspapers and periodicals are forced to write, "Let the administration function.

Pointing out newspaper reports on "Hawa Administration" functioning parallel with the Prime Minister's Office, the opposition leader said the question arose "Which is more powerful?" Questions are also raised about the role of close relatives of the prime minister in the

administration. There may be differences in ideology, policy and programmes of Awami League and BNP, but, she said, history of liberation struggle and war of independence, administration and police do not belong to Awami League or BNP, but to the State, and people are owners of the State. "But for whose interest are these being destroyed?

Referring to the October 1 general election, which her party lost, the Awami League chief said the process of free and fair election was hijacked and the so-called fair election created a suffocating situation instead of a healthy democratic dispensation.

About national parliament, the opposition leader said they want to making a woman stand through her play an appropriate role in parliajourney even if missing the bus ment, but that requires a democratic environment. "The government is means she would have to remain not showing minimum tolerance stranded at the bus stop for hours! Repression is being carried out on Sonia, a college girl however our leaders and workers across the said she would prefer standing to country."

Hasina, whose party stayed out Sumona, a student of Eden since the new parliament's inauguration, said parliament becomes a College and a Mirpur area resident puppet in the hands of ruling party if said that increasing the number of basic rights of citizens are not 'sitting service' buses and bus stops guaranteed alongside an atmoat convenient places, setting up sphere of discussion and debate ticket counters and having passenwithin the House. gers queue up for tickets might help

Recalling Awami League's long struggle for parliamentary democ-

The AL chief further questioned whether it could be called a neutral election when "the terrorists" of the four-party alliance, armed forces, police and BDR resorted to harassment, arrest, repression on Awami League leaders and workers restraining them from voting

Even after all these odds, Awam League secured 41 per cent vote. In the 1996 election Awami League got 146 seats by securing 38 per cent votes. "But is it not unusual that this time Awami League got only 62 seats by securing 41 per cent votes?

On the contrary, she said, the alliance got 215 seats by securing 46 per cent votes. "Can the difference of only 5 per cent vote make such big a gap in the tally of seats?

Hasina mentioned that the Prime Minister's 100-day programme contained her commitment to free the country from terrorism and corruption, ensure partisan influence-free administration, a dynamic economic and an effective parliament.

Her agenda also included recovery of illegal arms, arrest of terrorists and putting them on trial

"But," said Hasina, "in last 100 days we have seen there is no consistency between words and deeds of the aovernment

Hasina said although the alliance leader stated that the size of her government would be small, the following day she formed a 60member cabinet, the largest ever in the country. At present the number of ministers and those enjoying the rank and status of minister is 73.

Without mentioning the name of Barrister Moudud, she said the man against whom the BNP government had filed two corruption cases and charge sheets in 1991 had been given the responsibility of Law and Justice Ministry. "Now you judge how far law and judicial system is safe in the hands of such a person. She also made a veiled refer-

ence to Salahuddin Qader Chowdhury saying that the person against whom BNP filed a case of the murder of Chittagong city JCD leader Nitol, had now been made Prime Minister's Parliament Affairs advisor. "How far is the Parliament

safe under this man?' Hasina further pointed out that a person against whom the Bureau of Anti-corruption filed corruption cases for allotting 17 plots in the name of his family members, and caretaker government filed charge sheet for terrorism, got a ministerial

Every day, a large number of working women like Rumana are seen waiting for the bus at different bus stops in the city like Farmgate,

Malibagh, Kakrail, Paltan and Gulistan. As most buses do not have sufficient seats reserved for

women, it's really difficult for them to get into a bus during rush hours and sometimes they have to wait for a long time for an opportunity. Worse still, most buses making stops at

these points are jam-packed, often with male passengers occupying the whatever few seats that are reserved for women. And as the focus is on cramming as many passengers as possible, bus opera-

tors are also reluctant to take any women for obvious reasons.

area, which heats up real fast.

must take the bus, which is the cheapest mode of communication available here," she said. As she narrated the chronicles of her harsh life in the city, she talked about the