

# **AL joins JS**

Hasina also proposed an obituary reference on the deaths of the common people and the opposition activists who have lost their lives over the last eight months and requested the chair to observe a one-minute silence in memory of the victims.

Although Acting Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui requested the opposition leader to bring the obituarv motion according to conventions at the first sitting of the next session. the AL lawmakers observed the unique one-minute silence in the House.

The AL lawmakers were carrying photographs of the victims of political persecution and criminality. Everyone was holding upraised the colour photographs of the recent victims, including those of Naushin who was shot dead in her father's lap, Purnima, a rape victim, and of many others.

However, the Speaker, amid the AL's silence move, proceeded to the day's work. The lawmakers belonging to the Treasury Bench and other small opposition parties did not participate in the silence move.

As the main opposition joined the parliamentary proceeding breaking its eighth-month boycott, Acting Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddigui and the Treasury Bench members as well welcomed the AL's joining.

Leader of the House Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, her deputies in the Treasury Bench and other members welcomed the AL MPs by thumping loudly on their desks.

"Today is the day of joy for the House, I greet the opposition lawmakers," said the acting speaker welcoming the AL lawmakers. Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui took the new charge after the speaker assumed the presidency barely three days ago.

"Like you (the opposition lawmakers) I hope the House would be more lively and functional," he said seeking cooperation from all MPs in running the House smoothly

As soon as the opposition leader concluded her speech, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman suggested that the silence move by the opposition lawmakers be removed from the proceedings. The speaker

income distribution, the WB men-

assumed to increase by 1.1 per cent

of GDP to 10.8 per cent in FY03,

reflecting an ambitious 20.6 per cent

several tax and non-tax revenue

measures, including strengthening of

the collection effort which will make a

significant contribution to revenue

growth; but achieving the target will

The government has announced

total revenue growth projection.

It added the revenue-GDP ratio is

tioned.

WB questions ADP

noted.

# then assured that he would examine

The AL was staying away from

the parliamentary proceedings since its maiden session, citing lack of environment and protesting repression on the religious minorities and opposition workers after the last general election.

Before its joining, the AL had a meeting of its parliamentary party in the parliament building where the AL lawmakers finalised its strategy on the House's proceedings. The opposition leader presided over the meeting.

For the first time in the eighth parliament, representatives of the main opposition attended a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee at the committee room. The meeting, which decided on the business of the House in the days to come in the current budget session, was presided over by the acting speaker and attended by the leader of the House and its other

## Ward commissioners FROM PAGE 12

members

The 30 women commissioners were elected from 90 city wards for the first time under a revised electoral law in the city corporation elections held in April.

In the past, male ward commissioners had selected 30 women commissioners for the reserved seats. The women ward commission-

ers said they have not been able to conduct duties properly for lack of office space since their swearingin. Any move to provide them with space will be welcomed, they added

Ward Commissioner Mahmuda Begum told The Daily Star that it is very important to have an office for dav-to-dav matters. To a question. she said the women ward commissioners do not have any DCC allocation to rent offices

'The office could be under the same roof but it must be separated," said Mahmuda Begum of Ward Nos. 4, 15 and 16 when asked to comment on sharing the office with male ward commissioners.

growth unless discretionary mea-

sures are taken to enhance the rate

structure, expand the tax base, and

strengthen the collection effort, it

Hasina FROM PAGE 1 10,000 others injured. During the same period, she stated, 900

females were raped, at least 500 of them minors by the ruling BNP men. The opposition leader went on:

"Never before has Bangladesh witnessed such a terrible situation." She proposal observance of a one-minute silence in memory of the victims of violence in the last eightmonth.. However, when the Speaker turned her down, she along with her

party lawmakers stood in solemn silence for one minute holding portraits of the victims in their hands. "Are they (BNP) following the Constitution? President of the country has to step down on charge of neutrality. In future, people might be

hanged on charge of honesty," Hasina ridiculed. Explaining her party's decision to end the prolonged boycott of the parliament and to join the same yesterday in its third and budget session, Hasina said, "We've come to the parliament today to protest levying of taxes on the poor in the

proposed budget. The government took up the policy of exploiting the poor and patting the rich. She observed that prices of

essentials have shot up in the market after the placing of the proposed national budget for the 2002-2003 fiscal. The opposition leader said people cannot run their businesses thanks to unprecedented hooliganism and toll collections. "Even muggers are swooping on the beggars purse."

She noted that corruption has been taken to such a height that the Danish government had to withdraw Tk 268 crore in grants.

"We are here (in the parliament) today to protest this corruption and terrorism," said Hasina, adding that by running a 73-strong, jumbo-jet council of ministers on poor man's taxes, the government is repressing the people

...But politicisation and nepotism has become all pervasive today. Some 221 defence personnel were fired or forced to retire.

She lamented the 'unprecedented' the breakdown of law and order and referred to the murder of girl child Naushin to highlight the fact that even children were not safe in parents' lap. She recalled the harrowng incident involving another boy, Shihab, who was chopped to death.

Speaking on the recent killing of BUET student Sony, Hasina said, "During the Awami League rule development works worth Tk 100 crore were carried out at Dhaka University but not a single bullet was fired over tender disputes.

Hasina once again alleged that the last parliamentary polls were rigged. She said despite the 'rigging', her party bagged 41 per cent of popular votes while each of the four partners in the ruling alliance got 11.5 per cent votes on average.

# Sony's killing FROM PAGE 1 killing of Sony, Tagar fled to Kolkata,

nternational in the city.

The relationship between nomi-India where he was contacted by nal GDP growth and growth of nonsome top ranking JCD leaders who assured him of 'settling the case' on tax revenues is even more tenuous. is safe to assume that autonomous his arrival in the country. tax revenue growth cannot be more Tagar had gone to his village

than the growth of nominal GDP." home in Magura before coming back The remaining tax revenue to Dhaka on Sunday and rented a growth will have to come from the room at the Sonargaon Hotel. Those discretionary measures announced who had advised Tagar to come back with the FY03 budget which aims to to the city told the police about his increase revenue earnings by whereabouts, the source added

# 'Death threat' to Babar

Babul has been instructed to be present at the SB office today for further interrogation.

According to the general diary (GD) filed by the minister, Babul verbally abused Babar and threatened to kill him after he (Babar) opposed issuance of the liquor manufacturing licence to Jamuna Group and was instrumental in canceling it.

Sources said besides intelligence agencies, other instruments of the government have also initiated hectic investigation into the matter and other related aspects.

The finance and commerce ministries as well as their different departments have also begun investigation to find out about the legality of the businesses of Jamuna Group

Extraordinary efforts are under way to gather necessary information related to the death threat, said the sources. The T&T and mobile operators are also busy trying to trace back and retrieve the call between the state minister and Babul.

A high official at the police department said several agencies are working to identify the persons who were with Babul when he made the phone call to the state minister. Legal action would follow immediately after the alleged death threat is confirmed

He said these agencies have already interrogated a number of close associates and business partners of Babul and obtained a lot of information about his businesses

Official sources said Babul might be accused of various charges in connection with business irregularities of the Jamuna Group.

The government has already received a number of complaints from different business establishments about Jamuna Group's "bad deals, non-payment of bills etc.".

Sources said Babul has some supporters in the cabinet and also in the party, but they have refrained

Awami League-backed BCL on the

DU campus on April 23, 1998. A

central BCL leader, Partha Protim

Achariya, was shot dead in the fight

and Tagar is the number nine

# Profile of a 'criminal'

### FROM PAGE 1 ers at the hall.

Tagar also faced these problems and had bitter experience while trying to manage a seat at the hall.

Failing to arrange accommodation outside the campus, he contacted JCD leaders. They asked him many questions about his political and family background. Even they asked him whether or not he could operate guns. The hall unit JCD general secretary however came to his 'rescue' and assured him of a seat on condition of regular participation in JCD's programmes.

He had no way but to accept the proposal and that was the beginning of a change in his life. Since then he became increasingly active in student politics. But he was not that known till he led an armed gang on the BUET campus to 'capture' a tender recently.

At a stage, he left hall politics and ntroduced himself to Benegir Ahmed Titu, central joint secretary of JCD. Gradually, he became a close associate of Titu, who used to stay at Banganadhu Hall.

Tagar had actively participated in a gunfight between the JCD and the

# One-way route

### FROM PAGE 1

Korea's Dutch coach Guus Hiddink, already a national hero in his adopted land. "We have gone so far and have

nothing to lose and we will play the way we like to play." That way -- with pace, accurate

bassing and relentless movement backed by supreme fitness -- has already accounted for Poland, Portugal, Italy and Spain in a series of stunning shocks.

Just one of those victories would

and will not be fazed by the fans or before." he said. their buzzing opponents, who may Kahn is also unconcerned about the "Red Effect" on the officials. "We

be running a little short on energy after two strength-sapping extramay have one or two refereeing time matches in the last week. decisions against us, he said. For Germany to take advantage however, and avoid becoming the fifth European victim of the Korean not let it demoralise us." juggernaut, they will have to step up a level from anything they have

shown to date. their quarter-final starting lineups. Coach Rudi Voeller knows what Germany's Dietmar Hamann is is in store. "The South Koreans will battling a knee injury, with Jens run until they drop and we will have

from supporting him as most ministers including the prime minister 'are very angry at his audacity".

Night guard killed FROM PAGE 12

ants from his residence at Razbar area in the early hours of yesterday. The miscreants entered his

house and took Mondal to hostage at gun point. Later, they took him to unknown destination, police quoted the FIR lodged by the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) of Rangamati.

Earlier, a gang of seven armed tribal miscreants stormed the lone government PIG farm situated at Manikchhari under Sadar upazila on the outskirts of the town and gunned down its night guard Sanjib Chakma, 35, on the spot.

Police sent the body to Rangamati Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Separate cases were lodged with Kotwali police

but no action was taken against him.

SM Hall after the gunfight at BUET

recovered a number of firearms.

Sources said Tagar used those for

Recently, he came close to a

newly elected ward commissioner of

Dhaka City Corporation. Tagar tried

to manipulate the BUET tender with

BNP leadership had earlier sus-

pend activities of the central JCD

in criminal offences. Tagar and Muki

led their respective groups in the

Meanwhile, police in a raid at the

This made him more notorious.

criminal activities.

pus centring tender.

**BUFT** incident

his backing

# SAARC Secretary General meets acting president

Muhammad Jamiruddin Sircar at

Welcoming the SAARC

Secretary General, the Acting

President recalled the contribution of

late President Ziaur Rahman in the

establishment of SAARC and said

Bangladesh would continue its total

support to its cause as it did in the

related programmes in this direction.

BSS, Dhaka

Bangabhaban

Sohel murder

FROM PAGE 12Khulna on Sunday But the judge did not grant bail to the accused

The murder of Sohel created discontent among leaders and The visiting Secretary General of SAARC, Q A MA Rahim yesterday activists of Manju group of BNP. City BNP secretary Nazrul Islam called on Acting President Barrister

Manju demanded arrest of the FIRnamed accused terming Martuza as mastermind behind the murder of Hasan Sohel.

BNP leader Martuza has denied his involvement in the murder. While expressing his reaction after rejection of bail praver Martuza blamed city BNP secretary Manju for implicating him in the murder case.

He stressed the need for peace It may be mentioned here that and stability in the region as incorpo-Martuza was among nine other rated in the charter itself to attain the accused who were acquitted in the broad objectives of regional cooper-CPB leader Comrade Ratan Sen murder case. The Acting President said that

Comrade Sen was stabbed to poverty alleviation has been the top death on July 31, 1993. priority in the region and that the

The seven accused in Sohel SAARC could effectively initiate murder case are Shaharuzzaman Martuza, PBCP outlaws Farid and He assured him full support in the Liton, Ayub, Zamirul Huda Jahor, discharge of his functions as SAARC Shahidul and Shaheen

In Gaza, Palestinian police and

security officers surrounded the

house of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the

spiritual head of Hamas, in the

western part of Gaza City, placing

him under house arrest, a police

Sheikh Yassin's home was sur-

rounded, but said they had not been

told he was under house arrest

Senior Hamas leader Ismail Haniva

also said more than 10 Hamas

The latest Israeli military moves

came hours after the Israeli govern-

ment announced an emergency

call-up of the first 2,000 reservists to

beef up an army gearing for a long-

cabinet also debated Sunday new

security measures, and decided to

study the legalities involved in

deporting families of suicide bomb-

ers from the West Bank to the more

tightly sealed Gaza Strip, officials

The cabinet gave the go-ahead

for completion of the first leg of a

massive and controversial security

barrier running along the "green

line" separating Israel and the West

Bank and winding around

The cabinet voted 25-1 to com-

plete the first 102 kilometres (more

than 60 miles) of what would even-

tually be a 350 kilometre (220-mile)

barrier aimed at bottling up would-

be suicide bombers. Work started

The vote came after a some-

times-stormy cabinet session

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's

members had been arrested.

Hamas officials confirmed

official said.

haul operation.

said.

Jerusalem.

June 16

# Arafat's HQ

Plassev Bazar. A cross section of FROM PAGE 12 people had condemned the incident,

secretary general.

ation

AFP correspondent at the scene. The move into Ramallah was part of a new get-tough policy announced by the Jewish state after a series of Palestinian suicide bombings and other attacks last week that left 31 Israelis dead.

The Israelis, who have vowed to occupy Palestinian territory for as long as the attacks on its people continue, control six of eight major West Bank towns. They had already seized Jenin. Qalgilva. Tulkarem. Bethlehem and Nablus.

One of the alleged masterminds of The Israeli army said in a state-Sabequn Nahar Sony's killing, Tagar ment that troops and border police went into hiding after the incident. He launched operations in Ramallah was arrested from the city's Kawran tonight, taking control of the strate-Bazar area yesterday. Sony was gic points of the city and imposing a killed in crossfire between two faccurfew.' tions of the JCD on the BUET cam-

The statement said an Israeli soldier was slightly wounded by an explosive device in Ramallah but gave no details. It also said its following involvement of JCD leaders troops had arrested 12 Palestinians in the areas of Hebron, Jenin and are leaders of the central body and Bethlehem.

A Palestinian official inside Arafat's headquarters confirmed the entry of Israeli tanks in the compound. "We heard the sound of the tanks entering but we don't know where they are exactly," he told AFP by phone.

An Israeli bulldozer began piling up large rocks and rubble in order to seal off the five access roads leading to the compound, security sources said.

There were no reports of clashes "That's normal. It's called home or shooting as the troops moved into advantage. If it happens, we must the city, but two large explosions were heard which Palestinian Both teams could be forced to sources said were shells fired by make one midfield change from

helicopter aunships. featuring an acerbic exchange on One of them hit the al-Amari the layout of the barrier between camp, landing in the middle of a Defence Minister Binyamin Ben road, while it was not clear where Eliezer and Foreign Minister the second landed. No casualties nimon Peres, the ione dissenter were reported. The project has drawn bitter The sources said Israeli troops criticism from Palestinians as a stormed the house of Jihad tool for enforcing an apartheid-Tumaleh, the head of Arafat's Fatah like policy. Right-wing Israelis group in the al-Amari refugee camp, also fear the barrier will isolate but did not find him. Two unidentified Jewish settlers and set in place the Palestinians were arrested near de facto border of a future Arafat's compound. Palestinian state Arafat's compound had already Amid concern in Israel that the been devastated by a five-week 180,000-strong army might become Israeli siege that ended May 2, as too stretched by another prolonged well as a brief but ferocious tank military operation on the West Bank assault on June 6 and a three-day officials began an emergency call re-occupation four days later. up of reservists Sunday. In Gaza, Palestinian hospital Meanwhile, a senior Palestinian sources said two cars travelling official condemned Monday internanear the town of Rafah were hit by tional "silence" at Israel's latest missiles fired from two Israeli helioperations in the West Bank, where copters. Six Palestinians were killed the army again blockaded the but their identities were not disheadquarters of Palestinian leader closed Yasser Arafat overnight. The Israeli army had no immedi-"We deplore the silence of the ate comment on the reported attack, international community. that it does which Palestinian security officials nothing to stop this aggression of branded a "targeted assassination" Israel," Palestinian cabinet secrecarried out by forces of the Jewish tary Ahmed Abdelrahman told AFP. state

### He along with some other members of Pintu group stormed into the SM Hall and established their 'domination' there after BNP returned to the power in October last year. He started staying at the hall though he was not a student of the university. He completed his studies at the DU last vear. Tagar then got involved in various

criminal activities including extortion and tender manipulation. Last month, a group of JCD men led by Tagar started a toll collection drive at the

accused in the murder case. He left the campus after the BCL had 'occupied' all residential halls of the DU following the murder of Partha. He went to his village home and stayed there several months Then he came back to the capital and started maintaining links with Titu. He also enjoyed the blessings of JCD chief Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and was made assistant publicity secre-

tary of the organisation in 2000.

require concerted effort from the a of the fiscal year th WR observed

"While the current expenditure-GDP ratio is budgeted to decline from 7.9 per cent in FY02 to 7.7 per cent in FY03. the size of ADP is budgeted to increase by 0.6 percentage point to 6.4 per cent of GDP. The latter appears to be ambitious, given the external financing constraints. limits in absorptive capacity of implementing agencies, and continuing questions about the quality of ADP portfo-

In the FY03 budget, tax revenues are assumed to increase by about 16.3 per cent, accounting for twothirds of the projected total increase in revenues, and non-tax revenues by over 42 per cent, accounting for one-third of the total projected increase in revenues. Part of the tax revenue growth is expected to come from the growth in nominal GDP, the WBsaid

However, analysis of the trends in tax yields in Bangladesh indicate that the tax system is income-inelastic so that the growth rate of tax revenue tends to fall behind the nominal GDP

expanding the tax base, VAT and income tax in particular, simplifying the tax laws, rationalising the tax structure and increasing the efficiency of tax administration through an improved monitoring and supervision mechanism and reduced discretion of tax officials, it said.

# Faces fixed FROM PAGE 12

voluntary organisations including Spandan B and Humanity Without Borders, both organisations expatriate Bangladeshis in the USA and British Women Association. Dr Ferdousy of Asiana Foundation has donated some instruments for the operations. So far camps were set up

Nawabganj, Dhamrai, Keraniganj, Dohar and Savar Members of the team included Dr Sarwarul Alam, leader of the plastic

surgery team: Dr Abdur Rashid, Dr Ashrafuzaman and Dr Sanjida, Dr Motiar Rahman, Dr Nur mohammad and Dr Zaman Hossain.

Another suspect of Sony killing case and Tagar's close accomplice Masum Billah was also arrested from the city yesterday. A team of Ramna Police Station led by the officer-in-charge Lutfar Rahman arrested him at about

10. Two of them -- Munna and Mukul, close accomplices of Tagar, confessed before the magistrate that nine people were involved in the killing. Munna, Mukul and 'Dariala' Babul as well as Tagar's two brothers Mesbah Uddin Kayes and Hasib Uddin were arrested earlier.

gang of JCD who fought a fierce

gunbattle with the BUET-based JCD action of Mokammel Hayat Muki on June 8 that resulted in Sony's death in crossfire. The incident led to a nearly one-month closure of the university.

have been a major achievement when held up against their previous record but Hiddink has stressed from day one that he wanted more

than just respectability. While the whole country was enjoying what turned out to be the first of many amazing nights of 3:30om from Moghbazar Hotel celebration after their opening 2-0 win over Poland, Hiddink said: "I With yesterday's arrests, the want them to be greedy for more number of people so far arrested in success. I am."

connection with the killing stands at The Poles were the first to be overwhelmed by the amazing home support that has played such an important part in Korea's dream run, though Italy and Spain claim that it Six of them -- Swapon. was the crowd's influence on the match officials rather than the opposition players that made the difference.

But if ever there were a team Tagar led the DU-based armed designed to deal with crowd pressure and concentrate on their own iob, it is Germany, the consummate professionals.

Amazingly consistent, they are on the brink of their seventh final

The President is neutral, show him the door

to be compact at the back," he said.

"It's maybe an advantage for us that they have twice had to play extra time...but they don't look tired to me.'

His assistant Michael Skibbe added: "They have an unbelievable winning mentality and they only know one direction, which is the way forward." Germany will hope to take

advantage of their aerial power, with the likes of five-goal Miroslav Klose and midfielder Michael Ballack, who headed the only goal in the guarterfinal win over the United States. always a danger at free kicks and corners

Their most important player so far, however, has been at the other end of the pitch.

Goalkeeper and captain Oliver Kahn has been in superb form, particularly against the U.S., and said he "can't wait" for the game. "The emotions and passion

surrounding this Korean team is something I have never witnessed

eremies standing by. Kim Nam-il substituted in the last two matches. first with a twisted ankle and then after getting badly caught by a high tackle against Spain, is doubtful, with Lee Eul-yong his probable replacement.

# **PROBABLE TEAMS**

Germany: (3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning): 1-Oliver Kahn; 21-Christoph Metzelder, 15-Sebastian Kehl, 2-Thomas Linke; 22-Torsten Frings, 19-Bernd Schneider, 8-Dietmar Hamann (or 16-Jens Jeremies), 13-Michael Ballack, 6-Christian Ziege; 11-Miroslav Klose, 7-Oliver Neuville.

South Korea: (Formation 3-5-2; Jersey numbers in the beginning) 1-Lee Woon-jae; 4-Choi Jin-cheul, 20-Hong Myung-bo, 7-Kim Taeyoung; 21-Park Ji-sung, 6-Yoo Sang-chul, 22-Song Chong-gug, 10-Lee Young-pyo, 13-Lee Eulyong; 19-Ahn Jung-hwan, 9-Seol Ki-hveon.

Referee: Urs Meier (Switzerland)

Speaking from his Ramallah home near Arafat's headquarters, he said he did not know how long the siege would last.

He accused the Israelis of seeking to destroy the Palestinian Authority and the dignity of the Palestinian people, but added 'They will not succeed."

Palestinian information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo for his part called on the United Nations and Arab countries to intervene immediately to ensure Israeli forces withdraw from Palestinian towns they have reoccupied.

**BNP** leader

The killers left the scene firing several blank shots and exploding bombs.

service on Morralganj-Bagerhat route remained disrupted for several hours.

Police recovered the body of BNP leader from the bus stand and sent it to hospital morgue at 2 pm.

Leaders of Bagerhat BNP have blamed outlawed PBCP and cadres of Awami League for the murder. None, however, was arrested till 6 pm yesterday.

# Laden

### FROM PAGE 12

dispersed and in many ways is more dangerous than it was when it was in the mountains of Tora Bora," he said.

Along those lines, Abu Ghaith warned that the United States had not seen the last of al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

"America will realise in the coming months that it got stuck in the Afghan guagmire. In the coming days or weeks. America will have to admit the magnitude of its losses in Afghanistan," he said. He also said that the allied bombing of Afghanistan had little effect on the network, which is still up and running with "98 percent" efficiency.

Graham, meanwhile, warned US citizens to stay alert. "I think there is a heightened level of threat, let's say, in comparison to 30 or 60 days ago," he said.

The ranking Republican on the Senate intelligence committee, Alabama Republican Richard Shelby, agreed on ABC Sunday, saying al-Qaida is "all over the world. They've been trying to regroup. They're going to continue to be a real, real problem. They can hit us any day."

"I hope it never happens," he added.

### FROM PAGE 1 door, and in what a way! What should have gotten Prof.

Badrudozza praise has now subjected him to the worst humiliation in his life. Not only was he castigated and his integrity ques tioned, his 20 years of contribution to founding, building and strengthening the BNP was all

thrown to the wind by a well-orchestrated political attack at its most vicious. Do the BNP members of parliament, who made those preposterous statements,

ousted former chief of army, thereby denigrating the public image of a valiant soldier, who till the other day headed our armed forces.

Nothing is being directly said, and yet a lot is being implied, which is even more vicious and damaging than a direct attack which can, at least, be refuted The BNP's grassroots workers are being fed a version of events know what they did? Do they for which the government or the party has neither any proof nor know what impeachment means

and under what circumstances a any logical argument. President can be put through such a process? Most importantly, do they understand how much they have damaged the standing of their government, and the sanctity of the presidency? Finally, do they have any idea what a bad precedent they have set? In the following passages we try to answer these questions.

The first question refers to the character assassination of Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, the founding secretary general the licence holder of the party and a most trusted lieutenant of the founder of the BNP, late president Ziaur Rahman.

In order to justify his removal, the last 20 years. Many who a subtle propaganda has been set afoot linking his name with the denigrated him are not worth even remotely comparing with him in terms of talent, ability, devotion and service to the country and the community.

What sort of morality and ethics of our veteran political leaders does their silence show? Don't they know the similar fate may befall them, and at that moment nobody will say one word of support for them? Two decades of dedicated work and selfless contribution of the founding secretary general was 'neutralised' because of his 'crime' of trying to be a 'neutral' President.

It is a whispering campaign As to the question what against a person who has served impeachment means and under the BNP with sincerity, commitwhat circumstances a President ment and imagination. In fact, his can be subjected to that process personal involvement with the we refer our readers to an excellent piece by our young lawyer colleague, A.H. Monjurul Kabir, published in our "Law and Our BNP's latest successful election campaign, especially Sabash Bangladesh, lent it a credibility which it would have never got Rights" section published on without Dr. Chowdhury's per-Sunday last. The final question relates to

sonal participation. what precedent has been set in this instance by the action of the Perhaps most tragic was the fact that there was not a single person in the BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) to utter one word the whole question of 'check and of support for a man with whom balance' in the exercise of power many of the BNP leaders have in democracy. As it stands today worked shoulder to shoulder over our prime ministers are amond

the most powerful heads of government in the world. They literally have limitless power. In comparison, the President

has virtually none save a moral authority that comes from the position above all political and partisan influences and considerations. Whatever little 'check' the President could provide by virtue of his 'moral authority' has now been taken away because he is expected to be 'accountable' to the Treasury Bench and stay in office only as long as he 'enjoys their confidence'. Today there rests nothing to provide any check to the PM's power.

As for the 'precedent' the BNPPP action has set, it has blown to bits any chance of wider acceptability that a President, by Constitution, enjoyed. It was one office that could come of use when the political divide between the Treasury Bench and the Opposition made it impossible for them to sort out problems between themselves.

We recall how many times the beleaguered BNP in opposition sought Justice Shahabuddin BNPPP. It also brings to the fore Ahmad's assistance when the then ruling Awami League made a mockery of parliamentary democracy and hounded the

opposition with all sorts of pressive measures.

ernment made it impossible for Justice Shahabuddin to play any role, but the possibility was there. The then President could have played a role because the opposition had confidence in him. Haven't that chance been greatly diminished, if not completely destroyed?

Then again what sort of mes-sage has the BNPPP action given, say, to the Speaker and his deputy? If a President can be thrown out within days for 'losing confidence of the party' then how long will it take to remove the Speaker if he dares to be 'neutral' which he must in order to be effective? We know late Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury was no example, but hasn't the BNP been elected because it promised to change all that?

The BNP, during its first term in office, had successfully built an mage of being a party, which was tolerant, willing to be accommodative and one that was respectful of institutions. It was a yearning for a return of such a party to the helm of affairs that the Awami League was shown the door.

To most voters, and many

sincere supporters, what they are seeing of the BNP today is shock-ing them, to say the least (Will Yes, the Awami League govsomebody please read the Star letter columns to the BNP leaders?).

# Adamiee FROM PAGE 1 evacuation drive.

According to different sources. the policy planners have different options in mind to make the best use of about 300 acres of land of the mill. The options often discussed at different levels are either to allow the private sector to develop an export processing zone or an industrial park there. Building a container

terminal is also another alternative. According to a government performance report, the production cost of the mill is 45 per cent higher than any other jute units under the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). This is mainly due to shadow and excess manpower, corruption and unionism, the report said

The mill is also the breeding ground for criminals and it witnessed many a gunfight in the past leading to several deaths, the report said.

FROM PAGE 12

on the spot.

Following the incident, bus