NEWS

21 criminals held

army raided another hideout of the infamous 'Osman Bahini' at Paindong on Tuesday night, seized a gun and arrested Osman's close

In Chandanaish, the troops seized one sawn-off gun and two cartridges yesterday.

In Cox's Bazar, 14 firearms were seized.

In Narayanganj, the army arrested five people including the joint secretary of the district BNP at noon yesterday.

In Khulna, the joint forces arrested five notorious criminals along with a pipe gun from Nishankhali area of the Sunderbans.

Meanwhile, one of the listed criminals, Shahnewaz, arrested by

Saber

As he stepped out of the prison at about 1:40pm, hundreds of leaders and workers of the Awami League,

other front organisations of the party received him with flowers and chanted slogans. In his reaction at the jail gate, the former deputy minister urged all to

Juba League, Chhatra League and

unite to save the country from "the clutch of sick politics". "Truth must prevail and all evil forces will be defeated," he said, urging all to take part in the 'struggle

to restore democracy' Party leader Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Ahsanullah Master, Tanjim Ahmed Sohel, Syed Ashraful Islam, Chhatra League President Liaquat Sikder General Secretary Nazrul Islam Babu and workers from different parts of the capital along with his

family members went to receive

Bills passed

Saber at the jail gate.

FROM PAGE 12

the raise in court-fees, saying that the increase would affect the poor peo-

However, all the disapproval of the Jatiya Party members was rejected by voice vote. And the law minister, defending the promulgation of the ordinance and justifying increase in court fees, moved the bill for adoption by the House.

After passage of the Court-Fees (Amendment) Bill, AL leader Abdus Samad Azad taking floor raised a raucous protest against the treasury bench attitude and erasing of the portrait of Bangabandhu from Bijoy Keton at Dhaka Cantonment.

After that, he led his party members in walking out of the House, for a second time during the day's House proceedings.

In the absence of AL members, all the proposals for eliciting public opinion on the Police Staff College Bill and disapproval motions were voted down by majority voice and the House passed this bill.

Three to die

the three miscreants set fire to her

body by pouring kerosene. Hearing her screams, a neighbour rushed to the spot and took her to the local hospital. Selina was later

shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where she succumbed to her injuries the following After examining the records and witnesses, Monir Ahmed Patwari,

District and Sessions Judge and Judge of the Women and Child Repression Prevention Court, handed down the verdict.

Fazal has been absconding and was tried in absentia.

ioint forces early Tuesday, fell sick

and admitted to the Khulna Medical

College Hospital yesterday. His

the joint forces arrested 25 persons

from 16 districts of the northern

region. Besides, police yesterday

arrested 228 persons from the 16

arrested three persons and recov-

ered 400 grams of heroin and 400

A team of the Rajshahi BDR

In Magura, a BNP thana vice-

president and Shalikha union

parishad chairman, Akhtarunnabi,

was sent to the jail on a one-month

detention. He was arrested from his

residence and a pipe-gun was recov-

ered from his pond on Tuesday, our

reports that the army has so far

arrested 88 people and seized seven

firearms from Kushtia, Meherpur and

people including a listed criminal and

Chuadanga since October 17.

one firearm in the last 24 hours.

nition and 20 cocktails

our correspondent said.

FROM PAGE 12

Friends"

World Cup

organising committee.

party with the entire world."

Our Kushtia correspondent

The joint forces arrested nine

In Feni, the army arrested a class

The army team recovered four

In another raid, the joint forces

committee cadre, Salauddin alias

Gaus Monu, from his Sanapara

guns along with six rounds of ammu-

arrested an extortionist, Samsul

Haque, while he was collecting toll,

The slogan is "A Time to Make

"We hope in 2006 we'll see

laughing, happy faces," said

German soccer great Franz

Beckenbauer, president of the

Bayern Munich's honorary

resident, a World Cup winner as

West German captain in 1974 and

as coach in 1990, added: "We want

to be friendly hosts and celebrate a

the logo expresses Germany's wish

"to present ourselves as a world-

the firm that came up with the

emblem for this summer's World

cer's governing body, praised

German organisers for being well

ahead of schedule in preparations.

Germany also staged the 1974

tournament, when it won one of its

The FIFA chief said 13 of a possi-

ble 15 official international sponsors

have already signed on for the

Cup in South Korea and Japan.

open, friendly, hospitable country".

Interior Minister Otto Schily said

The design was co-produced by

Sepp Blatter, president of soc-

districts of the region.

correspondent said.

bottles of Indian phensidyl.

Our Raishahi correspondent savs

condition was stated to be critical.

shares to individuals. Experts think deregulation of the telecom sector will increase private sector participation and foreign investment.

Managing Director of Wintel Faisal Alim in his speech said Wintel would provide cheaper broadband service with modern technology. "We have technological support

to offer broadband Internet service at an affordable price," he added. Wintel is also supplying Vtech

and PRAXIS mobile phones to GrameenPhone and AkTel Alim said. "We have also got exclusive distributorship of Haier mobile phones and will start marketing

"We will introduce more mobile phones of different renowned brands and launch chain mobile set shops in the country," Alim said. "The shops will sell different

types of mobile and landline phone sets and provide after-sales service to customers at the same place." he added.

He said his company would also sell Vtech landline phones with callers line identification protocol (CLIP)

Alim said CLIP-enabled sets would help reduce phone-related crimes, including blackmail and ransom on the phone.

The minister on Tuesday informed the Jativa Sangsad that the BTTB would launch CLIPenabled phones in three months.

BTRC Chairman Syed Marghub Morshed, President of Bangladesh Garments Manufactures and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Kutubuddin Ahmed and Abdul Ali, MP attended the function as special

Dr Toufiq M Seraj, chairman of Wintel, ATM Mahbubul Alam, executive director of the company, high officials of private mobile operators, including GrameenPhone, AkTel and Sheba, among others, attended the launch at the new office of Wintel

Criminal case

FROM PAGE 12 along with 10 others ransacked the association office and houses of its office bearers. They also looted

valuables worth about Taka six lakh. In his complaint, Motiur mentioned that on receipt of information he went to the association office and tried to know about the incident. The accused persons showed him an eviction notice of the DCC. But he told them the Wakf Administration on March 23, 2000 had leased the land to the association for a long

After hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Emdadul Hag took the complaint into congnizance and directed the officer-in-charge of the Mirpur Police Station to take legal action against the accused after

police (DCP), North District, Sanjay

police party from Yamuna Pushta

when he came to extort money and

kill a person he suspected of being a

250 grams of opium were recovered

cases lodged against him and is

suspected by the police of being

involved in "terrorist acts" had

crossed over to Bangladesh in 1992

and also visited Pakistan, police

over Kolkata press linking these

that Bangladesh has also

requested the West Bengal gov-

ernment to keep the seven

released criminals under surveil-

When asked how Bangladesh

wanted India to send back the two

criminals when there was no extra-

dition treaty between the two coun-

tries, the foreign ministry official

said, "all we need to get the crimi-

nals back is good will on the part of

the two countries. India will have to

Liaquat and Arman before court

today. They were interrogated by

the police for the last four days. The

police told the press that cases

would be filed against them under

reports: Tauhid Hussain, the dep-

uty high commissioner in Kolkata,

has said that the absence of a

proper extradition policy between

India and Bangladesh would not be

a problem in tackling criminals

frequently crossing over to either

interaction between the ministries

concerned of the two countries," he

said. "The cordial relationship

between India and Bangladesh will

definitely help in combating crime ".

commission has been officially

intimated regarding the arrest of

Liaquat Hussain and Arman Khan,

Hussain said, "Initially, I came to

know about them from media

reports. Today, however, I was

officially informed of their arrest. I

would certainly like them to be sent

back to Bangladesh, as there are

grave allegations against them."

When asked whether the high

"The problem can be solved by

Our Kolkata correspondent

The Kolkata police will produce

The foreign ministry official said

criminals to the ISI or the al-Qaida.

Aloaded country made pistol and

The accused who has TADA

police informer," Baniwal said.

from him, the DCP said.

Deport

FROM PAGE 1

deport them '

the Arms Act.

side of the border.

"The accused was arrested by a

FROM PAGE 12

Baniwal said.

Baitul Aman Bangladeshi

member of the then Bengal Legislative Assembly and later member of East Pakistan Assembly.

The court also directed the R&H authorities not to demolish and disturb further the possession and occupation of "Baitul Aman for one

The High Court division bench comprising Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Justice M Nizamul Hug issued the rule following a petition filed by Md Shafiuddin Sarwar, son of late Khan Shahib Osman Ali.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud moved the petition in the court for

Armed Forces Day

proud successors of those brave

In a separate message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the cour-

age and sacrifice of the martyred soldiers will ever be a source of inspiration for the new generation. Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina in her message recalled the contri-

butions of the members of the three services and wished all out success and continued prosperity of the armed forces.

The day's programme will begin with offering munajat after Fajr prayers at all mosques at army garrisons, naval bases and establishments and air force bases.

In Dhaka, Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces President lajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will place wreaths at Shikha Anirban, the Eternal Flame, at Dhaka Cantonment.

Army chief Lieutenant General Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, Naval chief Rear Admiral Shah lobal Muitaba and Air Force chief Air Vice-Marshal Fakhrul Azam will also lay wreaths at the Shikha Anirban on behalf of their respective services.

The three chiefs will also pay courtesy call on the president and prime minister separately.

A reception to gallantry awardwinner freedom fighters and members of the martyr families will be held at 9:15am at the Armed Forces

Division. Chiefs of the three services will host separate receptions to members of the seven Bir Shrestho families and selected freedom

fighters belonging to their respective services. Prime Minister and Defence Minister Khaleda Zia will host a

reception and iftar at the Sena Kunja in the evening

Special programmes will be broadcast in Bangladesh Television and Betar while special supplements will be published in leading

national and regional newspapers. Other programmes of the day include display of Bangladesh Navy ships in Dhaka, Chittagong and

Horn-happy

FROM PAGE 12 done to contain noise pollution.

At most construction sites in the city, builders do not care about the legal working hours. Workers at some sites are found working even at night, making hurtful noises.

Also unchecked is the use of loudspeakers at sehri time to wake up people. Residents at the Noorjahan Road in Mohammadpur complained that half a dozen loudspeakers are used in the small

Traffic sergeants complained of loss of hearing ability. Under clause No. 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1983, they can prosecute anyone using 'hydraulic' horns. But the fine for such offence is so small that the ffender cares little about it.

Sergeant Mansur, who joined the olice force only a year ago, told The Dailv Star that he became short of hearing in a year in Dhaka.

"All traffic policemen are short of hearing due to the increasing noise pollution." said Mansur.

Another police sergeant, S Kabir, said the police should have portable equipment to measure the decibel level and prosecute the offenders. "We are aware of the damaging

effects of noise pollution but can do nothing to stop it," Kabir said.

Indian press Net phone

Saturday as Pakistani "ISI" agents having links with the Al-Qaida terrorist network

The Telegraph wrote on November 18: "Liaquat and Arman were operating for the Islamic Aikya (Oikya) Front of Bangladesh and were trained in terrorist activities by the ISI, officials added. Indian intelligence agencies' "internal logbooks" listed the front as a cover organisation for Al-Qaida activists now taking shelter in Bangladesh, a Central Bureau of Investigation deputy inspector-general said in Delhi.

"We have specific information that Arman, Liaguat and the others had come here with plans to spread terror." a Kolkata police official said. "We have recovered several incriminating documents, including maps of defence and prohibited areas," he

Similarly, Sangbad Protidin wrote yesterday that Liaquat was in

Commission in Kolkata termed the

police version of the incident base-

less. They said that the police in

A senior member of the Deputy

High Commission yesterday said

"Unofficially, we can say that the

statements being issued by the police department in Kolkata are

false. We are the representatives of

the Bangladesh government here.

However, we have to depend on

newspapers to keep a tab on the

missing since Sunday are Kala

Zahangir, Pichchi Hannan, Killer

Abbas, Tonai Mollah, Nannu, Mantu

and Sada Sintu. The two criminals

now in police custody have been

charged with possessing 9mm

pistols. Considering the gravity of

their alleged crimes in Bangladesh.

many are viewing this to be a minor

two will be able to obtain bail easily

once they are produced in court next

week. However, the police are still

not giving the name of the

Bangladeshi representative to

and Deputy Commissioner Zulfigar

Hassan, two top police officials,

steadfastly maintain that the seven

were handed over to Bangladeshi

with the seven on Saturday and

Sunday are giving a completely

different picture. Two of them have

said that the seven were taken to the

Petrapole-Benapole border and

asked to cross over unofficially

Since then there has been no trace

political elements would be included

in the boards for efficient running of

The committee also opted for

more secrecy in banking affairs and

proposed that any BB official or

employee would face a fine of Tk 5

lakh for divulging any secret infor-

Nazmul Huda. Commerce Minister

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury,

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr

Fakhruddin Ahmed, cabinet and law

secretaries, among others, were

supervision and regulatory capacity,

Saifur said, "We are going to give

autonomy to the central bank for

formulating monetary regulations.

The committee would formulate

necessary regulations and send

"As a developing country, we

them to the ministry for approval."

Criticising the BB's current

present in the meeting.

Communications Minister

There is another minor contro-

However, the policemen on duty

representatives.

of the seven

banks.

Detective Chief Soumen Mitra

whom the seven were handed over.

Police officials believe that these

The seven who have gone

Kolkata had never contacted them.

charge of Islamic Oikya Front which is "controlled by the ISI". However, the same report also described him as a "Jubo League" leader.

Telegraph became politically aggressive in the beginning of its November 18 report: "Nine Bangladeshis -- all suspected ISI agents -- were rounded up from opposite a movie theatre near New Market, late on Saturday night, days after Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani charged Bangladesh with doing very little to contain anti-India activities on its soil."

Moreover, the reports gave fictitious information. For instance Liaquat has been reported in Protidin to be an accused in 42 murder cases, while the Dhaka police say he might have been charged with one or two murder

"He is the Mafia Don here -- he does not do the dirty works himself,'

versy that has also sprung up. The

Kolkata Police arrested Arman and

Liaquat from a place called Garia in

South 24 Parganas. However, this

area does not fall within the jurisdic-

said a police source, "therefore there is few murder charges against

The newspapers also depicted such criminals as Killer Abbas, Sada Sintu. Pichchi Hannan. Tanai Mullah, Nannu, Kala Jahangir and Mantu as ISI and Al-Qaida agents. And they claimed that these criminals have been handed over to the Bangladeshi authorities. But the Bangladeshi authorities say they are unaware of these arrests.

Previously, two reports published in the Far Fastern Economic Review and Time magazine tried to portray Bangladesh as a safe haven for terrorists linked to Al-Qaida and Taliban. Many believe such stories were planted to have Bangladesh lose its image in the international community and footing in the export market in its neighbouring countries.

Gaping holes in Kolkata catch Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani called on the Chief Minister of West

tion of the Kolkata police. The area is under the control of the West Bengal police department. (It should be mentioned here that the city of Kolkata falls under the iurisdiction of the Kolkata police while the suburban stretch is cov-

ered by the West Bengal police.) The top brass of the West Bengal police have sent official letters to the government here, wanting to know why they were not informed about the raid. The situation has become tricky simply because if Arman and Liaguat challenge the jurisdiction of the Kolkata police in court, they may easily obtain bail.

Moreover, the West Benga police officials have also stated that they will not help their counterparts in the Kolkata police department in any way. There is one more problem -- India and Bangladesh do not have an official extradition treaty. So the police are at a loss as to how to deport the most wanted criminals to Bangladesh.

Soumen Mitra today said, "The two had developed a very good rapport with a couple of heroines and producers of the Bengali film industry. We are trying to ascertain how close were these people with Arman and Liaguat. We have got definite proof that the two had connections in Pakistan also."

There is another twist to the story. Many in the government feel that the arrests have been made simply to put the Bangladesh government under pressure to act on the terrorist training camps that are flourishing there. On Tuesday night, India Deputy

'Limited autonomy' for BB

should be able to exercise its power.

of the central bank should be

have control over policy formulation.

supervise and monitor banking

activities," the finance minister told

more than 50 per cent of their invest-

ment. But the current practice is that

they take several times over their

check such practices. I think bank

directors should not get loans more

than 25 per cent of their invest-

central bank. Saifur said the gover-

nor or the deputy governors do not

know what is going on in their next

Referring to his recent visit to the

Bank directors cannot take loans

"We have to amend the laws to

newsmen after the meeting.

share, Saifur said.

Bengal Buddhadev Bhattacharya and congratulated him for the police action against the known criminals from Bangladesh.

During the conversation, Advani is reported to have said, "The West Bengal government has made the Indian government's job of tackling the insurgency problem, which has its roots in Bangladesh, easier".

The India Deputy Prime Minister also asked the West Bengal Chief Minister to send in a detailed report of the actions that are being taken against Bangladeshi criminals hiding in Kolkata. At the same time. he has also asked Bhattacharya to find out as to how the seven others got away

Yesterday, the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jaswant Sinha had a meeting in Delhi where a decision was taken to request Dhaka to act on the terrorist training camps that, in New Delhi's perception, exist in Bangladesh. The Indian government will very soon send a letter asking the Bangladesh government to let it know what Dhaka is doing about the There were rumours that Arman

and Liaquat had connections with the al-Qaida, but the police have quashed the theory. Detectives investigating the case stated today, 'They are associated with the Islamic Unity Front in Bangladesh." Meanwhile Subrata Gayen, the

owner of the house where the two had been staying as tenants, is still

PM: Army called out

Anny, the prime minister told the House her government wanted to ensure peace in public life by uprooting crimes from society.

"This drive has already drawn nassive public support. The people have heaved a sigh of relief as peace has returned." the prime minister said in her first statement in parliament on the anti-crime crackdown. She said her government was

determined to maintain peace and discipline in society and sought cooperation from all in this regard. Claiming that she inherited a ruined

economy and a broken down law and order, Khaleda said bad governance by the past government turned the country into a land of terror. Referring to her election pledge to

uproot crimes, Khaleda alleged disci-

pline, professionalism and chain of command of the police broke down following politicisation of the force. practice of regionalism and use of the force in repressing the opposition in She said her government has made remarkable progress in rectifying such a situation in the last one year.

'No area of the country is now notorious for being a 'slaughter ground' or death valley She continued that state or the government was no more harbouring

crime. Atrocities by various terror groups like 'Five Star', 'Seven Star' and 'class committee' are not there any more, she added. "We are not sparing any criminal.

Whoever is found involved in crime is facing trial," she told the House. UNB Adds:

The prime minister apprised the parliament of plans for recruitment for government offices, relaxing a moratorium put on fresh appointment, to check irregularities and restore discipline in the administration.

She said the measure restricting

recruitment was taken to examine the irregularities created in the administration during the Awami League rule. "But appointments are now being made in the sectors under revenue

and development budgets on an emergency basis with the permission of the prime minister or the ministers concerned," the PM told the House. After coming to office the present government has permitted recruitment of 21,070 people to various vacant posts in revenue sector, she said

Mohammad Salahuddin of the ruling BNP. To tackle unemployment problem applications have been received against 4,540 vacancies to recruit the cadres who passed the 24th BCS examinations.

replying to a question from Dr Dewan

Besides, she said process of appointment of 1,067 headmasters of primary schools and 7,000 assistant teachers is in the final stage. The government has also decided to appoint doctors, nurses, teachers, law enforcers, technicians and computer technicians of specialised institutions

against vacant posts. Replying to a supplementary question, Khaleda said a decision on downsizing the government offices would be made as per recommenda-

tion of the Public Service Reforms Commission. Replying to another question from GM Quader of Jatiya Party, she said the BNP government in 1991 had relaxed service age to 30 considering inconveniences of the educated

youths of the country. She further said massive training programmes have been taken up particularly in the ICT sector so that both young men and women could get job at home and abroad.

The government has made arrangement for manpower export to South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, she informed the House.

The prime minister informed the Jatiya Sangsad that the conversion of petrol- and diesel-driven government vehicles into CNG-run ones would start soon after import of converter kits expecting to reach here next December.

She hoped that all petrol-run vehicles across the country would be switch to CNG by 2005. The prime minister Zia said her

year old government restored discipline in the economy and put it onto development track, curbing corruption and wastage bred in the misrule by the Awami League government. Replying to a question by Dr Rustum Ali Faraji of the Treasury

Bench, Khaleda said her government was conscious of reducing dependence on foreign aid in phases and a specific plan would be formulated for the country's graduation from aid dependence. She said the last government took

loans at high interests under tough conditions for many development projects and collected big amounts of credits through supplier's credit and single sources with 10-15 per cent downpayment without floating tender. "This type of borrowings through

lawmakers, adding that such steps seriously affected the foreign exchange reserve. After assumption of power by the BNP-led four-party alliance, the

non-transparent process was against

the interest of the country," she told

forex reserve increased to \$1607.96 million from \$1149.27 million. The prime minister further said the government would take the necessary step consulting all stake-

holders to restore discipline in the economy and create job opportunity.

PM's question time

'the AL lawmakers were allowed to make any supplementary query on the first question ruling BNP MP Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin

six main questions selected for the PM yesterday came from the ruling coalition. It was the first question day of the PM in the current session. The last session was proroqued after four working days before the PM's question day came.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) lawmakers asked four questions and Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party -- the BNP's coalition partners -- one each. None of the questions the AL submitted was accepted. The deputy opposition leader

nformed the House that his party lawmakers were not supplied with the question-answer script of the into the House.

their hands to ask the prime minister supplementary questions on question number 1, which was about recruitment for public services. It's unfortunate that none of them were given floor." he complained.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Abdus Shahid reminded that the PM's question time was introduced by former premier Sheikh Hasina in the last parliament in a bid to ensure the accountability of the govern-

Hamid, also the former speaker, told reporters later that it was mandatory to circulate the draft questions among the members, eight days before those are to be placed in the House. But the rule was flouted yesterday.

Referring to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's reply to the first question, he noted that she accused the previous AL government for irregularities in holding the Bangladesh Civil Service examinations. But the Speaker did not allow his party to ask any supplementary question on the issue.

"In fact, the questioners, questions and their answers were all decided in advance so that the prime minister does not feel embarrassed answering the opposition members." The prime minister and her

River raiders

organisations like the Sena Kalvan Sangstha, a welfare organisation of the armed forces

The demolition drive at Munshikhola came to a brief halt at around 1:00pm when the chief executive officer of the Narayanganj Zila Parishad arrived there and protested the demolition drive. He told the BIWTA team to imme-

diately stop demolition of a warehouse as the zila parishad had leased it. Despite this, the demolition continued.

The drive to recover public land along the Buriganga resumed after more than one year following a meeting of the task force formed recently to free the river from encroachments. The meeting held on November 13 was chaired by the shipping minister and attended by heads of different ministries and departments concerned and eminent members of the civil society. The BIWTA team left the sites

ust after the demolition was over. Members of the team did not know what to do with the sites after demolition of the structures.

When asked why they had no plan to demarcate the recovered lands, an official said the task force meeting. It is apprehended that the offenders would soon return to the sites if those are left undemarcated.

Earlier, the authorities had removed structures from the site encroached upon by the Sena Kalyan Sngstha, but failed to recover part of the river filled up by the organisation for construction of a warehouse.

Near that site, there are at least half a dozen similar illegal occupations of the river. The authorities are yet to have any plan as to how these land-filled stretches of the river could be recovered. In most cases the river banks

and part of the main channel of the river were grabbed by organised gangs in connivance with a section of officials of the BIWTA and the deputy Commissioners' offices in Narayanganj and in Dhaka. In the second phase of saving

the Buriganga, the task force is likely to discuss ways to reduce pollution of the river water. Millions of gallons of toxic wastes and untreated sewage pour into the river everyday. Tannery wastes are the main source of pollution. Once supplying abundant fishes to the city markets, the river has now virtually lost its entire marine life.

Hamid leading an AL walkout. They skipped the entire question-answer

Bill, 2002, be sent to the select committee for scrutiny, that public

As Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar allowed them to speak for one minute each, AL lawmaker Rahmat Ali was first to protest the time stipulation

minutes be allowed and, when the Chair declined, refrained from speaking on his notice. Subsequently, Opposition Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, Shahjahan

Mustafizur Rahman, Panchanan Biswas, Atiur Rahman Atik Shamsur Rahman Sharif, Mahbubur Rahman, Motahar Hossain, Mirza Azam and Mohammad Nasim all refrained from speaking on their respective notices. The Speaker had turned down their request for time extension as well.

ing AL lawmakers saying, "I am just

following the past precedent on time

allocation for such notices.

Shahjahan Khan also declined to speak on their amendment notices n protest. Meanwhile, Jativa Party legisla-

tors GM Kader and Hafizuddin Ahmed spoke for one minute each on their notices but said the Speaker should have given each lawmaker at least two minutes to make their point. As the Speaker refused to budge, Rahmat Ali criticised him

saying he had completely failed to neutrally run the parliament. At this point, the law minister demanded all 'derogatory remarks' at the Speaker's office be expunged. The Speaker assured

Then, Abdus Samad Azad led the second AL walkout of the day at around 4:10pm. "We are walking out of the parlia-

him that he would look into the

from the Dhaka Cantonment, explained Azad. "I raised the issue of mural

quickly.

Earlier, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdur Razzak and Mohammad Nasim also took floor on points of order and wanted statement from the prime minister and the government as to who had removed the mural from the Dhaka Cantonment.

Razzak and Nasim accused the government of trying to erase the

A government minister yester-

had made in the parliament the day On a point of order, State Minister for Sports Fazlur Rahman Patal resented Hasina's statement that the prime minister would have

to face trial for deaths of 24 people

have to maintain stability in the financial sector. The central bank tions that came in yesterday's meeting are: abolition of the govern-Supervision and regulatory capacity ment's authority to instruct the BB, formation of a monetay and fiscal enhanced. The government will policy coordination committee headed by the finance minister, but it is the central bank that would reducing the tenure of the central

governors for different tenures. The committee also recommended that the BB governor cannot be appointed to any other post and that the Bangladesh Bank would be able to declare currency of any country as an approved foreign currency without prior approval of

bank governor to four years instead

of the current five years and waiving

the provision of appointing deputy

the government. The BB would also have the authority to sell and buy foreign currencies without approval of the

Two AL walkouts

Later, the AL legislators tried to speak on several notices they had earlier submitted, disapproving the Court Fees (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002 and requesting that the Court Fees (Amendment) opinions be sought on it and that some amendment motions be brought on it.

He demanded that at least two

Khan, AKM Jahangir, Advocate Sircar tried to convince protestment now for two reasons - to protest the Speaker's refusal to allow us enough time to speak and also the government's total silence over removal of Bangabandhu's mural

removal yesterday, too. No one from the government came up with any statement as to who had removed the mural and for what purpose in the last two days. This shows once again that we have a 'clinically dead' government in power.'

Sengupta asked whether the government wanted to replace the mural of Bangabandhu with that of hated men like Yahya Khan and

nation's true history. No one from the treasury side. however, responded.

day rebutted the statement Hasina before though.

"History will determine who would be tried in future," said Patal. "After the War of Liberation, the army and formed Rakkhi Bahini."

in army custody.

Once Patal stopped, the Chair came up with the suggestion that Patal could simply request for expunction of the opposition did not chalk out any plan at its leader's statement.

then AL government wanted to ban As Patal continued. Speaker intervened and asked him to finish

prime minister in advance. He said they got the script only after getting "Many of our members raised

Treasury Bench colleagues should change their attitude if they wanted to make the parliament effective, he