Reply to Channel 4

comments about their professional involvement with the British media. However, these two foreign journal ists have been arrested on charges of concealing their identity as journalists while applying to Bangladesh Embassy for visa and engaging in surreptitious activities since their arrival in Bangladesh,' he wrote to the London-based television channel chief.

The clandestine and questionable conduct of the two journalists. Zaiba Malik, a British national, and Leopoldo Bruno, an Italian national notwithstanding their long experience with the reputed British media is clearly in violation of established norms, standards and ethics of international journalism as well as the best practices promoted by the Bangladesh Press Council, the

Any government in the world, it said, was bound to take such conduct very seriously in these difficult and sensitive times

A fiercely free press and media has flourished in the country in the enabling environment of a liberal democracy that firmly upholds high standard of freedom of the press and the media, transparency, and accountability in governance and respect for the rule of law, the foreign ministry letter said

During the last one year, more than 150 foreign journalists visited Bangladesh to widely cover various aspects of its society and life.

The Government of Bangladesh sincerely hopes that proper relevant professional standards and norms would be respected by representatives of your reputed organisation while working in Bangladesh," the

Bangladesh remains committed it said, to maintaining its good working relationship with the international media in future in pursuit of its commitment to freedom of press.

In a separate letter, in reply to Chris Cramer, President, CNN International Networks, the director general wrote that the two foreign journalists entered Bangladesh concealing their professional iden-

In the visa application filled in with the Bangladesh Embassy in Rome, Zaiba Malik gave her professional identity as an English Language teacher while Bruno Sorrentino put down his identity as an architect, the letter said.

'I wonder how people of such high integrity, as you mention in your letter, should resort to concealment and deception unless their intentions were malafide?" the director

If over the last one year more than 160 journalists could visit Bangladesh and report without any hindrance or interference, why

try has also been doing so with the

BIT WA. Yet another team led by the

director general of shipping is also

of Port and Traffic, stationed at the

Sadarghat terminal told The Daily

Star that the shipping ministry has

instructed the BITWA to monitor

whether the launches were being

adequately filled up we compelled it

people queuing for tickets, were

viewed at the bus terminals of

Gabtali, Mohakhali and Sayedabad.

As most tickets were sold out in

advance, there was a tremendous

rush to secure what tickets were left.

The Daily Star, a disgruntle passen-

ger, returning to his village home in

Jessor, said he could not obtain any

ticket from any of the well-known

"Now, I have to travel in an ordi-

nary bus and change it at Aricha

ferry Ghat. But even then I don't

know when I might get this bus" said

An allegation, that to take this

At Gabtali bus stand talking to

"Whenever we found a launch

Almost similar scenarios, with

Alamgir Kabir, assistant director

involved in similar task.

overloaded or not.

to leave the terminal"

Home, sweet home

Zaiba Malik and Bruno Sorrentino chose otherwise "remains unclear to us," he wrote

However, he wrote, their case is being handled as per the prevailing

Representatives from British and Italian diplomatic missions in Dhaka already had consular access to them and they are being looked after extremely well by the relevant authorities who are also providing newspapers and necessary medical attention, he wrote.

Army raid FROM PAGE 12

15 people to the police after interro-

Our Barisal correspondent reports that the joint forces yesterday arrested six people including a former Jubo Dal general secretary. Mir Zahidul Kabir, ex-general secretary and vice-president of the Barisal Law College unit of the ruling party's youth front, from his Battala

He was produced before the court and later sent to jail with a detention proposal.

The joint forces also arrested Shamsul Huq, a member of the infamous Ratan group and recovered a pipe-gun from the city's road area. They also arrested Sobhan Mollah of Sariatour district and recovered a pipe gun from his possession.

In Jhenidah, the joint forces arrested four criminals and recovered firearms along with bullets from their possession, our correspondent

The joint forces arrested two Biplobi communist activists, Abu Zafar and Abdul Malek, yesterday They also recovered a 303 swan-

rifle along with 22 rounds of bullets from their possession The joint forces also arrested two

toll collectors, Habibur Rahman and Monirul Islam, in Jhenidah town.

Our Magura correspondent reports the army arrested a suspected criminal from Malikgram in

the Sadar upazila in the district. In Pabna, the joint forces arrested two people and recovered a revolver.

The police headquarters in a ress release yesterday arrested ,180 people, including two identified criminals, from different parts of the country in the last 24 hours ending at 6.00am yesterday.

They also seized eight firearms, two other weapons along with 13 rounds of ammunition during the drive, the press release added.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) in a press release yesterday said that they arrested 190 people including a listed criminal and a convicted criminal during a special drive across the city during last 24

opportunity of ticket shortage some

unscrupulous bus owner had

increased the ticket prices, was

heard being whispered at the bus

check the prices caught a ticket

counter manager of Raidhani

Paribahan in the act of selling tickets

at an increased price. He was

happy people were seen heading

home in a joyous mood. Shafig of

Dinaipur, travelling with his two

sons, a daughter and wife, said he

had collected his tickets four days

At Mohakhali bus stand, rush of

passengers bound for Tangail.

Mymensingh, Jamalpur, Netrakona,

Sherpur and Kishorgonj were

were sold yesterday at the stand,

people had to pay a much higher

Though a large number of tickets

"I got a ticket for Mymensingh at

Tk 80, the original price of which is

Tk 50. But I am happy that I have

managed one to return home," said

Anisur Rahman at the Mohakhali

Other than the ticket crisis many

selling Tk 150 tickets at Tk 200.

Army personnel deployed to

Anniversary of Suhrawardy's death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 39th anniversary of death of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy will be observed today.

President lajuddin Ahmed has paid rich tribute to the great leader on his death anniversary.

In his message, the president said the life-long objective of Hussain Shaheed Suhrawardy was to establish democracy for the welfare of the common people.

Expressing profound respect to the memory of the late leader on the occasion of his 39th death anniversary, President lajuddin Ahmed said Suhrawardy is well known as the champion of democracy.

The president said Shaheed Suhrawardy's firm conviction to democratic system has encouraged him time and again to engage himself in the fight against undemocratic and autocratic forces.

Different political and sociocultural organisations have drawn up programmes to observe the day.

Bangladesh Awami League has chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the death anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy, the champion of democracy, today. The programmes include placing

of wreaths and offering munajat at the mazar of Suhrawardy at

Two arrested with counterfeit notes in Mymensingh

UNB, Mymensingh

Police Tuesday arrested two people with 59 counterfeit notes of Tk 500 denomination, huge amount of fake stamps and a stamp-making machine from Kalibari area in the

On information, police raided the house of Sultan Ahmed at Kalibari lane, arrested him along with his accomplice Abdul Mannan and recovered the fake notes and The arrested criminals and their

gang were involved in cheating

common people of Muktagachha upazila with fake notes and stamps. Police recently arrested a number of activists of the gang and on the basis of their confessional statement raided the house of

Two Indians held in Bandarban

BSS, Bandarban

Two Indian citizens were arrested by the security forces from a remote village yesterday.

Police said Rajmoni, 40, was arrested from Mohendrapara area Ruangchhari upazila and Dildar, 43, was arrested from Ruma Bazar area in Ruma upazila They entered Bangladesh with-

out any documents. Two separate cases were filed

with the respective police stations.

Tinni murder

FROM PAGE 12 away somewhere in the city.

Police will interrogate another 60 people and prepared a list of 80, including 24 models -- all acquainted with Tinni and Ovi somehow or other. Eighteen people have so far been interrogated.

Some of the already interrogated people might be called for further interrogation. Huda said last night.

Keranigani police recovered the body of Tinni with injury marks from under the Buriganga Bridge on November 16.

Four days later, the body was handed over as unclaimed to the Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a charity, for

On November 23, police transferred the case to the CID that exhumed the body from the Jurain graveyard on November 25 for a second autopsy.

Police arrested Tinni's housemaids Shefali and Bina, while her husband Shafkat Hossain Piyal surrendered to Keraniganj Police

Khaleda invites FROM PAGE 1

after performing Umrah at Makkah

Al-Mukarrama. On her arrival at Zia International Airport by a Biman flight at 10 am,

the Prime Minister was received by Cabinet members, chiefs of the three services, high government officials, dean of diplomatic corps and Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh. Earlier, she was seen off at the

King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah by Chief of Saudi Royal Protocol Mohammad Nazer, senior Saudi government officials. Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia S K Sariil Hassan and leading members of the Bangladeshi community.

Khaleda Zia left Dhaka on November 26 for the holy city of Madina where she performed 'Ziarat' at the Rauza Mubarak of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

She went to Makkah from Madina on Friday and performed Umrah at the holy Kaba in the eve-



New clothes and Eid celebration go hand in hand. Shoppers crowd Altamira in Dhanmondi yesterday to buy designer clothes on the eye of the Fid-ul-Fitr

FM: Foreign journalists

intention, they had no reason to hide

their identity," he said. It was very unfortunate, the

foreign minister said, that the two foreign journalists were making an anti-Bangladesh documentary based on a imaginary, nonexistent party called "Allahr Dal" (Party of Allah) centring the Baitul Mukarram Mosque, to project a distorted image of Bangladesh.

Like their arrival, their attempted departure also raised many questions that remained unanswered, he

Why else, Morshed Khan asked, would they be trying to leave via land to go to a neighbouring country after having confirmed their departure ticket, by air, for November 25? Bangladesh handled the whole

thing in a transparent manner for which officials had to work on a public holiday to allow consular access to the two, he said. The lawyer for Zaiba and Sorrentino, the foreign minister told the European envoys, in an interview with BBC said that he talked to his clients for a long time. Both his clients told him they were being treated very well in jail

The lawyer also told BBC that there was no question of physically torturing his clients in the jail, the foreign minister said. Morshed Khan told the envoys

that while Bangladesh allowed consular access to the two detainees in minimum possible time, not in 27 days had India allowed consular access to Ataur, a Bangladesh citizen arrested and detained in New Delhi

About the army deployment, he said the government ordered the army to be in the joint drive against crimes very much within its legal and constitutional jurisdiction. The foreign minister said there was nothing illegal or unconstitutional about calling out the army in aid of

He told the envoys that the Awami League government in its five years in power till 2001 called out the army seven times. The foreign minister said the Operation Clean Heart was totally

unbiased and fair as indicated by the fact that the ruling party elements were not being spared at all. Bangladesh, he said, was very much aware of its human rights responsibilities and it was to that

commission would soon be consti-Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury, present at the briefing, said it was very unfortunate that the EU parliament had taken a very one-sided resolution on the Operation Clean Heart, which was launched to curb crimes in the

end in view that a human rights

The EU parliament resolution, he said, did not reflect the ground realities in Bangladesh.

Pricilla not produced India, Russia

FROM PAGE 12 been brought to the court hajat.

Later, Magistrate Khondoker Atiar Rahman made the same query

to Court Inspector Abdus Sobhan. In reply, Abdus Sobhan said Pricilla was one of the accused in different cases who were not brought to the court yesterday. The magistrate then directed

inspector Sobhan to produce her before the court within 3:00 pm for the bail petition hearing. The inspector informed the court

3 pm that he had talked authorities over telephone to know why Pricilla was not sent.
"The jail authorities replied that

they had received the order to produce Pricilla, but they had not received any production warrant, Sobhan said.

The defence lawyers then told the court that there was a conspiracy behind the court order being flouted again and again. Pointing out the violation of the

court order by the jail authorities and the prosecution, the court said that it was necessary to go by the rules and maintain the decencies while performing official duties. The defence lawvers made a submission before the court for a

hearing on the bail petition on December 9 in presence of Pricilla. The court then directed both the prosecution and the Jail authorities

to take steps to ensure that Pricilla is produced before the court on December 9. Following an appeal by the defence lawyers for permission to meet the three accused, the court

ordered that two lawvers--lla

Chanda and SM Kamruland

accusation by the government that

she spearheaded an 'anti-

nine-day visit to Thailand and India

on November 30, Hasina dared the

government either to prove if what

she said abroad went against

In the presence of senior party

colleagues, Hasina yesterday told

reporters, "I apprehend that a

charge may be pressed against

March 8, 1999) where some people

shouted slogans for establishing a

Taliban-state in Bangladesh. The

pro-Taliban forces have been

inducted into the government cour-

tesy of partnership in the BNP-led

Clinton had to cancel a chopper

flight to the Savar National Memorial

due to a Taliban threat apprehended

by the president's security intelli-

Asked to specify whether the

Taliban are there in Bangladesh, the

opposition leader evaded a direct

reply. "The prime minister should

come up with the answer," she

against the alleged pro-Taliban

forces during her rule, she said, "We

About the steps she had taken

quipped.

The then US president Bill

four-party alliance, she said.

She referred to a city rally (on

Bangladesh or face legal action.

me...the result is arrest.

Upon her return home from a

Bangladesh' campaign abroad.

would meet them (the accused) yesterday.

Journalist Saleem Samad was brought to the court hajat in a prison

completion of the five-day remand. But later he was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail without any court order. The case file, which was necessary for sending him to jail,

The defence lawyers were 'vokalatnama' to submit the bail petition, but they were informed at 4:00 pm that Saleem Samad had been sent to jail.

statement to a metropolitan magis-

IFJ urges PM

frontiers Saleem Samad were arrested during November 25-29.

Environment (TVE), an international charity, in a press release vesterday said the two are bona fide journalists. They went to Bangladesh to produce a documentary on development issues and Bangladesh society for the Channel 4 series-- 'Unreported World'.

FROM PAGE 12

port, fund or abet terrorists or provide them shelter or asylum to

engage in cross-border terrorism. There should be no doublestandards in the fight against terrorism," they said, in another apparent dig at Washington, which has cosied up to Islamabad in its war against international terrorism.

Apart from the Delhi Declaration seven other agreements were inked by the two sides after their delegations held closed-door talks.

Russian Foreign Minister Igo Ivanov and his Indian counterpart Yashwant Sinha signed an agreement pledging to jointly combat terrorism, while accords on cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical and information technology sectors were concluded.

Putin described the Delhi Declaration as "political document which lays a solid basis of our interaction on all aspects of international

"By strengthening the legal framework of our bilateral relations we made another step toward the development of a strategic partnership between the states," Putin said.

"On a whole number of issues our positions are close or coincide," he said, listing among them "providing strategic stability against international terrorism, separatism in addition to international and transnational crime.'

He said the defence relationship between the two countries was no longer confined to a mere "buyerseller" relationship.

Liaquat, Arman

FROM PAGE 12 vers' strike

Liaguat and Arman are now kept in the condemned cells of the Presidency Jail of Kolkata.

Kolkata police arrested Dhaka's top criminal and leader of the infamous 'Five Star Group' Liaquat Hossain and his second-incommand Arman Khan in the Kolkata New Market area on November 19.

However, till date officials of the Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh here have not been allowed to meet either Liaquat or Arman. The Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata, Tauhid Hussain, had written an official letter to the West Bengal Government seeking permission to meet the two.

Usually, the state government itself permits such visits since the jails and prisons fall under its supervision. But this time, the letter has been forwarded to the foreign ministry of the Indian government in The letter was given 12 days ago

and still there has been no reply. The deputy high commissioner has given reminders to officials of the state government here over the phone on this issue. But till date, he has not received any reply.

In matters like this only a phone call is sufficient to get permission. But that has not happened this time. When contacted today, the deputy high commissioner stated that he was still waiting for the reply. "It would help simply because proper identification can be done. Everybody is saying that they are criminals from Bangladesh. But our representatives have not been allowed to identify them.' However. he does not want to enter into a diplomatic controversy right now. He is prepared to wait for a few more days to get the necessary permis-

Meanwhile, the police in Kolkata have arrested three people involved in issuing forged passports. They are Indrajit Haldar, Narayan Saha, and Nitai Chatterjee. The police came to know about the three from Mamunur Rashid, who had been arrested in Lucknow a couple of days back. After his arrest, the police recovered 11 fake passports

He also informed the police that Nitai Chatterjee had supplied him with the passports. Police then arrested Nitai and after interrogating him picked up Indrajit and Narayan. However, the kingpins of the group managed to escape.

Police are now on the lookout for Chitta Rana and Abdul Hadi Choudhury. The former looked after the operations in Kolkata while the latter functioned in Bangladesh. Meanwhile, Rashid during interrogation has informed the police in Lucknow that he hailed from Chittagong.

If moon sighted

FROM PAGE 1 flags and festoons with "Eid Mubarak" inscribed in Arabic and Bangla will decorate the major

The main Eid congregation will be held at the National Eidgah Maidan at the High Court Premises at 8:30am

thoroughfares

President lajuddin Ahmed, Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, ministers, leaders of the mainstream political parties, and high government and military officials are expected to join the National Eidgah congregation

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has also made separate arrangement for women and installed temporary toilets and water supply systems at the ground.

Meanwhile, four successive iamaats (congregations) will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National

Mosque at 7:30am, 8:30am,

9:30am and 10:15am. **Congregation timings**

Besides, Eid congregations will be held at Dhaka University Central Mosque at 8:30am and 9:30am, at Gulshan Central Mosque at 8:30am, Mirpur Baitul Falah Mosque at 8:00am and 9:00am, egaon Polytechnic Institute at 8:30am, Khilgaon Pallima Sangsad premises at 8:30am, South . Kalyanpur Anjuman-e-Quaderia Mosque at 8:30am, Mirpur Section-1 Masjidul Akbar Complex Eidgah at 8:30am, Azad Muslim Club Playground at 7:45am and 9:00 am, Dhaka University Salimullah Hall Mosque at 8:00 am, Shahidullah Hall Mosque at 8:30 am, BUET Playground at 8:00am, Aeroplane Mosque at Elephant Road at 8:30am, Khilkhet North Namapara Darjee Bari Mosque Eidgah at 8:30 am, Kurmitola High School Eidgah at 8:30am and 9:15 am, Azimpur Community Centre premises at 9:00 am, Laxmibazar Nurani Jam-e-Mosque at 8:30am, Kataban Mosque at 8:15am, Joar Shahara Baitun-Noor Jam-e-Mosque at 8:30 am, Alipara Jam-e-Masjid at 8:30am, Muslim Friends Society Playground at 9:00 am, Kalachandpur Dakkhin Para Baitul Noor Jam-e-Masjid at 8:00 am, 8:15am and 8:30am, Lalmatia

9:00am and Azimpur Daira Sharif Mosque at 10:00am.

Meanwhile, the latest Eid jamaat in the city will be held at Dayemia Shahi Mosque of Davemi Complex Bangladesh at Azimpur at 11:00am.

Eid congregations will also be

held at KM Das Lane Golapbag

Masjid, Doyaganj Jam-e-Mosque, Dhupkhola Eidgah Ground, Jatrabari Crossing Park Ground, North Jatrabari Ahle Jamat-e-Hadith Mosque Golapbag Play Ground, Dhalpur Jam-e-Mosque, South Jatrabari Baitul Aman Jame Mosque, Tamirul Millat Madrasha Ground at wari, Dholairpar High School Ground, Muradpur Madrasha Mosaque, Jurine Mazarsharif Mosque, Armanitola Ground, Jhikatala School Coloney Ground, Hazaribag Park Ground, Ganaktuli Eidgah Maidan, Nawabganj Bara Mosque, New Paltan Irani Ground, Pilkhana Jame-Mosque, Nawabgani Park, Balurghat Eidgah Maidan, Lalbag Fort Maidan, Madrashva-e-Alia Ground, Islambag Eidgah Maidan. Khilgaon Chand Jam-e-Mosque Maidan, Goran Bhuvian Mosque Maidan, Meradia SChool Ground, Bashaboo Eidgah Maidan, Kadamtala High SChool Ground, Motijheel Colony Eidgah, Dhanmondi Eidgah Maidan, Madhubazar Jam-e-Mosque, Siddheswari High School Jam-e-Mosque, Mohammadpur Tajmahal Road Eidgah Maidan, Adabar Jam-- Mosque, MohammadpurShaheed Park,

Baitun Sunnat Jame Mosque and other places in and around the city. Meanwhile, the biggest Eid-ul-Fitr congregation in the country will be held at the historic Solakia Eidgah Maidan in Kishoreganj and participated by thousands of devotees from home and abroad including India, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia,

Egypt and other Muslim countries.

Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals

Graveyard Mosque, South Paikpara

Eidgah Maidan, Shewarapara

Eidgah Maidan, Agargoan Taltala

Government Colony Mosque,

Mirpur Bangla High School Ground.

Baridhara Mosque, Banani

Chairman Bari Fidgah Maidan

Titumir College ground, Mirpur

Partial troops pullout

requested her to pullout army camps from villages so that local leaders and activists can take part in electioneering for the UP polls

Shahi Masjid Complex Eidgah at

But the prime minister refused to withdraw the army fully till the situation improves. She then discussed with her party policymakers and decided to pullout army camps from villages in view of the UP polls. But she was firm on keeping the troops at thana and district headquarters so that they could move out anytime

if required. Sources at the Prime Minister's Office noted that earlier it was decided that army pullout would begin in early February from peaceful regions where the situation was already under control. Now the withdrawal process would begin a few days before that due to the UF

PMO sources said the army also feels that its camps are no more needed in many thanas and several districts because those are apparently peaceful and crime rate in those areas has drastically reduced

continue as usual outside the union parishad areas and if necessary, it would be intensified.

They mentioned that the government is satisfied with the present trend of recovery of illegal arms and want to continue the army operation. It would step up the drive immediately after the inquiry committees submit their reports on

Officials said a large number of licensed arms were not deposited and those had already been declared illegal.

licensed arms.

Official sources the prime minister is likely to sit with her party policy makers again after the Eid-ul -Fitr to finalise details of the army withdrawal and steps to be taken after

completely withdrawn when 16 more special tribunals, besides the existing six, would be set up and they would start functioning. Moreover, the newly formed

Rapid Action Team (RAT), which is now undergoing commando training under the army, is scheduled to start operation in February when troops

UNFPA

FROM PAGE 12

bus services.

Bangladesh's strategy should be to create awareness about HIV/AIDS. specially among the adolescents and the youth, because UNAIDS studies found this to be the most effective way to check spread of sexually transmitted infections

She said about 14 per cent of maternal mortality in Bangladesh is caused by violence against women during pregnancy.

Maternal mortality rate (MMR) in the country during childbirth is about four per thousand births, which is about 15.000 deaths a year. She said total fertility rate (TFR)

in Bangladesh is static at 3.3 since

1994, despite increase in contra-

ceptive prevalence rate (CPR) to 54 per cent from 43 per cent. To address this problem, longlasting contraceptive methods have to reach the people at the right time and at the right place. Pills and injectble methods are becoming popular.

Among others present at the press conference were Jalaluddin Ahmed, Director of South-South, Bangladesh and Nurul Amin of

perceived.

most brilliant editors in a career spanning 44 years.

Dhaka and London. SM Ali was one of the few Asian journalists who stood apart in

regional journalism. He started as a reporter with the Pakistan Observer during his student days at Dhaka University. He went on to hold important positions in various regional publications in Pakistan, Hong Kong, Thailand and

1989 and had a brief stint with The

Bangladesh Observer as its Editor. He launched The Daily Star in 1991 and worked tirelessly to establish pendent national daily even until the day before his flight to Bangkok for

He was also the former chairman of the Press Institute of Bangladesh

Singapore. He later joined the Press Foundation of Asia as its Executive Director in the 1970s. In 1981 he became the UNESCO's Regional Communication Advisor for Asia and the Pacific and was based in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

this newspaper as a leading inde-

SM Ali

FROM PAGE 12

He was educated in Calcutta.

Ali returned to Bangladesh in

Pricilla's relative Dr Riazur Rahman

van at about 1:30 pm yesterday, on

was being used at that time in the court of Khondoker Atiar Rahman.

Earlier on Monday, Moniza Pricilla Raj had given a confessional

FROM PAGE 12 government to ensure press free-

dom in Bangladesh. Zaiba Malik and Bruno Sorrentino of British Channel-4 television network, their local interpreter Pricilla Raj and Bangladesh representative of reporteurs sans

Television Trust for the

Hasina: Pro-Taliban

claimed any link between her recent India visit and the allegations. the government's total failure in "Indian Deputy Prime Minister LK Advani brought allegations of running the civil and police administrations. "If the government contin-Taliban and al-Qaida links with ues to release the criminals the Bangladesh three weeks before my visit to India. The foreign office (in Dhaka) summoned the Indian high

On the repeated allegations by

India over the weeks that Dhaka had

links with al-Qaida. Hasina dis-

Parliament and Amnesty International over the human-rights violation in Bangladesh, Hasina asked the government, "Are they acting at my dictates? Hasina alleged that the government was diverting the focus onto her as a tactic to defuse the public

outcry against its move to export

commissioner, but India didn't shift

Referring to the concern by the US State Department, European

from its position.

gas to India

Hasina claimed to have discussed the issues of Bangladeshi goods' preferential entry to the Indian market and killing of 300 Bangladeshis by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) over the last one year with Indian leaders in On killings by the BSF, the Indian

the opposition to carry out political deputy prime minister told her about infiltration of Bangladeshis into India, she said. Hasina again and key.

accused Khaleda of acknowledging such infiltration while signing a joint communiqué with India in 1992. She called the army-led anticrime drive a manifestation of

army arrests, it will tarnish the image of the army. She referred to the release of Ward Commissioner Khwaja Habib (who was picked up again) and allowing the alleged criminal Deepjal to travel abroad. A criminal caught in Chittagong has recently claimed that the prime minister's advisor and his brother were his

The BNP's ally Jamaat-e-Islami is 'synonymous with criminality in politics', said Hasina. The Jamaate-Islami armed cadres escaped arrest during the anticrime operation. "Why is the clandestine hub of anti-liberation, communal forces with a rich stock of illegal arms well protected?" "The government is not allowing

godfathers, Hasina pointed out.

activities," she alleged, referring to her party's Centre for Research Information (CRI) now under lock

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and

FROM PAGE 1

without fear.

because of the current drive They said the army drive would

They said the army would be