

# Cops seize books

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but the DB said the number was 18.  
"We have seized 18 copies of the books to check if they have any seditious contents and whether the Press and Publication Act has been followed in their publication," Additional Deputy Commissioner of DB Shahidul Haque Bhuiyan said.  
He said permission from the Special Branch (SB) of police is required for publishing certain types of books. But, in this case, Sayeed did not take any permission from the SB.

Earlier in the press briefing, summarising the books, Sayeed said over 50 Islami militant camps are now in operation across the country, where Islamist zealots are getting military training.  
The books claim around 50,000 militants belonging to more than 40 groups are now controlling a vast area of the country, with assistance of ruling coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami and a section of BNP.  
In his books, Sayeed said

Islamist militant groups have their recruits in all departments and sections of the society, including mosques, madrasas, educational institutions, secretariat, judiciary, civil society, mass media and even the armed forces. They have also developed a strong countrywide network aiming at capturing the power through an Islamist revolution.  
He claimed Jamaat is involved with and assisting the Islamists groups that are mushrooming across the country, and said Jamaat should be banned immediately for the sake of the country's security.  
In terms of funds, arms and manpower, the Islamist forces have now a strong footing, Sayeed claimed in the books.  
According to him, the Islamist revolutionary groups have an annual net income of over Tk 500 crore. He also named certain financial organisations as their main sources of income.

# A number of cops

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the sources mentioned.  
SP of Khulna Habibur Rahman was reportedly barred from a closed-door meeting chaired by Khulna range Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Police Abdul Aziz Sarker at his office on Thursday, sparking off speculations about him.  
KMP Commissioner Javed Patwary, three deputy commissioners (DC) of KMP, Additional DIG Sohrab Hossain and Director of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Colonel Farhad Hossain attended the meeting.  
Meanwhile, arrested outlaws Rafiqul Islam Hasan and Merajul Islam Meraj in their confessional statements before Khulna metropolitan magistrate Atiqul Haque on Thursday said Mofazzel had planned and financed three attempts on the life of Khulna bureau chief of Dainik Jangtor Dip Azad in December last and on January 3 and 4 this year.  
They also gave some important information on the February 5 bomb attack on Khulna Press Club premises that killed local bureau chief of Dainik Sangram Belaluddin and injured three other journalists.  
The two outlaws now on police remand are being quizzed on Belal murder.  
DC of KMP Akbar Ali, quoting confessional statements of Hasan and Meraj, said Mofazzel gave arms

and money to outlaws to kill Dip Azad. He also gave them Tk 2,000 to buy bomb-making materials and bombs were made at Jalma Police Camp in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna district.  
Mofazzel will be brought to Khulna in the case concerning January 4 bomb attack on Dip Azad, Akbar told local journalists on Thursday.

## Forum to Protect

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press clubs in the country will organise rallies to press home the demands.  
Earlier on February 13, editors of 23 national dailies expressed deep concern "with attack on journalists and their killing in Khulna and in the country's southwestern region."  
"We are extremely concerned with the fact that journalists are dying at regular intervals, yet the government and the administration remain indifferent and unconcerned" the editors said under the banner of the FPJ.  
"So far not a single incident has either been properly investigated or the culprits punished. We think this fact alone may have emboldened the culprits and given them a sense of impunity to act against journalists," they added.

# Dr Kamal demands

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Referring to the prime minister's accusation against the opposition made at a public rally in Barguna on Thursday, Dr Kamal said, "One cannot but express shock at the way the head of the government is making the accusation. It is so unbefitting to the high office."  
He said such accusation had vitiated the political atmosphere and rendered impossible an impartial investigation by the concerned state agencies.  
Recounting the recent spat of bomb and grenade attacks, he said it amounts to a 'persistent failure on the part of the state and those responsible for ensuring security of life and property of the citizens'.  
Mentioning the recent bomb and grenade blasts and seizure of huge cache of illegal arms in Chittagong, Dr Kamal said none of those grisly crimes were followed up by effective investigation or action.  
"The national demand for effective law enforcement has been repeatedly ignored," he said, adding, "Then came the unprecedented event of the August 21 when a major grenade assault was launched on the leader of the opposition at a public rally in the heart of the city in broad daylight killing 22 people and wounding hundreds."  
Dr Kamal said the demands for effective investigations and action both within the country and internationally have yielded no significant results.

including the prime minister, it did not get any cooperation from the authorities.  
He said the government is showing a callous disregard for the citizens' right to life while security marks an all time low in country's history.  
On the latest bomb blasts on Dhaka University campus and at Grameen Bank and Brac offices, he said the nation must be unanimous in bringing about a change. They must demand concrete action and results from the government, and investigations into all the bomb and grenade blasts under a truly independent national inquiry commission.  
Dr Kamal said all concerned citizens and democratic forces must come together to uphold the constitution and ensure the rule of law.

## Govt still sitting

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examination system that evaluates quality of learning of students apart from declaring whether they passed or failed. But it kept the public examinations out of the purview of the proposed system.  
The commission report recommended a teacher-student ratio of 1:30 at primary level and 1:40 at secondary level within the next eight years.  
According to a report of the Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation), the teacher-student ratio in Bangladesh is the 'poorest' among 22 South and East Asian nations. There is just one teacher for every 57 school-goers in Bangladesh.  
The commission emphasised an effective mechanism to ensure enrolment of children in school at the age of five. It also suggested formulating a language policy, and stressed proper teaching of English language.  
Prof Maniruzzaman told The Daily Star recently the commission had made its recommendations keeping in view that they could be implemented immediately.  
He also said centres of excellence could be established at different universities to encourage research of international standard.  
The commission advised the government to refrain from establishing public universities with a 'single discipline' such as agriculture, engineering and medicine. The concept is against universal education and basic norms of university level education, it noted.  
It also recommended establishing at least 100 primary schools a year for the next 10 years on the basis of a survey to identify the localities deprived of or in need of more schooling facilities.

# Grenade found in pond

**UNB, Kurigram**  
A grenade was recovered from Chhatrapur village in Sadar upazila of the district yesterday.  
Day labourers found the grenade while they were re-excavating a derelict pond of one Tarajul Islam.  
On information, army explosive experts from Rangpur Cantonment went to the spot, recovered the grenade and exploded it in a char area, east of Dharla Bridge.  
The army experts said this type of grenade is generally used by the armed forces. The grenade was mostly rusted, they added.  
When the news of the grenade recovery spread, panic gripped the people working in different NGOs in Kurigram town.  
Earlier on Wednesday, three grenades were found at a Brac office in Rangpur.

## More about RU

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sation of Ahle Hadith Andolon Bangladesh.  
Earlier on January 6, 2002, six members of the eight-member board of Tawhid Trust expelled Asadullah, cancelling his post as its ameer as well as his general membership, for financial misdeeds. Two cases for misappropriating Tk 29 lakh from the trust's fund were also filed against him.  
Challenging the expulsion, Asadullah filed a case with the court of Rajshahi Sadar senior assistant judge, who forwarded it to Dhaka. The case is still under trial.  
In a letter to the commissioner of Rajshahi City Corporation Ward 28 on June 2002, the authorities of Hadith Foundation, another organisation hatched by Asadullah's, claimed him to be the legal ameer of Tawhid Trust. The letter came following a show-cause notice from the commissioner amid allegations of creating unrest in the area.  
The letter said the office of the JSC registrar did not accept the claims of others to be the ameer and office bearers of the trust, which were against its constitution.  
"Yet, three ministers -- Barrister Aminul Haque, Ruhul Kuddus Dulu and Barkatullah Bul -- and the registrar of Joint Stock Company are trying to resolve the dispute," the letter added.  
After 10 months of the expulsion, on October 17, 2002, at 9:00am, a band of around 60 men descended on the JSC office and told the officials to furnish them with a document certifying Asadullah as the ameer of Tawhid Trust.

As they denied, the besiegers threatened them to do it brandishing arms. They continued the siege until 3:00pm, sources said.  
In a general diary filed with Motijheel Police Station, the personal assistant to the registrar, KMA Nahar, said, "They [the JSC officials] were compelled to provide them [attackers] with the document after office hours to protect official goods and lives."  
Later, the then registrar, Joint Secretary NM Ponir Uddin Haider, cancelled the certificate delivered under threats.

As the stagnation affected Youngone's expansion, it diverted around \$40 million investment to Vietnam, China and India in the last three years. Youngone started its operations in Bangladesh back in 1978 and has grown into a massive company.  
**KEPZ: FACT FILE**  
KEPZ, by its size and investment profile, stands out from all other EPZs in the country. It plans to install 500 industrial units with an investment of one billion US dollars. KEPZ sources said the plan includes setting up a whole range of garment and textiles units plus electronics, software, scientific and optical tools, machine tools, automotive parts and other units. Youngone will invest 200 million dollars separately to build up its infrastructure.  
In contrast, the government-run five EPZs have only 203 units with a total investment of 748 million dollars.  
The first EPZ set up in Chittagong in 1983 has 119 industrial units on a 453-acre site. The Dhaka EPZ established in 1993 has 72 units on 355 acres. The other three EPZs launched after 2001 have but a few units -- the 191-acre Mongla EPZ has five units, the 258-acre Comilla EPZ six units and the 233-acre Syedpur EPZ just one unit.  
Again, Youngone alone accounts for 25 percent of the investment in the five government EPZs, with 16 units employing more than 30,000 people and exporting goods worth over 220 million dollars a year.  
The idea of KEPZ was conceived during a visit of Khaleida Zia, the then prime minister of the BNP government, to South Korea in 1995.

## Books, pens

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Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury said that Bangladesh has set a unique example to the world by arranging such function that brings together students from all corners of the country.  
A six-member team with winners at the secondary and higher secondary levels will go to Mexico next year, he said.  
Editor of Prothom Alo Motiur Rahman in his speech said that his daily always stands for good initiatives, and mathematical Olympiad is surely one of the best of those.  
He also thanked Dutch-Bangla Bank for co-operation in organising the competition.  
Earlier Brother Leo J Pereira, principal of Saint Joseph High School and College, inaugurated the competition by hoisting the national flag. Professor Jamilur Reza Chowdhury hoisted the flag of BMOOC and Muhammad Zafar Iqbal the flag of International Mathematical Olympiad. Besides, a set of 71 fireworks was displayed in remembrance of the struggle for independence in 1971.

Among others, Professors Khodnan Khan, Munirul Rahman Chowdhury, Farida Banu, Syed Anwar Hossain, Mohammad Kaikobad, were present at the inaugural function.  
More than 600 students from 129 educational institutions of Dhaka, Rangpur, Chittagong, Faridpur, Rajshahi, Comilla, Barisal, Sylhet, Mymensingh, and Khulna are taking part in the two-day national level math competition.  
A number of freedom fighters were present at the question-answer session in the afternoon. Major General Amin Ahmad Chowdhury, M Azizur Rahman Bir Uttam, Md Zahurul Haque Munsir Bir Pratik, Habibul Alam Bir Pratik, Mahbub Elahi Ronju Bir Pratik, Maj Hamidul Hossain Tarek Bir Bikram, Major Ali Ashraf Bir Pratik, and Kazi Joynul Abedin Bir Pratik answered various questions of the youngsters, and shared with them their experiences of the Liberation War.  
Today's programmes feature sessions of friendship, a quiz on Einstein in the 21st Century, a seminar on the challenge of science and technology for the new generation, and prize giving ceremony.



PHOTO STAR  
Detectives use metal detectors to search the Central Shaheed Minar premises yesterday as part of a beefed up security two days ahead of the Ekushey.

# Biggest EPZ in limbo

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other matters. But here is an instance where it is turning a blind eye to spoilage of the same."  
Consequently, Youngone has been unable to bring in the promised investment, says KEPZ Chairman ANM Eusuf: "In absence of a licence, we cannot market the EPZ investment prospects. In the past, more than 20 Chinese investors came and held a meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. They received promises, but nothing happened ever since."  
Other than the Chinese, a US chemical company and some Korean companies visited the site informally and expressed their interests.

After that meeting, which had ended inconclusively, the MK Anwar Committee formed a secretary-level committee in September 2002. On the basis of this committee's report, the Anwar Committee submitted its recommendations to the board of governors in March 2003. These recommendations again led to forming of two more committees through a meeting of the board in April 2003.  
One of these latest committees headed by a law ministry joint secretary was assigned to formulate regulations under the Private EPZ Act, the task it completed in a few months.  
The second committee led by the principal secretary to the prime minister were to recommend amendment to the Private EPZ Act, the task it completed in a few months.  
The principal secretary's committee in November 2003 reported that there was no need to amend the act and said licence to operate should be issued to KEPZ immediately without additional condition "in the interest of national image and foreign investment."

Since then the issue has remained mysteriously stalled.  
**Frequent hartals**  
**85** government-designated holidays and 52 weekly ones, while private English medium schools have even less -- about 176 work days due to their two-day week-ends.  
Due to strikes many universities and colleges have been forced to reschedule their admission tests several times worsening the already acute session jams eating up years of university students.  
A student of the Arts or Social Science faculty of Dhaka University has to spend as many as seven years to complete a four-year undergraduate course, reports the National Education Commission. It requires five years to complete a three-year course under the Science faculty of the same university, the reports say.  
"There is no doubt the strikes would lengthen the session jams by several months," says a university teacher.  
"How long will this situation continue?" asks a guardian concerned about his ward's loss of academic time.  
However, the education ministry has asked schools and colleges to strictly follow their academic calendars, despite hartals.  
In a handout on Tuesday, the ministry asked the heads of educational institutions to maintain proper record of attendance ahead of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations slated to start from March 10.

# AL rally today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
Main opposition Awami Legaue (AL) will hold a rally today on the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city protesting skyrocketing of prices of essentials and demanding trial of the perpetrators linked with bomb and grenade attacks across the country.  
Senior leaders of the AL will address the rally to be held at 3:00pm.  
Meanwhile, Dhaka city unit of AL held a meeting at its party office yesterday to make the programme successful.  
Speakers at the meeting said the BNP-led coalition government has established a reign of terror across the country through torturing the leaders and activists of AL.  
They called upon the people to make today's rally a success.

## 4 members of Islamist group held

**UNB, Thakurgaon**  
Police on Thursday night arrested four members of Islamist militant group, Jam'atul Mujahidin, in the district town and at Laxmipur village in Sadar upazila.  
Acting on a tip-off, police raided the VDB mosque in the town and nabbed Amanatullah, 26, son of Khijmatullah of Khalpara in the town, Mamunur Rashid, 22, son of Ruhul Amin of Dinajpur district, and Mahabb Alam, 27, son of Mojir Hossain of Sadar upazila.  
On their statements, police later raided the house of Asiruddin at Laxmipur village and arrested him.  
Police also recovered bomb manufacturing materials, printers, acid, electric wires, batteries, leaflets, toll receipts, some leaflets, dummy rifles and a motorcycle from them.  
District Police Superintendent (SP) Khandaker Golam Faruq, Additional SP Shariful Alam and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station Roushan Mostafa interrogated the arrestees.  
The police superintendent said the arrestees might have networks in different upazilas of the district.

## Poetry festival

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Parishad President Rabiul Hussain presided.  
Slogan of this year's poetry festival was, "Kabita Pratirodh Hatlar (Poem is the weapon of resistance)."  
Poet Nirmalendu Goon received this year's national poem prize valued at Tk 25,000.  
Organisers said about two hundred renowned poets from home and abroad joined the festival attended by hundreds of poem lovers.  
Urging the poets to resist the communal forces through their poems and writings, Rabiul Hossain said, "We have been organising the festival for nearly two decades and we are determined to keep our tradition alive."  
"Anti-liberation and anti-cultural forces are trying to create panic among the people of free thoughts and those who love poems," said General Secretary of the organisation Samudra Gupta, adding that it is the time to resist the evil forces.  
"Kabita utshab is, in one hand, a festival of poets' gathering; on the other hand, it is the centre for protest against and resistance to the evil forces," said convener of the Parishad Habibullah Sirazi.  
Poets of different languages, including Rameshwar Bhattacharya, Jaya Goala and Shefali Dev Barman from India and poets of indigenous people of Bangladesh attended the festival.  
At the inaugural session, poet Aslam Sani read out a condolence resolution on all poets and writers who died after the last year's poetry festival.  
DU teacher Mohammad Samad read out the declaration paper.  
Joint convenor Golam Kibria Pinu also spoke at the festival.  
In the second session, poets from different parts of the country read out their poems.  
The yearly poetry festival was introduced in 1986 mainly to protest the then autocratic rule of general HM Ershad.

## Load-shedding

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at the 420MW Raozan Power Plant are producing around 240MW and the 60MW Shikalbaha barge-mounted power plant 40MW.  
On the other hand, sources said, with two of the five units at 230MW Kaptai Hydroelectric Plant under overhauling, the rest three are generating only around 140MW power.  
As such, the total power generation by plants in the Chittagong region now stands at around 420MW as against a 630MW capacity and a 375MW demand.  
After supplying its quota to the national grid and the typical system loss, the Chittagong PDB is forced to make 120MW to 150MW load-shedding a day, sources said.  
A PDB official requesting anonymity said around 40 percent of the city witnesses power outage for two hours a day in phases.  
He expressed the fear that if the gas supply does not reach the required level, the situation would worsen in the upcoming peak season of summer, when the demand for electricity in the region would go up to 435MW a day.  
Sources at Bakhrabad Gas Systems Limited admitted that presently they are supplying around 60mcf gas, 38mcf less than the required amount of 98mcf, to the three gas-fired power plants in Chittagong a day. They said it would be possible to supply an additional 10mcf gas by the end of March.

# 'Hawks driving doves

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Obaidul Huq, former editor of the Bangladesh Observer, said the hawks are driving the doves away from the political landscape of the country.  
"If hundreds of tigers could live together in the Sundarbans, then why shouldn't our politicians?" he said.  
Referring to the killings of journalists in recent years, Huq said, "It's a pity that journalists are coming under attacks while discharging professional responsibilities."  
Huq said the National Press Club could play an effective role in combating violence against journalists. He also recalled the press club's contributions to all democratic movements.  
Enayetullah Khan, editor of the New Age, described the publication of the two books as a milestone in the history of our journalism.  
"When Holiday was banned in 1973 under press and publication act, journalists regardless of their political views, stood united by me," the New Age editor said.

The former president of the National Press Club called on the journalists to maintain unity and solidarity in the days to come.  
Eminent journalist Faiz Ahmed stressing the need for compiling the entire history of the National Press Club, said, "The history of the country would be incomplete without the history of the National Press Club."  
Presided over by the National Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed, the function was addressed, among others, by senior journalist Hasanuzzaman Khan Editor of the daily Sangram Abul Asad, General Secretary of National Press Club Shawkat Mahmud, Advisory Editor of the daily Janakantha Toab Khan, Prof Shakhawat Ali Khan of Mass Communication and Journalism department of Dhaka University and Media Manager of GrameenPhone Moin Tareq, Hasan Hafiz, convenor of the publication subcommittee, conducted the ceremony.

# Anti-Shia attacks kill

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There was no immediate claim for the attacks but the Sunni-dominated insurgency had vowed to target the Shias who emerged as winners in Iraq's first democratic election in decades on January 30 and whose results were confirmed on Thursday.  
Security sources said 12 Iraqis and a US soldier have died in other insurgent violence since Thursday evening, while two Indonesian journalists were missing and feared kidnapped while travelling on a notoriously dangerous road from Jordan to Baghdad.  
The violence flared after clergy-backed Shia list was confirmed to have won a slim majority in the 275-seat National Assembly which will draw up a constitution for a post-Saddam Iraq.  
The United Iraqi Alliance, blessed by the Shia spiritual leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, won 140 seats in the parliament followed by 75 for the Kurdish parties and 40 for interim prime minister Iyad Allawi's list.  
In Baghdad, thousands of Shias put on a show of force at a gathering in Baghdad to mark the start of the Ashura mourning period, while security was strengthened in the main Shia shrine cities of Karbal and Najaf.  
Sayed Abdelaziz Hakim, the black-turbaned cleric who heads the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI), the main

party in the Shia list, addressed thousands of supporters before Friday prayers, at a gathering unthinkable two years ago.  
He accused the police of having tortured to death three members of his party's officially disbanded militia, the Badr organisation.  
Two Indonesian journalists were feared kidnapped by insurgents in western Iraq on Friday, disappearing from the notoriously dangerous road linking the Jordan and Iraqi capitals.  
"The two journalists, who work for an Indonesian television station, were coming to Baghdad by road and disappeared in the region of Ramadi," a rebel hotspot west of the capital, said a security source at the embassy.  
In Washington, newly released documents revealed further allegations of abuse of Iraqi detainees at the hands of US forces.  
Meanwhile, a US soldier was killed Thursday in a roadside bomb blast in the northern Iraqi town of Tall Afar, the US military announced yesterday.  
"One Task Force Freedom soldier was killed and one was wounded by an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Tall Afar yesterday," a statement said.  
Earlier, the US military said a US soldier had been killed in action on Thursday in the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

# Bush warns Syria, Iran

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and this is a country that isn't moving with the democratic movement."  
He went on: "The idea is to continue to work with the world to remind Syria it's not in their interest to be isolated."  
The United States has regularly criticised Syria for not doing enough to stop militants using Syrian territory to get into Iraq.  
Bush called on the Syrian government to hand over supporters of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein who may be hiding in the country. "We expect them to find and turn over former Saddam regime supporters and send them back to Iraq," he said.  
"We've made it very clear from the beginning of my administration that Syria should not use its territory to support international terrorist groups. We expect them to adhere to UN Security Council resolution 1559, which calls for the removal of troops from Lebanon. And we expect them to help free and fair elections to take place in Lebanon."  
Bush said he would use his trip to Europe next week to discuss ways "we can work together to convince the Syrians to make rational decisions."  
He added that he would also work with Europeans and Israel to develop an "effective" strategy to contain Iran, which Washington accuses of assembling the parts for a nuclear bomb.  
Bush said the United States would support Israel if Iran threatened its security.

the leader of Israel and I'd listened to some of the statements by the Iranian ayatollahs that regarded the security of my country, I'd be concerned about Iran having a nuclear weapon as well.  
"And in that Israel is our ally and in that we've made a very strong commitment to support Israel, we will support Israel if her security is threatened," Bush said.  
But returning to security, Bush said: "We'll continue to work with the international community to make it clear that some of the behavior in the Middle East is unacceptable."  
"You know, the development of a nuclear weapon is unacceptable. Harboring terrorists or providing safe haven for terrorists is unacceptable. And so there's a lot of progress that can be made."

environmental disaster, observed Subrata Das Khokon, an activist of Paribesh Bachao Andolon.  
Wetland Board Director General Enamul Haque, Biswa Sahitya Kendra convenor Golam Kibria, Jatiya Gonopratirodh Kendra convenor Rahisuddin Ali, Chhatra Jubo Andolon convenor Kamrul Alam Sabuj and advocate Abul Kalam Azad also addressed the human chain rally.

## Free water

**FROM PAGE 12**  
law enforcers and ensure security to all citizens, including the NGOs.  
"But the government is not only proving its utter failure and callousness, but also patronising and protecting the attackers."  
The AL chief said the "motivated" statements of the prime minister and ministers are "misleading the investigating officers and impeding the process of a neutral inquiry."  
She alleged that after assuming the office, the alliance government had struck the progressive NGOs, including Proshika.  
Hasina said those who are bombing of NGOs and other places, are the enemies of the nation, independence, democracy, humanity and development. "The government that is patronising them is the potential enemy of the people and the country."

## Attacks on NGOs

**FROM PAGE 1**  
She said the pro-liberation forces, cultural activists, writers, litterateurs, journalists, academics, minorities and the progressive NGOs "are the targets of the extreme communal forces."  
These evil forces want to make the Awami League leaderless and the nation devoid of talent, she alleged.  
The opposition leader said it is the prime responsibility of each patriotic citizen to "bring down the repressive anti-people government."