## JS in crisis as BNP

attend parliament sessions regularly.
BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday told at a rally in the capital that his party will not tolerate any kind of anarchy in the name of agitation, signalling more political programmes from the ruling alliance.

The BNP vesterday announced a countrywide agitation programme on March 19 protesting the opposition AL-sponsored hartal.

And the AL policymakers are not planning to join the current parliament session. The party rather has decided to gear up its antigovernment agitation along with the other opposition parties, sources

It has announced a series of programmes from a grand rally on March 2 including a hartal on March

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all political parties that believe in the spirit of War of Liberation to form a greater alliance to oust the 'anti people' government.

The AL top leaders are trying to form a greater alliance with the other opposition parties such as the Jatiya Party (Ershad) and the Bikalpa Dhara, sources said.

In February, the AL decided its parliamentary party will take the decision on joining the current session. But the party policymakers did not fix the date for the meeting.

A top AL leader yesterday said the chance of holding the parliamentary party meeting is very slim as party chief Sheikh Hasina leaves Dhaka for Spain today and she is expected to return on March 22.

The 15th session of the parliament that began on January 31 is witnessing poor participation from the ruling alliance lawmakers. Even the House was adjourned for four days due to quorum crisis.

BNP whips' efforts to ensure presence of 60 lawmakers that makes quorum often fall flat as they cannot find lawmakers in the parlia-

"If you go round our village you'll

This is the time of the year when

hardly find a coconut hanging from a

mangos start to take shape but

villagers like Aminul Islam and Nur

Islam alleged that they had not

tasted a mango for the last couple of

"I have sowed mustard seeds.

But everything seems to have

turned black with the smoke coming

out from those nearby brick kilns,

The picture was the same in

It is not only crops that are being

Islampur, Kalapur, Bomail, Bason,

Naojor, Aambaag, Baigga villages

affected by the tons of smoke com-

ing out of the chimneys. Experts

now say that brick kilns are emitting

harmful 'particulate matters' (pm)

into the air, which are responsible

for the alarming rise of respiratory

more than four thousand brick kilns

are operating in and around the

capital. They are mainly based in

Gabtali, Savar, Ashuliya,

Keraniganj, Narshingdi, Gazipur

and Manikganj, Department of

that city dwellers and inhabitants of

surrounding areas are breathing

focusing their attention on bricks

and mortars. Some even claimed a

small success with the imposition of

reduced with most owners now

Reazuddin, technical director of the

list of promotees despite fulfillment

refrained from attending the office

yesterday since they will now have

to work again under their juniors, as

their juniors were elevated nearly

as the reason for dropping the

officials from the promotion list both

on Saturday and in the past, since

several of them were either private

secretaries to Awami League gov-

ernment ministers or posted at the

Prime Minister's Office (PMO)

the 1981 batch, who was

superceded for the third times since

August 27, 2003, was dropped

solely for the reason that he was one

of the directors at the PMO and DC

the former Speaker Advocate Abdul

Hamid and former Chief Whip Abul

Hasnat Abdullah were omitted for

low-ranking officials at the PMO,

who have been playing a key-role in

Highly placed sources said a few

the third time from promotion list.

Similarly, private secretaries to

of Gopalgani during the AL regime.

Sources also said an officer of

during the Awami League period.

Sources cited political grounds

Many of the superceded officials

of all the criteria for elevation.

two years back.

He admitted, however, that the

Discontent over

using high chimneys," said Md

"Obviously damage has been

more sulphur than oxygen.

the height restrictions.

The alarming figure suggests

But the DoE seemed to be happy

Environment (DoE) sources said.

According to available statistics,

coconut tree.

Spewing out eco

It is also uncertain whether the BNP will hold its parliamentary party meeting during the current session The BNP held its last parliamentary party meeting in November last year.

The current session, scheduled to be prorogued on March 15, has witnessed only 15 workdays. Although the Business Advisory Committee has allocated 20 hours for discussion on the presidential address, the House has so far witnessed only six hours.

## Youth arrested by Rab dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth allegedly tortured in Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) custody on February 20 died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) last night. Rab arrested Delwar Hossain

20, owner of a phone-fax shop at Mograpra under Sonargaon Police Station of Narayanganj district, on February 2o, his elder brother Bazlur Rashid told reporters.

They (Rab) took my brother to their Adamjee camp and beat him severely," he said, adding, "As he became unconscious, they admitted him to DMCH the same night.' Delwar had no criminal records,

Morque sources said there were marks of bruises on Delwar's head, back and legs. Police performed the inquest report in the presence of a

magistrate yesterday. Delwar was admitted to the hospital by Rab men, DMCH sources said. Sonargaon police told the Daily Star last night that Rab men handed

Delwar over to them at the DMCH. A Rab official, however, denied the allegation of torture and said. "We held Delwar when he was extorting in the area and handed him over to the

way bricks are being manufactured

in the country is not at all environ-

bricks in kilns. Rather they use

concrete blocks. But we have nei-

ther the technology nor the exper-

tise for the mass production of

proper monitoring of whether the

brick kiln owners are obeying the

Brick Kiln Control (amended) Act

(2001), which prohibits the estab-

lishment of brick kilns within a three-

kilometer radius of human inhabita-

The law remains only a piece of

Making matters worse, the brick

kilns owners are flouting the existing

laws of using only coal or gas to

keep their furnaces burning, it is

alleged, with some using worn tyres

and plastic materials as a cheap

form of fuel. Most shocking of all is

sources said that the four thousand

brick kilns burn nearly 20 lakh tons

of coal and another 20 lakh tons of

wood every year to meet the

wood and even tyres as fuel," admit-

ted an owner from Gazipur. But at

the same time he said: "Nobody can

deny the necessity of bricks for the

He was more critical, however, of

'Tell me where in Dhaka or

elsewhere vou won't find a home

within one kilometre, forgetting

about the three-kilometre restric-

the selection of promotees since the

BNP government assumed power,

again played a role in dropping the

eligible officials from elevation to

Talking to The Daily Star yester-

day, several top-ranking officials felt

that such selection and promotion of

handpicked officials would trigger

rancor in the administration. "The

government should immediately

reconsider the cases of those

superceded several times," they

official at the PMO told The Daily

Star on condition of anonymity that

the cases of a dozen officials, who

were superceded several times,

would be considered and that the

Selection Board (SSB) held a meet-

ing yesterday to review and scruti-

nize candidates for promotion to the

post of deputy secretary. Sources

said the SSB will meet again to

make a recommendation for promo-

tion of senior assistant secretaries

to the post of deputy secretary.

Meanwhile, the Superior

officials would be elevated soon.

When contacted, an influential

upper posts.

country's development.'

the loopholes in present laws.

"Yes, some brick kiln owners use

demand for 400 to 1200 tons of fuel.

The department of environment

the indiscriminate use of wood.

paper as brick kilns are even operat-

ing less than one kilometre of a

tion as well as fruit garden.

densely populated area.

There also seems to be a lack of

concrete blocks," Reazuddin said.

"No developed countries bake

local police immediately.

## investigation into the Kuril arms haul

Mohammad Abu Hanif said police

has a number of flaws. Three investigation officers (IO)-- Sub-inspector (SI) Abu Sayeed, Criminal nvestigation Department (CID) Inspector Ruhul Quddus and Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Munshi Atiqur Rahman-- did not try to unearth the source of the arms and ammunition. They also did not try to track down the carriers and suppliers [arms], the judge added.

Court finds Kuril

case against the two with Badda Police Station the next day.

In his judgment, Judge

The prosecution witnesses in their statements did not divulge identity of the three other accused. Rubel, one of the convicts, however, gave a confessional statement to magistrate disclosing involvement of the acquitted. But as the evidence was not sufficient to prove their links to the arms haul, they were acquitted, the court added.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence completed their arguments, and the court recorded statements of 16 prosecution wit-

The IO pressed charges against Rubel, Manik, Nuru, Zahangir and Mukul on February 16 last year. The court framed charges against the five on October 11 the same year.

Special Public Prosecutor Nurul man Babul told The Daily Star the three others were acquitted thanks to flawed investigation.

Of the acquitted, Mukul was allegedly involved in a number of crimes. Following the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally, police looked for him after checking the video footage taken during the blasts. Besides, he allegedly shot dead another criminal at Chest Diseases Hospital couple of weeks before the Kuril arms haul OTHER ARMS HAUL STILL

Law enforcers are still in the dark about arms seizures in Chittagong and Bogra on April 2 last year and June 27, 2003. Those are believed to be the two biggest ever arms haul in the history of Bangladesh. Although charge sheets were submitted in both the cases, law enforcers failed to unearth identities of the persons responsible for the smuggled-in arms and ammunition. They also could not know anything specific about the source and final destination of the weapons.

The biggest ever arms seized at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) included 1290 sub-machine guns, 25000 hand grenades, 300 rocket launchers, 840 rockets, 100 tommy guns, 2000 rocket tubes and 1.15 million ammunitions.

In the second biggest ammo haul, police had recovered 62,112 rounds of Chinese rifle bullets and 120kg explosives from an abandoned truck and precincts of a local AL leader's house at Jogarpara village, Kahalu Police Station in

## Border tension

FROM PAGE 12

The sources also said the BSF has reinforced its position and is patrolling along the border Another flag meeting between the

BDR 26 Rifles Battalion and 6 BSF Battalion is scheduled for 11:00am today, said the sources The BSF sat with the BDR four

times since February 20 and agreed to stop the construction each time. Our staff correspondent adds: A

lull was prevailing in Ramgarh in Khagrachhari yesterday as the BSF did not attempt to fence the border. sources in the BDR headquarters "Our force is keeping a vigil in

Ramgarh border and we are observing the situation," a top BDR official told The Daily Star vesterday, asking not to be named. Both the sides traded gunfire in

Ramgarh border on Friday.

## Jamaat, Shibir

FROM PAGE 1

that about 150 madrasas have so far been searched by intelligence people in recent days, although nothing has been found. He termed the police searches as one sided and claimed the madrasas have no links to terrorand militancy "Despite being a partner of the fourparty alliance we are helpless," he said

Ásked about making a complaint to the government or the Home Ministry, he replied, "What will the Home Ministry do for us? We will not lodge any formal protest to the government in this regard.

He added, "Even yesterday (Saturday) the intelligence people went to my madrasa at Gouripur in Daudkani and asked people if there is any training camp there. This is not good," Aminee "Whenever any incident of terror-

ism takes place, they start searching Kawami madrasas to see if there are any arms or training camps... But we're always against any kind of terrorism and militancy." he said. Meanwhile. Industries Minister and

Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami told the BBC radio Bangla Service that his party has no link to any extremist Nizami referred to crackdowns by

law enforcers, including the ongoing anti-crime action by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), as proof that Jamaat is not involved in 'terrorism'. The government has recently

aunched a crackdown on Islamist outfits amid growing incidents of bomb blasts and arrested a number of suspects, mostly madrasa students

## Nightmare at DMCH

three consecutive days," added Hena. who had travelled all the way from seven-year-old kid.

An investigation by The Daily Star found that insects, rats, and cats are giving patients in all the 41 wards a lot of trouble. Over 100 cats and rats too many to count are plaguing the entire DMCH.

On-duty doctors at neurosurgery male ward number 30 said even that ward, which is of most critical importance, is not immune to cat and cockroach infestation. Besides, it is burdened with patients beyond its capacity. Currently there are 72 patients against 22 beds As the female wards in the DMCH

appear more untidy compared to the male wards, patients there face enormous problems caused by cockroaches and cats.

"Most of the patients have a tendency to waste food and then throw those here and there literally inviting swarms of cockroaches and other insects," said a hospital source. "Besides, the authorities do not

bother to clean the hospital area," added the source. The DMCH authorities go for cleanliness drive once or twice in

every month, but only in selected wards. There are some wards where insecticides and other chemicals for killing insects are not applied even in

"After treating the wards with

#### UAE to hire

nvestors to come up with bigger amounts of investment in various sectors, including energy, power, pharmaceuticals, tourism and In this regard, the UAE ambassa-

dor cited the interest shown recently by the Dhabi Group of the Emirates in investing 2 billion US dollars in Bangladesh.

The peime minister urged UAE to mport more Bangladeshi goods, including garments, pharmaceuticals, ceramics, jute and leather. "A good number of Bangladeshi items are being traded in European markets maintaining its reputation," she apprised the diplomat.

insecticide, insects are controlled for a few days, and then get back to square one again," said a DMCH doctor requesting anonymity. Effects of the

treatment do not last long because of

low quality of the insecticides. When asked about insect infestation. Sohrab Uddin Khan, administrative officer of the DMCH, said they are trying to keep off the insects by applymedicines to the beds.

#### Jamaat leader's

opposition's frequently called hartals Ahamadullah Bhuyan, another Jamaat central leader, accused a section of journalists of carrying out

Reacting to the Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's demand that Jamaat ministers be quizzed over religious militancy, Kamaruzzaman wondered how she could forget her alliance with Jamaat chief Nizami.

He went on to say that it is the Awami League that has introduced the politics of murder and terrorism with he killing of deputy speaker Shahed

The Awami League (AL) will never come to power as long as the four party alliance can retain its unity, said advocate Jasimuddin Sarkar, adding that the AL has caused colossal damage to the country by spreading antistate propaganda abroad. The coalition will remain in power

as long as Sheikh Hasina remains president of Awami League," said Azharul Islam, assistant secretary general of Jamaat ATM, at the rally. He added that although Sheikh

Hasina made commitments while in power that her party would never call hartals and never boycott parliament, she has been breaking her public promise since the day she lost the last general election. Sheikh Hasina's efforts to assume

state power with the help of foreign patrons violate the interest of the nation he said. Acertain political party is desperate

to capture state power by means of creating anarchy and instability in the country with the help of a neighbouring country, said Rafigul Islam Khan. Assistant Secretary General Abdul

Kader Mollah and Motaher Mohammad Masum, among others, spoke at the rally, which was presided over by Amir of city Jamaat Mominul

# Narcotics guardians

and ineffectiveness of the NNCB for years regarding giving guidelines.

Besides, the inappropriate recruitment policy, insufficient logistics and lack of training for the enforcement agencies are aggravating the problem. The 18-member NNCB includes

11 cabinet ministers, a secretary, director general of the DNC and five members nominated by the govern-

When contacted State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babar, who is also an NNCB member, said, "Why me, you do better contact DNC officials." But the director member-secretary of the NNCB was not available for comments. There are only 600 employees in DNC to combat the deadly menace of drug abuse in the country. Of them, 90 percent have no training on the subject.

"Like other government offices. they go to the fields soon after their recruitment, even without any knowledge on narcotics," said an

The previous home minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury had informed parliament in 2003 that there were 3,700 murders in the country in 2002. "A significant number of these killings were linked to disputes over drug business," he added. Despite that, the DNC officials

are not getting firearms for mysteri-

"An inter-ministerial meeting on

June 23, 2003 had approved arms licence for the DNC officials above inspector level considering their risk in chasing drug traders who are well equipped with modern firearms," an official in the DNC said.

"But, we have not yet got the permission." a frustrated official told the news agency.

The DNC officials recovered only 5.5kg heroin and some 25,000 bottles of phensedyl from the capital in 2004, an official said adding the addicts in the city consume a day much more than this recovered amount of one year.

Although there is no survey about the number of drug addicts in the country, officials and media reports estimate the number will not be less than 20 lakh, of them twothirds are 16-34 age group. On the identification of drug

addicts, Dr Jahir Uddin Khan, director of the DNC, told that his department did nothing about that. "We do work for creating awareness only," he added.

The US State Department in recent report said corruption hampers narcotics interdiction efforts in Bangladesh. The authorities involved in jobs that have an effect on the drug trade assist the smuggling of narcotics and corrupt officials can be found throughout the chain of command, the report said.

# A destructive dig

have a destructive impact on the

environmental conditions of the city. Professor Nazrul Islam of the Department of Geography and

Environment at Dhaka University, says Wasa should avoid ground water extraction and search for surface water sources in order to save the groundwater environment. "Presently, only 25 percent of the water is collected from surface water sources, but this should be significantly increased on a priority basis." he said. Relying on groundwater extrac-

tion alone poses a grave threat to land subsidence, with a potentially negative impact like that experienced in countries like Bangkok and Mexico, he said, "Two decades ago land subsidence of a few inches took place every year [in those countries] due to unbridled groundwater extraction."

A high official and expert within Wasa, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, cautioned that Wasa should have conducted a study to determine whether city dwellers will actually benefit from the installation of the 1000-feet deep tubewells. While the benefits remain uncer

tain, the results to the environment could be seriously harmful, he explained. "The initiative to set up 1000-feet

depth tubewells in the city is very

destructive since existing 600-feet

deep tubewells have already created a large vacuum within the underground level due to a lack of water recharge, making the situation very vulnerable to earthquakes," he asserted. He went on to say that increasing

the number of high depth tubewells in the city may be an immediate solution to the water crisis, but that it will boomerang in the long term for the city dwellers, causing natural disasters. "Finding no other alternative

Wasa authorities have undertaken the initiative as a short time solution due to the government's failure to assemble funds to increase surface water sources," he asserted. Acknowledging the adverse impact of unabated ground water

extraction on the environment, Akhter Hossain said, "We definitely want to create more surface water sources instead of increasing the number of deep tubewells in the The Danish International

Development Agency (Danida) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) are expected to give financial assistance to complete the second and third phase of Saidabad Surface Water Treatment Plant which will largely meet water demands of the city dwellers, he added.

**OMS IRREGULARITIES** 

## 40 dealers suspended

BSS, Dhaka

Forty dealers and two supervisors have been temporarily suspended for their irregularities in selling rice under the Open Market Sale (OMS)

Enquiry officers of the Department of Food and local administration during a field-level survey have detected their irregularities and suspended them, said an official handout yesterday. Five dealers were suspended in

the capital, two in Khulna, eight in Faridpur, four in Narsingdi, two in Chapainawabganj, three each in Feni, Narail Kushtia, two in Chittagong and one each in Rangpur, Chandpur Sherpur, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Manikganj and Satkhira

The supervisors have been suspended in Dhaka and Chittagong, as they were found absent during the sale of rice under the programme, the handout added

SHAHIDUR'S REMOVAL

## SC allows to file appeal against HC verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A full bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court (SC) yesterday allowed an advocate an affidavit to file an appeal against the High Court (HC) judgement that held illegal the order of the president removing additional HC judge Syed Shahidur Rahman.

SC advocate Idrisur Rahman is likely to file the appeal with chamber judge of the Appellate Division today, on getting permission by the fivemember bench headed by Chief Justice JR Mudassir Husain.

The permission came in an unusual move by a full bench of the Appellate Division to conduct a hearing on the question of allowing anyone to file an affidavit after Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Amirul Kabir Chowdhury referred the matter to the bench on Wednesday.

Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud moved for the petitioner while Barrister Azmalul Hossain for Shahidur Rahman.

## One cop closed

record the FIR without conducting any preliminary investigation. However, no action was taken against the OC.

Hena was withdrawn from Dumuria Police Station in January for his alleged link to underground operatives through whom he would collect extortion money.

### No salary

FROM PAGE 1 post within a month.

"Keeping some vital posts vacant in the regulatory body hinders overall activities in the country's rapidly growing telecom sector." said a senior official of a private telecom company.

Day to day activities including renewal of various licenses and allocation of frequencies are now suspended in absence of the commission chairman and commissioners.

Even worse, private fixed phone operators could not launch service as per schedule for not having BTRC's approval.

The top five posts of the telecom watchdog fell vacant on January 31 but the government neither appointed new persons nor renewed the earlier contracts of the chairman and the commissioners who were appointed on January 31, 2002 on a three-year contract.

#### BNP urges AL FROM PAGE 1

Mannan Bhuiyan said, "If you Joppo-

sition] have anything to say, raise it in the Parliament. Don't try to confuse people by falsehood." He said AL is trying to deceive

people into conclusion that they [AL]

are being deprived of rights to talk in the parliament. If AL tries to make the parliament ineffective they themselves will become ineffective, The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said the main objective of the opposition's ongoing movement is to tarnish the country's image

abroad. Blaming the AL for post-

ponement of the 13th Saarc summit, he said that AL has damaged the country's reputation by foiling the seven-nation meet. Referring to AL President Sheikh Hasina's demand of reforms in election system, the LGRD minister said she is talking about changes

without even mentioning what are the changes that she wants to have. "We have told them [AL] to come up with concrete suggestions in the parliament about what should be done to ensure elections free from muscle power and black money, Bhuivain told the rally.

The Dhaka City BNP organised the rally at Muktangon. From the rally they declared a countrywide demonstration programme on March 19, a day before the mainstream opposition parties will form a human wall to register 'no confidence in the government'

## Historic March 7

In a thunderous voice, he declared 'Ebarer Sangram Amader Muktir Sangram, Ebarer Sangram Swadhinatar Sangram' (this struggle is for our freedom, this struggle s for independence).

The forceful speech inspired people from all walks of life to prepare for the war that the Pakistani regime would inflict upon the unarmed Bangalees 18 days later, committing one of the worst genocides in history.

Bangladesh Awami League and different sociopolitical organisations will observe the day commemorating a historic mass gathering at Ramna Race Course

To mark the day, the Awami League (AL) has chalked out various programmes while Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina issued a message recalling the significance of the In her message, Hasina urged

and reactionary conspiracies" of the BNP-Jamaat alliance. "To give an independent

the countrymen to build a poverty

and exploitation-free 'Sonar

Bangla', foiling all "anti-liberation

Bangladesh a place on the world map, Bangabandhu announced the modalities of freedom fight and asked the nation to get ready for their supreme sacrifice to achieve

independence," she added Being inspired by the speech, the Bangalees jumped into the Muktijuddha and wrested the independence of Bangladesh through defeating the Pakistani occupation forces, she recapitu-

AL leaders and workers will assemble at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in the city's Dhanmondi at 6:30am today and place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu, the unequivocal leader of the country's

Liberation War. Various socio-political and cultural organisations have also taken up elaborate programmes on

#### SEC confirms

FROM PAGE 12

man of the board of directors put pressure on the managers of different branches to open a large number of

# Fight unitedly

coalition is against independence

a discussion in the city. "Not only the pro-liberation

to mark the historic March 7 speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1971

their protectors -- BNP and Jamaate-Islami Bangladesh

dence of Bangladesh'. Hasina said criticising a government does not mean to be tarnishing the country's image.

country, saying the party is the main mastermind of different bomb and rrenade attacks

humanity, the AL chief added. The former premier said the defeated forces had thought the AL

assassination of Bangabandhu in 1996, the Jamaat got the impression that it is a party of human beings and

work of the Pakistani occupation

The AL chief leaves Dhaka for

# from govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will seek legal opinion from the government about its probing ducting such enquiry.

appears as a positive reply to Bangladesh Bank's proposal for inclusion of the ACC to probe laundering incidents. "Although it's not included in our

the meeting. On the central bank's proposal

The ACC Act allows the commission to continue for disposal of laundering cases filed earlier now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac).

opinion from the law ministry whether we can file new laundering cases," the commissioner added. Meantime, the six-member advisory committee on screening of

There are allegations that the chairaccounts and Mazid was involved in it.

She places wreaths at the portrait

of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban in

Dhanmondi early this morning prior

to her flight to Spain. She will return

home after March 22, party sources

**BSF abducts 14** 

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira** 

The Border Security Force (BSF) of

India abducted 14 Bangladeshi

woodcutters from Chhayar Mukh

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR)

area of the Sundarbans yesterday.

and forest official sources said the

woodcutters including Abdul Jalil,

son of Abul Hossain of village

Noabeki of Shyamnagar upazila,

went to the Sundarbans taking pass

from the forest department on

March 1. While they were cutting

wood at Chhayar Mukh, BSF per-

sonnel of Baikunthapur border

outpost in India entered into the

woodcutters

## attend an international conference of former heads of state and govern-

to overthrow the BNP-Jamaat-led

"The BNP-Jamaat-led four-party and we all have to fight unitedly to oust it," Hasina said while addressing

forces... all parties believing in independence and sovereignty should be united and launch a vigorous movement against the government," she added. The AL organised the discussion

The leaders of the AL's allied leftleaning political parties also addressed the discussion. They suggested the AL's taking a major role to free the country from the

clutches of religious extremists and

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique at the discussion read out a keynote paper on 'Historic March 7 and Indepen-

She categorically accused Jamaat of giving armed training to different militant groups across the

Jamaat is running 'political business' in the name of Islam and its eaders do not believe in the values of Islam which is a religion of peace and

would never return to power after the "When the AL returned to power in

planed to kill its activists to eliminate Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party Bangladesh, said the nation is now passing through a critical time, as the defeated forces of the Liberation War are in power and are trying to finish the incomplete

forces. HASINA LEAVES FOR MADRID

Madrid in Spain this morning to Money Laundering

## ACC to seek legal opinion

money laundering, as there is no provision in the ACC Act for con-The commission's decision that came at a meeting yesterday also

schedule, we're considering bringing it under the purview of our activities," ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan told reporters after

ACC Commissioner Prof Maniruzzaman Miah said, "The Bangladesh Bank has sent us a letter to know whether we can probe under the Money Laundering Act. They want to involve us in the probe

"We've decided to seek legal

the Bac staff for selection for the

ournalists from the leading US newspapers want to visit Bangladesh but are not being given visa. Asma Kibria, wife of SAMS Kibria, alleged the government is neither willing to investigate the incident nor

now being collected, demanding punishment of perpetrators of all bomb attacks will be made by the end

of March, said Asma.

#### "We want to help you... but if we can't do the investigation properly, it's no use sending FBI agents," Nazni quoted Camp as saying. government doesn't agree with the FBI about the terms and conditions of the investigation," she claimed.

FBI full access to evidence. The Kibria family reiterated its demand for the involvement of Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

take foreign assistance.

#### Bangladesh territory and abducted The BDR has sent a protest letter to the BSF authority and asked them to hold a flag meeting.

come for no govt response

FBI could not

STAFF CORRESPONDENT The family of slain lawmaker SAMS Kibria yesterday said FBI probe into the Habiganj carnage is being hin-

dered as the government does not

agree to the US investigation

agency's proposed terms of refer-

Allege Kibria's family

ence for its involvement. "FBI's involvement in the probe has stalled as the government did not respond to the last fax messages sent by the US agency," said Nazni Kibria, daughter of Kibria, quoting

officials of the US State Department.

Nazni, a teacher of Boston University, was briefing reporters yesterday at Kibria's Dhanmondi house after returning from the US. She added that on February 24 she held talks with Donald Camp,

deputy assistant secretary of the US

State Department, and some other

"They (the US State Department officials) also told me the Bangladesh

"In a sense the government does not want FBI's involvement in the investigation into the Habiganj grenade attack," she said, adding that the government is not willing to give

Nazni said she also met Simon Bond, an official of British foreign ministry, in London when she was informed that there was no official request from Bangladesh government regarding the Scotland Yard investigation into the carnage.

She added that a number of

in the probe into the Habiganj car-

An exhibition of mass signature, ACC did not start functioning until