# JS body puzzled

Sangsad Bhaban yesterday expressed dissatisfaction with systematic faults" in statistics furnished by their officials, sources

The state minister for energy said that for the recent rise in gas production now there is no shortage of gas supply for the country's power plants. "There should be a correct assessment of the situations prevailing in the power sector. The figures supplied by the ministry officials are confusing and incorrect," a meeting source quoted him as saying.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud at the meeting proposed an audit to have a real picture of the sector. "There are no actual figures regarding generation and consumption of power and gas. So, we give approximate figures, the state minister told The Daily Star after the meeting. "Different countries in the world use such an auditing system to grasp the power and gas situations

The meeting was apprised that the electricity shortage in the country now stands at 200 megawatts, with only 3,700 MWs of electricity being generated against a demand of 3,900 MWs. The power division of the ministry in a report submitted to the committee said the load shedding resulting from the shortage of a gas supply amounts to 766 MWs.

The country now produces up to 1450 million cubic feet (mmcf) of gas a day, which meets the current demand. Absence of a pipeline in some areas reportedly accounts for the lower gas supply, which in turn affects the power generation. The Power Development Board needs 749-mmcf of gas every day for its power plants. Petrobangla, however, claims it is meeting the plants' present demand for gas.

"The officials for the last two and half years have\_been giving us confusing stats. They could rarely inform us clearly about the generation and consumption of gas and power. The officials feed us varying figures even about the load shed Committee Chairman Shahidul Islam told The Daily Star.

"The statistics that the officials have provided us about the power plants' electricity-generating capacity are based on writings on the plant equipment. But as some of the power plants have grown old, they do not

adding that criminals should be

executed through proper judicial

petty criminals, the Rab should

arrest those who give shelters to

these criminals. Rokan also voiced

his concern over the rampant use of

Khasru accused the government of

violating the human rights and rule

of law. He said the Rab cannot do

anything extra-judicial and that it

should not be given excessive

power "The task of the Rab is

limited to arresting of criminals and

the rest of the process is up to the

country's judicial system," he

former justice Habibur Rahman

Khan termed custodial death the

most heinous crime in the world and

Independent University student

Shamim Reza Rubel in 1998, he

said section 54 of the CrPC is being

by the discussants, Moudud

claimed that the misuse of the two

sections has reduced compared to

earlier times. He also said Sections

54 and 167 of the CrPC cannot be

repealed totally, adding that the

amendment of the sections 54 and

167 of the CrPC is under process.

Responding to the points raised

Referring to the killing of

said it should be stopped.

Taking part in the discussion

Former law minister Abdul Matin

section 54 of the CrPC.

He also said that instead of killing

procedure

have the same capacity to generate power as suggested by the figures, said the committee chairman.

Committee member and Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim told The Daily Star that the report submitted by the power division of the ministry is inarticu-

"The state minister for energy told the meeting that the supply of gas has been ensured. But the generation of electricity has not been improved. People still suffer from acute load shedding," he told

## Advisory body

could be absorbed into the ACC only after screening as per rules. But the commission is yet to formulate the

The dispute over the status of the Bac staff put the commission and the government at loggerheads. Moreover, internal conflict surfaced in the commission as the chairman on different occasions initiated moves to attach the Bac staff to the ACC.

As several former Bac officials continued issuing letters and office orders using non-existent positions in the commission ignoring the government order, the government warned that such activities are punishable

The three members of the commis sion are also divided over the size of the ACC staff. Commissioner Prof. Maniruzzaman Miah suggested an organogram with 964 staff while another Commissioner Maniruddin Ahmed drafted a body of 1.449 staff.

Against this backdrop, the commission formed the six-member advisory committee in February for screening of

In its recommendation, the advisory committee said the commission will have to formulate an organogram, rules for appointment and service, and fix the jurisdiction of the staff before their appointment.

Organisational structure of the commission would be like that of a taskforce, it said suggesting a small staff to reduce administrative burden and costs. It said the number of lower tier offices will have to be logical.

"It will make the organisational structure and management strong,

Moudud said adding that people are

very happy following the improve-

ment of law and order situation in

he country after the formation of

Bari and Assistant Director Soma

Executive Director Dr Samsul

and other leading US dailies reported that the girls are being held in a family detention centre in Leesport, in southeastern Pennsylvania, after their arrest on

The document, which describes the background of the case, said the FBI believed the girls presented "an imminent threat to the security of the United States based on evidence that they plan to be suicide bombers." It does not describe the nature

But one federal official, not connected to the FBI, expressed scepticism that the teenagers represented a real risk of a suicide bombing.

"There are doubts about these claims, and no evidence has been found that such a plot was in the works." the unnamed government official in Washington was quoted by the NYT. A law-enforcement official in New York voiced the same doubts

Police detectives, and then federal immigration agents, searched belongings of the Bangladeshi girl and confiscated her computer and the essays that she had written as part of a home schooling programme. One essay suicide. The family maintained that the essay asserted that suicide is against Islamic law but it led investigators to question her about her political beliefs

## IGP appointment

FROM PAGE 1

President lajuddin Ahmed has signed the papers promoting Hadis to the rank of the IGP, sources said. Hadis took over charges from immediate past IGP Ashraful Huda

completed to make Quaiyyum the new IGP and he even had met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia on Wednesday. Hadis had been work-

The contract of Ashraful Huda, which was extended thrice, expired

The government had originally planned to appoint Hadis, who is in its good books, as a secretary, but shelved the move after the establishment ministry raised objections saying that the additional IGP is equivalent in status to joint secretary, the official said.

him (Hadis) as the IGP, which is equivalent to additional secretary, to clear way for making him secretary," the official added.

Hadis hails from Netrakona, the home district of State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar. He is the 23rd IGP of Bangladesh.

## Islam of the Blast also addressed

2 outlaws

Stop Rab 'crossfire'

FROM PAGE 19 cases including eight for murder and was awarded 104 years' rigorous imprisonment for killing a police constable and snatching firearm from him, and Nabab, accused in three criminal cases including two murder cases, were at once taken to the Sreepur Police Station for interrogation.

In the early hours yesterday police took Waliur and Nabab to Do-Sotina village of Sreepur upazila to recover more firearms, following leads extracted from the two, police

As they reached near a bridge in the village, Sarbahara operatives opened fire on them at around 2:30am. Police also retaliated, said a police officer.

Both Waliur and Nabab attempted to flee from the police van during the hour-long shootout and

died on the spot, police said. Police claimed they retrieved four firearms and 26 bullets from the Sarbahara men.

Two policemen -- Sub-Inspector (SI) Akkas Ali and Nayek Modasser Ali -- were also wounded during the

"But the Rab is very popular among the common people. Now we don't see reports of 10-12 murders every day in the newspapers,"

Kholahati, Kamarjari, Laxmipur and Gideri under Sadar upazila.

villages at about 3:00am and lasted for an hour, damaging over 2,700 tin-roofed houses, seven educational institutions and uprooting trees and electric noles

Power supply in the affected areas remained cut off till filing of this report at 6:00pm yesterday.

## Ahsanullah

FROM PAGE 19

fabricated and concocted, adding that the accused were implicated in the

sional statement cannot be tried, the lawyer said, arguing that Mahbub's statement was coerced through physical and mental torture while he was in police custody. Moreover, the magistrate recorded Mahbub's statement, violating the rules and provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Advocate Nazrul will argue again tomorrow on various points ranging from the first information report (FIR), the inquest and post-mortem reports.

pleted their arguments and sought exemplary punishment for the killers. Ahsanullah Master was killed when

about 20 gunmen fired on a rally of the Swechchhasebak League, the volunteer front of the AL, at Naogaon near his residence in Tongi on May 7 last

Schoolboy Omar Faruq Ratan was also killed and at least five others were injured in the incident.

## BNP candidate

FROM PAGE 19

Mobin Chowdhury was elected uncontested as four other candidates withdrew their candidature vesterday, said a press release.

The parliamentary seat fell

# **CHT land body**

held in camera

The government formed the commission in accordance with the CHT peace accord initially for a threeyear term, but later extended its tenure twice. The tenure of the present commission will expire in November 2007

Following a directive of the PM, the CHT affairs ministry in 2003 asked the land ministry to recruit necessary manpower to make the commission functional but the land ministry did not appoint staff against the sanctioned posts in the commission As the three-year tenure of the

posts had expired, the land ministry last month requested the establishment ministry to extend the tenure of the posts, the CHT affairs ministry said in a report submitted to the parliamentary body. Reviewing the report, the parlia-

mentary body blasted the chairman of the land commission for not initiating any step to make the commission functional, sources said. The meeting observed that recruit-

ment of manpower in the commission could not be possible due to bureaucratic tangles between the land and establishment ministries. The parliamentary committee

asked the commission to start functioning immediately to resolve the land disputes which are a major problem in the CHT "It is unfortunate that the commis-

sion could not vet start working due to the bureaucratic tangles. Committee Chairman Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star after the meeting held at the Jativa Sangsad Rhaban

"We are ready to extend all-out cooperation to the land commission in performing its assigned tasks." he said. Responding to the lawmakers'

criticism, the land commission chairman told the meeting that he could not convene a meeting of the commission as he has not yet received the official gazette on the formation of the commission. "Drawing remuneration without

work is a matter of discomfort for me. I

one of whom is absconding, while

proceedings against another

accused now in hiding, were sus-

pended following a High Court

Hashim and Abdul Malek Sohel

received life term, while prime

accused former Korean Export

Processing Zone general manager

Abu Naser Chowdhury and its chief

security officer Humayun Kabir

Chowdhury were sentenced to five-

The tribunal acquitted pro-

Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir cadre

Saiful Islam alias Bilai Saiful, who

has been absconding on bail, and

Mansoor Alam, brother of top Shibir

cadre Gittu Nasir recently killed in

Hossain, owner of the private car

used in the killing, were put on hold

wounded Rabbani, also former

Chittagong Port Authority chairman,

on the city's busy Muradpur Road

when he along with five colleagues

was going to the KEPZ site in a

microbus around 11.00am on April

11 last year. Rabbani died from his

wounds at Bumrungrad Hospital in

Rabbani also was a witness in

The proceedings against Noor

Gunmen shot and fatally

vear imprisonment.

'crossfire'

by the High Court.

Mohammad Selim, Mohammad

3 get life, prime

want to work but nobody filed any case to the land commission." he

Replying to the commission chairman, the parliamentary committee chairman said people do not know about the commission. That's why they are not filing complaints.

Following the High Court's nomination the government appointed retired Justice AM Mahmudur Rahman chairman of the commission on October 10, 2001. Dipen Dewan, a deputy secretary-ranked official, was appointed the secretary.

Tenure of the chairman expired in October last year and he got extension for another three years as the commission could not start function-

The other members of the commission are the CHT regional council chairman or his nominated representative, chairmen of the three hill district councils, three circle chiefs, and Chittagong divisional commissioner or his representative. **BUREAUCRATIC TANGLE** 

The CHT ministry in its report said the nine-member land commission was assigned to settle land disputes in the CHT. The establishment ministry on September 8, 1999 created 11 posts apart from the chairman and secretary of the commission.

The CHT affairs ministry on July 22, 2003 requested the land ministry to appoint the 11 third and fourth class employees but the land ministry said it did not have surplus manpower to work in the commission on deputation.

Later the CHT affairs ministry asked the establishment ministry to take necessary steps. But the establishment ministry said the posts of the land commission were created on temporary basis and that their tenure has already expired.

Finally, the land ministry requested the establishment ministry on March 23 this year to extend the tenure of the posts in the land commission, said the report

# Dhaka, Beijing to work

FROM PAGE 1 and on common issues in the

international arena. During the summit between the two premiers, China pledged all-out assistance to Bangladesh's development endeavours, particularly in social, economic, agricultural, education, science and technology, telecoms, extraction of coal, public security and energy fields.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao led their respective sides in the official talks held at the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday afternoon. Before that, the two heads of government had a 20-minute tête-à-

Nine accords -- five agreements, two memoranda of understanding (MoU), a contract and an exchange of letters -- were signed after the summit

THE SUMMIT The talks were held in an uncommonly cordial atmosphere in a free and frank manner, said Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin briefing

the press.

He termed the meeting "completely fruitful, very positive, constructive and highly significant" and said, "Both the sides are extremely

The visit of the Chinese premier takes place at a time when the two countries are celebrating the 30th anniversary of establishing diplomatic ties, the foreign secretary pointed out

At the talks, he said, the Chinese premier declared Bangladesh as the approved destination of Chinese tourists in 2005 and said his country will chalk out elaborate programmes to celebrate the 30th anniversary

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the meet highly praised the economic progress China has achieved in the recent years and said Jiabao's visit will definitely promote bilateral trade and relations. She said Bangladesh considers

the visit as very significant and asked China to be a major development partner of Bangladesh.

## Caravan FROM PAGE 19

Separatists tried, firing two rifle grenades at one of the Muzaffarabad-bound buses soon after it left But no one was hurt, the bus was not hit and did not stop.

Two guerrillas also staged a suicide attack on a fortified government complex housing the passengers on Wednesday just a few hundred metres from the Lion of Kashmir stadium. They torched the complex. The

passengers escaped, although five have since pulled out, including two who got off almost as soon as the buses started. As the passengers, many elderly, boarded, the complex continued to smoulder nearby.

In commemorative green caps, they waved as the two white-andgreen buses draped with marigolds pulled out One hundred and seventy kilo-

metres away by road in Muzaffarabad, wellwishers threw rose petals as garlanded passengers boarded a green-and-yellow repainted a neutral white.

gers at the Peace Bridge with the message: "No religion teaches animosity towards each other."

Many of the demonstrators sported blue headbands and carried placards reading "Nation wants neutral probe into Kibria killing" and "No Grenade Attacks" etc.

Paltan intersection, Dainik Bangla intersection, Shapla Crossing before ending at Ittefag corner Many of the passers-by joined the parade to express solidarity with Kibria's family. Besides, a human chain was

formed between Paltan intersection and Shapla Crossing as the procession silently went past. On completion of the demonstra-

people have been spontaneously responding to her calls "I am confident that the killers will

she told a gathering after the pro-"We will be able to unmask the mastermind behind the slaying of

Shah AMS Kibria," she added. Kibria along with four others were killed in a grenade attack in Habigani on January 27.

Ramendu Majumder took part in the programme.

Prior to the procession, demonstrators formed a human chain near Muktangon area at about 11:00am.

night vigil to be among the last to see John Paul's body lying in state in St. Peter's Basilica. The line was far shorter than on

Wednesday when anxious authorities told pilgrims to stay away from the saturated city.

powerful to attend today's funeral, Bush, and Bill Clinton.

## In response, Jiabao lauded the progress Bangladesh has made, especially in establishing democracy, poverty alleviation and

development endeavours and its active foreign policy. Recalling his earlier visit to Bangladesh as a party leader 11 years ago, Jiabao said he is highly

mpressed by the present-day

improving law and order. He also

praised Dhaka's socio-economic

Bangladesh. The Chinese PM expressed the hope that Dhaka would continue maintaining one-China policy and extending support to Beijing on nternational issues.

Hemavetuddin said the Chinese premier readily assented to constructing the di- aluminium phosphate (DAP) fertiliser factory in Chittagong entirely on concessional lending instead of supplier's credit.

The immediate past Awami League government signed an MoU with China to set up the DAP plant with 50 percent investment in supplier's credit and the rest in concessional loan. The foreign secretary said the Chinese side also showed very

requests of Khaleda on reducing trade gap and duty-free access of Bangladeshi goods to China. He said the Chinese premier promised to look into the matters very positively. Jiabao also asked the Bangladeshi premier to send

positive attitude towards the

official and business delegations to China to resolve the issues. Jiabao also assured the Bangladeshi side to extend all possible co-operations for the benefits of Bangladesh and its people and offered greater number of scholarships for Bangladeshi students to study in China. He also proposed the vice chancellors of

Bangladeshi universities to visit

Chinese educational institutions

regularly. **THE ACCORDS** 

Elaborating the accords inked yesterday, the foreign secretary said Bangladesh would receive six million US dollars for capacity building of civil servants.

About an agreement on peaceful use of nuclear energy, Hemayetuddin said this is absolutely for peaceful usage in the fields of medicine, agriculture and biotechnology. "There is nothing military or related to weapons in this agreement.'

Under an agreement on public security, the foreign secretary said. China will help in capacity building of Bangladeshi law enforcement including providing training on criminal investigation techniques and technology, forensic tests etc.

He said the two sides discussed an entire range of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common con-

## **RECEPTION AT ZIA**

Earlier, the Chinese premier was given a rousing reception at Zia nternational Airport (ZIA) when he arrived here on a two-day official

A 19-gun salute boomed in the air and red carpets rolled out at the tarmac, as a special plane carrying Jiabao and his entourage landed at 2:25pm. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was first to greet the Chinese premier at the colourfully deco-

Jiabao was awarded a guard of honour by a smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three armed services. He took salute and inspected the guard. Senior cabinet ministers, chiefs of staff of the armed services, diplomats and senior government officials were present at the airport.

UNB adds: Wen Jiabao yesterday hoped his current visit would further consolidate traditional friendship and promote new progress in Sino-Bangladesh relations.

"My current visit is aimed at enhancing friendship and deepening co-operation," he said in an arrival statement at ZIA at the outset of his visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of Khaleda Zia.

have arrived in Bangladesh on an official visit, bringing with me the Chinese people's friendly sentiments for the Bangladeshi people, and added, "I look forward to having in-depth exchange of views on bilateral relations and issues of common interest."

vears ago, he said, concerted efforts of the two governments and peoples, friendly relations and cooperation have kept growing. "China-Bangladesh friendship accords with the common aspira-

tions and fundamental interests of our countries and peoples, and contributes to maintaining regional peace, stability and development, he noted

## Hasina insists

participate in the next polls without electoral reforms as demanded by

The Awami League chief, who returned home in the early hours yesterday after a month-long foreign trip, said her party and other mainstream opposition parties are now working out a common formula or these reforms

press conference held at the party's nanmondi office.

system, Hasina said, League doesn't believe in any conspiracy.

the BNP-led government has planned to rig the next general election through 'election engineering'.
"Sensing defeat in the next

government chief," she added.

The former prime minister urged the people to resist any move of BNF

reforms are ... She has no way to escape without bringing reforms (in the caretaker government system), said the AL chief

the alliance partners of BNP are now saying that BNP is harbouring religious militants and has failed to govern the country.

Refuting another allegation of the prime minister that the opposition parties are tarnishing Bangladesh's image in the international arena Hasina said, "It is not the opposition this government is enough to tarnish country's image abroad.

"Even the government has used the national news agency to spread propaganda against my son, also involving a neighbouring country's defence minister," she said referring to a BSS report that claimed her sor Sajib Wajed Joy has recently met Indian Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee in New Delhi which the Indian government has denied.

"Doesn't it tarnish the country's image?" she posed a guestion. The opposition leader said the

minister Shah AMS Kibria.

points.

NO POSTERS

The Chinese premier said, "I

Jiabao said China and Bangladesh are neighbours basking in close friendship. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties 30

the opposition.

"We will place a common formula very soon," she said at the crowded

Brushing aside Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's allegation that AL is conspiring to foil the next general election by boycotting it in the name of reforms of caretaker government

"We believe people's verdict is the only way to go to power," she said putting a counter allegation that

election, the ruling BNP has planned to snatch people's verdict," said the opposition leader. "They are going to appoint a party man as the caretaker

Asked about the prime minister's rigid stance against the electoral reforms, Hasină said, "Khaleda Zia made similar statements during the 1996 movement and she realised what is caretaker government after a mass upsurge.'

"This time too she will learn what The opposition leader said even

government has also blackened the country's name by issuing a false statement following a joint letter of three influential US senators on the inquiry of the killing of former finance

take a decision after the submission

and supporters are pressing him to put up posters.

## Md Abdul Aziz, secretary in charge Abdur Razzak, Sajjad Hossain, body along with his two immediate but the US embassy categorically denied this. Doesn't it damage our Kibria in a grenade attack in of the Ministry of Water Resources, on him by the participating ministers Abdur Rashid, Abdul Jabbar and predecessors -- his father, George Habigani on January 27. exchanged the letters of accord. canal in Mohammadpur, in the seminar. Abdul Aziz.

phone

# Illegal structures The drive began on March 29 with

the demolition of illegal structures on Kalyanpur canal in Agargaon Janata Housing area under Kafrul and Mirpur police stations. The Dhaka City Corporation

out the drive to implement a government decision. A demolition squad along with a police team led by two magistrates at 11:00 am yesterday started its operation in Lalkuthi-Harirampur area pulling down two boundary walls and several tin-shed and bamboo-made houses on the branch canal. Some encroachers

(DCC) Raiuk and district authorities

are assisting the Wasa in carrying

The squad then demolished several semi-pucca and bamboomade houses on the branch canal near Mirpur Mazar road. In Tolarbagh, a number of people

on Wednesday removed their

bamboo-made houses on the

themselves removed their houses.

Wasa Managing Director ANH Akhter Hossain visited the spot. A Wasa official said in Tolarbagh the DCC has built a road filling up a

major portion of the branch canal

and installing drainage pipes, which is not proper. The higher authorities should look into the matter, he added seeking anonymity. The Wasa will remove illegal structures on eight canals on a priority basis. They include . Begunbari canal, Mohakhali canal, Zirani canal in Rampura, Katasur

Ramchandrapur canal in Mohammadpur and Ibrahimpur canal. A cross-dam on the Gulshan-Banani Lake will also be removed.

A high-powered eviction implementation committee headed by a joint secretary of the home ministry is overseeing the canal recovery drive. There were 43 canals in and around the capital and 26 of them are still recognisable. Of the 26, 19

still have lean flows despite

encroachment and the others have

# River-linking

FROM PAGE 19 issues for their early resolution.

The visiting minister also pointed to the effects of the Farakka barrage on the "diminishing flow of waters of many of the common rivers entering into Bangladesh", the release said.

Dasmunshi told him that the

proposed river inter-linking project

would focus on peninsular rivers and it would not do anything that could have implications for its neighbours. Mosharraf invited Dasmunshi to visit Bangladesh, with Dasmunshi

hinting that he might do so next

Mosharraf, who is in New Delhi to

month, according to the release.

attend a WHO-organised seminar

## Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 19

of that evidence.

about 6:30pm yesterday. Farlier formalities were almost

ing as Additional IGP (Finance). Wednesday.

'So, the government appointed

No trace

day filed an abduction case with the Rajoir Police Station implicating some 50 unidentified persons of villages surrounding the spot of abduction in Rajoir upazila of the

head assistant of the department Kamrul Islam were abducted in the district in the morning of April 4 while they were visiting the place for police verification of a 24th BCS candidate there

DB Inspector Hasnain Azam and

Meanwhile, males of 20 villages of the upazila left their villages for fear of police harassment.

Nor'wester FROM PAGE 19 Kuthipara, Boali, Kuptola,

The storm started lashing the

case to harass them politically. The charges brought against Mahbub on the basis of his confes-

to the charge sheet and statements of 34 prosecution witnesses. Earlier, the prosecution had com-

> and Import Bank of China, and Mahmudul Hossain Mansur, secre-

Judge Imam said many weaknesses and loopholes were there in the investigation conducted by the investigation officer (IO) Faruk Ahmed, the then assistant commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police's Panchlaish zone, who is now in Muktagachha, Mymensingh.

the judgement to the inspector general of police (IGP) for departmental action against him for the According to the verdict, the mistakes the IO had made during investigation are a) he did not record confessional statements from any of the accused under 164 of the CrPC

b) took no statements from accused

under 161 of the CrPC, c) included

He ordered for sending a copy of

no evewitnesses and d) made none of the family members of Rabbani "It is solely his (IO) faults for which the judge couldn't award capital punishment, expected by the victim's family members, to the killers," said Ahmad Kamrul Islam

Chowdhury Sajjad, special public prosecutor, after the judgement. None of the family members were present at the courtroom. Prime accused Abu Naser Chowdhury was not happy with the

verdict. "I didn't get fair justice and

regarding the establishment of

direct air-link between Bangladesh

and China took place at the function.

Luo Chaogeng, general manager of

China Eastern Airlines, and AKM

Harun, chairman of the Civil Aviation

Authority, Bangladesh, exchanged

## would appeal to the higher court Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman murder case. against the judgement," he said. 9 accords penned

Bangladesh.

Kazi Abul Kasem.

Bangkok on April 24.

framework agreement on provision of concessional lending by China to

Chinese Foreign Minister Li

Zhaoxing and Bangladesh Minister for Science and ICT Abdul Moyeen Khan signed the Bangladesh-China Cooperation Agreement on Peaceful Usage of Nuclear Energy. An MoU (memorandum of understanding) on cooperation in agricultural field between the two countries

was signed by Chinese Vice

Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Dawei

and Bangladesh Secretary in

charge of the Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Public Security of China and the Ministry of Home Affairs of Bangladesh signed an agreement for cooperation between them. Chinese Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Wu Dawei and Home Secretary Safar Rai Hossain inked An MoU on installation of digital telephone exchanges in metropolitan cities, important district head-

quarters and upazila growth centers

in Bangladesh was signed by Zhu

Hongije, vice president of the Export

tary in charge of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board. A contract on management and production service of Baropukuria Coal Mine was signed by Chen Weigen, chairman of the Board of Directors, China General Technology (Holding) Ltd, and SR Osmani, chairman of Petrobangla and Chairman of BCMCI board.

Ministries of Water Resources of

China and Bangladesh exchanged

42 Bangla Bhai

leader Mokbul Mridha and had killed

in a bomb attack an Awami League

murder case on Wednesday.

They received bail in the Mahbub

leader, Mahbub, on January 22.

Lawyers said the police's delay in the investigation paved the way for their bail. The bail petitions of 22 others were still under consider-They accused were taken on remand thrice, during which they

told police they were members of

JMJB but were not involved in the

Sources at Bagmara said many

villagers, who were tortured at JMJB camps last year and only returned home after the JMJB cadres were arrested, have begun to flee after hearing the news of the release. "They (JMJB) include many outlaws-turned-JMJB who will chase us after they are bailed out,

as we informed the press of the

torture," said a torture victim by cell

Several lawvers and villagers told this correspondent that the law and order in Bagmara might deteriorate following the release. The released JMJB men include

A large billboard greeted passen-

Asma hopeful FROM PAGE 19

More Alliance Rule, No More The procession started from the Muktangon and marched through

tion. Asma Kibria said she is optimistic that the killers will be tried as

be punished as you are with me,'

Among others, Kibria's six sis ters, daughter-in-law Rina Kibria, AL leaders Obaidul Quader. Saber Hossain Chowdhury, AKM Jahangir Hossain MP, Mofazzal Hossain Maya, Dhaka University Teachers Association President AAMS Arefin Siddique and cultural activist

Rome ready

Among the kings, queens and

BNP leaders of using money from the government exchequer to organise party's union level coun-She demanded the new pay

scale for government employees be effected from the year 2002, when the prime m inister and her ca colleagues increased their remuner ation showing the reason of price hike of essentials. Hasina was awarded the Congressional Medal of Achievement from the Philippines House of

The AL president accused the

She also attended an international conference on terrorism and democracy in Madrid and later went to Florida USA for treatment of her

hearing debility caused by last

year's grenade attack on her meet-

present at the press conference.

Senior leaders of the party were

Representatives while participating

at a meeting of the Association of

Asian Parliamentarians for Peace in

Rivals woo

FROM PAGE 19

ing in Dhaka

Manila

(CCC) polls. His rival Awami League-backed candidate and incumbent Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury continues a door-to-door campaign on his 40-point programme and plans to refrain from putting up posters on walls for his polls campaign to keep the city clean.

"I will announce a comprehen-

sive plan for the development of

Chittagong and the benefit of the

city dwellers only after submitting

my nomination papers on Monday

'said Mir Nasir, also state ministe

for civil aviation and tourism, at a press briefing here yesterday. BNP sources said Nasiruddin's plan would come as a 'strategy to counter' Mohiuddin's 40-point

The city dwellers will surely like

the plan, and we will seek their votes for Mir Nasir to implement it for their benefit." said locaÍ BNP leader. On the incumbent mayor's 40point programme, Mir Nasir said, " I don't believe in politics of such

Leaders of the Nagorik Committee

supporting Mohiuddin said their

wants to maintain it." said Abul

Hashem, a leader of the committee.

admitted such a plan but said he will

When contacted. Mohiuddir

candidate is considering refraining from pasting election posters on walls but is yet to take a decision on this. 'The mayor has expressed such a wish. He has earned a reputation for keeping the city clean and he

of nomination papers and allotment of symbols. He said, however, his party men

## letters on cooperation in water vacant after the assassination of on maternal and child health, also Bagmara JMJB chief Abdus Sattar, President Bush led the way late on management. Chinese Awami League lawmaker and "The government claimed FBI is met Indian Prime Minister Ambassador in Dhaka Chai Xi and Hamirkutsa leader Abdul Jalil, Wednesday, visiting the Pope's former finance minister Shah AMS investigating the Kibria killing case Manmohan Singh during a joint call