whether the caretaker government had jurisdiction to promulgate the ordinances in the frequency with which it did so,

tional provisions on caretaker governments' functions, Tofail Ahmed, a senior Awami League lawmaker, told reporters that the immediate past caretaker government was supposed to only carry out routine governmental tasks and assist the Election Commission in holding a free and fair national

"But the caretaker government promulgated 119 ordinances, instead of only carrying out the routine work. We discussed whether the caretaker government had the jurisdiction to do that," Tofail said

Law, Justice and Shafique Ahmed informed the meeting about the new elected government formed expert committee's recommendation for ratifying the 50 ordinances.

The special committee decided to put all 122 ordinances through parliamentary scrutiny before placing any bill in the parliament for ratifying any of those.

sitting formed the special committee to scrutinise the ordinances till the standing committees on ministries are formed.

of the ordinances were promulgated by Fakhruddin Ahmedled military backed caretaker government during its tenure between January 12, 2007 and

January 06, 2009, one was promulgated in 2006 by the caretaker government while being led by President Iajuddin Ahmed as the self appointed chief adviser, and the other two were promulgated by the president, also in 2006, following the last parliament's last session before the caretaker govern-

menttookover. Forty one of those were promulgated as fresh laws, 60 were promulgated amending provisions of existing laws, while many of the remaining 21 were promulgated to repeal laws, of which many are not even effective anymore, according to a report submitted to the special committee meeting by the law ministry.

Currently, 101 of the ordinances are in effect, which must be ratified by the parliament within 30 days of their placement in the House, in order to remain effective as laws.

Referring to the immense volume of the task, special committee member Suranjit Sengupta told reporters that no parliament in the world deals Parliamentary Affairs Minister with ratification of such a huge number of ordinances in one session.

We will have to scrutinise the large number of ordinances of an extra constitutional regime. We will examine thoroughly each of the ordinances, to see whether any of their provisions contradicts the constitution, in order to prevent repeat of such shackling of the On the inaugural day of the democratic process in the future," Suranjit said.

Asked about the fate of the ordinances, Tofail, also a former minister, said they will take reasonable decisions taking The House in its second into consideration all aspects including public acceptability.

Emerging from the meeting, BNP lawmaker also a member of the special committee, MK Anwar, said the committee decided to scrutinise all ordinances.

Another committee member Abdul Matin Khasru, also a former law minister, termed the meeting a policy making one.

### Seat order

FROM PAGE 1 LDP Chief in the front row,

Shahid told The Daily Star. The BNP-led opposition remained absent in the House proceedings since Wednesday demanding three more seats in the front row as a condition to return to parliament.

"There is no reason to return to the parliament if the Speaker does not meet our demand before resumption of tomorrow's House proceedings," BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury told The Daily Star astnight.

However, Chief Whip of the Opposition Joynal Abedin Faruk said they will sit today to decide whether to return to the parliament or not if their demand is not met.

Party insiders said the possibility of BNP's joining today's session is little if their demand is not met.

A delegation of opposition lawmakers led by MK Anwar on January 29 met the Speaker at his office and placed the demand.

The opposition sought three more seats in the front row to increase the number of their seats to eight including one for the lone lawmaker of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

The treasury bench earlier got annoyed as the then speaker Jamiruddin Sircar overruled the chief whip's seating arrangement and made a new arrangement for the opposition a day before the parliament session began.

According to Sircar's seating arrangement, BNP lawmakers got the front 10 seats in the opposition bench. Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Chief Col (retd) Oli Ahmed was also given a seat in the first row of opposition bench.

The ruling Awami League opposed Sircar's arrangement saying it was disproportionate to the number of seats won by the opposition.

### Hasina asks

FROM PAGE 1 Hasina said.

She was speaking at a meeting with Awami League (AL) leaders and workers from Kotalipara upazila of Gopalganj at her political office in Dhanmondi yesterday evening. The newly elected Kotalipara upazila chairman led the team tomeet the AL chief.

Hasina said regions like Gopalganj and Kishoreganj, which were deprived of development during the rule of BNP-Jamaat coalition government, will get priority this time. She alleged that the previous BNP government even cancelled different development projects taken during the 1996-2001 AL

government's tenure. Hasina said a conspiracy was hatched so that the AL cannot come to power, but "people kept faith in us and gave us an overwhelming majority. So, we

tain that position and carry the

Referring to the "indiscrimi-

nate" tortures inflicted on AL

leaders and activists by the

previous BNP-Jamaat alliance

government, Hasina said such

incidents need to be prevented.

She sought cooperation from all

LGRD and Cooperatives

Minister and AL spokesperson

Syed Ashraful Islam also spoke

Varosha in Rangpur-4 constit-

uency was the highest at Tk 14

in Rangpur-5 constituency

Fakhruz Zaman Jahangir. He

dates' statements, AL candi-

date Ashiqur Rahman spent

According to the candi-

spentTk 13.40 lakh.

Next to him is JP candidate

in this regard.

at the meeting.

FROM PAGE 1

country forward," she added.

The BNP chairperson have to honour their faith." Reminding that her government is just "24 days old", the PM said, "No matter what we have gained, what is important is what people of the country

have gained." She said Bangladesh would no longer be known as a nation of beggars; rather it would stand in the world with its head high. "Chairperson might announce "Bangladesh's prestige in the new committees of associate international arena has already increased and we have to main-

bodies, or the dates of councils."

FROM PAGE 16

Letters have been sent to the root causes of militancy, terrorism, extortion and track down godfathers," she said adding, "We have to eliminate the anti-liberation forces once

> Seeking people's cooperation in her fight Sahara Khatun said that she would look into the legal and technical pitfalls why and how criminals get off

present as the chief guest at the reception, said that Party policy-makers might Bangladesh police administration is still run by archaic police act of 1861 and police regulations of 1940.

> Minister for modernisation of the country's police force, he said, "Mere commitment of the rulers will not do, government has to revamp and reform the police force so that the criminals cannot get away

> That the basic principle of the government is it should become the guardian of the law-abiding people and punish the violators of rules of law,

Khatun to honour her for becoming the first ever woman home minister in the country. Sahara Khatun had also been the general secretary of the samity for long.

Samity's vice-presidents Prof. Momtaz Begum, TN Rashid, Shamsunnahar Siddiq and general secretary incharge Tania Bakht, among others, spoke while its president Selina Khaleg presided over the ceremony.

# Brutality beats

FROM PAGE 1

Rajib Kazi, a neighbouring youth of Shewly, gave the girl a candy and took her to a nearby bush and violated her.

He strangled her as she started screaming and hid the body under leaves, they said.

Police arrested Rajib and

his mother Hajera Begum Friday evening. Upon Rajib's statement the law enforcers recovered the body yesterday. Police said during interrogation the youth admitted to

violating and killing Shewly.

Our Faridpur correspondent reports: Sharmin, 17, daughter of Shah Alam, was killed in South Akanbaria village of Nurullahganj union under Bhanga upazila of the

Sharmin's grandfather Bazlur Rahman said Sujan, son of Hasmat Bhuiyan of Mirakanda village of the same union, had been proposing to marry Sharmin but she 17lakhtonnes. refused to marry him.

On Friday, Sharmin and her family members went to a neighbouring house to attend a function. Sujan called her out of the house, and she was missing since then. Later, police recovered her

nude body from an orchard in nearby Kalibari area and sent it to Faridpur Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. Contacted, Enamul Haque,

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Bhanga Police Station, said, the girl might have been raped and then killed.

A case was lodged with Bhanga police in this connection. Our Narayanganj corre-

spondent adds: Police recovered the body of victim Lupta Begum, 35, from an underconstruction house and sent it to Narayanganj General Hospital for autopsy. Mother of two, Lupta

Begum's husband Anju Miah

is a re-rolling mill worker, and they used live in a rented house in the area. Anju Miah said his wife used to take care of cows at a house in the locality and would get some milk for the

ceremony will be broadcast live

"The people of this country

have an emotional attachment

with Ekushey Boi Mela," Bangla

Academy Director General (DG)

Syed Muhammad Shahed said

yesterday during a press confer-

year will be more organised and

lively with the participation of

readers, writers and publishing

A total of 436 stalls have been

allocated to 297 institutions and

publishing houses this year,

with expanded accommoda-

tion facilities spilling over the

The fair will remain open for

all from 3:00pm to 9:00pm on

working days and from 11:00am

to 9:00pm on weekends. On

February 21, the International

Mother Language Day, the fair

will remain open from 8:00 in

will also be special timings for

women on three different days

during the month-long exhibi-

For the first time ever, there

the morning till 10:00pm.

precincts of the academy.

"We expect that the fair this

FROM PAGE 1

by Bangladesh Betar.

ence at the academy.

houses alike," he said.

usual come out of the house with milk for selling it but went missing since then.

Khaleda

across the country through

looting, attacks, extortion

and setting fire to people's

properties," said Khaleda at a

programme at Shahid Ziaur

Rahman Mahabidyalaya at

Bagbari in Bogra marking the

73rd birth anniversary of

party's founder Ziaur

twenty activists," the BNP

League chief to rein in her

party activists and student

ment is deceiving people by

deviating from their election

pledges including the one of

giving the post of deputy

with them but they need to

create a congenial environ-

massive ballot rigging took

place in the last two elections.

ment first," she said.

"We are eager to cooperate

Khaleda also alleged that

BNP Secretary General

Khandaker Delwar Hossain,

standing committee mem-

bers Moudud Ahmed and

Khandakar Mosharraf

Hossain, party chief's advis-

ers Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury and ASM

Hannan Shah, joint secretar-

ies general Mirza Abbas,

Selima Rhman and Abdul

Manan, and former Rajshahi

city mayor Mizanur Rahman

Minu also spoke.

speaker to the opposition.

Khaleda said the govern-

"They have killed our

She asked the Awami

FROM PAGE 1

Rahman.

chief alleged.

organisations.

Sub-inspector Badrul Alam of Fatullah model thana said it is suspected that she was raped and strangulated to death.

Her husband filed a case with Fatullah model thana, Police are yet to track down the killers.

### Govt focuses

FROM PAGE 16 took initiatives to boost Boro production after cyclone Sidr dealt a severe blow to Aus and Aman productions. Following the initiatives, Boro production stood at 1.77 tonnes in the last season.

Farmers yielded bumper Aus and Aman harvests in the current season. The production of Aus was 23.12 lakh tonne, which is normally 15 to

According to agriculture ministry's primary statistics, Aman production in the current season is 1.30 crore tonnes, which normally remains around one crore tonnes. Sources said considering

all the facts, the government has set a high production target of 1.8 crore tonnes in the Boro season.

Keeping in mind the fulfilment of the election pledge, the Awami League government said it would be happy if it could bring down rice price to Tk 19 to 20 a kg.

The price of coarse rice has already come down to Tk 25 to 27. The fall in the price was 11 per cent over the last month, according to the TCB report.

But it will be necessary to reduce the production costs to bring down rice prices further.

already decreased the prices of fertiliser and diesel to bring down production costs. However, economists said

only reduction in prices of agri-inputs would not be enough. It has to be ensured that the agri-inputs are availjob. On Friday, she had as able to farmers timely.

ings, a male guardian may

accompany women and chil-

dren to the fair. From 3:00 pm

onwards the fair will be open to

### Local BNP leaders mation it has about war crimes. demanded that the party "Our army, navy and air nominate Tarique Rahman in force were at the forefront of the the by-election to any of the nals?"he asked.

two Bogra constituencies vacated by the party chairper-

But Khaleda did not say anything on the issue.

Khaleda in the evening visited newly constructed Baiur Rahman mosque in Bogra town and talked to local journalists at the Bogra Press Club.

Earlier, on her way to Bogra, Khaleda addressed a roadside rally at Hatikumrul in Sirajganj.

The BNP chief at the rally warned the government not to sign any deals with foreign counties that go against

The new government seems to be eager to sign deals involving national interests and national resources. Any deal that goes against national interests would not be tolerated," she

### Serena wins

FROM PAGE 16

added.

The win means the American, seeded second in the tournament, will also take the world number one ranking off Serb Jelena Jankovic.

Williams, 27, utterly dominated third seed Safina, allowing her opponent to win only eight points in the first set on her way to claiming the championship in less than an hour.

The American also won the women's doubles title with her sister Venus on Friday and became the highest ever prize money winner in women's sport during the tournament.

Safina, contesting her second final in a Grand Slam after losing in last year's French Open decider, narrowly avoided entering the record books as being on the wrong end of the worst drubbing in a final in the tournament's history.

Only Steffi Graf in 1994 and Margaret Smith in 1962 have posted more comprehensive victories in the decider, both

## JMB worry

FROM PAGE 16 guards in Rajshahi jail on January 17 and clashes that took place between Dhaka Central Jail guards and stu-

warned that a vested quarter was attempting to create chaos at the jail to damage the government's image, the jail

superintendent added. Sources meanwhile say that tension still prevails on the jail premises and security there remains on high alert over the situation.

guards at Rajshahi Central Jail held the jail super Harun-ur-Rashid hostage inside the jail after he allegedly 'misbehaved' with a jail security guard

In another incident, Dhaka Central Jail security guards clashed with students of Alia Madrasa over a playground between the jail and madrasa

# UN seeks safety

FROM PAGE 16

Tiger political head B. Nadesan denied its fighters were holding civilians as "human shields", the pro-rebel Tamilnet.com website reported on Thursday.

"We have not imposed any restriction on individuals, Nadesan said. The negotiations for the

passage of more wounded came after UN chief Ban Kimoon on Friday appealed to the warring parties to allow civilians trapped behind the frontlines to exit the area. "The Secretary General calls

upon the... LTTE, in particular, to allow civilians in the conflict zone to move to where they feel most secure, including (to government-controlled) areas," Ban's press office said. He also urged the govern-

ment to ensure that civilians arriving from conflict areas were treated in "accordance with international standards", including being given freedom of movement and full access by humanitarian agencies. The UN chief said he

remained concerned about the fate of civilians, including tens of thousands of children, despite Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse's declaration of safe passage for them.

He called on both Colombo and the LTTE "to do all in their power to make this safe passage a reality and to ensure the

protection of civilians in accordance with international humanitarian law"

The UN agency for children earlier asked both Sri Lanka's government and the LTTE to give "absolute priority" to the safety of children and the civilian population caught up in the fighting.

Unicef gave no figures, but the ICRC has said "hundreds" of civilians have been killed this month and "scores" wounded. Sri Lanka's government

denies it targets civilians. "We have clear evidence that children are being caught in the crossfire, and that children are being injured and killed," said Unicer's Regional Director for South Asia, Daniel

A group of international relief organisations, including UN agencies, appealed to the LTTE to allow civilians to leave areas under its control and asked the government to stop blocking international aid.

Sri Lanka's human rights minister, Mahinda Samarasinghe, said Friday there would be no let-up in the military campaign against the LTTE despite calls for a truce.

Sri Lanka's defence ministry says it is in the final phase of operations against Tamil Tiger guerrillas to end the longrunning ethnic conflict.

## JS resolution

FROM PAGE 1

The defence ministry can help by granting access to the infor-

war. They might as well have evidence to come up with," Tajul observed. He said the government could count on evidence and

documents from India whose military had fought as the allied "Pakistan army too must have information," Tajul said talking about potential avenues

ofgetting evidence. Citing the parliamentary resolution, home ministry's measures to prevent the alleged war criminals fleeing the country and discussions in the cabinet, the Liberation War affairs minister said the process of

organising the long-awaited trial has already begun. Shafique Ahmed however said, "Only after the cabinet decides on modalities and procedure of the trial can we say

the process has started.' Tajul said some informal research and studies have been undertaken on the potential model for war crime trial. He however would not elaborate

on the matter. Nuremberg and Chile, he said, "Experts on war crimes would thoroughly examine the prosecution models used in different countries, and after that the government will decide which would be the most credible way

to try the war criminals of 1971.

He said an expert committee might be formed to look at the technicalities and later a war crime fact-finding commission might be set up for documentation of evidence available to be

About the government's plan to get the international community, especially the United Nations, involved in the efforts, Tajul said this would not only ensure a trial credible to all, but also help the government in

many other aspects like in execution of the verdict on those living abroad.

"What is the use of trial if we fail to implement the possible verdict against the war crimi-

Chowdhury Moeenuddin and Asharfuzzaman khan, alleged to have led the massacre of intellectuals on the eve of victory in December 1971, are now settled in the United Kingdom and the United States.

details about the number and names of the alleged war criminals that the home ministry is keeping watch on. He only said, "We have some

kind of lists. Many people know about war criminals, and the media too have published and broadcast much about them over the years.

Zillur FROM PAGE 16

house in Gulshan with the form. After being filled in, it will be submitted to the chief election commissioner, who is the returning officer for the presidential poll.

Meanwhile, the deadline for submitting election expendi-Referring to the trials at ture statements by candidates of parliamentary polls ended

As per the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972, candidates of parliamentary election have to submit their election expenditure statements to the returning officers concerned within 30 days of the publication of poll results through government gazette. A

of around 100 candidates, including Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reached the EC by mails, sources at the EC

around 50 medical teams at the

# The authorities have also placed

Separate platforms have

been built for them. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to offer her prayers from a venue atop the Bata Shoe Company building at Tongi while leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia will be situated atop the Atlas Bangladesh Ltd building.

President Prof lajudin would be situated at another platform built near the main stage of the congregation.

have been taken to ensure their

This year, a record figure of 10,500 foreign devotees from 105 Muslim countries has joined the congregation. As the number of foreigners

the international venue. day of the Ijtema yesterday, a dowry-free mass wedding programme was held at the venue as is traditionally done

As many as 44 special trains and a number of BRTC shuttle bus services have been arranged to ease the transporta-

gathering for free treatment facilities to the devotees. The law-enforcing agencies have put up a three-tier security system -- including helicopter patrol and close-circuit television (CCTV) monitoring -- in and around the venue. They have also set up eight observation towers while two helicopters had been hovering over the area.Police and Rab sources said the law enforcers had been frisking everyone at five checkpoints to avert any untoward incident.Around 11,000 security personnel from the police Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), Armed Police Battalion (APB),

Law enforcers have rounded up around 80 muggers from and around the Ijtema venue over the last two days.

Myanmar to stop persecuting the Rohingya people and urged neighbouring countries to meet their humanitarian obligations.

The accusations surfaced earlier this month after nearly

claiming to have been beaten by Thai soldiers. Hundreds of the boat

people are still believed to be missing at sea.

Queried, he declined to give

straight to Zillur Rahman's

copy of the statement has also to be sent to the EC by mail.

The result of the ninth parliamentary polls was published in a gazette on January 1. Election expenditure reports

Secretariat said.

# Bishwa Ijtema

FROM PAGE 1 seeking divine blessing from Allah and is held over three days

President Prof Iajuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, opposition leader in the parliament Khaleda Zia, various ministers and other VVIP personnel are expected to participate in the Akheri Munajat.

Special security measures

participating this year was very high, authorities were not able to accommodate all of them at Meanwhile, on the second

at the programme.

# JS body

explanations regarding the recommendation to ratify 50 ordinances out of 122. We will also try to know what public interest will be served by those." The meeting also discussed

Rahmat Ali added. Referring to the constitu-

emerging from the meeting.

ninth parliament, the law minister placed the 122 ordinances before the House for its consideration for ratification within the next 30 days.

One hundred and nineteen

BNP braces

some fresh and energetic lead-

discuss the party's parliament

The powerful body will also

strategies, sources said. Chairperson Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting at her Gulshan office. The party constitution says the party councils will be held every two years. But the last

central council of BNP was held

in 1993 while the national exec-

utive committee (NEC) of the

party sat in the capital on

August 26, 2006. According to party leaders, none of the 78 organisational district units of the party across the country have valid commit-Asked about the meeting

agenda, NSC member Shamsul

Islam yesterday told The Daily Star, "All issues relating to the party will come up for discus-Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, another member of the NSC, said, "Reorganising the party from grassroots level to

top will be the major issue at the meeting." Earlier on January 9, Khaleda Zia at a meeting in Comilla declared that all committees of BNP and associate organisations would be dissolved and revamped through elections. Ahead of today's NSC meet-

ing, the party had already

started preliminary activities for

its reorganisation, and six joint

secretaries-general were assigned to work on party committees in six divisions of the at Natak Sarani. country. the presidents and secretaries at all level of the party. Party standing committee will discuss the issue on Sunday," Khandaker Delwar Hossain said on Friday

the party through election to fulfil the demand of time. If we fail to do this, our political opponents would be the beneficiary," a BNP lawmaker told The

when asked about the process

competent leaders at all tires of

"We want young, honest and

of reorganisation.

Daily Star.

### also discuss bringing a change in the post of secretary general

No session FROM PAGE 16 When contacted, Deputy Sergeant at Arms Asaduzzaman Chowdhury came to the entrance and said he talked to the speaker who asked him not

to allow any journalist inside.

Asaduzzaman also said, "As there is no parliament session today, journalists will not be allowed inside." When journalists said important meetings are going on inside the Sangsad Bhaban, he cited security measures and

said, "You rather wait outside

and cover it when lawmakers

Quoting the speaker

come out after the meeting." However, security personnel allowed some 60 persons who came from Hossainpur of Kishoreganj to congratulate the speaker, inside without any major checking. Two reporters managed to enter the parliament building

with the Hossainpur delegates

but security personnel did not

ask them anything.

as most of the leaders think a

the changes will come through holding of council or the chairperson using her power will bring the changes before the council. Meanwhile, nine of the 11 associate bodies of BNP have

ship instead. The two associate bodies that have valid committees are Jatiyatabadi Muktijoddha Dal and Jatiyatabadi Tanti Dal, but these are among the weakest fronts of the party.

Jaityatabadi Chatra Dal (JCD) to know their opinions regarding the process of revamping.

announce new committee of some associate bodies including the JCD. told The Daily Star yesterday,

War criminals

and for all.

with criminal offences."

fresh and energetic leader should be appointed in the post to gear up party activities across the country, said insiders. But it is not yet clear whether

remained without valid committees for the last two to 12 years as the party ignored democratic practices within itself, focusing only on the top leader-

already started discussion with the leaders of associate bodies. She talked with senior leaders of

Sources said Khaleda might A senior BNP leader however

Neelima Ibrahim Auditorium "We have to dig deeper into

Justice Qazi Ebadul Haq,

Calling upon the Home

Tk 13 lakh, AL candidate in Rangpur-4 Tipu Munshi Tk 12 lakh, JP candidate in Rangpur-2 Anisul Islam Mondol Tk 9.60 lakh, four-party alliance candidate in Rangpur-6 Noor Mohammad Mondol Tk Mahila Samity organised 5,16,944, four-party alliance the reception for Sahara | candidate in Rangpur-2 ATM Azharul Islam Tk 8.50 lakh and JP candidate in Rangpur-1 Mokbul Shahariar Asif Tk 10

Yesterday was the last date

for submitting the election

expenditure statements.

Except a few candidates

including JP's Karim Uddin

Varosha, all submitted their

election expenditure state-

ments to the office of the

returning officer.

lakh.

FROM PAGE 16 Poll expenditure

average in the first 11 months last year. Malaysia's Deputy Prime four-party alliance candidate Minister Najib Razak told the and BNP leader Rahim Uddin

> Bangladesh in 2008, has reduced issuing work visas due to the global economic meltdown. Bangladeshi workers last December while 25,463 till January 27, although it hired

There are also some reports that reveal that many workers are losing jobs in the UAE. Bangladesh's traditional and

major labour market Saudi Arabia has also significantly reduced issuing work visas to Bangladeshis since February last year. In December last year, Saudi Arabia recruited only 1,531 Bangladeshi workers and 981 till January 27 this year. Kuwait, on the other hand, stopped hiring Bangladeshi

hiring the workers. Besides, Bangladeshi workers are losing jobs in Singapore, which is facing serious global

jobs were provided with some food and shelters by some charities in that country. Some workers have already returned "Bangladesh is unlikely to

An official at the expatriates' welfare ministry said: "We have still some hopes as Libya, Jordan, Qatar and Syria have a good demand of workers and we must take this opportunity."

premises on January 24.

The government has

### Ekushey Boi Mela national interests. and associated hassles. "During these special tim-

all again," the DG said. This year, bookstalls will be set up on both sides of the road in front of the academy. On the occasion, the host Bangla Academy has already published 62 new books and will bring out 18 more during the month. These include biographies of Bir Srestha

Bir Srestha Noor Mohammad Sheikh and a number of text Everyday a seminar will be held on the theme of 'Potentiality of Bangladesh'. This will focus on a different sector each day. Also different cultural

Captain Mohiuddin Jahahgir,

academy premises each day. Mercantile Bank is assisting Bangla Academy in organising the fair this year at a budget of Tk 31 lakh. All information regarding

the fair is available at three

shows will be organised on

### 11:00 am to 3:00 pm on www.banglaculture.com February 6, 7 and 27 for women www.boiwala.com and and children only to make it www.ekusheyboimela.info, the easier for them to avoid crowds DGsaidatthe press conference.

The fair will be open from websites

Overseas jobs

parliament last October that his government was taking steps to reduce the number of foreign workers by 400,000 in a year until 2010. On the other hand, the UAE, which hired about 3.95 lakh

workers out of 8.32 lakh from

The UAE hired 23,978 homeafterlosingtheirjobs. around 36,000 workers on an average each month until November 2008.

workers in late 2006 following an allegation of malpractice in

financial meltdown, mainly in the shipping business. Sultana Adnan, welfare coordinator of Singapore Bangladesh Samiti in Singapore, told The Daily Star over phone that around 10,000

Bangladeshi workers who lost

face a negative impact in overseas employment if the current situation continues. This will certainly put a pressure on the domestic employment," said Abdul Hye Mondal, senior research fellow at Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS).

The government should also make high-level dialogue with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to fully open their markets for Bangladeshi workers, he added.

# winning 6-0, 6-2.

dents of Alia Madrasa on January 24. Islam said that over 150 members of the banned Jam'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) are currently being held at the central jail itself. Intelligence reports

Earlier last month, jail

every year. A total of 115 couples, in presence of their relatives and guardians, got married The government has taken various measures to extend allout support to the smooth holding of the annual congrega-

tion of pilgrims to the venue

## 650 Rohingya were rescued off India and Indonesia, some

place to ensure security during the event.

ansars and several hundred

members of various intelli-

gence agencies have been put in

### FROM PAGE 16 International called on

Thailand's military has been accused of towing hundreds of Rohingya out to sea in poorly equipped boats with scant food and water, a charge it has "categorically denied."