NEWS

Indira Gandhi award

shackles of poverty and the

scourge of terrorism." The award carries a cash

prize of Rs 25 lakh and a cita-

She said it was the duty of her government to uphold human rights and the rule of

Hasina received the award amidst thunderous and standing ovation at a glittering function at the historic Darbar Hall of Rashtrapati Bhaban.

Hasina said as per the election manifesto of Awami League, "My government has taken steps to strengthen the roots of democracy and secularism in Bangladesh, ensure good governance, reform public institutions and initiate a broad spectrum of socioeconomic programmes for liberating our people from

poverty, disease and illiteracy."

She said, "While India's success with peace and progress largely lies with its strength of democracy Bangladesh's progress, on the other hand, was frustrated by frequent intervention of undemocratic forces -- the most brutal one being the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibu Rahman and 18 of his family

members on August 15, 1975.' "As the elder of the two family members I took up the struggle to fulfil my father's vision of Sonar Bangla where people would enjoy their fun-

damental rights," Hasina said. She said peace was essential for overall development of Bangladesh and her country's concern for peace was reflected worldwide in its participation in peacekeeping operations under the aegis of the United Nations.

Pointing out that Bangladesh and India have a shared history, common values and lifestyle she said, "A rare opportunity has come to take our countries' relationship to a higher and more meaningful

Recalling Indira Gandhi's words that freedom, peace and economic prosperity are indivisible, Hasina said, "It is for us to cooperate and move together as equals for freedom, peace and prosperity for the common good."

Hasina said Indira Gandhi had led a life dedicated to peace, justice and democracy and maintained an "unfaltering stand for the deprived and downtrodden".

"When people of Bangladesh in 1971 were in the throes of pain, subjugation and bloodshed by the Pakistani occupation forces, Indira Gandhi rallied support for the victims within India and around the world," she said.

Recalling her association with Indira Gandhi, an emotional Hasina referred to the gruesome assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and eighteen other family members and said, "We had nowhere to go at that time. Our government then did not allow us to return to our home-

"It was Indira Gandhi who gave us shelter. We took political asylum and stayed in Delhi for six years," she said, adding: "Indira Gandhi is not only my

ideal but also like my mother." "The unflinching support of Mrs Gandhi for the struggle for freedom of Bangladesh, the

release of their interned leader

She added Bangladesh has

proposed movement of pas-

senger and cargo vehicles to

Nepal and Bhutan from and to

Bangladesh and discussions

on rail and road links with the

Turning to Indian entrepre-

neurs, Hasina said: "I invite

you to come forward with

investment in Bangladesh"

and assured them of all possi-

ble assistance and coopera-

Bangladeshi business com-

munity to take advantage of

the new opportunities to

increase their business activi-

welcome Indian businessmen

and investment and we are

keen to set up a nice relation-

ship which will help not only

India and Bangladesh but the

She said it is the responsi-

bility of the businesspersons

to help create a market for

their products by increasing

the purchasing power of the

poor who then can buy more

create market in Saarc," she

said, adding: "We don't want

to quarrel with anybody. We

want to become a develop-

ment partner so that South

Asia becomes an area of peace

and development."

"Only businessmen can

The premier said: "I will

She also called upon

eastern India are on.

tion in such ventures.

ties in India.

entire South Asia."

goods.

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina invites

the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the unprecedented welcome extended to him on his arrival in New Delhi on way back to Dhaka will always remain deeply etched in the mind of our people," she

said Hasina said her concept of peace beyond war was in her own words, "peace we want because there is another war to fight -- poverty, disease and ignorance."

"It is really a great honour to get the award instituted in the name of a great leader. I do not know whether I am worthy of this," Hasina told the gathering at Rashtrapati Bhaban which included several union ministers, diplomats and MPs including Rahul Gandhi.

The prime minister wrapped up her speech amid loud claps from a distinguished gathering who included Indian Vice-President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi.

Giving away the award, the Indian president said both India and Bangladesh were committed to strengthening bilateral relations and determined to forge stronger bonds of cooperation and trust.

"We seek to forge greater trade, investment and cultural exchanges. We also face common challenges which require close cooperation with each other," Patil said, adding that Hasina had left "an indelible imprint on her country's growth and development".

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Bangladesh's voice is heard with respect in the international forums and India was honouring "not only a great daughter of Bangladesh but a distinguished world leader"

Observing that one of the primary concerns of Hasina was food security, Manmohan said his Bangladesh counterpart has sought a global agreement for development of agriculture and attainment of food self-sufficiency in developing countries, particularly the least developed ones.

"She has spoken passionately on behalf of developing countries threatened by climate change and worked to build global consensus on the need to tackle this problem,'

Sonia Gandhi said a peaceful, secular and democratic Bangladesh was India's "wish and hope and we have no doubt that under your [Hasina's] leadership it will be realised".

Terming Indira Gandhi as a "courageous lady", the Sonia Gandhi said India would have been a very different place had it not been for her leadership in the face of stiff opposition, at home and abroad.

She said the country was honouring another equally courageous woman, Hasina, who faced trials and tribulations with indomitable cour-

"Indira Gandhi derived so much inspiration from her father. You too followed your father's footsteps. You have been a fighter from the student days.... and have experienced blood and tears, suffered and lost almost your entire family. You lived in exile," Gandhi told the Bangla premier.

Earlier, Indian Commerce

and Industry Minister Anand

Sharma asked Indian industri-

alists to invest in Bangladesh

entering into joint ventures

and sharing entrepreneurship

and technology with

Bangladeshi businesspersons

with buy-back arrangement

which would help address

Bangladesh's complaints of

ment in Bangladesh. This will

address bilateral trade imbal-

ance and will ensure that

import from Bangladesh will

be a partner in Bangladesh's

economic development," he

dollar line of credit announced

by India yesterday for

Bangladesh is the largest finan-

cial assistance to any country

minister made a pitch for

Bangladesh allowing the use

of Chittagong port for Indian

goods for faster movement of

goods between northeastern

India and other parts of India,

avoiding the circuitous route

of 1,400km through northern

undertake land customs

check posts along the border

with Bangladesh to help pro-

Sharma said India would

part of West Bengal.

mote trade.

The Indian commerce

and "it is just the beginning".

"We will not only invest but

Sharma said the one billion

increase," Sharma said.

"I would like Indian invest-

bilateral trade imbalance.

Mercury dips

FROM PAGE 1 It was 10.2 degrees Celsius in Dhaka yesterday, and even lower temperatures were recorded in Chuadanga (5.8), Iswardi (6.3), Rajshahi (7.5), Jessore (7.8), Sayedpur (8.2), Tangail and Dinajpur (8.6), Barisal (8.8), Bogra (9) Chuadanga (9.2), Feni (9.9) and Bhola (9.9) degrees.

In Dinajpur, tens of thousands of homeless people are trying to stay warm during the nights by burning dry leaves and wooden sticks.

The district administration has distributed around 6,000 blankets and Tk 80,000 for each of the 13 upazilas this winter.

homeless people in the district remain unprotected from the cold. Md. Abdul Jalil, Deputy

Commissioner of Dinajpur

However thousands of

said that NGOs and individuals have also come forward to assist the vulnerable people. Meherpur General Hospital told The Daily Star that four elderly persons died of cold-

related illnesses in the last two

They are Minar Ali, 65, of Kashyab Para in Meherpur Town, Jahanara Khatun, 55, from Monakhali village Mujibnagar upazila and Golam Ali, 72, of Kedarganj village, also in Mujibnagar upazila, and

The government has allotted 1,000 blankets for Meherpur district - however there are an estimated six lakh people in need.

Abdul Kader, 70, of Gopalnagar

village in Gangni upazila.

In Rajshahi also, thousands are suffering due to a lack of warm clothes.

Last week the district administration requested 10,000 blankets from the government to distribute amongst the homeless. The Deputy Commissioner

of Rajshahi Md Shefaul Karim

said, "The district's demand for warm clothes is much higher but we asked for only 10,000 blankets considering the gov ernment's ability." However, as of yesterday the government had sent Tk

lakh for each upazila and had distributed a total of 2,300 blankets. Dense fog disrupted traffic movement on Rajshahi roads last night and vehicles plied with their headlights on in the

PM on return

foolproof security measures

morning.

would be taken, sources said. At the meeting, all AL law-

makers in the city and the associated body leaders were directed to mobilise huge number of people at the airport to welcome Hasina who is scheduled to return home around 5:00pm today. Besides, large and long

crowds would be mobilised on the way to prime minister's official residence Jamuna from the airport as directed by Al General Secretary and LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam.

Talking to reporters, AI leader Nuh-ul-Alam Lenin said public have also been urged at the meeting to join the reception.

AL presidium member and Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury presided over the meeting, which was also addressed by party leaders Ahmad Hossain, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, MA Aziz, Ramesh Chandra Roy, among others.

Bangabandhu

FROM PAGE 1 for Bazlul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, two of the five detained killers o Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, filed the review petitions.

The rest three death-row inmates are Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Mohiuddin Ahmed.

On November 19 last year the SC confirmed death sen tences to a dozen ex-army officers including the five.

Talking to The Daily Star at the SC yesterday afternoon, he said, "I learnt from the media that two convicts have filed two separate petitions with the Supreme Court for reviewing the November 19 judgment.

Replying to a query, he said Syed Farroque Rahman and Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan can still seek presidential mercy if they choose.

Hug, however, would not comment on Law Minister Shafique Ahmed's January 11 statement that Farooq and Shahriar Rashid can no longer apply for clemency since the January 9 deadline for doing so has expired.

Bazlul Huda, AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed and Mohiuddin Ahmed submitted mercy petitions through the construction work in the jail authorities on January 9.

Proshika staff

FROM PAGE 1

Proshika credit department staff Shamima Akhtar who was one of the employees confined to the west of the building.

Police in the late afternoon took Proshika's 17 employees out of the building but none of the attackers. Proshika Chief Executive

Officer Mahbubul Karim alleged that police were mysteriously silent on freeing the confined employees and the office from the grip of attackers. "This is violation of rule of

law and an act of defiance

against the High Court order,"

he said while talking to The Daily Star. Police, however, said they are unable to make any move until they receive any direction

from the higher authorities.

Assistant Deputy Commissioner Elias Sharif of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Mirpur zone told The Daily Star, "We have not seen any sign of violence there and that is why we did not enter the building."

It is just another group of Proshika who have seized the office, he said.

Local lawmaker Elias Ali Molla assured Mahbubul that he would inform the home minister of the incident.

Meanwhile, an employee who was hiding inside the building managed to talk to

laliban FROM PAGE 16

confirmed the casualties and said security forces retaliated, killing four Taliban attackers.

The post is located about 40 kilometres (25 miles) southwest of Khar, the main town in the troubled tribal region of Bajaur.

Pakistan's military launched a major operation against insurgents in Bajaur in August 2008. In February 2009, they said the area had been cleared, but unrest still rocks the region and army operations have continued.

Pakistan's tribal belt has become a stronghold for Islamist extremists who fled Afghanistan after a US-led invasion toppled the hard-line Taliban regime in late 2001, and Islamabad had launched multiple offensives in the region.

The Daily Star over phone. He said 30 to 40 men had seized the building and were guarding the floors equipped with sticks

and sharp weapons. Despite several attempts over phone Faruque could not be contacted.

Meanwhile, Proshika Chief Executive Mahbubul Karim at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday afternoon said silence of police is mysterious and alleged that a vested quarter is behind the incident.

He demanded immediate government action and said an organisation like Proshika couldn't be destroyed for corruption and political whim of Qazi Faruque.

Top woman FROM PAGE 16

Following the arrest, she was taken to Kushtia police headquarters. She outright denied her involvement with any extremist organisations while talking to journalists at the headquarters yesterday.

Besides, she said she had been staying in Dhaka and came two days back to Kushtia.

Nasrin also informed the ournalists that she has a handicrafts business at her Amlapara residence. Assistant Superintendent

of Police Alamgir Hossain said Kushtia DB police on November 2 last year in a raid arrested Nasrin's sister-in-law Taslima Khan Ankhi who was a general secretary of Mahila Awami League, Kushtia unit. The police also recovered AK-47 rifle and 82 rounds of bullets from Ankhi. Later on November 6

police arrested Ankhi's younger sister Nahid Parveen Champa from a house at Aruapara in the town, the ASP added. The ASP alleged that Nasrin

and Champa had long been members of the extremist outfit and were involved in arms and narcotics peddling.

friend of Shaheen, a leader of Champa got into the illegal activities and started working as women members of the outfit after being acquainted with Shaheen. With yesterday's arrest, a

the extremist outfit have been detained.

Nasrin's brother Billal is a Gano Mukti Fouj. Nasrin and

total of six women members of

vacant plots would be

allowed from now on without

the permission of the admin-

Those whose allotments

were scrapped include for-

mer foreign minister M

Morshed Khan's son Faisal

Morshed Khan, former law-

maker from Magura Kazi

Salimul Haq Kamal, former

deputy minister for land

Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu,

former Chhatra Dal president

Habibun Nabi Sohel, former

MP from Cox's Bazar-2

Alamgir Md Mahfuz Ullah

Farid, Cox's Bazar district

BNP president and former

lawmaker Shahjahan

Chowdhury's wife Shahin

Chowdhury, former law-

maker from Cox's Bazar-3 Md

Shahiduzzaman's brother-

in-law Mahbub Anam, dis-

trict BNP general secretary

Shamim Ara, Chakoria

upazila BNP president

Enamul Haque, former chair-

man of Chakoria municipal-

ity Anwarul Hakim and Pekua

upazila BNP president

steering, killing four people on

the spot and injuring 32 oth-

Two of the injured suc-

Of the injured, 19 were

cumbed to their injuries on

the way to Jhenidah Sadar

admitted to Magura Sadar

Hospital while the rest were

taken to Jhenidah Sadai

Pintu, 28, Yaseen, 40, Poran

Mondol, 40, Masum, 30,

Shilpi, 45, Sonia, 20, Ashraful,

35, Anil Kumar, 70, Bijon, 35,

Asaduzzaman, 30, Meghna,

21, Rashid, 50, Nupur, 16, Joy,

22, Hafizur Rahman, 40,

Zahid, 25, Aajra Khatun, 70,

Khodajel, 45, and Fatema, 26.

Outlaw killed

Hospital where the duty doc-

The 19 were identified as

Bahadur Shah.

6 killed

FROM PAGE 16

Hospital.

Hospital.

Govt scraps lease

istration.

that assumed office in 2001 then distributed 87 plots among its ministers, lawmakers, their relatives and party leaders and workers. The proposed Hotel-Motel Zone has since been known as BNP

One of the plot allocation conditions said construction work of hotels/motels must be started within one year of registration of the plot and be completed within three years, otherwise the allocation would be cancelled.

The condition also did not allow construction of anything else other than a hotel or a motel.

However, many of the lessees failed to meet the conditions in six-seven years. Only eight hotels/motels have been constructed on 15 plots so far while 47 plots still remain vacant.

The sources also said after getting the plots many BNP leaders made hundreds of crore of taka in the next few years by selling a Tk 34 lakh plot for Tk 2-3 crore to others.

Lawmaker Mainuddin Khan Badal said allottees of 72 of the 87 plots violated the

conditions of allotment. An official of the district administration said after assuming power the present AL-led government started investigating the irregularities. A four-member parliamentary sub-committee headed by Badal was formed, which visited Cox's Bazar several times and completed the investigation on June 18 last year. It submitted its report to the highest level of the government.

The allocations of the 59 plots were cancelled on the basis of that report, said the

In the fax message to the Cox's Bazar DC, Deputy Secretary of the land ministry KM Shamsul Arefin said the lease allocations of 59 plots were cancelled as per the decision of an inter-ministry meeting held on September 1 last year.

tors declared him dead, Rab The letter directed the DC to inform the allottees about sources said. Officer-in-charge Delwar the cancellation in writing, acquire and establish control Ahmed of Kafrul Police Station over the land and inform the said Firoz was accused in at land ministry about it.

least 15 cases. He used to patronise extor-DC Gias Uddin Ahmed said steps would be taken tionists and snatchers active soon in this regard and no at Kafrul, Mirpur, Pallabi and

other areas, the OC added.

FROM PAGE 16

Did ISI have a hand in attack on CIA base?

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Washington

A US strategic think tank has discounted "widespread rumours in the United States" that Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) agency had a hand in the December 30 attack in Khost, Afghanistan that killed several CIA agents. The possibility that Jihadi sympathisers in the lower ranks of the Pakistani intelligence complex may have offered their services to the Taliban cannot be ruled out, the think tank said. While luck played a defi-

nite role in the attack, the skill in preparing the double agent who detonated the suicide bomb used in the attack has led some to see a state role, says Stratfor that styles itself as the global intelligence company. "Such a role is unlikely,

however, as Pakistan has little to gain by enraging the United States. Even so, the rumours alone will harm US-Pakistani relations, perhaps giving the Taliban some breathing room," it said. "Concerns similar to

those in the aftermath of the November 2008 Mumbai attack - that the situation in Pakistan has reached a point where the state no longer has control over its own security apparatus and now represents an intolerable threat to US national security - will emerge again," Stratfor suggested. "While the situation in

Islamabad might not be dire, a US-Pakistani and Indian-Pakistani breakdown is exactly what that the Jihadi want so they can survive the US and Pakistani offensives they currently face," it said. Much of the speculation

about the possible role played by ISI in the suicide attack on Forward Operating Base Chapman traces back to a report citing unnamed US and Afghan government sources as saying a chemical analysis of explosive residue suggesting the use of military-grade equipment points to ISI involvement in the

This is a faulty basis to establish an ISI link, as the Pakistani Taliban have used military-grade explosives in numerous attacks against the Pakistani security establishment since late 2006, Stratfor said.

India, SL

FROM PAGE 16

Sri Lanka have been playing their strongest eleven and are expected to keep the same eleven that played in the last match against India on Monday. There are no injury worries in either side.

The match will start at 2:00pm and state-run Bangladesh Television, apart from satellite channels Neo Cricket and SuperSport, will beam live telecast of the

PROBABLETEAMS

INDIA: Virender Sehwag, Gautam Gambhir, Virat Kohli, Yuvraj Singh, MS Dhoni (captain), Suresh Raina, Ravindra Jadeja, Harbhajan Singh Zaheer Khan, Asish Nehra, Sudeep Tyagi.

SRI LANKA: Upul Tharanga, Tillakaratne Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara (captain), Mahela Jayawardene, Thilan Samaraweera, Thilana Kandamby, Thissara Perera, Suraj Randiv, Nuwan Kulasekara, Thilan Thushara, ChanakaWelegedara.

Charges pressed

were sending to Rangpur. Later, police raided different places in northern districts and arrested 18 JMB men.

also seized JMB's training manuals, photos of different parts of AK-47 assault rifle, books on Jihad, lethal weapons, CDs and leaflets. The investigation officer

During the drives police

said 14 of the accused made statements under section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code confessing their involve-The arrested 18 accused are Noor-e-Alam, 22, Mamunur

Rashid, 35, Guljar Hassain, 22, Didar Rahman, 53, Mazadul Islam Babu, 35, Hafijul Islam, 28, Abdul Kuddus Khan Salafi, 47, Abdul Baki, 25, Abul Kalam, 39, Afiar, 35, Shahajahan Ali, 57, Hasanur Rahman, 28, Moshiar Rahman, 40, Monwar Hossain, 42, Moshiur Rahman, 25, Saiful Islam Dablu, 26, Azizul Islam, 43, and Golam Mostofa, 38. The fugitives are Amzad

Hossain, 28, Mahamudul Islam Rubel, 27, Saiful Islam, 26, Shamim, 24, Mintoo, 25, Abdur Rashid, 32, Samirul, 26, Dabirul Islam, 32, Arman Ali, 32, Jahangir Alam, 25, Shamim, 25 and Abdul Gafur, 30.

13 Afghans killed FROM PAGE 16 wounds on Tuesday after an

attack on a joint convoy with Afghan forces in the Alasay valley northeast of Kabul on Monday.

The three US servicemen were killed fighting insurgents in southern Afghanistan -- the heartland of the Taliban-led insurgency -- while the British ordnance expert was killed in a blast in the southern province of Helmand. It was the deadliest day

for foreign troops in Afghanistan since October 27, when eight US soldiers and an Afghan civilian were killed in bombings in the south. On January 3, five foreign troops were killed in two incidents. Both foreign and Afghan

casualties have steadily risen since the 2001 US-led invasion ousted the hard-line Taliban, as remnants of the regime stage attacks to try to topple the Western-backed administration of President Hamid Karzai. But General Stanley

Nato and US troops in demand including ensuring Afghanistan, said Monday he believed a US troop build-up had started to turn the tide against the Taliban militants. "We've been at this for

about seven months now and I believe we've made progress," General Stanley McChrystal said in an interview with ABC television.

Rail upgrade FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh to Nepal through

India and making Akhoura-Agartala line operational were finalised yesterday. Indian railway would help

Bangladesh build rail infrastruc-

ture that is expected to allow

train services from Kolkata to Tripura, she said. "India always had good relations with Bangladesh and its people," Mamata said.

On cultural ties, she said, "We have a great cultural affinity with the country. There will be exchange of artistes between the two countries on the celebration of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, which will beheldinabigway" in 2011.

Mamata said she was invited by Hasina to visit Dhaka. "I have the invitation from her. But the date and time will be decided later" depending on how India's proposals for helping Bangladesh upgrade its railway infrastructure shape up. Mamata presented famous

Nalli sari to Hasina's sister and sweets from West Bengal to Hasina and the Bangladesh prime minister presented two volumes of book "Sheikh Hasinar Rachana Samagra", which Hasina wrote, to Mamata. Going beyond protocol

Hasina later went to Indian Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee's house on 13 Talkatora Road and met him and his family members.

She latter attended a recep tion hosted by Bangladesh High Commissioner to India Tariq A Karim.

Hasina wraps up her four-day visit today after addressing a press conference in the morning and offering prayers at the dargah of Khwaja Moniuddin Chisti (RA) at Ajmer.

India to help

FROM PAGE 16

carry out technical assessment for BPDB's old thermal power stations for efficiency improvement, renovation and modernisation. c) NTPC will provide training

to power professionals from

BPDB for their development.

BPDP may first consider using

the existing training modules of NTPC and assign some of their professionals for development. A long-term plan will be prepared simultaneously by NTPC for BPDB to utilise NTPC training facilities through tailormade programmes to be organ-

ised by NTPC in India and Bangladesh. d) To immediately start cooperation between the two companies, NTPC suggested to take up the O&M of Power Stations in Bangladesh on nomi-

nation, on a cost-plus basis. It was agreed that a Joint Technical Team will be formed within a week, with equal representation from NTPC and BPDP.

HS Brahma, India's Secretary for Power told the media that approximately 250 mega watts can be supplied from its national grid through the proposed inter-

He said that the Bangladesh government and BPDB could explore the possibilities of sourcing the power from IPPs and merchant plants, subject to the prevailing policies of both governments.

> The second Joint Steering Committee has been tentatively arranged to take place in Bangladesh in February.

Asked if Nato-led forces were shifting the momentum against Taliban insurgents, the general said: "I believe

we're doing it right now. "I believe we've changed the way we operate in Afghanistan. We've changed some of our structures. I believe we are on the way to convincing the Afghan people that we are here to protect

But he said time was short. "I think that clock is in the minds of the Afghan people, so I do feel that we have got to move quickly to convince them that we can help them build a country," he told the US channel.

On Monday, another missile fired from an unmanned aircraft killed three insurgents farther south in the Nad Ali district of Helmand, Nato said.

BNP sits today

FROM PAGE 1

them."

The party started boycotting parliament session demanding more front-row seats. Later, McChrystal, commander of it announced a 10-point security of party chief Khaleda Zia and halting the government move to cancel lease of her cantonment residence for its return to the House.

Contacted, a BNP

policymaker said the party

might decide to join parliament to "register its protest against the government's various wrongdoings." Asked about this Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque last night said, "Come tomorrow (today) to

know the decision of the

(BNPPP) meeting."

Several lawmakers from the party, when contacted, said they will speak at today's meeting in favour of return to the House. "Many of our party lawmakers want to return to parlia-

ment, and we will raise the issue at tomorrow's meeting,' BNP lawmaker Mazibor Rahman Sarwar said yesterday. Fellow lawmaker Mahbub Uddin Khokon said they are

hopeful that the BNPPP will take a 'positive decision'. Some other lawmakers from the party however said everything depends on Khaleda Zia who will decide on the party's parliamentary

strategy. Lawmakers from two components of the BNP-led four party alliance -- Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) -- will also attend the meeting to be held at 3:30pm at the Opposition Leader's office in the Jatiya

Sangsad Bhaban. BJP Chairman Andaleeve Rahman Partho and Jamaat lawmaker Hamidur Rahman Azad said told this correspondent they have been asked to

attend the meeting. More generous

recent climate change negotiations have brought the world together, Hasina said, and

international cooperation. Those who attended the meeting with Hasina at Maurya Sheraton Hotel are veteran journalists Kuldip Nayyar, M J Akbar, Swagata Ganguly, Hiranmay Karlekar

and The Daily Star Editor

underscored the need for

Mahfuz Anam. Ctg port

FROM PAGE 16

Parishad convener Ali Ashraf said some 4,200 workers under the Dock Management Board lost their jobs with the abolition of the board during the army-backed caretaker regime in May 2007. Some 1,800 workers were reinstated under the private berth operators while another 200 refused to return to their jobs, and the remaining people still remain jobless, he added.

Delwar

FROM PAGE 1 under the leadership of (BNP) chairperson) Khaleda Zia," he said. He however did not explain his remark.

The BNP leader reiterated the demand for trial of the organisers of 1/11 changeover, saying those who were behind this had violated the constitution to implement their 'conspiracy'. Hundreds of party leaders,

workers and supporters attended the rally. They chanted slogans demanding punishment of 1/11 organisers. Later, a procession led by Delwar paraded different city

roads and terminated in front of

the Jativa Press Club. BNP central leaders Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain,

Salauddin Quader Chowdhury and Fakhrul Islam Alamgir were also present at the "black day" programme.