AL, BNP start

Chittagong port.

by BNP.

Meanwhile, the joint com-

muniqué issued by Bangladesh

and India during Prime

Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent

visit to that country said India

will be allowed to use

Chittagong and Mongla sea

ports for movement of goods to

and from it through road and

And it was bitterly criticised

The grand rally at the port

The leader of the opposition

city's outer stadium will be the

first to be addressed by Khaleda

in parliament will later visit four

onstrate the organisational

strength of BNP, which ruled the

announced that a 'mass com-

munication tour' would begin

this month as part of prepara-

tions for a tough movement

make the Chittagong grand rally

a success was held yesterday at

the BNP central office at

Nayapaltan in the capital with

party standing committee

member Khandaker Mosharraf

by the party's Chittagong region

leaders Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury, M Morshed Khan,

Abdullah Al Noman, Amir

Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury

and Mir Nasiruddin, central

leaders Barkatullah Bulu,

Mohammad Shahjahan,

Salahuddin Ahmed and Ruhul

give a "directional speech" at the

Chittagong rally about

Chittagong Hill Tracts and

Chittagong port as 'conspira-

cies' are on centring them,'

Mosharraf told reporters after

our leader (founder of BNP)

Ziaur Rahman 'declared inde-

pendence' in March 1971...At

present, an unstable situation is

prevailing in Chittagong Hill

ing on Chittagong rally will be

held in the port city on Saturday,

Kibria killing

Rab officials caught Mithu on

Sunday midnight from one of

his relative's house in Nabigani

On the following day, they

handed him over to the

Habiganj police and CID

quizzed him preliminarily on

Huji operative admitted his

involvement in the grenade

remand petition while the

Habiganj police produced

Mithu before the court on

Mizanur Rahman Mithu had

admitted his complicity in the

gated closely since the name of

Badrul Alam Mizan, who is now

in jail as an accused in the case,

has come out in the statement,

for former state minister

Lutfuzzaman Babar in the same

The IO also sought remand

The IO in his petition said,

Mithu should be interro-

During the questioning, the

ASP Rafigul submitted the

upazila of Habiganj district.

The next preparatory meet-

"It is from Chittagong that

'The (BNP) chairperson will

The meeting was attended

A preparatory meeting to

On March 5, BNP

country several times.

against the government.

Hossain in the chair.

Kabir Rizvi.

the meeting.

Tracts," he said.

that night.

Tuesday.

the IO said.

case on Tuesday.

sensational killing.

the BNP leader said.

after the last general election.

success of the present government during the trip. It will also make the grassroots aware of the conspiracies and anti-government propagandas by the BNP-led

opposition and will ask them

to counter those falsehoods. Recruitment of new members in the party and renewal of primary membership will also continue during the tour, said Hanif adding that extended meetings of the party would also be held at the districts to

ramp up party activities. Replying to a query, he said party's sub-committees would be formed probably

other divisional headquarters. within March. She will then address a grand During the tour rally in the capital by April 17. Party leaders hoped that the chairperson's rallies will dem-

programmes, Sajeda will lead a central team for Dhaka, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Gazipur districts, AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam will lead another team for Tangail, Jamalpur, Sherpur and Mymensing districts, Matia Chowdhury for Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Narsindi and Manikganj, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim for Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser for Chittagong, Cox's Bazaar, Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban, Yusuf Hossain Humayun for

Barguna, Patuakhali, Bhola,

Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur. While Obaidul Quader for Feni, Noakhali and Laxmipur, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir for Bhramanbaria, Comilla and Chandpur, Kazi Zafarullah for lessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira, Rajiuddin Ahmed Raju for loypurhat, Bogra, Naogaon and Natore, Abdul Latif Siddique for Rangpur, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat, Satischandra Roy for Panchagarh Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Nilphamari, Mohammad Nasim for Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Pabna and Sirajganj, Mahabubul Alam Hanif for Meherpur, Kushtia, Chuadanga and Ihenidah and Nurul Islam Nahid for Sunamganj, Sylhet,

Moulvibazar and Habiganj. Talking to The Daily Star AL's deputy office secretary Mrinal Kanti Das said there could be changes in the teams and

schedules of the tour programmes.

KHALEDA OPENS TOUR MARCH 27

BNP is going to launch a monthlong countrywide 'mass communication tour' programme from Chittagong on March 27 to gear up organisational activities aimed at preparing the party for an anti-government move-

Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address a grand rally in the port city as part of the programme announced earlier. She is likely to focus on the latest developments concerning Chittagong Hill Tracts and

2,903 cases

partial withdrawal of 550

The law minister said the government has formed two separate committees at district and ministry levels for withdrawal of the cases filed to "harass political leaders."

TRUTH COMMISSION In response to a query of Jatiya Party lawmaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmed, the law minister said the now defunct Truth Commission formed by the past caretaker government imposed a fine of Tk 36.99 crore on individuals who

Shawkat Ali, who was presiding

over the sitting, refused to give

the floor to treasury and opposi-

tion bench chief whips, who

wanted to help in bringing order

the deputy speaker allocated 20

minutes for Moudud to speak

on the thanksgiving motion

around 8:15pm. Moudud

refused to take part in the dis-

cussion saying the opposition

chief whip had allocated 30

minutes for him. He sat down

without taking part in the dis-

a number of BNP lawmakers

including the opposition chief

whip protested the chair's

decision to give Moudud only

him [Moudud]. Why have you

deputy speaker] cut it short,

Opposition Chief Whip Zainul

Abdin Farroque said loudly

Opposition MPs were perus-

ing the deputy speaker to give

Moudud the 30 minutes while

the deputy speaker was repeat-

without a microphone.

saying, "no".

maker's speech."

for three to four minutes.

Awami League presidium

"I allocated 30 minutes for

As Moudud refused to speak,

The disorder ensued when

The judicial magistrate set applied to the commission. "Around Tk 34 crore has March 14 for hearing the been recovered from the remand prayer in presence of individuals," Shafique said.

Disorder in JS again FROM PAGE 1 member Sheikh Fazlul Karim feet and shouted. Selim pointed at the opposition Deputy Speaker Col (retd) chief whip and other BNP

> persuade the deputy speaker, and shouted "shut up" Infuriated by Selim's remark, a number of BNP lawmakers stood on their feet, pointed fingers at Selim and started shouting "you shut up".

lawmakers, who were trying to

A number of Awami League lawmakers also stood up and shouted. Ruling party Chief Whip Abdus Shahid and Whip ASM Firoz calmed their party lawmakers down.

The deputy speaker finally asked Moudud to determine the time he wanted to speak for.

The BNP lawmaker said he wanted to speak for 35 minutes. "All right. That's a deal. You will speak for 35 minutes and

will finish your speech within the time," he said.

When Moudud started speaking order restored.

A number of Awami League and BNP lawmakers in parliament on march 3 leaped out of their chairs and rushed towards each other gesturing aggressively throwing the sitting into chaos for around 10 minutes. Without microphones, the

edly asking Moudud to begin his speech. But Moudud and lawmakers, particularly the opposition lawmakers were ones elected to reserved seats, were seen shouting loudly and exchanging extremely inde-At that time, the deputy cent and vulgar words on the speaker said, "Why are you saying no? It is the speaker who floor, most of which were determines the time for a lawunprintable. The chaos erupted following derogatory The situation did not remarks made against improve rather it deteriorated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and BNP founder late

Ziaur Rahman.

Thousands

FROM PAGE 1 resettlement of affected villag-

ers and compensation for subsidence. Subsidence at BCMCL

FROM PAGE 1

Udyan in 1981.

Bangabandhu."

protested at the remark.

the speaker's podium.

dead body lies in the grave."

minister by thumping desks.

AL presidium member Selim

in last February demanded a

DNA test to prove whether Zia's

body was inside the coffin,

which was buried at Chandrima

participating in the

thanksgiving motion on the

president's address, BNP law-

maker Rehana Akhtar Ranu

tried to undermine

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman. "I saw a naughty boy

has named a public toilet after

Treasury bench lawmakers

Shahjahan, too, was taking

part in the thanksgiving motion.

their feet and started shouting.

A number of opposition

Moudud Ahmed, tried to draw

attention of the chair and

demanded the shipping minis-

ter's microphone be switched

Col (retd) Shawkat Ali, who was

presiding over the sitting, said

how he would switch off

Shahjahan Khan's microphone

as the minister was still speak-

In response, Deputy Speaker

Earlier in the afternoon,

project area was first detected in May 2006. The plunging of 646 acres of land affected about 2,600 families. Sources said the villagers

became desperate since January as the BCMCL authorities failed to make any progress on the villagers' demands according to the MoU. The hunger strikers at the

rally demanded that the government consider an increased price of land--at Tk 60 lakh per acre--while deciding about the compensation. They also demanded that BCMCL disclos the survey report on subsidence.

The BCMCL authorities said they have just completed the survey but the price of land was yet to be finalised, as many technical problems are pending. The rehabilitation plan and resettlement framework for the affected families as well as the compensation for land was placed for consideration of the government.

Contacted, Md Quamruzzaman, managing director of BCMCL, said they have already submitted a Tk 324 crore rehabilitation plan for the government to approve.

Earlier on February 28, 2009 the villagers submitted a memorandum to the power adviser thorough Dinajpur deputy commissioner.

A BCMCL source said that an inter-ministerial meeting organised by the power ministry would be held in Dhaka Thursday. State Minister for Power Md Enamul Haque would chair the meeting while Towfig E-Elahi Chowdhury, adviser to the prime minister, and officials of Petrobangla and secretaries of different ministries would attend the meeting.

Anti-drug drive

FROM PAGE 16 that encourages people to take

the law into their own hands." "I shall ask the deputy commissioner whether he made such an announcement

and why," he said. Former inspector general of police SM Shahjahan, also former adviser to a caretaker government, told The Daily Star, "Let alone police, nobody

"This is illegal. It is hard to believe that a police officer can make such an announce-

can take the law into his or her

own hands, or ask others to do

ment," said the former IGP. Eminent lawyer Shahdeen Malik said, "It is contrary to the basic concept of the rule of law when a responsible police officer utters such words. It clearly shows that they consider themselves above the

Witnesses said a contingent of 400 policemen led by Kabir took part in the special drive, especially against drug

peddlers. They paraded the streets in Tejgaon and Karwan Bazar from 9:00am to 2:30pm asking people over loudspeakers to be up against criminals.

They halted near Tejgaon Railway Line slum in Karwan Bazar, where Kabir gave a speech urging people to resist

the drug peddlers in the area. Kabir asked people in the neighbourhood to flush drug peddlers out. "Bring them on,

with limbs broken. "Please help us identify the criminals. We shall destroy

their dens," he said.

However, some slum dwellers told the DC that if they identify the criminals, it might cost their lives.

Slum dweller Mariam Begum told The Daily Star, Police know the identity of the drug peddlers. But they let them run the illegal trade in

exchange for bribe. Kabir told The Daily Star that they have a list of around 200 people involved in drug peddling in Tejgaon and Mohammadpur. Of them, 48 are in Karwan Bazar.

He said in many cases people respond to their cal and help them identify and arrest criminals.

CID asked

FROM PAGE 1 investigation officer of the case, failed to submit the report by yesterday, the scheduled date

for submission of the report. The CID has so far arrested 2,247 soldiers of BDR and civilians including former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Awami League leader Torab Ali in connection with the

case. Of the arrestees, 2,161 were earlier placed on remand, and 526 of them had given confessional statements before magistrates. Of them, 177 BDR jawans

February 25-26 last year.

and civilians had submitted petitions for retraction of their confessional statements. At least 74 people including 57 army officers were killed in a

amount to the Samity. mutiny of the border guards at their Pilkhana headquarters on

BNP lawmakers

back around 7:13pm as soon as the shipping minister finished Many treasury bench lawhis speech. makers supported the shipping

Returning to the House Moudud and Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abdin Farroque demanded the floor but the deputy speaker refused to give them any. "Moudud Ahmed, you will speak today on the thanksgiving motion," Shawkat Ali said.

The deputy speaker said speech of the shipping minister would be examined if there were any unparliamentary words in it. The BNP-led lawmakers

again walked out of parliament at 9:07pm as AL lawmaker Tofail Ahmed made a comment on Ziaur Rahman.

They did not return to the House last night.

"How does he [Moudud Infuriated by his remark, the Ahmed] expect that we in paropposition lawmakers stood on liament will utter his [Zia] name who became army chief and later grabbed the state power lawmakers threw files and after assassination of papers and some of them Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur rushed to the place in front of Rahman,"Tofail said referring to Moudud's speech. BNP lawmakers, including

Before Tofail took part in the thanksgiving motion, Moudud Ahmed criticised the treasury bench lawmakers for not showing minimum respect to late president Ziaur Rahman. "But we try to show respect to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," Moudud said. Taking part in the

thanksgiving motion, Tofail replied to Moudud's remarks. "Ziaur Rahman killed many

"If you have any say, I will freedom fighters, gave shelter to hear you," the deputy speaker the killers of Bangabandhu and destroyed the country's consti-The agitating lawmakers left parliament at 7:06pm and came tution,"Tofail added.

24-hr access

The premier mentioned that her government is committed to providing better healthcare services across the country, including Dahagram-Angorpota.

In this connection, she told the people of Dahagram-Angorpota that her government has already taken steps to revive 18,000 community clinics across the country.

She said that punitive steps would be taken against the doctors who will not stay in their stations, especially in the rural areas. "But we will also provide lucrative facilities to the doctors who will perform their duties properly at the places like Dahagram-Angorpota."

Hasina assured the people of Dahagram-Angorpota that the Dahagram High School will be nationalised.

Regarding the newly inaugurated National Service Programme, she said that after completing the pilot project, her government would gradually include all areas of the

country under the programme. Referring to her government's initiative to provide better connectivity across the country, she said that the construction of Teesta Bridge is going on and the rail lines of

Lalmonirhat will be revived. Hasina said that during the independence war this area was a 'Free Zone' and headquarters of Sector-6. She mentioned that the government would construct a monument here.

She thanked the doctors, who went there from Dhaka and

Rangpur, to provide free healthcare services.

Hasina said that the Bangbandhu Memorial Trust is engaged in social welfare services and bearing the expenses of 1200 students through annual scholarships.

"This government gave utmost importance to education, healthcare and employment.

The PM said that solar panel would be installed at the community health clinic of Dahagram-Angorpota and the World Health Organisation (WHO) has already conducted a feasibility study in this regard.

Hasina said that her govern ment would distribute 'Khas' lands among the people affected by river erosion.

The PM also said that her government restored the allowances for freedom fighters that were stopped during the previous BNP-led alliance govern-

The free healthcare services by the Bangabandhu Memorial Trust across the country started on January 17 and will continue till March 17.

The concluding ceremony of the free medical services will be held at Gopalganj. Assistant Press Secretary to

the PM Asif Kabir briefed the reporters after the video conferencing.

Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhal Haque, State Minister Capt (retd) Mojibur Rahman Fakir and

Bus strike in city the extortionists and arrested

city bus services resumed around yesterday noon.

The trouble began Tuesday when two buses of Ashirbad Paribahan were vandalised and the drivers and conductors of the buses were beaten up by a number of people allegedly of Mirpur Bus and Minibus Owners Association. The drivers and helpers had refused to pay toll to the people of the association at Mirpur-1 in the

Shahadat said the extortionists also beat him up and Sharif Uddin Khandaker Masud, managing director of Shatabdi Paribahan, when they rushed to the spot hearing the news.

Following the incident, they stopped bus services across the city demanding action against the "illegal" toll collectors, he added

Cadres of the association's president Abul Kashem and general secretary Moharaj Hossain have been making threats to bus owners over the last few weeks to pay Tk 70 daily for each bus, he claimed. Moharaj denying the allega-

tion of illegal toll collection said the realisation of Tk 70 toll is not illegal as their mother organisation Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity approved their association on February 18 and designated it to collect the money.

Moharaj said all buses plying the city streets have to pay the

Meanwhile, Shahadat Hossain claimed that Mirpur police were working in favour of

lawmaker Khalid Mahmud among others, were present.

the innocent drivers instead of the toll collectors. Sources in the Mirpur Police Station said police had to record a case against the two drivers in connection with interrupting traffic movement following directives from "higher authori-

The two drivers were produced before a Dhaka court, which sent them to jail yesterday, they said.

The bus service operators said they do not use the facilities of bus terminals or others offered by Dhaka Sarak nated water most seriously and Paribahan Samity and this is that it must do all that it can to why they are not willing to pay the toll being collected by residents. Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity.

They also submitted a memorandum to the communications minister to realise their demands. potentially fatal.

jamuna water FROM PAGE 1

and Bongshi will be increased

once the project is implemented," he said. In reply to a query of AI

tries and houses inside it block

drainage canals, causing

water-logging in the areas.

lawmaker Sanjida Khanam, the minister said a project will be prepared this month on the dehydrated. basis of a feasibility study to improve drainage system of Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) project.

> to five years old. being admitted to ICDDR,B are suffering from severe dehydra-

China tells US to do more on climate change

AP, Beijing

China told the United States yesterday to make stronger commitments on climate change and provide environmental expertise and financing to developing nations. China's top climate change

negotiator, Xie Zhenhua, acknowledged the current US administration's greater stress on greenhouse gas reductions, but said its pledges thus far fall short of expectations. "So we hope the United States will do more ... we hope the

United States will not shift the responsibility for taking more active action to other countries," Xie told a news conference on the sidelines of China's annual legislative session. Xie said he understands that legislation has to work its way

achieve "fruitful results" at a climate change conference in Cancun, Mexico, in December. "We're willing to have such dialogue and cooperation and join with the rest of the international community in making

through the US Congress and

said Beijing wanted dialogue to

positive progress," Xie said. President Barack Obama has struggled to gain passage of a bill that would commit the United States to reducing greenhouse gases by 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020 and to paying a "fair share" into a fund to help developing countries deal with climate change.

China, the world's largest emitter of heat-trapping greenhouse gases, has said it will cut its "carbon intensity" a measure of carbon dioxide emissions per unit of production by 40 percent to 45 percent by 2020, compared with 2005 levels. Brazil, South Africa, India and

China the bloc of large developing nations known as BASIC have called for developed countries to quickly begin handing over an initial \$10 billion pledged at last December's Copenhagen climate change conference to poor countries to help them deal with the effects of global warm-

At Copenhagen, many developed countries had hoped the Kyoto Protocol, which only requires emissions cuts of rich countries, would be replaced with an accord that also makes demands on developing nations.

Rab man

FROM PAGE 16

commanding officer, warrant officer and a sergeant of Rab-3 kidnapped him and killed him as he had enmity with them.

She claimed that Nurun used to pray regularly and they did not like it. With this the enmity began, she claimed.

However, she said Nurun called her on May 3 and told her that he was in great danger. That was the last call he made to her.

Rab-3 Captain Shariat Ullah told The Daily Star Nurun Nabi was mentally ill and he is missing since he was transferred to Rab headquarters on April 30.

Diarrhoea

FROM PAGE 1

average number of admissions to the centre is usually between 350 to 400.

"But during the summer and post-monsoon season the number of patients increases.'

Dr Mohammad Shahadat Hossain, scientist and head of the longer stay unit, said a sharp rise in diarrhoeal diseases usually occurs between the months of March and May due to a rise in temperatures, which causes bacteria to become more active.

He said that the second spell of diarrhoeal diseases takes place during the post-monsoon season between June and August.

through leaked pipelines, and causes those who consume it to fallill Doctor Shahadat added, "

the water and sanitation system cannot be improved, the num ber of patients suffering from diarrhoea will greatly increase." He said that the government must treat the issue of contami-

provide safe drinking water to Authorities at ICDDR,B said a study conducted in Dhaka's Nodda and Kalachandpur area last year found the presence of cholera in the water, which is

They recommend that residents boil all water before consuming it and to avoid street foods and juices. The authorities also sug-

gested giving oral saline to those suffering from diarrhoea and to immediately consult a doctor if someone appears to be severely Authorities at ICDDR,B said

that most patients are coming from the capital's Mirpur and Sabujbag areas and that 65 per He said DND project is cent of patients are children up mainly an irrigation project adding that unplanned indus-Up to a third of patients

houses were torched.

Cellphone crimes

FROM PAGE 1 for Home Shamsul Hoque

Tuku, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Zia Ahmed, mobile phone operators of the

country, and senior officials of

law enforcing and intelligence

agencies were also present. "Two lakh mobile phone connections have so far been cancelled following allegations of various criminal offences, ing women. including extortion, issuance of threats, and other forms of harassment," Sahara told

reporters after the meeting. She said mobile phone operators were asked to follow the new measures, and to monitor their implementation.

Earlier, a 10-member committee headed by the BTRC chairman was formed for recommendations regarding curbing of cellphone crimes. The committee submitted its recommendations to yesterday's meeting.

The meeting was informed that a total of 12 lakh unregistered SIM and RUIM cards have so far been blocked.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that there are many unregistered mobile phone users in the country, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haq told journalists that actions will be taken against mobile phone operators, if unregistered use of their services are detected in criminal offences.

Sahara requested cellphone users to immediately report to nearest police stations if they get any threat or extortion demand over the phone. The mobile phone operators should also be notified, she added.

The home minister warned

that actions would be taken against mobile operators if their SIM cards are sold with-

out proper registration. The BTRC chairman said a telecom act is being formu-

Extortion demands and threats to high-profile people over cellphones are going on unabated in the country, especially in the capital. Cellphones are also being used for harass-

the perpetrators as many of the SIMs and RUIMs used in the crimes are unregistered, or their registrations are based on false information.

ter and her nephew, ruling Awami League lawmaker Fazle Noor Taposh, received threats over cellphones.

Mobile phone operators are likely to comply with the government decisions. However, they urged the government to give them online access of the national ID database.

tion selling process. But to government should give us access to the national ID database so that we can verify the users immediately," said Zakiul Islam, president of Association of Mobile Telecom Operators Bangladesh.

committee be formed to examine other countries' experience in shaping the mobile connection selling process. Bangladesh's total tele-

phone users stood around 56 million at the end of January customers.

Junta bars Suu Kyi

house arrest that is to end this November.

The sentence was seen as a

way to keep Suu Kyi locked up

Last month, the Supreme Court dismissed her latest appeal for freedom. The new election law was immediately criticised by Suu Kyi's National League for

Democracy party and by the United States and Britain. League Deputy Chairman Tin Oo called the law unfair, politically motivated and designed to restrict activities of

harassment. "The fact that (party) registration will be allowed only after expulsion of a convicted member is too much. This is politi-

cally motivated" toward Suu Kyi, he told reporters. The junta enacted five elec-

Suu Kyi from standing in polls this year are "disappointing and regrettable", US envoy Kurt

"I think it would be fair to say what we have seen so far is disappointing and regrettable, Campbell told a press conference during a visit to Malaysia,

(laws). I think it would be fair to say that what we've seen so far is disappointing and regrettable, Campbell said during a visit to Malaysia.

The registration law says existing political parties have 60 days from Monday to register with an Election Committee whose members are to be

FROM PAGE 16 unit and founder president of Parishad.

police, he was arrested at his Kandirpar home in Comilla following a request letter from Abu Kalam Siddique, the superintendent of police of Khagrachhari.

Court of Comilla Wednesday evening and was subsequently sent to Comilla District Jail. Additional Superintendent

of Police of Khagrachhari Amir Jafar said they received some legal ways.

frequently. added.

DSPS General Secretary Enayet Ullah could not be reached over phone despite

lated to ensure punishment for cellphone crimes.

But police can hardly trace Recently, the prime minis-

"We are very much compliant with the existing connecmake it more transparent, the

He also suggested that a

2010. Six mobile phone operators connect 53.83 million customers while 13 landline operators connect 1.69 million

government currently recog-

during the election campaign.

the party, which has already been battered by arrests and

tion-related laws Monday, two of which have now been made public. Three more are to be unveiled in coming days. Myanmar election laws that bar opposition leader Aung San

Campbell said Wednesday.

part of a tour of Southeast Asia. Campbell said Suu Kyi should be released from house arrest so she can "play an active role in the political life of the country going forward."

"We've seen the first of five

Floodwater contaminates ground water by entering appointed by the junta. The

Jamaat leader

Parbattya Bangalee Chhatra According to Comilla

He was produced before Chief Judicial Magistrate

clues from earlier arrestees and collected detailed information on Eakub's involvement in the incident. He said they would want to bring him back to Khagrachhari through Gory clashes between Bangalee and ethnic people at

and 50 injured. Around 120

He said of the toll amount, they pay Tk 30 to DSPS, Tk 20 to the workers' association, Tk 10 to the Sramik Federation and Tk 10 to the community police. Their association was

Star the parliamentary standing committee on communications ministry has assured the bus owners that it would take

Several operators alleged their buses have to pay toll regularly at different counters and ruling party cadres and local criminals collect the toll.

realise Tk 500-700 from him

If he refuses them, they beat him up and even dislodge the counter from its mounting, he

The law also bars members of religious orders and civil servants from joining political parties. The date of the elections has not been announced, and Suu Kyi's party has not said whether

it will contest the balloting.

The government

announced in 2008 that elec-

tions will take place sometime

nizes 10 parties.

in 2010. The last elections in 1990 were won overwhelmingly by Suu Kyi's party, but the military refused to hand over power. Her party says the new constitution of 2008 is unfair

ling say in government. Suu Kyi's lawyer and a senior party member, Nyan Win, said the new law also bars people who have lodged an appeal against a conviction, which he said "clearly refers" to Suu Kyi.

"It is very unfair that a party

member serving a prison term

for his or her political convic-

tions has to be expelled from the

party. This clause amounts to

interfering in party internal

affairs," said Aung Thein, a

lawyer who has defended activ-

and gives the military control-

ists in the country. He said the provision would exclude many pro-democracy individuals who have been imprisoned for

political prisoners. It was widely assumed that Suu Kyi would be shut out since a provision in the constitution bars anyone with foreign ties from taking part in elections. Suu Kyi's now-deceased husband was British, her two sons have British citizenship, and she has been described by the junta as enjoying special links with

City bus FROM PAGE 16

Britain.

approved by DSPS on February 18 and since then they are collecting the toll, he added. DMP Deputy Commissioner Awlad Hossain told The Daily

necessary measures in this He expressed the hope the dispute between the bus operators that have ticket counters and the DSPS authorities will be solved soon.

Counterman Tariqul Islam Masud of Al-Zami Paribahan at Mirpur-1 said local criminals

several areas of Khagrachhari on February 23 left one dead

repeated attempts.

their beliefs. Human rights groups say the junta has jailed about 2,100