## Sue MPs

FROM PAGE 1

"If our recommendations are not accepted, it would be impossible for the commission to act impartially and independently," he

The committee in its proposal said the graft busters should be obliged to take permission from the government to begin proceedings in certain circumstances and against public officials, whose offences are believed to have been "committed in good

The committee also said it thinks the provision gives protection to the government officials and reduces ACC's power abuse simultaneously.

Earlier, ACC opined that the amendment would make the Act discriminatory. It would encourage high-officials in the said offices to get involved in rampant corruption.

Currently, the Act allows ACC to initiate probe and file cases if the offence is included in its schedule.

Another finalised proposal is specifying in the law that the commission must be accountable to the president regarding their activities to increase its accountability.

The committee explained quoting the home ministry's opinion that submitting annual reports to the president does not ensure its accountability. The report also mentioned that all government parties involved in the process reached a consensus on the topic except for ACC without detailing ACC's reason given Earlier, ACC observed that this

amendment would make the anti-graft watchdog controlled by the executive branch of the government as, in accordance with the Constitution, the president cannot take any decision without

## Walkout

FROM PAGE 1 up in protest and started

shouting and throwing papers and files in the air, demanding floor for Farroque again. Around 100 lawmakers of

the treasury and opposition benches leaped out of their seats and shouted without microphones. They sneered and shouted at each other saying "shut up".

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Awami League senior lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim were among the more than 65 treasury bench members who angrily protested Farroque's allegation.

On the deputy speaker's refusal to allow Farroque to speak again, the opposition lawmakers staged the walkout at 4:21pm and returned to the House at 5:21 pm. The chair gave the floor to

treasury bench Chief Whip Abdus Shahid for taking part in the thanks-giving motion on the president's address. Until the chair announced expunging the remarks against Joy, treasury bench lawmakers continued shouting.

Shahid launched a blisterng attack on Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia's son Tarique Rahman. He said Joy is gold' and Tarique is 'silver'. Taking the floor later,

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury bitterly criticised Khaleda and her two sons for whitening black money. "No other document is required to prove that those who whiten black money are corrupt," she Earlier, taking part in dis-

cussion on the thanks-giving motion, the opposition chief blasted the government for what he said unbridled extortion, manipulation of tender and deterioration of law and

city, and sent them out of the capital, as a part of its drive to The country is now in a make the city beggar free. grave situation. People cannot bear with this anymore, he

amount of revenue for illegal

replace Rokibul, pacer Shafiul

Islam and left-arm spinner

Enamul Haque, who lost the

to get a promotion in the

batting-order as captain

Shakib declared that the right-

hander would be batting at

3-0 sweep in the one-day

series England will definitely

try to maintain their hundred

per cent success against the

Tigers. The visitors have yet to

number five instead of eight.

All-rounder Riyad is going

business.

FROM PAGE 16

battle to Razzak.

made disasters, the number of Farrouque claimed that it poor people increased, and was Ziaur Rahman who many of them took up begging declared independence of the and some other unethical country in 1971, and cited activities, said DMP some documents in support of Commissioner AKM Shahidul his claim. Haque. Citing a news report, he said

In 2008, the government the government is losing huge enacted a law banning begging, and making it punishable VoIP, and Joy is involved in the by a month in jail.

#### Niko graft case BD-Eng Test

FROM PAGE 1 Islam, who was flew in to

The ACC filed the case with Tejgaon Police Station on December 9, 2007, accusing Hasina and six others of causing Tk 13.6 crore loss to the state exchequer and abusing power while awarding contracts of three "abandoned" gas fields in Chhatak, Kamta and Feni to Canadian energy company Niko Resources Ltd during the pervious Awami League rule.

On the other hand, after a Earlier, the HC quashed all proceedings against Hasina in three corruption cases concerning Bangabandhu Novo Theatre (planetarium) and the MiG-29 warplane purchase

for the government.

decide about their playing eleven but they are likely to corruption case on March 4 and 9 respectively. play two spinners in Graeme Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan appeared for ACC, while Deputy Attorney General Motahar Hossain Sazu stood

Woman, her daughter run over by train

having advice from the prime

minister, except for appointing

the chief justice and the prime

would lose independence if the

amendment proposals were

passed. Currently, the commis-

sion only has to submit its annual

provision to ensure its account-

ability as formulation of

organogram, rules of the body

and its budget are controlled by

the government, the insiders

include authorising the govern-

ment with the responsibility of

appointing a secretary for the

commission and assigning the

ACC secretary with the responsi-

bilities of the commission's

body had earlier said this change

would affect good-governance of

the commission as it would

shoulder some responsibilities

on the ACC secretary, whereas the

commission chairman is the

chief executive of all its function-

not to make ACC laws supreme

on other laws as proposed by the

commission for the sake of unin-

that ACC should not have the

authority to initiate any investiga-

proposed defining the status of

to make all the ACC cases cogni-

enabling the commission to

engage any agency in its investi-

gation, if it wishes, and take sup-

port from experts of other agen-

sion alone can investigate its

Govt targets

Social Welfare Minister

Enamul Haque Mostafa

Shahid told The Daily Star

yesterday, "The ministry

already formed a 10-member

core committee to implement

the Beggar Rehabilitation

Programme for making the

country beggar free, but it

might take some time to suc-

implemented in two phases, in

the first phase the nationwide

survey of beggars will be car-

ried out, and in the second

phase the beggars will be reha-

bilitated. The ministry allo-

cated about Tk 14 crore for the

project, ministry sources said.

tion will differ based on the

beggars' physical conditions.

The ministry will provide

vocational training for younger

able bodied beggars, while

cash incentives like monthly

government allowances will be

offered to physically chal-

lenged and aged beggars, while

child beggars will get educa-

tion opportunities, said the

The government will also

provide interest free and low

interest loans to beggars who

are willing and able to run

to establish eight rehabilitation

centres with dormitories, for

physically challenged and aged

beggars. Male and female

beggars will be rehabilitated in

Metropolitan Police (DMP)

rounded up 150 beggars in the

Last month, Dhaka

Due to natural and man

The government also plans

committee chairman.

small businesses.

separate centres.

The process of rehabilita-

The programme will be

ceed.'

Presently, only the commis-

The committee also proposed

The committee, however,

The committee also proposed

The proposals include

terrupted investigation.

tion on its own.

ACCasself-governed.

sable and non-bailable.

cies, if necessary.

The committee also proposed

In this regard, the anti-graft

principal accountant.

The other finalised proposals

The ACC Act has sufficient

report to the president.

Insiders say the commission

minister.

elaborate.

A mother and her baby girl were run over and killed by a speeding train near Sitakunda

Railway Station yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The deceased were identified as Roksana, 25, and her one and a half year old girl Sonia from Nijtaluk village in Sitakunda.

They were crushed to death by Chittagong-bound Meghna Express from Chandpur while crossing a railway line at around 6:00pm.

### Many Americans have lost faith in govt

Admits Obama

AFP, St Louis, Missouri

Many Americans have lost faith in their government, US President Barack Obama admitted Wednesday, tackling a pervasive sentiment hobbling his hopes for enacting sweeping reform.

American suspicion of government was deepening, he said in a speech from the heartland state of Missouri, where he pushed his endangered health reform drive that has been branded by Republicans as a government takeover.

"People have lost faith in government -- they had lost faith in government before I ran (for president), and it has been getting worse," Obama said at a rally in St. Louis.

### OC sued

**FROM PAGE 1** 

against OC Shibli Noman and SIMAAziz.

Metropolitan Magistrate Zulfikar Hayat took the charges into cognisance and directed the Criminal Investigation Department to submit a probe report to the court after investigating the matter. In her complaint, Shilpi said

Detective Branch of police arrested her husband on March 4 and took him on a twoday remand. Later, Zakir was shown

arrested on March 7 in a theft case by Ramna police and taken on a day's remand. The OC and the SI of Ramna

thana took Zakir in their custody and demanded Tk 50,000 from his wife promising that they would not torture him, said the complainant. Shilpi added that as she

refused to give the amount, police tortured him physically that caused his death.

### Barapukuria

At least 10 people on fast, including three women, were rushed to Parbatipur Upazila Health Complex while 50 more had to receive intravenous glucose saline until 2:30pm.

However, the protesters were refusing to take any aid from the medical camp set up jointly by upazila health complex and upazila nirbahi officer's office.

At an inter-ministeria meeting held at the energy ministry vesterday, it was decided the government would provide the compensation as per the country's land acquisition law. State Minister for Power and Energy Brig Gen (retd) Muhammad Enamul Huq presided over the meeting.

It also decided to frame an ordinance to set up a coalmine city in Barapukuria. This city may have a mining university and school and be a home to new industries. The emphasis of this city would be on ensuring the livelihood of first generation

The meeting was held in the context of on-going hunger strike in the mining area demanding compensation for subsidence and rehabilitation. In the recent years, a part of arable land in some 15 villages around the mine has subsided.

The government last year had committed compensation package for the people affected by underground mining.

Yesterday's meeting discussed that the Barapukuria coal mining authorities after consultation with the affected people fixed Tk 35 lakh for an acre of affected land. Some officials at the meeting termed the price "high" compared to local land

They said the proposal contradicted with the country's land acquisition law and observed that the amount should not be Tk 5 to 6 lakh per acre, meeting sources said. The resettlement consultant

of the Padma bridge Akhter Hossain, however, supported the proposal of the coal mining authorities. He said Tk 35 lakh for per acre of land is logical since it also includes replacement cost.

Energy Adviser to the prime minister Towfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury attended the meeting, among others.

As per the initial plan to compensate the affected people, the government would pay Tk 226 crore to acquire 646 acres of land at Barapukuria.

## BDR proposes

FROM PAGE 1

BSF Director General Raman Srivastava during a joint media interaction at the BSF headquarters in New Delhi said, "We have agreed to ensure that no innocent civilian is shot by the troops. We have no reason to fire on innocent civilians."

The media interaction was held after signing of the Joint Record of Discussions between the two border guard chiefs.

Maj Gen Mainul said "criminals" who violate the curfew imposed at the border during the nights need to be watched out for. He said most of the killings at the border took place at night, which needs to be looked into.

The border-guard chiefs agreed to ensure that the spirit of joint communiqué signed between the prime ministers of the two countries should percolate down to the troops on the ground to prevent such incidents. "The will of our political

leaders should be disseminated to the ground and for that we have sat down. We have discussed all our differences," Mainul said. The BDR chief said, "Our concern is the killing of inno-

cent people. Both of us have to do something about it. We have discussed these issues." Mainul, who led a 19member delegation to the fourhour annual summit-level talks

between the border guards of the two countries Monday, said BDR has put forward a draft proposal to BSF for joint management of the border. Bangladesh has cleared the proposal. Srivastava acknowledged

that there had been some cases of BSF jawans crossing over to the Bangladesh side and strict action has been taken against them. He said a proposal for installing floodlights at the border is under consideration but it would take time to install them considering difficult terrain in the border areas. Srivastava said there were

geographical realities at the

border which are affecting the fencing process along the over 4,000km border.

Mainul also thanked the former BSF chief ML Kumawat for his support during the period immediately after the mutiny at BDR headquarters last year. Śrivastava said both sides

arrived "at a good understanding and could know each other's concerns". He expressed hope that the outcome of the conference would have "very good influence on the Indo-Bangla relations". The BDR chief said, "We got

very positive response from BSF on matters of our major concerns and we focused on ground realities during the meeting and we would surely implement the decisions. "We will follow the wishes of

the two leaders [the two prime ministers] who gave us a vision of friendship and cooperation." Mainul referred to the

Bangladesh government's firm resolve not to allow its territory to be used for carrying out subversive activities against India and said in a lighter vein "we do not have enough time or resources to harbour terrorists". Srivastabha described the

responses from Bangladesh side on all issues of India's concerns as "extremely posi-

Responding to a question whether India has submitted any list of wanted people to Bangladesh during the conference, the BSF chief answered in the affirmative, saying, "We have only asked them to see whether those people were in Bangladesh." Srivastava said BDR is trying

to ascertain the presence of Indian insurgents in Bangladesh and it is a difficult task without specific input. Mainul said, "Whatever

arrests we are making, we are making them on evidence, so that they get justice." "There is no place for any

insurgent from any country in Bangladesh."

## ADB help FROM PAGE 16

And the Power Division sought

ADB assistance for the project 400 KV Grid Interconnection between India (Baharampur) and Bangladesh (Bheramra). During its stay in Manila, the

team led by Mashiur would discuss the two proposals with the ADB president and other top officials. They would also have talks on sub-regional cooperation among Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Bhutan on railway network and several corridor projects, sources said.

In January, during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to India, the two countries reached consensus on several issues of regional cooperation including transit, according to the joint communiqué on the talks in Delhi.

"It was agreed that Bangladesh will allow use of Mongla and Chittagong sea ports for movement of goods to and from India through road and rail. Bangladesh also conveyed their intention to give Nepal and Bhutan access to Mongla and Chittagong ports,"

said the joint communiqué. At the Bangladesh

Development Forum meet in Dhaka last month, Bangladesh sought cooperation from the donors for materialising regional cooperation. A World Bank Pre-Identification Mission for the Proposed North East Regional Trade and Transport Facilitation Project, now in Dhaka, is discussing issues relating the poject. In 2007, the ADB proposed

to provide \$1 million to promote economic cooperation and integration between four South Asia Sub-regional Economic Cooperation (SASEC) countries Bangladesh, India Nepal and Bhutan. It also offered help to prepare an investment project that will facilitate unhindered movement of goods, services, and people across these coun-

For this, the ADB proposed SASEC Transport Logistics and Trade Facilitation Project having three components -- road corridor, rail link and modernised cross border regime.

issue NID cards to the new

voters," a senior EC official told

According to the national

identity registration act, people

eligible for being registered as

voters have the right to get NID

tions earlier made it mandatory

for people to submit or show

copies of NID cards to have

January 28 last year asked all

institutions not to make man-

datory submission of copies of

NID cards, citing a clause in the

now defunct national identity

registration authority ordi-

The ordinance had a provi-

sion that said the use of NID

cards cannot be made manda-

tory until all citizens get the

February last year, the govern-

ment enacted the new law in

But there remained cases of

arbitrary arrest and detention,

and harassment of journalists.

treatment while in detention.

HR records

**FROM PAGE 16** 

On expiry of the ordinance in

The EC in a press release on

access to some facilities.

nance 2008.

Various banks and institu-

The Daily Star yesterday.

# Registration act

But the national identity registration act does not allow the ministry to make such decision as the task of issuing NID cards to all eligible citizens is yet to be completed.

"No gazette notification will be issued making it mandatory for the citizens to show or submit the cards to get access to any service or facility before completion of issuance of cards to all citizens," said a provision of the

The act also said no citizen can be deprived of any facility for not having NID card. The parliament on January

21 passed a bill on the national registration act, empowering the Election Commission to prepare and issue NID cards to people eligible to get registered on the voter list.

Officials involved in preparing the voter roll with photographs and issuance of NID cards said they have not yet completed issuing NID cards to all citizens.

They said about 8.10 lakh NID cards have been prepared and dispatched for distribution so far. About 37 lakh people got

registered on the voter roll for the first time while the electoral roll was being updated countrywide since June last year. The EC on Monday started

increased 3.3 percent. publishing drafts of the updated voter list for finalisation but is and ethnic minorities still yet to start preparing NID cards for those registered on the list last year. "We are now busy printing

So, it's not possible at present to

occurred, the report said. The report touched a widerange of issues, including the role of police and security appathe draft voter list and the final ratus, arrest procedures and list for Dhaka City Corporation.

DMP asks DSPS

FROM PAGE 16

operators called off their indefinite strike on Wednesday. The bus operators who

have ticket counters in the capital went on strike Tuesday evening protesting at "illegal" toll collection by DSPS men. DMP Commissioner AKM

Shahidul Hoque warned that action would be taken against DSPS men if they continue collecting tolls from the bus operators. The DSPS men have been

taking Tk 70 from each bus a day for road committees across the city over the last seven to eight months. The commissioner said Shipping Minister Shahjahan

Khan at a meeting with police

and leaders of transport owners

fixed the toll before he assumed

office at the shipping ministry. As the city buses don't run under DSPS and do not use terminals and other facilities, they are not to pay the toll, he

But recently the DSPS men were trying to realise the toll from them, he added.

#### BCL activists FROM PAGE 16

1:00pm while the authorities were preparing to interview the commerce students. They broke windowpanes

and damaged chair, tables and

benches. Police on the campus rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control, sources added. The college unit BCL con-

venor Mamunur Rashid denied allegations of seeking quota in the admission. He also said that they were protesting the college author-

ity's irregularities as many

students with better marks

were ignored. Some 255 students have been enrolled in commerce section in the college so far.

Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree later brought out a procession on the campus protesting BCL vandalism and they demanded suspension of the admission.

### 13 BCL men

FROM PAGE 16 Rezwanul Islam Chowdhury

Sunny, the RPI unit Moitree vice president, was murdered in the BCL attack on the campus on January 7. Of the 13 accused, RPI unit

BCL president Nizam Uddin, general secretary Saddam Hossain Tushar and BCL activists Waheduzzaman Babu, Mesbaur Rahim Sumon, Khalesur Rahman Rokon, Uzzal, Masum and Abdul Matin remain fugitive since the murder took place while five others -- Shariful Islam, Nazmul Huda Nabin, Zahidul Islam Manik, Nahid Sarwar and Kaushikur Rahman Anik - are under arrest. Court Inspector Debendra

Nath Das of Rajshahi Metropolitan Magistrate Court told The Daily Star vesterday that Sub Inspector M Imaul Haque of Boalia Police Station submitted the charge sheet to the court police, which would be produced before the court on Sunday. Workers Party's politburo

member Fazle Hossain Badsha MP and Sunny's father Monwarul Islam yesterday demanded immediate arrest of the fugitive killers.

Debendra Nath said that the charge sheet revealed that the murder was resulted from previous enmity between BCL and Moitree activists over a cricket match in November last year and intensified over establishing supremacy in the institute.

## 20 climate

FROM PAGE 16 crore for Risk Reduction and

Adaptation Measures under the health ministry. The minister told reporters

that this year 10 crore plants

will be produced and each

lawmaker will be given 25,000 plants for planting in their respective constituency. Earlier, the government allocated Tk 700 crore from the Climate Change Fund to the environment ministry to implement projects to combat

the adversities of climate

change. The minister said his ministry received applications for 247 government projects and 3,758 for NGO projects. "The government projects would be given priority," he added.

serious abuse, extra-judicial killings, custodial deaths, Of the 3,758 NGOs, he said, nearly 3,500 have no physical fitness to get the funds. Some 300 NGO projects would get Politically motivated violence government funds in phases, Violence against religious he added.

> Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Food and Disaster Management Minister Abdur Razzak, Shipping Minister Shajahan Khan and Health Minister AFM Ruhal Huq, among others, were present.

## Fonseka faces court martial

### Charged with doing politics in uniform

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's military yesterday announced court martial proceedings against its former chief Sarath Fonseka for engaging in politics while in uniform and violating military procurement

Army spokesman Prasad Samarasinghe made no mention of the more serious conspiracy and assassination plot charges that some in the ruling party had levelled at Fonseka after his defeat in presidential elections in January. The highly decorated ex-

army commander will be charged on seven counts of breaking army rules, Samarasinghe said, adding that a court martial would start hearing the case on Tuesday at the navy headquarters in Colombo. "There is no time frame to

end the court martial proceedings," Samarasinghe said, admission seekers at around | adding that Fonseka, who is under military custody at a naval detention centre, could appeal to a civilian court after the military verdict. Supporters of Fonseka say

the court martial is an attempt to stop the 59-year-old campaigning in parliamentary elections due next month. President Mahinda

Rajapakse has been accused by rights groups and other critics of cracking down on the opposition and dissent since he defeated Fonseka, a former ally and now bitter enemy, in a poll in January. Fonseka was arrested by the

weeks after he lost the presidential election. Defence Secretary

military on February 8, two

Gotabhaya Rajapakse, who is

the president's younger brother, had said that the government had clear evidence of Fonseka plotting a coup and planning to assassinate the president.

The defence secretary had speculated that the hearing against Fonseka could go on for at least six months and on conviction he could be sentenced to five years in prison.

Ruling party politicians had also accused Fonseka of planning to overthrow the government and had labelled him a "traitor" for standing against his former commander-in-chief at the presidential polls.

Spokesman Samarasinghe

said he was unaware of "conspiracy charges" against Fonseka, but said an investigation was being carried out by the police Criminal Investigations Department too. "The CID is doing a separate investigation on General

Fonseka," Samarasinghe said. It might be related to charges to overthrow the government That is a civil matter. The military will limit itself to violations of the Army Act." Samarsinghe said Fonseka

said the seven counts related to two charges -- engaging in politics and wrongdoing in military procurements. Fonseka is accused of conduct unbecoming" an

officer, as well as maintaining contacts with opposition politicians while being head of the army and unfairly granting an arms contract to a company run by his son-in-law. The police have already mounted a search for

Fonseka's son-in-law, whose bank accounts have been frozen by the authorities.

## Hasina alleges FROM PAGE 1

now in their hands and it does

not matter to them if they spend Tk 1,000 crore for this purpose," the premier said. "They are not concerned with people's sufferings due to

price hike of essentials. Their

only aim is to undermine the

Awami League government, she said. On the power situation, the premier acknowledged people's unbearable sufferings caused by acute shortage of power and gas. "I can feel the sufferings of people. But what can we do? They [the BNP-led government] did not add a single megawatt of power even though they spent thousands of crore of taka. Electric poles are

She said they could not explore gas due to their corruption. Housewives now do not have gas to cook food with and power generation is being hampered due to shortage o "People are now suffering for their [BNP-Jamaat alliance's]

everywhere without electricity,"

she said.

misdeeds. But they are now blaming us for people's sufferings," she added. She, however, said her government has taken massive initiatives to increase generation of power and exploration of gas to meet the growing

demand. She said her govern-

ment has moved to purchase a

three-dimensional rig for Bapex

so that it can explore gas itself. Hasina, also the ruling Awami League chief, claimed that BNP-Jamaat alliance is out to frustrate this government in every step. They demanded the government's resignation before it completed one year, she added.

"We have done more than what is possible in a year," she She said the three dates of

birth and celebrating birthday on August 15, the day the father

"Qatar will help set up a nursing institute in Bangladesh to produce more skilled nurses for appointment there," said Dipu Moni, adding that Qatar also pledged providing funds for dredging rivers in Bangladesh though it did not mention any figure.

assured Bangladesh of providing dredgers to help massive

community clinics in Bangladesh. She said Doha would also assist in energy and tourism

multi-purpose cyclone shelters

of the nation was murdered testifies the depraved mentality of a person.

People will have to realise

who wants to bring reign of

killing. It is usual that they will

try to increase prices of essentials artificially and cause sufferings to people," she asserted. Hasina said her government brought down the price of rice to Tk 18 per kg and later it rose to Tk 22 per kg. "If BNP comes to

power, the price of rice would jump to Tk 80 per kg," she said. In her one-hour-long speech, she portrayed the "misrule" of the last BNP-Jamaat-led alliance government and held them responsi-

ble for the emergency rule. Speaking about the crackdown on politicians during the caretaker government rule, Hasina said Khaleda Zia was ready to leave the country in consultation with the caretaker government. She claimed she has a document that says Khaleda Zia managed foreign currency worth Tk 1 crore for leaving the country. "I strongly protested the caretaker govern-

ment's move to send her abroad forcefully," she claimed. She also described her government's efforts in vari-

ous sectors.

"We will build a developed and prosperous digital Bangladesh by 2021, which will be free from misrule, corruption and militancy," the premier said. The speaker put the

motion, piloted by Chief Whip Abdus Shahid, on for vote. The BNP-led opposition lawmakers voted (voice votes) against the motion. With the support of the

treasury bench lawmakers, the House passed the motion giving thanks to President Zillur Rahman for his speech delivered on January 4.

The speaker adjourned the sitting until 5:00pm Sunday.

## Qatar assured

The delegation arrived here on

Tuesday as a follow up of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Qatar visit in October 2009.

Qatar's Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassem bin Jabr Al Thani during talks with Sheikh Hasina in Doha last year

capital dredging and maintenance project to restore navigability in the Bangladesh rivers. Dipu said during her talks the Qatar minister gave assurance of assistance to establish

sectors and construction of

the two countries would hold expert level talks to strengthen bilateral relations. "We have

in Bangladesh.

tion," he said. Regarding cooperation in energy sector, the Qatar minister said Bangladesh can hold talks with Qatar Petroleum in this regard. The Qatar delegation will

discussed so many issues where

we can strengthen coopera-

Al-Attiva told reporters that

Some 155,000 Bangladeshis have so far gone to Qatar for employment. Of them, about 1,500 people went to Qatar this

January and February, said

sources at the expatriates welfare and overseas employment ministry. Most of the Bangladeshis work in the readymade garment

leave here today.

and construction sectors in Qatar, they said. Many countries stopped taking manpower from Bangladesh during the recent economic meltdown, but Qatar was steady in this regard, they added.

#### Swann and James Tredwell. The match will start at 9:30am with SuperSport5 and NEO Cricket beaming the live coverage.