## NEWS

assistance to rebuild the war-

ravaged Bangladesh. She

expressed her gratitude to the

Japanese people as well as its

government for helping

Bangladesh's freedom loving

people during the Liberation

Vice-President of Japan-

Bangladesh Cultural

Association Madame Konoe,

former Japanese ambassador to

Bangladesh Masaki Inoue,

General Secretary of Japan-

Bangladesh Ladies Cultural

Association Ms Nara, Organiser

of Support for Bangladesh

Liberation War Prof Nara and

Director of NHK Bangla Service

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

yesterday said her government

wants to establish Bangladesh's

permanent missions in all

countries concerned to inten-

sify the countries diplomatic

set up embassies or local consul

offices in 16 countries which

will also provide permanent

address for the expatriate

Bangladeshis," she said after

laying the foundation stone of

Bangladesh Embassy building

The embassy building will be

Speaking on the occasion,

Hasina said her government

wants to ensure opportunities

for Bangladeshis both at home

and abroad so that they can

contribute to make Bangladesh

The government is con-

The premier said soon after

Mohiuddin wins

taking office, the present gov-

On the other hand,

Mohiuddin's close supporters

Primary and Mass Education

Minister Afsarul Amin and city

unit Treasurer Abdus Salam,

who got the treasurer post and

was made chairman of

Chittagong Development

Authority with Mohiuddin's

anti-hartal rally organised by

Mohiuddin group in Agrabad

on Friday. The three leaders also

addressed the same rally

chaired by elderly leader Ishak

termed the rally a part of the

unification process among the

rivals initiated at the directive of

has recently called on some

leaders from the port city and

directed them to solve internal

Sources say Sheikh Hasina

Meanwhile, Afsarul Amin

The three met the grassroots

City unit Organising

leaders at a two-day meeting

that ended at Chittagong Circuit

Secretary Rezaul Karim, AL-

backed Chittagong City

Corporation (CCC) councillors

Gias Uddin, Morshed Akter

Chowdhury, female councillors

Rehena Begum Ranu, Rekha

Alam Chowdhury, Ferdousy

Begum Munni and Anjuman

Ara, among others, attended the

the full committee of the city

unit could not be formed due to

non-cooperation of

He alleged Mohiuddin very

often changes leadership at

different wards at his own will

causing resentment among

Nurul Islam slammed the two

leaders for shaking hands with

Mohiuddin. Talking to The Daily

Star yesterday evening, Afsarul

expressed suspicion over the

sudden union among

ences and gaps through discussion and meetings. That is why

we called the meeting to hear

the grassroots leaders' state-

ments," said the minister on

announced to open his political

office at Dost Building in New

Market area where the new

At that meeting Nurul Islam

their Circuit House meet.

"We should remove all differ-

Mohiuddin, Latif and Nasir.

Both Afsarul Amin and

leaders of grassroots level.

Mohiuddin.

House on Saturday.

partychiefSheikh Hasina.

Pro-Mohiuddin leaders

Latif and Nasir joined an

blessings, left his tent.

structing mission offices in four

countries including the office in

a digital country.

FROM PAGE 16

Japan, she mentioned.

constructed on 714 sq metres

yesterday morning in Tokyo.

and completed by June 2012.

"We've already decided to

PM LAYS FOUNDATION

STONE OF BANGLADESH

The delegation included

Warin 1971.

Watanabe.

EMBASSY

activities.

## Around 600 held

FROM PAGE 1

Tuku, however said none was arrested in connection with the opposition's protest programmes.

"Police did not arrest anyone without specific charges," he told reporters at his office. Top police officials said they

would ensure safety of commuters and operation of public transport and shops during the Law enforcers charged

truncheons on a pro-hartal rally in Natore injuring at least 10 people including former deputy minister Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu. Ruling party activists

clashed with opposition supporters in Khulna leaving 24 people wounded. Clashes between the opposition activists and those of the ruling party occurred in Barisal. A number of opposition

parties including Jamaat-e-Islami expressed support for the hartal and urged people to make it a success. Acting Jamaat Secretary General ATM Azharul Islam at a

press briefing at the party's central office called upon people to observe the hartal peace-BNP held rallies and brought out processions at all divisional headquarters as part of its six-

day protest programme that began on November 25. It will do the same today to garner public support for the hartal. BNP standing committee on November 22 announced a set

of protest programmes including hartal to "save democracy and the country". Party Chairperson Khaleda

Zia held talks with like-minded political parties and professional bodies and sought their support for the party programmes. She asked the leaders of BNP Dhaka city unit to be on the streets during Leaders of party's different

units distributed leaflets to elicit public opinion in favour of the Meanwhile, police arrested

at least 600 people, including 400 in the capital yesterday, the fourth day of the BNPannounced protest programmes. Of the arrestees in the capi-

tal, 275 were detained by police, 125 by its detective branch and Rapid Action Battalion. At least 120 people were

arrested in Rajshahi, 10 in Kishoreganj, 15 in Dinajpur, 10 in Khulna, seven in Manikganj, six in Thakurgaon, 20 in Sylhet and three in Barisal. Dhaka Metropolitan Police

Commissioner Benazir Ahmed told reporters at his office that the DMP would take security measures for smooth operation of transport and businesses during the hartal.

"We will provide foolproof security for running day-to-day activities on the hartal day, DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed said.

The DMP chief said security would be tightened in and around the capital on the eve of

Nearly 20,000 additional

police and Rab personnel would be deployed across the country. Of them 11,000 would

be deployed in the capital.

Commander M Sohail, director of Rab legal and media wing, said 3,000 Rab members would be deployed in the capital and 2,000 others elsewhere during the hartal.

On Saturday, police arrested around 500 people in connection with BNP's protest programmes.

The BNP secretary general said people will give a befitting reply to mass arrest of and attacks on BNP men by the government through observing tomorrow's hartal spontane-

Addressing a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan office, Delwar said the hartal was called to realise people's demand for reduction of the prices of essentials and an end to misdeeds of the ruling Awami League and repression on the innocent. He also said the government

is now trying to grab the BNP chairperson's Gulshan house after evicting her from the cantonment house, but people will resist it, he said. "Government has created a

frightening situation by arresting about 1,000 opposition leaders and workers ahead of the hartal," he said. Despite this, people will make the hartal a success, he hoped. Demanding immediate

release of the arrested leaders and workers, the BNP leader said police damaged houses of BNP supporters across the country and beat them up to foil the hartal programme.

The government had ordered the law enforcement agencies to take a hard line on the hartal in a bid to eliminate BNP since it is trying to protect democracy as well as the country, Delwar said. Meanwhile, Dhaka city unit

of BNP yesterday held a rally at Muktangon as part of the party's agitation programme at all divisional headquarters. Party leaders including

Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MK Anwar, Abdullah Al Noman and Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir addressed the rally chaired by Sadeque Hossain Khoka.

## Dipjol

Abdul Malek, officer-in-charge

of Darussalam Police Station, said Dipjol surrendered shortly before 10:00pm in connection with a case filed on November 17 for assault on a traffic police-"Dipjol has been shown

arrested. He will be produced before court tomorrow [Monday]," said Malek.

The film actor allegedly assaulted constable Altaf Uddin for protesting Dipjol's violation of traffic rules at Gabtoli on November 16.

Altaf filed a case on November 17. Police raided the residence of Dipjol, who went into hiding after the incident.

Darussalam police on November 21 appealed to the deputy commissioner in Dhaka for cancellation of the licence of Dipjol's firearms that include a single and a double-barrel shotgun, a pistol, and a rifle.

president of Bangladesh

Garment Manufacturers and

Exporters Association, said he

opposes hartals as they harm

the welfare of the people: "Both

the opposition and the govern-

ment can sit together to reach a

consensus to resolve any prob-

lem. The opposition should

president of Bangladesh

Knitwear Manufacturers and

Exporters Association, said the

hartal day's thinning of the

ranks of workers in factories

hampers productivity.

Habibur Rahman, acting

think alternatives to hartal."

## 'No' to hartal

FROM PAGE 1

BNP regime.

tives to hartal.'

personal opinion.

agreed.

The BNP has called a countrywide daylong hartal for November 30 to protest the government activities. It dismisses concerns of lost income during the shutdown as an issue for owners but not for workers and small independent work-

"We did not expect anything else from him [Azad], as he is a nominated president' of FBCCI," said Delwar. "He is criticising hartal as his factory will be shut on hartal day, but he does not think about workers."

Azad said he never sup-

"Hartal hampers the flow of

ported hartal programmes, as

both home and overseas invest-

ment," Azad said. "We need

more investment to create more

employment. The opposition

party should think of alterna-

had the strength and capacity to

stand against the BNP hartal,

but later he said that it was his

He said the 2.7 crore unem-

ployed people in the country

need jobs and a hartal

programme would hurt their

Other business leaders

"Hartal is very destructive to

the economy," said M Anis Ud

Dowla, president of

Metropolitan Chamber of

Commerce and Industry.

"There are many ways to pro-

Abdus Salam Murshedy,

test. Please do not call hartal."

employment prospects.

they damage the economy.

Why, asked the BNP leader, "We hardly do any shipdid the business group not ments in a hartal day due to the criticise the Awami League's countrywide halting of business 173 days of hartal during the activities.

The ready-made garment manufacturers face more troubles as the sector is highly dependent on imports of raw materials," Rahman said. He urged the BNP to withdraw its

The opposition party should find alternatives to hartal to keep the economy from harm, said A K Khan, president of The FBCCI president said Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry. that the business community

Abdul Hai Sarker, president of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association, said the country should leave hartal culture behind. "We should work together," he said. M A Salam, senior vice-

president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said hartals should be avoided because any kind of intimidating demonstrations will scare away investment and growth.

"In economy this is the age of private sector," Salam said. "We must keep up the beat of economic activity in the private sector."

FROM PAGE 16 Dispute Resolution (ADR) system, for speeding up the judicial process by settling cases outside the courts.

Law Commission

According to the recommendations, ADR and plea bargain will require amendments to the hundred-plus years old Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC), and Civil Procedure Code (CPC).

There are more than 10 lakh criminal cases, and six lakh civil cases pending with various courts of the country. Most of those cases are in connection with land related disputes, and petty crimes.

Plea bargain is practiced in the US, UK, Canada, India, and Pakistan, which succeeded in speeding up adjudication of criminal cases at minimum costs, and in reducing backlogs of pending cases, the Law Commission noted. Introduction of plea bar-

gain in the CrPC is necessary the commission said. Law Minister Shafique

Ahmed told The Daily Star recently that the government is willing to amend relevant laws to make ADR mandatory for minor cases. The Law Commission suggested that the govern-

ment introduces a rule for appointing mediators for out of court settlement of both civil and criminal suits. Joint district judges should be the mediators at district levels until trained or certified

added. The commission also suggested rules for providing compensation to parties who are victimised due to filing of false and baseless cases, and due to creation of hurdles in

mediators can be found, it

mediations. It advised the government to make village courts and Municipal Area Boards effective, to adjudicate minor cases at grassroots level.

It emphasised on formulat ing a national policy to implement ADR within a certain timeline, establishing a national ADR research centre, and publishing the findings of the research. It recommended training

for judges and lawyers at the Judicial Administration Training Institute; and conferences, meetings, seminars and workshops on ADR. It also suggested that the

government uses both the print and electronic media to create mass awareness about the benefits of ADR.

#### Jessore tannery FROM PAGE 16

tannery guilty of draining toxic liquid to the river since 1979 after examining the plant and the river. The factory was also given

stern directions to set up an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) within May 31, next year. The DoE may disconnect

gas, electricity and water supply, even take harsher legal actions, he warned, unless the factory stop polluting immediately and comply with the environmental regulations.

feuds. At least 2.20 lakh cubic meter of waste has been dumped into and Abdus Salam shook hands Bhairab River over the last year with Mohiuddin's long-term and a half which has been rival and city unit Viceaffecting both man and water president lawmaker Nurul Islam BSc. bodies, revealed an investigation of DoE.

During inspection, the water of the river where the drain of the factory met was seen as pitch black mingled with liquid waste from the factory.

Munir Chowdhury said the factory has been served with several notices to stop the pollution over the years including two notices on January 11 and on July 26 this year that they kept ignoring. According to Environment

meeting Ward unit presidents and Conservation Rules, 1997, Setting up of Effluent Treatment general secretaries also took part in the meeting that blamed Plant at waste producing facto-Mohiuddin for his "autocratic" ries is a must. attitudes. AL leader Rejaul Karim said

FROM PAGE 1

would be going through level crossings more frequently, Communications Minister Sved Abul Hossain said the commuter trains will not run between Kamalapur Railway Station and Airport Railway

Initially, the railcars will run between Narayanganj and Kamalapur, airport station and Joydevpur, Comilla and Mymensingh, he said, adding that the railcars will be run between Kamalapur and Airport stations after flyovers and overpasses on level crossings are built.

"Once commuter trains are launched, anybody from adjacent districts will be able to come to the capital, work and return the same day on commuter trains," said the minister.

group would meet and discuss The railway DG suggested the unification move. that overpasses or under-He also suggested forming a passes at all the level crossings committee of five to seven in the city be built for members to chalk out the line of smoother movement of trains actions. and traffic.

He said the railway authorities also have plans to introduce railcars in other parts of country.

blasted Afsarul for creating new division in the party. He said ministers and leaders should work to uphold the

Contacted, Nasir Uddin

Japan's help ernment has been able to free Speaking on the occasion, Bangladesh from the stigma of Hasina recalled the Japanese

corruption and militancy. "Now our image in the world community has been restored. But the anti-people force has again become active to foil the progress of the nation," she said.

Bangladesh has now become a model country for its efforts in eradicating corruption and strengthening democracy, Hasina added. She blasted opposition

leader Khaleda Zia for calling

hartal on November 30 saying that it was "only to protect her illegally grabbed property." "Instead of working for mitigating people's sufferings, she is increasing it by giving

hartal just to meet her persona

interests," she added.

She mentioned that soon after Bangladesh achieved independence in 1971, the government of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had established permanent missions in several countries.

"During our last government, we also set up some missions. But the next government did not maintain the continuity," she said. Hasina in her address

described Japan as a historic and time-tested friend of Bangladesh and recalled its assistances in constructing the Bangabandhu Bridge and the Rupsha Bridge as well as many other infrastructures in Bangladesh. She mentioned the

immense contributions of the expatriate Bangladeshis to the national economy through sending remittances along side their contributions to the countries where they now live. Bangladesh Ambassador to

Japan A K M Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan moderated the function while Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni also spoke.

image of the party, not to dimin-

Mohiuddin, Nasir said he did it

in response to the call of the

BNP prisoner

Abdullah Al Noman and Mir

Mohammad Nasir Uddin,

adviser to the party chairper-

factions loyal to long-term rivals

Noman and Nasir have come

closer and are unitedly holding

programmes. BNP leaders and

activists loyal to both the leaders

expressed satisfaction over the

Secretary of the central com-

mittee M Nazimuddin said the

unity inspired the grassroots

Mir Nasir told The Daily Star

'We have started working

together forgetting all the past

divisions and keeping aside

personal ego for the sake of the

had no personal enmity. There

might have differences of opin-

ions among us, but that's not

criticised not forming the full

committee of the city unit. The

council of city unit was virtually

postponed amid a series of

clashes between pro-Noman

and pro-Khasru activists on

November 16 last year, though

Khasru termed it "partially

A five-member committee

on December 7 made Amir

Khasru and Dr Shahadat

Hossain, who are loyal to

Khasru, president and general

secretary of the city unit as per

direction of the central commit-

However, the body was

asked to form the full commit-

tee within one month which

could not be done even now.

Three other pro-Khasru leaders

Dastagir Chowdhury, Shamsul

Alam and Abu Sufian were

made senior vice-president and

of the fully-fledged committee

is being worked out and a draft

171-member committee has

also been made. The list would

be submitted to the central

however, said the fully-fledged

committee should be formed

formation of the committee.

Noman said if the committee is

formed without discussing or

consulting with all the active

party leaders and activists, it

same and said the committee

should be formed including all

the dedicated leaders and

mittee would be formed after

activists, however, emphasised

removing all the divisions to

face the "oppression" of the

Dr Shahadat said the com-

The grassroots leaders and

Mir Nasir also echoed the

would not be fruitful.

discussion with all.

government.

activists.

through discussion with all.

Both Noman and Mir Nasir

They said no-one has so far

committee soon for approval.

Dr Shahadat said formation

vice-presidents respectively.

Both the leaders, however

Contacted, Noman said, "We

Pro-Noman leader and Joint

In a recent polarisation two

partychief.

unity.

party.'

eternal.

successful".

activists a lot.

On his union with

## stalking A Chittagong court yesterday

A CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

3 fined for

fined two youths Tk 1,000 each and another youth Tk 500 on charge of stalking university students in the port city's Dampara area. Police detained the three -

- Faisal Chowdhury, Abu Bakkar and Safayat Shakil -for stalking several female students of Asian University for Women (AUW) on Saturday evening. The court of Chittagong

Metropolitan Magistrate HM Fazulul Bari fined Faisal and Bakkar Tk 1,000 each while Safayat was fined Tk 500, said Assistant Commissioner (Prosecution) Nirmalendu Bikash Chakrabarty.

## State minister

FROM PAGE 16 outcome of the Supreme

Court hearing does not go in favour of Khaleda Zia," Alam quoted the message. He said he saw the message

around 10:00pm, which was sent around 4:00pm. "Mujahedeens" are already

in the city and all preparations are completed, it added, asking the AG to alert his wellwishers. Meanwhile, a letter was

sent to the president and the general secretary of Dhaka Court Reporters' Association yesterday threatening State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam, AG Mahbubey Alam, Anisul Huq, who was the chief state counsel in Bangabandhu assassination case, and two former Dhaka Court judges with death. The two former judges are

Kazi Golam Rasul and AK Roy. The senders identified

themselves as members of al-Qaeda, Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), Joyse Mohammad, Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji) and Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB). President of Dhaka Court Reporters' Association

Chaitanya Chandra Halder said he received the registered letter around 1:30pm. One Mohammad Borhan Uddin, advocate of Noakhali Judge Court, is mentioned as

sender of the letter. Different intelligence agencies collected copies of the letter.

Rezaul Karim, officer-incharge of Shahbagh Police Station, said he was informed about the letter but no complaint was lodged in this

"We don't care such threat. Intelligence agencies will find them out," Qamrul Islam said.

#### AL, allies

letters with instructions to

the general secretaries of all its components. "The central leaders of the

14-party coalition will sit last Saturday of every month," AL General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam told journalists after the meeting chaired by alliance coordinator and acting AL president Sajeda Chowdhury. He said Sheikh Hasina

would hold a meeting with alliance leaders upon her return from abroad to fix the date for grand rallies at divisional headquarters to drum up public support for the government move to try war criminals. Ashraful said the alliance

believes that BNP has called the November 30 hartal to protect the interests of Khaleda Zia, not that of peo-He said the alliance would

not take to the streets to face the opposition. The law enforcement agencies would take necessary action if anyone tries to hamper law and The coalition sat for the

fourth time yesterday since the AL-led alliance assumed power. The last meeting was held on June 1.

#### Govt asked FROM PAGE 16

rule following a writ petition talked with them regarding

petitioner.

filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) challenging the legality of recent price hike of soybean oil by a section of dishonest businessmen and traders. Recently, the businessmen raised the prices of

soybean oil by Tk 13 per litre. The HRPB filed the writ

following a report on the price rise of soybean oil published in November 24 issue of the daily Prothom

angrily urged it to get off the Advocate Manzill Murshid appeared for the President Lee Myung-Bak, in

## Climate fund

FROM PAGE 1

partners however offered to provide loans for mitigation and adaptation.

"We will demand that the aid be grants, not loans," said Dr Mihir Kanti Majumder, secretary to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, who left for Cancun on Saturday. State Minister for

Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud will lead the Bangladesh delegation, which will also attend seminars and media conferences on the sideline of the conference. Bangladesh delegates said, as representatives of the least

developed and most vulnerable countries, they demand that developed nations commit to reduce 40 percent of their carbon emission by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050; and strive not to let world temperature ever rise over 2 degrees Celsius than the temperature of pre-industrial age. Around 100 participants

including 70 government delegations from Bangladesh are attending the conference. A number of development

agencies demanded that the negotiations this year begins with far more urgency than last year's, as an increased number of weather-related disasters happened this year including a record rise in temperature, floodings, and rising sea level. A new Oxfam report titled

'More Than Ever: Climate

Talks That Work for Those That Need Them Most" says 21,000 people died due to weather related disasters globally in the first nine months of this year, compared to last year's toll of 10,000. The world this year also experienced an increased number of extreme weather

year average of 770. It has been one of the hottest years ever recorded, with Pakistan logging 53.7 degrees Celsius -- the highest ever recorded in Asia. Author of the Oxfam report, Tim Gore, said, "This year has seen massive suffering and loss due to extreme weather disasters. This is likely to get

events compared to the ten-

tightens its grip. The human impacts of climate change in 2010 send a powerful reminder why progress in Cancun is more urgent than ever.

While climate change cannot be held responsible for a specific weather-related disaster, climate models indicate that the weather extremes of this year are likely to get worse due to the change. Therefore, people who are already vulnerable are likely to

The recent floods in Pakistan affected more than 20 million people, submerging about a fifth of the country, claiming 2,000 lives and causing damage to the tune of \$9.7 billion. Summer temperatures in

Russia exceeded the longterm average by 7.8 degrees Celsius, doubling the daily death rate in Moscow to 700, and causing fires that destroyed 26 percent of the country's wheat crop. Russia banned grain export as a result, and soon after world grain prices increased, particularly affecting the global Delegates of about 194

Cancun for the 16th Meeting of Conference of Parties (COP 16) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). No head of state is however scheduled to attend. The new Executive Secretary of UNFCCC Christina Fegueres at a media

conference in Cancun yester-

countries will gather in

day hoped that a balanced package will be achieved there. Global warming is threatening the habitats of plants and animals, putting pressure on food production, and melting the ice caps in Greenland and the Arctic, causing the sea level to rise. The temperature rise is caused by increased amounts of

greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, not least carbon dioxide, which is mainly related to human use of fossil fuels such as coal and oil, says the IPCC worse as climate change

### N Korea readies a meeting with visiting State

has expressed regret at the

civilian deaths but said the South used them as human shields. The North "will deal a merci-

less military counter-attack at any provocative act of intruding into its territorial waters in the future, too," ruling party newspaper Rodong Sinmun said "A club is the best thing for a

mad dog," Pyongyang's official news agency said of the US-South Korean naval drill, echoing the Korean proverb employed by a South Korean newspaper about the North's regime.

"Aggressors will feel the taste of it... We are ready to respond even to something stronger than anti-submarine ships." Yonhap news agency, quot-

ing a government source, said the North had deployed surface-to-air missiles near the border. The defence ministry declined to comment. BUNKERS!! People on a South Korean

island near the North Korean border were allowed to leave bunkers, 40 minutes after being told to take shelter on Sunday, an AFP photographer said. The reason for the alert at Yeonpyeong island was unclear

but media reports said artillery fire had been heard off the island. CHINAOFFERSTALKS

China, the isolated North's sole major ally, proposed "emergency consultations" in Beijing

early next month among chief envoys to the stalled six-nation talks on the North's nuclear disarmament.

Its top envoy on North Korea, Wu Dawei, speaking in Beijing, stressed the proposal did not constitute a formal resumption of the negotiations. But he said he hoped they would lead to such a resumption soon. South Korea, which is press-

ing Beijing to be more evenhanded in the standoff, reacted cautiously as did Japan. The United States and Russia are the other members of the talks along with the North itself. Any such meeting "should

be considered very carefully

uranium enrichment programme and nuclear reactor construction, and its attack on the island, said a Seoul foreign ministry statement. The ministry said the North must show seriousness about

denuclearisation through "tangible actions". Japan said it would deal with China's proposal cautiously

while cooperating with South Korea and the United States. China has not joined other world powers in criticising the North's attack, and many South Korean newspapers have

Councillor Dai Bingguo, urged China to take "a fairer and more responsible stance in its relations with the two Koreas", the presidential office said. Lee added that the South

'has tolerated the North's constant provocations since the (1950-53) Korean War but would respond strongly if the North makes a additional provoca-

His ruling party said now was not the time to consider sixparty talks.

URGES JOURNALIST TO LEAVE The defence ministry urged

hundreds of journalists to leave Yeonpyeong island, saying the North may use the war games being held far to the south as the pretext for a new attack on it. President Lee, who will make

a televised speech on the crisis at 10:00 am Monday (0100 GMT), has come under pressure to take a tougher line after his military's counter-fire last

week was seen as feeble. The defence minister quit on Thursday to take responsibility.

The United States insists that the drill is defensive in nature and was planned long before the attack, but says it is intended to send a message of deterrence

## Cops asked

to the North.

public assets and setting on fire," Tuku added. Taking part in a discussion

meeting, State Minister for law Kamrul Islam said government and law enforcers will not stay silent if opposition leaders and activists destroy public property during hartal. Bangabandhu Education

ised the discussion at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city to wage anti-hartal cam-The meeting was addressed among others by AL Joint

Secretary General Mahbub ul

and Research Council organ-

Alam Hanif, Abdus Sobhan Golap, special assistant to the prime minister. An online-based newspaper theeditor.net yesterday in an exceptional anti-hartal camgiven the North's disclosure of a paign collected signatures against hartal from people of all

> sections through setting up three booths at three points in the capital. Around 2,000 people put signature against hartal and provided their anti-hartal opinions at the Press Club booth till 4:00pm, officials of the

> newspapersaid. Meanwhile, cross sections of people of different districts including Thakurgaon,

Panchagarh and Khulna have opposed hartal and urged opposition to refrain from such programmes that bring destruction for country's economy, our correspondents said.

# be at even greater risk.