It's blatant

Nirmul Committee.

of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal

FROM PAGE 1

Economy not in grim state

FROM PAGE 20 Hasina said the people voted AL to power to improve their fate and the party is on the right track. She gave elaborate explanation of the development activities of the govern-

She said her government had amended the constitution to ensure people's empowerment and plugged all the loopholes using which one can grab the state power at gun-point.

claim, the prime minister said the reserve is in the best position in the history of the country, remittance is coming very fluently and the government succeeded to reduce corruption signif-

Hasina also said the economy of the country is report," she said.

Human Rights Commission

Chairman Mizanur Rahman

A war crimes accused has

even raised a seven-point

demand, said Rahman in an

oblique reference to BNP

leader Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury, who has been

accused of committing war

tribunals in Nuremberg,

Tokyo, Cambodia, Yugoslavia

or any other tribunal been

able to raise such demands?"

The NHRC chief's com-

ments came the same day the

main opposition BNP urged

the international community

to raise objections to the

activities of the International

the inaugural session of the

National Convention of

Sector Commanders' Forum

(SCF) at the physical training

Islam Alamgir yesterday

demanded holding of a refer-

"Put the DCC split to a

referendum. The vote itself will

prove what the people want,"

said Fakhrul while talking to

newsmen during distribution

of leaflets in favour of the

He made the demand in

response to a challenge by

LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful

Addressing a rally in the city

on Friday, Ashraful, also general

secretary of the ruling Awami

League, challenged BNP to win

the DCC elections saying only

then AL would accept the oppo-

sition's stance on the DCC split.

percent residents of Dhaka

like-minded political parties

have extended their support to

BNP city units brought out

processions at ward levels

yesterday in support of the

secretary general of the party,

yesterday alleged that police

swooped on a pro-hartal pro-

cession in Paltan area around

Samity, a pro-government

transport owners' association,

vesterday declared that buses

and minibuses will operate on

Khandaker Enayet Ullah urged

the administration to ensure

Its General Secretary

Home Minister Sahara

Khatun said the government

the city streets during hartal.

Dhaka Sarak Paribahan

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, joint

want a unified corporation.

the strike.

2:15pm.

Fakhrul claimed that 98

Jamaat-e-Islami and other

endum on the issue.

Rahman was addressing

Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

"Have any accused at the

FROM PAGE 1

said yesterday.

crimes in 1971.

he asked.

in a good shape although the rest of the world plunged into recession.

"We managed to post 6.7 percent GDP growth and the per capita income increased to US\$845."

Talking about the splitting of the Dhaka City Corporation, she reiterated that the move has been made to provide better services to city dwellers.

were only eight constituencies in the city but now it has 15. "People did not voice against splitting the why they (BNP) are ranting so much."

project in India, the prime minister said two of her advisers were sent to New Delhi to look into the matter. "When they will be back we will get a detailed

Hasina also said the opposition leader is doing her best to protect the war criminals and that is why BNP is sponsoring hartal and other destructive activities.

Woman dies

FROM PAGE 20

Police said Zarina was crossing the tracks around 9:30am when two passenger trains approached from opposite directions.

Panicked by the thought of being trapped between the two moving trains, she dashed off across the tracks and was hit by a train heading for Airport Railway Station.

Zarina was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead around 11:30am, said Alamgir Hossain Mazumder, assistant sub inspector of Kamalapur Government Railway Police.

> who were trying to get out. However, when they reached the gate downstairs, they found it locked.

2 workers

closed when the workers were

smoke coming out of the

boiler room on the second

floor of the seven-storey

factory and got down using

the two narrow staircases.

When they got down, the

factory authorities told them

there was no fire and asked

five minutes, the garment

out and smelt the gas," said

Jahanara Begum, a worker at

Apprehending the possi-

To make sure the gas does

bility of the gas igniting, the

workers began panicking and

not ignite, a factory official

disconnected the mains and

crowded a staircase desig-

nated for their use, the guard

rail of the stairs broke and

many fell from the stairs on to

the ones below. Many got

trampled then by the ones

As the female workers

them to get back to work.

and smelt gas.

the second floor.

rushed to go out.

the factory went dark.

Witnesses said around

FROM PAGE 1

trying to escape.

The workers also blamed the security guards for the deaths as they complied with the production manager's directives.

Contacted, factory administrative officer Muhasin Ali denied the allegation of keeping the gate closed but admitted that he had switched off the mains to avert a fire.

Qubee

FROM PAGE 20

Qubee staff were going to the Lalakhal tourist spot of Nazimgarh Resort from Dhaka.

Quoting witnesses, Mosharraf Hossain, subinspector (SI) of Jaintapur Police Station, told The Daily Star that the six people on Friday hired a boat from Sarighat, near Sylhet-Tamabil highway, to reach the spot.

When the boat arrived in Shahebmara on the way around 2:00pm, they got down on the river bank and went to take bath. At one stage, they got stuck into a quicksand.

The duo went missing as local stone labourers could rescue others, the SI said. Members of police and Lalakhal BGB launched a rescue operation but failed to trace them.

A fire brigade team of divers from the capital recovered the bodies from Shahebmara around 10:00am yesterday, SI Mosharraf said.

Md Shakhawat Hossain, superintendent of police in Sylhet, told this correspondent that the bodies were handed over to their family members around 2:00pm.

Bangladesh FROM PAGE 20

on the fund, Bangladesh has also stressed that it should function under the UNFCC, an idea opposed to the US wish that it should be institutional-

ised under a separate body.

The fate of the fund still hangs in balance as the US wants further review of a draft report on its formation. In the last climate conference in Cancun, it was decided that the fund would have \$100 billion a year from 2020 to be given to the poor countries to face climate change impacts.

Bangladesh also said donors should start contributing to the fund from 2013 to avoid any gap in climate financing. The fast track fund that is now operational expires in 2012, which makes it important for early capitalisation of the green fund.

"In this process, we are of the view that a variety of public sources of funding should form the core, with the private sector playing a supplementary role in its continued capitalisation of at least \$100 billion per year

by 2020," Bangladesh said. "Allocation of the money should be guided by agreed criteria-based prioritisation of the needs of specific countries and communities including in particular the LDCs, small

islands and Africa." Against allegations that

many of the rich countries had diverted their regular foreign assistance in the name of fast track fund, Bangladesh had made it clear that the fund must be additional to official development assistance and have the provision of direct

This would also expedite the process of designing, approval and implementation of programmes and projects.

Stop war crimes trial

covenants on crimes against 1:00pm some workers saw

capital.

Returning to work within employees saw more smoke "I saw the smoke gushing in a written statement.

Moudud observed that it made no sense to legitimise the tribunal's "illegal and unconstitutional trial proceedings by participating in its farcical activities to victimise political opponents".

mendations of Stephen Rapp, US ambassador-at-large for war crimes issues, the opposition lawmaker said, "We agree with the recommendations. The tribunal cannot be independent and transparent

Sultana Kamal

given advice unfortunate Instead of demanding an The eminent jurist and

abolition of the ICT, the BNP could have come up with constructive recommendations regarding a fair trial of the war criminals, said

crimes against humanity should be tried because it is the demand of the nation, said Kamal, also a noted

the international community to intervene in the matter was "not decent", and the party's present stance in the matter might confuse some people, who may interpret its stand as suggesting that it did not want the trial to take place.



Harun-Ar-Rashid

It's nothing new for BNP

Sector Commanders Forum General Secretary Harun-Ar-Rashid said the war crimes trial was closed down in December 31, 1975 through a repeal of the Collaborators Act 1972.

"The fact that they [BNP] will try to close it down once again comes as little surprise," said Rashid, who is a former army chief of staff.

In 1972, the government of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman passed a law to try the collaborators and war criminals of 1971. The government of Justice Sayem and General Zia subsequently scrapped the law on December 31, 1975.

Rashid said the BNP and the Jamaat had been exerting pressure on the government for an end to the trial through the international community, a fact which has already been revealed by the media.

Therefore, their call to the international community to intervene in the trial was really nothing new, he added.

by the tribunal.

nesses and victims of war crimes had also been ensured, he said, adding that the accused of the trial were interrogated in safe homes.

Hasan described the BNP's demands for the release of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, a war crimes accused, as "ill motivated", which must be resisted by the national as well as interna-

The WCFFC convener, however, supported the BNP's demand for the war crimes trial to be held in public and for the perpetrators of the Pakistan army to be tried

Salauddin had sent 23 applications to the tribunal from

jail. While some of those applications had been lying at the Gazipur deputy commissioner's office, the rest had disappeared without trace. Besides, he said, the tribunal had taken the charges

without giving him any notice. It only had discussions with the prosecution. Moudud maintained that cast on television and radio; his party too wanted the "real and foreign lawyers should be war criminals" to be tried under the existing laws of the land. However, that trial would have to be conducted though a transparent and

modalities of the trial.

The BNP leader claimed



They never wanted trial

Shyamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, widow of Shaheed Dr Alim Chowdhury, has said the BNP's demands are unsurprising as it was the same party that had partnered with the war criminals and put them in power. imperfection is negligible,"

"They have realised that the present government will ensure that the war criminals are tried and they cannot avoid it," she said. "They do not want the trial to take place. So it is only natural that they will come up with such demands." Shyamoli Nasrin

the international commu-

was no question of interven-

not intervene in the matter."

and survivor of the 1971

should be prosecuted.

They should be brought

under the purview of the

law. And I demand it," she

said while talking to The

that a political party was

waging a movement to save

the identified war crimi-

lost their lives in the War of

demned the ongoing move-

She strongly con-

The trial should be held

to free the conscience of

Liberation," she added.

save the war criminals.

Daily Star yesterday.

facing justice.

tried?'

"They themselves

Anti-trial

FROM PAGE 1

war crimes.

tion by another country.

Chowdhury's husband Dr crimes against humanity Alim Chowdhury, an eminent physician, was brutally killed on the eve of Bangladesh's liberation in December 1971.

"The BNP does not believe in the spirit of the Liberation War. It does not believe in the spirit of the people who gave their lives in the war," she said.



Gholam Rabbani

It's worthless

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee President Justice Mohammad Gholam Rabbani has described the BNP as "worthless" because of its demand for a cancellation of the International

"It (BNP) has become worthless in our free society due to its utterances and activities that are against the philosophy on the basis of which we fought in the war of independence in 1971, he said.

accept it as a pressure group."

Resist BNP demands

FROM PAGE 1 war criminals.

Protection for both wit-"This is another way to foil

tions approved by the international communities.

"No state can interfere in the judicial system of another country," Kabir told The Daily Star yesterday. "Forget the international community, not even the government can influence

against Salauddin into cogni-Every free country has a sance in his absence and sovereign judicial system. The mere suggestion of interference in its activities is unconstitutional and a blatant defiance of the country's sovereignty, he said.

"No citizen, who respects the constitution, can make a demand like this," he said. "This shows that the BNP and Jamaat do not care about the country's very sovereignty."

He said the BNP had been very active in its efforts to save the war criminals, and the latest demand is nothing but a continuation of those efforts.

all," he said, adding that opposition leader Khaleda Zia had already said that the party would undo everything the ICT has done on the issue of the war crimes "They will say whatever

they want to say. But if we take the time to listen to them, there would not be any trial," said Shahriar Kabir. He said the law under which the trial is being held

is one of the best in the world. And once completed, the judges who will have taken part in the process will be considered as some of the best judges in the country. "Our demand is that the war criminals should be

tried as soon as possible. And any inadequacies of the ICT, including the lack of manpower, should be resolved immediately," he

power.

The only intention Crimes Tribunal (ICT) was to protect the war criminals, he

Juddha Dalilpatra (History

"There is no logic for demanding a cancellation of

FROM PAGE 20

It had been made clearer The protesters fell back and there were no arrests or injuries, a policeman at the scene said.

nals, said Priyabhashini. A noted sculptor, she added that the BNP was coming to their livelihoods due to erratic weather such as severe storms and blister-

in the war and their families? Or a small number of people who are being "With their statements, and Earth." they have shown disrespect Non-governmental

to the 30 lakh martyrs who

the people of Bangladesh The 12-day, 194and help them repay the country talks, under the UN Framework

UN slams ers were killed and nine others wounded when secu-

appoint a special investigator

security in the city.

and refer a report on the abuses in Syria to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-

In the northwestern city of Idlib, a focal point of antigovernment protests raging since March, rebels clashed with loyalist troops near the provincial headquarters leaving 15 people dead, three of them civilians caught in the crossfire, a human rights group said.

An officer was among also died in the fighting.

seven pro-regime soldiers and security service agents

killed, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Five rebel troops Also in Idlib two protest-

Two other civilians were

central city of Homs.

killed by security forces in the town of Rastan north of Homs, the watchdog said. The unprecedented move-

"The High Court has also heard appeals regarding the Freedom fighters and a humanity demands trial of war criminals".

ICT's activities be expanded, strengthened and made more effective. Rahman said the ICT had

tional standards in trying the people accused of crimes against humanity during the 1971 Liberation War. The Jamaat-e-Islami, he pointed out, had appointed lobbyists in the US, the UK and

propaganda against the tribunal in the international media. The NHRC chairman said there were political motives behind the opposition to the

would deploy mobile courts

and law enforcement personnel

to prevent any untoward situa-

Addressing a function at the

Liberation War Museum in the

capital, she claimed that the

opposition had called the hartal

without any issue. "We have

divided Dhaka City

Corporation, not the city. We

took the decision to increase

civic facilities, but the opposi-

does not support the strike as it

hampers business activities,

said AK Azad, president of the

Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and

feel uncertain about their

investment for the strike, men-

tioned the FBCCI chief adding,

"We need more investment and

more employment now.

Generally, the time is not good

as there is a liquidity crisis in the

cism and protests, parliament

on Tuesday passed Local

Government (City Corporation)

(Amendment) Act, 2011 to split

Zillur Rahman signed the bill

set on fire in the city's Pallabi

and Darus Salam around 10:00

group of unruly people stopped

a passenger bus in front of

Purabi Cinema and set it ablaze.

set fire to a bus parked on Darus

rity forces opened fire on an

anti-regime rally in the town

of Ariha, the Britain-based

of Daraa, cradle of the anti-

government protests, one

civilian was shot dead and

five others wounded yester-

day during a sweep by secu-

rity forces in the town of

ians were shot dead, one by a

sniper, in the Sunni district

of Bab Amro in the restive

It said three more civil-

Tafas, the Observatory said.

In the southern province

Observatory said.

Two days later, President

Meanwhile, two buses were

Fire brigade sources said a

And unidentified elements

Ignoring widespread criti-

The foreign investors will

Industry (FBCCI).

banking sector."

DCC.

into a law.

last night.

The business community

tion is spreading propaganda."

tion during hartal.

sector commanders KM Shafiullah and Abu Osman Chowdhury also spoke at the

convention.

spots and doused the fire. Mirpur police arrested four

rickshaw at Mirpur-10 bus

The couple -- Rabiul Islam and Rubina Sharmin Islam -were admitted to Dhaka

Medical College Hospital. hartal activists exploded the bomb in a bid to create panic among people ahead of the

FROM PAGE 20 ment as the score still puts Bangladesh in the list of

most corrupt countries." But, the TIB said, the quote would be: "There is no

abuse of power.

ment against Assad's regime has been spearheaded by peaceful demonstrators, but in recent months army deserters have formed a rebel

Free Syrian Army which has

inflicted growing losses on

regular forces. On Thursday, rebel troops killed eight people and wounded at least 13 in an attack on an air force intelligence base in Idlib province that sparked a three-hour gunbattle, the Observatory

for Human Rights Navi Pillay said more than 4,000 people have been killed in the crackdown over the past eight months and tens of thousands arrested.

Earlier at about 5:00pm, persons including former DCC ward councillor Meherunnesa

A couple suffered splinter injuries when a homemade bomb went off in front their

stoppage at about 7:00pm.

Mirpur police suspect pro-

grave concern." tained, it said, the principle of not calling any country corrupt implying that common people of a country are victims of corruption due to those suggestions." He then cited some of the recommendations Ambassador Rapp made

during his Dhaka tour: the tribunal should define the crimes against humanity; an individual accused of war crimes should get the same time and support as the accused in other cases get to defend themselves; the trial proceedings should be broad-

city

The opposition party also demanded immediate release of its lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, who has been detained on charges of crimes against humanity. Moudud said, "Salauddin

allowed in as consultants.

biased and one-sided tribunal, depriving him of the fundamental rights he has like any other citizen."

Shahdeen Malik

human rights activist Dr Shahdeen Malik has said that in terms of law and procedure, the war crimes trial does not suffer from any illegality. "The ongoing trial may not be perfect, but the

BNP's demands were clearly not of a legal but political nature. Malik said it was understandable why the Jamaat-e Islami did not want its leaders to be tried and taken to account for genocide,

he said, adding that the

and war crimes of 1971. "However, it is sad and unfortunate that the BNP also has taken a similar position," he said.

It seems the BNP has been adopting a follower's role, and in this case it is following the Jamaat-e Islami, he added. Since there is no illegality

in the trial, the question of the involvement of a foreign governments and agencies was totally uncalled far, he said. He added: "And I also don't think that they will meddle in the legal proceedings of a tribunal of our

country."

Crimes Tribunal (ICT).

"Therefore, we don't

the initiative to try the perpetrators of war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity committed during the country's Liberation War

tional community, including the International Criminal Court (ICC). The fundamental rights of

in a transparent manner.

impartial legal process, and there must not be any doubt

"This not surprising at

No logic

FROM PAGE 1 criminals when it was in

behind its demand for doing away with the International

"The International Crimes Tribunal has been formed by a law; we want all the proceedings of the tribunal be publicised in trans-About the party's call to parent manner," said Prof Anisuzzaman. It will be nity to intervene over the recalled that the renowned issue, Chowdhury said there academic was part of the nine-member formed by the government to compile Bangladesher Swadhinota

Independence).

Protesters

About 50 police in full riot

The women farmers from 10 countries across southern Africa converged on Durban to testify on how climate change had disrupted

reading "Rural Women people who lost their lives Assembly" and carried banners, including one that said: "Women are the Guardians of Seed, Life

ment by the opposition to people.

Convention on Climate Change enter a high-level phase from today with the arrival of ministers, and end on Friday.

ment, especially in the fields of economy, power and literacy.

In the recent past, there Replying to Khaleda's DCC. I don't understand

About the Tipaimukh

Accused getting more rights

ground of Dhaka University. cross-section of people participated in the convention around the slogan, "World

They demanded that the been upholding interna-

the European Union to lengthen the process of the trial, and had been spewing

law that deals with the creation of the tribunal. Which country in the world has given more privileges to

perpetrators of crimes against humanity?" he asked. Justice Gholam Rabbani president of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee, said Bangladesh could not become a secular country unless it restored the provision for a

ban on religion-based political parties as enshrined in the 1972 constitution. Such a step was essential for upholding the spirit of

the Liberation War, he said. AK Khandker, planning minister and SCF chairman, presided over the convention. SCF General Secretary M Harun-Ar-Rashid and

BNP demands referendum Firefighters rushed to the

> from Mipur-10 intersection for bringing procession in support

Clarification He was quoted to have said, "There is no scope to be satisfied with the improve-

scope to be satisfied with the improvement as the score still puts Bangladesh in the list of countries where corruption is perceived to be of TIB has always main-

UN High Commissioner access by the designated national authorities.

FROM PAGE 1 without implementation of

humanity. Flanked by senior party leaders, former law minister Moudud Ahmed read out the demands at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan headquarters in the

"The BNP has no confidence in this tribunal. It believes that in the existing legal structure, the tribunal is nothing but a servile, rubberstamp organisation," he said

Referring to the recom-

BNP could've BNP stance

Advocate Sultana Kamal, former advisor to the caretaker government. Those who committed

human rights worker. She said the BNP's call to



in 1971," he said. He said the war crimes trial was being held through maintaining most rules and regula-

the accused in the trial are also being protected. They have been provided with all facilities for a fair defence and they also have the right to appeal to the higher court if convicted

in the public mind about the believes it will amount to an extra-judicial killing if he is condemned to death by a

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and members of the party's national standing committee were among those present at the press conference.

told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The international committee has already said that this trial is an internal affair of Bangladesh's War of of Bangladesh. And they will

the tribunal."

gear prevented the crowd from entering the venue, the Agence France-Presse photographer said.

the front in order to shield the war criminals from Addressing the BNP's concern on the violation of the human rights of the accused in the war crimes trial, she said: "Whose ing heatwaves. human rights are of more significance? The 30 lakh Many wore T-shirts

> organisations and local grassroots groups had announced the protest march under the banner of "climate justice" and said they expected a turnout of several thousand

profound debt they owe the

martyrs and heir families, she said. She pointed out that the nation could not truly be recognised as civilised until the war criminals were tried.