

Hospital inside

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for class-III and -IV employees.

Many of these outsiders are not only involved with petty crimes but have also established control over illegal businesses in the area with the help of a section of NIDCH staff, said the sources, adding that some are also involved in doing business over the tender and recruitment process at NIDCH, which often leads to clashes among the criminals.

Besides, the Sattola slum, infamous for criminal activities, is just next to the hospital. For criminals to get into the compound climbing over the boundary wall and commit crime inside is a child's play, as NIDCH lacks adequate security personnel.

Bhuiyan Mahub Hasan, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station, also admitted the fact that lack of proper security facility egged on criminal activities there.

"Anybody can easily enter the hospital compound and that is the main security problem there. We investigate if and when anyone files a complaint with us," said the OC.

According to sources, at least six incidents of robbery took place in the hospital compound last month.

Latest, Narayan Chandra Dutta Nitai, 47, assistant professor of

NIDCH, was stabbed to death in his quarters early Thursday.

Relatives of the victim believe this was not an incident of robbery, rather a murder, as criminals were threatening Nitai over recruitments at NIDCH.

Police, however, believe that the criminals entered his home scaling the boundary wall of the compound. His home was next to the wall.

Police arrested four persons in this connection. One of them was picked up from the Sattola slum.

The very day the murder took place, a motorbike of an electrician, Shahjahan, was stolen from the hospital compound around 9:30pm.

Security guard Abdur Rouf, who was on duty at that time, told The Daily Star that no other guard wanted to do duty in the residential zone as snatching and chase and counter chase among criminals happen there almost regularly.

On July 26, robbers took away Tk 2 lakh and 16 tolas of gold from two apartments of class-IV employees around 10:30am.

In another incident, parts of an elevator worth Tk 5 lakh got stolen from Asma Centre of NIDCH on August 8.

Anwar Hossain Liton, a joint secretary of Dhaka city unit Juba league, was shot dead on July 19, 2009

following a dispute over submitting tender documents to NIDCH. Liton was also a contractor and owner of a restaurant.

An assistant professor of NIDCH told The Daily Star that criminals regularly demanded money from doctors in the name of top-listed criminal Shahdat. They had also threatened Nitai last year over recruitments at the hospital, he added.

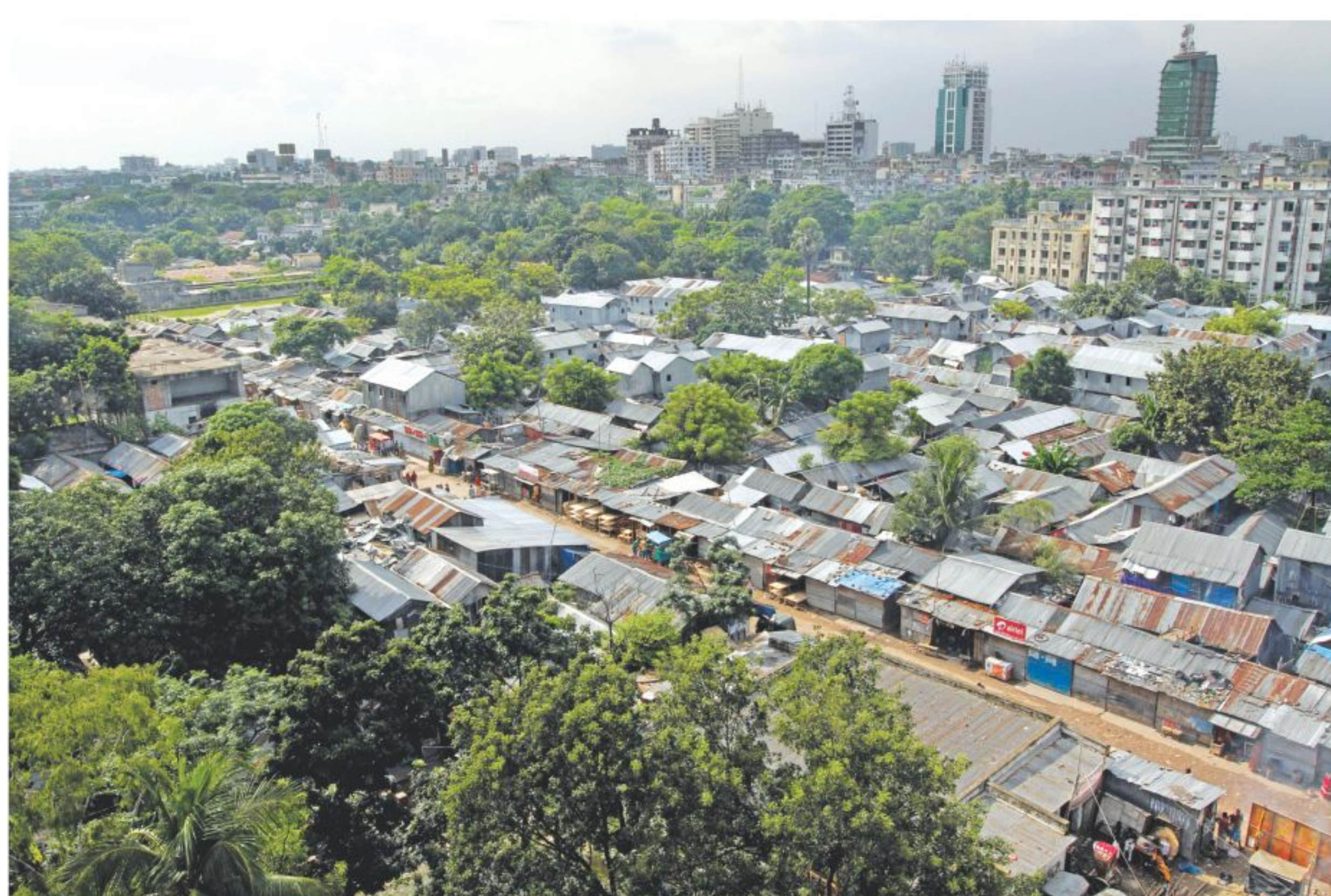
While visiting the hospital compound yesterday, it was found that most of the class-III and -IV employees illegally built tin-shed houses adjacent to their quarters and rented those out to outsiders.

Sources said there were more than 300 such houses where apart from criminals, people like rickshaw pullers and hawkers, live with their families. The house rent ranges between Tk 2,000 and Tk 5,000.

Bashir Ahmed, medical superintendent of NIDCH, said, "We have only 30 security guards. It is very hard to deploy guards at every point of the compound with this manpower."

He also admitted that criminals might live in the quarters.

"We asked the outsiders to vacate the area several times, but they didn't. We will soon hold a meeting with the law enforcement agencies in this regard," he added.



This large slum settlement known as Sattola Bosti, located next to National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital at the capital's Mohakhali, is notorious for crime.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Assange

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The meeting of the Americas bloc was convened at Ecuador's request to consider a resolution rejecting any attempt to put at risk the "inviolability" of its embassy in London, where Assange is holed up.

In the resolution, foreign ministers and representatives of the 34-member regional body rejected "any attempt that might put at risk the inviolability of the premises of diplomatic missions."

AFP reports that the text, adopted by consensus after five hours of arduous negotiations in Washington, also expressed "solidarity and support for the government of the Republic of Ecuador."

It urged Ecuador and Britain to "continue to engage in dialogue in order to settle their current differences in accordance with international law, taking into account the statements made recently by authorities of both governments."

Assange, who has been in the building for two months, is wanted for questioning in Sweden over claims of sexual assault.

He is refusing to travel to Scandinavia amid fears he will be extradited to the United States over his controversial website. Ecuador granted the Australian political asylum last week.

The UK government has made it clear Assange, who denies the allegations, will be arrested if he steps outside the embassy after jumping bail.

Speculation has been rife about possible escape routes, and Assange's legal team and the Ecuadorean government have talked about the possibility of safe passage to Ecuador.

The British government has threatened, under a 1987 Act, to enter the embassy and arrest the 41-year-old, but foreign secretary William Hague has said there is no intention to "storm" the building.

Ecuador's president has said the diplomatic row "could be ended tomorrow" if Britain gave the activist safe passage to South America.

Tormented

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But Prohlad insulted Kartik and forced him out of his house, said Abu Saleh, officer-in-charge of Abhaynagar Police Station.

Police recovered Sangeeta's body hanging by a scarf from the ceiling of her house at the same village.

An autopsy was carried out on the body on Friday evening.

Meanwhile, locals caught Prohlad Mandal from Sundali Bazar on Friday evening and handed him over to police.

Law enforcers are hunting for Leuton who has gone into hiding.

Victim's uncle Sanjay Mandal filed a case on Friday night accusing Leuton and his father under the Woman and Children Repression Prevention Act, 2000.

Apple triumphs

FROM PAGE 20
Devices had infringed iPhone-maker Apple's software and design patents, but rejected counter-claims by Samsung.

Apple will now seek import bans on several of its rival's products. Samsung has said it will appeal.

Correspondents say the ruling is one of the most significant in a global battle over patents and intellectual property.

In recent weeks, a court in South Korea ruled that both technology firms had copied each other, while a British court threw out claims by the US company that Samsung had infringed its copyright.

But the year-long US case has involved some of the biggest damages claims, and is likely to shape the way patent licences are handled in the future.

'MONOPOLY' GIBE
Samsung promised to appeal against the decision describing it as "a loss for the American consumer".

"It will lead to fewer

choices, less innovation, and potentially higher prices," the South Korean firm said.

The statement added that it was "unfortunate that patent law can be manipulated to give one company a monopoly over rectangles with rounded corners".

Apple, however, said it applauded the court "for finding Samsung's behaviour wilful and for sending a loud and clear message that stealing isn't right".

Apple said it intended to seek sales injunctions at a follow-up hearing on 20 September.

The two firms account for more than half of global smartphone and tablet computers sales.

The nine-person jury at the federal court in San Jose, California had to consider 700 questions about each side's claim that its rival had infringed its intellectual property.

Apple had wanted \$2.5bn in damages. Samsung had sought \$519m.

Neil Armstrong

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describing the event as "one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind".

Last November Armstrong received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest US civilian award.

He was the commander of the Apollo 11 spacecraft. He and fellow astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin spent nearly three hours walking on the Moon.

Armstrong, who was raised in Ohio, took his first flight aged six with his father and formed a lifelong passion for flying.

He flew Navy fighter jets during the Korean War in the 1950s, and joined the US space programme in 1962.

Correspondents say Armstrong remained modest and never allowed himself to be caught up in the glamour of space exploration.

"I am, and ever will be, a white-socks, pocket-protector, nerdy engineer," he said in February 2000, in a rare public appearance.

NAM SUMMIT

Manmohan may meet Hasina in Tehran

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is likely to meet his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina on the sidelines of the Non-Aligned Movement Summit to be held in Tehran next week.

Briefing the media on Singh's official programmes in the Iranian capital, Indian Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai said the date and timing of the meeting are yet to be finalised.

Sources, however, said the meeting between the two prime ministers might take place before the summit starts on August 30.

If the Hasina-Singh meeting materialises, this will be the first between them since the Indian prime minister had met her on the sidelines of the Saarc Summit in November last year.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has recently met Singh in Delhi. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is also likely to visit New Delhi next month and meet the Indian PM, who had invited her when he came to Dhaka in September last year.

Sources said bilateral issues and the political situation in Bangladesh were expected to figure during the proposed meeting between Hasina and Singh in Tehran.

The same issues were discussed in Singh-Ershad meeting and could once again come up if and when Khaleda meets the Indian PM.

Yunus slated

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interference in the country's internal affairs, which is not acceptable to the citizens of an independent state," they said in a joint statement.

They said there is a difference of opinion between the government and Yunus over the appointment process of Grameen Bank's managing director.

The eminent citizens said Bangladesh Bank removed Yunus from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank because of expiry of his service age as per the government's service rule. Yunus lodged a case and the country's highest court delivered a judgment in favour of the government decision. The matter was settled through a legal process.

Anyone could have a different opinion about the recent amendment the government has brought to the Grameen Bank Ordinance for the third time, they said.

"But we are observing that Dr Yunus is putting pressure on the country through 'super power' and different donor agencies.

"We are also observing that Dr Yunus in a statement has tried to misguide people, especially the young generation, saying a new government after coming to power would change this ordinance to reinstate Grameen Bank in its previous position.

"But he did not make clear what he wanted to say about the new government, when an elected government is in power," they said.

"We know Dr Yunus formed a new political party when a conspiracy was going on to implement a 'minus-two formula' after the two leaders were arrested during the tenure of the last caretaker government."

They urged people to remain alert to any sorts of conspiracy that can harm the country's democracy.

The fifty-one signatories to the statement include Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, Artist Quayum Chowdhury, Sayed Shamsul Haq, Artist H a s h e m K h a n, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Kamal Uddin Ahmed (retd) Mejbah Uddin Ahmed, Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique, Jahangirnagar University VC Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Nazrul Islam, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University VC Prof Prangopal Dutta, economist Abul Barakat, Prof Abdul Khalek, poet Belal Chowdhury, Ramendu Majumder, Mamunur Rashid, Selina H o s s a i n a n d poet Nirmalendu Gun.

Bus kills boy

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Star that the family was crossing the street even though a foot overbridge was there within 80 yards.

He rushed to the spot and took the body and Shahjahan to DMCH.

Lying on his hospital bed, Shahjahan told The Daily Star that the accident happened around 3:00pm when he along with his wife Anjana Begum and sons Arafat and Abir were crossing the Airport Road near Kakoli.

He said they had just arrived from Tongi on a bus. They proceeded to get to the other side as they found the road clear.

Abir was in Anjana's lap and Shahjahan was

behind them holding Arafat by the hand.

The bus came out of nowhere and hit him, Shahjahan said.

When he regained consciousness, he found himself on a bed in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was later moved to Nitor, also known as Pangu Hospital.

Shahjahan lives with his family in Banani DOHS area. He said he had a piece of land on Tongi Station Road and that he and his family had gone there to see the land.

Witness Ujjal Hossain, a restaurant employee, told The Daily Star that he heard people screaming and yelling.

He saw a bus dragging a man around 20 yards. The bus then stopped and locals pulled a man out from underneath.

A boy (Arafat) was lying dead yards away.

The woman (Anjana) was screaming her lungs out holding her son (Abir) to the chest, Ujjal said.

Emergency medical officers at Nitor told The Daily Star that Shahjahan's left leg had been smashed and he sustained injuries to his head and right leg too.

They said they would x-ray him later to know the extent of the injuries.

Banani police said they had seized the bus but the driver managed to flee.

Businessman found dead in factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a businessman from his thread factory in the capital's Dakkhinkhan.

The dead Abdul Kuddus was aged around 50.

Acting on information from his son, police recovered the body from the factory at Taltola, Nordapara and sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy.

Law enforcers said they found the businessman's throat slit.

Victim's son Md Liton said his father looked after the business and used to stay at the factory with his nephew Sumon, 18.

"I was at my relative's house in Kishoreganj and my father phoned me around 3:00pm on Friday. He asked me to go to the factory the next morning," said Liton over the phone.

Reaching the factory along with one of his uncles yesterday afternoon, he found the main gate locked from outside.

They opened the gate with a duplicate key and noticed that some eight sacks of thread were missing.

"As we searched for the sacks, we found his bloodstained body under a pile of threads," added Liton.

Victim's relatives suspect Sumon's involvement in the homicide as he went into hiding following the incident and his cell phone was switched off.

Sumon had joined the factory one and a half months ago.

AL ticket

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Hasina, who is also AL president, visited the Banani residence of Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, presidium member of the party. She stayed there for more than an hour. The premier's younger sister Sheikh Rehana was with her.

Rimi and her sister Mahjabin Ahmad Mimi were also present at the time.

While returning to the Gono Bhaban, Hasina took Rimi with her.

Asked about the visit, Ashraf said she (Zohra) has been ill for long, and the AL chief visited her to enquire about her condition.

The premier also sought Zohra's opinion on nominating an AL candidate for the by-polls, Ashraf said.

"She [Zohra] mentioned Rimi's name, and we took it with due importance," he added.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party, a key component of the ruling alliance, is now in a dilemma over contesting the Gazipur-4 by-polls separately, fearing "shameful" defeat in the AL stronghold, JP leaders told this correspondent yesterday.

The main opposition BNP has already declared it would not take part in any election during the tenure of the AL-led government and the present Election Commission.

The Gazipur-4 parliament seat fell vacant following the resignation of Sohel Taj as AL lawmaker on July 7. Earlier, he resigned as state minister on May 31, 2009.

Contacted yesterday, Rimi said that besides pressure from local AL leaders, party high-ups also wished her to contest the by-polls. This led her to decide to be a candidate.

A writer and social worker, Rimi also said she has been a primary member of the AL for

several years.

JATIYA PARTY
Some JP leaders said the party presidium on July 30 decided to contest the Gazipur-4 by-election to assess its popularity as it prepares to contest the next parliamentary elections independently.

"But now we are yet to get a strong candidate for the polls race against any of the prospective AL candidates, including Simeen Hussain Rimi," a JP presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed told this correspondent yesterday.

Another presidium member of the party, Mujibul Haque Chunnun, mentioned that no AL candidate was ever defeated in this seat. "So, if our candidate cannot bag a considerable number of votes in the by-polls, it would be a shame for the party since our chairman [HM Ershad] has vowed to contest independently the next national polls," he added.

The party, however, will take a final decision in this regard at its presidium meeting today, he said.

JP sources said three local JP leaders collected party nomination papers for contesting the by-polls, and the last date of submission of those was yesterday.

The three are businessmen Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mostafizur Rahman and Arifur Rahman.

Mostafizur Rahman is president of Kapasia upazila unit of JP.

Chunnun said the party chief and some other leaders wanted to nominate Brig Gen (retd) Kazi Mahmud Hasan, president of the party's Gazipur district unit, as its candidate in the by-election.

"But, he [Hasan] expressed his reluctance to be a candidate," Chunnun said yesterday.