

# **Repeal ordinance**

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people, brutally tortured during the drive, the press release added. The letter also urged the govern-

ment to ensure effective and independent judicial system in the country so that human rights violation could be checked.

The ordinance would degrade the country's democratic norms, values and practices and ultimately be detrimental to the country's image, the letter added. Referring the constitutional

safety nets for protecting the citizens' human rights, the letter said the constitution has lost its shape to protect the people from extrajudicial injustice, harassment and violation of human and civil rights.

President of the BHRW Dr. M. Mohsin, Secretary General Ratan Kumar Barua and four directors Sitangshu Guha, Paul Bala, Mohammad Ali Siddiqui and Fahim Reza Nur jointly signed the letter.

If the ordinance is not repealed by the government immediately, it will allow the joint drive forces a free hand in any future operation without caring for human rights, the letter mentioned

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old man.

night

upazilas.

1.30 pm yesterday.

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involved in the attack.

belonging to 'Adaria Bahini.'

As reported, almost all people arrested during the joint operation were subjected to inhuman physical torture resulting in about 50 deaths

The unidentified man had taken

shelter at Badiakhali Government

Primary school under the Sadar

thana three days back to save

himself from cold. He died on Friday

the last 48 hours raising the death

toll to 11 in the district, UNB

reported. Of the deaths, six were at

Sadar, one each at Haimchar and

Haziganj and three at Faridganj

In Chandpur, two persons died in

Mercury dips

### and injury of about 1500 people During the operation 11,000 people were arrested so far without warrants of which only 2400 were listed criminals, the letter added.

Copies of the letter were also sent to different international organisations including the US Department of State, the British Ministry of Foreign Affairs, US Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Members of the US Congressional Caucus for Bangladesh, European Parliament: Amnesty International; UN

Commission On Human Rights: National Development Institute (NDI), World Organization Against Tortures; UNESCO Human Rights

Division; World Human Rights gang beat him. Watch and South Asian Human

Meanwhile, in a statement yesterday Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnoy Parishad (BMSP) also condemned the ordinance and urged the government to immediately repeal it.

Rights Watch.

Bangladesh Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity, the 11-party, Bangladesher Samyabadi Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League also made the same demands.

seek legal shelter. Article 46 deals with indemnity saying that in certain situations, the government can indemnify a person or persons but that has to be approved by the parliament.

indemnity ordinance was made as per the provisions of Article 46 and whether the spirit of this article was properly interpreted or not in making the ordinance.

They have deduced that the ordinance violated Article 26. "In the light of this, we are hoping to file a writ petition very soon," the senior lawyer added. False case

FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 1 Elephant Road. On refusal, the

He caught Nasir, Manik and Mizan with the help of people nearby and handed them over to Dhanmondi thana. he had complained in the case.

On the same day, Hasib filed an extortion case with Dhanmondi thana against the six persons. On September 15 last year, IO of

the case Sub-inspector Saidur Rahman submitted a charge sheet to the CMM's court, Dhaka against Nasir, Manik and Mizan, dropping the names of Mintu. Kalam and Jamal. Nine people were shown as prosecution witnesses

After cross-examination of five prosecution witnesses and two that began on October 17. Abul defence witnesses, the court found that Hasib was an "extortionist" Hossain Litu, 32, is one of the 44 The court found that he had who allegedly died in custody during

caught three of the six persons when they went to meet him at his shop and handed them over to Dhanmondi police, falsely accusing them of extortion.

Hasib and the accused hail from Chandpur. The court found that Hasib filed the "false case" against the accused following to a feud in their area. Finding the investigation

### "flawed" and the charges "false, fabricated and concocted", the court on November 27 last year acquitted the accused and asked Hasib to reply on January 11 why legal action would not be taken against him.

The complainant appeared before the court yesterday and submitted a written reply. As the reply was not satisfactory, the court sentenced him and ordered sending him to Dhaka Central Jail.

### CEC for troops FROM PAGE 1

As the government is yet to respond to the EC through official channel, the commission will send a reminder seeking deployment of troops, Syed told journalists at the EC secretariat. Éarlier, the CEC wrote to the

government seeking deployment of he army to maintain law and order before and during the polls staggerng for more than two months since

January 25. The government should let the commission know, whatever it may be, through official channel, he said. Queried about a reported move

### Chronology of deaths during joint drive Lawyers' move everyone is equal in the eye of law and every citizen has the right to

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

October 17... Shafiqul Islam, 16, son of Dudu Mia, dies as the army opens fire on an agitating crowd in The lawyers are seeing if the Bogra

Md. Yakub Ali, 40, organising secretary of the Uttara thana unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), dies in the capital after being picked up by the army. His body is handed to relatives the next day.

Jahangir Hossain, 38, a BNP activist, is picked up by the army from his Pallabi residence in the city and dies in custody. Relatives receive Jahangir's body the following day.

said yesterday. She finished her

several thousand sustained severe

iniuries and several hundred crip-

pled during the drive of the joint

forces styled Operation Clean Heart

Litu is known to be an innocent

But on October 28, members of

However, the ISPR on October

youth, who had a small poultry farm

in Savar near Dhaka, trying to eke

out a living for his daughter and wife.

the army raided Litu's poultry farm,

tied him blindfolded to a tree, and

28 claimed that Litu was a member

of the Seven Star group, a crime cartel of the city. It further claimed

that when an army team went to the

Dendabor, Nabinagar of Savar to

haul up the criminals, Litu jumped off

the rooftop of a two-storey building

and fell on a boundary wall. Then, as

claimed by the ISPR, the army team

rescued Litu in a 'fatal condition' and

took him to the Combined Military

However, the army claim lacks

Anjana filed a case with the First

Class Magistrate's Court on

December 15, seeking justice for

the killing of her husband. In her

appeal to the court, Anjana said

army troops led by one Major Kabir

beat her husband to death. The

court ordered the Savar police to

Savar Police Station and investigat-

ing officer of the case KS Abdullah

told The Daily Star yesterday, "I

have achieved some progresses in

gation of the indemnity ordinance, I

seek justice and no complaints can

be lodged against any persons

involved with the joint drive for any

The ordinance says no one can

ave stopped the investigation."

my investigation. But after promul-

Officer in charge (OC) of the

investigate the case.

Hospital (CMH) where he died.

allegedly beat him to death.

Till January 8, 44 people died,

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the drive.

proof.

final exams yesterday.

October 19... Abul Khayer Molla, 50, a BNP activist and freedom fighter, dies at the Gopalganj Sadar Hospital after army arrest and interrogation.

October 21... Afzal Hossain, 25,

a businessman, dies at the Savar Combined Military Hospital after being picked up from a tea stall and interrogated by an army team.

October 22... Amirul Islam Rocket, 35, general secretary of the Bhola district unit of the Awami League, dies at the Bhola Sadar Hospital, a day after arrest. Saifuzzaman dies in Gaibandha

following his arrest by the joint forces the day before. October 23... Nazmul Islam

Milan, 40, a Jubo League activist and ticket seller of a cinema, dies at the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital hours after his arrest by the

October 25... Abdul Aziz Sardar, 47. general secretary of the Pangsha thana BNP, dies two days after his arrest by the troops on October 23

October 26... Khorshed, 35. a

Victims of lesser justice

Litu's sister Umme Kulsum savs.

"Did the government take the peo-

ple's consent to call out the troops?

The government has to take all the

Akhter Urmi, wife of Rashedul

Hasan, who died at the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

on November 7 after the army

demand justice for my husband's

killing," Urmi told The Daily Star at

Law enforcers are killing innocent

people like my husband and the

state is indemnifying their acts! Is it

possible for any country where

Rashedul Hasan, an assistant film

director, from his residence on

November 2 and handed him over to

the Tejgaon Police Station on

time. But as my neighbours

expressed fear of harassment, my

father-in-law decided to file a case

after the pullout of the army," Urmi

said. "Where will I go now for jus-

tice? I don't beg alms. I beg justice

She demanded that the ordi-

Arif, cousin of Rashedul, said

'This crackdown on criminals

means nothing more than killing

innocent people. Did they arrest any

brother of Jamir Ahmed, who was

picked up by the joint forces and

later died in army custody on

November 29, put his misfortune to

justice is not for us," he said. "My

brother was severely tortured to

death by the army and later, we

were just informed of his death."

"We are poor and that is why

Talking to The Daily Star yester-

Away in Sylhet. Ali Hossain

top criminal during the drive?"

nance be repealed and the door to

Now I seek justice from Allah

justice be kept open.

poverty.

"I wanted to file a case at the

The army picked up 30-year-old

justice prevails?" she asked.

November 7 when he fell ill.

her Tejkunipara home in the city.

"I have no longer any place to

"Is it a country of lawlessness?

Equally enraged was Tahmina

responsibilities for the killings.

handed him over to the police.

day-labourer of Kalapoka Ramgati, dies at the Choumuhuni station. allegedly beaten by the army while asleep.

October 27... Masum Biswas 38, an activist of the Khulna Jubo League and cousin of AL lawmaker Sheikh Helal, dies at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), three days after his arrest in Khulna on October 23.

October 28... Kala Chand Tripura, a constable of the Pekua Police Station in Cox's Bazar, dies at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), four days after being beaten by an army team.

Abul Hossain Litu, 27, dies in his poultry farm at Savar following alleged torture by the army. The army claims Litu fell from the rooftop of the farmhouse and died as he tried to escape

High School playground on

body was handed over to the family.

was taken to a hilly area for arms

recovery. And he tried to run away

that the merciless torture on Jamir at

the school playground was wit-

nessed by hundreds of local people.

and two daughters. After his death

his wife is now living with her par-

and died, according to them.

ents.

government

care.

Within hours, he died and his

Police however claimed Jamir

But his family members claim

Jamir was the father of one son

Local people said Jamir had links

with a criminal well known as an

armed cadre of the ruling party's

student wing. However, police

claimed that Jamir was a listed

criminal and charges were pressed

against him in two cases of abduc-

tion, extortion and attempted mur-

In Chittagong, Jahanara Begum

wants justice for the murder of her

adopted child and "will wait for the

opportunity in future if I cannot seek

justice during the tenure of this

Her son Abu Tarek Rubel was

"We want justice for the murder

picked up by the army on December

16 afternoon. Rubel died few hours

of my only child. Let whoever be the

killers, whoever be the instigators or

whatever be the motive behind the

instigation, I want proper justice for

the death of my innocent son and

punishment to the persons respon-

After the death of her husband in

1996, Jahanara had all her dreams

revolve round Rubel whom she

brought up with all her love and

Karachi, Pakistan for four years and

He left behind all the property

including a huge building at

Abu Dhabi for 31 years.

sible for the killing," said Jahanara.

after being released from custody.

November 29 morning.

October 29... Jamir Uddin, a

suspected criminal, dies at the Gopalganj Thana Health Complex in Sylhet hours after his arrest by the army.

house.

day after his arrest

Abu Syed Delu, 22, died at the Chest Disease Hospital in the capital a week after his arrest.

October 30... Jennifer Sved way to the Khulna Medical College King, 25, a Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal Hospital. He was arrested from (JCD) activist, dies at Panchagar, a Rupsha on November 1. November 25... Arju Mia, 38, a

city on November 13.

picked from Fatullah

A day labourer, Hakim, dies at

the DMCH eight days after being

caught in crossfire between the

army and criminals at Gabtoli in the

Shariful Mallik. 26. dies on the

December 14... Nabi Hossain

Kahn, 50, a rickshawpuller, dies at

Narsinghdi after being picked up by

the army. His body was found in a

pond in Raipura.

Tota Mia, 37, a Jubo League BNP leader and president of the activist, dies at Madaripur within Poura Rickshaw Sramik Dal, dies at four hours of his arrest. the DMCH. He was picked up from Bora of the Poura area and admitted November 1... Mizanur Rahman

to the Gazipur Sadar Hospital in a Busha, 40, an activist of the Chuadanga unit of the Jubo Dal, critical condition. dies at the Khulna Medical College November 30... Tipu Biswas, 35 Hospital, two days after his arrest on a Khulna Jubo Dal activist, dies in October 29. army custody. December 10... Abdus Sattar, a

November 3... Lebu Mia, 45, a farmer of Baithakhali in Habiganj, businessman, dies at the Bogra dies. He was arrested on October Mohammadpur Hospital, two days 30 and handed to the police. after being picked up by the army.

November 4... Abdul Haque, 32, microbus driver, dies at the Osmani Medical College Hospital, ten days after his arrest on October 25. He was sent to jail although he was sick.

police in a critical condition.

Mohammadpur.

arrest.

troops.

tion.

dies at an army camp in

November 10... 73-year-old Haji

Abul Kashem dies at the Tangail

General Hospital nine days after

November 19... Zahirul Islam

Mia, 25, president of Ward No. 82

unit of the Jubo Dal, dies at the

Mitford Hospital after, according to

army, residents of Shyampur beat

him up and handed him over to the

40. dies at the Mitford Hospital after

being handed to the Keranigani

police by the army in a critical condi-

November 20... Tasu Mia. 45. a

businessman at the Nilkhet

Bakusha Market, dies at an army

camp, a day after his arrest. Army

claimed that he was run over by a

November 21... Masum, 30, dies

at the DMCH two days after he was

An unidentified man, aged about

December 15... Jasim Uddin 25. dies at the CMCH hours after his November 7... Rashedul Hasan, 35, an assistant film director, dies at arrest. the DMCH. He was picked up from December 16... Shafiuddin Swapan, 35, a Jubo Dal leader, dies his Teikunipara residence on November 2 and the next morning at the DMCH.

found unconscious in front of his Omar Faruk alias Tiger Faruk 46. brother of Narayanganj city BNP ioint convenor Abdus Sattar, dies at November 8... Saiful Islam, 22 the DMCH after arrest the day an activist of Chhagolnaiya Jubo Dal, dies at the Feni Sadar Hospital before

hours after being arrested with Ibrahim Khalil Ibu, a Chhatra crackers. He was handed to the League leader of Kotbari Rampur in Comilla, dies at the DMCH, a day November 9... Abu Sufian, 30, after his arrest.

Mir Jahirul Rabin, 22, student of Tejgaon College, dies at the DMCH after being picked up by the army on December 4 and admitted to the hospital on December 8.

Abu Barek Rubel, 24, of Charandeep of Buripukur, succumbs to his injuries prior to his admission to the Boalkhali Hospital after being picked up by the army during a drive to nab robbers.

December 20... Yusuf, 34 of Rangunia, dies at the CMCH.

January 3... Mohammad Rashed, 25, dies at the CMCH. He was arrested along with firearms from Sandwip on December 25 niaht.

January 6... a leader of an outlawed party dies few hours after he was arrested in Pabna.

January 8... Abdul Khaleq Sarkar, 28, a poultry businessman, dies at the Gazipur Sadar Hospital. He was arrested from Shafipur Bazar on January 6.

# **Petroleum traders**

Jahanara said her husband Abul FROM PAGE 12 Kashem made a fortune staying in

passenger bus.

demands when State Minister AKM Mosharraf Hossain met with the petroleum traders on October 7 last year.

lorries for distances travelled over

Besides, four other decisions

"But none of the demands have

sympathy to the petrol pump owners. "Rather. we are being harassed everv day." he said.

Replying to gueries about prospects of the recent fuel-oil price ke, the association leader said they were used to a commission of 1.57% for petrol, 1.6% for octane and 1.74% for diesel. But the gov-Huq said the October 7 meeting ernment had committed to give with the state minister had adopted them a commission of 1.9% for a number of decisions. They are: (1) petrol and 2.06% for diesel. Increase of commission to petrol Association President M Afzal pump owners, (2) Fixing of commis-Hossain, acting secretary general sion commensurate with oil price in Alhaj Harun-or-Rashid, Mizanur future, (3) Granting of firearms Rahman Ratan, Sajjadul Karim, licence to petrol pump owners, (4) Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury, Ensuring presence of oil company Ahsanur Rahman Chowdhury, Alhaj representatives during the BSTI Abdur Rahman, Aziz Salmani, SM officials' visit to filling stations, and Badshah and Noor Hossain were (5) Increase of fare of tanks and also present at the meeting.

with paramilitary BDR, police and ansars began the joint drive --Operation Clean Heart--in the early hours of October 17 last year to hunt down criminals and improve law and

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their taking office," he said. The indemnity ordinance cannot

S I Shafiqul Islam of Khulna police station has lodged a case as complainant.

### admitted to RMCH and health complexes in the district, sources at the hospitals and at the civil surgeon's office said.

Lutfur Rahman, 55, Shanti Rani, 65,

Khotiara Begum, 16, and nine-

More 52 patients with pneumo-

month-old Walid

# Bomb attack

## Dr Kamal

Clean Heart operation by the army neither in the Parliament nor in the

"The government must justify ing point near PTI crossing angered why the army was needed to control law and order within one year of

Operation Clean Heart. protect the government from accountability to the people, he said, demanding that the 'masterminds of crime in the government

nia, diarrhea, asthma and other respiratory complications were

# New strategy

Meanwhile, around 24,023 army personnel and 339 navy men along

BSS reported that six more FROM PAGE 1 persons including one baby died at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) from cold-related diseases in the past 24 hours ending at last

## They have been identified as Abul Karim, 65, Kamrunnesa, 65,

# order across the country.

Eyewitnesses said the alleged attackers are drug traffickers cabinet. Frequent raids on a drug traffick-

## Road accident

the criminals. The raids were con-

ducted several times during

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taxicab driver Shah Alam, 25 and a cab passenger M Jalil, 27

They were admitted to the DMCH.

However, the police inquest report said the accident occurred when the microbus, on losing control, overturned

# **South Asian Union**

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preferential tariff and 484 items on which it gets such facility from Dhaka, Sinha said. "This is not good enough.

Out of over 7,000 tariff lines, New Delhi and Islamabad have given each other preferential tariffs, the external affairs minister pointed out.

There is no point in deliberating on the South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) without making any progress, Sinha said. "India is ready to enter a free trade arrangement in the SAARC any time.'

He also suggested free flow of investment and services along with a free trade for goods and merchandise within the SAARC.

There is a need to work carefully on the concept of value addition and India is ready to work out a reasonable level of such value addition, which will be the same in all SAARC countries, Sinha said

Harmonisation of tariff was an essential component of a free-trade area but it cannot take place overnight and would take time, he said.

The external affairs minister urged the SAARC countries to think Gujral doctrine," Sinha said. "We of the free-trade area in concrete are ready to move further ahead in terms. "What we need is a strong the direction of peace, friendship political will and I am trying to demand prosperity to all our neighonstrate this political will on behalf of bours. the government of India."

A consultant has been appointed on free-trade arrangement among SAARC countries, he told the seminar. "People-to-people contact would grow once trade moved forward

SAARC countries should stop road (as proposed by Sinha), the suspecting each other's intentions mistakes of the past will automatiall the time, Sinha said. cally end. If you want to pick any-

He said he came across a view that India wants to exploit Bangladesh by seeking its natural gas, which the country has in abun-

### must be arrested. He said the constitution is being neglected and violated once and

again, and disrespect to the constitution is now frequent.

Dr Kamal also censured arrests Criminal Procedure (CrPc) and said the constitution has been neglected

under Section 54 of the Code of

and apprehensions" of other

SAARC countries about India as

should not be held against India

because there is nothing we can do

about it," he said. "We have no other

desire or intention than to be able to

to be friendly and cooperative".

SAARC member-countries

New Delhi remains committed to

should be sensitive to each other's

the "Gujral doctrine" of friendly ties

with its neighbours, the external

affairs minister said. Former Indian

prime minister Inder Kumar Guiral.

who propounded the theory, was

also on the dais with the external

"India remains committed to the

The famous "Guiral doctrine'

was first heard in 1996 and India

today remains committed to good

neighbourly policy of Atal Behari

finale to the seminar. "If we take this

thing from the past, it is perhaps the

mistakes that we have made and

how we can avoid repeating them.'

It was left to Gujral to provide the

security concerns, he pointed out.

"Its big size and population

"unfounded".

our people."

affairs minister.

Vajpayee.

through the arrests of thousands under this section

by the government to remove him from office on the age ground, the CEC trashed any such report.

The commission will decide on its course of action later, if the government eventually refuses to deploy troops, Syed said in reply to

another question. Not only the EC, Syed said, but voters, candidates, observers, media men and even the common people want that the army be

deployed for a fair election. Earlier at a meeting with election observers, the CEC said that there

was an option to consider troops deployment during the polls although the army has already been pulled back from the upazila head-He also dismissed "suspicions quarters

"It is urgent to deploy the armed forces for a free and fair election," he was quoted as saving.

## JS session

live in peace and friendship with our FROM PAGE 1 neighbours and join in the common

the Operation Clean Heart began on task of improving the quality of life of October 17 The just-effected fuel-price hike

SAARC countries are joined is also expected to dominate the together by geography and "we can proceedings. neither ignore each other nor afford

A Business Advisory Council (BAC) meeting will decide on its agenda and duration before the session beains.

The first session of a year is usually long, featuring lengthy debate on the presidential speech besides legislative and other businesses.

As required by the constitution, the indemnity ordinance should be placed before the Sangsad on the first day of the coming session.

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed told reporters at his office yesterday that a bill would be tabled for enactment of the ordinance into a law once it is placed for ratification.

"But, we are yet to decide whether to pass the bill by simple majority or to incorporate it in the constitution in the form of an amend-

ment," he said to a question. Promulgated Thursday, the ordinance indemnified all the acts of the 87-day army-led joint operation.

The parliament can approve or repeal a law by simple majority, but it needs the support of two-thirds of its members for any change to the constitution.

The last session of the parliament was prorogued on November

arrests. deaths. tortures. violations of rights and any damages of physical, mental or financial nature between October 16 and January 9.

And any case related to the Operation Clean Heart filed with any court would automatically be cancelled, the ordinance says.

Terming the ordinance a barbaric one, Anjana said, "If justice can be blocked through an ordinance, then what is the use of having courts?

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia knows better what it feels to lose the near and dear ones. Her husband was killed in the hands of some army men and for that, 12 army officers were sentenced to death So, why won't I get justice for the killing of my husband?" she asks

# Bangladesh win

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Austro-Hungarian coach's plan, sent the home crowd into raptures when with a neatly placed shot past Mamun. Nepalese custodian Upendra Man

Singh's left-hand post Interestingly, Alfaz also scored the only goal when the two teams last met in the final of the 1999 Kathmandu SAF Games The experienced forward

needed only two minutes to make up for his blunder with his signature finishing after a Motiur Munna floater came his way via a Kanchan nod inside the box.

Motiur also set up the ace marks man up two minutes before the goal with an intelligent back heel that caught the Nepalese defence napping. But Alfaz with all the time in the world and only Upendra to beat blasted his effort over the bar.

But apart from the two quick openings in the first half Bangladesh created hardly anything to entertain the home supporters. Besides, the national team's ordinary showing ahead of their tough second Group B match against Maldives on Monday created a sense of discomfort.

Although the national team tried to make an impact in their quest for a first SAFF title, but it only end up running aimlessly in the remainder.

The passing was dreadfully off target and nobody seemed aware that holding on to the ball was just as important as shooting it.

On the other hand the Nepalese with eight players having the experience of playing in Dhaka football were a more organised unit especially in the second half.

They came close to scoring five minutes before the break when Anant Raj Thapa unleashed a

day, the family members of Jamir said they thought of taking legal action against the army following the death. But they did not dare do so because of threats from the army

"But now. the chance of seeking justice is blocked for ever," Ali said. His mother is still in a shock from

the death of his son and weeps silently holding Jamir's photograph. Ali, a homeopath doctor, said his brother was a carpenter and was not involved in any criminal activities. "Still we do not know why he was picked up and killed."

Jamir, 32, was picked up from his village residence at Raigarh about three kilometres off the Golapganj upazila headquarters. He was tortured by the army on the Dattarail

grounder past Bangladesh keeper

Aminul which needed a goal-line clearance by right-back Hasan-al They pressed hard for the

equaliser in the second session and opened up the Bangladesh defence twice. Nepal's best chance came in the 70th minute when Ananth sprang the off-side trap but just as he was about to shoot Aminul closed him down.

The Bangladesh custodian was again called upon in the dying moments when he came out of his area to clear a menacing cross The win meant Bangladesh

oined Maldives at the top of Group B with both teams having collected three points. Defending champions India

faced a must-win situation when they take on Afghanistan in today's second match. The two-time winners suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against Pakistan on Friday.

Pakistan meet Sri Lanka in the first match of the day. The Lankans also won their opening game against Afghanistan 1-0.

Yellow cards: Narayan Manandhar. Sunil Tuladhar (Nepal and Hasan-al Mamun (Bangla desh)

TÉAMS BANGLADESH: Aminul, Hasan al Mamun, Sujon, Rajani, Nazrul, Parvez (Hasan), Motiur Munna, Arman, Àrif Khan Joy, Kanchan (Moni) and Alfaz.

NÉPAL: Upendra Man Singh Rakesh, Deepak, Banl Gopal, Niranjan, Anant Raj, Narayan (Sukra Man), Basanta Thapa, Rajan (Kumar Thapa). Hari Khadka (Navin) and Sunil Tuladhar.

detention illegal paving the way for Referee: Kunsuta Chaiwat (Thailand). his release from prison

Charandwip, some seven kilometres off Boalkhali upazila headbeen fulfilled by the 10-day ultimaquarters, huge land property and tum given by the association that bank savings for Rubel ended on January 8.

"Now who would reap the fruits of our long hardship and enjoy these property?" questioned the bellowing mother

Witnesses said the troops, acting on a wrong tip-off, nabbed Rubel at around 4:00pm on December 16 when they were on a drive to arrest notorious dacoit leader Shawkat Hossain Zhantu, known as "Zhantu Dakat"

The troops allegedly tortured Rubel dragging him into a pond and beat him up mercilessly. Critically injured, Rubel died at local health complex at around 9:00pm.

They further alleged that three members of 'Emdad Bahini', rival group of "Zhantu Dakat", deliberately misled the troops about Rubel saying that he was an associate of Zhantu

Rubel failed in the SSC examinations last year and was preparing to go abroad

Local people believe that Rubel's enemies had their eyes on his huge property which might have led to his tragic death

But neither the motive nor the identity of the persons having hands behind the after-custodial death could be learnt. And these would never come out in the open if Rubel's bereaved mother cannot initiate a lawsuit against the murder, they observed.

A general diary was recorded with the Boalkhali thana in connection with Rubel's death.

Saber's bail

the Special Powers Act.

Political Secretary to Awami League

president Sheikh Hasina, Saber

bail in all criminal cases and held his

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were to be taken by the ministry within one month in consultation with the authorities concerned. Addressing the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the

40 kilometres

association leaders sought immediate intervention of the prime ministhe lake. ter to bring an end to the deadlock. There are as many as 940 petrol

pumps across the country while the number of dispensing machines is around 3,300. The number of dealers, operators and distributors would be around 7,000, according to the association.

Nazmul Huq lamented that the government is not demonstrating

# Alien hunting

FROM PAGE 12 has already talked to Chief Minister of West Bengal Buddhadev Bhattacharya on the issue.

Guha is learnt to have said that there are a large number of Bangladeshi migrants in the districts like Cooch Behar. People have migrated to the districts over the last 30 years and made them their home.

Most of them have rations cards. Indian passport and voter's identity cards

Guha feels that to single them confirming the Indian-ness of a out will antagonise them towards the Left Front government. anymore."

faces half a dozen criminal cases "We will protect them in any including bomb blast in Aianta situation," said Guha yesterday. The policy of identity cards is nothing but movie house in Mymensingh on an instrument of harassing people December 7 that killed 19 people and it is highly likely that persons and injured about 200 others. He entrusted with the responsibility of was also ordered detention under identifying foreigners in India would cash in on the situation. Guha said. The High Court has granted him

According to sources in various leftist parties, Buddhadev Bhattacharya will strongly express his opinion against the issue at a

### Gulshan Society FROM PAGE 12

was initiated defying the prime minister's directive and High Court order to remove earth-filling along

The society considers this action as part of Rajuk's old game of providing access road to some residential plots, the society alleged.

The society reiterated its earlier decision to launch a movement in

pursuit of its demand unless Rajuk takes immediate remedial action in this regard.

meeting with Deputy Prime Minister

a meeting with the chief ministers of

the nine states on the introduction of

by his counterpart in Tripura, Manik

on the matter. However, he said

"Previously the voter's ID card was

considered to be the safest way of

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seems that it is not sufficient

Administrative officials in various

One such official said, "To give

departments of West Bengal also

an ID card, we have to verify

whether a person has a proper

voter's ID and a ration card. If the

two are taken as the main criteria for

a separate ID card, the process is a

waste of time and money.

Bhattacharya will be supported

Bhattacharya refused to speak

Lal Krishna Advani on February 9. The deputy prime minister called

Sarkar.

identity cards.

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expressed concern.