European Parliament

were growing in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The situation of minorities, especially in the CHT, was precarious, he observed, citing the violent incidents in Mahalchhari on August 26 this year.

He also said death sentences were handed down at disturbingly

Patten observed that there was still little progress on separation of the judiciary from the executive and establishment of independent monitoring institutions -- the Anticorruption Commission, Human Rights Commission and the Ombudsman.

He said the commission expressed deep concern about the situation to the government on several occasions.

Patten also said the commission's delegation in Dhaka maintained a continuous dialogue or governance and human rights ssues with senior interlocutors in the government.

In its recently established human rights dialogue, the commission has addressed a wide range of issues including separation of the judiciary from the executive, investigation of custodial deaths, torture, status of the Anticorruption Commission, Human Rights Commission, the Ombudsman, freedom of the press and the situation of the Rohinga

Robbers loot Tk 12 lakh in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Armed robbers looted cash and valuables worth over Tk 12 lakh from the house of a lawyer on Shaheed Saifuddin Khaled Road in Chittagong Saturday.

The ten-member gang stormed the house of Advocate Moqbul Ahmed, a lawyer of the Supreme Court, at around 7:00pm. Confining family members to a room, they held Ahmed's two-year-old son hostage at gunpoint and left with the booty, police said.

They took away Tk 8.60 lakh in cash, 43 tola gold ornaments and other valuables, Ahmed's wife

Ahmed was in Dhaka during the Kotwali police held Baittya Javed

for his alleged role in the robbery yesterday evening in connection with a case Setara lodged Saturday.

Kalidas Boral murder case

Fresh chargesheet submitted after extended investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, KHULNA

An extended investigation into the Advocate Kalidas Boral murder case produced no change in the list of 22 of the Bagerhat Awami League

Motiur Rahman, officer-incharge (OC) of Khulna Sadar Police Station, submitted the chargesheet to the court on Friday after the addi tional district and sessions judge of Bagerhat ordered an extended investigation on July 26 following a

prosecution demand. Public Prosecutor Advocate Nooi investigation after two prosecution witnesses alleged that Sheikh Helaluddin MP elected from the Bagerhat-1 constituency and General Secretary of Chitalmari Thana Awami League Pijush Kant Roy were involved in Borál's murder

on August 20, 2000. The OC said he found no incriminating evidence against the law-maker or Chilmari AL leader. Besides, they were not named in either the first information report or the first chargesheet submitted before the extended investigation was ordered, he said.

The court heard five of 74 prosecution witnesses when the trial was stalled after prosecution witness Happy Boral, wife of the slain AL leader, told the judge that she suspected Helal and Pijush to have masterminded the murder. refugees from Myanmar, he said

In his question, Moraes said Despite the commission's continual monitoring of political develop-ments in Bangladesh, through its delegation in Dhaka and various other initiatives, it has been brought to my notice that human rights violations continue.

The European lawmaker noted that the previous cases of politically motivated attacks, reported over a year ago, were understood to be the result of a temporary 'power vacuum' before the new government could fully establish itself.

Moraes stressed that such attacks, arrests and torture of human rights activists and opposition politicians persisted.

Expatriate accuses BNP MP of land grab, Lobi's wife denies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi expatriate in London yesterday accused a ruling BNP of grabbing a house in Banani in a claim the MP's wife dismissed as false.

At a press conference at Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association, Zakaria Khan Julu, coming back home to Dhaka, alleged that Ali Asghar Lobi drove his rela-tives out of the house No. 72 on road No.11 in block D.

"Now he and his gang are threatening me with death," Julu alleged.

The alleged land grab came after Julu's wife Morsheda Sultana registered her inherited land in her hus-band's name but sold the plot along with her two sisters' to the lawmaker after her divorce.

"In 1993, Luci and Mahbuba (Morsheda's sisters) agreed to sell their parts of land to me and I paid them 43,000 in British pounds in advance. I paid them 98,000 in British pounds again in 1998 on a contract of buying their land," Julu

'Luci and Mahbuba wrote to me in 2000, saying they would not sell their land. But they again agreed on the sale at two lakh British pounds," Julu said, adding he got divorced the

"Ali Asghar Lobi and his men ousted the caretaker and tenants of the house at gunpoint and captured it on August 14," Julu alleged.

Julu filed a general diary with Gulshan Police Station and a case against Lobi, Morsheda, Luci and Mahbuba with Dhaka Judge's Court after he came back from London

Julu said Lobi proposed a negotiation to be mediated by the commissioner of ward No. 19 a few days ago, but he did not turn up.

He sought intervention of the prime minister and the home minister in retrieving his house.

Lobi's wife Khushnad Asghar in a faxed message to The Daily Star denied the allegation of land grab, claiming to have valid documents on ownership of the house.

She said she bought the house from Morsheda, Luci and Mahbuba at Tk 65 lakh on June 1.

bus skids off Jammu road

AP, Jammu, India

An overcrowded bus skidded off a steep mountain road yesterday in Indian-held Kashmir and plunged 1,500 feet into a gorge, killing 23 passengers and injuring 13 others.

The bus crashed near Magar Kot village in Jammu-Kashmir state said Subhash Raina, a police superintendent in Jammu, the state's winter capital. The bus was carrying 36 people, nine more than its pacity, he said.

Police and villagers in Magar Kot, about 118 miles north of Jammu, helped pull out some of the injured. Local authorities put up flood lights so rescue efforts could continue as night fell.

The injured were taken to a

hospital in the nearby town of Banihal.

power policy that says, "In the event

of a sponsor chosen on the basis of an

unsolicited proposal, similar provi-

sions on performance guarantees and specified time period for finan-

The committee also said the

government will not have to spend

any foreign currency during repatri-

ation of profits of the investors,

implying that payments will not be

made in foreign currency. But the agreement proposed by Westmont

seeks payment mainly in foreign

cial closure will apply.

nation.

Rejoinder

to pay minimum guaranteed payment (take or pay). But the 2nd phase (of the) contract is highly favourable in this respect that there is no provision (of) minimum payment (no

electricity, no payment). The standard practice of the IPPs in Bangladesh is issuing perfor-These conditions are unique among the IPPS not only in Bangladesh but also in the world."

mance bond of \$1.5 million. Besides, the Purchase Committee It added, the PDB is not in any way gave clear directives that the scheme related to the payment in foreign must not go against the interest of the

currency. [installing] the plant within 6 months. If they fail they will pay Liquidated Damage. (The) BPDB will purchase electricity when it requires and make payment for the electricity taken at a specified flat rate. (The) BPDB is not purchasing the power plant, it is purchasing electricity. Installation of an old plant by Westmont is their risk. If they fail to

provide electricity, they will not be

paid and their investment will not be

Islam Faruque said the Purchase Committee terms and conditions

have not been violated.

Westmont Chairman Kazi Tajul

Although it's an unsolicited

proposal that the government dis-courages, the Purchase Committee gave the go-ahead to the project conditionally quoting the private

recovered.'

Our Reply

The standard liquidated damage for all IPPs had been \$10,000.

Regarding installation of old power unit, the PDB says, "If they fail to provide electricity, they will not be paid." This remark is contrary to PDB's position because it is supposed to ensure reliability of equipment no matter how favourable the economic aspect of a power proposal is. It has traditionally done so in dealing with all other power projects. The question arises why should it be so ready to accept any type of machinery.

Ruling BNP should sit with opposition to end JS impasse, savs US envov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador in Dhaka Harry K Thomas yesterday said the ruling BNP should sit with the main opposition party to bring it back to parliament to make the Jatiya Sangsad effective.

"We hope the ruling party will initiate a step soon. The opposition party should also show equal responsibility," he told newspersons after a call on Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar at his Jatiya Sangsad office.

"A meeting between the two parties could bring an end to the parliamentary stalemate," Thomas

Both the speaker and the envoy discussed democracy, human rights and parliamentary functioning in

Sircar illustrated his role to bring the main opposition Awami League

"The speaker likes to see the opposition's return to the House,' Γhomas said.

The AL has been boycotting the lativa Sangsad since June 26 protesting derogatory remarks of a state ninister against Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

The AL gave the treasury bench a three-point precondition -- categorical expunction of the state minister's remarks, his unreserved apology and the running of the House according to the constitution and the rules of procedure -- for a return to the Jatiya The speaker told the ambassador

that all the opposition demands were met and they should join parliament n the greater interest of the nation.

"Any problem can be resolved in the House through discussions. They got enough time to speak and will get so in future," Sircar told Thomas.

Praising the committee system in US parliament, Sircar said the committees of the Jatiya Sangsad were also functioning effectively to ensure the transparency and accountability of the government.

Mist blankets

when the mist clears," said Samarendra Karmakar, deputy director of the office.

From the middle of this month, ight to moderate or severe fog will prevail in the country until temperature rises, he said.

Heavy mist cloaked Dhaka and other parts of the country last year in a break with moderate cold and

The lowest temperature of 12.3 degrees Celsius was recorded at Srimangal and the highest of 29.7 degrees in Chittagong yesterday. In Dhaka, the minimum temperature hit 16 degrees Celsius.

A weather forecast of the meteoological office yesterday said light to moderate fog might occur over river basins and northern to central regions early today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged, it added.

Govt watch

up greatly yesterday," Chowdhury's son and BNP law-maker Mahi B Chowdhury told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

the 'agents' parked in front of the clinic round the clock, he said. "They are even taking photo-

There were also a few vehicles of

graphs and footages of patients and their companions at the entrance to our clinic.

"When we asked them about their identity they told us that they are from intelligence agencies and taking photographs as per the government instruction," Mahi

UP leaders

FROM PAGE 12

elected UP leaders and local government experts who argued that the orders meant further restriction on the heavily-controlled local government bodies.

In the wake of criticism, the local government division issued another circular on November 20 in what the critics say was just a ittle alternation in texts without any change in meaning.

The circulars also triggered debates between the ruling BNP leaders and the ministry officials. Sources at the ministry said the

first circular was issued by officials without any consultation with Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and State Minister Ziaul Haq Zia. They said the officials tried to

with them and directed them to cancel the circulars soon. Despite the order, the officials took nine weeks to override the circulars.

convince the ministers of their action, but the ministers differed

The withdrawal of the circulars was greeted immediately by elected UP representatives and attitude to the local government

They hoped that the government would amend the law to further empower the local government bodies, giving them greater Talking to The Daily Star, Mohammad Ali Khan, chairman of

Mannargaon Union Parishad in Sunamganj, expressed satisfaction over cancellation of the 'controversial' circulars.

"The withdrawal of the restriction is the removal of a real mill-stone around our neck," he said.

Developer swindles

Earlier, Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) initiated a project to construct a 100-foot wide road which would extend from Tongi Diversion Road to Progoti Sarani, covering 237.64 acres of lowland, of which the state owns 37.64 acres.

The plan by the GULSL to build the lowland into 'Dhaka Satellite City' came after the DTCB declared the road project three months ago.

The authorities believe the GUI SL has cashed in on the declaration in their overnight effort to cheat

A Daily Star investigation found that the GULSL has been enlisted as a member of REHAB, a platform for developers, three months ago. It has no land phone telephone number; it has a PABX line rented as many months ago.

When this correspondent visited the GULSL office on December 3 as a client at Baridhara that was rented only three months ago, one HM Kaisar claimed himself the managing director of the company. He introduced the company as a 'multinational joint-venture company comprising Bangladesh, India and

MM Sahabuddin, purchase director of the GULSL said more than 200 of the 500 plots have been already been booked.

"People are eager to purchase any plot in Gulshan because it is a posh area and offers limited space for constructing houses. The GULSL is trying to fulfil people's dreams," Sahabuddin said while coaxing any prospective land buyer.

This correspondent asked for Rajuk's formal approval of the project, which is the client's initial requirement to justify the company's legal standing. The intention was to verify whether the company is cheating unsuspecting clients.

"On receiving the booking money of Tk 50,000 we will provide all required documents to you," Sahabuddin assured, further saying that selling plots is not Rajuk's con-

After the conversation as a client, this correspondent introduced herself a correspondent of The Daily Star and asked for Rajuk's formal approval as a client's initial requirenent to justify the company's legal aspects. The intention was to verify whether the company is cheating on unsuspecting clients.

The GULSL officials were shocked to have known the identity and asked for questions in writing for their reply. The written questions were: Do you have Rajuk approval to implement the 'Dhaka Satellite City' project? If you do not have the Rajuk approval, do you think your project is going to deceive the clients? The project you have taken in the Gulshan low-lying area goes agains the 'Wetland Protection Act 2000' and Dhaka Master Plan (DMP). What is your opinion on this issue?

But the GULSL did not reply till yesterday evening. Moreover, the correspondent tried several times to get their reply. HM Kaisar, who had introduced himself as Managing Director of the GULSL, said yesterday morning on telephone, "Journalists are nobody to ask these ques-

In fact, all developers including the GULSL are supposed to have their plans approved by Rajuk, a clause mandatory according to the Town Improvement Act.

The project grossly violates the master plan (Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan or DMDP) that has clearly earmarked the area as a flood retention point. It is also in violation of the Wetland Conservation Act, the official added. The officials in the Public Works

Department said this project is 'totally illegal' as they have no authorisation since this area is the one of the few remaining water-If the area were filled up, the city would face unprecedented water-

and around Gulshan would be inundated if there is a slight rainfall. Environmentalists also expressed deep concern over the project and said the area is naturally designed to retain storm sewage water in an area

logging and all roads and localities in

covering 40 square kilometres. Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas told The Daily Star his ministry would propose drafting a law on private housing projects in January to check the mushrooming malpractice of the developers and the proposal would include up to five years in jail and

End rivalry

Despite opposition from one of the feuding presidium members, Hasina ordered the team to quicken its probe and asked it to report back to her for follow-up

Although a team headed by another presidium member, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, was formed over four months ago to investigate the Azad-Sengupta squabbles, it did not yield any result leading to an amiable solu-

After the meeting, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said presidents and general secretaries of the eight ward committees of its ourasahha unit were suspended from the party and would be asked to explain why they filed a case against the central eadership

The local disgruntled leaders filed the case after the central AL dissolved the ward committees.

The central leadership served show-cause notices on three other AL leaders, including Purbo Dhala thana unit President Abu Siddique, for vandalising the venue for the thana unit AL council on Friday.

To tighten its grip on its local bases, the party will also act tough against other leaders blamed for disturbances during announcement of a new AL committee in Laxmipur. The stringent action came as

the party was dogged by internal feuds over completing long-overdue councils at the grassroots units before embarking upon a broad anti-government move-

Jalil told reporters yesterday's presidium meeting decided to launch countrywide hustings in the build-up to the probable antigovernment movement.

The meeting also finalised party programmes in observance of the Martyred Intellectuals Day and Victory Day. The programmes include a 'victory fair' from December 14 through 16 at Paltan Maidan and a procession from Paltan on the afternoon of December 16.

Jalil told newspersons that the AL was not worried about the emergence of any third political force. On whether the AL would welcome any new party to be Badruddoza Chowdhury, Jalil said, "Let it take shape. We're now observing the developments."

Indian envoy

Sikri served as high commissioner to Malaysia for three years prior to her latest assignment, a press release said yesterday. The 55-year-old career diplo-

mat also served her country in the capacity of consul general in Hong Kong, minister (economic) of embassy in Paris and deputy secretary of the commerce ministry. She has participated in different

international conferences of the United Nations and Non-Aligned Movement as a member of the Indian delegation.

Sikri joined the Indian foreign service in July 1971, obtaining the first position in all-India competitive examinations.

World meet to end

(ICANN), a semi-private body created by the US government in 1998.

Bangladesh plans to garner international support for greater market access to ICT products for developing nations at the summit. It also wants help in product development, research and investment to bridge the digital divide between rich and poor nations. Dhaka has prepared a country strategy paper, which will frame a set of ethical guidelines for boosting the country's software industry, so that it can play a stronger role in the post-WSIS

As many as three ministries --Science and Technology, Foreign Affairs and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) have jointly prepared the paper with the help from the Bangladesh Working Group on the WSIS. Chairman of the Bangladesh

Working Group on the WSIS Syed Marghub Murshed said, "We will commit ourselves for greater growth in the ICT, especially in the software sector." Murshed, who is also the chief of the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), said specific attention will be paid to ICT education and training

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will present the strategy paper that puts greater emphasis on local software

The government had declared ICT as a thrust sector four years ago and had aimed at software exports to the tune of \$5 billion by the year 2005. However, the annual export earnings from software sale hover around \$50 million. Bangladesh has played a critical role in the preparatory committee on the WSIS, which was held last month in Geneva, to help the world body arrive at a consensus The committee faced strong differences of opinion between the developed and the developing nations. Upbeat about the summit, Minister for Science and Information Communication Technology Abdul Moyeen Khan said Bangladesh will also campaign for using ICT as a tool for changing society as the technology is growing at a rapid pace.

Bangladesh believes that the global intellectual property rights (IPR) regime should recognise the needs of the developing countries. Bangladesh will also advocate for

healthier and escape poverty.

wider use of the ICT in global trade so Local MP Mohammad that developing countries get greater access to world markets. The WSIS was first proposed in 1998, as the UN sees technology as a must for developing nations to help

Villagers have also attacked two them educate citizens, make them houses and three shops in Char Clerk belonging to some robbers.

Shantu seeks US support for peace accord

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

implementation

President of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Shantu Larma (Jotirindriyo Bodhipriyo) vesterday met the ambassador of the United States to seek support for full implementation of the peace accord. $Ambassad or Harry\,KThomas\, and$

Jotirindriyo, popularly known as

Shantu Larma, at the US embassy in Dhaka exchanged views on three points -- present status of the peace accord, situation in Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and development The meeting was part of the initiative to form a support group comprising members of the civil

society, political leaders and repre-

sentatives of the foreign missions for

the implementation, said a top PCJSS leader wishing to remain unnamed. The US ambassador said the peace accord signed 1997 should be implemented soon, sources in the

PCJSS Vice-president Rupayan Dewan and Secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum Sanjeeb Drong accompanied Larma.

Earlier, the PCJSS leaders met the representatives of the United ations Development Program (UNDP) and British High Commission for their support. They have also discussed their

plan with human rights and social

welfare activists and the indigenous people living in the capital and

The left-leaning 11-party alliance and Gono Forum may extend unqualified support to the PCJSS, the

Rail link snapped for 9 hrs as trains collide in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Rail link between Khulna and the northern region was disrupted for nine hours vesterday when two goods trains collided at Boro Bazar Railway Station in Jhenaidah. An Ishwardi-bound goods train

from Khulna rammed a Khulna-

bound freight train from Kushtia at

around 7:00am. Four wagons of the Khulnabound train derailed and the oil tanker of the other train, containing 50,000 litres of diesel reportedly worth Tk 9 lakh, splashed out. Engines of both trains were dam-

aged severely, sources said. Rail communications between the country's northern and southern region resumed at 4:00pm, the sources added. 'We sent a relief train at 10:00am

to restore rail link," said Sirajul Islam, booking clerk of Khulna Railway Station's locoshed. Meanwhile, the locomaster and his assistant of the Khulna-bound train were suspended and a fourmember committee, headed by the Bangladesh Railway's area operator of Khulna region, was also formed to probe the incident,

CHT braces

railway officials at Dhaka said.

implementation of the 1997 peace treaty, removal of the temporary army camp from the CHT region and appointment of a full indige-

nous minister in the CHT affairs

On the other hand, the local chapter of the four-party alliance has vowed to foil today's strike through a counter agitation

The anti-peace treaty UPDF is also opposing the hartal, although it has not announced any counter programme. The UPDF has demanded resignation of PCJSS leader Shantu Larma as chairman of the CHT Regional Council.

Additional police and army have been deployed in the three hill districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban to

prevent any untoward situation. The PCJSS organised a rally and brought out a procession yesterday in support of today's hartal while the four-party alliance organised an anti-hartal rally where local leaders Shantu Larma's removal from the post of chairman of the CHT regional council. No violence was reported.

District administrator Mahbubur Rahman said security has been tightened to maintain law and order during today's strike.

8 robbers FROM PAGE 1

Super Mesbahannabi.

Police returned the fire and recovered a gun and three mobile phones as the robbers slipped Police laid a siege to the area to capture the robbers till 7:00pm. Charbata Union Parishad Chairman Jamal Uddin Gazi and locals said the robbers had turned Char Clerk into a safe haven.

Deputy Commissioner of Noakhali Mostafa Haidar said the drive is aimed at catching the robbers, not at hurting anybody.

Shahjahan, who was present dur-ing the raid, said the villagers have long been hostage to the forest

lakh a month on security of the incomplete Swadhinata Stambha, the project sources

5 detained

official of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) last night.

"During preliminary investiga-tion, we found the licence of the pistol not in order," said the official seeking anonymity. "We are quizzing them to know the motive behind the incident."

Civil aviation sources said the incident occurred at around 11:20am yesterday when Zahidul carrying the shotgun and accompanied by Sohel and Mohan stormed the domestic concourse, a restricted zone, of the airport.

Nurul Islam murder Verdict deferred till tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Judgement in the sensational Laxmipur BNP leader advocate Nurul Islam murder case has been postponed till tomorrow by the Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong.

The deferral of the verdict, earlier scheduled for today, was due to the court's decision to try Jasim Uddin, another accused in the case arrested from Laxmipur last week.

"Jasim will be produced before the court tomorrow (Monday) for examination under section 342 and then the tribunal judge is likely to announce the verdict the following day (Tuesday)," said Public Prosecutor (PP) Ahmed Kamrul Islam Chowdhury Sajjad vesterday.

Tribunal Judge M Hasan Imam earlier fixed December 8 for delivery of the verdict after arguments of both prosecution and defence lawyers ended on November 29. A gang of armed men picked up Nurul Islam from his house in

September 18, 2000. Later, his mutilated body was recovered from river Meghna. Laxmipur Bar Council President AKM Tarekuddin Mahmud filed a murder case with

Laxmipur in the early hours of

Laxmipur Sadar Police Station. After investigation, police pressed charges against 31 peo-ple on July 30 last year and the rial began in the Sessions Judge's Court of Laxmipur. The case was later transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong following the home ministry's

directive on November 21, 2002. Laxmipur Awami League leader Abu Taher, the prime suspect, is among 17 of the arrested accused.

US air strike

the UN Special Representative to Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi, The children were just the latest civilians killed by US-led forces

pursuing remnants of the Taliban

late 2001, and allied Islamic militants. In November, six civilians were killed in an air strike in the southern province of Paktika, and nearly three weeks before that eight members of the same family, including children, died in a similar attack in the province of

Nuristan. In a notorious incident in July last year the Afghan government said 48 people had been killed and 117 wounded in Uruzgan province when a US AC-130 gunship aircraft attacked a wedding party. The US military said 34 had died and 50 had been wounded -- mostly women and children -- but said the aircraft had come under ground

In its latest statement, the US

military did not identify the road

contractors killed, but there have

been a number of fatalities on the

same Kabul-Kandahar road pro-

ect blamed on Taliban attacks.

An HC division bench yesterday stayed the injunction till January

told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Although about 65 percent of

ment started the project in 1998-

1999 fiscal year that was supposed to finish in 2000. Later,

with the addition of the glass tower it was scheduled for completion in 2002. The present government handed over the project to the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs

About 12 employees including seven engineers, two peons and drivers are engaged in the project work. But they are without any job for the last two years.

A sources said, "The three persons first identified themselves as passengers of GMG flight to the security guards who intercepted them. But we smelt something wrong when they proceeded towards another part of the restricted zone instead of the GMG

"As we intercepted them again the three said they were passengers of a helicopter and were heading owards the chopper," said Rashida Khanam, the security officer. "I didn't let them go since I was not informed of any such flight on the day," she told The Daily Star

last night. Civil aviation authorities immediately informed the matter to the CMP and other departments con-

Later, the civil aviation officials and the CMP jointly searched the jeep at the parking area and seized the other arms and ammunition. They detained two other persons reportedly bodyguards of Zahid, from the jeep.

Civil aviation authorities filed a General Diary (GD) with Patenga Police Station and turned over the firearms and the five men to police.

Salman denies ITV share purchase

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Salman F Rahman has refuted a remark made by Salauddin Shoib Chowdhury, arrested on November 29 for his alleged Mossad links, in court and pub-lished in The Daily Star as 'baseless

In a statement dated December

chased 30 percent share of Inqilab Television (ITV) from AMM Bahauddin, publisher of the Daily Inquilab, as claimed by Shoib. "Neither do I own any share in

1 and sent to The Daily Star yester-day, Salman denied that he pur-

the ITV nor do I have any connection with the ITV whatsoever," he After his arrest at Zia International Airport, Shoib told the Court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate on November 30, "I am a 30 percent shareholder of the ITV.

Earlier, Bahauddin sold out my shares to Rahman at Tk 6 crore without my consent." On December 1, The Daily Star carried a report headlined 'Shoib taken on seven-day remand' quot-ing his statement before the court.

Amadeus resumes operation from today as HC

stays injunction STAR REPORT vider for international ticket reser-

Division vesterday stayed an injunction on its operation. A lower court issued the injunction on December 1 following charges of tax evasion and money laundering against the company.

Following the court order,

Amadeus operations were sus-pended from Wednesday, causing

vation, will resume its services

today, after the High Court

inconvenience to hundreds of travellers who flocked airlines offices for information on reserva-

"We will collect the court order and submit it to SITA, the satellite service providing company, following which SITA will need about five hours to give us connection, Amadeus official Mustafa Kemal

When asked about the future

of the project, a high official of the Ministry of Liberation War

Affairs said, "We are waiting for

orders from the high-ups of the

government to restart the project

works. And if we get the approval,

the remaining work would be

complete by next June," the

He said an allocation of about

Tk 22 crore, which they have

proposed, and with the remain-

ing Tk 8 to Tk 9 crore lying with

the Public Works Department the

rest of the work would be com-

He said the ministry is not

resuming the project work as a

case has been filed with the

Bureau of Anti-corruption accus-

ing nine persons including the

former project director KAM

reopen the establishment to

"The government wants to

Swadhinata Stambha

the work have been completed. the half-done monument is being subjected to wear and tear," said an engineer of the project. The Awami League govern-

from the Ministry of Public

During a visit to the project site, it was found that the incomplete structures were in an abandoned state. The Shikha Chirantan (eternal flame) is however burning eternally to rekindle the spirit of Bangladeshi nationalism at the site, now prohibited to the public.

Besides, the construction firm Concord, is spending about Tk 1 public as early as possible but without the glass tower," Rezaul Karim, the incumbent project director, said. However, State Minister for

Shahiduzzaman.

Liberation War Affairs Rezaul Karim, MP, was not available for comments, as he was report-