NEWS

Cops foil 14-party

FROM PAGE 1 Co-ordinator and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil claimed that at

least 200 workers were injured in the police actions and over 300 leaders and workers of the opposition line-up were held. Chase and counter-chase went on

for more than an hour, making it the biggest ever such clash during the coalition regime. Besides charging batons, police lobbed over 150 teargas shells and used water cannons disperse the opposition workers gathered to lay siege to the EC Secretariat.

The 14-party had announced the programme, demanding immediate resignation of chief election commissioner (CEC) and two other 'politicallyappointed' election commissioners In Sukrabad, Sobhanbagh and

Dhanmondi-27 areas, hundreds of opposition workers fought pitched battles with the policemen in riot gear.

Police charged batons even inside a private hospital and different shopping centres when some of the opposition workers went there to take shelter from teargas. At least 10 shoppers and a female patient fell victim to the police

excesses The fighting erupted when opposi-tion workers tried to break the police barricades near Dhanmondi road No 27. Failing to overcome the barricades, the demonstrators began pelting brickbats at the law enforcers. In retaliation, police lobbed teargas hot water on them. ells and sho POLICE VERSION

Deputy Commissioner (DC-south) Mazharul Islam told the journalists yesterday that they did not attack the opposition workers. "Rather, the opposition men tried to break down the police barricades and threw stones at them." he said. He also denied having beaten up any pedestrians during the

SITUATION AT RUSSELL SQUARE Hundreds of opposition workers began to gather at the Russell Square in procession from early in the morning. By 11:00am the road stretching from Kalabagan to Dhanmondi 27 was literally filled with the 14-party activists.

At about 11:30am, led by senior leaders including Abdur Razzak, Hasanul Haque Inu, Tofail Ahmed, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mohammad Nasim, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaisar Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury Maya the opposition activists began marching towards the EC Secretariat.

But police put up barricades at Dhanmondi 27 Crossing before the procession could reach there. The leaders and activists breached two barricades. After they were barred from moving further, they became involved in a fierce altercation with the police personnel

At one stage, the policemen began to chase after the 14-party activists. But the opposition men regrouped and clashed with the police, pitching the entire area into a battle-like situation.

Split in several groups, the police in riot gear and plainclothes continued chasing the marchers. At least three water cannons and two armed teargas tank moved along the roads to pursue the opposition gathering.

Continuously chased by the policemen, many of the workers took refuge at local hospitals and shopping centres, but to little avail. Police stormed the Pan Care Hospital on Dhanmondi Road No 27 and damaged the windowpanes of the main entrance while baton-charging the opposition work-ers. They arrested five on the scene.

Even Shanta, a pregnant woman, could not escape the police atrocities. She was injured while waiting to leave

the hospital for home A number of police constables with some women police threw her to the ground and started to kick her in front

of some senior police officials. A constable named Ruhul Amin was kicking her in the abdomen as the onduty journalists were trying to save her. The opposition leaders later held a brief rally at the square and brought out a procession that paraded different roads. Leaders alleged that the government has used its loyal police officials including 'infamous' DC Kahinur Miah to attack and abuse its

political opponents. Addressing the rally, Abdul Jali aid the 'despotic regime of Nizami Khaleda' would never be able to suppress the ongoing movement for reforms by resorting to violence

against the opposition workers. Leaders and activists of the opposition alliance gathered also at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Led by AL leader Matia Chowdhury and Kamal Ahmed Majumder, they began marching in procession towards the EC cretariat from Mirpur at around 10.30am.

When the procession reached near Agargoan roundabout, police set up barricades to intercept the procession. The 14-party leaders sat there and held an instantaneous rally, otesting the obstruction.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) mobilised its leaders and workers at Muktangon as part of a similar programme. CONDITION OF THE INJURED

Inu along with three other AL and Jubo League workers were admitted Bangladesh Medical College Hospital. Neurosurgeon Nowsher Alam told The Daily Star that the JSD chief has sustained some serious injuries in the back of his head and been kept under a 48-hour observa-

Inu told The Daily Star that the police charged baton on him from behind. They [police] did it without provocation

League's south (city) unit General Secretary Farida Yasmin Jhuma along with three others were admitted to Trauma Centre. While 15 other AL and Jubo League workers were rushed to Suhrawardi Hospital where Doctor Uttam Barua told The Daily Star that Shahidul Islam's condition is very

tical Besides, Shahidul's brother Jahiru Islam, Jamshed Ali, Abul Hossain, Mohammad Fazlu, Mizanur Rahman Babu, Gaffar Hossain, Liton Shikder Hasem, Mohammad Muhit, Abul Rubel Hossain, Mohammad Biplob, Rabiul, Bakkar and Alfaz were among the injured admitted there.

A large number of injured workers took first aid at different hospitals and clinics in the city. Meanwhile in Satkhira and Gaibandha, 14-party laid siege to district election offices. Police barred

the opposition procession in Satkhira near the EC office. In protest, leaders and activists blockaded Satkhira-Kaligonj Road in front of the election office, disrupting vehicle movement for about three hours

FROM PAGE 1

discussed

tion's movement. lobal Hassan Mahmood, state minister for power, Kamal Siddqui,

Grameen teams

of the August 17 countrywide blasts and sought the remand period for FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh.

further quizzing him. and Chairman of Groupe Danone No lawyer defended the chief of the Franck Riboud will fly in Dhaka on banned militant outfit. Rahman himself Thursday to formally announce the also did not say any word. setting up of the joint venture project According to the Criminal

Rahman

FROM PAGE 1

'Grameen Danone Foods'. Riboud Procedure Code (CrPC), producing and Prof Yunus will jointly sign an Rahman before a Dhaka court was agreement in this regard at a city violation of the CrPC as he was supposed to be produced before the hotel on the same day. Sylhet court that granted his earlier Grameen's tying up with Danone n food production is considered the remand.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: First Class Magistrate Ershadul Haque yesterday granted the 10-day fresh remand for JMB men Hridov Chowdhury and Abdul Aziz alias Hanif Rahman's wife Nurjahan Begum producing dairy products, plans of daughter Afifa and Hridoy's wife Chameli. said sources declining to divulge the

The magistrate also ordered to send house-help Tasmia and two children--Mahmud and Fuad--to safe custody.

None advocated for the accused as investigation officer Sub-Inspector Shankar Nandi of Sylhet Kotwali Police Station prayed for the fresh remand.

Meanwhile, Kotwali police yesterday took one Shabbir Ahmed, a friend of Hridoy, on a 7-day remand to interrogate him regarding the chequebook seized from Rahman's East Shaplabagh hideout.

The Mymensingh court granted the 10-day remand for Chan Mia and Rina in three cases filed with the Muktagachha Police Station after they were arrested at Chan's father-in-law's house in Bhalukchhapar village of

Muktagachha upazila. Chan was sent to the capital yesterday for interrogation by the taskforce while his wife Rina will be interrogated by the police.

Jubo League FROM PAGE 1 Meanwhile, Bangladesh Truck

Drivers-workers Federation also Seriously injured Jubo Mohila called for a dawn-to-dusk strike of trucks, lorries across the county today protesting the killing of covered van driver Alauddin and his assistant Shalik Munshi Rocket shells

FROM PAGE 1

recovered from the den during the operation," said one security official.

The security forces in joint raids recovered a total of 115 firearms including 12 AK47 rifles, three M16 rifles and 7,000 bullets from the district in the last 11 days.

Sources said the security forces raided a number of dens of the criminals in remote hilly areas of the district and seized the arms and ammunition. During the raids the law-enforcers arrested three criminals with firearms.

3 top ministers

The meeting also discussed the tactics about how to face the opposi-

principal secretary to the PM and ANH Akhter Hossain, secretary to the Power Division, were present in the meeting when power crisis was

Sultan said the factory would be set up in Bogra but the site selection has not been finalised yet. Danone's product lines include

yogurt of Danone, Dannon, Frusion, La Crème and Danimals brands. biscuits, crackers and cookies of LU, Prince, Jacobs, Tiger, Cheese Galbani, Britannia, Vitalinea brands, desserts of Dany brand and bottled water of Evian, Volvic, Wahaha, Aqua, Brio, Villa del Sur. Font Vella, Pure American and

many other brands. In a recent interview Groupe Danone's CEO and Chairman Franck Riboud said, "We are the world leader in dairy products, but we are still present in only around 50 countries and worldwide consumption of dairy products averages under four kilos a year per person, whereas we have been able to raise that to around 30 kilos a year in France and Spain. Everything remains to be done, and we have the strategy and resources to do it."

Having 89,449-strong staff-base worldwide, Groupe Danone had 13,700 million Euros of sales proceeds in 2004 with an operation income of 1,705 million Euros.

Intact shirt saps

FROM PAGE 16

water of Evian brand.

"If someone takes a bullet, the body usually thrashes about, twitches and jerks, leaving scratches on the ground."

most high-profile joint venture

business initiative in food sector in

Though the Grameen Danone

Foods project is primarily aimed at

expanding product lines is there.

volume of investment at this stage.

"Initially we're not going for the

large factories that Danone have in

France. Rather, we'll go for a proto-

type factory and to start with, we'll

produce fortified yogurts (in plastic

cups) rich in nutrition value,'

Director of the Grameen Danone

Foods project Imamus Sultan told

its yogurts, which would come in

different flavours, the Grameen

Danone Foods may venture for

producing and marketing bottled

Building on the initial success of

this correspondent yesterday.

Rab arrested Iman, 35, a member of Dhaka District Jubo League, Tuesday afternoon on the Dhaka district magistrate's court premises, where he went to appear in a case.

The next morning his body was found in an open space in Khagan. Rab claims he was killed in "crossfire" between his accomplices and Rab members. The shootout started as Iman's accomplices opened fire on the Rab-4 team that went to Khagan to recover his arms cache, describes the elite police force.

In a press release on Thursday Rab termed Iman a terrorist, extortionist, killer and one involved in land grabbing.

But, many a local says Iman was very polite and popular in the locality. "If Iman was a criminal then why did some 10,000 people take part in his Namai-e-ianaza." questions Ali Ahmed Mian, a septuagenarian villager of Shamrai.

He says Iman was planning to contest in the local union parishad election, which might also be a reason for his death.

On the Rab allegation that Iman was accused in 11 cases including three for murder, his elder brother Nazrul Islam says the police and Rab arrested him twice under the 4-party alliance regime and implicated him in at least eight cases.

"He has been released of the charges in all the cases excepting a murder case," Nazrul claims, adding, "If he is a criminal then how did he ge

"There was no skin on his back and the arms. This suggests he suffered repeated electric shocks." Nazrul reckons. He savs he saw needle marks under all the nails of Iman's

hands. There was very little blood at the Rab-claimed crossfire spot, which also suggests that Iman's death did not happen there, he argues

MISSING JEWELLERY Family members claim at the time of his arrest Iman was wearing a gold chain, a gold ring and a diamond one, besides he also had a cellphone set and no less than Tk 35,000 cash with him. These items are missing on Rab's

seizure list, they point out. But, Rab-4 Acting Director Major Samad says all the personal belongings of Iman are kept at the Rab storeroom and will be handed over to his

elatives when they come to collect. Samad says as these items have no value as evidence in the case filed

n this connection so they were not on the seizure list. Brushing off the claim of family members and locals that Iman was not involved in any criminal activity,

Hearing on EC's

next date for hearing. By that time,

the enumeration across the country

will be completed within a twice-

election commissioner (CEC) to

have a fresh roll. They also sought a

stay on the preparation of the con-

revise the existing voter roll.

The HC asked the commission to

Averse to abide by the court's

ruling, the EC has petitioned the

Appellate Division to overturn the

Woman faces

Then the police dragged her to a

the van appeared, got the police-

women inside the van out and

young policeman this morning in

front of these constables, that is why

they are so angry," said an on-duty

police officer with his nametag

removed and refusing to identify

The country's Criminal

Procedure Act and the Civil

Procedure Act clearly state that in all

cases 'women must be treated with

dignity', Elina Khan, the executive

director of the Bangladesh Human

Rights Enforcement Organisation

criminal case the laws clearly say that

she must be treated with utmost

courtesy during or after her arrest," she

said, adding, "But with political unrest

the police excesses on women are

unfortunately rising."

"Even if a woman is accused in a

"These people almost killed a

FROM PAGE 16

extended timeframe.

troversial voter roll.

January 4 judgment.

FROM PAGE 16

locked the door.

himself

said.

covered police van.

Samad reiterates that he was a listed criminal and extortionist. PROTEST A four-day programme protesting

what Awami League and its youth wing term killing of Iman will start at Akran Village on Friday, the day of his Qulkhwani After the Qulkhwani. Dhaka District units of AL and Jubo League will set up

a dais at Saver Bazar and conduct protest meetings for the next three days. Central leaders of the AL and its 14-party alliance partners will speak in

Ahab helped

FROM PAGE 1 Galib at an Ahab conference in Rajshahi in 1997 introduced a number of quests from India, Pakistan, Nepal, the Maldives, Bhutan and Sri Lanka.

The guests include Pakistani Nasser al Rahmani, an alleged leader of Saudi Hizbullah, who carries a bounty of \$5 million declared by FBI for his link to al Qaeda

Galib also introduced Abdul Matin Salafi, Maolana Abdul Wahab Khiljee of Punjab, Ahle Hadith leader Abdullah Salafi of Murshidabad from India and Abdullah Abdut Tawat Al Madani from Nepal

Though Salafi was banished from Bangladesh in 1988, he took part in the Ahab meet in 1997 Investigators have found Galib had a joint bank account with him in 1989-90

A leader of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) in 2004 told The Daily Star about 20 of their leaders and activists worked with al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden.

They also said VCDs given to JMJB recruits contained Laden's recorded speeches and footage on warfare at al Farooque camp in Afghanistan.

A team of The Daily Star obtained one such VCD titled "The Solution, the Preparation" recorded in the once Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. The 50-minute disc was screened for new JMJB members at Razakar Ramjan Kaya training camp in Bagmara in 2004.

"Bangla Bhai showed his new opment work must start in drv season. recruits video footage on Afghan wars and mobilised support for an Islamic movement," said a police official asking not to be named.

Anwar Hossain, a JMJB member, went missing after a disc was stolen from the camp in the first week of May. JMJB sources had said Anwar was killed as punishment for 'stealing the disc'.

requires relocating 40,000 people of 9,000 households in the mining area in The JMJB sources had also different phases over a period of 30 claimed 44 Bangladeshis once years of the mine's lifespan. The served Laden in Afghanistan, some company says it will compensate of them as his bodyguards.

At the same time, the 6,500-hectare mine is expected to stimulate The whereabouts of most of these Afghan returnees are unknown, but they include JMB transports, rail, land and sea ports and chief Abdur Rahman, a JMJB source then said.

Villagers of the northwest region where Bangla Bhai established his reign of terror believe the militant leader had links to al Qaeda

Clampdown FROM PAGE 16

The audit committees in their Gary Lye said Asia Energy in 30 years probes will take into account bank time will earn \$7 billion, while the Bangladesh government will earn a royalty of \$1.2 billion and another \$2.8 statements, lifestyles, expenditures through credit cards, use of perbillion in corporate tax. sonal cars, overseas trips and educational expenses of the taxpay-Port Authority, the income tax division ers' children, among other things.

Meanwhile, the scrutiny of tax Case recorded files is on and identification of the FROM PAGE 1 dubious ones from Barisal. Svlhet. Police, however, could not arrest Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna anyone so far. regions is expected to be completed

Expert warned owner

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1

processes

hese people.

high quality coal.

mine

building. On the basis of this design I prepared a three dimensional image on a CD and explained to the owners that it was too dangerous to make any modification on it at its present condition." Bari said.

Sources said the owner had several engineers working for him who were led by the Managing Director of the proposed Phoenix Cancer Hospital Dr Jahangir. They initiated the entire modification work.

Three months ago Jahangir, Engineer Atiqullah and one Altaf of the Phoenix group contacted Ahsanul, the deputy chief architect of Department of Architecture in the Ministry of Public Works and Housing. When Ahsanul demanded the Rajuk approved building plan from the group to prepare a 'working drawing" they failed to produce it. Both the architect and the engineer denied having any formal agreement or contract with the

technical committee took a 45-day

extension, the company was expect-

the government delays approval up to

the monsoon, the company would not be able to initiate the physical work this

year. It means the project will be

delayed by a year because the devel-

for the country to enjoy the fruits of coal

mining. A coal-fired power plant takes

five years to start operation and the

government should speed up its

decade-old one and has already gone

through a large number of scrutiny

The contract over Phulbari is a

Asia Energy Corporation's scheme

economic activities particularly in

infrastructure in the western and

northern Bangladesh. The mine will

that the mine has 572 million tonnes of

department gave the company envi-

ronmental clearance for the open pit

The company in its study shows

On September 11, the environment

Asia Energy Bangladesh CEO

Bangladesh Railway, the Mongla

house and forcefully took him to their

torture camp at Hamirkutsa saying

that he has to face a 'trial' for being an

outlaw and for developing enmity

with his cousins -- Aynal and Afzal (both JMJB cadres) over land, the

Taking Salam to the camp Bangla

Bhai asked Salam to give his land to

his cousins or pay Tk 1 lakh fine. The

poor farmer denied both since he

inherited the land from his father and

he had no ability to pay any money.

Bangla Bhai then ordered his men to

Salam was released from the

Rajshahi police also listed some

The police sources said charges

camp after three days with his hands

15 others to request for filing their

would be pressed against Bangla

Bhai for murdering Monwar Hossain

Babu, Golam Rabbani Mukul and

complaints against Bangla Bhai.

plaintiff alleged.

beathim.

and legs broken.

Diponkor Roy.

FROM PAGE 1

2004, Bangla Bhai

directly provide 10,000 jobs.

decision considering this aspect.

He said it will take at least five years

An official of the Asia Energy said if

ing clearance in late February.

(DB) is still in the dark about the where-Phoenix Group and said they were abouts of six others who were charged merely working on a "conceptual with four counts under the Criminal drawing" of the building. Procedure Act. "I visited the building several times and warned the owners not to modify until a working drawing is complete on

Despite repeated attempts none of the Phoenix group was willing to offer the basis of building's structural any clarification on the matter.

and the customs department will

If the government approves the

plans, the company will start land

acquisition next year, mine develop-

ment in 2007 and bring in the first coal

production of 1.5 million tonnes a

year from 2008. The production will

be gradually increased to 15 million

exporting 4 million tonnes of coal to

ndia in railways through Darshana

border post, 8 million tonnes to other

countries in railways through Mongla

port and supply 3 million tonnes to

got caught in the shootout while

trying to flee. Doctors declared him

dead when he was taken to

Fatikchhari upazila health com-

plex," said the Rab account of the

guns, nine bullets and nine car-

Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for

accused in a number of cases." a

FROM PAGE 16 central bank team will soon investigate

the volatile forex market. He gave

assurance that the central bank will try

to find out the causes and inquire

about the transactions of some major

banks, the committee chairman told

On the central bank's steps to

JS body asks

tridges from the scene.

Rab recovered a rifle, three

The body was sent to the

"Avub was an arms trader and

Gazipur-based domestic market

The company aims at annually

tonnes a year by 2013.

1 killed

FROM PAGE 16

shootout.

autopsy.

reporters

Rab official said.

make another \$3 billion earning.

strength,"Ahsanul told The Daily Star.

"They showed me a certificate

According to sources the same

men from the Phoenix group with

experience in building modification

had been working on other buildings

were experts in the matter of building

modification forgetting they needed a

thorough working drawing to address

electricity, sanitary, medical gas lines,

plumbing, air conditioning and many

building. Din Mohammad, obtained an

anticipatory bail vesterday from the

High Court. The Detective Branch

Meanwhile, the owner of Phoenix

other aspects," said Ahsanul.

They always maintained they

issued by an engineer which stated

that the building had a foundation of

ten storevs." he said.

they own in the city.

Govt takes more time

Next elections

FROM PAGE 16 two assassinations. Such incidents make relationship with other countries difficult. To make sure such situation never arises, Bangladesh should strengthen its police system and improve law and order.

'Japan is assisting Bangladesh in this regard along with the European nations," said Sakurai, adding that Bangladesh is faced with challenges of terrorism and poor transportation and communication problems.

"The arrest of the JMB chief is a great achievement. But I heard that a young Awami League leader (Masudur Rahman Iman Ali) was murdered (soon afterwards). This should not happen," said the chief of the JBPL, a 10-year-old platform of about 60 Japanese MPs from both ruling and opposition parties.

He noted that in the early 90s when former president HM Ershad was put behind bars, he was afraid that he might be killed there. "We came to Dhaka along with six ministers requesting the government not to kill him," Sakurai said

important. Making the democracy take root is also very important," he said linking the two issues with each other.

"Both the ruling and opposition parties should hold consultative meetings in parliament and discuss seriously their differences to sort them out," he pointed out.

During his four-day visit Sakurai met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, some ministers, the speaker deputy speaker, Jatiya Party chief and a host of parliamentarians. "I have urged them to unite and ensure sound democracy." he said.

"Democracy has become stable and the politicians of Bangladesh have made great progress in recent years Japan believes that the country will continue to make progress in this area.'

A parliamentarian for around three decades, Sakurai finds the Bangladeshi caretaker government system as a good one. "I observed three elections. The party in power may be tempted to control election in its favour and the opposition may be tempted to criticise the results... in this regard the caretaker system is functional," he observed.

"But everything is being done by human beings. No system will be

perfect. All systems may evolve," he added

Explaining the function of the JBPL, he said this league intervenes in the areas when the public and private sector cooperation in certain areas of the two countries are not functioning their best. The JBPL at this point wants to play a role at parliament level of the two countries to improve these areas.

Sakurai added that these areas are dealing with terrorism and transportation and communication problems of Bandladesh, "The League is studying to see how the transportation and communication problems may be solved."

He believes that Bangladesh can learn a lot from the Japanese post-Second World War experiences and find out how Japan made its remarkable progress from a war-torn econ-

Japan how it made its infrastructure profitable and thereby develop its infrastructure without funding prob-

"Dealing with terrorism is very

Gulf war. official said. In one roadside bomb attack

against a US patrol near the airport, on the western outskirts of the city, six Iraqi civilians died and 13 were hurt. There was no immediate word

Bangladesh can also learn from

Saddam trial FROM PAGE 16

the sentence must be carried out within 30 days following the appeal," ussawi said.

"As for other cases (in which they have been charged), the court will only judge live defendants as those executed cannot be tried," he added.

Saddam and others have also been charged in connection with other crimes, including the use of poison gas during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq against Iraqi Kurds in Halabia. in the north of the country, and the crushing of a Shia revolt in the south of the country following the 1991

Meanwhile, at least 11 Iragis were killed Baghdad and some 30 were wounded in a series of attacks early Sunday, an interior ministry

on US casualties.

have been taken to install 17 skid/barge-mounted power plants,

the meeting was told The prime minister then asked the power ministry to minimise people's sufferings in this summer due to frequent outages and take care so that irrigation is not hampered.

The ministers urged the prime minister to expedite the government plan of installing mini power plants under private initiatives to improve power situation.

14-party

FROM PAGE 1 The opposition demand also include cancellation of the "controversial" voter list, upgrade of the old voter list, resignation of two newly appointed election commissioners, trial of ministers, MPs, leaders, administrative officers who patronised and sheltered fanatic militants and an international inquiry into the matter

Jalil also demanded removal of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra Shibir cadres appointed as enumerators and election officers.

The opposition will also stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow to protest against police atrocities on opposition men in vesterday's "peaceful siege" to the Election Commission Secretariat in

the capital "The BNP-Jamaat alliance knows very well that people have rejected them for their misrule. So the government wants to rig the upcoming national polls through

election engineering," Jalil said. About yesterday's programme, Jalil said, "Police attacked the

opposition leaders and workers without provocation when the processions were moving towards the Election Commission Secretariat peacefully. Even the

senior leaders were not spared." The AL leader claimed police arrested more than three hundred activists and injured over two hundred leaders and activists including AL leaders Abdur Razzag Professor Abu Sayeed, Habibur Rahman Siraj, Dr Hasan Mahamud and JSD President Hasanul Hague

Inu.

released?'

The meeting was informed that According to him, Iman was a the 400-500 megawatt power will be broker of land and construction materiadded to the national grid through a als: he had no need for illegal money crash programme very soon. Steps as his family owns around 50 acres of land in Savar. "Rab earlier arrested Iman in November and implicated him in an arms case. But he was released of the charges. Had he become such a dreaded criminal in only five months that Rab had to kill him?"

Iman's sister-in-law Julekha Begum claims Rab members entered their house in November. They forced every one to go out and then planted a firearm in a drawer of Iman's cupboard. "I peeped through a hole and saw the Rab men planting the gun, she narrates, "As I shouted in protest, they assaulted me."

TORTURE MARKS

Iman was badly tortured after his arrest on Tuesday, alleges Iman's family.

Jamuna bridge

FROM PAGE 16

stopped or disturbed during the investigation.

However, the railway has been asked to reduce the speed of the trains while passing over the bridge. "It is difficult to tell the actual

cause of the crack before a thorough examination of the construction pattern and original design of the bridge," said Jamilur Reza Chowdhury.

"We are yet to get any major faults which might have caused the cracks," he added.

Asked whether the overloading of vehicles and vibration of trains caused the cracks. he said in the existing capacity of the bridge there should not be any problem if trucks with 20 tonnes load cross it.

Asked about the effect of railway tracks along the bridge, Chowdhury said in the original design the provision was for metre gauge but broad gauge line was installed with certain restrictions

"We have to examine whether the restrictions were maintained," he said.

Chowdhury, who observed cracks in many of the 49 spans of the bridge during the visit, said. "Development of cracks in a bridge is not a rare case. It can happen any time.

"There is nothing to be worried because the situation is not like that the bridge will collapse following the cracks," he added.

by the end of this month, sources said.

The board earlier had directed the circle offices in its 16 tax zones to sort out the doubtful selfassessed tax returns that need comprehensive scrutiny.

The final outcome of this NBR drive against tax evasions by selfassessed taxpayers will be made public in May

Last year 8,000 tax returns from The HC directives came on across the country were on the suspect list and Tk 31 crore was January 4 in response to two writ petitions filed by the main opposition realised as additional income tax Awami League lawmakers. The with penalty from 5,000 taxpayers of petitions challenged the validity of that list, NBR sources said the unilateral decision of the chief

A taxpayer who gives false income statement has to pay an additional amount of five times his actual income tax as penalty.

As of December, the board has collected Tk 2,416 crore in income tax against the Tk 7,000 crore target for the current fiscal year, 2005-06.

Owner

FROM PAGE 16

Rahman Chowdhury also asked the investigating authorities not to disturb Din Mohammad during the period of the bail.

Senior lawyer TH Khan moved Five policewomen, who boarded the petition on behalf of Din Mohammad who had, until his the covered van with her, shut the surrender at the court yesterday, door while the woman, later identiremained elusive to the Detective fied as Shanta, groaned loudly as Branch, which is investigating the the policewomen beat her inside the van. Ten minutes later, the driver of case

The multi-storey Phoenix building in Tejgaon collapsed on February 25, killing 21 people and injuring over 50. The owner of Phoenix building, Din Mohammad and seven others of the company are facing four charges under the Criminal Procedure Act.

Visibly shaken Din Mohammad, who is around 70, was allowed to keep seated during the petition on medical grounds, his lawyer TH Khan said

As a 'goodwill gesture' towards the victims and their relatives, the company is creating a fund of Tk 50 lakh with a scheduled bank, namely 'Phoenix Building Collapse Victims Compensation Fund', the petition said

TH Khan in his submission to the bench also stated that Din Mohammad's presence outside prison will greatly help the compensation procedure taken up by the company.

with his 27 cadres and some 40 BB governor said the size of the 500others broke into Salam's thatched taka and 100-taka notes would be changed by the next month

Mushfigur Rahman said the committee members will visit the Security Printing Press to inquire if there is any loophole in the banknote printing process.

Awami League lawmaker (AL) and committee member Sayadul Haque questioned the central bank's intention n issuing a "controversial" circular on default loans. He said the BB issued the circular to waive the principal amount of the bad loans.

The committee chairman said they asked the BB governor to issue a statement to the press in this regard to clarify the controversy.

About the implementation of the committee's recommendations, the AL lawmaker said the progress is not satisfactory, which the committee chairman denied.

The AL lawmaker also criticised Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman for his absence at the meeting for a long

Bangla Bhai torture

when I saw the body of Badsha being dragged into a microbus," he continued his harrowing tale.

Bashar was forced into the vehicle, which sped through Atrai, Raninagar and Nandigram. The JMJB militants on the way picked up the Hindu youths from Jagdash camp in Atrai and began to beat up them with iron rods and hockey sticks.

The militants stopped at Bamongram in Nandigram around 11:00am and hanged Badsha's body upside down in a tree. Then they drove through Kaliganj to Raninagar.

Bangla Bhai's men were showing a machete to the two youths and threatening to kill them in no time.

Bashar suspects the vouths were slaughtered and buried somewhere along the road along the Atrai river.

He himself was beaten up as an outlaw at Shimba Bazar and at Bashbaria JMJB camp at Khabir Sheikh's house. He was then taken to Bhiti camp and tortured overnight. He recollected that he saw JMB chief Abdur Rahman, his brother Ataur Rahman Sunny and his sonin-law Abdul Awal, Habibur Rahman Hobi and Mantu Daktar at the

Parents of Sushanta and Sufal at Chamta village in Raninagar still wait for their sons. They have already heard what Bashar suspects but never believed it.

Sudhir Chandra Sarkar, Sushanta's father, said JMJB leaders Ismail Member. Delwar and Abbas Daktar abducted the two from their houses on May 11.

"The next day I went to Jagdash camp with a plea for my son's life. Abul Hossain Master of the camp assured me that Sushanta would be released the following day. I am still waiting for his return," Sudhir said in a chocked voice.

"I've heard Bangla Bhai has been arrested. If dead, please find my son's body after quizzing him where

he was dumped. I will live for the bones of my son," cried out Shufal's mother Aniali Rani. The villagers said they had never heard the youths were outlaws. But they used to lead the landless people of the locality and once

guarrelled with a landlord over his

capture of government land and

ponds a few weeks before Bangla

Bhai appeared, they added.