Women repression on rise in N-dists

ANWAR ALI, Natore

Women's repression mostly in the form of rape is on the rise in northern districts, including Natore, Rajshahi, Pabna, Dinajpur and Nilphamari

Over the last month, at least 30 women have been raped or repressed in the districts, while many incidents were unreported because of pressure from the influential quarters.

In most of the cases, the investigation officers could not make any headway due to the culprits' links with the ruling party.

On the night of March 21, four activists of the ruling BNP allegedly kidnapped a girl, 15, a labourer, from the Muladuli Railway Station in Ishwardi and two of them raped her at gunpoint in a nearby jungle. Police arrested one of the accused but failed to track down the main

On the afternoon of March 27 armed activists of the local BNP allegedly kidnapped a 22-year-old girl and her brother-in-law Waz Ali of Momrajpur from Nishchintapur char of the Padma River in Sujanagar, Pabna, They raped the girl at gunpoint before Waz Ali with his hands and legs tied. A case was filed with the Sujanagar Police Station, but none has so far been

A BNP activist allegedly raped a housewife at her house in the presence of her husband in Gurnoi village in Atrai, Naogaon, on the night of March 22. Police could not arrest anybody,

A gang of masked 'bandits'

the blockade, causing much suffer-

ing to passengers who got stuck on

According to witnesses of the

incident, IU student Nur Islam

Khokon was coming from Kushtia to

the IU campus at about 7am yester-

day on a Khulna-bound bus. When

Khokon wanted to get down from

the bus at a stop near the university

main gate, bus conductors ignored

his request and kept going until the

bus reached the Sheikhpara stop

near campus. There, following an

altercation over the matter, bus

workers attacked the students

Upon hearing about the incident.

agitated students of the university

rushed to the spot and damaged the

bus: the bus driver and helpers

however managed to flee. The

students blockaded the road there,

stopping vehicles from passing

through for as long as five hours.

They also damaged at least eight

vehicles on the road during that

the students had labourers from a

nearby area build four speed bumps

at different points across the high-

way after instantly collecting funds

for the job. During this time, four

workers of a truck were injured after

bouncing off the truck as it hit one of

At about 9am, university trea-

surer Prof. Mosharraf Hossain

along with proctor Dr Mizanur

Rahman rushed to the spot and

assured the students of extending

all help to have proper speed bumps

Later, after a meeting with IU

After blocking off the highway,

leaving at least 10 of them injured.

the road for hours.

week of March and raped three female bridal guests, including a schoolgirl. The bandits shot dead Nayan Kumar Sarkar, 24, and injured three other villagers --Shiten Shaha, Binoy Shaha and Niranjan Kumar, who came forward to drive them away.

In Pabna, some unidentified miscreants raped a girl and burnt her alive. Bhangura police recovered the charred body from a field near the railway station.

On the night of March 12, two frauds seduced a schoolgirl in Rajshahi. Police arrested Jamshed and Saidur Rahman in this connec-

On February 26, a schoolgirl was raped allegedly by JCD leader Akkas Ali in Dinajpur.

A madrassah student, aged 15, was raped at gunpoint in Dimla of Nilphamari

On March 12, Godagari police (Rajshahi) arrested the principal of Mundumala College for raping a Hindu woman.

In Nilphamari, five women were killed in 12 days since March 10.

A physician of the Harinchara Union Health Centre allegedly killed Mila Rani Roy, 25.

Housewife Rehana Begum, 25, was hacked to death allegedly by her husband Atiur Rahman in Maodabon village and Somana Khatun, 23, beaten to death also by her husband in Bagdora village in Borabari upazila

An unidentified young girl was raped and killed in Nautora village in Dimla. Police recovered the body from a canal near the Tista

authorities, Bus Malik Samity of the

locality and the police, students

lifted the roadblock at about

deaf ear to a longstanding request

by students to build speed bumps

across the stretch of the highway

running along the campus area. In

January, road accidents within a

short period of five days killed three

people and injured 48 others. And

only last week, at least 12 people

were also seriously injured in sepa-

rate accidents in front of the IU main

Officer-in-Charge of the

Bhadreswar Police Station

Debashis Chakrabarty reached the

spot with a large contingent of

police. Twenty people were

and Muslims said that

fanned the trouble.

Muslims stay together

involved in this incident.'

rested, he said. The aged Hindus

'The trouble was caused by a

oup of miscreants who wanted to

fan violence among the two commu-

nities. We resisted and resultantly,

three innocent persons were killed.

said a youth on condition of ano-

the places where Hindus and

Buddhadev Bhattacharya said, "Let

me assure you that all troublemak-

ers will be dealt with severely. We

will not spare a single person

Security was tightened in most of

West Bengal Chief Minister

Violence

FRONT PAGE 12

a virtual battlefield

The authorities have turned a

12:30pm

IU students

Clash over land in Sylhet: 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two persons were killed and 15 others injured in an armed clash between two groups of villagers over land dispute at Navanpur village in Kanalghat upazila at midnight on Thursday.

Police and local people said there has been a rivalry between the two groups -- one led by Shamsul Haque and the other by Oliur Rahman -- over a piece of land. A number of cases, filed by both the groups, are pending with court.

beat up Shamsul Haque while, he was returning home from local bazar at about 11:30 pm.

Immediately after the incident, both the rival groups locked in an armed clash. They used lethal weapons and fired gunshots, leaving Ainul Haque, 43, dead on the spot while Faizuddin succumbed to bullet wounds at the hospital

Mannan sued

FROM PAGE 12

general secretary of the district unit of BNP, had also filed nomination as independent candidate ignoring party's decision.

the case has created tension among local BNP leaders and activists.

The hearing of the case will be

FROM PAGE 12

dwellers.

did never place necessary funds for development projects. They did not give me scope to do any development work". he alleged

"Now that my party is in power, hope to complete the projects undertook to increase civic amenities and beatify the city. I have many projects to complete, including supply of sweet water, an impressive botanical garden and a good children's park". The AL government did not accept the World Bank survey report regarding supply of sweet water in the city, he alleged.

n power".

Asked about the common allega-KCC mayor for the last eleven

He also listed some of the development works, which include the Zia Hall, Collegiate Girls' School, two modern slaughter houses, three new graveyards, Wonderland children's park, three super markets and Baitun Noor the biggest mosque in South-Western region of the country. "I have done my best during the last eleven years. It is up

party and my leader Khaleda Zia 22, 1991. I was elected Mayor on March 10, 1994.

Ctg jail gate

the speed bumps.

built on the road.

thana Awami League was released on bail recently.

'As we came out, some persons introducing themselves as detective police stopped us in front of the jail gate and demanded money to avoid detention under Section 54" Rahman alleged

"After bargaining, we gave them Tk 9,000. Then another group stopped us. This time we were lucky as we incidentally came across a jail official. We told him what happened. He took us inside the jail compound and helped us come out through another gate near the Amanot Shah (R) Darghah.

When contacted, high police officials said they heard of such incidents but denied involvement of policemen in those.

They said some unscrupulous elements in the guise of detective police are involved in such incidents. Steps have been taken to nab these "criminals" who are tarnishing the image of police department.

"We heard of such incidents but did not receive any complaint. We investigated and found that some miscreants in the name of detective police are engaged in this criminal practice taking place in front of the iail gate and on the premises the court building," one police official

Detective police have nothing to do with detention of any person. It is the job of the jail superintendent or the AC (Prosecution), he said.

"Only the Jail Super and the AC (Prosecution) are provided with the

list of such criminals to be detained under Section 54 and only they enjoy the power to take steps in this regard," he said

The Jailer of Chittagong Central Jail, Belal Hossain, said he is not aware of any such extortion.

He said. "My iob is to release the accused who get bail and take care of persons inside the jail".

On an average, 30 accused are released on bail every day. Agang of 'brokers' are also involved in the criminal practice, the sources said.

Barapukuria FROM PAGE 1

PDB maintains that if this power project is not given green signal, the entire coal mining project would be jeopardised and future power neration scenario would be grim.

But the guarantee is not the only problem for the project at this stage Sources said Petrobangla, owner of the 192 million dollar Barapukuria coal mine project, has not given PDB any guarantee of coal supply for the power plant. And there is a lack of coordination between the raw material supplier Petrobangla-and the end-user of bulk of the coal--

PDB had signed agreement on July 12 last year with a consortium of three Chinese companies--CMC SEC and SEEC-- which will set up the Barapukuria Power Plant. But the agreement remains ineffective due to the government policy against Suppliers Credit scheme a non-transparent financing system often criticised by the World Bankled donors for what they say scopes

killed, 15 hurt

On Thursday night, Oliur group

The injured were admitted to Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital, Of them, condition of there are stated to be critical. Both sides filed cases with Chunarughat thana.

In the complaint, Munir also alleged that the expulsion order had not been made as per constitution of the party. The expulsion order as well as

Tayebur

projects with cooperation of the city

"The Awami League government

The 68-year old BNP leader said the KCC is now in economic crisis due to the non-cooperation by the mmediate past government. "But the crisis will be over as my party is

tion that political parties shelter mastaans (musclemen), Tayebur, years, said, "I neither have any 'mastaan' nor do I shelter them as it is beyond my political practice".

to the people to judge", he said.

He said he is confident of winning the election despite intra-party rivalry in Khulna, "I am loval to my who appointed me Mayor on May

Footpaths

thoroughfares of the city. Such dangers, which arise from largescale thefts of manhole covers, are seen existing on some very important roads. This danger becomes all the more greater, when there are heavy showers causing waterlogging, which covers up the gaps in the open manholes. There are some footbridges in

some heavily congested city areas to facilitate the movement of pedestrians from one side to the other of the street. But by and large, pedestrians hesitate to use them either for their reluctance to make efforts to climb up the stairs of such footbridges or concentrations of hawkers dealing in cheap wares and assemblies of beggars and vagabonds on the footbridges. The law-enforcement agencies sometimes conduct raids to clear such area, but as soon as they withdraw, these disturbing elements reassemble as usual.

Taking advantage of large assemblies of people on city footpaths, some unscrupulous traders gather there's some of whom are so ingenuous that the simple pedestrians are easily hoodwinked. Operators of such deceptive practices are mainly found on footpaths in certain areas. On account of these deceptions, a large number of people, manly from the villages are easily cheated losing heavy amounts of money

Thus the manifold miseries on city footpaths bedevil the life of the citizens, which tend to increase with the rapid growth of the urban popula-



Palestinian Reuters TV cameraman Ismail Khader runs for cover as Israeli troops throw grenades at a group of journalists in front of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's besieged headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah yesterday. No journalist was allowed to cover Arafat's scheduled meeting with US peace envoy Anthony Zinni.

Zinni meets Arafat

Washington, the Jewish state's

guardian ally and provider of \$3 billion in annual aid, much of its devoted to military purposes. But Israel and the Palestinians

suggested Bush's statement left Israel some leeway to pursue its offensive until US Secretary of State Colin Powell arrives in the region some time next week to try to forge a

Zinni, whose effort to forge a truce after 18 months of conflict had been stymied by the latest bloodshed, was driven to Arafat's compound in a heavily protected convoy. Palestinian officials said the two began meeting at around 1030 Israeli troops threw stun gre-

nades to turn back a convoy of foreign journalists on their way to cover the meeting. While Bush's decision to intervene suggested a glimmer of hope,

it came too late for the latest casualties of Israel's military drive into the West Bank

among 185 illegal

Greek police said yesterday that

they arrested 185 clandestine

immigrants, mainly from India,

a factory at Sparta in the southwest-

ern Peloponnesus peninsular, near

the small port of Gerakas where they

were put ashore by a boat, said

Sparta police chief, Antonis

illegal immigrants from the ship

escaped arrest and said they would

One shot dead

where some UPDF activists were

staying. Activists of UPDF returned

fire, triggering an hour-long gunfight

Subash Chakma died on the spot

On information, army personnel

Later, police recovered the body

rushed to the spot. Sensing pres-

ence of army men, members of both

of Shubash Chakma from the spot

and sent it to the hospital. They also

sent the injured persons to the

Meanwhile, Dighinala police

recovered the body of a

rickshawpuller, Amir Hossain, 35.

vesterday from a small hill. Amir was

A case has been filed with

hunger strike' organised by the

AL after the alliance government

assumed power. The party called a

half-day hartal in Dhaka city on

December 2 protesting scrapping of

the special security law for Sheikh

Hasina. It called a half-day country-

wide hartal on January 9 protesting

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina in a

statement yesterday called upon

the people to make today's hartal a

She said the BNP-Jamaat gov-

ernment is trying to snatch people's

democratic right to observe hartal,

personnel will remain deployed in

searching vehicles for arms in the

Over 5,000 police and BDR

Law enforcers were seen

hold rally and bring out procession.

the city during the hartal hours.

city yesterday.

increase in fuel prices.

This is the third hartal called by

missing since Thursday night.

Dighinala thana in this regard.

Hartal today

while two others, identified as Shubhu Chakma, 40, and Ratan

Papadakis was confident that no

Naval patrol boats were search-

ıts are beir

Pakistan and Bangladesh.

ing for the smuggling ship.

between the two sides.

Chakma, 30, injured.

hospital.

FROM PAGE 1

the groups fled the scene.

Bangladeshis

held in Greece

immigrants

AFP, Athens

The im

be expelled

FROM PAGE 1

Israeli military sources confirmed two Palestinians dead in Nablus saying they were combatants. The army said a soldiers was wounded. Three soldiers died in Jenin refugee camp on Thursday. "Enough is Enough"

The storms of violence cannot

go on," Bush said in his statement on Thursday. "Enough is enough." The UN Security Council later

endorsed the Powell mission in a 15-0 vote and demanded Israel withdraw from Palestinian cities. It called for a "meaningful ceasefire". Bush also called on the

Palestinians to stop suicide bomb-

ings in their revolt against Israeli

occupation and criticised Arafat, who has been penned up in Ramallah since December. Bush spoke shortly after Israel sent tanks into the divided city of Hebron. Troops have now reoccupied all West Bank cities except Jericho, along with several

towns and villages.
Arafat said he accepted Bush's

Editor of Kushtia

Police on Thursday arrested the

editor of a local daily following a

Sakhawat Ibne Moyeen Chowdhury, editor of The Daily

Sikol, was picked up by police from

his house in the town where he lay ill

item regarding the alleged corrupt

practices and illegal activities of

Nezarat Deputy Collector (NDC)

Md. Masumur Rahman was pub-

lished in the March 31 issue of the

regard against the editor and pub-

lisher of the daily in the first class

magistrate's court of Kushtia on

warrant for Sakhawat's arrest and

police arrested the ailing editor from

Sakhawat's condition deteriorated

further and he was taken to Kushtia

General Hospital where he is cur-

Organised gangs

The ghat owners kept the bikes in their possession for two to three days,

when they also change the brands

routes and do not use one route for

Satkhira, gave a different story. He said a section of dealers in border

districts are involved in it to get tax

to check smuggling, he said.

Police raid

people's wrath.

Ctg AL

FROM PAGE 12

repressive activities.

It is the duty of BDR, not of police

FROM PAGE 1 Shara Khatun without any allegation

plan to eliminate Awami League

through killing, repression and

arrest of party leaders and activists.

But the fascist government will not

be able to separate AL from the

people. Rather, it will be victim of

to refrain from such undemocratic

activities. She also urged the people

to build up resistance against such

Pahartali, Panchlaish, Agrabad and

leaders and workers of Awami

Thursday night but could not arrest

CMP sources said about 1,000

police and paramilitary BDR would

be deployed in the city today to

maintain law and order during the

Police raided the houses of 31

Kalurghat areas in the evening.

She called upon the government

"This is as part of a government

The gangs frequently change their

The Superintendent of Police of

The day following the arrest

On April 3, the court issued a

The NDC filed a case in this

According to the court, a news

daily arrested

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

court order.

newspaper

his Talipara house

rently under treatment.

FROM PAGE 12 depending on the condition.

and decorations

long for their security.

drawal from West Bank towns as a prelude to achieving a ceasefire and peace talks. A statement by the Palestinian

call for an immediate Israeli with-

leadership, carried by the official WAFA news agency, also underscored the importance of a Saudisponsored Arab plan offering normal relations with Israel in return for full withdrawal from Arab lands captured in 1967. "From our side, we are commit-

ted to the declaration of President Bush without conditions," the state-A senior Palestinian source said

Powell spoke by telephone to Arafat late on Thursday, but gave no details. Powell also spoke to Sharon on Thursday. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon

Peres welcomed Bush "joining in the effort to bring about a ceasefire with the Palestinians in order to bring about the resumption of the peace process, which is a basic Israeli interest"

Jt border patrolling

by Indo-Bangla troops soon

AFP, India India and Bangladesh will soon join forces to patrol their porous borders to prevent the movement of sepa-

ratists, officials said yesterday. "There is a shortfall of security forces along the border and so the need for a joint patrolling of the frontiers," Gurbachan Jagat, director general of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) told reporters.

Jagat said Bangladesh had 'endorsed" the move for joint patrolling of the 4,000-kilometre (2,500 mile) border between the two coun-

The BSF chief discussed the idea with his counterpart Rezaul Haider, director-general of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), during a visit to Dhaka Last April, relations were strained

after a bloody border skirmish left 16 Indian and three Bangladeshi troops "Both sides have now adopted a

forgive-and-forget policy with the relationship between the two countries on the positive side," Jagat "We have invited BDR soldiers

and officers to India for training as we have some very good training institutions here.

Bangladeshis burn copies of far Eastern Economic Review in HK

REUTERS, Hong Kong

A group of Bangladeshis vesterday burned copies of the Far Eastern Economic Review magazine to condemn an article describing the mainly Muslim country as a lad of rising fundamentalism and religious intolerance. Carrying a Bangladeshi flag.

about ten demonstrators marched to the building housing the Hong Kong-based magazine to protest the article published in its latest They tried to hand in a protest letter with 400 signatures, but

representatives of the magazine were not available to receive it because of a public holiday. The protesters then burned two copies of the magazine just outside

the building. Bangladesh banned the maga-League and Chhatra League zine's latest issue earlier this week.

The article said "rising fundamentalism and religious intolerance are threatening secularism and moderate Islam" in Bangladesh, adding the country had "militant groups with links to international terrorist groups."

Fundamental rights

other agencies for questioning. Only Omor, the NGO activist, was

Interestingly, the CMM did not record the reasons for giving

Subsequently, these three accused were allegedly tortured

Then, two of these tortured persons-- Mohiuddin and Bahauddin-- were not produced before the CMM's Court in due time. Instead, they were sent directly to jail. These two were also kept under remand for extra few days, which is beyond any legal jurisdiction.

At the jail, all the four were deprived of their constitutional right to meet their lawyers or even

family members. The government also violated

court order to produce Mohiuddin and Bahauddin before the court. The government could not rame any specific charge against Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir and Omor Tarek Chowdhury even after detaining them for nearly

Shahriar Kabir's case

Shahriar Kabir was arrested on lovember 22 under Section 54. When the government failed to bring specific charges against him, it applied the 1974 Special Powers Act to detain him. After 16 days, a sedition case was filed against him. According to Shahriar, he was mentally tortured while he was on remand.

Though he was taken on police remand, he was actually kept under the Joint Interrogation Cell comprising persons from three intelligence agencies.

Shahriar was refused bail four times and though he was a well known writer and columnist, he was kept in jail with common inmates. A long-time crusader against anti-liberation forces and the politics of Jamaat-e-Islami, Shahriar was also refused meeting with lawyers and family members in jail. He was finally released on High Court bail after 59 days. Bahauddin Nasim's case

Bahauddin Nasim was arrested on February 28 under Section 54 but soon afterwards he was shown arrested in a foreign currency smuggling case. Few days later, he was shown arrested in a vear-old case with Madaripur

thana. On March 11, a sedition case was filed against him. He was taken on a five-day police remand, but was kept for seven days in the cantonment. When he was produced in court, Bahauddin said he was brutally tortured, which was visibly evi-

His lawyer says, "While he was in police and army custody, security forces tied his hands and feet and covered his head with a bag, hung him upside down from what was felt like a ceiling fan, and soun was felt like a ceiling fan, and spun him round. They beat him severely with glass bottles filled with hot water on his buttocks, knees, elbows, hips and genitals. He also says he was given electric shocks."

This happened though the court specifically instructed police that he should not be mistreated in

Article 33 (2) of the Constitution and Section 54 of CrPC do not permit detention at any place other than police station.

The government lawyers however claimed that he was not tortured. A medical board was board in its repo said it found nothing wrong with Bahauddin except "mild ache at dorsal spine.

Nasim's family claimed that the medical board consisted of doctors from pro-BNP Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB). The High Court later ordered formation of another medical canceling the one. What is its status?

Nasim was also refused meeting with lawyers and family members. Even after a High Court order in this regard on March 10, the government did not allow such meeting till March 13. He told his family that he is being kept in condemned cell (where only convicts sentenced to death are

Meantime, the High Court on Wednesday instructed the gov-

ernment attorney to inform it, through affidavit, where Bahauddin was actually kept for seven days when he was placed

on five days' police remand. Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir's case

Mahiuddin Khan Alamgir was arrested on March 15 under Section 54. He was placed on four days' police remand on two occasions. He has shown arrested in a case for attempted murder in Katchua in 2001 in which he was actually not an accused.

In the remand order, specific directives were given to keep Mohiuddin with police, not to hand him over to the Joint Interrogation Cell and not to physical torture

But he was kept with police for seven days. Instead of sending him to court after the remand, which is the law, Mohiuddin was sent directly to jail on one month's detention and the detention was shown effective retrospectively from March 16.

On March 24, Mohiuddin testified before the court that he was brutally tortured by three masked men who beat him with bamboo sticks and glass bottles filled with hot water. He said he was beaten in his buttocks, feet and other private parts of his body, and was not allowed to take medicine for diabetes. He claimed that hot-

On Mar 30, the High Court issued a showcause notice on the government asking it to explain why his detention would not be declared null and void. It also ordered the government to produce him before court within 15 days to see if he has been tor-

He was also deprived of the right to meet his lawyers and family members till the High Court issued an order in this regard. An Awami League parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid Advocate went to Dhaka central jail to meet him. The jail authorities did not allow them to meet him.

Till date, no specific charge has been brought against him. As a result, the SPA has been applied detáin him.

The torture and degrading

treatment have been done not only in violation of their fundamental human rights guaranteed under Article 35 (5) the Constitution but also in gross violation of the minimum international norms and standard.

tion have been complaining for and 167 of the CrPC.

ted misuse of these sections and said these should be amended. In November 29, 1998, the

FROM PAGE 1

The jail authorities said the BCL men tried to resist the search operation that led to chase and

Later, the authorities shifted Masum to another cell and started the process of trial.

denied reports of any such hunger

Surgery machine

of the amount of funds required, the directorate will forward our request to the ministry for approval, which may take months before the machine can be put into operation again," a doctor at the NIO said.

The German-made machine was

purchased at Tk 21.35 lakh to provide patients with modern treatment for blindness Shipped by Universal Traders in October 1997 and put into operation

on July 2, 1998, the machine had been used until July 19 last year. The argon laser exposure of the also available at the Combined Military Hospital and the BIRDEM Hospital in the city, is very

expensive. Each exposure at the

NIO costs Tk 1.000, while similar

treatment at the BIRDEM is even more expensive, experts said. Dr Giasuddin of NIO said, "The laser is used to treat ocular diseases like retinopathy and hypertensive retinopathy. Its unique characteristic is that the laser rays can be focused to burn out development of any diseased area no matter how

small it may look on the retina. The argon laser machine is mainly used to treat blocked blood vessels in the retina, remove oedema or formation of water in the retina that often intercepts eyesight and burn out the retina's ischemic area. The machine is a whole lot more useful for diabetic patients.

The development of the argon laser is the key element that has made laser eye surgery in the retina possible. The machine uses argor

which affect eyesight.
The cool laser the machine emits

does not heat up the surrounding air or surfaces. Instead, a very tightly focused beam of ultraviolet light is emitted from the source. The upper ayer of the surface absorbs the ultraviolet light that burns out the specific region without harming any other areas in the retina.

Hasına

FROM PAGE 12

Hasina said. She urged the people to stand united to put an end to massive torture and repression being perpetrated under the present government The former prime minister said

"During our five-year tenure, we

might not have been able to wipe out

terrorism, but we had contained it greatly. But within six months of the present government's rule, the entire society is in the grip of terror-The present rulers have ruined the national economy, democratic institutions and education system

through massive politicisation and corruption, she alleged. Former vice-chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Qadri who is president of the SCP, said this government is trying to ruin the

university through politicisation and nepotism. Secretary General of the SCP Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin urged the government to 'refrain from politicising' health sector to ensure neces-

gas when lased and produces light n the ultraviolet range. The rays or the beams produced are used to sary healthcare for the masses. burn out the areas in the retina.

water-filled bottle was pushed through his rectum.

Tarek Omor Chowdhury, a Deputy Director of Proshika, was arrested along with his peon on March 11 under Section 54. No specific charge could be framed against them till their release on Wednesday. Due to lack of charges, the SPA was also applied

Various human rights organisa-

long about the misuse of Sections Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and Attorney General AF Hasan Arif on several occasions admit-

High Court issued a show cause notice asking the government why sections 54 and 167 would not be declared anti-constitutional. However, the writ on this did not proceed further.

Ctg jail

They said prison guards recovered contraband items during a search in the cell of former BCL president of City College unit, Didarul Alam Masum, at about 10.30 am and then raided the cells of other BCL leaders and workers.

counterchase.

The BCL press release added that more than 50 BCL leaders and workers observed hunger strike protesting the "torture" on Masum. The prison authorities, however