# Chechen rebels JCD JU unit

Chechnya if he wanted to save the

hostages' lives - demands that

were confirmed by Russian offi-

The rebels freed around 150

hostages soon after taking over the

theatre, including up to 20 children

and a number of Muslims. They

released a handful more yesterday

morning including three children

parliament and entertainer who

was taking part in negotiations, told

Interfax news agency: "When I

asked them to free others, they

said they had already let the three

smallest ones go and would

Another negotiator, liberal

deputy Irina Khakamada, headed

to the Kremlin to see Putin after

meeting the guerrillas. It was not

clear what message she was

querrillas described themselves as

One Russian official said the

suicide death squad, or

'smertniki." Police said there were

up to 700 people still in the theatre.

a modern building about three

Austrian ambassador Franz

The attack presented Putin with

He has taken an uncompromis-

his sternest test since becoming

president more than two years ago.

ing stand on the conflict in largely-

Muslim Chechnya on Russia's

southern fringes, where the

Kremlin has twice launched mili-

rights abuses against civilians in

the devastated province have died

down since Putin threw Moscow's

backing behind the US-led global

war on terrorism following last

year's September 11 attacks in the

groups Putin might be accusing.

Russia amid the hostage crisis.

It was unclear what foreign

US President George W Bush,

"The president expressed his

meanwhile, telephoned Putin early

yesterday to express support for

thoughts and prayers and solidar-

ity with the Russian people," a

senior administration official told

reporters traveling with Bush as he

campaigned in Charlotte, North

Carolina for fellow Republicans

ahead of the November 5 elec-

August 20 this year.

After the hearing, Magistrate

Following the order, the defense

Selina Akhter rejected the bail peti-

tion and placed him on a three-day

lawyers submitted another petition

seeking stay of the remand order,

saying that they would file a criminal

revision with higher court against the

order. The court rejected the petition.

Corruption (BAC) filed a graft case

with the Ramna police station accus-

ing Saber for attempting to embezzle

Tk 92.43 crore through a contract

with a foreign company for construc-

tion of a five-star hotel on a 2.32 acre

picked up by army from Zia

nternational Airport on Sunday night.

He was scheduled to fly to London in

of AL leader and former health minis-

ter Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim ended

yesterday. He will be produced

AL urges army

The former agriculture minister

said police are not accompanying

the troops in their drive against

criminals. Yet, the government is

claiming that army has been called

Matia urged the army to remain

The AL leader demanded of the

government a declaration on the

number of licensed and unlicensed

Matia recalled that many notorious

She criticised the government for

criminals were nabbed and tried

during AL's five-year (1996-2001) rule.

arresting AL leaders under Section

54 of CrPC (Criminal Procedure

Code) and "implicating them in

and Mirza Azam, city AL office

secretary Abdul Haq Sabuj, Jubo

League joint secretary Jahangir

Kabir Nanak and some other lead-

ers of AL's front organisations also

addressed the rally, chaired by city

AL leader Quamrul Islam.

AL lawmakers Dr Abdur Razzak

fabricated cases".

out to assist the civil administration.

careful to retain its good image.

arms seized by the army so far.

Meanwhile, the three-day remand

a Singapore Airlines flight.

before court today (Friday).

FROM PAGE 12

Saber Hossain Chowdhury was

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Anti-

Western accusations of human

tary pushes to crush separatists.

Cede said the Western captives

included Australians. Austrians.

Britons Germans and Americans

miles southeast of the Kremlin.

release no one else."

But losif Kobzon, a member of

and a Briton in his 50s or 60s.

cials at the scene.

been sitting here for 10 hours and your government has done nothing to secure your release.' The main thing is that troops must be pulled out or they will start shooting peo-

Earlier, Shkolnikova told Reuters, also by mobile phone: "A huge amount of explosives have been laid through the place."

She said explosives had been laid in passageways and on seats and even attached to hostages

Officials said some 60 foreign-

ers were among the captives. Meanwhile, ITAR-TASS news

agency quoted a police official as saying Chechen rebels have shot a woman dead. But Russian officials from a

crisis unit dealing with the hostage taking did not officially confirm the report, ITAR-TASS said, and one of the rebels, who said his name was

Khasmamat, told Moscow Echo radio "none of the hostages have been harmed" Security sources quoted by

ITAR-TASS said the woman had heen shot late on Wednesday shortly after the rebels broke into the theatre.

The rebel website kavkaz.org said earlier that a woman was shot late on Wednesday as she tried to enter the building, with the rebels taking her for a security agent.

RIA Novosti news agency quoted a high-ranking police source as saying a woman hostage had indeed been killed. The details were not immediately available, the official said.

President Vladimir Putin, who rose to power on pledges three years ago to clamp down on the decade-old rebellion on Russia's southern fringe and boost public security, said the main task was to secure the hostages' safe release. He said information from the

rebels' representatives confirmed that "the terrorist act was planned

Contacts with the hostagetakers appeared erratic at best.

The Chechen news portal www.kavkaz.org reported what it said was a statement by the attackers' commander, Movsar Barayev. "There's more than a thousand people here. No one will get out of here alive and they'll die with us if there's any attempt to storm the building," the Web Site quoted him

He called on Putin to stop the war and pull his troops out of

Ramna police station again on

Wednesday morning. From there he

was taken to the DB headquarter in

me again and interrogated me from

7pm on Wednesday to 1:30am

blindfolded. The interrogators said

have links with notorious criminal

Kala Jahangir and rented my house

Interrogation Cell (JIC) interrogated

him though the court directed that

only the investigation officer of the

and humiliation in my life." He

appealed to the court to pass an

order so that nobody else faces such

the courtroom when Saber's wife,

sister, brother, relatives and well-

wishers broke down in tears during

the hearing. A large number of party

workers and lawvers also crowded

the courtroom and the court pre-

charge to bring the situation under

court, Ramna police also submitted a

forwarding report proposing a deten-

tion from Saber and he needs to be

detained under the Special Powers

four separate petitions for his bail,

return of his wife's articles seized by

army, first class division in jail and for

proper treatment in jail. The prosecu-

Mamun-Al Rashid fixed October 29

for hearing of the bail petition and

ordered for sending Saber to Dhaka

Central Jail. He also directed the jail

a First Class Magistrate's Court

where he was shown arrested in the

case filed in connection with the

Azad submitted a petition seeking a

seven-day remand for interrogation

in connection with the case. He also

submitted a forwarding report in

which he mentioned that Saber's

direct involvement in the attack on

the motorcade was proved during

for the sake of gathering more infor-

mation about other persons involved

of the remand prayer, the defense

lawyers said Saber was not a FIR-

named accused in the case filed with

in the attack," the report added.

"He (Saber) should be remanded

Pleading for bail and cancellation

investigation.

CID Inspector Md. Abul Kalam

attack on Khaleda's motorcade.

Later. Saber was produced before

authorities for his proper treatment.

After the hearing, Magistrate

tion side opposed the bail petition.

Act 1974", the report said.

Police resorted to a mild baton-

While producing Saber before the

"We got some important informa-

The defense lawvers submitted

case would do the interrogation.

"repression and harassment".

this was done to hide their identity.

/esterday (Thursday)

"They blindfolded and handcuffed

"Again I wanted to know why I was

'They then asked me whether I

He told the court that the Joint

"I never faced such harassment

A gloomy scene was created in

Saber charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An 81-member committee of the BNP-backed Jatyiatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Jahangirnagar University (JU) unit, was formed vesterday with Parvez Mallick and Harunur Rashid as president and general secretary respectively.

The committee was formed at a council of the organisation on the

The committee included Nazmul Hasan Ovi, organising secretary; Monirul Hasan Royal, senior vice president: Shahidul Islam Jewel, Abu Naveem Mostafa, Faisal Uddin David, Monju Khan Rana, Rabiul Islam Rabi and Debabrata Pal, vice

Convenor of the JCD central committee Shahabuddin Laltu was chief guest at the council and legislators Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, Salauddin Babu and Abul Khaver were special quests.

## Four to die

FROM PAGE 12 Maram Ali, Abul Hashim, Nazrul Islam (Verai), Suruj Ali, Abdus Sobhan and Bahram Ali -- were acquitted. Of them, Bahram had died during the trial.

The prosecution case in brief states that on March 27, 1996, Chand Miah and his accomplices prevented the earth-filling work of an under-construction road at Megargaon under Kotwali Thana in Sylhet and beat up the labourers. When some of the local people came forward to settle the dispute, the accused persons also beat them up, fatally injuring Haji Abad Ullah who later died at the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Faruque Ahmed, eldest son of the deceased, filed a case with the Kotwali Police Station in this connection. After investigation, police submitted chargesheet against 10 persons.

Additional Public Prosecutor Abdul Hamid conducted the prosecution while advocate Nazmul Islam, advocate ASM Abdul Mumin and others represented the defendants.

## Army raid FROM PAGE 12

Some JCD and BCL leaders and many of the general students told this correspondent they feared army raid on the campus and the halls anytime. They do not move on the campus without keeping their identity cards with them even in daytime, they said.

Usual gatherings of activists of various student bodies at the Teacher- Student Centre (TSC) and other places on the campus were Earlier, four persons were not seen in the last few days.

arrested in connection with the case Army personnel have set up a and they were released on bail, they camp at the DU gymnasium. They usually move out after the evening Moreover, they said, the comand patrol the campus till late night. plainant of the case mentioned in the However, they did not arrest any FIR that 100 to 150 local activists of one till vesterdav

Awami League, Chhatra League and Meanwhile, the JCD leadership Jubo League had attacked Khaleda's is facing a crisis in the process of revitalisation of the organisation They pleaded that some unidentibecause many of its leaders and fied miscreants attacked the motoractivists went into hiding following cade of Khaleda Zia at Savar on June the army crackdown. 17 last year, but the case was filed on

JCD leaders said they have already rescheduled the councils of some district units. "This is because of many of our district unit leaders and activists have now gone into hiding,"one leader said.

## CNG plan

FROM PAGE 12

to deposit Tk 25 lakh, which is refundable, for purchase of the lands so that those are not used for other purposes, the sources added. A top official of the Rupantarita

Prakritik Gas Limited, a concern of the energy ministry, said the crisis would be overcome 'very shortly'. He however did not specify any time

## Saifur

FROM PAGE 12 tion pledge," he said.

Dr Yunus said the slide in law and order and corruption are two major hurdles. "If we cannot improve the law and order and put corruption on a

leash, the country will sink in a black Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud pointed to the peculiarity of the country's banking system saying the way it works does not follow any book. "Access liquidity in the banking

system is increasing, but still the interest rate is not coming down." Talking about audit on different ministries. M Hafizuddin Khan. chairman of the Public Expenditure Review Commission, said, "A vear passed after the general election, but the public accounts committee has

not vet been formed." Hafizuddin questioned the government initiative to set up a 'youth bank' saying the same sort of bank, named Karmasangsthan Bank,

exists in the country. Professor Abu Ahmed of Dhaka University, former president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Latifur Rahman, member of Public Expenditure Review Commission Binayak Sen, members of Bank Reforms Committee Quazi Abdul Mazid and Anisul Islam Mahmud, and Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, among others, also



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receives a letter of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi from his special envoy to Shin Sakurai during a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office in the city yesterday.

Officers Housing State (DOHS)

residence of Giasuddin Mamun, a close friend of BNP Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, This however could not be independently confirmed.

As many as 155 people including 12 listed and 143 suspected criminals were arrested on the eighthday of the 'Operation Clean Heart' across the country. Twenty-three firearms and 92 rounds of ammunition were also recovered. However, till yesterday none of the 23 toplisted criminals was arrested. Five of the top 23 criminals arrested before the ongoing crackdown are now in the Dhaka Central Jail while another was recently gunned down in the In Savar, army recovered five

nine-shooters along with 370 rounds of bullet from Panna Textile Mills owned by former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Mockbul Army Chief Lt. Gen. Hasan

Mashhud Chowdhury visited different army camps in Bhola, Barisal, Patukhali, Jessore and Khulna The army chief along with the

general officer commanding (GOC) of the Jessore Cantonment went to Barisal and met the deputy inspector general (DIG), deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police at the Barisal Circuit House

Army searched the Sher-e-Bangla Road residence of opposition AL lawmaker Sheikh Helaluddin at Sonadanga Wednesday night. However, no arrest was made.

Meanwhile, army arrested a cousin of Sheikh Helaluddin. Masum Biswas, in the early hours of Wednesday from his house. He was admitted to the Khulna Medical College Hospital late yesterday afternoon as he fell sick at the army camp at the Khulna divisional sta-

In Chittagong, army nabbed 10 more people in the port city and in the district vesterday BNP-backed chairman of

Baharchhara Union Parishad of Banshkhali thana Mahfuzul Haq, Sitakunda thana Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President Abul Bashar

Bhuiyan and Satkania thana BNP leader Abdul Munnaf were among the arrestees. Meanwhile, the two AL-backed

ward commissioners Haii Nurul Hag of Bokshirhut ward and Mohammad Hossain Hiron of Pahartoli ward were placed on a two-day police remand each yesterday.

The ward commissioners were hauled up on Wednesday for their alleged involvement in criminal activities

In Narayanganj town, army arrested 17 people yesterday. Shadat Ali, Monwar, Kalachand Mia, Firu Mia, Shafiullah, Jamal Hossain and Badal Mia were arrested from Bandar area. Monwar and Firu are listed criminals. Meanwhile, army released

former municipal commissioner Khwaja Ahsanullah and Mohammed Shiplu, an undergraduate business administration student and member of the Narayangani Club, Wednesday night. The two along with three others were arrested from the Narayanganj

Special envoy meets PM

# Japan's full support for dev assured

Appreciating the progress achieved in various sectors in last one year of the coalition government, visiting special envoy of the Japanese Prime Minister Shin Sakurai has assured of his country's full support for socioeconomic development of Bangladesh.

Shin Sakurai, also member of the House of Councilors of Japan, gave the assurance when he made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office at noon Khaleda Zia gave him a compre-

hensive brief about the progress achieved in various sectors, including primary and mass education, education of women, poverty alleviation and economic reforms.

Sakurai, who visited Bangladesh on various occasions in the past and is involved in the development pro-

cess of Bangladesh in many ways. reaffirmed that Japan would always extend cooperation to Bangladesh in its efforts to consolidate democracy and accelerate the nation-building The special envoy of the

Japanese prime minister is here along with a delegation to take part in a month-long celebration of "Japan Month" arranged by the Japanese Embassy in Dhaka, marking 30 years of diplomatic relations between Japan and Bangladesh. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hoped

that Japan as a close friend of Bangladesh would invest here on a larger scale, either independently or jointly taking advantage of the investment friendly policy offered by her government.

She told the envoy that her government would provide special facilities to Japan in EPZs.

# 1 more death in army custody Army probe

FROM PAGE 1

In addition, monitoring teams are also on the move to inspect army raids and interrogation processes. An instruction has also been

circulated to all army units for either hand-over to police or release of the arrested within a few hours of arrest. Earlier the home ministry gave

the army a guideline under which the teams can detain a person for a maximum of 12 hours. "There has been enough mis-

haps; there should not be any more negative incidents to damage the image of army," commented a wellplaced government source. Meanwhile, the defence forces

were discussing formation of a joint media cell with representatives from the defence ministry, the army, the BDR, the navy and the police. However, it is not certain if this cell would soon come into

In another development, the army has started working on a website on the Operation Clean Heart. The website, expected to be launched on Saturday, will have daily updates on arrests and arms

recovery, sources said.
Nearly 20,000 personnel

belonging to defence forces began the Operation Clean Heart from October 17 in the backdrop of alarming rise incriminal activities

## 11 get life-term FROM PAGE 12

jail custody while the rest still at large. Judge Didar Ali Fakir also fined

the accused Tk 10,000 each, in default, to suffer six more years' imprisonment. According to the prosecution, Jubo League leader Anwar Hossain

Anu was gunned down by the accused at 10 pm on December 22, 1998 at TB Road in the city. Victim's younger brother Nazrul Islam Babu filed a murder case with

Khulna police station the following The investigation officer (IO) of

the case submitted charge sheet on September 2, 2000. Charges against the accused

were framed by the court on September 20, 2001.

government to ensure that the army

operation is carried out within the rule

of law and with respect for human

of Section 54 of Criminal Procedure

Code (CrPC), which allows the police

on suspicion.

Code.

Amnesty also questioned the use

"The legal status of the army's

involvement in 'Operation Clean

Heart' is not clear. Many of the detain-

ees have been arrested under

Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure

army -- often involving torture -- the

detainees are handed over to the

police who then decide whether to

release or hold them in custody for

army crackdown have been

released, but hundreds of them are

believed to be remaining in detention.

Amnesty expressed concern over

The human rights organisation

the remand of Saber Hossain

Chowdhury and Sheikh Fazlul Karim

also sought guarantee from the

Many of the arrested in the recent

Following interrogation by the

# Amnesty concern

death. The dead bodies were not handed over to relatives, fuelling doubts about the official postmortem results, the statement said. Some detainees are possible

'prisoners of conscience'. Two AL leaders -- Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, arrested on October 20 and Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, an AL MP and former health minister, on October 21, were held initially incom-

Amnesty said no details about the possible charges against them were made public, and it fears they may be detained solely for their peaceful opposition to the government.

Amnesty urged the government to make sure that all those detained for peaceful political activities are released immediately and uncondi-In the past, the government filed

and removal from active politics, the statement added. "It is every government's duty to ensure law and order for the benefit of all citizens, but this cannot be

criminal cases against opposition

politicians, leading to their detention

imposed at the expense of basic rights of the people." Amnesty said. 'Operation Clean Heart' is the

government's response to continued deterioration in law and order, Amnesty said.

At the same time, it urges the

government that they will not be subjected to torture or maltreatment. Amnesty has faxed appeals to the

further interrogation.

the statement continued.

prime minister, the home minister, the chief of army staff and the inspector general of police.

# **Bangladesh-SA 2nd Test**

Gary Kirsten, there was the chance that Gibbs would drop down to four - where many feel he is better suited in the five day game - while the two left handers open the innings.

This in turn would allow possibly South Africa's best batsman, Jacques Kallis, to return to the Number three position in the batting line up.

"I wouldn't want to mess about with the opening partnership," countered Pollock. "It depends on how the innings is developing, but we might move Martin van Jaarsveld up the order. But we won't change the openers, we have to get the platform right.

Pollock missed the first Test in East London through an injured knee. Even though his side was surprisingly dragged into the fourth day by some stubborn Bangladeshi resistance, Pollock said he was still quite happy with the performance.

"I tried to keep myself out of it but from what I saw I felt they did

"They took the 20 wickets and they had to contend with a very strong wind. Bowling in those conditions is never easy. "But we're in a no-win situation.

If we win well, so what? If we don't win well, questions will be asked. "We just have to bowl the ball in the right place and get big runs."

**SQUADS** South Africa: Shaun Pollock (captain), Gary Kirsten, Herschelle Gibbs, Jacques Kallis, Makhaya Ntini, Ashwell Prince,

Graeme Smith, David Terbrugge, Martin van Jaarsveld, Mark Boucher, Claude Henderson, Mornantau Hayward, Alfonso Thomas Bangladesh: Khaled Mashud, Kazi Bashar, Mohammed Al

Sahariar, Tushar Imran, Khaled Mahmud, Monjurul Islam, Tahla Jubaer, Mohammed Rafique, Tapash Baisya, Alok Kapali, Javed Belim, Hannan Sarker, Sanuar Hossain, Islam Khan, Anwar Hossain Umpires: Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe) and Daryl Harper (Australia)

# Hartal passes

pro-hartal pickets allegedly smashed windowpanes of two human haulers at Fakirer Pool. One bomb exploded at the fag end of the hartal hours near Ramna Bhaban although no-one was hurt.

The Dhaka City unit of the AL and the party's youth front Jubo League jointly called the six-hour hartal in the capital to protest the arrests of two Awami League leaders during the ongoing anti-crime army crack-

Army picked up opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury and AL lawmaker and Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim from the Zia International Airport and Gulshan residence on Sunday and Monday last respectively. They were shown arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Since early hours of yesterday police in riot gears sealed off all the entry points to Bangabandhu Avenue and to the AL central office by putting up a makeshift barbedware fence.

However, former agriculture minister Matia Chowdhury sneaked into the party office even before the policemen could placed the roadblocks. Throughout the hartal hours till midday no other central AL leader turned up at the party headquarters. As the day progressed, only a handful of city AL and Jubo League

leaders and two lawmakers, Dr Abdur Razzak and Mirza Azam, could get inside defying the police bars.

At least two young leaders of the newly-floated young women front of the AL Jubo Mohila League sustained injuries as police charged patons on a procession they were leading towards the AL central office at 10:30am. Police forced the processionists to retreat to the Zero Point and asked them to leave the

A cracker was hurled at police after they intercepted a group of activists from entering the Bangabandhu Avenue just five minutes before midday.

The handful of AL. city AL and Jubo League leaders who eventually gathered in front of the AL central office finally ended the day's programme by holding a rally in the street. They carried portraits of Saber and Selim demanding their immediate release.

Shopping malls on and around the Bangabandhu Avenue remained closed, as it was a tension-prone area during the hartal hours. But in absence of pickets, shops and business houses went about their business guite normally.

Army personnel were deployed at different important intersections of the capital during the six-hour

## Ex-PSC chief FROM PAGE 12

In the case, filed with Kafrul thana in the city, it was alleged that Prof Mostafa Chowdhury, Farhad Hossain Khan, Kabirul Alam Khan and Sharfuddin Ahmed Khan were involved in illegally allowing Tarun Kanti Bala to participate in the 20th BCS examination under the freedom ahters' children quota. Producing fake documents, Tarun had submitted papers showing him as a

The four accused also helped Tarun get the post of executive engineer (probationer) in Bangladesh Railway, the FIR said. Bureau of Anti-corruption (BAC)

freedom fighter although he was only

about five during the Liberation War

(his date of birth is 20-10-1966).

Inspector S M M Akhter Hamid Bhuiyan filed the case against Prof Mostafa Chowdhury and four others on December 11 last year. The investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted a charge sheet against Chowdhury and seven others on April 9. The IO included the

In the charge sheet, 25 people were shown as prosecution wit-

names of Ahad Chowdhury and two

others in the charge sheet as he found

charges against them during investi-

All the accused, now on bail, were present in the court during the hearing. Special PP Fazlur Kahman Khan appeared for the state while advocates Sahara Khatun, Jahangir Hossain Selim, M Saiwar Hossain and Mohammad Habibur Rahman

appeared for the accused.

Chief Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury swears M Arayes Uddin in as a judge of the High Court Division yesterday.