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## Criminal Faruq dies in police custody

### Mystery shrouds cause of death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top criminal Emran Hossain alias Kala Faruq, who was arrested at Zia International Airport on Monday minutes before he was to fly off to Sweden, died in police custody yesterday under mysterious circumstances.

Police claimed that Faruq was shot in the left leg as tried to escape. Earlier, he was taken to the Osmany Hostel of the Textile College at Tejgaon at about 12:20am yesterday to nab his accomplices.

Injured, he was taken to the National Orthopaedic (Pongu) Hospital where he died at around 1:20am yesterday, police said.



Police officials from Uttara, Tejgaon and Kafrul interrogated Faruq to find out his crime cartel and arms cache. Police said the criminal confessed to have firearms at his palatial residence in Comilla and in certain crime dens at different parts of the city. The officer-in-charge of Kafrul

Police Station told The Daily Star that Faruq was taken to Tejgaon to recover arms. As soon as they reached the Osmany Hostel, several crackers were hurled at them, he claimed. Faruq then wrestled himself free and tried to run away. But police opened fire, hitting Faruq in the left leg, the OC claimed.

However, several witnesses who happened to be near the hostel said they did not hear any cracker explosion or gunshots as claimed by police.

Speculations run rife that police tortured Faruq during interrogation and later shot him in the leg and left

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## 27 more 'listed' criminals held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army yesterday arrested 169 people, including 27 listed criminals, from across the country in the last 24 hours ending at 8:00am yesterday.

Forty-four firearms, including five pistols, eight revolvers, five guns, two rifles and 19 shotguns, and 265 rounds of ammunition were also recovered.

In the capital, the troops raided markets and rid footpaths of illegal occupants in different areas. They also lent helping hand to police in clearing traffic jams at different parts of the city.

Our Magura correspondent reports the army arrested general secretary of the Magura Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Nazimuddin Ahmed at noon yesterday from a stationery shop at the Chourangi Square in the town and handed him over to the police nearly two hours of interrogation.

Seven people were also arrested, handed over to police and produced before court before being sent to jail.

Our correspondent in Bogra reports the army arrested 11 people including two listed criminals from Bogra Sadar, Maghira, Sherpur, Shibganj and Dupchanchia upazilas. Nine of them were later handed over to police.

Our Khulna correspondent reports the army has arrested 358 people including a member of parliament from ten southwestern districts since the ongoing anti-crime operation began on October 17. Ninety firearms and over 3,000 rounds of ammunition have also been seized.

Two people - Jubo League leader Masum Biswas of Khulna and Jubo Dal activists Mizanur Rahman of Chuadanga - have died during and after army

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Environmental activists and locals protest the reported move by the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment to grab the Gulshan-Baridhara Lake yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Public reps crowd crime dragnet

### Over 60 hauled up so far

STAR REPORT

More than 60 public representatives, including three members of parliament, have so far been arrested in the army-led country-wide crackdown on criminals that began on October 17.

The three lawmakers aside, the arrested include six municipality chairmen, 14 ward commissioners of different city corporations, 14 commissioners of different municipi-

palities, 21 union parishad chairmen and four union parishad members.

The army, however, has neither recovered nor seized any significant number of arms and ammunition from their possession.

Moreover, the troops hauled up sixty former public representatives. Besides, residences of more than one hundred incumbent public representatives have also been raided.

They are all supporters of either the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) or the main opposition Awami League.

Meanwhile, all potential candidates for the union parishad elections, due in February next, have gone into hiding because of the

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## Ramadan begins tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Holy Ramadan begins tomorrow as the Shawal moon was not sighted yesterday.

The moon sighting committee, headed by State Minister for Religious Affairs Moharef Hossain Shajahan, took the decision at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation meeting room last evening.

It was also decided that Lailatul Qadar would be observed on the night of December 2.

The meeting was also attended other members of the committee

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Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
	6	4-46	--
1	7		5-19
2	8	4-47	5-19
3	9	4-47	5-18

## Signing of CHT accord was a great mistake

### Larma tells JSS congress

CHT CORRESPONDENT

President of the Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS) and Chairman of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Regional Council Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma has said their signing of the CHT peace accord was a 'great mistake.'

The then Awami League (AL) government of Sheikh Hasina had signed the treaty not with 'good intention' but to betray the Jumma people, he alleged.

The former guerrilla leader was inaugurating the seventh JSS congress as the chief guest at Khagrampur Community Centre in Khagrachhari yesterday.

The four-day congress is the second ever taking place openly with the first one held this way in

November 1999, following the signing of the peace accord.

Larma said the present government is also following the AL government's policy of dawdling in implementing the peace accord. He asked the Jumma people to continue their movement till realisation of their rights.

The government is now 'politicising' the zila parishads in the CHT, further impeding implementation of the accord. He hinted at a long drawn conspiracy to 'Islamise' the CHT.

Chaired by Amiya Sen Chakma, the inaugural session of the congress was also addressed by Sudha Sindhu Kheesa, Hansadhaja Chakma, Uday Shankar Chakma, Khageswar Tripura, Provakar Chakma, Ushasingh Marma,

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## Govt clinically dead: Hasina

### Snap polls demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina has demanded immediate snap elections as she said the coalition government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is now "clinically dead".

"Deployment of army in combatting crimes has proved that the BNP-Jamaat government is now clinically dead. It appears that the government has imposed martial law in the name of parliamentary democracy," she told members of the Overseas Correspondents Association in Bangladesh (OCAB) at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

"The government has lost confidence in (civil) administration and

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## A political party out to foil jt drive: PM

BSS, Fulgazi

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said that a particular political party is engaged in a conspiracy and an orchestrated campaign to foil the ongoing joint drive and to disrupt peace in the country.

Addressing a public meeting at Fulgazi Pilot High School ground here yesterday, Khaleda said those who were out to impede peace, stability and development were opposing the joint operation against criminals.

During her day-long visit to Chhagalnaiya and Fulgazi that constitute Feni-1 parliamentary constituency, the prime minister also inaugurated Chhagalnaiya municipality, a Tk 1.5 crore Gata Bridge on Feni-Parshuram-Bilunia

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### Correction

In our Tuesday's issue, the report on Operation Clean Heart was mistakenly headlined "Another dies in army custody". In fact, as the report says, he died in jail custody after army arrest.