"As I am sure injustice was

done to Taher, I was trying to

file a case against this trial but

we did not even get a single

document from the adminis-

tration in the last 34

years...that is why I could not

challenge it," Lutfa said, adding

that cancellation of the fifth

amendment has created an

opportunity for her to chal-

lenge the secret trial and ask for

documents of the trial through

with the High Court Monday.

November 24, 1975. The sedi-

On June 14, 1976, the then

president Justice Abu Sadat

Mohammad Sayem consti-

tuted a Martial Law Tribunal

and published a gazette notifi-

chairman of the tribunal was

Col Yusuf Haider from the

Army and four other members

were Wing Commander

Mohammad Abdul Rashid

from the Air Force, Acting

Commander Siddique Ahmed

from the Navy, Mohd Abdul Ali,

first-class magistrate (Sadar

South), Dhaka and Hasan

Morshed, first-class magistrate

the tribunal on June 21, 1976, a

week after constitution of the

before the tribunal, it

week and resumed on June 28.

completed on July 14 and the

Taher refused to beg mercy

Soon after knowing about

the verdict, Lutfa through

Taher's lawyers had sent a

petition to the then president

and chief martial law adminis-

trator (CMLA) Abu Sadaat

Mohammad Sayem, army

chief and deputy chief martial

law administrator (later CMLA)

Maj Gen Ziaur Rahman, and

secretaries to home and law

ministries with a prayer to

A day after Lutfa's prayer on

July 19, a section officer of the

Ministry of Home Affairs sent a

letter to Lutfa Taher saying,

"The president has not been

Lutfa had also written a

etter to the home ministry

seeking permission to see

Taher as she was not aware of

her husband's whereabouts

from the administration,

from Taher when he was

detained and at that time I

could know in which prison

Taher was in. And then I rushed

to that jail but heard that the

authorities had moved him to

another jail and they declined

to tell me the name of that

had been legitimised by the

Malik, counsel for the petition-

ers, told The Daily Star, "All the

martial law regulations were

protected by the fifth amend-

ment. As now the Supreme

Court has cancelled the legality

of the fifth amendment, the

martial law regulations are no

longer protected by the consti-

tution, and it can be challenged

She said many illegal things

Leading jurist Shadeen

prison," Said Lutfa.

fifth amendment.

like any other law."

"But I did not get any reply

"I got a few censored letters

after the arrest.

Lutfa said.

able to accept your prayer."

reconsider the death penalty.

17," Anwar said.

istration, said Anwar.

Sadar North), Dhaka.

Dhaka Central Jail.

delivery.

execution.

According to the gazette, the

on June 4, 1976.

the court.

FROM PAGE 1

NEWS

5th amendment the Martial law Regulation-16 Taher not only termed it illegal which contradict with the when she was talking to The constitution. Like having a trial

Daily Star over the telephone, in secret, getting people she also sees it as "the killing of involved with it to take oath of Taher in the name of a secret secrecy and having no provision for appeal against the Lutfa wanted to seek justice verdict of the tribunal.

for the last 34 years but she "Any provision introduced could not as she did not get by any martial law regulation even a single document of the that contradicts with the consedition case against Taher or stitution can be challenged and the proceedings of the trial in the cancellation of the fifth the tribunal. The tribunal had amendment opened avenues awarded Taher, former army for challenging all such things." officer and, also a sector comhe said. mander during the Liberation He also said the cancella-War, death penalty and imprisoned 16 others on different

tion of the fifth amendment paved the way to challenge the legality of the trial of Taher. Otherwise, they had to challenge the fifth amendment first and then the secret trial. Shahdeen said, "It would be

interesting if anyone now claim compensation for their conviction and imprisonment under an unconstitutional law." The three petitioners,

including Taher's wife and brother, did not pray for compensation. "We are not thinking about

compensation, we want justice Lutfa, Prof Anwar and to free ourselves of the stigma Fatema Yusuf, wife of Taher's which had been imposed on us bother Abu Yusuf Khan Bir through a farcical trial based on Bikram who was also sena false sedition charges," tenced to life imprisonment in Anwar said, adding, "Due to the hush-hush trial, are the the constitutional protection petitioners of the case filed of such wrong actions, the history of that period has not Taher was arrested on come into the light...now the time has come to tell the new tion case was file with generation the true history." Mohammadpur Police Station

Anwar's 25-year-old son Sanjeeb Hossain recently completed graduation from law school where Shahdeen was his teacher.

Sanjeeb told The Daily Star, "I studied law with an aim to have justice for my uncle Col Taher who lost his life through a conspiratorial trial by a Martial law Tribunal.

Sanjeeb, who helped Shahdeen prepare the writ petition, said the penal code under which Taher was punished has the provision for lifeterm imprisonment maximum but he was awarded the death sentence.

LIST OF OTHER CONVICTS AND ACQUITTED PERSONS

The trial was held inside Apart from awarding death sentence to Lt Col Abu Taher, The tribunal took less then a the tribunal sentenced 16 nonth to complete the camera others in different terms of trial of the sedition case and imprisonment. They are: Major delivered the verdict on July 17, (retd) MA Jalil, Major Abu Yusuf 1976. In the wee hours of July Khan, Major Ziauddin Ahmad, 21, 1976, Taher was executed Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) within 72 hours of the verdict leader ASM Abdur Rab, Prof Anwar Hossain, JSD leader and Since Taher's arrest, Lutfa now lawmaker Hasanul Hoque was not allowed to see her Inu, JSD leader Serajul Alam husband for even a moment Khan, CPL Altaf Hossain, CPL until a few hours before his Shamsul Haque, Nayek subedar Md Jalaluddin Prof Anwar was one of the Havilder MA Barek, Rabiul 16 convicted by this tribunal Alam, Saleha Begum, Nayek and sentenced to 10 years' Siddigur Rahman, Havilder rigorous imprisonment. He Abdul Hye Mazumder and CPL said they were produced before J Majeed

Those acquitted: Dr Akhlaqur Rahman, Anwar Shidique, Mohiuddin, Nayek After the first appearance subedar Bazlur Rahman Mahbubur Rahman Manna, adjourned proceedings for a Warasat Hossain Belal, Md Shahjahan, KBM Mahmood, "The hearing on the case Sharif Nurul Ambia, Havilder against Taher and others were Sultan Ahmed, Nayek A Bari, Sgt Kazi A Kader, Kazi Rakunuddin, Nayek subedar A tribunal gave its verdict on July Latif Akhand, Nayek Shamsuddin and Sgt Syed from the people in the admin-Rafiqul Islam.

Govt asked

FROM PAGE 1

Intelligence (DGFI) collected Tk 237 crore from Catheli Dated Tea and Land Bangladesh Limited and Tk 60 crore from S Alam Steels by detaining and threatening their officials, petitioners' lawyer advocate Abdul Baset Majumdar told reporters.

Baset added his clients deposited the money through at least 54 payment orders to the Bangladesh Bank on differ-

ent days in 2007 and 2008. The money is now deposited in the suspense account of the central bank and the government authorities will return it to his clients within three

months, he said. The DGFI has submitted a statement to the HC saying they had no power to realise money and only discharged

their prescribed duties, Baset continued. In the verdict, the twojustice panel observed that the

government cannot realise money without any legal authority and thus collected the amount beyond its constitutional and legal jurisdiction. The court also said the

caretaker government was empowered to discharge only the routine functions as per the article 58 of the Constitution and cannot realise money in such ways. The HC on April 13 issued

separate rules upon the government to explain as to why it should not be directed to return the money to the petitioners.

The secretaries to the ministries of finance, defence, home affairs and law, director general of DGFI and governor of The tribunal that tried Taher Bangladesh Bank have been made respondents to the

and others was constituted verdict. Assistant Attorney General Rashed S Jahangir represented

the government.

US troop figures in FROM PAGE 1

Iraq below 50,000

The number of US troops in Iraq fell below 50,000 yesterday ahead of a declaration of an end to combat operations next week, a key milestone seven years on from the invasion that ousted Saddam Hussein.

AFP, Baghdad

The news comes as a spike in unrest in the past two months has sparked concern that Iraqi forces are not yet ready to handle the country's security on their own, and with no new government formed in Baghdad since polls in March.

"Today, in line with President (Barack) Obama's direction and as part of the responsible drawdown of forces, US military force levels in Iraq are below 50,000," the US military said in a statement.

"US military forces will transition to Operation New Dawn effective September 1 2010."

Shortly after coming into office in 2009, Obama pledged that the US would end combat operations in Iraq by the end of August, bringing "Operation Iraqi Freedom" to an end, at which point troop figures would drop below 50,000.

The current US troop level here is now less than a third of the peak figure of around 170,000 during "the surge" of 2007, when Iraq was in the midst of a brutal sectarian war in which thousands of Iraqis were killed.

The US military has withdrawn tens of thousands of soldiers from the country in recent months, and the last American unit designated as a "combat brigade" left Iraq and crossed into Kuwait on Thursday.

2 construction

FROM PAGE 16 be providing with the paint,

he said.

However, several workers denied this and said the old platform belonged to the building authorities and was lying on the rooftop for the last

Shahjahan, a worker, said "The platform was used dur ing construction of the build ing, a fact which the authori ties are well aware of." Officer-in-Charge Tofazza

Hossain of Motijheel Police Station said they were investigating to detect the cause behind the accident.

Kaiyum, cousin of the deceased, filed an unnatural death case in this connection yesterday, the OC said.

Sekandar Ali Mina programme director of Safety and Right Society, an NGO working to ensure safety and workers' rights, told The Daily Star that a third of the total workers who die in workplace related accidents are construction workers.

He said 70 out of 175 work ers who died in workplace related accidents this year are construction workers. Last year, 100 construction workers died while the total death toll in workplace-related accident is 272.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

months.

protect the country and its people from the "existing intolerable situation".

Dhaka city unit BNP organised the iftar party at Jatiya Sangsad LD Hall at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

"Ruling party men are engaged in extortion, tender manipulation and criminal activities. Even the government remains silent when its officials are being attacked by them," she said adding that the government proved itself to be a failure in last 19

Prime minister said none would be spared if found responsible for committing crimes but no action is being taken against the ruling party men who are responsible for the deterioration of law and order situation, Khaleda observed.

Terming the government autocratic, undemocratic and a failure, the former premier said the government has turned the country into a jail and people are passing their days amid insecurity.

Khaleda Zia said the government shut down the educational institutions as i failed to resolve water, gas and electricity crises.

"Many other things will face the closure if this government continues to remain in power," she added.

BNP leaders Khandaker Delwar Hossain, RA Gani, Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, Jamiruddin Sircar, among others, were present with city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka in the chair.

Man's battle

In the last week of December 1971 some people, taking advantage of the poor law and order situation in the just liberated country, forcible took over possession of the cinema hall from the staff of the company.

Just a few days later on December 31 the industries ministry took over the management of the cinema hall, declaring the property abandoned.

At the end of 1972 the property was awarded to **Bangladesh Freedom Fighters** Welfare Trust by the then government. But before that, on April 28,

1972, Maqsud, the managing director of the marble company, filed an application with the sub-divisional officer (south) of Dhaka for return of his family property. The officer on December 1

two years later in 1974, concluding that Moon Cinema Hall was not an abandoned property. Then the sub-divisional officer placed the matter to the

Dhaka deputy commis-

that year ordered an enquiry,

the report of which came in

sioner's office on December 18 that year. The deputy commissioner's office on January 6, 1975 recommended return of the property to Maqsud's

But the industries ministry informed Magsud in June 1975 that the cinema hall was still an abandoned property, and could not be returned to

So he submitted another application to the then ministry of planning and industries in December that year, praying once again for the return of his property, but in vain.

He then filed a petition with the High Court in 1976 challenging the government notification that had declared the cinema hall an abandoned property.

The HC in June 1977 declared the notification illegal, and directed the authorities to hand over the possession of the cinema hall to Magsud at once.

In compliance with the judgment, the industries ministry in August the same year deleted Moon Cinema Hall from the list of abandoned properties, and ordered Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Welfare Trust to handover the physical possession of the property to Maqsud.

But the trust refused to give up the possession, and filed a civil petition for a special leave to appeal with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court against the HC order, and

Meanwhile, since August 15, 1975 the country had been under the first martial law regime which promulgated Abandoned Properties (Supplementary Provisions) Regulation on October 10, 1977, nullifying all abandoned property related court judgments and pending cases against the government.

iman [faith]. They are infidel.

No rickshaw puller should

carry them and no shopkeeper

member, said, "All male mem-

bers except those who are

elderly and sick are afraid to

return home since the August 7

attack as they are facing con-

tinuous threats from the reli-

Lutfar Rahman Akanda,

another Ahmadiyya member,

said among the male members

of his community, only one

seriously ill Hasem is now

staying in his house while the

Mohir Uddin Akanda, said she

is facing an acute food crisis as

the supply of food given by the

district administration after

the August 8 incident has

us threats on phone that they

will abduct us," she said, add-

ing, "We are also passing sleep-

Bilkis, wife of Abul Kasem

Akanda, said Ahmadiyya

women feel insecure as some

of the attackers always move

around and also peep into their

houses at night despite the

locals led by union parishad

member Akbar Hossain

attacked them, vandalised and

gation saying, "Ahmadiyyas

can say anything as they have

Ahmadiyya delegation led by its

Missionary-in-Charge Abdul

Awal Khan Chowdhury has met

Tangail deputy commissioner

and acting superintendent of

security for the Ahmadiyya

But Akbar denied this alle-

Meantime, a four-member

They alleged that a group of

presence of police.

looted their houses.

no iman (faith) at all."

police at their offices.

less nights because of fear."

"They [attackers] are giving

Hasina Begum, wife of

gious fanatics."

rest are out.

already run out.

Abu Taher, an Ahmadiyya

should sell any items to them."

Biman chair **FROM PAGE 1**

martial law regulation, the

trust refused Maqsud's

repeated pleas for getting back

martial law had been lifted in

1979, Maqsud again filed a

petition with the HC in 1994

seeking restoration of his

family's ownership of the

petition summarily, saying,

since he had not challenged

the legality of the 5th amend-

ment which had ratified all

martial law regulations, he

was not allowed to claim the

filed a civil appeal, but that

was also dismissed by the HC

however, said the petitioner

must challenge the legality of

the 5th amendment to get

petition against the 5th

amendment with the HC, and

the court delivered the land-

mark nullification of the

amendment on August 29,

2005, which was upheld by the

Appellate Division on

February 2 this year with some

As Maqsud and his family are

now set to take possession of

the long lost property, the 72

decimal land is still there, but

the talkie house is no more.

Rather a five-storey shopping

mall owned by the freedom

fighters welfare trust is now

to hand over the property. It

formed two committees to

complete the process, its

Office of the Attorney General

recently said the property

must be handed over accord-

ing to the court's order. We are

taking necessary preparation

to do so," Maj Gen (retd) AK

Mohammad Ali Shikder

managing director of the trust

told The Daily Star early this

the counsels of Maqsud

regarding the expected hand-

a legal notice to the trust,

demanded that it must return

the property as vacant, as

many shop owners are cur-

rently occupying the building.

so, as the shopping mall was

built under an agreement with

a developer in 2001, allowing

them to sell some of the shops

in the building. We requested

him [Maqsud] through his

counsels to reach a mutual

understanding to resolve the

difficulties," said the trust's

verdict and the lengthy legal

battle, ABM Siddigur Rahman

Khan, one of the counsels of

Magsud, said it is a victory for

the people's fundamental

rights. It also proves that one

should continue fighting to

achieve something, without

males so that they can return

Ahmadiyya chief Awal said

the district administration has

assured them that necessary

security measures will be taken

Tangail Deputy

Commissioner M Bazlul Karim

Chowdhury said Ahmadiyyas

could come back to their

houses, as normalcy has

An HC bench of Justice Mo

Shamsul Huda and Justice

Abu Bakar Siddiquee passed

the order following a bail

petition seeking anticipatory

bail in a complaint case filed

with a Dhaka Court on charge

that the police might arrest

him in connection with charge

of the killing. He also appeared

before the HC bench for bail.

In the petition, Shaon said

Assistant Attorney General

Bashir Ullah yesterday told

The Daily Star that Ibrahim

was shot dead inside Shaon's

car by a bullet from his pistol in the parliament area on

others on charge of the killing.

the case into cognizance

asked the police to investigate

into the allegation and submit

a report to it, Bashir added.

The court without taking

Advocate Yusuf Hossain

Shaon yesterday filed the

returned to the village.

HC orders

petition filed by Shaon.

of killing Ibrahim.

Police Station.

They sought permanent Humayun appeared for the

petitioner.

home and live normal lives.

in this regard.

being frustrated, he added.

Tangail Ahmadiyyas

Asked to comment on the

managing director.

"But how is it possible to do

He said they sent letters to

But Maqsud's counsels, in

The trust is now preparing

"The law ministry and the

occupying the land.

officials said.

CURRENT SITUATION

modifications.

Finally in 2000, he filed a

after two more years in 1999.

Three years later in 1997, he

The judgment, this time

ownership of the cinema hall.

But the HC rejected the

Fifteen years after the

his property.

cinema hall.

redress.

Taking advantage of the

"His [Biman's chairman] statement regarding the ministry to the print and electronic media on August 18 created confusion among the people," read a ministry letter addressed to the Biman chairman. The Daily Star has obtained a copy of the letter. "By law, Biman Bangladesh

Airlines Limited is accountable for its activities to the ministry of civil aviation and tourism, the letter read, adding, giving a "false and one-sided" statement by Biman authority is harmful for the image of the ministry as well as the govern-

Signed by Mohammad Aftabuddin Talukder, joint secretary (Biman and civil aviation) of the ministry, the letter did not give a timeline by which to offer the explanation. Contacted, the Biman chief

said he was yet to receive the letter. "After receiving the letter I'll read it and respond accordingly," he told The Daily Star. Shafique Alam Mehdi, secretary of civil aviation and

comment on the matter. According to the letter, government's administrative decision was "under question" after such comment by the

Biman chairman.

tourism ministry, declined to

Jamal Uddin in the briefing at the Biman head office in Uttara had also said if GM Quader wanted Biman Bangladesh Airlines to be fully accountable to his ministry, the government should turn it back into its earlier position of a corporation.

Jamal commented as a counter of the civil aviation minister's recent statement that Biman should be accountable to the ministry.

BCL's RU unit

FROM PAGE 1

Roton told The Daily Star over the phone that the expulsion of unit president Awal Kabir Joy and its general secretary Majedul Islam Opu was decided at a party meeting in Dhaka based on the allegation of their involvement in 30 factional clashes that left many injured. The RU BCL committee was

formed on January 28, this year. In the latest incident, Joy's men beat up Nasim, an activist of Opu group, and shoved him off the first floor of his dormitory. Nasim died on Monday. Meanwhile, the activities of

RU BCL was suspended immediately after the violence and showdown of arms at the campus that left 10 injured on August 8. Teachers and students

expressed their satisfaction over the step against the corrupted BCLleaders.

Abul Khair, Officer-in-Charge of Motihar Police Station said extra security measures have been taken on the campus.

Govt plans

increased significantly by this

A tyre used to cost Tk 800 when the rate was introduced in 2007. Now it is Tk 1,700. Moreover, the price of lubricants went up to Tk 220 from Tk 120 let alone expenses for garage, renewal of papers, accident costs etc, said Nazmul

'The revised fare would bring order in the sector," he said. He, however, failed to reply how they plan to resolve the existing practice of violating law and reduce public suffering.

About 13,700 four-stroke CNG-run three wheelers were introduced in Dhaka city in 2003. Since then passengers have been complaining of the drivers not complying with the official fare and frequently tampering with metres while the drivers of owners demanding too much daily deposit.

Stop war crime **FROM PAGE 16**

at her ministry office.

Sahara said Rohingyas used to leave the country as Hajj pilgrims with Bangladeshi passports, overstayed there and engaged themselves in criminal activities, tarnishing the image of the country. We will strictly monitor

any such tactic this time," said the minister adding, "The Hajj pilgrims will be allowed to leave the country only after the verification report is received.' She also warned the Hajj

agencies of revoking licences and other forms of legal actions against them if any Hajj pilgrim in their books fails to return home in time. The minister asked them to remain alert about the government directives. Replying to a query Sahara said both Tarique Rahman and

August 13, and his driver Kamal Hossain the same day Arafat Rahman Koko, sons of filed an unnatural death case opposition leader Khaleda with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Zia, are not abiding by their parole conditions. She also On August 18, Ibrahim's brother Masum Ahmed filed a added that parole of Koko has been cancelled through legal case with Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's process. Court against Shaon and seven

Patwari, among others, were

present at the meeting.

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku, Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder, Director General of the Immigration and Passport interrogators asked him how Abdur Rob Hawlader, and Khaleda had learned about Additional Inspector General the blasts and what measures (Special Branch) Jabed

6 MPs among 32 killed in Somalia hotel carnage

"These two guys were on the

balcony, close together, shout-

ing 'Allahu Akbar' (God is

greatest). It seems one of them

failed to detonate his vest but

the other did and that probably

pieces, only the head remains.

The other one's body is com-

pletely burned, he is all black,'

Mona, which lies in the small

area of Mogadishu firmly

under government control and

provides accommodation for

dozens of MPs and other offi-

cials, comes on the second day

launched a major offensive

against government army

barracks in several Mogadishu

districts, sparking clashes that

left at least 29 civilians dead,

according to Ali Muse, head of

The plane, which Xinhua said

was Brazilian-made Embraer

E-190 jet, had taken off from

Heilongjiang's capital of

Harbin shortly before 9 pm

(1300 GMT) and crashed in

heavy fog during landing at the

Lindu airport a little more than

the Yichun No. 1 People's

Hospital said 30 people had

been brought there for treat-

ment, with most suffering

his surname, Wang, at the

Yichun Rehabilitation

Hospital, which has burn

specialists on site, said 10

survivors were transferred

were at the Yichun Forestry

Hospital, said a duty officer

surnamed Zhou. He said he did

not know the nature of their

There were five children

and five crew members on

board, Xinhua cited an

unnamed official with the Civil

Aviation Administration of

China as saying. It was not

known how many of them

the central Chinese province of

the same name and flies

smaller regional jets, mainly on

routes in north and northeast

China. Previously known as

Kunpeng Airlines, the carrier

was relaunched as Henan

other regional Chinese airlines

flying shorter routes have

struggled in the past few years,

losing passengers to high-

speed railroad lines that China

Phoenix-based Mesa Air Group

Inc., was an original investor in

Henan's predecessor com-

pany, Kunpeng, but divested its

stake last year. Mesa operates

regional services in the US for

Delta Air Lines, United Airlines

and other carriers and is

An American company,

has aggressively expanded.

Henan Airlines and many

Airlines earlier this year.

Henan Airlines is based in

Another eight survivors

there with burn injuries.

A man who would only give

An official surnamed Qi at

ambulance services.

Jet crash

FROM PAGE 16

an hour later.

broken bones.

The Shebab on Monday

of a deadly battle in the city.

The bloodbath at Hotel

the soldier added.

"One of them was blown to

killed both of them," he said.

AFP, Mogadishu

Two Islamist militants shot dead 30 people, including six members of parliament, in a suicide attack on a Mogadishu hotel yesterday, Somalia's deputy prime minister said.

The militants from the Shebab insurgency disguised as government security forces then blew themselves up to avoid arrest after the indiscriminate attack on the hotel housing MPs and Somali civil

The brazen attack just a stone's throw from the presidential palace marked a new escalation on the second day of clashes that had already left 29 civilians dead across the warravaged Somali capital.

The operation by the al-Qaeda-inspired Shebab group during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan drew strong condemnation from the Westernbacked transitional government and its African Union backers.

bers of the Somali parliament and four are Somali government civil servants," Deputy Prime Minister Abdirahman Haji Adan Ibbi told reporters. The 20 others are innocent

ambush. Six of them are mem-

"Thirty people died in this

civilians who died in this horrible incident," he added. An AFP reporter who man-

aged to enter the Hotel Mona

compound said the doors of every single room and even the toilets had been smashed open by the two attackers. Officials visiting the scene of the carnage held their noses

because of the stench of burned flesh and smoke. Witnesses and hotel staff said the attackers were wearing government security uniforms

and shot dead security guards at the gate to the compound as they rushed into the threestorey building. "They rained gunfire on everybody. Nobody stood a chance. I was lucky because

they aimed at me but I jumped out of the window and survived," hotel employee Adan Mohamed told AFP. "People were screaming, there was total panic. When they decided they had finished

killing everybody, they climbed to the balcony and started opening fire on government forces outside the hotel," he added. One government soldier

who took part in the fighting and refused to give his name said one of the bombers detonated his suicide vest on the balcony when he saw they were surrounded.

TC 1- 1 JS boay

changes. The decision came at

a special committee meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. "The September 4 meeting

will be exclusive and only the committee members will attend it, said Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the parliamentary special body, at a press briefing after yesterday's meeting. Law Minister Shafique

Ahmed and Law Commission Chairman Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid will attend the September 4 meeting on special invitation.

Of holding the meeting in private, a member of the committee told The Daily Star that some critical political issues would be discussed at that meeting, which the committee wants to keep undisclosed until any decision is made on the proposals for constitution amendment.

In the press conference Suranjit said Officials of the parliament secretariat and law ministry will be present in the meetings on September 5 and 6.

"We are trying to complete preparing the recommendations for constitution amendment as soon as possible. The committee will make its recommendations considering the prevailing political atmosphere in the country," said Suranjit.

August 21

math.

FROM PAGE 1

quizzed him after summoning him to their Malibagh office. However, a CID source said

Duke, a former naval officer, was picked up from a Gulshan residence at around 12:30pm and questioned till 3:00pm. When the grenade attack at

an Awami League rally killed 24 leaders and workers in 2004, Duke was personal secretary to the then prime minister Khaleda Zia. According to officials, the

undergoing bankruptcy reorganisation. Full-tilt expansion of Chinese air traffic in the 1990s led to a series of crashes that gave China the reputation of being unsafe. The poor record prompted the government to improve safety drastically, from airlines to new air traffic management systems at airports. The last major passenger jet crash in China was in November 2004, when a China Eastern airplane plunged into a lake in northern China shortly, killing all 53 on board and two

on the ground. An MD-11 cargo plane operated by Zimbabwe-based Avient Aviation crashed during takeoff from Shanghai's main

airport last November. Three American crew members died while four others on board were injured.

Bangladesh **FROM PAGE 1**

political environment across the 100 nations.

Bangladesh's position is one rank up from Pakistan (89th) and way down from Sri Lanka (66th) and India (78th). Finland has topped the list

and all the top 10 winners are Nordics. Burkina Faso found itself at

Newsweek says the survey

Pirates throw

safe and cold."

FROM PAGE 16 trawlers attacked them near

has found that the best coun-

tries tend to "be small, rich,

Sonadia Island. Prodip Kumar Das, chief of Cox's Bazar Sadar Model

Police Station, said the sea area is beyond their jurisdiction. Moreover, they do not have modern boats to fight robbers in the sea, he added.

Police try to capture pirates she had taken in the afteron the coast if cases are filed, he said.

Regulation-16 of 1976.

under the Martial Law Shahdeen said they have challenged a few provisions of