NHRC chief

yesterday said, "I will go to

the president if the home

ministry does not form a

probe committee and sub-

mit its report to the NHRC

Wednesday urged the home

ministry to form a probe

body and submit its report

on the shooting incident

The NHRC in a letter on

within the stipulated time."

FROM PAGE 20

within 12 days.

EC wants

FROM PAGE 1 believes the special committee will carefully consider the proposals as it wants to do something to strengthen the commission.

The parliamentary special committee on Wednesday at a meeting discussed how to strengthen the EC, including fixing the number of election commissioners so that the president's authority to make unlimited appointments to the EC is restricted.

The same day, Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair and spokesman for the special committee, made a phone call to Sohul seeking their opinion about strengthening the EC.

In response, the EC sent the proposals to the special committee's co-chair.

In defence of the proposal for doing away with the court's jurisdiction, Sohul said some people used the court in the past in their personal interest, hampering the electoral process.

On court orders, the EC had to destroy over 24 lakh ballot papers printed for eight constituencies so that new contenders could run in the December 29, 2008, parliamentary elections. With court orders, 21

candidates entered the race in 18 constituencies just 10 days before the polls, making the EC's job even harder. Their applications seek-

ing candidacy were rejected by the returning officers (ROs) and the EC upheld the ROs' decisions. They then moved to the Supreme Sohul cited an instance

in India. He said steps can be taken challenging the EC's decision on the grounds of coram non udice (trials held not before a proper court or judge). In India, the electoral

process cannot be challenged through legal suits or with writs, except on the very limited grounds of coram non judice. The election can be challenged afterwards by filing an election petition.

Article-125 of the constitution of Bangladesh bars challenging the delimitation of constituencies or the allotment of seats in constituencies before a court. It also prevents legal challenges being made after the election unless it is filed as an election petition.

Now, the EC wants to add a new provision to this article removing the court's jurisdiction to review EC's actions carried out during the electoral process.

Contacted by The Daily Star, jurist Shahdeen Malik said writs are hardly entertained on any grounds after the announcement of polls schedule and until the publication of election esults.

"This interpretation was most recently reiterated in Mohiuddin Khan Alamagir Vs Bangladesh Election Commission case where his writ petition, which was filed after the announcement of the poll schedule and against the rejection of his nomination by the RO, was held not

maintainable," he said. In another proposal, the EC said one individual should be allowed to run for parliament membership from only one constituency.

China rights

on negative

AFP, Washington

yesterday.

persistent.

trend, says US

regions, a US report said

The State Department's

annual survey said that

China clamped down at key

points in 2010, particularly

after dissident Liu Xiaobo

won the Nobel Peace Prize,

but that human rights prob-

lems were widespread and

tinued," the report said.

Currently an individual can stand in three constitu-

them. China's human rights record is on a "negative trend" with growing restric-

tions on freedom of speech and "severe repression" in drawals properly. Some of the accounts the Tibet and Xinjiang

Shoma Alam Rahman.

"A negative trend in key areas of the country's human rights record con-

Finger pointed

FROM PAGE 1 policymaking or appointments to the SEC through recommendations or lobbying," said Khaled.

During the two-month investigation, the committee had talked to over 500 traders including all members of Dhaka and Chittagong stock exchanges, and also journalists, professors and researchers.

"We got the impression after talking to people," said Khaled, also chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

He said though the committee has named the individuals as suspects, there are strong grounds for the allegations. The SEC, however, has to conduct further investigation.

"In the report, we have detailed how the regulator should conduct investigation," Khaled said. "It [SEC] has to be completely restructured and its current leadership removed." Khaled's comments

came a day after the fourmember committee submitted its 320-page report to Finance Minister AMA Muhith. The probe body also

found involvement of opposition-linked influential businessmen and traders in the stockmarket debacle. It observed that the SEC

will remain ineffective and exposed to manipulations as long as the market players are able to influence the regulator. The committee said

Salman and Rakibur were named as suspects also in the probe report on the stock manipulation in 1996. The investigation into the

recent bourse debacle found their roles to be under widespread public suspicion. There have been allega-

tions that the two influenced the SEC and lobbied for the appointment of Ziaul Haque Khandaker as SEC chairman and reappointment of Mansur Alam as SEC mem-Salman lobbied the

Bangladesh Bank governor to soften the central bank's stance on BD-Thai Aluminium that had been involved in money laundering, said the report.

Besides, he had links with overpricing of shares and overvaluation of assets of GMG Airlines and Unique Hotel, it said.

Salman and Rakibur exerted undue influence on the SEC and tarnished the government's image in the process, the report said.

When contacted, Salman, now in London, said he would return home soon and go through the probe report.

"Whatever I did in the stockmarket had the approval of the SEC," said the influential businessman. He could not find any

reason why the probe committee has warned the government about him. "I will look into the matter

on my return home," he said. Rakibur, a DSE director, has denied the allegation of influencing the SEC in any

"I have no power to influence the SEC. Is there any proof that I influenced it?"

he questioned.

The probe has found instances of fraudulence in omnibus accounts. It traced existence of several lakh shadow accounts that had been used as tools for trick-

But the committee could not look into them properly for lack of adequate time. It however sampled some accounts and examined

The report said the shadow accounts shown as omnibus accounts with merchant banks did not reflect deposits and with-

belong to former BNP lawmaker Mosaddeq Ali Falu, Unique Hotel and Resorts Ltd, former Awami League lawmaker HBM Iqbal, Muniruddin Ahmad, Roksana Amjad, Golam Mostafa, Ahsan Imam, Yakub Ali Khandaker, New England Equity Ltd, Md Lutfar Rahman (Badol) and

Khaled said: "Trading through beneficiary owner accounts had been transparent in the secondary market,

thanks to Centra Depository Bangladesh Ltd But suspicious trading had been done from omnibus

accounts." These omnibus accounts must be examined after reforming the SEC, said the former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The committee recommended that the government turn these omnibus accounts into beneficiary owners (BO) accounts, otherwise the SEC would block them.

When the stockmarket was on a bullish run, some individual accounts showed high levels of transaction. The individuals include Golam Mostafa, Abu Sadat Md Sayem, Yakub Ali Khandaker, Syed Sirajuddoula, Md Kholiluzzaman, Md Shahidullah, Arifur Rahman, and Shoma Alam Rahman, said the report.

The then SEC Member Mansur Alam had a pivotal role in legitimising the irregularities. The chairman is also responsible for the wrongdoing, as the commission's approval could no come without his consent said the report.

Executive directors Anwarul Kabir Bhuiyan and Tariquzzaman were at fault for supporting the chairman and the SEC member. Many SEC officials took undue advantage under the shelter of these four top officials, according to the report. "SEC Chairman Ziaul

Haque Khandaker and executive directors Anwaru Kabir Bhuiyan and Tariquzzaman should be removed from the SEC and Mansur Alam should be investigated for irregularities," the report said. The government has

cancelled the contractual appointment of Mansur for his involvement in irregular-The probe found that Roksana Akter, wife of

Anwarul Kabir Bhuiyan, traded shares worth a huge sum from her four accounts in a breach of SEC rules. Bhuiyan, however claimed he was unaware of

share business. "My wife is not financially dependent on me. She might be involved in stock business," he said.

his wife's involvement in

Khaled said the SEC rules bar wife, children, parents or dependents of SEC officials from getting involved in share business.

40 hurt

FROM PAGE 1

around 5:30pm gathered at Shikaritola blocking the road to hold a rally of Shakta union BNP activists. The crowd caused traffic congestion in the area.

As the police tried to remove the crowd from the road, the BNP activists started throwing brickbats at them, said witnesses. They also damaged two vehicles including a police vehicle.

vehicle. Chase and counter-chase also took place between the police and the activists of the main opposition. During the hour-long clash, Aman and some other leaders took shelter at the local BNF

Of the injured, two were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the others received treatment at local hospitals and clinics.

Officer-in-Charge Mohammad Asaduzamman of Keraniganj Police Station said 15 people were picked for assaulting policemen.

Aman told reporters after the incident that some 200 BNP activists were injured in the incident.

Some BNP activists alleged that local ruling party activists also attacked them during the clash. The programme was

announced earlier and as part of the arrangement, several arches were built five-six days ago, said party sources. Two days ago Awami League activists took down some of the arches. Yesterday's attack on

them was planned and it was made to foil the rally, party sources claimed. They were supposed to form a convening committee in the rally, they said.

Family under

FROM PAGE 20

As per the settlement, the community leaders offered her family Tk 1.40 lakh in compensation and decided to marry her off to one of the nine rapists.

As she succumbed to her injuries on February 20, police arrested 10 persons including catholic priest Father Bernard Tudu on charge of provoking the suicide through the settlement. The arrested also include

Bishwanath Tudu who had presided over the settlement. Later, Serafina's mother

Sushana Soren filed another

case accusing the nine rap-"Villagers seldom talk with us," Serafina's sister Sabina Mardi said, "as it is widely circulated that if they talk to us they will be declared

leaders." Sushana alleged, "Nobody give us work; I have to go to other villages looking for work. The rapists' parents often threaten us with dire consequences for filing the

In the conference, Jatiya Adibashi Parishad (JAP) President Anil Marandi and General Secretary Rabindranath Soren said the victim's family is unsafe. An organisation called

Uttorbanga Adibashi Forum has been formed only to save the accused, said the JAP leaders. It has held human chains and meetings demanding their release. The forum's general secretary, Baghbat Tudu, a for-

mer catholic priest, is reportedly blamed for several misdeeds including rape. Despite being a government officer, Benjamin Tudu, son of Biswanath Tudu, par-

ticipated in a recent meeting

with the catholic community leaders demanding release of the "saviours of the rapists", they said. Benjamin, research officer of Shilpakala Academy in Sirajganj, said he was looking into the matter as part of his

But asked if he was assigned to do research in Rajshahi, he said he came to the district on his own as his father was arrested.

He claimed the complainant was never forced. "My father got involved with the out-of-court settlement when both the complainant and the accused went to him for a solution."

Baghbat said, "I am not involved with any programme for either releasing the accused or saving the rapists."

Asked about his involvement with the forum, he said their banner was never used. "They [JAP leaders] say anything they want."

Hingu Murmu, president of the forum, was not available for comments.

Girl dies

FROM PAGE 20 working as a domestic help in the flat of Sardar Abul Kamal, a government offi-

Abul Kamal suspects that Tania went to the roof-top early in the morning, tried to climb down through a plastic pipe attached to the

building but fell down. The security guards of the building found her body lying dead on the porch in the morning, he told report-

She had long been refusing to continue to work in the house since last few days and even took several attempts earlier to flee, he said.

knowledge to impart lesdomestic help on March 29. sons," he adds. "As she was unwilling to Sources in the ing, etc. continue, we informed her Directorate of Secondary parents to take her home,' he added. and Higher Education Officer-in-charge of (DSHE) say the govern-Dhanmondi Police Station ment cannot appoint Moniruzzaman told The teachers for the discipline

Tania started working as a

Daily Star they suspect that Tania tried to get out of the building in a frantic bid to escape, climbing down the plastic pipe. She might have lost control over her grip and fell on

the porch, he said. Tania earlier went out of the house without her

employer's concern two days back but had to return after the security guards restrained her from leaving, the OC added.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

12 children shot dead

FROM PAGE 20

The death toll was raised late Thursday as a 13-year-old boy had succumbed to his injuries, health officials told local media. A rambling, religiously

themed suicide note was found in his clothes but it shed little light on the motivation of his macabre attack on defenceless young children, aged between nine and 15, as they arrived for morning class. President Dilma Rousseff, who only took office in

January, could not hold back

the tears as she shared her

grief with a nation struggling

to comprehend what was the worst school shooting in Brazil's history. "It's not common for this country to see such a crime. social outcasts by religious This is not representative of the country. Innocent children lost their lives and their

future," she said.

Her voice cracked as she asked people to stand for a minute's silence, "so that we may pay our respects to these little Brazilians whose lives were taken away prematurely." Police cordoned off the

three-story building in Rio's Realengo district as they interviewed residents and parents to find out what happened, while a local hospital called for people to give blood. Officials said police officers patrolling nearby had

averted an even greater

massacre at the school,

which caters for some 400

through the IOM. "The World

Bank also proposed that we

spend the borrowed money

through the IOM for the

rehabilitation of the migrant

those terms because we want

to involve the Expatriate

Welfare Bank in the job," he

said. "We are however con-

tinuing to negotiate the

Bureau of Manpower

Employment and Training

was asked to formulate a

policy on how to rehabilitate

the returning migrant work-

ers. But the director responsi-

said they are still working on

Dhaka told The Daily Star

that efforts are under way to

address the problems of the

migrant workers. "Some of

the money borrowed from

the World Bank would be

offered as a small cash incen-

teacher to impart lessons

properly with such brief

The situation is deplor-

able at upazila levels where

teachers seldom use com-

puters for teaching, they

things with whatever avail-

able to impart computer

lessons to the students,"

says a teacher of a private

college in the capital wish-

level is quite big and it

needs sound practical

due to its complicated

structure does not support

any post for the discipline.

Besides, the authorities

concerned also seem to be

reluctant to create new

posts as no such move has

computer studies have

remained optional -- a 100-

mark course at secondary

level (SSC) and 200-mark

course at higher secondary

Since its introduction,

ever been visible.

level (HSC).

They say the personnel

"The syllabus at college

ing not to be named.

"It's like patching up

and inadequate training.

FROM PAGE 20

add.

An IOM spokesperson in

ble for doing the job at BMET

About two weeks ago, the

matter with the World Bank."

"We have not agreed to

workers," said Zafar.

FROM PAGE 1

pupils. "If the police had not arrived so quickly the trag-

carrying two handguns," military police spokesman Djalma Beltrame said. Menezes de Oliveira's parents said their adopted son had left home eight

edy would have been much

worse, because the man had

a lot of ammunition and was

months previously. A bizarre letter found on his dead body showed the killer's clearly disturbed mindset and confirmed he had embarked on a premed-

"They must know that the

impure cannot touch me

itated suicide mission.

without gloves, only the chaste or those who lost their chastity after marriage and were not involved in adultery will be able to touch me without gloves," it said. "Nothing that is impure can touch my blood," the letter continued, leaving

instructions for his body to

be undressed, cleaned and

then wrapped in a white shroud he took with him to the school. The note, which he signed, also expressed his South Africa on March 19, desire to be buried next to his adopted mother and asked that "his tomb be visited by a loyal follower of God to pray before my burial

His victims had no time to leave a note to their loved-

what I have done.'

In deeper trouble

asking God forgiveness for

Education Minister Fernando Haddad described the attack as "an unprecedented tragedy in Brazil," adding that "this is a day of mourning for all Brazilian education.' Violence plagues many

tive to the returnees through

the IOM," said the spokes-

person. The spokesperson

added that the IOM office is

also receiving telephone calls

every day from desperate

young men from all over the

country, who are telling tales

of misery on their return

Presently it is assisting BMET

to make a database of the

returning immigrants. The

BMET already has a database

of migrants who had trav-

elled to Libya with proper

documents and jobs. The

problem arises with thou-

sands of people who were

sent to Libya by unscrupu-

programme on safe migra-

tion in 17 districts of the

country, we shall be able to

make a database of less than

9,000 migrants," said Shipa

Hafiza, director Gender,

Justice, Diversity and

IT education in a mess

Around 70 percent of

317 government schools

and most of the colleges

offer courses in this disci-

pline. Students, especially

at the HSC level, are inter-

ested to take the course as

it helps them score good

At school level students

study computer funda-

mentals including package

programmes, visual basic

programming, etc, while at

college level the students

study in two years operat-

ing system, input and out-

put, digital logic, visual

basic programming, com-

puter architecture, multi-

media, internet, network-

plain that the teachers

often face difficulties while

ers fail to make us under-

stand the details about

what is visual basic pro-

gramming," says a student

of Satkhira Government

tion in the class as teachers

of several disciplines teach

us the subject in two

years," comments another

student of Noakhali

Prof Noman-ur-Rashid

said it would be possible to

propose for post creation

DSHE Director General

Government College.

"There is no coordina-

College.

imparting the lessons.

Several students com-

"Many times our teach-

marks.

"With the existing

jobs or documents.

Advocacy of Brac.

lous agencies without proper placed workers.

Brac has a plan to help too.

South American countries but school shootings are extremely rare. The last high-profile incident was at a school in Argentina in September 2004, when a 15year-old student shot dead

three classmates. **Tigers**

FROM PAGE 1 Stadium in Mirpur.

The match will be telecast live on NEO Cricket and Bangladesh Television from 9:30am.

The major talking point

around the national team over the last week has been the return of Mashrafe, though the fast bowler himself has not sounded all too confident given his physical improvement from the knee injury he suffered last December that ruled him out of the World Cup. Apart from the drama surrounding Mashrafe, the Tigers will actually be playing their first game after the World Cup exit with a few changed made to the team that played against Bangladesh's last group game.

Alok Kapali has earned a recall into the national setup after more than two years but a call-up into the final elever is unlikely after his failure in the practice game against Australia on Thursday. As for the visitors, it will be

Michael Clarke's first match as a full-time captain as he will be leading a team that also contains Ricky Ponting, his predecessor and the first player since Kim Hughes to continue playing after resigning from the captaincy.

migrants so that they may

find jobs locally or plan for

overseas employment again

Hafiza said. "But we cannot

say anything until we receive

these people immediately

these people would be

FBCCI, told The Daily Star

that they are yet to create any

fund for the migrant workers.

with the business commu-

nity sometime in the middle

of this month and find a

solution to the issue through

only when the discipline is

made compulsory like

been given proper impor-

tance earlier. As a result, it

is being conducted some-

how. Many institutions

have neither teachers nor

computers, Prof Noman

by 2021. After that we can

propose to create neces-

sary posts," the DG added.

Dinajpur fired at least two

bullets targeting Rahim at

BSF shoots

FROM PAGE 20

about 5:30am.

sources added.

Health Complex.

protesting the incident.

upazila.

The discipline had not

English and Bangla.

added.

discussion," Azad said.

"We shall hold a meeting

"If we are not able to help

the funds."

Brac is also exploring ways On March 23, Rab allegedly shot college student to provide "subsistence and Limon, 16, in the left leg training" to those displaced

Limon bled for eight

US worried

in custody of alleged criminals detained by Rab. AK Azad, president of

terday.

detention. 'Some members of the

security forces acted with impunity. Prison conditions at times were lifethreatening, lengthy pretrial detention continued to be a problem, and authorities infringed on citizens' privacy rights," the report says.

About the judiciary, the report says an increasingly politicised judiciary exacerbated problems in an already overwhelmed judicial system and constrained access to justice for members of opposition parties.

"The discipline must be made compulsory with new curriculum, while necessary infrastructure has to be ensured because journalists. the government has a plan to build Digital Bangladesh

ernment curbed freedom of assembly, and politically remained a problem.

the report noted. It says discrimination Damarpara village in the against women, and violence

> persons with disabilities and against persons based on their sexual orientation. Trafficking in persons remained a serious problem.

was admitted to Birampur

On Thursday, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku told the media, "The probe committee would be formed if necessary" and that the NHRC chairman viewed Limon's case from his per-Mizanur Rahman, however, said the home ministry has not yet refused to carry out the investigation. He hoped that the ministry

facts. guilty. The Rab personnel responsible for the incident have violated human rights and the law. The offenders must be detected and punished to stop such practice."

Human Rights and Legal Aid Committee of Bangladesh Bar Council, yesterday said they are investigating the matter but he declined to disclose anything in this connection. Meanwhile, sources from Limon's village told The

Daily Star over the phone that Rab personnel had stayed there for the last couple of days and intimithe sources.

without proper verification.

hours before he received any medical care. His leg was amputated from the thigh on March 27 at National Institute of Traumatology, Orthopaedic and Rehabilitation hospital.

Rab, however, denied the allegation terming the incident a shootout.

FROM PAGE 1

The concern was

It says security forces committed extra-judicial killings and were responsible for custodial deaths, torture, and arbitrary arrest and

limited freedom of speech and of the press, selfcensorship continued, and security forces harassed The report says the gov-

motivated violence

against women and children BGB sources said BSF remained serious problems,

motivations and could not be attributed only to religious belief or affiliation. Limits on workers' rights and child labour remain as problems.

thrown into more vulnerable situation," Hafiza said. In the beginning of the Libyan crisis in early March

the FBCCI expressed its deep concern over the displaced migrants' situation and said it would create a fund for the rehabilitation of the dis-

expressed in 2010 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices released by US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in Washington yes-

It says the government

"Official corruption and related impunity continued,"

jawans of Bhimpur camp as did discrimination against under 57 Battalion of South

Rahim was returning from India with cattle, The report says violence against religious and ethnic minorities still occurred, Subedar Abdul Kuddus of although many government Daudpur BGB camp said and civil society leaders critically wounded Rahim stated that these acts often had political or economic

Meanwhile, BGB of Phulbari Battalion sent a letter to its counterpart

spective.

would cooperate with the commission to find out the He said, "The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has no authority to shoot a person even if that person is

ZI Khan, chairman of

dated the villagers not to speak of the shooting incident. The elite force members, however, left the village yesterday morning, added