

Eid jamaats

be held at Dhaka University Central Mosque at 8:30am and 9:30 am, Gulshan Central Mosque at 8;30am, Mirpur Baitul Falah Mosque at 8;00am and 9:00am, Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute Eidgah at 8:30am, Khilgaon Pallima Sangsad at 80;30am, South Kallyanpur Anjuman-e-Quaderia Mosque at 8:30 am, Mirpur Section-1 Masjidul Akbar Complex Eidgah at 8:30am, Azad Muslim Club Playground at 7:45am and 9:00am, Dhaka University Salimullah Hall Mosque at 8:00am, Shahidullah Hall Mosque at 8:30am, BUET Playground at 8:00am, Aeroplane Mosque at Elephant Road at 8:30 am, Khilkhet North Namapara Darjee Bari Mosque Eidgah at 8:30am, Kurmitola High School Eidgah at 8:30 am and 9:15am.

Eid congregations will also be held at Azimpur Community Centre at 9:00am, Laxmibazar Nurani Jam-e-Mosque at 8:30am, Katabon Mosque at 8:15 am, Joar Shahara Baitun-Noor Jam-e-Mosque at 8:30am, Alipara Jam-e-Masjid at 8:30am, Muslim Friends Society Playground at 9:00am. Kalachandpur Dakkhin Para Baitul Noor Jam-e- masjid at 8:00am, 8:15am and 8:30am, Lalmatia Shahi Masjid Complex Eidgah at 9:00am and Azimpur

Daira Sharif Mosque at 10:00am Meanwhile, the last Eid congregation in the city will be held at Dayemia Shahi Mosque of Dayemi Complex Bangladesh at Azimpur at 11:30am. Peer of Davera Sharif Hazrat Shah Sufi Nurul Alam will conduct the munajat while the prayer will be conducted by Mufti Hazrat Maulana Abu Bakar Faruqui.

Eid congregations will also be held at K M Das Lane Golapbagh Masjid, Doyaganj Jam-e-Mosque, Dhupkhola Eidgah Ground, Jatrabari Crossing Park Ground, North Jatrabarai Ahle Jamaate-Hadith Mosque, Golapbagh Playground, Dhalpur Jam-e-Mosque, South Jatrabari Baitul Aman Jame Mosque, Tamirul Millat Madrasa

Ground at Wari, Dholiarpar High School Ground, Muradpur Madrasa Mosque,

Eid shopping

Plaza, Riffle Square, Jahanara Bhaban and the other adjacent shopping malls. Designers' boutique shops includ-

ing K Crafts, Anjan's, OG, Dressy Dale and Soul Dance were able to attract many customers. On the other hand, traditional handicrafts and clothing shops Aarong, Nipun, Kumudini, Grameen Fashion and Grameen Uddog catered to a large number of customers

Retailers of brand items like Arrow Wrangler, Lee, Levis, Van Heusen, almost in all shopping malls as cus-Park Avenue, Reebok and Nike tomers are streaming in. Shopkeepers attracted a wide range of customers, are keeping their shops open till late at

Eid delicacies

FROM PAGE 1

Jurine Mazar Sharif Mosque, The prices of liquid milk and milk Armanitola Ground, Ihikatala School nower. vermicelli, butter oil, soybean, Coloney Ground, Hazaribagh Park onion, garlic and other spices, fine rice, Ground, Ganaktuli Eidgah Maidan, chicken, beef and mutton have all Nawabganj Bara Mosque, New Paltan

spiked sharply Prices of liquid milk and milk power have gone up 40 percent in the city markets. Milk Vita liquid milk was selling at Tk 32 a litre yesterday, which was Tk 26 a week back. Half a kg of Milk Vita milk powder sold at Tk 110 yesterday, which was Tk 90 two weeks back.

Ground, Bashaboo Eidgah Maidan, The vermicelli prices hit a record Kadamtala High School Ground, high this year and were at Tk 70 a kg Motijheel Colony Eidgah, Dhanmondi vesterday.

"We are selling loose vermicelli at Tk 50 a kg, up from Tk 35 last year. The prices of different brands of vermicelli available in packs are also high. A 400 gm pack is now priced at Tk 28," said a trader in the city's Karwan Bazar kitchen market yesterday.

Broiler chicken sold at Tk 75 a kg vesterday, which was Tk 60 a week ago. A kg of local variety chicken sold at Tk130 yesterday, up from Tk 100 a veek ago.

Mutton sold at Tk 160 a kg yesterday against Tk 140 a week ago. Beef was priced at Tk 100 yesterday, which was Fk 90 a kg last week.

"Meat prices may go up further as most people will rush to the market tomorrow (today). We have limited stock, so the prices of tomorrow will depend on the demand." said a trader

take iftar and discuss strategies.

The meetings of the opposition

fronts took place on the heels of a meet-

In all congregations, special prayers Anti-govt unity will be offered for unity and integrity of FROM PAGE 1 the Muslim ummah, and peace, prog-Bangladesh Chhatra Moitree and ress and prosperity of the nation. Samajbadi Chhatra Jote joined the JSDbacked Chhatra League at its office to

Jamal's family FROM PAGE 1 Sunday with a fresh ransom demand

Irani Ground, Pilkhana Jam-e- Mosque,

Nawabganj Park and Balurghat Eidgah

Maidan, Lalbagh Fort Maidan,

Madrassah-e-Alia Ground, Islambagh

Eidgah Maidan, Khilgoan Chand Jam-e-

Mosque Maidan, Goran Bhuiyan

Mosque Maidan, Meradia School

Eidgah Maidan, Madhubazar Jam-e-

Mosque, Siddheswari High School Jam-

e-Mosque, Mohammadpur Tajmahal

Road Eidgah Maidan, Adabar Jam-e-

Mosque, Mohammadpur Shaheed Park,

Mirpur Martvred Intellectuals

Graveyard Mosque, South Paikpara

Eidgah Maidan, Shewrapara Eidgah

Maidan, Agargaon Taltala Government

Colony Mosque, Mirpur Bangla High

School Ground, Baridhara Mosque,

Banani Charman Bari Eidgah Maidan,

Titumir College Ground, Mirpur Baitun

Sunnat Jame Mosque and other places

country will be held at Solakia Eidgah

Maidan in Kishoreganj where the

devotees from across the country as well

as from foreign nations like India,

Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and other

Muslim countries will take part.

The biggest Eid congregation in the

in and around the city.

of Tk 20 lakh. The senders of the letter asked the

family to place the ransom on a culvert against the government. near a dormitory of Bangladesh unity, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil Agriculture University in Mymensingh said: "Yes, our front and associate after December I midnight organisations are working to the same

"I have come here although we

have bought almost everything neces-

sary for Eid. But there are also some

other items remaining on the list, it

never ends," said Shahana, a shopper

said, "So far we have cleared majority

some of the remaining stuffs.

One shopkeeper at Eastern Plaza

at ARA Centre.

goal -- forming unity." He said grounds for a stepped up anti-government movement were in the making. Jalil had earlier told the press that his party wanted to see a change of govern-

ment by March or April next year, much ahead of the five-year tenure of the present government. On several occasions, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina sought mid-

erm elections. JSD leader Hasanul Haq Inu, who has been leading a unity process among anti-government political parties since of our stocks and are now trying to sell July, found in the unity moves under-

taken by opposition student and youth "Even we are offering a reduction organisations a very positive developas trendy items will become old after ment. the Eid," Sarwar, a shopkeeper, added. Inu said a unity among the youth and Midnight shopping is continuing

student fronts would act as a springboard for greater opposition cohesion and an all-out anti-government movement

at a Mirpur market.

Fine rice (polao) sold at Tk 36 a kg yesterday, which was Tk 28 a month back.

With the increase in the prices of soybean and palm oil, the prices of different brands of butter oil have gone up substantially this year.

Retailers were selling half a kg of canned butter oil at Tk 150 yesterday, which was Tk 140 a month ago.

The onion prices have hit the highest this season as the local variety sold at Tk 34 a kg and Indian variety at Tk 24, up from Tk 30 and Tk 22 two weeks ago.

The local variety of garlic had a price tag of Tk 70 a kg yesterday, which was Tk 58 two weeks ago, while imported garlic sold at Tk 40 a kg against Tk 30 two weeks ago.

The prices of spices have also gone up substantially, with cumin seeds (zira) selling at Tk 110 a kg yesterday. It sold at Tk 90 a kg a month back.

People of the low-income bracket and the poor will have to cut down on the number of special food items on the Eid day to adjust with price hikes. It should not be a problem for the rich.

"I was planning to add a few new items on the list of special foods on the Eid day. As the prices of most items went up sharply I had to throw my plan in the rubbish basket," said a housewife in the city's Dhanmondi area.

AES's power FROM PAGE 12

about US\$ 500 million in investment. Representatives of the two foreign companies and officials concerned of Power Division, Ministry of Industries Power Development Board and Titas Gas signed the transfer agreement.

ing between the BNP's student front The agreement cleared the way for Iativatabadi Chhatra Dal (ICD) and the AES to transfer the ownership of its Jamaat-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir Horipur and Meghnaghat power (ICS) who vowed to resist conspiracy plants to CDC Globeleq, a sister concern of Commonwealth Development Asked to comment on the probable Corporation (CDC).

The AES set up a 360mw powergeneration plant at Horipur in September 1998 and another 450mw plant at Meghnaghat in July 1999, both in private sector, on `build-ownoperate (BOO)' basis.

At present the plants add 810mw of electricity to National Grid, meeting nearly one-fourth of the country's total demand for power.

The World Bank, Asian Development and some other financial institutions extended credit support to the AES investment in Bangladesh's power sector.

Youth shot FROM PAGE 12 sister

They shifted to a rented house at Purba Jurain area of Shyampur a few months ago, said Rafiqul Alam, the victim's father.

Johnny was a tailor at the Shyampur



A TV-grab shows firefighters trying to douse flames engulfing a University of Peoples' Friendship hostel in Moscow yesterday, that left 32 mainly Asian and African students dead and hospitalised another 139. including seven Bangladeshi students. Many suffered broken limbs after jumping out of the five-storey building to escape the inferno.

He said 139 people had been treated

for injuries and a total of 272 people,

including students from China, Vietnam,

Ecuador, Tahiti, Afghanistan, Tajikistan,

and Angola were registered as living in

dents from the developing world.

Moscow fire kills 32

theblock

FROM PAGE 1 students were being treated as soon as

the news of the fire reached them. "People were jumping from the windows because it started on the second floor and there was no other way out. It was absolutely horrible," Richard Mallobe, a sociology student from Liberia, told Reuters.

"It happened very fast. Some people umped and were burned so we tried to get them into ambulances." Students said the concrete building -

a typical example of buildings hastily thrown up across the Soviet Union in the 1960s -- had housed newly arrived students awaiting medical checks, and was notorious for being filthy and overcrowded.

Among the casualties were students from China, Bangladesh, Vietnam and a number of African countries, the trade union of foreign students told Interfax news agency

The semi-official China News Service said 17 Chinese students were missing and 33 others injured in the fire. Chinese embassy officials were not immediately available for comment

"Twenty-eight people died inside the building, three bodies were discovered outside and one person died later," a city police spokesman told Reuters.

He could not confirm their nationali

Dengue fever

FROM PAGE 1 Ahmed Shafiqul Haider advised people to remove any stagnant or potted water around the homestead.

"Clean water stagnant for four to five days is the ideal breeding-ground for Aedes mosquito," Dr Haider said, "It's a very lazy kind of mosquito which hovers around the nook and corner of the

house.'

Entomologists say that stagnant in the city.

was blocked. "There were only supposed to be two people in each room, but there were always three," he said. "There were absolutely filthy communal bathrooms and people used to try to move out and

Vashish, 22, a medical student from

Mauritius, said one of its two staircases

could." Silvio Fernandez, 24, a language student from Cape Verde, said the blaze began at about 2 a.m. in two rooms on the second floor and spread to the rest of the building.

get into a new building as soon as they

"I could see people in the windows of the fifth floor leaning out and shouting," he said.

"I've never seen anything like this." NTV television showed fire crews working through heavy snow to control the blaze, which gutted the top three

the directorate during August 28 to

ptember9thisyear,"DrKamalsaid. A 100-bed ward, which has been set up at the Suhrawardy Hospital with the co-operation of the health directorate. has been earmarked for dengue patients. The DCC has been carrying on with its public awareness programmes and cleanliness drives to eliminate the potential sources of Aedes proliferation

guished the fire by about 5:30 a.m., the police spokesman said. Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov told NTV that investigators suspected the fire was caused by an electrical fault.

floors of the building. They had extin-

FILTHY, OVERCROWDED

"It is difficult to talk about the cause, The university, founded in 1960, was he said. "According to preliminary named after Congo's first president after information, which we have now investithe African nation gained independence gated, the cause was domestic. Most from Belgium. It was designed to provide likely, there was a short circuit in room subsidized Socialist education to stu-203.

However, Russian agencies reported a criminal investigation had been opened and authorities were not ruling outarson

Sheikh Niamat FROM PAGE 12 He left behind his wife, one son, two

daughters and a large number of relatives and admirers. Film director, producer, and activist,

Sheikh Niamat Ali received National Award for feature film "Surja Dighal Bari". His film "Dahan" also got National Award.

OC closed FROM PAGE 1

Tk 28,000 from the accused as bribe, and released him, Bagarhat Police Super Mesbah Uddin quoted the investigation report as saying. The OC used to take bribes by impli-

cating innocent persons in false cases and freed criminals for money, the police super added.

Eid tomorrow FROM PAGE 1

the last minute to spend time with their relatives

The government and semigovernment offices went on a four-day Eid holiday from yesterday. The offices will open next Saturday.

Most of the private offices and business release of the arrested people. houses closed their offices a few days back to leave the staff with plenty of time to celebrate Eid. In capital Dhaka, people gathered in large numbers at every shopping centre and shopping malls to buy clothes and goods of their choices. President Jajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday in separate messages extended the warmest greetings and then heartiest facilitation to all heads of state and government of Muslim countries on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Fitr

Ahmedul Kabir

FROM PAGE 1

University Central Students Union from 1945-46. He was elected to the East Pakistan Legislative Assembly in 1965. In 1979 and 1986, he was elected to the Jatiya Sangsad as independent candidate.

Kabir took part in different international conferences, including of the Commonwealth, FAO, UNCTAD and EEC in the 1970s.

Widely regarded as a progressive politician, Kabir was an organiser of the War of Liberation and arrested by the Pakistan occupation army in 1971.

As the editor of country's one of the oldest dailies, Kabir was the pioneer of freethinking and made invaluable contribution to the nation at its crucial junctures.

Kabir was also the Bangladesh chapter chairman of the Commonwealth Press Union and member of the Governing and Trustee Board of the Bangladesh Independent University. He was the central member of Pakistan National Awami Party (NAP) and served as its Dhaka district unit president for several vears. He established the Gonotantri Party in the 1980s.

The body of Kabir will be brought to Dhaka today if a Biman flight is available, or tomorrow, said a press release.

His wife Laila Rahman Kabir is an industrialist and former president of the Metropolitan Chamber. His eldest son Altamash Kabir is the executive editor of the Sangbad and voungest son Ardashir Kabir is one of the leading businessmen. His only daughter Nihad Kabir is a barrister.

The body would be taken to the city house of the deceased to the Sangbad office to the Jatiya Press Club before burial at his family

graveyard at Ghorashal after a namaz-e-janaza at Baitul Mokarram National Mosque.

Trucker killed FROM PAGE 12

Senior police official Abdul Khaleque said "Our patrol team came under attack of angry villagers when it was on an operation to foil a dacoity bid at Mitachhara Bazar". Ten people were arrested for the attack on police and additional police force was depolved at the Bazar as tension rose high following the incident, he

added. But the arrest fuelled an agitation by angry villagers and they barricaded Dhaka -Chittagong highway at Panthapukur under Durgapur Union. Thousands of vehicles with homebound passengers on the eve of the Eid were stranded for nine hours till 4:00 pm yesterday, snapping road communication between Chittagong and other parts of the country.

too

"Young people are increasingly showing interest in brand items," said a salesman at a Reebok shop at Elephant Road.

open till two in the morning," said a shoe seller at Elephant Road. "If law and order permits we hope to do so this year," he added.

night. "Last year we had kept our shop

truckload of over one lakh bullets and

nearly 200 kilograms of explosives

from a village in Bogra. The ammuni-

tion was apparently being smuggled

into another country through

The smugglers abandoned the

The Bogra incident is still shrouded

named in the charge sheets under

underground operatives were

and ammunition in and out of the

The sources said smugglers and

olved in transporting illegal arms

pressure from political high-ups.

country for extremists.

Bangladesh.



PHOTO: STAF Ammunition recovered in the record arms haul at Khagrachhari.

Huge arms haul in CHT

FROM PAGE 1

of 5.56mm rifle, 22 bullets of 7.62mm pistol and 14 hand grenades. At a press briefing, army officials said gang operatives have been active for years, making the hills hotbeds of

terrorist activity. The briefing over, the army officials truck close to a brick-kiln for unknown showed the journalists the arms and ammunition.

Commander Zahurul Alam of in mystery. Intelligence sources said Khagrachhari region said, "We are not the godfathers and the smugglers sure who possessed those firearms. We behind it remained out of the law are trying to find out." enforcers' dragnet and were not

Alam ordered more raids to seize all illegal firearms in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, where Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity and United People's Democratic Front have been fighting skirmishes in the wake of the peace accord.

Back in June, the police seized a

BB

FROM PAGE 12

The Motijheel office also exchanged bills worth Tk 276 crore on Saturday and Tk 140 crore on Thursday.

The central bank will print 1,155 million new notes by June, 2004 to help people replace torn and soiled notes. BB sources said the central bank has already printed 800 million new notes and 400 million have been released through commercial banks. The central bank distributed the rest.

Cabinet FROM PAGE 1

the festival.

In her absence, several ministers and policymakers sat to discuss different issues and decided to hold a meeting with the prime minister.'

"I strongly believe that major changes will take place immediately after the Eid," he said.

A top BNP leader, who would not give his name, said there were specific allegations of corruption against some ministers and officials at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"Strident steps against them can send a message of the government's sincerity to stamp out the ill," he said. He felt the urgency of changing the

portfolios of some ministers who are failing to run their ministries smoothly.

A policymaker said the BNP chief was also expected to sit with party policymakers after Eid to work out a strategy to repair the damage to the party and the government caused by B

Chowdhury's comments. An influential official at the PMO said a proposal was prepared to bring mmediate changes there as 'many of the staff are involved in controversial interference in the administration, business deals and abuse of authority'

They are accused of brokering business deals and having hands in administrative transfers and postings for personal benefits and undertaking frequent foreign tours, he added.

"Some of them maybe removed and some given foreign postings," he said.

Earlier, a similar move failed because of opposition by an influential official at the PMO.

Bazar, his younger brother Ronny is an apprentice electrician and his mother Hawa Begum works in a nearby pharmaceuticals factory.

SSC examinee Sonia Akhtar, 16, and her sister Poly Akhtar, 15, are studying at Purba Jurain Adarsha High School.

Poly, a class-nine student, told The Daily Star. "The local boys, Palash Julhash, Bilash -- three brothers and Sentu, Baser, Shukkur, Shikder used to hurlabuses at us."

"Later, they used to pull our scarves or dragged us by the arms. They even once threw coloured water on us." she added. The sisters complained to their elder

brother Johnny about the teasing and showed the locals who used to tease

Johnny came from the village home two days before the incident, and went to talk to the teasers around 8:30pm on Sunday. The hoodlums stabbed him four times in the abdomen and shot him pointblank.

Howa Begum told The Daily Star, 'Three days earlier while I was returning home, Mithu threatened to kill my son." Ronny filed a case. None has been arrested till filing of this report in the evening.

Slow loris

FROM PAGE 12

them

the wild for its survival, a leading zoologist said yesterday.

"It will die, if it is not freed soon," warned Dr. Ali Reza Khan, director of DubaiZoo.

"Slow loris does not survive in the zoo. It's a sensitive animal. The best we can do is leave the animal back to where it was caught," he told The Daily Star.

The indigenous Bom people found the ash-white and owl-eyed slow loris in the forest near Shailpropat Tourism Centre in Bandarban Saturday.

The monkey weighing about 5kg with big eyes and long black stripes on the back is shy and hides its face behind paws.

Infrared rays of sunlight severely harm the eyes of the animal, Reza said adding: "This is the reason it tries to cover its eyes from the sun all the time.

"Slow loris is rarely seen in the open as it does not come out in daytime. believe there are some slow loris in Sylhet, where I have recently seen three of them caged by a poacher," he pointed

The monkey, collected by the district administration from the indigenous people in Bandarban, fuelled curiosity amonglocals.

water at innumerable construction site might have contributed to the recent outbreak of dengue fever. They also view that the DCC drives against dengue may have gone awry due to late advent of the rainy season. They suggested removal of stagnant water from the construction sites and spraying of larvaecides after proper identification of the breeding

grounds. As prevention was all that mattered in dengue management, paramedic health assistants have been trained to raise awareness of the disease among the people at the field level, said the disease control Director-in Charge Dr Mahbub Ara Ummay Zohra of Health Services Directorate.

"The overall dengue situation so far is under control," she claimed.

The directorate undertakes various public awareness programmes in the mass media to make the people aware of the cause of dengue, said Assistant Director Dr Mostafa Kamal of health directorate.

"Seven areas in the city -- Mohakhali bus stand, Nakhalpara, Saidabad bus stand, Kamlapur railway station, Mirpur Paikpara, Uttara sector-6, and Gabtali bus stand have been identified as highly dengue prone in a survey conducted by

Delhi's blame

FROM PAGE 12

He observed that efforts of the Indian minister to malign Bangladesh by alleging that it is involved in activities to "destabilise India" is "unfortunately not a new one"

"Bangladesh has made it clear that it does not and will not allow its territory to be used by anyone to carry out activities against another country", the spokesman said.

He said the remarks of CP Thakur are part of a "sustained campaign that is best avoided in the interest of maintain

ing friendly and good neighbourly relations between Bangladesh and India". He maintained that Bangladesh

wants to have friendly relations with India and is working to strengthen cooperation in a number of areas. He hoped that Indian leaders would refrain from making "irresponsible and biased" statements that would only create misunderstandings between the two countries, adversely affecting the bilateral relations.

Speculations have been rife about strained relations between the two

A DCC source said that 136 people died of dengue in 2000, some 39 in 2001, and at least 26 last year. The weather pattern might be a reason for the dengue tbreak this year, he said.

"The DCC's regular Aedes mosquito survey programme in its 10 zones by teams of entomologists and epidemiologists remain suspended for reasons unknown." the source added.

"The Dhaka City Corporation launches truck-mounted eight new special fogger machines today to reach more areas at a time, strengthening the mosquito eradication drive," said the DCC Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka.

However, routine dengue larvaecide and fogger spray drives would continue with four fogger machines in each ward, he said.

"We undertake mosquito eradication drive in the dengue-affected areas as soon as it is reported," he added. Meanwhile the Mayor called upon

the people, organisations, and educational institutions to take part in the DCC's anti-mosquito drive to make it a success

There are hundreds of ponds and marshy lands in the capital, which are ideal grounds for breeding of mosqui toes, Khoka said.

neighbours in recent time. It began with the former Indian High Commissioner

in Dhaka, Mainilal Tripathy's comments at an iftar hosted by main opposition Awami League that militant groups from India were taking shelter inside Bangladeshi border.

Bangladesh wanted to lodge an official complaint, but the deputy high commissioner of India reportedly refused to accept it in person. The foreign ministry then decided to fax it directly to Delhi

The rift became even more apparent when an Indian newspaper reported that Bangladesh's minister for Health and Family Welfare did not attend Saarc health ministers' conference after the Indian information and broadcasting minister failed to turn up at a reception in honour of Bangladesh information minister in Delhi earlier in the month.

However, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan recently brushed aside all these reports and denied any kind of strains in relations between the two next-door neighbours. He termed these incidents as 'not very

serious issues' in bilateral relations.

Chopper crash FROM PAGE 12

helicopter. The personnel on board were Army and Air Force," Major Mike Escudie, a spokesman for the US Central Command, told AFP.

The only other US helicopter of the MH-53 series, the Sea Dragon, belongs to the Navy and is used in minesweeping operations

In a three-paragraph written statement, Central Command said the cause of the crash remained unknown and was under military investigation.

"The service members were supporting Operation Mountain Resolve," the command said without providing any further details.

But Escudie said the helicopter crashed as it was heading into the mountains from Bagram Air Base at about sunset and was destroyed on impact. Earlier, a US CH-47 Chinook was shot

down by a surface-to-air missile near Fallujah, killing 16 US soldiers.

Body of listed criminal found OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Body of a listed criminal, who also

happens to be a workers' leader, was recovered at Chanmari ferryghat in Labonchhara of Khulna yesterday.

Khulna police recovered the body of Saddam Hossain, treasurer of BNPbacked Handling Workers' Union at Skidghat, by the river Bhairab in the earlyhours.

Later, police handed over Saddam's body to his father Mohabbat Sheikh in the afternoon after autopsy.

Saddam was a drug peddler and accused in several cases with various police stations in Khulna, police said. "The joint forces shot dead my son on Friday night when he tried to escape arrest," Saddam's mother Abejan Begum alleged.

Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka on An unnatural death case was lodged with Khulna Police Station. November 17

Deputy Commission Chittagong Md Shafiqul Islam, Superintendent of Police Mahbubur Rahman and other senior officials rushed to the spot this noon but the agitators refused to lift the road barricade until release of the arrested.

They demanded immediate

Later, the barricades were withdrawn at 4:00 pm when a court released the arrested on bail.

Mohammad Kamal of Durgapur alleged that police clubbed the villagers indiscriminately while hunting for the attackers on police.

A local woman, Mariamnessa alleged police didn't spare even females and picked up some innocent people.

Saber files defamation suit against Sangram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury yesterday filed a damage suit seeking compensation of Tk 50 crore against the editor, publisher of the daily Sangram and its Khulna correspondent for carrying a "false" news item.

In his plaint with the Court of First Joint District Judge, Dhaka, Saber Chowdhury, political secretary to the Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, accused the daily's Editor Mohammad Abul Asad, Publisher Shafi Uddin and reporter Sheikh Helaluddin of tainting

his reputation in the political arena. "The report is false, fabricated and concocted," the plaint said.

On November 8, the daily ran a report titled "Conspiracy to create fresh violence in the south-western region". The report claimed that three sophisticated M-16 rifles and 169 bullets were seized from sealiner MV Banga Lanka, a ship owned by Saber Chowdhury. However, Saber said the vessel is owned by HRC Group, headed by his elder brother Sayeed

Earlier, Saber filed a defamation

case with the Court of Chief

Hossain Chowdhury.