Mugabe: C'wealth one succumbs

But he criticised some unnamed African countries for refusing to side with Zimbabwe.

"There are others who are apologetic about our nationalism. Others who fear to be complete Africans, hesitate to express solidarity with us," Mugabe

peted the need for African solidarity, the leaders of two potential SADC allies said the Commonwealth summit offered a chance for SADC members to discuss Zimbabwe, even without Mugabe.

President Levy Mwanawasa of Zambia said if SADC countries boycotted the summit in solidarity with Zimbabwe's exclusion it would "give a chance to countries who are for the isolation of Zimbabwe to meet and discuss their plans.'

He made the remarks at the end an official visit to Malawi. His Malawian counterpart, Bakili Muluzi agreed. "The Abuja meeting is a chance for us to discuss the Zimbabwe issue," he was quoted by the press as saying.

Mugabe's government says that it is the victim of racists in the "white Commonwealth", particularly Britain and Australia, who want to see Zimbabwe evicted from the grouping over a controversial land reform

Rat sergeant FROM PAGE 1

In another incident, Sergeant Rafigul Islam Mridha of the RAT went to visit a relative at East Nakhalpara by a three-wheeler. While on the first floor of the building, he realised that he left his bag in the three-wheeler.

He immediately came down but the auto-rickshaw drove away with the bag containing his pistol and a wireless set.

Steve Waugh

Waugh, the twin brother of former Test batsman Mark Waugh, who has also recently retired, insisted the decision was unrelated to any hint from selectors that he would not be

picked for a tour of India next season. "Right now I'm playing consistently well. I want to go out on a high

and I think Sydney is the right place. "I didn't even tell my family about this decision until this morning."

whites in the Common-wealth that should dominate the view of the Commonwealth?" Mugabe asked.

Minister John Howard as one of those allegedly pursuing a vendetta against

Mugabe's government was stung by pension expired in March this year.

The Zimbabwe government says it was a unilateral decision by Howard over the other two members of the troika, Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo and South African President Thabo Mbeki, who both wanted Zimbabwe readmitted.

Zimbabwe claims the "white Commonwealth" is punishing the country for it three-year old programme of seizing white-owned land for redistri-

Hillary flies FROM PAGE 1

"At the moment, she is on a visit with a military division outside the security zone," said the spokes-

"Later this afternoon she will be meeting with both non-governmental organizations and Iraqis in leadership positions," including a woman member of the interim government, public works minister Nasreen Mustafa Sadiq Barwari.

"We are running a little bit behind schedule -- she may then have time to meet with more US troops.'

The spokeswoman declined to reveal her departure time for "security

The persistent threat from insurgent missiles against planes using Baghdad airport means plane movement times are always kept under the

Bush's presence in the Iragi capital was not even released until Air Force

Clinton is a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and has been making her tour of US troops deployed to conflict zones overseas accompanied by Rhode Island

Five murdered

Meanwhile, Uttara police recovered beheaded body of a young man from a pond at village Anold of Dakkhin Khan

The body of the young man aged about 25 bore marks of four stab inju ries in the chest and four in the back. Delware Hossain, an inhabitant of

the village said that some unknown assailants went there on Tuesday and dumped the body in the pond.

Police said the victim was slaugh

tered somewhere else and his body was dumped in the pond later. Police sent the body to the DMCH

for autopsy. None claimed the body till yesterday. In yet another recovery police

found the body of a businessman of

 $electronic\,gadgets\,on\,the\,Eid\,day\,on\,the$ fifth floor of a building at Pallabi. The victim was reportedly missing since November 22. in mugging and hijacking activities in Neighbours called police following area. Gulshan police had earlier

foul odour coming from a room on the arrested him twice. Robin was released top floor of the building. Pallabi police found the body of Shahidullah, 35, covered with a hand-stitched shawl The victim's hands and legs were tied up with ropes and he was gagged with a vesterday evening.

polythene bag Police sent the body to the DMCH. Doctors at the DMCH morgue said mysterious signs were found in his vital

The victim's brother, Belayet Hossain, a sub-inspector of Mohanpur, Matlab Uttar River Police, received the body on Thursday evening. Belayet said that his brother had enmity with some local businessmen. Sahidullah was planning to start a new business in the area with Ranju and Manju, two local businessmen. A dispute developed among the three over the under-

Mortar attack

they were collecting wood from a field some 30 metres away, their brother

other sister later died from her wounds," said 18-year-old Qusay.

Meanwhile, US forces have cap tured a wife and daughter of Izzat Ibrahim al-Duri, former number two to Saddam Hussein and who US officials believe has been masterminding anti-coalition attacks, a military

The two, as well as the son of Duri's physician, were captured Tuesday in Samarra, north of Baghdad, said Colonel Bill MacDonald, spokesman for the US 4th Infantry Division.

'Is it the strength and power of the

He singled out Australian Prime

a decision by Howard -- who is the chairman of a Commonwealth troika on Zimbabwe -- and Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon to keep Zimbabwe suspended from the grouping after the initial year-long

bution to new black farmers.

One was safely back in the air.

the force of the explosion, as well as 1,341 bullets were also netted from the vehicle," the spokesman added.

On Tuesday, the ministry said Saudi security forces had killed two "terrorthe fasting months of Ramadan.

"In the shootout, security forces killed a terrorist while another blew himself up with a hand grenade," SPA quoted the source as saying Thursday.

On Wednesday, the Saudi Okaz

"The terrorists were intending to blow up a site no smaller than the al-Muhaya compound... and the explosives seized in their possession were much more than the explosives used against al-Muhaya," the paper said, quoting security sources.

The November 8 bombing of the al-Muhava compound, which killed 17 people, was blamed on Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda terror network.

ULFA

Samujjal Bhattacharyya, a leader of the student union which claims 500,000 supporters in the state of 26 million.

About 40 percent of India's billion plus people are native Hindi-speakers, including Vajpayee and most other top political leaders.

The Assam government says it has moved at least 10,000 Hindi-speakers to relief camps to protect them from attacks.

In Bihar -- India's poorest state with a population of more than 80 million people -- students complained they have faced more harassment outside the province since the violence erupted in

state minister Rama Devi in Bihar's capital Patna and showed her bruises they said were inflicted at a school in the outhern state of Andhra Pradesh.

They told her they had long been teased for being from Bihar but that the abuse turned violent as reports came in of the bloodshed in Assam. "We were beaten up and forced to sit

senior students," said student Rahul Classmate Vineet Kumar said the

students had to clean floors and stand last in queues for meals and that the principal ignored their protests. The minister told the students she

took up the complaints with officials in Andhra Pradesh.

poarding school for a year as part of a state-funded exchange program meant to encourage regional harmony in India.

Eid-ul-Fitr celebrated

Baitul Mukarram National Mosque conducted the Eid prayers at National Eidgah, A special munaiat was offered seeking blessings of the Almighty for peace and development of the country, welfare of the people and greater unity of the Muslim ummah.

Later, the president hosted a reception at Bangabhaban for diplomats and elite of the city. Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Dean of the Diplomatic corps Shahta Zarab, ambassadors and high commissioners of foreign missions in Bangladesh and chiefs of international agencies attended the reception.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited the mazar of president Ziaur Rahman on the occasion.

She placed wreath at the mazar,

offered fateha and prayed for peace, progress and welfare of the country and its people

The prime minister exchanged Eid greetings with cross-sections of people at the Prime Minister's

Earlier, the prime minister hosted an Eid reception for members of the diplomatic corps at the same venue. Heads of diplomatic missions in Dhaka, members of the diplomatic community, representatives of various UN bodies and development agencies attended the reception.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid greetings with people at her Dhanmondi office.

Hundreds of people, party leaders and workers thronged her new office from 9:00am and exchanged greetings with the AL chief

Apart from party leaders, leaders of professional groups, including lawvers and teachers, editors, senior journalists, intellectuals, former bureaucrats and businesses leaders were among the dignitaries who exchanged Eid greetings with her.

Ambassadors and high commissioners of foreign missions and representatives of international agencies in Dhaka also met Hasina at around 11:00am and exchanged Eid greetings

In the afternoon, Hasina visited the graves of her family members at Banani graveyard and offered fateha.

Road accidents kill 35

dead on arrival at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, could not be known.

The injured, who are being treated for injuries at the DMCH, are Sharif, 30. Hiron 20, Ismail, 30, Sardar, 10, Shamsu, 12, Sabbir, 20, Aklima, 8, Jahura, 30, Samir, 21, Shahid, 40, Osman, 14, Saddam, 12, Raju, 27, Shahin, 10 and Motalleb, 40.

"The driver lost control over the steering and the coach rammed into a bridge and skidded off the road while overtaking a jeep," said Shahid, one of the injured passengers. Mohammad Monu, 12, was run

over and killed by a passenger bus in front of the Muktijoddha Complex on the Zoo Road in Mirpur on Wednesday On his way back to his Mohammadpur house from the zoo in

an overcrowded bus. Monu fell from

the vehicle and was run over by

another passenger bus following closely His body was sent to the DMCH for

Mohammad Abdul Aziz, 24, was killed when a passenger bus hit him from behind at Mirpur Section No. 10

Hasina, JSD leader Hasanul Hag Inu,

CPB leaders Monjurul Ahsan Khan

and Mujahidul Islam Selim and WP

leader Rashed Khan Menon are

expected to attend the January

convention, which many think will

Members of a coordination

committee of the four opposition

parties told The Daily Star that they

would ensure participation of

elected chairmen and members as

well as defeated candidates in the

The four parties are trying to

exploit the grudges of UP representa-

tives against the government's

formation of Gram Sarkar in the

congealed anti-government move-

The UP leaders largely dislike the

Gram Sarkar as they feel the lowest

local government body undermines

Political analysts say the much-

talked-about initiative by

Badruddoza is likely to get a concrete

lead to the forging of a united anti-

government movement.

last UP ballot.

their authority.

shape by December.

roundabout on Tuesday when he was crossing the road.

Two members of a family were killed and eight others injured in a road accident in Sadar upazila in Manikgani on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway yester-

According to locals, the accident took place in Golra BSCIC industrial area at about 6:30am when a microbus fell into a roadside ditch after sloughing through a tree, killing Sushmita, 7, daughter of Saidur Rahman of Beparipara in Ghior upazila, and Abdur Razzak, 35, on the scene. Of the injured, Tahura, 25, wife of

and Milan, 40, were admitted to Sadar Hospital and later shifted to the DMCH in a critical condition. Shagar Bepari, 40, Abubakar, 30 Ridoy, 26, and Takir Ahmed, 2, are

Saidur, Shampa, 12, Nooriahan, 45,

being treated for injuries at Sadar Hospital Another accident near Bakila on the Chandpur-Comilla Road on Wednesday left 30 people injured, 15 of

them critically. Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Chandpur-bound

that Badruddoza would fix schedules

for dialogues in the run-up to the

formation of the civil society plat-

form to fight crimes and corruption.

monga-hit northern region, they

the Eid-vacation, mainstream oppo-

sition parties gave a hint of attending

was planning to prepare the ground

for the allout movement against the

government to dislodge it from

The AL is now trying to prop up an

opposition coalition of like-minded

parties and professional bodies and

planning to stage specific

programme-based anti-government

the political stage and complete the

councils of remaining district and

thana units," said an AL

policymaker, who would not give his

the council of 10 of 69 organisational

The party has so far completed

"Before that we want to warm up

movement after the Eid-ul-Azha.

Badruddoza's dialogues.

He has also plans to visit the

Talking to The Daily Star before

Sources in the AL said the party

Political activities on cards

into a roadside ditch. Two of the critically injured were

 $admitted \,to\,Sadar\,Hospital\,and\,the\,rest$ to various local hospitals and clinics.

bus from Comilla plunged off the road

Our Mymensingh correspondent adds: At least three people were killed and 10 others injured in three separate road accidents on Tuesday and Police said Nurul Amin.7, son of

Ramjan Ali, and Khodeja Khatun, 65

were killed in two road accidents at Shilopur and Hatlia in Ishwargani upazila on the Mymensingh Kishoreganj Highway. Shalil Chandra ,10, was killed and 10 were injured when a bus hit a tempo

Our Noakhali correspondent adds: Eight people were killed and two injured critically in a road accident at Sonaimuri of Begumganj on the Laksam-Sonaimuri Road on

in Trishal on the Dhaka-Mymensingh

The accident occurred when a Nagol Court-bound private car plunged off the road into a roadside

"We have stressed that we would

step up the anti-government move-

ment after the Eid. We are very much

working to the plan. Our leaders and

activist are getting ready to start the

movement," said Abdul Jalil, general

On December 2, Hasina is likely to

visit Banskhali in Chittagong where

11 members of a minority family

were massacred recently. She is also

likely to visit the northern region,

especially the districts of Nilphamari

and Kurigram, in Mid-December to

in favour of a unity among opposi-

tive, they would accept it," said GM

Quader, presidium member of the

party favour joining the anti-

government movement, but they

believe such a step would tighten the

noose around the neck of party chief

HM Ershad, on trial in many cases,

Sources said the party was explor-

ing all options and was likely to

reunite with the Anwar Hossain

and land him in jail once again.

Moniu faction.

The leaders and activists of the

The Ershad-led Jatiya Party is also

cultivate the people

secretary of the AL said yesterday.

Wednesday

BSS, Sherpur

of the district on Thursday.

Police and locals said the girl aged about 18 of Tetultala Village under Jhenaigati Upazila was raped by three miscreants when she came to the park with one Raju, 21, at about 2:00pm.

The miscreants also stabbed Raju as he tried to resist the gang. A case was filed with Jhenaigati Police

Bush visits Iraq

million people only to retreat before a band of thugs and assassins," Bush cautioned.

"We will prevail. We will win because our cause is just... We will win because you're part of the finest military ever assembled. We will prevail because the Iragis want their freedom," Bush said.

During his brief visit to Iraq, Bush also met with members of the USappointed Iraqi Governing Council, some of who said later that Bush had expressed willingness to change his administration's transition plan.

The Washington Post yesterday said that in an attempt to appease Iraq's top Shiite cleric, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, Washington was now considering holding elections for a provisional Iraqi government, rather than have its members selected by regional caucuses, a plan which Sistani reportedly rejected.

Bush also had a message of support for his troops, far from their families and loved ones on the main US holiday. 'We are proud of you. America stands solidly behind you," he said. "You're defeating Saddam's henchmen so the Iragi people can live in peace and freedom. You're helping calm trouble in a violent part of the world." "You're defeating the terrorists here

in Iraq, so we don't have to face them in our own country," he added in reference to the administration's belief that Irag is now on the front line of the global war on terror, launched after the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York and Washington Afterwards Bush moved among the

troops, shaking hands, dispensing hugs and posing for photos, including one as he held a huge dish containing a turkey

Girl raped FROM PAGE 12 in Sherpur

A teenaged girl was raped at Samashura Park in Nalitabari Upazila

Station in this connection.

tor Paul Bremer and ground forces commander Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, as well as four members of the US-installed Iraqi Governing Council, before leaving after some two-

and trimmings, before going behind

the serving bar and handing over plates

security advisor, Condoleezza Rice,

Bush than met with civilian administra-

Accompanied by his national

of meat and potatoes to the soldiers.

and-a-halfhours. Soldiers said they had been given a heartfelt boost after struggling with a difficult occupation. The White House planned a meticulous campaign to keep the first visit by a US president to

Television reports said US authorities would have called it off had news been leaked in advance, and Air Force One landed at Baghdad airport without lights. The White House had earlier said the president would spend the weekend at his ranch in Crawford, Texas with his family, going so far as to release a menu for their Thanksgiving dinner.

CNN said that even the president's father, ex-president George Bush, who was at the ranch, was not told of the visit and the president's wife. Laura, was only informed at the last minute. The ever-present threat from the

insurgents, including a rocket attack on the Baghdad hotel where US Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz was staying a month ago, has forced all coalition leaders who come to Iraq to do so in the utmost secrecy. A visit to Baghdad earlier in the week

by British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw was only announced after he had completed his talks in the capital and was about to leave for the much calmer British-partolled southern city of Basra.

In July, at least 20 people drowned when two overcrowded boats capsized on the Ugandan side of Lake Albert, also in the eastern DRC.

That accident, which occurred at night, was blamed on poor visibility. Many boats sail at night to avoid police patrols aimed at discouraging

Lake Tumba, further north on the border with the Republic of Congo -one of the two main tributaries of the Congo River.

Peace gets a boost

"My programme of going to Pakistan is being prepared and I will meet everyone there ... I will be happy if Jamali meets me," Vaipavee told

January 4 to 6 summit of the seven-Regional Cooperation (Saarc) is seen as important to advancing the peace

Iamali and Vaipavee spoke to each other by telephone in April soon after Vajpayee made his move to break a military stand-off sparked by an attack Pakistan-based militants.

India and Pakistan have since then

restored bus links and full diplomatic representation but there has been no dialogue at the senior level, while talks on restoring train and air links between lower-rung officials continue to flounder.

Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha has ruled out any immediate summit-level talks between Vajpayee and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf.

"We have (been) saying that summit-level talks between India and Pakistan can take place only when parleys at the lower level are held and there is a meeting of minds and possibility of agreement," he told state-run

Doordarshan television late Thursday. "If some issues remain unresolved. these could be decided at the summit talks ... but we do not want that the talks should begin at the summit

Indian army chief, General N.C. Vij was to travel to Kashmir Friday to review the ceasefire situation, the Press Trust of India news agency said.

Sinking to depth of civic chaos UP leaders

in the fact that on the fringes of the bazar stand an array of impressive high-rise business houses and office blocks which present a striking contrast to the adjacent dingy surroundings. Compounding the distressing situation within the bazar is the location of a wholesale fish market nearby. Within a few hundred vards of the fish market, there is a five-star hotel. It seems easy to guess that the bad smell from the fish market wafted to that hotel also, making a poor impression on its guests.

In the midst of the important business district, the existence of an illorganised and haphazard layout of the market place with an abominable environment is an eyesore to all who want to see an important commercial centre grow up in style.

An equally abominable and chaotic situation prevails at Jatrabari in old Dhaka. The stupendous chaos arises from horrendous traffic jams ever present at this place. It is a compulsory halting place for bus passengers moving out of and into the city. The wheels of all mechanised transports come to a dead stop here. And there is no knowing for

any bus passenger how long this

enforced halt will last. If you proceed

from Comilla and reach Sanir Akhra in

one and a half hours, it may take you about two hours to cross the Jatrabari point. Everyday about eighteen thousand vehicles need to pass through Jatrabari and the large number of passengers of those vehicles experience a high degree of suffering, so much so that many people are heard to say that the other name of the trauma is Jatrabari

It is understood that from the northeastern parts and the district towns numbering twenty and also from two $hundred\, other\, places, a\, huge\, number\, of$ vehicles have to use this route to enter the city. There is no other alternative route. As a result, the volume of traffic jams becomes nightmarish, with the line of waiting vehicles extending over five to six miles. This state of affairs has been contin-

uing for a long time but no effective measure has vet been taken to resolve this problem. On the part of the Dhaka City Corporation and the government, some palliative steps have been taken; a footbridge has been constructed at the Jatrabari crossroads. But people say that this overbridge was unplanned. As a result, pedestrains are reluctant to move up the bridge for crossing the road. Moreover, there were frequent

incidents of muggings on the overbridge. Besides, the beggars create persistent nuisance here, even to the extent of blocking the path of pedestrians with their demands for alms. There are other tribulations; unauthorised shops have been set up on the overbridge. For all these reasons, most people are not keen to use the over-Moreover, all around the Jatrabari

road crossing, unauthorised rickshaws and auto-tempo stands have come up along with a mushrooming kutcha bazar around the area. All these unauthorised build-ups are said to take up about twothirds of the Jatrabari road. As a result traffic jams are a constant phenomenon in this area.

Some months ago, defence service personnel took up the task of regulating traffic at Sayedabad and Jatrabari road crossings. The traffic iam situation somewhat eased. Then there was no kutcha bazar, no scooter and autotempo stand, any unauthorised roadside shops. With the departure of the service personnel, all such undesirable activities reappeared. Only those who suffer these interminable miseries can gauge the depth of this traumatic

their demand, Tapan said.

saying that in recent times, normal activities of the UPs have been hampered by seminars, training and workshops. Different government and nongovernment institutions, donor agencies

government is already controlled. This circular just increases the control. This is a violation of the constitution that dictates the local government cannot be controlled by bureaucracy. This circular will not bring any positive results. The government should scrap the decision."

About seminar or training, he noted, 'Ideally it's the LGRD ministry that should organise those."

ment ... is meant for management of local affairs by locally elected persons. If government officers or their henchmen definition of local government in 1992.

Former LGRD state minister Rahmat Ali said the government interfered with the freedom of the people's representatives through by the circular that he called unconstitutional.

"The government is trying to further

control the elected representatives at the

lowest tier of the local government

violating the constitution," Rahmat Ali The circular also says various organisations and NGOs should coordinate through the UNOs training programmes

of UP chairmen and members. Justifying the restriction, the local government division said usually district and upazila administrations coordinate training programmes, foreign tours and such other matters of the UP representa-

isolated way.

The circular points out that due to lack of coordination, some UP leaders get more opportunities of taking part in various programmes and others are

tives. This is needed because different

institutions and bodies sometimes

organise similar programmes in an

involve its different institutions in providing training to the UP representatives under an UNDP-assisted project, it

FROM PAGE 12 "Azra died on the spot and my

The victim also had rivalry with another man, Sagar alias Liton, over a

Earlier, Belayet filed a case with

Mirpur Police Station in this regard The victim's family lodged a general diary with Pallabi police following his abduction on November 23. Pallabi police vesterday arrested

one Shaon for his alleged involvement

with the abduction and killing of the businessman. Unidentified assailants shot dead an alleged criminal at Masjidpara Mohakhali TB gate in Gulshan

A gang of four to five men show

Sarwar Hossain Robin, 23, indiscriminately in the chest, back and head at 2:45pm. The victim died on the spot Police recovered the body and sent it to the DMCH for autopsy. Police said that Robin was involved

on bail following his arrest by the members of Rapid Action Team. A case was filed with Gulshan Police Station but no arrest was made till

Britain's Iraq invasion costs \$3.4b

The invasion and occupation of Iraq have cost Britain more than two billion pounds (3.4 billion dollars, 2.9 billion euros), The Financial Times The Treasury said the cost of

million

fighting in Iraq was 850

sion to topple former $president\,Saddam\,Hussein\,began.$ A further 1.23 billion has been spent in the current financial year, the

pounds in the year to the end of

March, shortly after the US-led inva-

the three billion pounds set aside to cover the costs of fighting Iraq will, at this rate, run out in the first half of It has been estimated that Britain's continuing peace-keeping presence

in Iraq is costing between 100 and 200

million pounds a month, it said.

According to The Financial Times

Britain still has about 10,000 troops in Iraq, most of them in the south of the country.

Mother of a local Jubo League leader died on November 25, four days after being seriously burnt in an arson attack by her son's alleged political opponents at Rajpasha of Shekherhat union in Jhalakathi district

to burn injuries from Ihalakathi

arson attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

League President Swapan Khan, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last Tuesday after being shifted from Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. Five of her family members --Swapan, 35, his wife Rehana Begum,

30. son Fahad. 5, sister Chhabi Begum,

Rowshan Ara alias Rani Begum, 65,

mother of Shekherhat union Jubo

25, and her son Maruf, 4, -- were also injured in the attack. Police quoting eyewitnesses said the attackers cordoned off the house, locked its doors from outside and poured gasoline all over it before

Local people said Swapan had enmity with local Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (ICD) leader Hassan, a notorious criminal of Ihalakathi accused in several cases including murder. Meanwhile, police arrested six

November 21.

setting it on fire in the early hours of

Khan, 60, Sheikh Akkas, 40, Abdus Salam, 32, Sheikh Liton, 24, and Motaleb Howladar, 35 -- in connection with the incident. Except Jalil and Farid, the four

others will be taken on a three-day

people -- Sardar Jalil Ahmed, 70, Farid

2.6 tonnes of explosives seized in Riyadh

remand today, police said.

Saudi police seized more than 2.6 tonnes of explosives packed into a car that "terrorists" intended to blow up earlier this week, the interior ministry said Thursday. "Explosives, including a combina-

tion of aluminium nitrate and alu-

minium powder, weighing a total of

2,644 kilos (5,820 pounds), as well as

weapons and ammunitions were found in a van that terrorists planned to blow up," said a ministry spokesman, quoted by the official SPA news agency. "Three bottles of gas, to intensify

ists" who planned to unleash a car hombing on the first day of the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival, marking the end of

daily quoted police officers as saying that the suspects possessed enough explosives to blow up an area much larger than the Riyadh residential compound targeted on November 8.

killings and bloodbath in the state," said

Fourteen teenage students met with

outside bathrooms the whole night by

The teenagers had been sent to the

He is likely to return home today from Bangkok after seeing the ailing "We want to complete district father-in-law of his son Mahi B councils by December," Saber Chowdhury at a hospital in the Thai Hossain Chowdhury, an organising secretary of the AL and political Sources close to the former presisecretary to the AL president, told dent told The Daily Star yesterday The Daily Star vesterday.

"The government is failing on nation South Asian Association for every front. People want to get rid of the situation. If they find an alterna-

India's government had earlier said it would not talk to Pakistani leaders until the flow of rebels from the Pakistani zone of Kashmir to the Indian side was halted.

and non- governmental organisations organise these programmes. Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, an expert on local government, said, "Our local

The government has decided to

Boat capsizes

even though it was designed to carry only 67 passengers.

Lake Maindombe is -- along with

famali on the sidelines of a South Asian summit in Islamabad in January.

reporters in the northern Indian town of Lucknow late Thursday. Vaipavee's visit to Islamabad for a

on India's parliament in December 2001, which New Delhi blamed on

The government justifies the circular

He also referred to a judgement of the Supreme Court that said, "Local govern-

are brought to run these local bodies, there is no sense in retaining them as local bodies." The court said this in its But the government circular main tains that as per relevant regulations, UP

ment nominations to participate in such