victims, Mahmuda, 4 years and six

months, Tamanna, 5, and Russell, 6,

came out of their homes after break-

I came out for work," sobbed

Mujibar Rahman, father of Sonia

voice thick with emotion -- said her

daughter had breakfast with her and

the tank and found its lid open. I

churned the water with a stick and

left home with her brother.

Sonia's mother Jayeda -- her

"I searched all around, went to

"I saw my daughter playing when

fast, but did not return home alive.

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People's Right to Know

Horror too

The Rahman family was at the end of its tethers to take in the news of the

recovery of bodies of their children -

- Sonia and Jamil -- from a water

reservoir, after having lost another

child only three months ago. And as

soon as Mojibur Rahman heard the news, he fell down from his bicycle

"I searched every possible place

after they went missing at 10:00am

and I did not even imagine they

would end up inside a water tank in

their own house," Mojibur said

trying to strangle a sob, squatting

beside the bodies of the five children

including his 7-year-old Sonia and

real to

be true

BISHAWJIT DAS

and fainted

POUSH 12, 1410 BS . JILKAD 2, 1424 HIJRI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

yesterday noon.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2 | dren slipped into the tank by acci-

It was a fatal day out for babies. A

water tank of an under-construction

building proved a death trap for five

playmates, all below 7, in Uttara

death of the five children together in

a single incident that shocked the

neighbourhood of Azampur to the

Most parents of the victims -- a

toddler of 1 year and 3 months

among them -- believe their chil-

A shroud of mystery cloaked the

in water tank

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# Musharraf escapes second attempt in 10 days

14 killed, 18 wounded as suicide car bombers strike Pak president's motorcade at site of first attack

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf narrowly survived a second assassination bid in less than two weeks vesterday when suicide car bombers attacked his motorcade, killing themselves and at least 12 others

Officials said the two cars used in the attack

were driven out of two petrol stations just 200 meters (yards) from a bridge on a main road in the city of Rawalpindi where Musharraf escaped a bombing on December 14.

The powerful blasts scattered debris and body parts over a wide area and damaged the windshield of the president's armoured



## Jamming device 'saved' him

BBC ONLINE

The car carrying Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf may have escaped a roadside bomb blast thanks to a radio jamming device, officials say.

Five bombs exploded under a bridge in the city of Rawalpindi on Sunday, mere seconds after President SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## Baghdad on Xmas 2 hotels, Turkish, Iranian

embassies among hit

REUTERS, Baghdad

Anti-American guerrillas yesterday sent more than a dozen rockets and mortar rounds slamming into Baghdad on Christmas Day, hitting hotels, embassies and the vicinity of the US-led occupation authority in

Yesterday's bombings, the widest in scale in the Iraqi capital since the

December 13 capture of Saddam Hussein, followed warnings of a wave of spectacular attacks during the holiday season.

The US military said an American soldier had been killed by a roadside bomb in the capital on Wednesday, raising the death toll to four in attacks that day

Two hotels used by Westerners

### brother Jamil, the youngest of the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1 Rockets shower on 191 die in China

gas blast

REUTERS, Beijing

At least 191 people were killed and hundreds poisoned when a natural gas well in southwestern China erupted and released a plume of toxic fumes, medical workers, offi-

5 children found dead

dent after they left home at 10:00am

The victims came from four next-

door families that were shaken to

the core by a search that ended in

harrowing scenes of the children

floating dead in the four feet deep

hectic search as none of the families

found their children around even

after they announced lost-child

messages on loudspeakers about an

Like other days, Sonia, 7, her

The parents carried out the

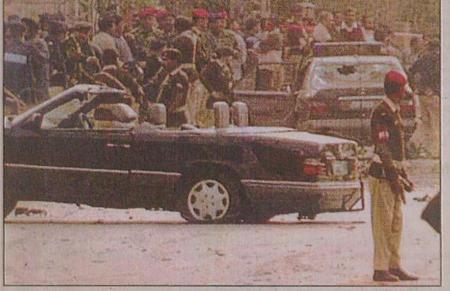
water of the 15 feet by 15 feet tank.

cials and state media said vesterday. Authorities evacuated up to 16,000 people, most of them farmers, after the government ordered everyone cleared from within five km (three miles) of the Tuesday disaster in Kaixian county, in the SEE PAGE 11 COL 7 | densely populated Chongqing municipality, an oil official said.

"We're very busy. There are patients everywhere. We haven't counted the casualties," said a Kaixian hospital worker.

Some of the victims, who included men, women, children and gas field workers, had been poisoned and others had suffered chemical burns, hospital workers said.

China has a notoriously poor work safety record. More than 95,600 people were killed in work-SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Pakistani soldiers stand guard near the damaged cars of President Pervez Musharraf's motorcade in Rawalpindi yesterday after Musharraf narrowly survived a suicide car bomb

#### Christmas observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Christians in the country cele brated Christmas yesterday with due religious fervour and gaiety as elsewhere in the world. Commemorating the birth of

Jesus Christ, Christians around the globe observed December 25 with pledges to uphold the spirit of peace and love in the ideals of Christ. In Bangladesh, decoration of Xmass trees with colourful lights,

offering of special prayers, singing of carols, distribution of gifts among the children by Santa Claus and exchange of pleasantries among the adults were the main features of the day's celebrations. In the capital, believers in

Christianity visited churches as well as starred hotels, where special arrangements were made to mark SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

#### Two left dead inside car on DU campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified killers gunned down two people and left them in a car in front of Zahurul Haq Hall of Dhaka University (DU) last night.

One of the victims clad in a red shirt and grey trousers was identi-fied as Yasin, 40. He received two bullets in the head.

clad in white T-shirt and grey trousers. He received two bullets in the Ramna police said the gunmen killed them somewhere else and left

The other, aged about 35, was

them in front of the hall in a car with Witnesses said the two were in a

red private car (Dhaka Metro Bha-8784) parked on the main road in front of the hall gate.

#### Rejoinder and our reply

The Power Development Board (PDB) in a rejoinder yesterday to a Daily Star report headlined "Tk 7, 600 crore pillage at PDB since 1971" said the parliamentary standing committee on the energy and mineral resources ministry did not express dissatisfaction at PDB's performance.

It said the PDB cleared 942 audit objections only during the last 11 SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



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