# The Paily Star



A team from the University of

One measure showed the cries

The research is published in

The scientists found that a

baby's sobs triggered increased

activity in a particular area of the brains of parents of both sexes.

This area, called the amygdala,

However, measures of activity

in the amygdalas of childless

adults, both men and women,

showed they were more likely to

laughed, rather than cried.

genes into the world.

made biological sense.

needs of their baby.

FROM PAGE 1

istration is situated.

be stimulated when a baby

Lead researcher Professor

Erich Seifritz, of the University's Department of Psychiatry, told

BBC News Online that the findings

He said: "For a parent a baby's

"A parent needs to foster their

cries are much more important

make sure they are sensitive to

means that a child is more likely to

"In evolutionary terms, this

plays a central role in processing

emotions.

provoked a stronger reaction in parents than in childless people,

and another showed a stronger

the journal Biological Psychiatry.

response in women than men.

# NZ seabird returns 150 years on

from the time the bird vanished in

the 19th century, and we now want

the New Zealand storm petrel is a

genuinely distinct species, and our

visual evidence to back that up is

He believes the rats are now in

The realisation that they had

almost certainly rediscovered a lost

species did not dawn on the pair till

some hours afterwards, said

boatman, hanging on for dear life

anything, and I didn't download

the images till we were back

"It was hard to photograph

"Then I said to Bob: 'Come and

"But I remembered the possible

'Since then my e-mails haven't

in a very rough, choppy sea.

onshore that evening.

absolutely spot on.'

Гhomas.

"We're confident that will prove

those subjected to DNA testing.

### **BBC ONLINE**

Two British men say they have seen a seabird thought to have become extinct more than a century and a halfago

The bird, the New Zealand storm petrel, was spotted a short distance off the country's North

The "lost" bird has distinctive Island in November. features. There had been a possible Thomas thinks the petrels breed sighting of the petrel in January on Little and Great Barrier Islands,

2003, when it was photographed where there is a sizeable rat popufor the first time, though the image lation. is said to be "questionable". But this time the two Britons say decline and that this has given the

they are in no doubt the bird they petrels a chance to re-establish sighted really is the one last seen in themselves.

They are Bryan Thomas, a professional bird photographer, and his friend Bob Flood, a writer. They were in New Zealand to write an article for an ornithologists website, Swarovski Birding.

Thomas told BBC News Online: "We were in a small boat off Little Barrier Island, not far from Auckland, on 17 November when we saw between 20 and 30 petrels.

"Off New Zealand you expect to see two other species, the blackbellied and the white-faced storm petrel.

look at this - there's something not "But the bird we saw is really right here.' I didn't realise were looking at something that had distinctive and different. The underparts are white with a black come back from the dead. streak, and the feet project further back than the tail. sighting from January, and then

everything fell into place. "There are differences in the detail of the plumage as well. And we were as close as 20 feet (six stopped. It's a big deal for New metres) to them. Zealand - now they've got some-

"There are two skins dating thing back.

Israeli strike in

# PHOTO: PIE

He said: "There were just the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia slices a Christmas cake at her residence vesterday, marking the greatest religious festitwo of us in this little boat with our val of the Christian community.

### **Abducted farmer** Musharraf escapes

### FROM PAGE 1

Mercedes, but he was unhurt, they said. "The President and all his com-Miscreants kidnapped a farmer from his house at Zamirzuri village panions are safe and sound," said

Major-General Shaukat Sultan. An aide said Musharraf, who had been n Chandanaish upazila yesterday heading home, was "in good spir-Police said Hossain Ahmed, 54,

"It was an assassination was kidnapped in the early hours of yesterday and found dead in the attempt," said Information Minister Sheikh Rasheed Ahmed. Two suicide attackers in two cars Family sources said a gang of five raided the house at about tried to hit the president's vehicle. Allah has saved him. Three cars of 4:00am and abducted Hossain at the cavalcade, including the presigunpoint. After a hectic search, his dent's car, were damaged. body was found about three kilo-

metres off the house at about 5:00pm. Interior Ministry spokesman Abdul Rauf Chaudary said at least 14 people had been killed, including at least two bombers, and 18 people were wounded.

A soldier and three policeman were among the dead. Some police officers in the motorcade were hurt and a diversionary open-topped Mercedes at the tail end of the motorcade was blown across the road by the blasts.

Soldiers and police cordoned off the area on the road connecting Rawalpindi with the capital Islamabad. The route is used almost daily by Musharraf to drive to and from the capital. Sultan said it was too early to

determine who might be responsible for the attack.

Authorities suspect Islamic militants, who Musharraf has targeted as part of his contribution to the US-led war on terror, were behind the December 14 attack. Musharraf told the news agency a few days later it could have been the work of al-Qaeda and he believed "destiny" had shielded him.

The list of Musharraf's enem

### edly from al-Qaeda deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahri urging Pakistanis to overthrow Musharraf for supporting the United States.

"It could be al Qaeda, it could be an internal factor, or both internal and external," Sultan said. "We can say something only after investiga tions are complete.'

Yesterday's attack happened within sight of the previous attempt on Musharraf's life, in which explosions ripped apart a bridge just after his motorcade passed over it. Musharraf survived an attempt on his life last year for which three Islamic extremists were convicted

The latest bid came a day after Musharraf reached an agreement with hardline Islamic opponents to step down as Chief of Army Staff by the end of 2004 in order to resolve a long-running row that has virtually paralysed parliament.

The agreement is likely to see the general's term as president extended until 2007, although any weakening of his links to the mili-

tary could undermine his position. Analyst Shireen Mazari, head of the state-funded Institute of Strategic Studies, said the attacks could be the work of extremists wanting to derail moves toward peace with neighboring India and unhappy with the war on terror.

She said the attacks raised serious questions about Musharraf's security and much touted intelligence services.

"I am amazed the attack occurred in the same area targeted before," she said.

Defiance analyst Riffat Hussein said al Qaeda would be prime suspects, but domestic militants angered by Pakistan's peace over-India could also be tures with

### **Parents wired to** 5 ansars linked FROM PAGE 12

### to court yesterday.

Police sealed the hotel Shibir activists used as their hideout with the ansars on guard as camouflage. Leaders of the ICS disowned the

injured young men as its activists. **BBC ONLINE** But Rubel told interrogators that his father was an influential leader of Phultala unit of Jamaat-e-The brains of parents -- especially mothers -- appear to be wired up to respond to the cries of babies. Islami, the backer of the ICS. Rube also said during interrogation that they were all Shibir activists. Basel used sophisticated scans to measure brain responses to recordings of babies' cries and laughter.

### PM plans FROM PAGE 12

### a PMO source said.

The premier recently declined a proposal of Principal Secretary Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, whose contractual service expires on January 9, to nominate him as the vice-chairman of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), he claimed

Under the previous BNP gov-ernment of Khaleda from 1991 to 1996, Siddiqui served as her secre-tary. When the government's term neared completion, he successfully got nomination for the executive director of the ADB.

The Awami League government that took office in 1996 ballot recalled him.

The PMO official alleged the chance of Siddiqui retaining the principal secretary's position on further contract was remote this time as many secretaries com-plained to the premier about him.

### Opposition FROM PAGE 12

than for a non-parent. belonging to the 11-party leftist alliance, are also preparing for a January 8 countrywide rail and offspring, so that they spread their genes into the world. road barricade programme. "So it is important that they have mechanisms in their brain to

Party representatives recently attended meetings of the coordination committee, but were unable to fix a date for the convention due to "preoccupations with individual party matters", JSD's Abdullahil Quayyum and CPB's Ruhin Hossain Prince told The Daily Star.

Some insiders however hinted that the parties are uncomfortable with the lack of clarity of the convention's agenda.

While the main opposition AL wants to use the convention platform as a springboard for a greater anti-government movement, the CPB wants to see the convention focus on ways to strengthen the UP and abolish the controversial Gram Sarkar

Organisational problems aside, the UP convention could actually bolster the anti-government movement if chiefs of the four parties joined the convention, sources said.

### JU students FROM PAGE 12

Wednesday at around 11:30pm. In face of the students' demand, the VC agreed to issue the written circulation.

The students went on the hunger strike in front of the administrative building from December 23 to break the prevailing deadlock since

# respond to child

survive and pass on his or her genes.

However, the research came up with different findings when it focused on a second area of the brain called the prefrontal cortex. This is a complex structure, which is not fully understood, but is also thought to play a role in processng emotion.

These readings showed that all women, regardless of whether they had children of their own, registered altered activity in this area in response to a baby's cries.

However, men, again regardless of their parental status, showed no sign of raised activity in this region.

The researchers believe that a baby's cries may trigger a noise filter in the prefrontal cortex which enables a woman to focus solely on a child's cries, to exclu-sion of other sounds.

# **BSF abducts Bangladeshi**

A parent needs to foster their **BSS**, Rajshahi offspring, so that they spread their

> A man was abducted by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) personnel from a village near Gilabari frontier under Bholahat upazila of Chapainawabganj on Wednesday.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources quoted witnesses as saying BSF team entered Jadunagar village at about 5:30pm and abducted Bablu, 50, son of Saju Sheikh, while he (Bablu) was harvesting paddy in his land.

Local BDR authorities yesterday sent a protest letter to their Indian counterparts, requesting them to hold a flag meeting as early as possible on the matter.

# **Rockets shower**

### a foot patrol in the area.

and an apartment block were He said the attackers left behind struck, as well as the area where the leaflets urging staff at the Ishtar headquarters of the US-led admin-Sheraton to stop working at the hotel and demanding US forces leave Iraq.

Guerrillas fired rockets that hit the outside wall of the Iranian Another rocket hit the Bourj alembassy, the Turkish embassy and Hayat Hotel, also used by Americans. The hotel was used by a residential building next to the German embassy. U.N. weapons inspectors before

The rockets blew a hole in the the war. No one was hurt. front wall of the Turkish mission and shattered windows but caused Zeid, 20, said: "We were sleeping little damage in the other blasts, when we heard a large explosion. witnesses said. My mother was taken to hospital. The attack damaged his parents

A rocket missed the Interior Ministry and landed in a nearby street, witnesses said.

A neighbour said he saw a car speeding away from a nearby street Only one woman was wounded in the attacks that took place immediately after the attack. around sunrise.

The bombings added to the gloom surrounding Christmas

celebrations. Baghdad churches

did not hold the traditional mid-

night mass for lack of security,

Hundreds from the Christian

The lift area between the eighth

minority attended masses in the

morning, alarmed by the violence

and ninth floors of the Ishtar

Sheraton Hotel was struck. Debris

and shattered glass littered the

A manager at the hotel said

The hotel, where US contractors

and Western journalists stay, was

hit in another attack late on

Wednesday, but once again there

"This is a regular day for us,"

said US First Lieutenant Kurt Muniz, as he led several soldiers on

related accidents in the first nine

was still being investigated but one oil industry official in Chongqing said the well had burst while it was

The Xinhua news agency said at least 191 people had been con-firmed dead by last evening.

"Chinese leaders called for unreserved efforts in searching and rescuing victims," the official news

Rescue workers carrying oxygen

The private www.sina.com

tanks on their backs and wearing

masks were seen near the site, said

website said about 30,000 people had been evacuated. The injured

had swollen and sensitive eyes and some had difficulty standing, it

Xinhua said the gas well burst

on Tuesday, spewing a high con-centration of natural gas and sulfurated hydrogen 30 meters

(100 feet) into the air at the Chuandongbei field, which is

owned by China National Petroleum Corp (CNPC), parent of

agency said on its Web site.

The cause of the latest disaster

clerics said.

gripping their citv.

hotel's lobby.

there were no casualties.

were no casualties.

FROM PAGE 1

being drilled.

one official.

said.

months of the year.

A US military spokesman said The slain American soldier three or four rockets struck in the brought to 206 the number of US vicinity of the US-led Coalition military deaths from hostile fire Provisional Authority complex in since Washington announced the the centre of Baghdad on the westend of major combat in Iraq on

dead.

Israeli helicopter gunships killed a senior Islamic militant and at least four other people in a missile strike Tuesday left nine people dead. on a car in Gaza City last night, medics said. árwan Barghouti.

The Israeli army said the target was a militant from the Islamic Jihad group thought to be planning Bankfrom Jordan.

It said Meqled Hamid of Islamic Jihad, a Palestinian militant group spearheading a three-year-old uprising against Israel, was killed in the attack

Meanwhile, an explosion tore through a bus outside Tel Aviv, injuring at least 10, Reuters reported

quoting Israeli security sources. They said the blast took place at a highway leading to Israel's coastal metropolis.

In a separate incident, the Israeli army said earlier it had foiled an attempted Palestinian militant

"Sonia was third among her 155 classmates and we dreamt of educat-ing her to a doctor," the mother mõaned. "After Moni's death, we were taking great care of them and did not imagine we had this in store for us," the mother was struggling to talk, hugging 11-year Zahid, their only surviving child. Four and a half-year-old Mahmuda's mother Monwara Russell's mother, Sheuli Begum is Begum fainted as well right after hearing the news. When she got back to her senses, she sat speechless.



# An Israeli raid in Gaza on

### The attacks came as Israel confirmed it was holding the eldest son of jailed Palestinian political leader

# Qassam, 19, was stopped on Wednesday as he entered the West

# Horror

### FROM PAGE 1 15-month-old Jamil on a mat beside

"I last saw Jamil sleeping and did not notice him going out, and that too, forever," their shock-still mother Zaheda wailed. "How can I bear this oss after losing my 13-year-old Moni

decision to cancel the flights came early Wednesday after American authorities notified France that "two or three" suspicious people, possibly Tunisian nationals, were planning to

A case was filed with Chandanaish Police Station.

murdered in

Chittagong

before killing him

UNB, Ctg

vening.

# Gunned down

### FROM PAGE 12 with a loaded pistol for their alleged involvement in the killing. Shyampur police recovered the body and sent it to Mitford hospital

for autopsy. However, no case was filed till the writing of this report at 6:00pm last evening.

Air France flights FROM PAGE 12

### Three of the canceled flights were headed to Los Angeles and three more were returning to Paris.

A spokesman for French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin said the just the other day?

### 5 children

### FROM PAGE 1

**AGENCIES**, Gaza

an attack

saw slippers inside to my horror," said Jamal, father of Mahmuda -- in a

too shocked to believe it was just a slip into the water-filled tank and death.

"How could all drop to death in one place," Sheuli, wife of a grocer, said in a gesture of agony.

"I was looking for Russell, called him by name again and again but did not find him. He had breakfast with me before he left," said Sabrina, aunt of Russell, who went to visit her.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, visiting the aggrieved, described the death of the children as a tragic accident.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Ashraful Huda said: "It was an accident no doubt, but we are investigating whether the building owner had any neglect.'

The commissioner also said the parents got back the bodies without autopsy, describing it as an accident.

Deputy Commissioner of DMP's North Zone Golam Rasul told The Daily Star that one of the children might have slipped into the water first and the rest plunged to death in their efforts to save their playmate.

The families received the bodies for burial from Uttara Police Station without post-mortem as a magis-trate allowed them on request.

### Over 60 die

### FROM PAGE 12

plane could carry about 140 people.

Sixty-three passengers boarded in Cotonou.

Witnesses said most of the dead appeared to be Lebanese. There is a large Lebanese community in West Africa.

Airport officials said the flight originated in Conakry, capital of the West African nation Guinea, and was travelling to Beirut via Dubai.

Airport officials said the plane had problems retracting its landing gear after takeoff, smashed into a building at the end of the runway, exploded and then crashed into the

Rescue workers were searching the sea after the crash, which took place around 1415 GMT.

In December 1995 about 60 people were killed when a Cameroon airliner on a flight from Cotonou crashed into a swamp in Cameroon. Africa is particularly prone to air disasters because of poor maintenance of cash-strapped airlines

After losing her only child, she has become alone in the house. Her husband Sharif Uddin and most of her close relatives live in Saudi Arabia.

Six-year-old Russell also drowned; he was visiting his grand-mother. "My child came here to visit granny. I did not even have a chance to see him for one last time. said a bewildered Sheuli, the mother.

She is unwilling to accept it as an accident. "Five children cannot die together, someone must have a hand in this gruesome murder," she cried.

"All hell broke loose on me when I saw a shoe of a kid floating," said Mohammad Jamil, father of another girl, Tamanna. "I could not even believe what I was seeing. I was present during the recovery, but could not say a word as if I was paralysed," he said, trying to fight back tears.

### **BNP-backed** FROM PAGE 12

demands After the central bank authori-

ties lodged a case in this connection, other CBA leaders lay low for a while. But now they are trying to reestablish their dominance in affairs of the bank, sources said.

In early November, the BB ordered all unions and associations to relocate their offices from the executive floor of the main building to the annex building within 24 hours. All unions complied with the order excepting the one backed by the ruling

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). As the CBA remained nonresponsive, the central bank offi-

cials, at a discussion with some of its leaders on the issue, asked them to take the initiative. The management even told them that the bank would bear the relocation cost and the CBA leaders agreed. But, later, they backed out.

Sources alleged the CBA leaders were even threatening some BB officials with bringing them to book in due time.

board the flights.

The French Interior ministry said the United States handed French authorities the names of suspicious people who may have intended to board the flights but no people by those names went through airport security checks, and no arrests were made. French television station LCI reported that US authorities believed

members of al-Qaeda may have been planning to board the planes. It was unclear who ordered the cancellations. The Interior Ministry said the flights were canceled at the request of the US Embassy in Paris. A

spokesman for Raffarin said the United States had threatened to refuse the planes permission to land if they took off. But US officials refused to confirm that they had requested the cancellations.

However, French justice and law enforcement officials said yesterday they found little evidence that terrorists were planning to use US-bound aircraft to launch attacks against American targets.

No arrests were made, and French authorities released seven men -- one French, one American and several Algerians -- after briefly questioning them late Wednesday, said an Interior Ministry spokesman He said the investigation was all but onhold.

# Rejoinder

FROM PAGE 1

### names while voicing some

months while the report men-tioned only 700 such objections have been cleared so far.

The reioinder added that the amount of Tk 7,600 crore were not robbed by the officials as, in reality, a major chunk of it is outstanding

### **Our Reply**

We have quoted verbatim the chairman of the parliamentary standing committee, who stated the committee's dissatisfaction.

As regards the issue of the 'outstanding' bill of Tk 7,600 crore, we have quoted the audit report on the causes of evaporation of this sum. The audit report held theft, misanpropriation, irregular payments and failure of bill collection responsible for the debacle of the power board.

We stand corrected that the PDB alone is not responsible for this debacle. The government's poor policy implementation, unwillingness of the higher authorties to punish politically-backed thieves and wrong advice of the donors have also largely contrib-

uted to the problem.

has lengthened since he took a responsible. front-line role in the US-led war on terror after the September 11 attacks in 2001.

He has angered militants by dropping support for the former Taliban regime in Afghanistan, arresting hundreds of members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network and cracking down on domestic groups, and by edging toward peace with rival India.

The attack come just over a week before a regional summit in Islamabad due to be attended by India's Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

In September, Arabic television broadcast an audio tape purport-

## Clash over land leaves 40 hurt in Sunamganj

### UNB, Sunamganj

At least 40 people were injured in a clash between two rival groups over a piece of land at Digarkandi village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

Police said the clash erupted at about 9:00am when the claim of one Siddique Ali on the land adjacent to a mazar was dismissed by the village arbitrators.

Nineteen of the injured were admitted to Sadar Hospital. They are Abbas, Razzak Ali, Akbar Shams Mia, Khalil, Asad, Abdul Haq, Sikandar, Nurul, Noor, Foyezul, Babul, Nurul Islam, Anwar, Mukit, Ashak Ali, Monnaf and Gayas Ali.

# Disabled girl

### FROM PAGE 12

cal condition from a road yesterday morning, they added.

But Aziz Ullah, local Union Parishad member, Modhu Mian and some others refrained villagers from admitting the bleeding girl to hospital saying the matter should be settled in the village arbitration court. Local influentials also ressed the victim's father not to lodge any case, locals said.

Following an order from Police Superintendent Mezbahunnabi, local police later filed a case, they added

However, police failed to nab any of the culprits till the writing of this report at 6:00 last evening. ter

"The attack comes very close to

the summit, which creates an atmosphere of terror and could mean the government may not be not able achieve what it wants to. he said.

India condemned the attack.

# Rivals kill 3

### FROM PAGE 12

shots and exploded crackers during the clash that lasted for an hour.

At one stage, one group retreated with three bullet-injured operatives. But their rivals chased them and managed to catch the injured three. They slit their throats and left the scene.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent them to Pabna General Hospital for autopsy.

Additional police have been deployed in the village. A tense situation was prevailing in the area. No case was filed till the filing of the report at 6:30pm.

# Jamming device

FROM PAGE 1 Musharrafhad passed over it.

The jamming device may have blocked the signal to the remote-controlled bomb.

His security was stepped up in a big way following last year's failed attempt on his life in Karachi, for which three members of a banned Islamic militant group have been convicted.

Most of the time two or more identical black Mercedes are part of his motorcade, and it is nearly impossible to make out in which car he is travelling.

There has always been a ban on carrying mobile telephones at his functions.

But lately, security officials have been using a radio-jamming device to block all kinds of wireless communications within a radius of about a couple of hundred metres.

Reports say a vehicle with the jamming device is also part of President Musharraf's motorcade.

There is a strong possibility that it may have blocked the use of a remote-controlled device to detonate the explosives while his car was on the bridge on Sunday.

However, officials are reluctant to comment publicly on the mat-

October 15 after Juta called an May 1. indefinite strike to press home its three-point demand.

Saddam supporters and foreign Islamic militants. Officials had Juta withdrew the strike after the JU authorities met its demands warned insurgents would launch partially. fierce attacks during the Christmas holiday season.

The VC panel election will be held on February 19 and cadres of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, who kept confined the Shaheed Salam Barkat hall authorities on August 12 will be punished within seven days, but removal of the VC is not possible, the authorities said.

Amin said they withdrew the strike at an executive committee meeting after the authorities promised to meet their demands. But Juta members shot down the decision, saying it was taken without their consent.

### AL leader killed FROM PAGE 12

He died on the spot in front of a large number of onlookers. While leaving the place the assailants exploded two more bombs.

The slain AL leader was a nephew of former state minister for information Syed Didar Bakht Hashemi. The motive for the murder is yet to be known.

### Christmas FROM PAGE 1

the day. Christmas Carol singers along with Santa Clauses performed in these hotels much to the amusement of the tiny tots. For children, receiving X-mass gifts from Santa Clause was the main attraction of the Christmas celebrations.

Besides, cakes were cut at hotels and Christian houses to share the happiness of the X-mass celebrations among relatives, neighbours and fellow members of the community.

Reports of X-mass celebrations in far-flung areas of the country including the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) poured in our newsroom last night. Deputy Minister for CHT Affairs Moni Swapan Dewan joined the X-mass celebrations of the Tripuras at Roangchhari in Bandarban yesterday and cut a cake on the occasion. Security in Dhaka was tightened to ensure peaceful celebrations. Special law-enforcing squads at different strategic points were kept on alert to avert any untoward incidents.

ern bank of the river Tigris. Washington blames attacks on

bedroom

Warning sirens sounded several times at the complex, which was once one of Saddam's palaces. The all-clear was sounded some two hours after the attacks.

At the apartment block, Samar

Three US soldiers died in a bomb blast north of Baghdad on Wednesday and a suicide car bomber killed himself and four other people in northern Iraq.

US aircraft and artillery pounded suspected guerrilla hideouts in southern Baghdad for a second night.

Blasts and heavy machinegun fire echoed across the city as the US military's Operation Iron Grip went on into early Thursday to flush out suspected guerrillas.

US soldiers have arrested hundreds of suspected guerrillas and their backers in raids across the Sunni Muslim heartland west and north of Baghdad since Saddam was captured on December 13 in his home town of Tikrit.

The Sunni minority dominated

Iraq under Saddam's rule. He

repressed the majority Shia

Muslims during his three decades

It was also unclear why the reported death toll had shot up two

days after the accident. Earlier yesterday Xinhua reported that 133 had died but soon raised that to 163

Another CNPC official in Beijing said the blast had not caused a fire.

In Kaixian, about 1,000 km (620

miles) west of Shanghai with a population of about 1.5 million, more than 200 people were being treated for poisoning, a hospital administrator said. It was not clear

ow many were admitted to other

State radio said an earlier burst had been brought under control on Wednesday. If quoted a govern-ment official as saying the gas well that had burst would be sealed on Friday.

The central government sent a team to coordinate the rescue.

Chongqing and the neighboring province of Sichuan are among China's major natural gas produc-

In August, PetroChina began construction of a \$400 million

pipeline to pump natural gas from Chongqing to central China.

in power.

oil major PetroChina

and then 191.

hospitals.

Friday.

ng areas.

191 die in China