Sangu goes

beyond a depth of 4,000 feet in the Sangu-1 well and water along with

now testing the other three wells to see if the Sangu-1 situation would affect the other wells. The oil companies and Petrobangla will meet in a day or two to decide the next course of action.

However, Shell sources said two re-perforated wells were giving 90 mmcfd gas against previous 70 mmcfd (maximum). there is no doubt that Sangu can supply up to 190 mmcfd from next month. The question right now is whether Sangu-1 well will be able to supply more or not," one source

The Sangu-1 well used to supply a maximum of 50 mmcfd gas.

Petrobangla sources said due to the projected sharp rise of gas

demand in the upcoming lean season, it is willing to pay for additional supply from the offshore gas field. Sangu gas is the most expensive in Bangladesh with the rate being around \$2.7 a thousand cubic feet (mcf). The government sells it to bulk consumers in Chittagong at around \$1.2.

This year, the demand for gas oared up to 1290 mmcfd and is likely to go up by at least 7 percent

Cab driver killed at Ramna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A taxicab driver was killed as his car smashed into a traffic island near Kakrail in Ramna yesterday.

Abdus Sattar, 38, died on the spot when the speeding taxicab rammed into the island on Kakrail intersection at about 6:40am

Family members said Sattar was drowsy when he went out of his house at Azimpur in Lalbagh with the black cab at around 6:00am.

Ramna police sent Sattar's body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and seized the taxicab.

BB mulls ban

CSAB chief Imamul said. "We are operating as courier service companies under the Post Office Act. This question of whether courier resolved in our favour.'

convention, we accept transfer of a highest of Tk 20,000 per individual. Our services are being used for business and personal purposes. If the government wants to put some restrictive measures to streamline this business, it can set a limit on the amount of money to be transacted

"If Bangladesh Bank wants to check hundi transaction through our system, it can develop a special mechanism to monitor our business," the CSAB president added.

ating guideline for the courier services to remove confusion or bad practices. Telecoms ministry sources, meanwhile, said such a policy was being processed and was likely to be approved by next month.

Giving his personal opinions on the issue, a finance ministry high official said, "courier services in Bangladesh grew because of the inefficiency of the postal depart-

ment. It will be wise to amend the existing laws to allow courier services to transfer limited amount of money for the benefit of the people.

The official related one of his personal experiences: "Once, during visit to Chittagong, I urgently needed some money. So, I called up my home and they sent the money through a courier service. I received it the next day. If there was no courier service, I would have landed in trouble, as both the banks and the postal department do not have any such prompt delivery system."

The courier services charge around Tk 20 for a transfer of Tk 1,000 and Tk 10 per additional thousand and deliver the money within a maximum of two days. The postal department, on the other hand, charges Tk 2.5 for transfer of a hundred taka -- or Tk 25 per thousand And, in delivering the money, the postal department may take at least five to six days in those places that are outside the major district headquar-

In the last 20 years of their involvement in money transfer, the number of courier services has grown to 70. Besides, there are also 15 foreign courier services operating in the country. By virtue of the public confidence they have earned over the time, they now handle huge volume of money transfer.

Poultry feed

Although attempts to contact Khalilur Rahman by phone were himself as a nephew said they used many materials, including tannery waste, to make poultry feed.

He declined to respond to questions about materials, production or sterilisation technology.

The owner of Eastern Feeds

temperature of 130 degrees

When it was pointed out that tannery waste was seen being sun-dried for his factory, he replied: 'It's not for poultry, but for fish, as bacteria-free for fish.

An official at Eastern Feeds, Bishu Chowdhury, said they produce 200 to 250 tons of poultry feed

"We get the supply of steamed bone from Global Capsul, a pharmaceutical company in Barisal, to produce protein concentrate, Bishu said. The factory sells the product to Nahar Poultry in Noakhali and other farms.

icates from the Veterinary Hospital, Department of Livestock Services and a science laboratory. He did not comment on the production technology.

Poultry feed made from waste material without proper sterilisation may contain bacteria, aflatoxin and other elements detrimental to poultry, said a source at Bangladesh Poultry Industries Association.

"We are not aware of any such poultry feed industries in the country," said the source, who insisted on anonymity. "Our country does not have the kind of sonhisticated and high-tech sterilisation mechanism required for making the feed bacteria-free and

He said poultry industries usually use imported bloodmeal and bonemeal. Prof M A Latif of World Member

Poultry Science Association also said he was completely unaware of animal protein-concentrate production in Bangladesh.

He thought most supplies were imported from the United States.

Unsterilised feed was a hazard and improper use of offal and other

animal trash in poultry feed was detrimental to the health both of poultry and the public health, Latif

Bishu said the factory has certif-

USA," he said, citing an instance.

relations.

British colonial rule, sometimes delays or hinders the improvement of relationship. Strong political will someday overrun the bureaucracy, Mookherjee said.

Differences have narrowed

Mookherjee acknowledged concerns of the business people here about non-tariff barriers put on Bangladesh's exports to India, especially on cement, battery and

food products

legal process. Standard certification for cement export from Bangladesh is also required under Indian law of standardisation Even then Bangladesh has been given special concession. The federal minister of state

said he sees good prospects for business between India's northeastern states and Bangladesh and hoped that federal bureaucratic impediments, if there be any in the way of cross-border trade facilitation, must go someday.

Mookherjee met government leaders and exchanged views with business leaders with a view to facilitating more trade between the two next-door neighbours.

Bangladesh rose from \$180 million in 1991 to \$1012 million in 2001-02, while the informal export is estimated to be about \$1.5 billion. On the other hand, India's imports from Bangladesh in the last two vears have declined to \$50 million from \$65 million.

Five outlaws arrested in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Five armed cadres of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were arrested in Dumuria upazila of the district on Sunday night.

Tipped off, Dumuria police raided the hideout of the underground operatives at Rangpur village of the upazila and nabbed them while they were holding a secret meeting.

The arrestees are Aditya Mondol, 44, Milon Mondol, 30, Ranjit Mondol, 35, Dayal Mondol, 52, and Alamgir Hossain, 40.

Police said Aditya Mondol, a egional leader of the party, is an accused in nine murder cases.

They were sent to jail yesterday.

Dead mother's embrace saves Iranian baby

REUTERS, Bam, Iran

A baby girl cradled in her dead mother's arms was rescued alive from the rubble of a collapsed building in Bam yesterday -- a rare moment of joy amid the devastation of Iran's worst earthquake for

But rescuers were witness more to the fragility of human life when one seven-year-old boy was found alive but suffocated as people rushed forward to dig him free.

The six-month-old girl, named Nassin, was found in remarkably good health 72 hours after the earthquake destroyed her family's house on Friday, Red Crescent aid officials told Reuters.

They said her mother's protective embrace had shielded the child from falling debris and saved her life. The rest of the infant's family was found dead under the

"We found her this morning wrapped in her mother's arms. She was in good health," a senior Red Crescent Society official in charge of rescue operations in the provincial capital of Kerman told Reuters. Bam is situated in Kerman prov-

The world's most lethal quake in at least 10 years, measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale, laid waste most of Bam's mud brick buildings in sec-

Mourning Day

Nations peacekeeping missions. Each family of the dead will get up to \$50,000 in compensation from the UN in line with conven-

tion, the army sources said.

Union des Transports Africains (UTA), operator of the aircraft, will also provide special compensation packages for the families of the

The 15 peacekeepers were among the 119 people killed in the crash that came after the plane ootched its takeoff, clipping a building before tumbling nose down into the nearby Ătlantic

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, expressing shock at the death of the officers in a condo-lence message, described them as heroes and pride of the nation.

The bodies of Lieutenant Colonel Arefin, Major Abdur Rahim, Major Imtiaz, Major Mosharraf, Major Rawnak, Captain Farid Uddin, Captain Alauddin, Captain Rafiqul, Captain Abdul Mabud and Captain Rakibul will be buried in the military graveyard in

Banani. Major Mirza Baten, Major Mustafizur, Captain Arifur Rahman, Captain Zahidul and Senior Warrant Officer Shafiqul will be buried in family graveyards with full military honour.

Lower house

FROM PAGE 12

Senator Kamil Ali Agha told AFP on

The amendment bill is expected to be passed by the upper house later on Monday. Musharraf, who seized power in

a military coup in October 1999, agreed to curtail his powers after an accord between the ruling party and Islamist opposition alliance. He will quit as military chief by

December 2004 and seek a vote of confidence from parliament on his presidency in the interest of "political harmony" in the country. Musharraf inserted controver-

sial changes into the constitution ust before October 2002 elections. The changes gave him the power to dismiss the parliament and remain jointly as president and army chief

ower chamber debated the new bill till late Sunday, eventually agreeing to cut down Musharraf's powers to dissolve the parliament via a two-third majority vote, a state-run Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) report said. Under the new amendment, the

the report said.

Pakistan Muslim League and Islamist alliance Muttahida Majlise-Amal (MMA) voted in favour of the bill with only 46 members opposed, it said.

Akheri Munajat

 $almighty\,Allah\,for\,preservation\,and$ protection of the Muslim Ummah from all kinds of sufferings and torture without specifying any nation or country.

He also sought mental, spiritual and material development of all Muslims in the world. An unprecedented scenario was created as millions of people raised their two hands for mercy and forgiveness from almighty Allah. Many devotees particularly elderly people broke down in tears during the Munaiat.

Moulana Sa'd of Delhi delivered his sermon in Urdu in the morning and Hafez Mohammad Zobain translated it into Bangla simulta-

Islam in various parts of the country Around 1,500 groups of people have been given approval to start journey for spreading Islam in

nearby areas by the Gazipur district administration and government's directorate of communication to relay the deliberations.

A total of 4,560 devotees from 63 countries attended the Ijtema this year, considered the second largest congregation of the Muslims after

has broken all previous records this year as thousands of people of all ages raised their hands siting on roads, lanes by- lanes, open spaces on the highway, roof tops of nearby buildings and perched on branches

Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway between Biswa Road crossing at Joarshara and College Gate at Tongi turned into a sea of humanity. There was hardly any space in the area left where people did not sit or stand to

A large number of women also joined the Munajat from roof tops of nearby buildings and residential houses in Uttara and Tongi.

The president along with Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, offered a Munajat from a stage set up at the northern corner of the

Bhuiyan, Home Minister Altaf Hossain and other senior cabinet members offered a Munajat from a canopy installed on the roof of the nearby Bata factory building.

joined the Munajat from a stage set up on a building of the nearby Ashraf Textile Mills. Another group of Awami League leaders including Tofail Ahmed, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Matia Chowdhury could not join

League sources said. Most of the devotees who joined the Akheri Munajat yesterday had to walk several kilometers as the highway to Tongi was closed to traffic movement from the airport

The devotees who offered Zohr prayers after the Munajat also faced tremendous difficulties in returning home as all buses and trains and other modes of transport were

People were seen returning from the Ijtema ground on top of buses and trains till late last night. A section of unscrupulous bus drivers and transport employees charged exorbitant fares from the devotees for return trip home taking advan-

Saifur against TU

confusion over the appointment of

licly campaigning against the appointment of consulting firms, want reforms as they will no longer be able to avail undue facilities

He asked bank officials to help increase public awareness about

industrial, agricultural and trading loans to increase investment and generate employment. "Why aren't the NCBs sanctioning loans in spite of high liquidity," he asked, adding that the NCBs still charge

He said banks should judge

official told the minister that the NCBs cannot sanction large loans due to the small number of clients. To this, Saifur advised banks to form a syndicate to develop a healthy loan

Finance Secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan, central bank deputy governors, and chairmen and managing

Previously, telephone call to the countries would cost Tk 30 to 40 a

Under the new arrangement, the charge for mobile phone call to five European countries will be Tk 18 against Tk 30 previously.

troops that the Iraq Survey Group

hunting for banned weapons had

found "massive evidence of a huge

system of clandestine laborato-

ries". But embarrassingly for the

government, Paul Bremer, the

United States' top man in Iraq,

A weekend survey labelled Blair

Former Cabinet minister Robin

Cook, who resigned over the war,

added to the chorus of criticism on

Washington had opened the door

Minister, and worrying for his

nation, to go on believing a threat

which everybody else can see was a

Yunus informed police about it

over mobile phone and left the house along with other inmates

apprehending an explosion any

Officer-in-Charge of Dumki Police Station Md Shahjahan Sharif

authorities. On his advice, inmates

of the nearby houses also moved to

Bomb experts of the army were

under police protection.

"It is undignified for the Prime

flatly contradicted that as "a red

herring" on Sunday,

justification for war.

to terror groups in Iraq.

fantasy," argued Cook.

FROM PAGE 12

other places.

Time bomb

politician.

Blair-bashing

churchman, said Blair had displayed "a real lack of listening" over Iraq and his claims of fallen dictator Saddam Hussein's arms

capability remained unproven.

answer to God.

military alliance with Bush in Iraq. icks fighting crime in multi-racial

inner-city London. "For Bush and Blair to go into Iraq together was like a bunch of white vigilantes going into Brixton to stop drug-dealing. This is not to deny there's a problem to be sorted, just that they are not credible people to deal with it," he told

"The world now needs a UN army in the way that Britain 200 years ago needed to turn its bands of militia in each town into a national police force.'

cious. Blair braved major opposition

in Britain before the March invasion, saw support rise as fighting began, but has since faced a barrage of criticism over the reasons for war and the handling of post-Saddam Iraq. He has said he would do it again and is "ready to meet my

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan

The prime minister along with LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan

The leader of the opposition in parliament, along with senior Awami League leaders including Amir Hossain Amu and Rahamat Ali

their party leaders due to the huge rush of the people on the road. They attended the Munajat from near Zia International Airport, Awami

on the south and Joydevpur crossing on the north since the morning.

crammed with passengers.

US troops kill 3 suspected of al Qaeda links

consulting firms to the NCBs.

The meeting was told that an grani Bank loan defaulter is pubadding that loan defaulters don't once the reforms are carried out.

Saifur told reporters that there are plenty of precedents in other government organisations for appointing consulting firms, which ie said will improve efficiency in terms of credit management, customer service and other bank-

the importance of reforms. Saifur called for expansion of

New ISD code

minute.

"Undoubtedly a very wicked leader has been removed, but there are wicked leaders in other parts of the world," he added in an interview with The Times newspaper.

pray for Blair, and said he and Bush should remember they will one day "I want to say...that there is a higher authority before whom one day we all have to give an account,"

Hope urged churchgoers to

The Bishop of Durham, Tom Wright, was scathing about Blair's He likened them to a pair of maver

The Independent newspaper.

Wright said the religious conservatives surrounding Bush espouse "a very strange distortion of Christianity" while the fact some of them stand to benefit financially from the reconstruction of Iraq" made their motives suspi-

Before Christmas, Blair told

informed about it and they were yet to arrive at the spot.

clients more by their character than by the size of the collateral put

up for the loans. Meeting sources said a bank

Japan, also a strong supporter of Washington's policy in Iraq, added its name yesterday to a list of countries joining a US initiative to cut Iraq's huge debts, saying it was prepared to write off most of what it

> was owed if others did the same. US military officers said that during a US raid on a house in the northern city of Mosul on Sunday night, "suspected members of the Ansar al-Islam terrorist group" attacked soldiers with gunfire and

Note forgery

brother Kawser -- arrested earlier over mugging -- had ties to the CID Inspector Monsur Ali Mondol filed a case against the seven with Badda Police Station on

three-day police remand. An employee of the Hotel friend Kawser introduced him to Humayun at Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital about four moths the country's least trustworthy

"Don't be afraid ... many high police officers are involved in it. ahangir quoted Humayun as

"He gave me two bundles of Tk 100 bills. I changed the counterfeits for original notes in purchases or bus fare. I spent Tk 1 lakh in fake bills in the last four months this way. I was paid 45 percent of the money," Jahangir told the court.

India possesses FROM PAGE 12

India is also reported to be developing a submarine-based delivery system as the third leg of its nuclear triad, besides developing a submarine-based launch capability. Barring some sort of South Asian arms agreement, India and Pakistan are almost certain to

The task force believes that the absence of a India-Pakistan nuclear discussions and confidence building measures the threat of any major conflict going nuclear remains real. Additional Superintendent of Police Khondokar Mohituddin went to the spot Sunday morning, disconnected the 'bomb' from the wire, battery and clock and kept it covered with earth a little away

not pressed on this front except to urge stricter Indian controls over the exports of materials and techthat could be used for

Peaking political

injured in political violence in the 1 months to November this year. The number of such killings was 29 in September, 34 in October and 49 in November indicating an upward

Two thousand and forty four persons were arrested during the period in connection with political violence across the country.

Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina last week said atrocities and torture allegedly by the ruling alliance on its political opponents have rocked the country.

party leaders or workers... They killed AL leader Shamsul Huq Suruj in Lalmonirhat, bombed the AL council at Begumganj in Noakhali and foiled the AL district council of Munshiganj," she said. "They (the ruling partners) are

not capable to face the AL politically and ideologically. That's why they have resorted to hooliganism, creating unrest across the coun-

A society just cannot function in this manner," she said.

lowing day. The triennial council of

Munshiganj district AL could not

be held on December 22, as

Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP) activists put up barricades

and wounded at least 50 AL activ-

forestall violence. On December 19, a BNP leader was gunned down in Rampal

upazila of Bagerhat district. In a single day, on September 9, three political activists -- Masud Iqbal Rais, president of Chowkibari AL ward committee, Bogra; Hazrat Ali, an AL activist of Keraniganj;

of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in Khulna -- were killed.

Kamrul Islam Kutu, an AI leader of Khulna city, was killed and 12 others were seriously injured in a bomb attack in front of the party office in Khulna on

A total of 285 people were abducted during the 11-month period while 53 people were abducted with 11 of them, including a political leader, killed in August. In many cases, the opposition AL and the ruling BNP blamed each other for killing of their party

Lutfozzaman Babar, the state minister for home affairs, told The Daily Star, "We are against any sorts of killing... We are trying to bring the criminals to book, irrespective of their political affilia-

"We have no compromise with the culprits," the state minister said, adding the government initiatives were always to cage the culprits and punish them for their misdeeds. Babar said law enforcers have also been instructed to invesigate the cases diligently, ignoring all outside interference or influ

Earlier, some senior leaders from both the camps expressed their fear to The Daily Star that the political scenario would take a worse turn unless the killers were brought to justice.

8 abducted

FROM PAGE 1

Chakma and Kiron Bikash Chakma, 50.

Security sources quoted locals as saying a gang of tribal youths entered the village, about 30 km off Langadu upazila headquarters, at about 7:00am and abducted the villagers. The leaders of Parbatya

Chattragram Jano Sanghati Samity

(PCJSS) said the villagers were

abducted by the supporters of Shanti Dev Chakma, a leader of the United People's Democratic Front

Airways -- were diverted to Kolkata as fog blanketed the airport early

No let-up in cold

highest at 21 degrees Celsius. The meteorological office fore-cast for today and tomorrow said the sky would remain cloudy in

was 13.3 degrees Celsius and the

Jessore may continue to experience a mild cold wave, it said.

Most river routes may be covered by mild to thick fog, the weathercast said, asking vessels not to run into such a weather would stay on despite coming

> Our Barisal correspondent adds: The region was blanketed by dense fog disrupting river trans-Khulna-bound rocket steamer

Passenger vessels MV Suravi-6, Parabat-7, Parabat-2 and Emadad Khan reached Barisal from Dhaka about eight hours behind time.

The flight control room at ZIA

Sources said no ferry left Paturia Daulatdia, Natakhola and Aricha terminals during the period, clog-ging vehicles on both sides, barring some passengers from attending the Akheri Munajat at the Biswa Ijtema

remained suspended for four hours from 4:00am because of the fog

Sonadanga OC Besides the brutal murder, bomb attacks on the official transports of Additional DIG of Khulna Range

and the political leaders alike. The police commissioner Mustafizur Rahman, has held OC Farhad Hossain responsible for the

perform burial rites over the dead. There is no water, so the ritual cleaning of faces and the backs of hands must be made with dust. The bodies are stiff and a mullah has difficulty unbending a hand. Prayers are said over the bodies as

they are wrapped in white shrouds.

"I came here this morning to

bury the dead," says a turbaned man wearing surgical face mask and gloves. "I have no idea how many have come through." A line of neat white figures lying

side by side is growing faster than

the grave beside it can be filled.

corpses are jammed into this one, which is more than 10 metres long. A truck passes, with blankets covering a mass of bodies. Only one tiny hand protrudes. A distraught man tries to climb into the grave but is held back by

spade, before he collapses and is Further away are the graves that were filled yesterday morning. Crude markers have been placed on one, showing that the Baqeri and Sharifi families were buried here. Mad with grief, a woman rubs dust into her face and hair, halfheartedly restrained by crying

unmourned. With entire families wiped out and whole streets destroyed, often nobody is left to identify the dead. Police forensic officers in green overalls work their way along a line of 50 bodies. One says that as many as 30 per cent of the dead have not been identified.

One by one, the blankets are drawn back and the faces of the dead are photographed. As the cameraman prepares his flash, a policeman holds a numbered piece of cardboard next to the cadaver's head. It is a middle-aged man in pyjamas with dark bruises along his upper arms and torso Tomorrow, the photographs will

ket, her head flopping from one side to another as her two companions try to lift her. This cemetery contains only the dead of Bam. Victims from the surrounding area are taken away and buried there with their families. On our way into the city, a car pulled off down a dirt track to a

woman is sitting limply on a blan-

bumper to bumper at breakneck speeds. The side of the road is already littered with crashes: aid trucks, cars and pick-up trucks twisted and crushed. The registration plates of those entering the city tell their own story, showing markings from Yazd, Tehran, Bandar Abbas, Shiraz and Isfahan.

Tariff barriers

The Indian minister, who has been here since December 26 to attend the Saarc (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Trade Fair, felt that

down as the two sides are now sitting across the table more frequently than in the past, he

He said battery export from four

countries, including Bangladesh, came under anti-dumping measures and the issue is now in the

During his stay here,

India's official export to

until 2007. Deputies in the 342-member

> president will have to ask the Supreme Court to rule within 30 days if he dissolves the parliament, Some 236 members of the

He described the importance of the daily prayers and gave guidelines to the members of Tablig Jamaat who would go for preaching

different parts of the world. They would embark on their journey immediately after the Ijtema. Several thousand loudspeakers were installed on the highways and

The gathering on the river Turag

Around 10-kilometre area from ongi Railway Station and the

grenades, wounding two.

Barek and Abu Taher and seized Tk 40,000 in fake bills after Jahangi named them as part of the gang. According to intelligence from the arrestees, Humayun's another

Sunday and produced the arrestees before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday The existence, or otherwise, of chemical and biological weapons that placed Mostafa and Barek on a in Iraq remains a huge issue for Blair -- despite Saddam's capture earlier this month -- because of the Prince, Jahangir told the court his emphasis London put on that as a

-- an initiation into the crime telling him after he was taken to Mirpur-14 for the illegal venture. Monday, saying London and

enhance their nuclear weapons capabilities and missile-delivery rushed to the spot at night and contacted the higher police systems in response to what each perceives the other is doing, The News quotes the report of the task forces as carring force as saying.

The Bush Administration has

tested a government move to make five city roads off-limits to rickshaws

Drivers protest

move to ban

on city roads

Rickshawpullers yesterday pro-

Sangram Committee (RUPSC), a

forum of rickshawpullers against

Making rickshaws off-limits to major city roads would put millions

of poor people in danger, the RUPSC

The agitating rickshawpullers announced they would lay a siege to

the roads that are to be made off-

Insur Ali, general secretary of

Rickshaw Sramik League, warned

the RUPSC would take stern actions

against rickshaw ban if the govern-

ment did not arrange permanent

renewal and issuance of new licen-

ces and an end to harassment on

RUPSC, language veteran Abdul Matin, M Shahidullah, convenor of

National Committee for Protection

of Oil, Gas and Port, and Prof M

Nurun Nabi, convenor of Gono Sangskriti Parishad, joined the rally

with Ramiz Uddin, chief organiser of

Transport Coordination Board

sources, the government is planning

to ban rickshaws from Russell Square

to Azimpur on January 1 in the first

In the next phase, the government will gradually make rickshaws

off-limits to roads from Science

Laboratory crossing through Elephant Road, Shahbagh and National Press Club to College Road

next to Bangabazar, from Pragati

Sarani to Rampura via Mouchak,

from Rokeya Sarani to Farmgate and from Bangla Motor to New Eskaton

US forces said they had killed three

suspected members of a group

linked to al Qaeda in a gunbattle in

Iraq, and US allies Thailand and

Bulgaria vowed their soldiers

Road, they added.

REUTERS, Mosul, Iraq

under deadly attack.

According to Dhaka Urban

the RUPSC, in the chair.

rickshawpullers by mobile courts.

The RUPSC in a leaflet demanded

Expressing solidarity with the

jobs for the rickshaw-pullers.

limits to rickshaw.

city's Muktangon at 11:00am.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

rickshaws

Vowing to resist the move, Rickshaw Uchhed Protirodh rickshaw ban, organised a rally at the

"Not a single day goes by with-out us getting death news of our

Assailants hacked to death Lalmonirhat District AL Organising Secretary Shamsul Islam Suruj, 50, near Chandibadi Bazar in Aditmari upazila on December 22, sending shock waves and initiating a hartal on the fol-

ists, despite Section 144 being clamped by the administration to

and Anwarul Islam, joint secretary

They returned to Dhaka after the fog cleared in the morning. UNB from Manikganj adds: The movement of ferries and launches on the Padma and Jamuna rivers Ishwardi, Dinajpur, Kushtia and

Our Pabna correspondent adds: Many people, suffering from the chill, were hospitalised in the last

PS Lepcha was stranded at Alur Bazar near Chandpur on the Meghna for about four hours before reaching Barisal seven hours behind schedule.

Shamsuddoha and SI Shaheed Shurawardy on the same night recently panicked ordinary people

said two flights -- one of the Gulf Airlines and the other of the British failure to curb crimes and nab the Grim line of death

two days.

Nearby, workers are preparing to cover another grave. Nearly 40 his relatives. Overcome by the horror of this tragedy, he is con-

relatives. But hundreds of unidentified victims of the disaster go

be put on a police computer. Back down the path, two rescuers in Red Crescent bibs stand away from the graves. They are praying, tears pouring down their cheeks. A

village. On the back seat was the body of a child resting in his mother's arms, feet sticking from vulsed with sobs. Finally, he is brought to one end of the grave Iranians are flooding from where workers allow him to scatter across the country to help with the some earth over the bodies with a aid effort in Bam. Although specialised foreign teams have arrived from all over the world, they can provide only a drop in the ocean of the help Bam needs. The road to the city is tight with cars, driving

> "I am one of a group of 400 people organised by the mosque,' says Khodadad, a bearded and turbaned 22-year-old, "Many people have come from my city of Zahedan, but I am just very pleased

to be able to come and help.

sands started coming out of the well," said a Shell source. The re-perforation of the Sangu-1 well has been kept suspended as Shell and its partners are

A Petrobangla source said the seepage of sand and water instead of gas indicated the gas field did not have the expected amount of gas. In the worst case, gas supply from Sangu might not increase.

services can transfer money or not also cropped up back in 1992. We had a discussion then with the then prime minister and the issue was Imamul said. "As per our own

He stressed the need for an oper-

supply feed at Tk 650 a 50-kilo bag.

Mills, Shariatullah, said his factory produces poultry feed from bones Hazaribagh tanneries. He said bone was boiled at a

mindset needs to be changed on both sides to remove misconceptions and overcome the impediments to trade and investment He also admitted that the footdragging bureaucracy, which both the countries inherited from the