The Daily Star

Iraq moves closer

FROM PAGE 16

"We will publish nothing until the report because it adds another element of credibility to the com-mission," Hindawisaid.

The final certified results will be announced a few days later, after time for further appeals, he added.

Early results last month sug-gested that Shiite-backed religious parties and their Kurdish allies would be returned to power.

A Western diplomat said Iraq's political parties should take their time in forming the four-year gov-ernment to ensure it is broad-based and accepted by the country's Shiite-majority, minority Sunni Arabs and the Kurds.

"There are a lot of negotiations going on behind closed doors," the liplomat said, speaking on condition of anonymity

As for hopes that the new leaders will help quell the daily violence that has hit all walks of Iraqi society, the diplomat noted that Sunni Arabs, who had shunned a previous elec-tion last January, took part in the December poll.

"I think it is important that the Iraqi people see they have a stake in the government and the political process. That would undermine, one would hope, the insurgency."

A US general warned on Thursday, however, of a probable surge in attacks before the govern-ment is formed, pointing to bomb-ings last week in Baghdad, the Shiite city of Karbala and the Sunnidominated city of Ramadi. In the latest violence, seven Iraqi

policemen were wounded, two seriously, when a car bomb exploded on Friday in Baquba, some 60 km from Baghdad, security officials said.

Nine civilians were also wounded when a car-borne suicide bomber targeted US forces in the restive city of Fallujah, 50 km from the capital, a local hospital said. There was no immediate word on possible US casualties.

Meanwhile lawyers for ailing Tareq Aziz, Iraq's foreign minister under Saddam Hussein, said they

lease on compassionate grounds. The lawyers also asked France **UNB,** Dhaka

August 17 Blasts

The assistant public prosecutor who stood to defend Hannan after court Thursday.

The investigation officer in the

Naming the two as directly involved with the August 17 countrywide serial blasts, including the one at Mirpur Road in the capital, the report said they need to be interrogated further to find out vital clues to the case and the whereabouts of their accomplices.

Hannan, HuJi operations com-mander in Bangladesh, has been arrest on November 18.

ninth time arrest for several years, was shown arrested in seven other blast cases

filed with Tejgaon, Ramna, Motijheel and Demra police stations.

Shelly laid to rest

FROM PAGE 16

under Fatikchhari upazila of the press statement yesterday demanded explanations from the district, she was buried at the family graveyard of her in-laws in diplomatic missions of both the the evening. countries.

The incident that made everybody in the family gloomy is also hampering the study of 11-yearold Tanas who is to sit in an examination later this month, said Golam Maola talking to the newsmen at his village house.

The emigrant family was scheduled to go back to the USA in March, family sources said.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) went to Selina's Raozan house to participate in the Namaze-janaza and express condolence to the bereaved family members.

None of the local lawmaker. representative from the US embassy in Bangladesh or that from the Department of Emigrants of Bangladesh visited them, said the bereaved family.

have filed an application with the government for his immediate

Italy and Sweden if they could accept the 69-year-old for urgent medical treatment.

FROM PAGE 1

93 days of his arrest on January 4 was, however, not found at the

forwarding report said the infor-mation obtained from Hannan and Awal is being verified and the two need to be confined in jail custody until the investigation completes.

Following the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokan placed Hannan and Awal on a 10-day remand for interrogation.

remanded for 102 days since his arrest on October 1 last year. Abdul Awal, son-in-law of JMB chief Shaikh Abdur Rahman, has also been remanded for 55 days after his

Hannan was placed on remand for the 15th time and Awal for the Mufti Hannan, who dodged

200 shanties FROM PAGE 1 JMB's Rajshahi region chief Awal a member of the outfit's highest

tier Majlish-e-Shura and was captured on a Dinajpur-bound bus at Thakurgaon on November 18.

Local human rights leaders in a

They called upon the US human

rights organisations to be vocal against Selina's killing and

emanded bringing the responsi-le drunkard cop to justice.

shot through the window of her

fifth-floor apartment in the Queens Borough of New York, Selina Akhter Shelly was killed on

Following the incident, US

olice arrested 23-year-old Private

The soldier was on leave and

Danny Carpio to charge him with

manslaughter and criminal pos-session of a weapon.

had been drinking when he fired

shots into the air standing on a

Ayubullah Sarker, Uttar Balubari

village, Sadar Police Station,

Dinajpur (Pilgrim no. 992110); Emadad Ali Shah, 59, son of Ahshan

Uddin Shah, house-66, plot-3, New

Town B-2, Dinajpur Sadar (Pilgrim no. 992107); Habibur Rahman, 68,

son of Ashir Uddin, Fulbari Bus

Stand, Dinajpur Sadar (Pilgrim no. 992108); Mazedur Rahman

Chowdhury, 67, son of Naser Uddin

Chowdhury, Middlebari village, Dinajpur Sadar (Pilgrim no 992109);

Abdullahil Kafi, 55, son of Mojnu,

New Ghasipara village, Dinajpur Sadar (Pilgrim no. 992085); his wife

Najbun Nehar, 40, (Pilgrim no.

992086); and Answer Uddin Khan, 70, son of Azizuddin Khan, 30/1A

Mathertek, Sabjubagh, Dhaka

There have been many such

stampedes in the past, but the num-

ber of death this year is the highest in

the last 16 years, reports BDNEWS.

Pilgrim no. 277022).

December 28 níght.

nearby street.

1997

Hit in the head by a stray bullet

Trination pipeline AI praises govt for being 'open' FROM PAGE 16 on HR, issues

ing to human rights.

General Irene Z. Khan in London.

to a message received in Dhaka.

including the firmness with which

the JMB is being confronted and

the successes that have been

The Bangladeshi high commis-

sioner also emphasised continuing

attained on this front so far.

tion to issues raised by it.

was present.

over Tk 6 lakh.

FROM PAGE 1

unconscious.

Tamim,

FROM PAGE 1

named others

Vegetable

The police could not yet recover

the money and arrest anyone.

Hearing the gunshots, his neigh

bours came forward to catch the

criminals when they shot Rafiqul

Islam, 25, security guard of the

nearby house, in the chest and fled

for its energy-guzzling and growing economy. Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar had also planned to build a 290-km pipeline from Myanmar's west coast through Bangladesh to trans-Amnesty International (AI) has commended Bangladesh governport the gas to India.

ment for being "open and accessi-India had also planned to use ble" on issues and concerns relatthe pipeline from Myanmar to transport isolated reserves of The commendation from the natural gas in northeastern Indian officials of the human rights states to consumption centres in organisation came Thursday other parts.

morning when Bangladesh High Under the MoU signed between Myanmar and PetroChina, the gas Commissioner in London Sabihuddin Ahmed had an hourfrom Block A would be carried long meeting with AI Secretary through an overland pipeline to Kunming province of southeast China. The AI officials also said they

The news of Myanmar deciding to sell the gas to China from the were contemplating sending an Amnesty International mission to block came on the eve of Aiyar's Bangladesh sometime this year, three-day visit to China to discuss possibly in June or July, according bilateral cooperation in search for energy sources abroad where Ahmed specifically pointed out China had been outbidding India the determination of the governin a number of cases. ment in tackling various problems,

What is worse for India was that Mvanmar did not even inform India that it was going to sign the MoU with PetroChina. Besides, Aiyar had been planning a visit to Yangon later this month in connection with the proposed pipeline, petroleum ministry sources said.

a process of engagement and assured AI of his continuous atten-Aiyar, for his part, told reporters on Wednesday in Beijing that AI Director for Asia-Pacific although this looked like a setback for India, it would continue efforts Regional Programme Purna Sen with Myanmar. He said Myanmar and PetroChina had only come to High Commissioner an "in-principle" agreement, Sabihuddin Ahmed was assisted by Press Minister Fazal M Kamal. which was not a commercial commitment. Besides, India has other options, he added.

> Myanmar's decision to sell gas to PetroChina came against the backdrop of tardy pace of talks on the trilateral pipeline that had been announced in March last year.

Solosahar area under Bayezid Although Aiyar said India did not look at China "as a strategic Bostami Police Station on Tuesday night. The fire broke out at three competitor but a strategic partner' slums--Ashik Colony, Farid Colony in hydrocarbon sector, the fact is and Matin Colony, damaging that Indian companies have been consistently beaten by Chinese property worth about Tk 2 lakh. firms in securing oil and gas Meanwhile, the two incidents of reserves overseas.

fire at Boalkhali and Raozan in the district on Wednesday and India's ONGC lost to Chinese companies in Kazakhstan, Ecuador and Angola, and most Thursday damaged property worth recently a 45 percent stake in a \$2.3 billion bid for a Nigerian oil and gas JCD cadres field. The Indian energy major withdrew from the race for the Nigerian energy source, after the cabinet had raised concerns over The gang looted the money and

specified risks. fled the scene, leaving Shahid However, in the first instance of Sino-Indian cooperation, India Shahid filed a case with the and China won a joint bid in December last to buy Sylhet Kotwali Police station, accusing JCD cadres Rashed, PetroCanada's 37 percent stake in Suman and a few Syrian oil fields for \$573 million.

During Aiyar's visit to Beijing, India and China signed a slew of

Dense fog, biting cold

News agency UNB reports that

over 12,000 people remained

Sharon in coma FROM PAGE 16

MoUs on energy cooperation, including between ONGC Videsh Ltd, India's flagship firm for overseas oil and gas field acquisitions, and China National Petroleum ultimate strongman with a near-

According to Aiyar, cooperative relationship between India and China is not only desirable but also eminently feasible to avoid costly competition for energy assets There is recognition in both the

countries that efforts to outbid each other drive the prices up. For instance, CNPC had paid \$4.18 billion to acquire Petro Kazakhstan in August last year, beating ONGC's offer of \$3.9 billion.

A death trap

Corporation (CNPC).

abroad.

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 Abul Hasnat admitted that the steep slope does pose a serious threat. He said, despite "all-out efforts", they could not persuade the landowners to give up their land for constructing safer roadsides.

"All I can hope is one day the landowners will fill up the area and build structures at the level same as the road, eliminating the danger, he added.

The area the road is built in is designated as a flood plain. The road stretches from east to west with only two small culverts giving passage to huge volumes of floodwater. This poses a serious threat of the road getting washed away. Lack of drainage of floodwater from the rivers Turag and Buriganga caused severe erosion two years ago wiping away nearly 70 houses in Basila.

The slope of the roadsides is so steep that even if a pedestrian survives a fall from the road, it would be hard for him to climb back. If a vehicle falls from such a height the result would be even

more devastating. Possibilities of serious accidents are even greater on the road as most of the passenger vehicles plying on it are very old and unfit. Most of the drivers on the road are also very young -- some of them even have no valid driving licence.

An engineer of Water Development Board (WDB) requesting anonymity, said the office concerned for constructing dykes and roads throughout the country considers a three-foot slope on any side of a road for every foot of the road-width to be the standard. "It seems the design is faulty as the slope on Basila road does not cover even six inches from

the road surface to the land surface 25 feet below," the engineer added.

the roads with their fog lights on. Poor and middle class people have been crowding second-hand clothing markets to buy warm sundown on Friday Doctors have given a series of upbeat medical reports following the initial shock of the demise of a man many in Israel regarded as the

infallible resilience. The prime minister has gone through three bouts of surgery to stem bleeding in his brain since being admitted to hospital on January 4 after suffering his second stroke in about two weeks.

"Little by little, he is giving us nore signs that he is getting better but he will not wake up for the next day or two," chief neurosurgeon Felix Umansky said Thursday.

Nevertheless an opinion poll published in the mass selling Yediot Aharanot newspaper revealed that an overwhelming 87 percent of those interviewed (RMCH) doubted Sharon would ever return to his duties as prime minister.

Despite Sharon's stricken state, the new centrist party that he founded just six weeks before his collapse has maintained a sweeping lead over rivals in the latest opinion polls published ahead of

Israel's general election in March. The polls, conducted by the Maariv and Yediot Aharonot news-

papers, accorded Kadima 43 and 42 seats respectively in the 120member parliament. The centre-left Labour party

Paribahan bus at Obhiram of the would win 17 and Sharon's crisissame upazila at 7:15am, killing ridden former Likud party, which bus-conductor Ranjit, passengers Bablu Mia, 35, Tariqul, 35, Sattar, has increasingly shifted towards the right, 16 seats according to 37, and two unidentified passen-Maariv or 13 as reported by Yediot. gers and injuring 20 others. Acting Prime Minister Ehud

Olmert, who is now almost certain to lead Kadima to the March 28 election, was favourite to be elected premier with 45.7 percent. well ahead of Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu with 26.6 percent.

Olmert, a politician with Highway in Gobindaganj upazila decades of experience, nonetheon Eid day. less lacks Sharon's charisma and faces a huge task in navigating the security and political problems facing Israel.

A de facto Palestinian truce in injuring 12 others. militant attacks came to an official end last month and Israel fears a passengers were injured as a spike in violence in the two weeks Dhaka-bound coach of Bismillah ahead of a Palestinian parliamen-Paribahan collided head on with a tary election on January 25.

On Thursday, a Palestinian Hamra at Tulshighat in Gaibandha militant blew himself up and a second was shot dead by Israeli troops during an arrest operation in the volatile West Bank town of of the Gaibandha-Sadullapur road, Ienin. There were no Israeli casualinjuring three people on Eid day. ties. MYMENSINGH

The latest deaths, however, raised to 4,930 the number of people killed in Israeli-Palestinian violence in the last five years.

bound passenger bus from Sherpur hit a three-wheeler at In a telephone conversation Alalpur at about 5:30pm Thursday. with US President George W. Bush on Thursday, Olmert warned that Begum, 12, of Galagaon village of Phulpur upazila died on the spot the Middle East peace process would remain stymied if Hamas while Rabeya Begum, 35, wife of entered a Palestinian government. Sirajul Islam, died on the way to Israel and the United States

Mymensingh Medical College and oth regard Hamas which is con-

18 killed as bus falls

SIRAJGANJ

DHAKA SATURDAY JANUARY 14, 2006

FROM PAGE 1

iniured 20 others.

Most of the injured were rushed

ted to local hospitals.

town the same day.

A passenger-loaded three-

wheeler fell into the roadside ditch

Three persons were killed and five

others injured when a Dhaka-

Jahir Uddin, 55, and Chikas

Fatema Akhter, 35, of Kusumpur

village of Jamalpur were killed and

over 20 were injured when a Jamalpur-bound bus skidded off

the road and fell into the roadside

One Giasuddin, 65, and Abdus

Samad, 75, were killed and 10

others were injured when a

Nandail-bound bus from

Mymensingh collided head on

Dangribandha at 3:00pm yester-

In another road mishap, 25

persons were injured, five of them

ditch at 7:30am yesterday.

GAIBANDHA

gers

The injured were taken to local clinics, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) and orthopaedics hospital in the capital. One of the injured succumbed to the injuries at the DMCH.

Two people were killed and 32 were In another incident, one injured when a Gaibandha-bound Marjina Begum, 28, a Tablig Jamaat bus from Chittagong skidded off activist, was killed when a passenthe road and fell into the roadside ger bus driving on the wrong side of ditch as the driver lost control over the road ran over her at Kazipara in the steering in Kodda area. the capital at 10:00am on Eid day. RANGPUR

One Nazmul, 27, of Chariashika village of Solonga, died on the spot A Dinajpur-bound bus from Dhaka when a microbus fell into the collided head on with a Bograroadside ditch at Harixchhara on bound bus from Kurigram at the Hatikumrul-Bonpara road. Bishmail of Piyashi upazila at Another Omar Ali, 35, of Betua around 6:45am on Wednesday, village in Raiganj, died on the spot killing bus-helper Rashed and when a speeding truck hit his injuring 30 passengers. Bus driver motorbike from behind at Noor Islam died later at Rajshahi Dhanghora in Raiganj upazila. Medical College and Hospital **KHULNA**

Local madrasa secretary Another head-on collision Mohammad Amir Ali, 70, died on between a Dhaka-Rangpur bus and the spot as a Jessore-bound coach a Bogra-bound lorry at Boldi Pukur of Royal Paribahan crushed his of Mithapukur upazila 45 minutes motorbike at Boira bypass road at later killed passengers Sabbir, 28, noon on Eid day. Aminul, 25, and Treepagla, 65, and

critically, when a Dhubaura-

bound bus from Haluaghat fell into

the roadside ditch at Sumuliapara

in Haluaghata as the driver lost

control over the steering yesterday.

Cattle trader Abul Kalam, 45, was killed and three others injured As the vehicles were lying on the on Tuesday when a truck carrying road, five buses from both direcsacrificial cattle turned upside tions hit them, injuring 40 passendown near the Rupsha Bridge.

One Abdus Salam, 50, was killed On Thursday, a Kurigram-bound United Paribahan bus and 35 others were injured when a bus carrying a picnic party fell into collided with a Dhaka-bound SB a ditch near Chokoria College Gate in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

An unidentified woman was killed and seven others injured when a Sherpur-bound coach skidded off the road at Rashidabad of Kishoreganj at 3:00am yester-

to RMCH while others were admit-A passenger bus ran over Jasmine, 14, a class nine student, at Isadi village under Babuganj A Rangpur-bound truck, carrying people to Bakshipur village of upazila in Barisal at 6:30pm on Nednesday while one Jasim, 40, Nilphamari district, skidded off the died in a road accident at Gajaria in road as the driver lost its control at Munshiganj on Tuesday noon. Fashitola on the Bogra-Rangpur

PANCHGARH

Seven people, including a father and his son, were killed and 30 The truck fell into the roadside others were injured in two separate ditch and drowned, killing road accidents in Fakirhat and Monarul, 11, Farida, 25, Jaharul, 35, Basainagar areas in the district on and Kala Mia, 40, on the spot and Eid day

B'BARIA

Wednesday.

One Shahidul was killed and 40 Three people including pedestri-ans were killed and 30 were injured in a road mishap at the Biswa Road intersection on the Dhaka-Sylhet Gaibandha-bound coach of Al Highway Thursday afternoon. Two people were killed in sepa-

rate incidents at Gotonshahar and

Pakortoli in Joypurhat Thursday

while two unknown people were

killed in separate road accidents on

Keraniganj and Dhamrai in Dhaka,

Parnanduali in Magura, Boulgram

in Madaripur, Satbaria intersection

in Naogaon, Kornoghop in

Narayanganj, Malauri in Modhupur

and Balaganj in Sylhet, killing eight

Accidents were also reported at

12 Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 1 collapse in Makkah.

The stampede occurred at the foot of the bridge of Jamarat where pilgrims hurl stones at three pillars representing the spot where the devil appeared to Prophet Ibrahim.

An interior ministry spokesman of Saudi Arabia said it occurred after pieces of luggage fell from moving buses in front of one of the entrances to the bridge, causing pilgrims to stumble, according to Hajj Information Cell in Dhaka.

The pilgrims died as they sought to complete the stone-throwing ritual before sunset, according to BBC Online.

The pilgrims were returning via Mina after performing the Tawaf al-Wada, a farewell ceremony that involves walking around the Kaaba seven times

Many of the victims were transported to medical facilities in Makkah and Rivadh, as the local hospitals in Mina were overcrowded. A number of them were reportedly from South and Southeast Asia.

The Tawaf al-Wada is performed after the Hajj where stone-throwing is a risky ritual, as the worshippers jostle to target the stones, often causing weaker pilgrims to fall under foot.

More than 200 pilgrims were trampled to death while performing the ceremony in 2004 where about two million people from across the globe were thought to have been performing the rite this year. MISSING BANGLADESHI PILGRIMS

The foreign ministry in a press release yesterday identified the missing Bangladeshipilgrims. They are:

Mohammad Jamshed Ali, 70, son of Armamud Munshi of Killapara village, Nalitabari, Sherpur (Pilgrim no. 990803); Joaher Ali, 60, son of Moyezuddin, Banipara Hemnagar village, Gopalpur, Tangail (Pilgrim no. 990699); Danes Ali Fakir, 79, son of Nowab Ali Fakir, Banipara Hemnagar village, Gopalpur, Tangail (Pilgrim no. 990698); Abdul Malek, 71, son of Shaheb Uddin, Mahanandapur Abaadatnagar village, Shakhipur, Tangail (Pilgrim no. 990672); Abdul Motaleb Darjee, 70, son of Shekai Darjee, Jangalia village, Kaliganj, Gazipur (Pilgrim no. 990625); Munshi Fazlur Rahman, 61, son of Munshi Sona Miah, Jajaerakuti village, Kasba, Brahmanbaria (Pilgrim no. 991449); Hamidur Rahman, 60, son of

Born in Chittagong, Selina and Maola came to the USA in 1990 and Jewel and Rafiqul are undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

the scene.

EU pledges FROM PAGE 16

than 350,000 birds in the past two weeks

Iran has started mass culling of poultry along its border with Turkey to try to stop the disease spreading, a health ministry official said on Friday.

France said it was extending its poultry confinement measures to 58 departments from an original 26 as fears grow over a virus believed to be carried by migratory birds. Tamiflu maker Roche told a bird

flu conference in Tokyo it was in talks with the World Health Organization (WHO) about donating more of the drug to set up an Asian stockpile.

The Swiss firm has already given 30 million capsules to the WHO for "rapid response" stockpiles, part of which have been sent to Turkey, said David Reddy, Roche's flu pandemic taskforce leader.

Health officials at the Tokyo

meeting, attended by more than 20

countries, called for greater sur-

veillance and urged richer coun-

tries to help poorer ones achieve

The United Nations has said

donors will need to contribute

about \$1.4 billion at a conference

next week in Beijing to finance the

next phase of the global campaign

\$100 million at a news conference

in Brussels, EU External Relations

Commissioner Benita Ferrero-

Waldner said: "I am optimistic we

are going to close the financial gap

The more birds are infected

Announcing the EU aid worth

that

against bird flu.

in Beijing.

JMB chief FROM PAGE 16

the meeting of the Majlish-e-Shura and implemented them accordingly

Earlier, Naimuzzaman in his confession said a speech of Shaekh Rahman inspired him to join the JMB while he was a student at a Tangail madrasa. After training at a Tangail camp, he was sent to Cox's Bazar as the district's regional chief.

He also confessed to his involvement in the August 17 serial blasts in Cox's Bazar.

After the confession Mohammad and Naimuzzaman were taken to the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) headquarters at Patenga in Chittagong.

The Rab arrested Mohammad and Naimuzzaman with huge cache of explosives, bombs and other bomb-making materials on December 13 last year. more common, experts said.

Acting on their information, the Rab members arrested two other IMB operatives--Rafigul Islam alias Javed alias Roman and Manirul Islam--from the city's Foy's Lake and Bahodderhat areas on Wednesday.

Mohammad, 25, son of Maulana Turkey, told Reuters. Abdul Awal of Khurushkul in Cox's Bazaar, is the mastermind of all JMB activities in entire Chittagong division, including Chittagong city, Cox's Bazar and the three hill districts, sources said. WHO said

stranded for about nine hours amid chilly wind at Paturia ferry terminal as ferry services were suspended Tuesday night due to dense fog. Not less than eight thousand people suffered the same

FROM PAGE 1

on schedule.

fate at Maowa ferry terminal too. Many people had to offer their Eid prayers at the terminals failing to reach home on time.

Official sources said the Paturia-Daulatdia ferry service has remained suspended during the nights through the last week. Some cattle-laden trucks, which started for the capital to sell the cattle in Dhaka's markets for sacrifices on the Eid, also got stranded on the Daulatdia side of the river, the UNB reports

Normal life remained paralysed and generally miserable everywhere in northern Bangladesh for the seventh consecutive day yesterday, official sources said.

FROM PAGE 1

to scale up.

Motor vehicles were seen plying suffer due to bitter cold.

Wrangle over hide price

sonable.

Association (BTA). Besides, he said, hides-laden trucks from districts The country fetched over \$220 million (roughly Tk 1,500 crore) by have also begun to arrive in the exporting leather in the last financapital and expressed the hope if cial year. The export income from this tight security prevails for a few leather in July-October this fiscal more days the export of hide is sure year was \$78 million, up by 16 percent from that in the corre-

wholesaler at Postogola, said he has procured more than 15,000 rawhides at prices ranging between Tk 1,350 and Tk 1,750.

Lalbagh Madrasa, one of the big sources of hides for the wholesalers in Dhaka, this year has sold a rawhide at Tk 1,675 on an average, which was Tk 1,500 last year, Samiruddin explained.

worldwide, the more likely it is that As exporters are getting Tk 5 people may become infected more per square foot of hide due to through close contact. As cold weather forces animals and people devaluation of the local currency, price is comparatively higher at the indoors together, especially in wholesale level this year, rural areas, animal-to-human Samiruddin added. infections could become even

Traders said this year they have bought a big cowhide for Tk 1,600 top Test score was 48 and he was "When we have a child infected to Tk 1,700, a medium one for Tk out for a duck twice in the onewe are giving the virus more 1,100 to Tk 1,200 and a small one chance to adapt to human beings for Tk 800 to Tk 1,000. and giving it this chance could help sure.

On the other hand, the prices of create conditions of the emergence of a new virus," Dr Guenael Rodier, goat-hides ranged between Tk 200 and Tk 250. head of the WHO mission to

According to tanners associa-WHO said its experts were tion, the supply of cattle and goat this year has been around 20 per working with Turkish officials to cent higher than that of last year, as study the virus and its patterns of attack. More samples of the virus the purchasing capacity of people were en route to laboratories, the has improved and the prices of sacrificial animals were also reaOur Nilphamari correspondent

reports that on the consecutive seventh day of the cold wave, at least 15 people died of cold and cold related diseases. Pneumonia and cold diarrhoea are spreading alarmingly in Dimla upazila affecting hundreds of people especially the children and elderly people.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reports that movement of water vessels at nights has remained suspended for the last four days, mounting the sufferings of Eid travellers. Many of them had to spend nights at the launch terminal amid shivering cold. The BSS reports that two per-

sons died of the cold wave yesterday in Barisal and Bhola.

Elderly people, children, patients in hospitals and over one lakh people living in the char (shoal) areas on the Brahmaputra and Ganges basins continue to

one on top of the other," he said. "People kept falling one on top of the other until about 300 people died," he said.

"Our pilgrim brothers are forbidden from carrying baggage and workloads on their shoulders during the stoning ritual."

Minister Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Maneh said the stampede was caused by "unruly pilgrims, and a

Interior ministry spokesman Mansur Al-Turki also said the accident occurred "because of the luggage that fell and led to a rush at the eastern entrance of the Jamarat bridge," where the pilgrims stone the three pillars.

The stoning of Satan is the riskiest episode of the hajj as the pilgrims jostle to make sure their pebbles touch the pillar while the weaker ones risk being trampled on by the masses.

The latest tragedy comes days after 76 people were killed when a hostel in the heart of Makkah collapsed last week.

Almost 60,000 security, health, emergency and other personnel were involved in organising this year's hajj, trying to prevent the deadly incidents that have marred it in recent years from being repeated.

A total of 251 Muslim pilgrims were trampled to death in the 2004 hajj as people panicked during the stoning

The ritual, which is spread out over three days, marks the final part of the hajj pilgrimage for the more than two million Muslim pilgrims who have flocked to

In 2003, 14 pilgrims, including six women, were killed in a stampede during the first day of the stoning ritual, and 35 died in 2001, while in 1998 the hajj saw 118 killed

The deadliest toll of the pilgrimage was in July 1990 when 1,426 pilgrims were trampled or asphyxiated to death in a stampede in a

get some runs. My only aim was to stay out there as long as possible and keep the runs coming," Younis

"Today the pitch played well but one is not sure how it will play tomorrow," he added.

Hospital. testing parliamentary elections for the first time, as a terrorist organiin Muktagachha upazila, one sation.

Death toll FROM PAGE 1

crowded they fell on the ground

with a three-wheeler at day

On Thursday, Saudi Health problem of luggage.

that promise. I think it's politically impossible for the Russians to block a transfer (of the Iranian nuclear dossier) from the IAEA to Makkah from around the world. the Security Council. Whether,

and more than 180 hurt at Mina.

tunnel, also in Mina.

The hajj, which follows a jour-ney by Prophet Mohammed (SM) over 1,400 years ago, is one of the five pillars of Islam and a once-in-

However, it was unclear if a-life time duty for those able to Moscow or Beijing, which have big complete it. commercial interests in Iran,

Eid celebrated In another incident at Chechua

others during the four days.

FROM PAGE 16 Abbas Ali, 55, and his sister-in-law

on the occasion and exchanged Eid greetings.

The president hosted the reception at Bangabhaban for diplomats and the elite of the city. The prime minister hosted the reception at Pradhan Mantri Bhaban for diplomats and cross-sections of people. Since Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina is away from the country performing the holy hajj, Awami League leaders Obaidul Oader and Saber Hossain Chowdhury exchanged Eid greetings with people and party workers on her

The United States said there

Iran threatens to halt

behalf.

would back any later move to slap Friday, supported in part by supply concerns about Iran, with inves-UN sanctions on the world's fourth-biggest oil exporter. tors worried that Security Council involvement could keep the marwould be no immediate move for ket on edge for months.

when it comes to the resolution,

they will vote in favor or abstain

The Chinese, he said, were "in

"Last Sunday the P5 members

made a joint demarche to the

Iranian ambassador in Vienna.

That was already a strong political

signal," the European diplomat

the same position as the Russians"

and pointed to the weekend's

doesn't really matter."

diplomatic move.

said.

such punishment, but also left the The IAEA's board is expected to door open for a military attack meet early next month to consider should diplomacy eventually fail. referring Iran to the Security "The president of the United Council.

States never takes any of his In the past Russia and China options off the table," Rice told CBS have opposed this, but European Evening News. "We are on a diplodiplomats said they were unlikely matic track and it's not on the to vote against it after Iran ignored agenda at this point to move from a plea made by all the council's five that diplomatic track." permanent members at the week-Iran says its nuclear goals are end not to proceed with uranium enrichment.

limited to generating electricity, within international law and under Asked if US Secretary of State IAEA inspection. The IAEA has Condoleezza Rice had won a found no firm proof Tehran is pledge from the Russians not to seeking nuclear arms. block referral, one European diplomat said: "I believe that is the case.

China, which imports 12 percent of its oil from Iran, would "Whether or not Rice has got frown on UN sanctions, but analysts said it was more likely to abstain from any vote than use its veto power at the Council.

> Iran raised the stakes in its nuclear row with the West on Tuesday when it began removing the UN seals on equipment used to enrich uranium -- a process of purifying it for use as fuel in nuclear power plants or, when highly enriched, in bombs.

Mottaki said Iran, as a signatory to the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, had every right to conduct research on producing uranium fuel.

"Iran does not need any country's permission. It is our legitimate right to have nuclear technology, he said.

Hazi Samiruddin, a prominent sponding period of last fiscal year. Younis eyes FROM PAGE 16

the opening Test. "Tomorrow is a new day and it

told reporters.

said.

takes one ball to get you out but I

am feeling confident and a double hundred is a possibility," Younis

It was a 10th Test hundred for

After a disappointing home

the batsman, who made 147 and

series against England in which his

dayers, Younis said his innings on

Friday had lifted some of the pres-

"It was a good batting wicket out there and I was under pressure to

267 in matches last March in India.