The Paily Star

Thousands head for home ahead of Eid

Kamalapur railway station.

crowded to return their homes

said Mamun, a launch cabin boy.

the ticket counters as they failed to

manage launch tickets even they

But access patchy

Asia's telecommunications ser-

vices were partly restored on

Thursday after earthquakes off

Taiwan cut undersea cables and

knocked millions of users offline.

but with few alternative routes

Telephone traffic was back to

access was slow and patchy.

REUTERS, Singapore

quake setback

Asia

were ready to pay exorbitant fares.

leaving the capital.

SADARGHAT

Muslims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of passengers thronged bus, train and launch terminals yesterday, the last working day of the government employees, to leave the capital in a bid to observe Eid-ul-Azha with their near and dear ones

During visit to different termi-Sadarghat launch terminal experinals, The Daily Star corresponenced the highest rush as thousands of homebound passengers dents found passengers facing scarcity of tickets and high rates. Different city streets yesterday

looked less crowded and plying of vehicles was also thin in the afternoon. Meanwhile, additional police-

men and Rapid Action Battalion forces were deployed in the terminals to avoid untoward situations

Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday witnessed the highest crowd compared to three bus

Shooting in

leaves 3 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals sprayed bullets

in broad daylight yesterday on a

microbus at Dhupkhola in the

capital injuring the owner of a

manpower agency and its two staff.

Jahangir Alam, and two of his staff -

- Abdus Sobhan and Salahuddin

were inside the vehicle and suf-

They were on way to their office

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

fered bullet injuries in the attack.

The owner of Vienna Overseas.

microbus

terminals at Sayedabad, KAMALAPUR

Mohakhali and Gabtoli and Twenty-six day labourers were seen waiting at the ticket counter of According to the ticket sellers, Kamalapur station as they failed to rush may be doubled today as get tickets for their hometown more people are expecting to start Bahadurabad in Sirajganj

"After waiting for the entire day we failed to manage tickets even the standing ones," said Abdul Jalil, one of the labourers, adding, "Now we have to find other alternatives." Many passengers were also seen boarding the trains without

before the biggest festival of tickets after bribing the train ticket The price of a cabin on Dhakaexaminers (TTEs), Amtoli route was Tk 600 last week, The advance tickets were sold

from December 21 to 26, though which is now selling at Tk 1200, brokers bought most of the tickets depriving the passengers. Long route passengers were A total of 41 trains will carry seen returning empty handed from

passengers to Chittagong, Sylhet, Noakhali, Dinajpur, Rajshahi and SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

normal in some parts of Asia but

many operators in North Asia

struggled to get up to full speed a

day after business and home users

from Seoul to Sydney were hit by

one of the worst tech disruptions in

Internet access in many coun-

tries had also improved by

Thursday although many custom-

Asia back to online after

CHEATING CASE Arrest warrant against ex-BNP **MP Kaikobad**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former BNP lawmaker Kazi Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad and two others in a cheating case filed by a proprietor of a construction firm in September 2001

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Mizanur Rahman passed the order, as the accused did not appear before the court for three consecutive dates.

Defending yesterday's absence of their clients in the court, the defence lawyers said Kaikobad could not appear as he was busy with the election campaign in Comilla-3 constituency. They also did not mention why the two others did not show up.

But the prosecution lawyers rejected the cause saying just a day SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

ers complained of slow connec-

consortium of telecoms firms.

tions



The mentally and physically challenged hold a victory rally at Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday after the UN General Assembly approved an international convention on the rights for the disabled.

3 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, including an 8-yearold girl, were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

criminals called Sheikh Aslam, 38, a VCD cassette trader, out of his Chunghwa Telecom, Taiwan's residence at IG Gate at Shyampur top phone company, said it could at around 11:30am. take up to three weeks to repair six They took Aslam to a place

submarine cables owned by a nearby, shot him point blank and left the scene Two powerful quakes off Taiwan

Hearing gunshots, Aslam's on Tuesday, one of magnitude 7.1 family members rushed in and SEE PAGE 19 COL 7 found him lying in a pool of blood. They immediately took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead at around 12:45pm.

Police arrested two youths--Hira and Kalu alias Chora Kalu-suspecting their involvement in the killing.

Police said the criminals are members of "Sundar Babu" group and killed Aslam's father in 2004, prompting the family to file a murder case against them. Since the SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Last date for

Birdwatchers find 5 lakh waterfowls of 72 species

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A census, conducted by Nature Conservation Committee (NCC) early this year, found 4,94,401 waterfowls of 72 species at 40 sites across the country.

The census found 1,20,000 shelducks across the country, the highest count of a single species. They also sighted one Asiatic Dowitcher bird. At the Muhuri dam site in the South East coast, they found the highest number of species at a single site -- 37 species.

The NCC revealed their findings at a press conference in the

Advisory council holds up move to make PDB a holding company UNB, Dhaka

The council of advisers yesterday sent back for further vetting a proposal for transforming the stateowned Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) into a holding company.

After discussing the plan in its meeting, the council of advisers ordered more scrutiny of the matter before taking the next step.

President/ Chief Adviser lajuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting at the office of the chief adviser

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Traders' strike paralyses Sonamasjid land port

UNB, C'nawabganj

Activities at Sonamasjid land port remained halted for the second day yesterday due to the indefinite strike enforced by importers and exporters.

Importers and exporters called the strike protesting alleged irregularities by the private operator, Sonamasjid-Panama Portlink Limited, and lack of adequate space in the godown

They are demanding clearance of stone and rice through the port as per the existing system.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Prayer Timing		
December 29		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Bombings kill 23 Iraqi civilians in Baghdad 4 more GIs slain, 4 Americans kidnapped AP, AFP, Baghdad

Three bombs killed 23 Iragis in Baghdad yesterday, and the US litary announced the deaths of

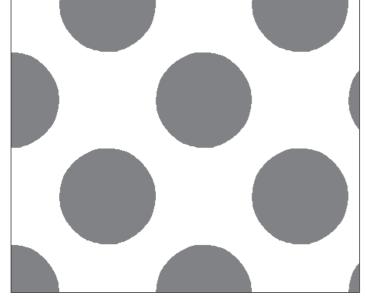
in captivity after their kidnapping in southern Iraq six weeks ago.

The men went missing Nov. 16

contractors and an Austrian remain

nvoy of tru n a large co

Police said a gang of three



three American soldiers.

Two bombs exploded shortly after 10 am opposite a park in the South Gate area, killing nine civilians and wounding 43, a police officer said on condition of anonymity because of security concerns. South Gate is often crowded with commuters and shoppers.A bomb planted under a car killed 12 civilians and wounded 26 others near al-Sha'ab stadium in eastern Baghdad, police said. The bomb exploded among a group of people lining up to buy kerosene.

Another blast targeted a police patrol in western Baghdad but missed, killing two civilians instead, police said. Four others were wounded and taken to Yarmouk Hospital.

The US Embassy said Thursday it believes four American security

escorted by their Crescent Security Group was hijacked on a highway near Safwan, a city on the border with Kuwait.

Suspected militiamen dressed in Iraqi police uniforms ambushed the convoy, taking 14 hostages, including the five security guards, and nine truck drivers who were later released.

The US military said four US soldiers died in roadside bombs on Wednesday. Two soldiers were killed when a bomb exploded near their foot patrol southwest of Baghdad, and one died in a bombing in an eastern section of the Iraqi capital.

A marine was killed during fighting in the western Al-Anbar province, a bastion of the Sunni SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

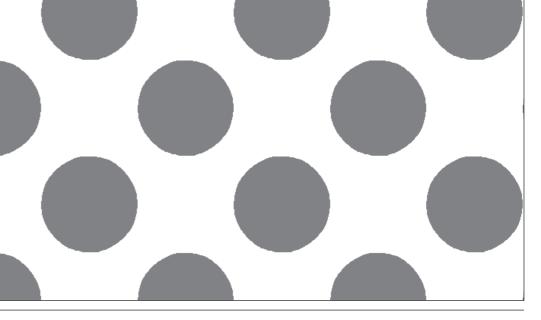
depositing firearms now Jan 5

BSS, Dhaka

The last date for depositing licensed firearms has been extended until January 5, a home ministry press release said yesterday. According to the earlier

announcement, yesterday was the last day for depositing licensed firearms. "If anybody fails to deposit

his/her licensed firearms with the nearest police station within the date, he/she will face legal action under the Arms Act," the press release said.



Rupayan Centre auditorium in the

capital yesterday. Suvash Kumer

at the Ahiluddim Char in Central

South coast. However, they found

2,64,734 birds, the highest count of

birds at a single site, at the Dhal

in January 2006. It was conducted

at five zones -- Central South coast,

South East coast, North East Haor

Basin, Central inland wetlands and

South & South West inland

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

The 45-day-long survey started

The survey did not find any birds

Barman prepared the report.

Char in Hatia-Noakhali

wetlands

