From Our Correspondent

passengers have been missing

liding with a cargo vessel in

Aricha from the Faridpur C &

boat with 30 passengers sand

at about 4 pm. Twentyfive pas-

missing passengers could not

be immediately known. Fire

Service personnel are search-

Sit-in' for reopening

of Fenchuganj

fertilizer factory

on Dec 31

From Our Correspondent

ter Sylhet Ganadabi Parishad

would stage a "Sit-in" at the

the gate of Natural Gas Fer-

tilizer Factory at Fenchugani

on December 31 in protest

against the government

decision for shutting down the

factory from January 1. The

organisation took this decision

vesterday at an urgent

a vigorous drive throughput

the four districts of greater

Sylhet for moulding support

from cross-section of people

for starting a larger movement

to press for the demand of es-

tablishing a new fertilizer fac-

tory at Fenchugani immedi-

held at Fenchugani on Decem-

ber 23 demanding withdrawal

of government decision to shut

down the Natural Gas Fertilizer

Factory at the call of Fen-

Minhajuddin Ahmed it was ad

dressed by the Deputy Leader

of the Opposition in the par

liament Abdus Samad Azad

Abdul Mukit Khan MP, Moksuc

Ibne-Aziz MP, Emran Ahmed

MP, Azizur Rahman MP, M A

Shahid MP and Sharfuddin

Khashru MP, and other lead-

Two killed in

Barisal road

accident

From Our Staff

Correspondent

sons were killed and two oth-

ers injured when a Patuakhali

bound bus 'Sharmin' hit a rick-

Barisal-Patuakhali Highway at

Burirhat under Nalchity Thana

Shamsu (28) died on the spot

while one of the passengers of

the van Hanif (54) succumbed

to his injuries at the Barisal

Medical College Hospital

Begum (45) who is also the

wife of Hanif and Zakir Hossain

(32) were admitted to the

knocked the rickshaw van

while it was trying to avoid

another bus coming from the

Clash at orphanage

leaves 10 injured

By DMCH Correspondent

jured, two of them seriously,

when orphans clashed with

outsiders at the Sir Salimullah

Orphanage at Azimpur Friday

Of the wounded, Shahdat,

18, and Shahidullah, 19, were

admitted to the Dhaka Medical

clash ensued when a group of

armedmen stormed into the

orphanage and attacked the

were heard during the clash,

One murdered

From Page 1 Col 8

fused threatened his life

Thursday. Mantu was the man-

ager of Noyan Hotel and Res-

taurant at Mirpur, they added.

incidents of extortion and

other crimes had increased

manyfolds at Mirpur but no

measure was being taken

raided different places at

Mirpur and Kalyanpur and

picked up 48 people for their

alleged involvement in various

crime incidents but on the

following day a mob laid siege

to Mirpur Police Station for

two hours and forced release

was sent to the Dhaka Medical

College Hospital morgue for

Meanwhile, Mantu's body

Mirpur Police said that a

of the arrested persons.

autopsy.

Last Saturday night police

against the culprits.

Local residents alleged that

Several blasts and gun shots

Witnesses said that the

College Hospital (DMCH).

At least 10 people were in-

Witnesses said that the bus

BMCII in critical condition.

opposite direction.

Two other injured, Ayesha

Driver of the rickshaw van.

of the Jhalakathi district.

(BMCH).

evening.

inmates.

witnesses said.

shaw van today at 11 am on the

BARISAL, Dec 25: Two per-

Presided over by Dr

chuganj Ganadabi Parishad.

Earlier, a grand rally was

They also decided to launch

SYLHET, Dec 25: The grea-

The boat was going to

Officials here said that the

The identity of the five

since a boat capsized after col-

the river Padma today.

sengers swam ashore.

ing for them.

meeting.

B Ghat.

RAJBARI, Dec 25: Five boat

## Mosquito Menace Returns

By AS M Nurunnabi



Low lying area at Bashabo - one of the breeding grounds of mosquitoes in city. - Star photo

of insecticides are used

Sicoflying as adulticide and py

rofox as larvacide. The City

Corporation, in their recent

press briefing, stated that in

spite of the initial delay, they

are now well prepared for the

control job. It is understood

that the personnel and equip-

ment for the job consist of 300

spraymen, 340 field staff, 600

power and hand sprayers, 3

vehicle mounted and 20 fogger

Corporation the Mosquito

Control Department of the

government are the relevant

agencies for control of

mosquitoes. It is reported that

their activities, however, leave

much to be desired. Often the

lack of co-ordination between

two agencies and their dual au-

thorities lead to lack of expe-

delayed control programme of

the Corporation, no impact is

yet felt in providing relief.

There is doubt in some quar-

ters that control programme

may not be comprehensive to

cover all areas in a short time

As of now, on account of the

ditious and timely action.

Along with the Dhaka City

The mosquito menace is again upon us in the city. Last year the menace assumed distressing proportions with no relief in sight. The citizens heaved a sigh of relief when the misery it wrought came to a natural end without the apparent help from any agency.

Mosquitoes are said to have a short life span: about 30 days in all-15 days in larva stage and 15 days at adult stage. November to February is their breeding season.

According to Dhaka City Corporation sources, the Corporation is more alert to the menace this year. The city has been divided into 10 zones for the purpose of mosquito control and an allocation of taka 1 crore has been made in the current year's budget on this account.

Last year the City Corporation could not initiate timely control programme on account of delay experienced in mobilisation of necessary insecticides. As a result, there was no effective control of mosquitoes at high time. Similar delay, though on a reduced scale initially, reportedly also occurred during this year, in the matter of testing and procurement of pesticides. For this reason, the control operation could not be started before November. The operation is, however, reportedly going on now in all the 10

Christmas

From Page 1 Col 5

Christian's Church at Asad Gate

The Christian devotees

male female and children -

were seen parading the streets

till late Thursday night singing

Christmas rhyme and visiting

churches or relatives and

Bangladesh Television broad

cast special programmes while

the national dailies published

special news items highlight-

ing the significance of the oc-

The day was a public holi-

President Abdur Rahman

Biswas, Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia and Leader of the

Opposition in Parliament and

Awami League chief Sheikh

Hasina in separate message

conveyed their warm greetings

and good wishes to the mem-

bers of the Christian commu-

tian community celebrated the

hely Christmas with jubilation

children attired in their best

participated at a congregation

followed by an hour long carol

and prayer at Chashara St Paul

The inside of the church

was decorated with Christmas

tree and crib with a replica of

mother Merry with her baby

tian community of Chittagong

also celebrated the Christmas

with traditional enthusiasm

special prayers were held at

Catholic Church at Patarghata,

Saint Mary's Church at Jamal

Khan and a church at Jamal

cial articles highlighting the

happy Christmas Day, while

Radio Bangladesh Chittagong

broadcast programmes to

Local dailies published spe-

The main congregation and

The members of the Chris-

and enthusiasm.

son Jesus Christ.

mark the day.

and solemn devotion.

in Narayangani the Chris-

Christian men, women and

The Radio Bangladesh and

friends.

and Kafrul Catholic Church.

stress that the Corporation's Some 2465 kilometres of programme can hope for sucdrains and hundreds of ditches cess if it is supplemented with and stagnant water areas are the efforts of citizens to keep considered to be the mosquito their own immediate neighbreeding grounds in 210 sq bourhood clean. km area of the city. Two kinds

One factor that poses a big challenge to the efforts of the City Corporation is the exis tence of the vast expanse of hvacinth-filled water areas in the city, for example on the east side of Motifheel and in the Rampura and Bashabo neighbourhood. There are other networks of big drains and nullahs which seem to be beyond the reach of Corporation's squads spraying insecticides. To tackle the situation successfully requires the combined efforts of those who may be owning these low lying areas. Otherwise the ef forts for mosquitoes made in other areas are likely to be nullified by the existence of these vast areas of mosquito breeding grounds.

It is not known if the controversy over the desirability of aerial spraying for mosquito control has been resolved in its favour at expert level, and if so, when such spraying will be taken up again by the Corporation. If control efforts are not geared up to the full by all means available during the remaining period of breeding season, the citizens of Dhaka will be exposed to another bout of suffering from the

# Faruq, Rashid dig

From Page 1 Col 8 banner of Freedom Party since what he said the latter was

while addressing a news conference at a city hotel, blamed Faruk for not believing in democracy

Replying to a reporter Rashid commented. " His Faruk's absence in the press conference doesn't matter at all." The conference was or gantsed at Hotel Sundarban to announce the unification of the Progotisheel Ganatantrik Shakti (Progosh) with the FP.

The unification is part of the FP's effort, to unit all the nationalist parties of the coun try, Rashid told the newsmen.

Unity of all nationalist parties including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiya Party and Freedom Party can only ensure national development and help foil intrigues being hatched by certain quarters against the national integrity, Rashid said.

Col ( retd) Shahrier Rashid Khan of Progosh and Choudhury Mohammad Faruk also spoke on the occasion.

The however parried a direct answer to a question that FP had split as a result of the continued dispute between himself and the party chief and said, 'We will go ahead with those who have faith in democracy. We are yet to face any conflict.

Reacting to Faruk's press statement issued Thursday night, Rashid said, 'it is undemocratic. As co-Chairman of the party, I also enjoy the equal power as Faruk does'.

Faruk in his Thursday statement said Rashid was not in any position of the party to issue any statement or do any act. Such activities would be deemed as his personal af-

fairs, not of the FP, he added. Faruk when reached by phone told The Daily Star last night that Rashid-Huda axis

home and abroad.

the party, Faruk pointed out, Rashid was not in any post and was not authorised to run party activities

putting pressure upon me to quit the party leadership since he was dropped from the post of co-Chairman. He was offered the post of Vice-Chairman which he did not accept', Faruk added.

grassroots level workers of the party were still working

#### DU English deptt alumni get together

Rank, reverence and all that can be conjured up in teacher-student relationship were dipped in the Hippocrene of mirth and nostalgia as the English Department Alumni Society of Dhaka University held its seventh annual get-together in the Institute of

gathered in the lush green lawn in the evening giggled. chatted and dusted off old acquaintances. Principal Irshadullah, a student from 1937 to 1941, was the oldest among the olders who amused the younger generation with anecdotes related to their days

in the Department. Prof Kabir. Chowdhury and Azizul Huq, who passed out in 1944, were next sentormost.

Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, Husniara Huq, Prof Ahsanul Haque.

Vice Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, who did his Masters in English in 1962, attended as chief guest.

Boat capsizes in Padma: 5 feel insecure missing

> NEW DELHI, Dec 25: India's Christian minority say they fear the country's secularism is under threat from a tide of Hindu fundamentalism following religious riots over the

ligious rights and place of worship will be protected in the wake of the Hindu-Muslim riots which killed more than

"The Christian people be lieve that inspire of all that has happened, tolerance is still part of the Indian ethos," Reverend Pritam Santram, General-Secretary of the Protestant Church of north India, said in an interview.

But the destruction of the

"It shows that there are fascist and fundamentalist forces within the Hindu community that are capable of in-

feel that this kind of monster

## 30 injured as bus skids off road at Bolta

At least 30 passengers were

injured, seven of them seriously when a Dhaka bound bus skidded off the road at Bolta Friday noon.

witnesses said.

The seriously injured College Hospital (DMCH) are Abdus Samad 50, Tapan Chandra 12, Jibon 12, Kala Rani 60, Renu Bala, 45, Satish lossain, 25.

is rising and if it is permitted to go on it would lead to a complete destruction of secu-

lar tdeas," he said. Santram and other Protestant and Roman Catholic leaders met President Shankar Daval Sharma on December 9 and handed over a memorandum spelling out their con-

Privately, some church leaders say Hindu fundamentalism had already affected the practice of Christianity, partieularly in northern India, the Hindi-speaking heartland where lower-caste tribal converts have been harassed by Hindus.

"We are facing problems in the north in propagating our faith," said a Roman Catholic priest who declined to be named.

#### Diabetic Hospital cash looters still at large

By Staff Correspondent The gangsters who escaped

with the looted money from the cash section of the Diabetic Hospital Wednesday were at large until Friday. Three of the armed bandits

while escaping after looting Taka 17,500 from the hospital's eash section at Shahbagh fell victim to a road accident within 250 yards of the hospital which left a gangster dead and two other miscreants seriously wounded.

A pedestrian was also killed in the accident.

The two wounded gangsters identified by the cash officer, Abu Bakar Ali, of the hospital were being treated under police custody at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

No fresh headway in the investigation into the incident was made until yesterday. But police said that they were vigilant to arrest the culprits.

Police are also yet to reeover the money looted from the hospital's cash, according to police.

#### Opposition may join JS to attend the next session of From Page 1 Col 7

joined the proceedings. IOJ. however, again walked out of the House with the Jamaat to protest against the passage of the Anti-terrorism Law.

Of the boycotting parties, the CPB went back to the House afterwards saying "staging walk-out was the valid form of registraring protest against the misdeeds of the Treasury bench but continuous boycott of sessions virtually weaken the practice of parliamentary democracy."

The Workers Party was absent from the House as its sole MP Rashed Khan Menon was wounded before Parliament went into session.

Although the boycotting parties are now considering joining the next session separately, they would soon meet together to review their stance.

improve law and order, inability to restore communal harmony following the demolition of the Babri Mosque in India mishandling of the Rohingya parliament session scheduled for January 3, the AL leader

Another AL leader, who is close to the AL high command told the Star last night that 'even if the AL decides to join the winter session it would definitely boycott the opening session as President Abdur Rahman Biswas is scheduled to address the House.' 'Biswas was one of the infamous people who actively opposed the country's War of Independence in 1971', the AL leader

The AL leader, however, said that the decision about joining the next session of Parliament would be finally taken at the Parliamentary Party meeting of the AL scheduled to be held on January 2.

AL's continuing the boycott of parliament sessions, an influential presidium member of the party told the Daily Star.

this correspondent Wednesday joining the coming session should be taken jointly. The JP will however decide its Mosque. meeting immediately before

he said. Shamsuddoha, leader of the parliamentary group of the CPB, said last night that his party had no reservation so far

parliament. 'We shall, however, not be lagging behind in criticising the ruling party for its failure in different areas the CPB leader added. Sources in the NAP said

that it would also joint the winter session. Suranjit Sengupta of the GP also believed that the ruling party should be confronted in Parliament for its 'growing autocratic attitude towards the opposition and its failure to resolve problems affecting the citizens of the country'. He, however, was of the opinion that the decision regarding the joining the session should be taken unitedly barring the

Shahjahan Siraj of the JSD would take decision identical to that of the the Awami League and its allies in Parliament, a source also the JSD leader told the Star last

cott parliament session, the

#### DUTA condemns demolition of Babri Mosque, RU tombstone

Association (DUTA) yesterday

Dhaka University Teachers'

December 16 last behind the Zoha Hall of the University endeavoured by the RU Central Students Union (RUCSU) but demolished by unknown men the same night.

struction. In another resolution, it

also condemned the demolition of Babri Mosque India by Hindu fanaties and demanded compensation to those who suffered loss in reaction to the demolition of the Babri

attack on the Principal of

# Christians in India

Pak-Saudi move to resolve Mujahideen dispute

ISLAMABAD, Dec 25: The Pakistani and Saudi ambassadors to Afghanistan met leaders of the warring Mujahideen parties in Kabul today to try to resolve their differences, state-run Pakistan television said. The two ambassadors held talks with Foreign Minister Sayed Ahmad Gilani, Head of the Moderate National Islamic Front of Alghanistan, and a representative of the formerly communist militia now allied with the Mujahideen, it said, reports Reuter

#### India accuses Ishaq of crossing limits

NEW DELHI, Dec 25: India today accused Pakistan President Chulam Ishaq Khan of crossing 'all previous limits' in remarks over the situation in Kashmir and the razing of the Babri Mosque by Hindu zealots. "It has indeed been habitual for this President of Pakistan to indulge in vituperative rhetoric over India with total disregard of the norms and conventions of good neighbourly relations," the External Affairs Ministry said, reports AFP.

#### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 8

election to Chhatra League. The opposition leader said local people caught redhanded some of the terrorists with arms during the time of looting and handed them over to police. But later they were released as police mysteriously charged them under Section 54 of CRPC without lodging specific case against the armed looters.

Hasina urged the government to arrest the armed terrorists immediately for the sake of peace in public life and

> Pope From Page 1 Col 3

traditional Christmas ceasefire in Northern Ireland, but gave no indication it will halt bombings and bomb scares intended to drive the British out of the republic. Cardinal Cahal Daly, the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Ireland, implored the guerilla group to call a permanent truce in Northern Ireland and end decades of violence.

In her Christmas message Queen Elizabeth II acknowledged that 1992 has been a tough year for her family, but also expressed sympathy for others who have suffered

Roman Catholics in the northern Albanian town of Shkodra are celebrating the return of their cathedral, which was converted into sports hall under former Communist rulers who outlawed religion.

in Cuba better relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the once-militantly atheistic Communist government allowed more open celebrations.

English-language radios in Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates were playing Christmas carols for the first time, and English-language newspapers were allowed to use the words "Christmas" and "Santa Claus" previously the holiday was referred to as the festive season," and Santa was

In Saudi Arabia, by contrast religious volunteer police went into the central post office in Riyadh, residents said, and destroyed outgoing mail thought to be Christmas eards.

#### CHT talks From Page 1 Col 7

will be received Saturday morning by the members of Liaison Committee" at Dudukchhari, a bordering village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district. From there they will be flown by helicopter to Circuit House for the dialogue scheduled to begin at 10 am, official sources said. They will be flown back there after the talks. The Shantibahini's demands placed recently to parliamentary team are expected to be discussed in the talks, sources added.

The main points of the demand included regional autonomy with constitutional embodiment, expulsion of Bengali-speaking settlers from CHT and formation of independent police force. Observers say, "there are

glimmers of hope for progress in the talks though the demands placed by Shantibahini are very tough".

UNB adds: Liaison committee sources said the negotiation may continue for five years or may linger up to day after tomorrow.

Besides the Communications Minister the government sponsored committee includes MPs Kalparanjan Chakma, Abdul Matin Khasru, Mustaq Ahmed Chowdhury, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Barkatullah Bulu, Syed Wahidul Alam and Mohammad Shahjahan.

The other member of the committee, Rashed Khan Menon, MP cannot attend the meeting as he will return home on January 9 from London where he had been treated for bullet wounds.

The PCJSS team will include Rupayan Dewan, Goutam Chakma, Raktautpal Tripura and Shudhasindhu Khisha.

## Sylhet navigation workers continue

SYLHET, Dec 25: The Navigation Workers' strike was continuing for the fifth day today throughout the greater Sylhet region. The strike for an indefinite period was called by the Noujan Sramik Federation to press for their 22point charter of demands.

All types of passenger launches and goods carrying cargo vessels had stopped plying in the different riverine routes of greater Sylhet region.

People in these region are mainly dependent on these for transportation. Taking advantage of the situation, owners of the engine-driven small boats have started doing brisk business by carrying passengers and goods in the short-distance routes risking lives and valuables, it is alleged.

launches and cargo vessels had been stranded at the different river stations namely, Chhatak, Sherpur, Markuli, Ajmiriganj, Lakhai and others.

# back home

Chief of Army Stall Lt. General Muhammad Noor vesterday after a visit to Cambodía, reports BSS.

## Gorbachev

From Page 1 Col 4 serted him after he resigned:

more than cold - frozen. "But you should know that Gorbachev is not alone. I receive many letters. People

support me, and this is very important for me," he added. "I regret that it happened thus," he was quoted as saying. "Alas, I see now that many

rated so sharply to levels unimaginable a year ago."

Gorbachev said economic reform would be a long process and was not a "fad."

to the board was lodged Friday on behalf of Adli Yaish, 42 from the West Bank city of Nablus, said his brother, Rifat. No date has been set for the

The Palestinians deported by Israel and rejected by Lebanon chanted Koranic verses to keep up their spirits Friday as they huddled around fires in a freezing no-man's land between army check-

Muslim fundamentalists, and expelled them in retaliation for the deaths of six members of the Israeli security forces.

The deportees' makeshift tent camp was covered by

#### Woman stabbed, robbed of gold chain

Dhanmondi Friday morning. The victim, Fatema, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with two stab injuries.

driving a white car stopped her near the Delta Medical Clinic, stabbed and snatched her gold chain and ring. Dhanmondi police said tha

they were informed of the incident in the evening but no arrest was made in this connection.

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with the result that relief may not be immediately felt. The Corporation sources, however, mosquito menace.

nobody of the party. On the contrary, Rashid

# under his leadership.

Fine Arts premises yesterday.

among who attended: The others who came to the session of camaraderie and remembrances regarding their rendezvous included students of yesteryears such as Prof

murder case was lodged with

had became desperate to capture the party leadership and

utilise it to their selfish ends. 'Rashid, accompanied by some hired hoodlums and touts is conspiring to sell-out the party', Faruk alleged adding 'Rashid's becoming the self-styled leader was only to

collect political tolls both at After the August council of

'He (Rashid) has been

Faruk claimed that all the

Star Report

Hundreds of alumni who

them in this connection but no arrest was made till midnight last night.

destruction of the Ayodhya

mosque, reports Reuter. Leaders of India's 23 million Christians have sought government assurance that re-

1200 people.

mosque in the northern town by Hindu zealots on December 6 had 'exposed the myth of Hindu tolerance, he said.

dulging in violence. "There are Christians who

By DMCH Correspondent

The bus coming from Narsingdi met the accident at around 12:30 pm yesterday when it swerved to avoid a collision with a truck coming from the opposite direction,

admitted to the Dhaka Medical Chandra, 55 and Zakir

A senior leader of the AL requesting anonymity told the Daily Star, that the opposition should officially accuse the government of its failure to problem, indifference to the indemnity issue. Registraring an official protest would require the AL's presence in the

added.

One can not rule out the

The JP Joint Secretary General Monirul Hoque Chowdhury, while talking to said that since his party boycotted the last session jointly with others, the decision of won course, in the first place, at its parliamentary party Parliament goes into session',

Meanwhile, the ruling party leaders maintain that the government had no reservation to implement the four-point accord signed with the AL led opposition. "In that case the opposition must effectively share the ruling party's efforts to give parliamentary democracy a strong footing, the Minister for Public Works Barrister Rafigul Islam said last night. The concept of parliamentary democracy does not permit the opposition to boy-

# minister argued.

condemned the demolition of memorial plaque erected at the mass grave inside Rajshahi University campus, reports The tombstone laid on

DUTA meeting in a resolution blamed the anti-liberation forces for demolition of the memorial plaque and demanded its immediate recon-

**DUTA** further condemned

Bartsal BM College in a postelection violence and demanded exemplary punishment to those responsible for the attack.

strike

From Our Correspondent

Hundreds of passenger

# Noor Uddin

Uddin Khan returned home He led a military delegation

"Many people only respected my post," he said. "My relations with them are now

dangers I have warned about are now becoming real... People's lives have deterio-

At the same time, however,

Rabin From Page 1 Col 4

appeal hearings.

israel says the men are

snow during the night.

By DMCH Correspondent A 40-year-old woman was stabbed and robbed of her gold chain and ring while she was having a morning walk at

While walking at Dhanmondi Road No 4, a gang of muggers