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People's Right to Know

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ALERT! TREMOR What to Do

Keep calm when a tremor takes place, for a quake does not last more than 30/40 seconds.

If you are inside the house or at the office, stay there. Try to get under the table or be beside the wall.

If you are outside, be sure to be in an open space and stay clear of power lines and buildings.

The quake over, look around to see if someone is injured, if so then give him first aid.

Examine the water, gas and power lines and watch out for fire.

Keep radio/TV on to listen to instructions on disaster management.

SAARC summit

Delhi wants to discuss issues with Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh yesterday said the Eleventh SAARC Summit will be held in Kathmandu on schedule.

The summit is due to be held in the capital of the Himalayan Kingdom from January 4 to 6. "So far we know from all sources,

the SAARC Summit is on", Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury said responding to questions at a press briefing. "Nepal has once again expressed its determination to hold the summit. The other members are also serious about holding it.'

Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh in a telephonic conversation with Bangladesh Foreign Minister Morshed Khan on Monday expressed the hope that they would

Dhaka to work closely with interim Afghan administration

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will send a high level delegation to Afghanistan to mee the designated head of the interim government Hamid Karzai and express its support for the reconstruction of the war-ravaged coun-

The delegation will carry the assurances of the government and people of Bangladesh to work closely with the interim administration of Afghanistan due to take over on December 22. The country's Ambassador to

Uzbekistan Abdus Salam will lead the delegation as special envoy of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and will carry a letter from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for Karzai. Deputy High Commissioner to Pakistan Fazlur

INSIDE TODAY

Governments need help Plain words by M B Naqvi

Grameen Bank, micro-credit and

the Wall Street Journal Dr Muhammad Yunus

Business BTTB invites users to assess requirement

Sun Rises Sun Sets

Dec 20		5-16 pm		
Dec 21	6-37 am			
Daniel There's and				

Prayer Timings

Dec 20			
	Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5-09	5-15	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	3-45	4-00	
Maghrib	5-16	5-22	
Esha	7-30	8-00	
Source: Islamic Foundation			

Tremor shakes city:100 hurt in Central Jail during panic exit

Also felt in other dists but no report of casualties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mild tremor shook capital Dhaka and some other central parts of the country vesterday afternoon, leaving over 100 inmates of Dhaka Central Jail injured and thousands of city dwellers in panic.

The earthquake took place at around 1:54:40pm and measured 3.82 on the Richter scale. It lasted for 21 seconds, Dhaka Met Office said quoting reports from the lone seismic observatory in Chittagong.

The epicentre of the earthquake was 191 kilometres away from the Chittagong observatory. But, the met office here said the epicentre of the tremor could not be exactly located. Jail inmates received injuries as the railing of a staircase of a dilapidated building in the century-old jail collapsed. Panic gripped the city

inhabitants as people came out of their residences during the quake. The tremor was also felt in the port city of Chittagong, Narayanganj, Gazipur, Munshiganj and some other central districts. Inmates who received injuries at the central jail told The Daily Star at

Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) that the railing of the staircase collapsed when they were sprinting down the stairs. Some of them, sensing danger, jumped from first floor to the ground, received severe

The incident occurred when jail guards were preventing the inmates

of Bangladesh

and Myanmar

North-east of

Sylhet near

Jaintiapur

Bandarban and

Jaintiapur and

Chittagong

Recent tremors in Bangladesh that cause casualty and damage of property Not available Maheskhali 22, 1999 **November Bordering area Particularly**



Some of the prisoners injured at Dhaka Central Jail during yesterday's earthquake are being treated at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Experts repeat warning

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

21, 1997

As the city "escaped a major disaster" yesterday, experts reiterated their warning that there could be a catastrophe here and in other cities and towns if the country is hit with a quake of around 7 magnitude on the Richter scale. Yesterday's quake was recorded at 3.82 on the Richter scale at the country's lone observatory in Chittagong.

"There would be a disaster", a geologist said repeating experts' warning that was reiterated many times earlier. Bangladesh is on the path of a tremor, he said repeating their warning.

In the absence of a proper seismic observatory, the Meteorological Department could not say where yesterday's tremor originated, except that it's source was 191 km from Chittagong.

The Chittagong observatory is equipped with a 1952 model Richter scale that is incapable of locating the epicentre or origin of a quake

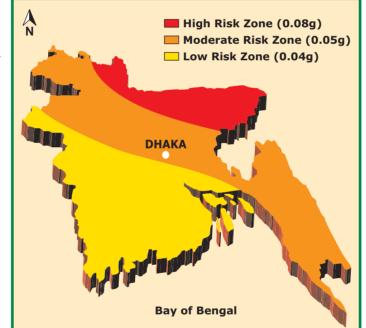
Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury said if a quake of above 7 magnitude on the Richter scale hits Bangladesh, there would a be a disaster in major cities because of the mushroom growth of high rises, built without using proper construction materials and ignoring building code.

"These will crumble like a pack of cards" as buildings have been built without space. Chowhdhury said.

Poor construction is also due to ignorance of engineers and masons who use too much water in mixing the concrete, which reduces their capability to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

GLADESH'S EARTHQUAKE RISK Z



Delhi wants to avoid war but 'all options open'

Vajpayee says as Indo-Pak tension soars

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said yesterday that every effort would be made to avoid a war with Pakistan, but warned his government was keeping all options open in responding to last week's attack on parliament.

Referring to international appeals for restraint Vaipavee said India had already reached "the pinnacle of tolerance" and would tackle terrorism alone, keeping its own security interests uppermost.

"The topic of the discussion should be whether or not there should be war and under what circumstances," he said.

While stressing that nobody wanted to inflame warlike passions Vajpayee told the lower house of

attack, which Delhi savs was instigated by Pakistan, was a challenge to the entire nation and the country would respond as one.

"Now through diplomatic channels we are trying to solve the problem. Other options are also open." Vajpayee said, adding that calls for moderation should be targeted at Islamabad rather than New Delhi

In a later statement of the upper house, Vajpayee said "every effort should be made to avoid a war" and stressed that action would only be taken after careful consideration.

"We don't expect anyone to fight for us. We don't expect anyone to jump into the battlefield for us. We

Indo-Pakistan tensions have soared in the past week, triggering

spark a full-fledged conflict between the nuclear-capable

India says it has evidence that the attack on parliament was carried out jointly by two Pakistanbased militant groups -- Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad -- at the behest of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

Pakistan has angrily denied the accusations and warned that any cross-border action by India would receive a swift and strong response" and could have grave repercussions for the region.

Some hawkish members of the ruling Hindu-nationalist coalition have called for tough reprisals, ncluding strikes on Muslim militant camps in Pakistani-administered SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Young man

15 murdered in city during Eid holiday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 people including a college girl were murdered during the Eid holiday in the city

The victims include six alleged snatchers or robbers, two housewives, a young man, a cattle trader. a film trader and a car driver. Besides, police recovered the

body of a young woman from Shantinagar area on Sunday and that of a young man from Mitali School lane at Swamibagh on Monday. Both the unidentified bodies,

contained in sacks, bore marks of Taslima Akther Ratna, 18, a

student of Ispahani School and College, was shot dead at a third floor flat at BG Press Staff Quarters at Tejgaon at about 1:45 pm on Tuesday.

Taslima went there to meet her classmate Fatema and her brother Rajib. Other members of the family ere out of the house. In one room Fatema was gossiping with her friend Rabeya who came to see her. Taslima was gossiping with Rajib in another room. The two had an affair,

All of a sudden, Fatema and

Rabeya heard gunshots. They rushed to the other room and found Taslima in a pool of blood. She was shot in the head. They did not find Rajib there

Taslima was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared her dead. Young man Aslam, son of

Mohammad Ali of Farashganj, was beaten to death inside a BNP office at Shyambazar on Saturday morn-It was alleged that two accomplices of local BNP leader Abdul

Khaleg called Aslam out of his residence on Friday night. They took him to the residence of Farid, president of BNP unit at ward number 79 and beat him, witnesses said. He died while being taken to DMCH. Local people claimed that

Khaleq had rivalry with Aslam's aunt over family affairs. An alleged robber was beaten to

death by a mob at Lal Mohan Shah Street in Sutrapur area in the early hours of Sunday as he and his accomplices were fleeing after looting Tk 5000 from a shop.

The victim, aged about 25, could SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

beaten to death at a BNP office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A young man was beaten to death allegedly by ruling party activists, inside a BNP office at Shyambazar in the city's Sutrapur area or Saturday evening.

The young man was identified as Aslam, 20, a local garment employee and son of Mohammad Ali. He was a resident of 15 Farashganj under Sutrapur thana.

Mojibur and Sentu, both workers of BNP leader Abdul Khaleq, called Aslam out of his residence on Friday night. They took him to the residence of Farid, president of BNP's ward number 79 and began to beat SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Kidnapped schoolboy rescued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolboy who was kidnapped by a gang from the TSC area on Dhaka University campus on December 9 was rescued from the kidnappers on

The victim was Firoz Ahmed Roni, a student of class IX at Mirpur Pre-Cadet Child Care Home in the city. He was a resident of Horonath Ghose Road in Lalbagh area.

After the kidnapping, the captors called his family over telephone and demanded Tk. 5 lakh as ransom.

Later, the kidnappers sent a letter written by Firoz urging his mother to rescue him. The letter, stained with blood, also said he was being tortured physically.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

New Afghan govt takes office Saturday

Karzai to hand over Arab guerillas to face justice

REUTERS, Kabul/Rome

Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai, headed home yesterday, vowing to end "warlordism" and rebuild his country as US forces who helped bring him to power puzzled over the whereabouts of Osama bin

With Karzai due to take office Saturday, diplomats and military sources said the first units of an international force would be in place in the capital Kabul by the time he took over but they would have a low-

Neighbour Pakistan, once close

At least 20 people were killed and

over 300 injured in separate inci-

dents in districts in the last four

According to dispatches from our

correspondents at districts and

agency reports, the violent incidents

took place mostly over prior enmity,

political rivalries and feuds among

villagers. Twelve people were killed

in separate road accidents and eight

people were murdered across the

Our Jhenidah Correspondent

reports: At least 60 people were

injured and 50 houses were looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

days.

now an ally in the US war on global "Warlordism must end and the

Across the border at the airport

view before leaving Rome, where he received the blessing of Afghanistan's exiled king, that he

wanted to root out terrorism and the rule of the gun in a country that has known two decades of war.

rule of the gun must end in Afghanistan," he said, before flying to Kabul. Diplomatic and military sources

in the Afghan capital said a vanguard of about 100 British Royal Marines from the vessel HMS Fearless were expected to arrive in the city in time for today's installation of Karzai's post-Taliban interim

Karzai promised yesterday to SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

'Jamuna Bridge should be brought under legal framework'

UNB. Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman vesterday called for enactment of a law to bring the Jamuna Bridge Project under a legal framework.

He raised the demand at the foundation laying ceremony of Mohakhali flyover yesterday morning. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia unveiled the plaque of the flyover.

Referring to the previous BNP government's effort in collecting funds and constructing the Jamuna Bridge, the Finance Minister said the Jamuna Bridge Project is wellknown in different countries of the SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Hearing of bail petition of **Shahriar today** COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka will hear today the bail petition of writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir, an accused in a sedition case. Magistrate Al Mamun yesterday

defence lawyers. The defence lawyers submitted a petition before the court for adjournment of hearing. They stated that Barrister Shawkat Ali SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

College girl killed in friend's house



Mother of Taslima Akhtar Ratna (inset) wailing at the killing of her daughter. Ratna was gunned down on Tuesday at the city's BG Press Staff Quarters.

A student of Ishpahani Girls' High School and College was shot and killed, allegedly by her friend's younger brother at around 1.00 pm on Tuesday at Tejgaon in the city. Taslima Akhtar Ratna, the victim at the time of the incident.

and only daughter of BG Press employee, Mohammad Abdul Hakim, was visiting her friend Rabeya Akhter Ruma on the third floor of the BG Press Staff Quarters

Family and neighbours said that the only reason they saw behind Ratna's killing was that she had rejected her friend Ruma's brother Razib when he tried to court her Razib, a first year student of Tejgaor College, is the only son of Haji Sarwar Alam

One of Ratna's two brothers, **SEE PAGE 11 COL 1**

Gangsters loot shops in two city markets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The city's shopping centres witnessed 'a looting spree' on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

15 to 20 gangsters entered the Mouchak Market and went on adjourned the hearing and fixed the date following a time petition by the people around looking on.

phone number with the shop owner and asked him to call in case of any

gang of 15, some of them armed, went to the Eastern Plaza and took away foreign-made shoes worth about Tk 10,000 from a shop. The gang left the shop only thanking the

Such incidents took place earlier as well, but less frequently, sources

Jewellery looted from shop in Paltan STAFF CORRESPONDENT

lakh from a jewellery shop at Paltan Supermarket on Tuesday night police said

Robbers looted gold jewellery weighing about 3000 tolas and Tk

cated that night, they said. Sibroto Nath, brother of the owner of Sunflower Jewellers, filed a case with Motijheel thana in this

terrorism, said its troops had captured dozens of his al Qaida fighters fleeing across the border.

outside the Taliban's former southern stronghold of Kandahar, the FBI interrogated other captured fighters loyal to bin Laden, the man Washington blames for the September 11 suicide attacks on the United States.

Karzai told Reuters in an inter-

Violence, accidents kill 20 between Awami League and BNP injured, 20 of them critically, in a supporters at village Pushbaria clash between villagers of Kanabari under Shoilakupa on Monday and and Bagbari in Kamalkanda Upazila in Sirajganj district on Tuesday.

According to police, the clashes originated on the first day of Eid-ul-Fitr when some AL supporters assaulted a BNP activist Piqul. Six houses belonging to BNP supporters were also damaged during the

In retaliation, several hundred BNP supporters weapons swooped on AL men with lethal weapons the following day causing damage to

Our Sirajganj Correspondent

of a mosque of at Konabari bus The clash between residents of Bagbari, led by former MP Shahidul slam Khan, and residents of Konabari lasted for about six hours

during which gunshots were fired

Sources said that the clash

ensued at about 11am over naming

and crackers were exploded. Police had to lob teargas shells, baton charge and use fire to bring SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

On Saturday evening, another

At around midnight on Sunday,

indiscriminate looting. The gang took away shirts and punjabees from a shop with a large number of While leaving the shop, an operative of the gang left a cell

"This time, the incidents became so common that many businessmen packed up their businesses." said a

shopkeeper at the Mouchak Market. SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Nightguards of other jewellery shops in the market alleged that Shagor, nightguard of the shop carried out the robbery with the help of some others. He seemed intoxi

regard yesterday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5