Violence, accidents

the situation under control

Additional police was deployed at both villages

In another incident yesterday, 25 people were injured during a clash between activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo Dal. Two of the seriously injured Abdul Alim, 28 and Rezaul Karim, 27 of Jubo Dal were sent to Dhaka for treatment. Sources said the clash erupted

over beating of two Jubo Dal activists at Bahirkhola at about 10am. Our Pabna Correspondent

reports: At least 40 people were injured in a gunfight between rival groups of BNP at Charkatra village under Sadar upazila on Tuesday. The clash ensued over plying of auto-tempos on a local brickfield.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent adds: At least 80 people were injured in a clash between rival groups over auction of goods belonging to a local mosque on Eid day at Bedgram village under Sadar upazila. The clash erupted after disputes

over bidding for trees being auctioned by the managing committee Bedgram Northpara mosque. Twenty-five injured were admitted to Gopalgani Sadar Hospital. Our Natore Correspondent

reports: At least two people were killed and 35 others injured when a bus carrying a bridal party collided head on a goods-laden truck at Kalikanur under Badagram unazila

Police said Taiul Islam, 35, the bus driver and Moqbul Hossain, 50, a member of the bridal party died on

Our Kushtia Correspondent adds: Two people were killed in a road accident on Tuesday. The accident occurred when a motorcycle rammed into a bus coming from opposite direction at Daulatpur

UNB report from Gazipur says: Two extortionists, Rana alias Munna, 20, and Shahjahan, 22, were killed by a mob when they went to collect toll at Dattapara in Tongi on

In another incident, road pirates stabbed Monju Fakir, 35, driver of a rent-a-car vehicle, and looted valuables from its passenger in bridge area on Tongi-Pubail road on Monday.

Monju, hailed from Ulpur village of Gopalganj district, died on way to hospital.

In Narayanganj, Jahangir, 17, a tempo driver was killed and three people were injured when a truck rammed into a tempo at Madanpur in Bandar upazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Tuesday.

In another incident over toll collection, 20 people were injured, six by bullets, at Masdair in Fatullah

The bullet-wounded Jamal, 45,

Experts warn

"The need of the hour is to strictly

follow the national building code.

The government must act quickly to

enact necessary legislature and to

He also stressed the need for

developing a proper disaster man-

agement service to meet the after-

math of any quake and accelerating

construction of seismic observato-

properly monitor quakes.

to The Daily Star.

engineer, suggested.

ries in Dhaka. Sylhet and Rangpur to

be measured by one observatory. It

needs at least three, he said talking

Chowdhury also called for reno-

vating buildings on the earth guake

zones. He said a brick-built building

above three storevs cannot stand

iolts. Those can be reinforced with

concrete pillars or putting iron rods

between the bricks, Chowdhury, an

three categories of quake zones

The severe zone or Zone A stretches

from Sylhet to Rangour and covers

parts of Dinaipur. The moderate

Nazmul Hossain, who works in

Saudi Arabia, said that one of

Ratna's friends Fatema Akhtar

Shikha, who lived in the same

building, called her at around 12-45

pm to visit Ruma, a mutual friend.

Ruma whose parents lived on the

third floor of the same building had

come to visit her parents with her

Both girls then went to Ruma's

Loud music was being played on

the cassette player in the house and

Ruma's mother was cooking in the

kitchen of the crammed staff quarter

apartment. According to neighbours

and relatives, Ratna was sitting in

one of the rooms of the apartment

when the alleged killer, Razib fired a

single bullet into her head from a

locally made firearm. Shikha and

Ruma were in the balcony at the

Medical College Hospital where the

attending doctor declared her dead.

Neighbours said Razib was seen

Relatives said that a day before

the Eid-ul-Fitr, Ratna told her

mother that 'someone' she knew

was telling her 'things that was

almost impossible to believe'. They

added that Ratna did not like Razib

because he was junior to her and

also was the younger brother of her

even ten minutes after incident with

Shufal and Kamrul, two of his

friends, before he fled.

Ratna was rushed to the Dhaka

house, where the alleged assailant,

Razib, was apparently waiting.

child.

College girl killed

Bangladesh can be divided into

The epicentre of a quake cannot

ensure its enforcement", he added.

Nannu, 40, Nasir, 40, Suman, 24, and Shahin, 26, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

On Tuesday, dacoits looted valuables worth Tk 26,000 from the house of Abdul Malek of Dakkhinpara in Araihazar Upazila injuring seven people. The injured are Abdul Malek, Shahida, Fatema, Al-Amin, Mahmuda, Maksuda and

The body of Rubel, 25, a garment worker, was recovered from a ditch Tolla area at Fatullah on Sunday. On the same day, several

clashes between the supporters of Jubo Dal and police at Chashara and Missionpara in Sadar left 15 people injured. In Jessore, private car driver

Jamaluddin, 35, died on the spot and two others were injured when their Jessore-bound car collided with a bus at Hashimpur Bazaar on the Jessore-Magura road on In Chittagong, three passengers of a microbus were killed when a

Dhaka-bound bus rammed into a microbus at Bashbaria in Sitakunda unazila on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Sunday. Report from Bagerhat adds: A youth, Ferdous, was beaten to death

while another injured in a lynch-mob attack when they went for toll collection to Kandapara village in Sadar upazila on Sunday. Some 40 people were injured in a

clash between two groups of transport workers at Rupatali bus terminal in Barisal town on Sunday.

In Manikgani, a 35-year-old man was killed and 23 other passengers were injured when a Jessore-bound coach fell into roadside ditch at Zoka on the Dhaka-Aricha highway in Ghior upazila on Saturday.

In another incident, one Sabur was killed and three other passengers were injured when a tempo they were onboard dashed into a along the same highway in Kholra area.

In Laxmipur, terrorists hacked an Awami League leader, Siraj Ullah, 35. to death and injured a leader of Jubo League, Jahangir Alam Hiru, 28, by gouging his eyes out in Sadar upazila on Sunday and Monday.

In Bogra, Shah Alam, 30, was killed in a road accident at Silimpur on the outskirts of the town on

A tribal youth was killed and dumped into the Kaptai Lake near the old bus station in Rangamati hill district headquarters. His body was recovered from the lake on Sunday.

housewife, was beaten to death allegedly by her husband as her parents didn't send any Eid gift for him at Char Sherpur in sadar upazila

zone or Zone B covers Dhaka

friend, Ruma. Tejgaon police

detained Shikha and Ruma for

interrogation but was yet to arrest

Razib till writing of this report yester-

day. Shikha and Ruma were

released vesterday after they gave

iudicial statements to a magistrate

at the CMM's Court. The two girls

told the magistrate that Razib was

playing with the gun when a shot

was fired accidentally, a police

source sai. Ratna's family was

found in deep shock yesterday.

Thetairs of the building are still

stained with blood. Neighbours and

relatives said that Ratna was known

as a fine girl who was determined to

continue higher studies. A neigh-

bour said after Ratna failed to obtain

first division in the SSC examina-

tions by only 2 points two years ago,

she took the exams again last year

in Bancharampur of Brahmanbaria

district, which is their village home,"

village home for burial yesterday

afternoon after postmortem at the

The tribal zones are dangerous and

difficult to get to. Known as agen-

cies, the zones function under their

own laws and traditions. The

Pakistan government has very

limited authority over the regions.

"Her father is very ill now and is

Ratna's body was taken to her

and obtained first division.

a neighbour said.

15 killed

DMCH.

lation live.

Gas: Minister's remarks

impression that the gas has become more a national burden than a

lifeblood for the country's development, the sector's history shows that the state wilfully chose costly IOC gas. It was because the country was faced with tremendous gas supply shortfall and lack of investment. In early nineties, it was more important to add new gas supplies for the sake of development, even at a price that inflicted loss on the nation.

The government last year incurred a loss of Tk 375 crore by purchasing gas from foreign oil companies at a higher rate and selling the same at much less than half that price in the local market. This loss is directly linked to international oil price hike -- with which the government had contractually linked the gas price of the international oil companies (IOCs) -- and drastic taka devaluation against US

But at the same time, Petrobangla owes Tk 1200 crore to different organisations including its own affiliates. The state body is unable to pay Tk 350 crore to Shell and Unocal for purchase of Sangu and Jalalabad gas due to liquidity crisis. So far no pragmatic step has been taken to clear the arrears.

As per Gas Purchase Sales Agreement (GPSA), the gas of

Sangu and Jalalabad follows a formula linked with the price of high sulphur fuel oil at Singapore market. Under such a formula, Petrobangla pays a minimum of around US 1.2 dollars per one thousand cubic feet of gas when the global oil price is low or even lowest and around US 2.9 dollars when the oil price is high or the highest.

When the government framed these GPSAs in late '96 and in '98, it chose the formula knowing fully well their implications. The PSCs, signed between March 94 and July 95, were designed in such a way that IOC operations would be costlier than Petrobangla's own operations. The PSC operators were given a large package of financial incentives including tax exemption because at that time no oil company was much interested to invest in Bangladesh.

In addition, there was a huge gas supply shortfall in '95-'96. The Sangu field was developed by Shell Oil on an urgent basis in a record time of less than two years in view of government's request. Country's power generation continued to face problem due to gas supply shortfall

The government had argued that gas can replace fuel oil, saving Tk 500 crore a year. Imported oil is used for power generation in the

While the state minister says there is no gas market in the country, the Power System Master Plan (PSMP) of energy ministry finalised in November '95 says the demand for power will be 9357 MW in 2015 (calculated on the basis of annual power consumption growth at that time). At least five tcf of gas should be reserved for power generation, it

The power sector consumes around 43 percent of the total gas production now.

The projection in the PSMP has so far been close to the reality. The demand for power in '95 was 1925 MW and it would jump to 3205 MW in 2000 and to 4342 MW in 2005, it

To meet the growing demand for power, the country will need to increase gas production by another 500 mmcfd (million cubic feet per day) in 2005. But so far, there is no long-term plan to meet the domestic

The demand growth of gas is directly related to the overall economic activities in the country. According to projections in all the six five years plans, the economy has been targeted to grow and not to remain stagnant.

Security in Kathmandu

"Our Finance Minister Dr. Ram Sharan Mahat and Agriculture Minister Mohesh Acharji already visited all the SAARC membercountries and formally handed over government of each country on behalf of our Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba," the official said

requesting anonymity.

About the prevailing state of emergency in Nepal, he said it would have no effect on the smooth functioning of the summit. "Our government machinery is fully

capable of handling the situation." This is a different type of emergency as the parliament was not dissolved and none of people's rights was curtailed." he claimed 'Besides, there is a national consensus among all political parties

about the emergency issue," he added. Meanwhile, Rita Manchanda, of the Kathmandu-based South Asia Forum for Human Rights while inaugurating a reporters workshop In Sherpur. Farida Begum, a in Kathmandu last week alleged that the freedom of the press was cur-

"Journalists cannot ask about

tailed under the state of emergency

rebels, and people do not know in which direction the battle is going," she said, terming the alleged restrictions as a serious violation of human

DD Khatiwada, Director General of Information of the Nepalese

government, denied the allegation. "All parliamentary activities are going on and even opposition political parties have not opposed the emergency," he said, adding

that press freedom remained unhin-"The press is fully free provided that it does not print anything that

may put national security in jeopardv. Khatiwada said. In support of his claim, the DG invited a group of Bangladeshi journalists to visit any place in Nepal to observe the situation. "You are free to go anywhere and talk to anybody about the prevailing situa-

Khatiwada, however, hinted that a resolution on terrorism might be adopted at the 11th SAARC Summit as all the member countries were affected by terrorism in one way or the other. Convention Centre (BICC) at Baneshwar in

tion in Nepal.

By-election FROM PAGE 12

if necessary.

and prescribed forms, the voters will have to send those back after filling them properly to returning officers in due time, the handout said.

The voters have also been asked to contact with the concerned returning officers for further details

Jamuna Bridge

FROM PAGE 1 He said the previous government had named the Jamuna Bridge after Bangabandhu but had to deploy security people to protect the por-

trait and nameplate which cost government money. Saifur also mentioned the underconstruction Bhairab Bridge named after Sved Nazrul Islam, another leader of Awami League, who was killed while in jail on November 3, 1975. That name should be

The finance minister urged

World Bank country director Frederick Temple who was present at the function to sanction an addi-

changed, he said.

tional amount of 40 million US dollars for the construction of Jatrabari Flyover within April 30 of

Tremor shakes city:100 hurt

from coming out of the over-Chittagong, Rajshahi and most

crowded three-storey building other areas of central Bangladesh, where 50 percent of country's popucomprising six units, said a jail guard. On an average, 600 prisoners are housed in each unit, he The low risk zone covers the southern and southwestern regions Stopped on the way by the of Jessore. Khulna and Barisal.

guards, some 1200 inmates On the situation in Dhaka gathered at the staircase and at Chowdhury said the western part of one stage the railing gave in, said the city where the Central Jail is located suffered a major damage a jail official. during the quake of 1897 that killed With a capacity to accommo-

date 2632 inmates, nearly 9,000 thousands in Assam and in northeastern Bangladesh including inmates are housed in the central jail, according to the official. If a quake of a magnitude like that Immediately after the incident,

fire fighters, members of the of 1897 which changed the course of Bangladesh Red Crescent Brahmaputra river occurs within 100 Society and other rescuers km of Dhaka, the city will feel the rushed to the spot to help the impact, he added. Anything like that injured. Some 40 wounded happening in Srimangal or Tripura inmates were sent to the Dhaka will affect the capital. The geologist said Dhaka city sits Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on top of alluvial soil that cushions it while the rest were being treated at the jail hospital. Most of the from tremors. But rapid withdrawal of underground water has "unsettled injured were sent back to the jail the balanced underground" and made it vulnerable to quakes.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain

Gangsters loot

scene after immediately the incident, told reporters at the jail gate that about 100 inmates of the jail were injured when a railing of a staircase of a ward collapsed.

Altaf dismissed rumours about collapse of a building in the iail, saving none of the buildings was damaged in the earthquake. "Panicky jail inmates were injured as they tried to come out of the building," said the Home Minister. He later visited the ailing

inmates at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosarraf Hossain. State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar, Forest and **Environment Minister Shaiahan** Siraj and senior police officials also visited the DMCH.

Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif also visited the jail immediately after the incident. He provided four ambulances to rescue

Police in riot gear was deployed around the central jail and all ways leading to the prison were made off-limits to the people after the incident. Relatives of the iail inmates were wailing on their way to the jail. Several hundred panicked people stood along either side of the narrow Najimuddin Road in the old part of the city, where the jail is located. No reports of casualty and

injury from other parts of the country were received. Chittagong and its adjoining areas experienced minor earthquake shortly before 2 in the afternoon. However, city dwellers could hardly feel the jolt. Our Narayanganj correspon-

dent reported that a light quake shook the town at 1:55pm. No casualties were reported. In Munshiganj, it was felt at 1:58pm. Local people said the tremor was felt in the area for a second or two. forcing the panicky people to rush out of their homes

Delhi wants to avoid war

The number of incidents of mugging also rose on Sunday.

In another incident two activists of the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured when employees of Titan Chines Restaurant at Elephant

Road beat them on Sunday evening. Sources said the employees intercepted the JCD activists when they were leaving the restaurant without paying for the dishes worth about Tk 3,000. The employees stabbed two JCD

men after they returned a few minutes later to take revenge. A case was filed with the Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection. Police arrested the two youths immediately after the incident.

On Saturday, armed miscreants robbed Abu Naser, the general manager of Akiz Group of Industries, of Tk 24 lakh in front of the gate of its depot at 8.45am at Dhanmondi,

Schoolboy

Finally, two of the victim's aunts contacted the kidnappers and settle for Tk 2 lakh. As agreed upon, the two aunts then went in front of the arts building of Dhaka University Monday afternoon.

They waited there but could not find out any one except Firoz. Lalbagh police was also informed earlier.

Firoz told his aunts that a time bomb was strapped to his belly. Later, it was found that the bomb was not a real one.

In Beijing, Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Zhang Indian and Pakistani troops

traded fire over their disputed border in Kashmir late Tuesday -- the first such exchange since New Delhi accused Islamabad of complicity in last week's attack. All five suspected militant gunmen were killed in the assault on

parliament, which left nine others dead, most of them security person-Indian Army Chief General S Padmanabhan warned Wednesday

that Pakistan was massing troops along its border. There is a buildup on the other side. They have moved certain forces in there. Certain forces which should have gone back have not gone back," Padmanabhan told

"I am not going to be stampeded into any kind of action. We are not a floppy army but a very confident We know precisely what we want to do," he added.

The United States on Tuesday reiterated an appeal that New Delhi avoid further igniting tensions with Pakistan.

While House spokesman Ari Fleischer said India was within its rights to defend itself but that in exercising that right it must pay heed to the dangerous regional security situation.

regional situation that is already

very, very complicated," Fleischer

able to obtain visas for Afghanistan, the foreign secretary said "these 'The president remains hopeful that leaders in the area will act responsibly, consistent with a manner that will not complicate a

Qiyue also urged an easing of But Vajpayee said such appeals

Dhaka to work FROM PAGE 1

Rahman is the other delegate. Foreign Secretary Shamsher

Mabin Chowdhury told reporters at a press briefing yesterday that the Bangladesh delegation is expected to reach Kabul before December 22. He expressed the hope that the take over of the new administration in Afghanistan will lead to a beginning of a process of peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan.

The foreign secretary said Bangladesh government has sent relief goods worth nearly Tk 5 crore for Afghan refugees.

In response to a question, he said the UNDP headquarters based in New York is coordinating the possible assistance of all NGOs who are interested in helping the Afghan people

Interested Bangladeshi organisations may contact the UNDP at Asked if Bangladeshis will be

issues would be discussed" Bangladesh closed its embassy in Afghanistan in the late eighties while an embassy of former Afghan government headed by President Borhanuddin Rabbani continues to be in place in Dhaka.

Shahriar

FROM PAGE 1

Khan, the chief defence counsel for the case, could not appear in the court due to unavoidable circumstances. So they prayed for adjournment of hearing. They also prayed for hearing on bail petition with appearance of Shahriar Kabir.

The prosecution side did not oppose the petition. After hearing both sides, the

court granted the petition Earlier, Shahriar Kabir was placed on a five-day remand for interrogation in two phases.

Meanwhile, Shahriar Kabir on Saturday gave a judicial statement to the magistrate. After recording his statements, the court ordered sending Shahriar Kabir to Dhaka Central Jail and fixed the date for hearing of the bail petition.

Shahriar Kabir was detained by the Special Branch (SB) of police at immigration desk at Zia International Airport on his return from Kolkata on November 22. Later he was shown arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). No specific case was filed against him till December 7.

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain officer-in-charge of airport filed a complainant case on sedition charge against Shahriar Kabir with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on December 8

Hasan Ahmad FROM PAGE 12

yesterday.

During his long association with the government, he also worked in a variety of capacities and held. among others, the positions of secretary, East Pakistan Industrial Development Corporation, executive director, Eastern Refinery, executive director. Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company, deputy commissioner of Mymensingh and Chittagong, economic/commercial counselor Bangladesh Embassy at Bonn and Kuwait, chairman, Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation, chairman Bangladesh Oil and Gas Corporation (Petrobangla), secretary, Ministry of Commerce, secretary, Ministry of Communications (Railway Division), director general, Bangladesh Railway, secretary, Ministry of Health, chairman, Tariff Commission, secretary, Ministry of Textiles and principal secretary to the Prime Minister. In his personal life he is married

and has two daughters and a son.

Former Navy chief FROM PAGE 12 Harun-ar-Rashid, Chief of Naval

Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshall M Rafiqul Islam, political leaders,

senior naval officers- both serving and retired- a large number of his relatives, friends and well-wishers. Ahmed's qulkhwani was held at

the Naval Headquarters Complex Mosque after Asr prayers on Tuesday, December 18.

V-Day celebrated

lighting the significance of the day.

The government also arranged special discussion meetings and symposiums on the occasion.

Bangla Academy and Shilpakala Academy arranged cultural programmes. Documentary films were screened for schoolchildren across the country. Special diet was served in the

vagrant centers while special prayers held in all mosques, temples, churches and pagodas. The government accorded reception to freedom fighters and

arranged Victory Fair at district and

hospitals, prisons, orphanages and

upazila levels In Dhaka, bands of the Armed Forces played at different points while Navy ships were kept open for public at different river terminals including Sadarghat.

The central Shishu Park was open for children with no charge for As part of the Victory Day

programme, march past of police, ansar, VDP, scouts, girls guide and BNCC was held in all upazilas and districts in the first hour of December

SAARC summit FROM PAGE 1

the sidelines of the SAARC Summit. Jaswant Singh rang up Morshed Khan to congratulate him on taking

The Indian foreign minister also expressed his government's appreciation for Bangladesh government's condemnation of the recent attack on Indian parliament. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in a

Minister Atal Behari Bajpayee while overflying Indian territory strongly condemned the attack. She was returning home after performing Umrah in Saudi Arabia. The foreign secretary said during the talks Morshad Khan told his

recent message to Indian Prime

Indian counterpart that the summit would create scope for dialogue for increasing bilateral cooperation between the two countries. The last SAARC summit was held in 1998 in Colombo. Although it

is a yearly event, the summit came under the shadow of being put off again due to the recent terrorist attacks on India Parliament. Delhi claimed that Kashmiri militani groups allegedly having links in

New Afghan govt

hand over Arab guerrillas caught in his country to face international justice.

"The Arabs in Afghanistan who have no criminal record are just citizens ... but the ones who have committed international crimes, crimes against mankind, crimes against our people, they must face international justice," he told a news

conference. He also said he would apply tough Islamic law to common criminals in Afghanistan

Karzai said he expected an international peacekeeping force to number between 3,000 and 5,000 people and that he would favour allowing them to use force if neces sary to keep peace.

"If it takes force to keep peace. Why not? The basic element is to keep peace.'

Karzai has been designated head of an interim administration that will take power in Afghanistan today and rule for six months, paving the way for a two-year transitional government

AFP adds: Osama bin Laden has fled Afghanistan, a spokesman for a top Afghan military commander said yesterday, according to the Afghan

A spokesman for Haji Mohammad Zaman, military chief for Nangarhar province, which includes the Tora Bora caves where al-Qaida fighters have just been defeated, said: "We are now confident that Osama bin Laden is not in Afghanistan."

The United States Tuesday warned any country that might consider harbouring Laden to learn from Afghanistan, where the US military helped to oust the Taliban government that sheltered him.

world that would knowingly harbour bin Laden would be out of their minds," Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said in answer to a question at a news briefing at the Pentagon. "I think they've seen what happened to the Taliban and think that's

"I just think any country any in the

added. Wolfowitz said the United States did not know where bin Laden was after more than two months of US bombing and ground action and a campaign by the opposition forces,

probably a pretty good lesson for

people not to do that," Wolfowitz

which overthrew the Taliban government in Kabul.

"We don't know where he is now and he could be on the run,"

Wolfowitz said. of three al-Qaida fighters, and more than a dozen more prisoners cap-

handed over to American forces Tuesday, the Pentagon said. US planes flew over Afghanistan

tured by Afghan allies were being

him, witnesses said.

Victim's mother Ayesha Khatun, rushed to the spot and urged the men to spare her son. They sent her back saying he would be freed soon,

with her husband Ali but did not find their son. They went to the local BNP office and found Aslam being beaten there. The parents begged for their son's life.

hospital the same evening. Police sources said that the

disputes two years ago. Hamid's wife filed a case accusing Khaleg and he was arrested. Right after BNP came to power Hamid was picked up and beaten by Khaleg and his men. They asked him to pay Tk. 2.5 lakh, which Hamid refused. Later when Hamid tried to

dropped from the list, sources

Police and local sources said

Eid-ul-Fitr

people embraced one another in the spirit of equality and fraternity.

In the capital, the main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah on the Supreme Court premises at 8.30 am. Four Eid congregations were held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque from 7.30 am to 10.15am.

President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury offered his Eid prayers at the National Eidgah.

Chief Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury, chief adviser of the last caretaker government Latifur Rahman. BNP secretary general and Local Government, Rural **Development and Cooperatives** Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif also offered their Eid prayers

at the National Eidgah. In Chittagong, the main Eid congregation was held at M A Aziz Stadium at 9 am under the auspices of Central Eid-Jamaat Committee.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and senior leaders of the ruling four-party alliance offered prayers there.

Reports from Chittagong say, about 127 congregations were held in the port city.

In Khulna, the main congregation

freedom fighters, professionals, intellectuals and elite of the city.

15 murdered in city

not be identified. Doctors declared him dead when he was taken there. Another unidentified alleged mugger was beaten to death by a mob while he and four others were snatching valuables from passersby at Victoria Park Saturday evening. The victim was aged about 30.

beaten to death by a mob at Biri Factory Road at East Jurain in the early hours of Saturday.
A gang of five looted 10 tolas of

25, and Mohammad Ali, 20 were

East Jurain. As they left, the inmates cried out for help. People caught two of them. The

mugger, beaten by a mob at East Jurain on Saturday night, died at DMCH.

Exchange along the Bishaw Road in Khilgaon while and his wife Shah Noori were returning home after Eid shopping on Sunday night.

US officials have taken custody

on Tuesday and yesterday but did not drop bombs.

Young man

FROM PAGE 1

family sources said. Later Ayesha returned to the spot

Aslam was finally released after his parents were made to sign a blank sheet of paper. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after his release early on Saturday morning. He died at the

victim uncle Hamid's wife and Khaleq had a rivalry following family

station regarding the incident they allegedly refused to do so since it was against the loca The police later agreed to receive the case after the name of the BNP ward president's name was

file a case with the Sutrapur police

that Aslam might have killed by the BNP activists for his involvement in the above incidents. Victim's mother filed a case with Sutrapur police station but none

could be arrested till last night,

was held at 9 am at the Circuit

police said.

ers M Nurul Islam, M Ali Ashgar Labi, former speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali ioined thousands of people in offering their prayers. In Barisal, the main Eid congregation was held on Hemayetuddin Eidgah Maidan premises at 9 am

where all sections of people, includ-

ing politicians, the local elite, offi

House Maidan where Whip M

Ashraf Hossain, Khulna City Mayor

Shaikh Tavebur Rahman, lawmak-

cials and educationists offered their prayers. Besides. Eid congregations were also held at Baitul Mukarram Masiid. Police Lines Eidgah Maidan, Nooria Eidgah Maidan, Charmonai Eidgah Maidan, Barisal College Maidan

and Mahmudia Maidan in the town. President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hosted separate receptions at Bangabhaban and the Prime Minister's Bhaban, and exchanged Eid greetings with people from all walks of life, including politicians, judges, diplomats,

Improved diets were served at hospitals, orphanages and destitute centres, jails and vagrant houses.

to death cattle trader MA Satter, 55,

into a microbus from near Gabtali

bus stand and asked him to hand

over his money. As he refused, the

muggers stabbed him indiscrimi-

nately and threw him on the road in

front of Gabtali Primary School. He

beaten to death allegedly by her

husband at their West Kafrul resi-

dence on Friday night. In the follow-

ing morning, Kafrul police recovered

the body which was hanging from

Neighbours claimed that she

was beaten to death following an

altercation with her husband. The

husband, a driver, used to return

home drunken at late night and

often beat his wife, they alleged.

The husband is absconding, police

cousin of filmmaker A J Minto, was

murdered allegedly due to business

rivalry, police said. His body with

marks of injury was recovered from

Bari was a resident of Bara

Pabna town recently, sources

Housewife Minara Begum, 26,

was strangled allegedly by her

husband at their Goaltek residence

in Uttara area on Monday morning.

Maghbazar. He hired a cinema hall

Film trader Abdul Bari, 40, a

the ceiling.

Housewife Sathi Begum, 25, was

died after he was taken to DMCH.

The muggers forcibly took him

in Mirpur on Sunday night.

He died while being taken to DMCH Two alleged robbers Mosharraf

gold and Tk 40,000 from a house at

mob beat them and gouged the eyes of Ali. Mosharraf was sent to DMCH where doctors declared him dead. Ali died at the Pongu hospital. Another unidentified alleged

Another unidentified alleged mugger was beaten to death by a mob while he and his accomplices were mugging pedestrians at GMG Road in Tejgaon area on Sunday

Muggers stabbed to death car driver Alauddin in front of T & T He was rushed to the DMCH

Khilkhet rail line.

Police recovered the body and sent it to DMCH for autopsy. The husband -- Rafiqul Islam -- has been arrested, Uttara police said.

where doctors declared him dead. Pakistan were involved in the attack. Muggers abducted and stabbed