Pakistan still views China as its trusted friend

Musharraf tells Jiang Zemin

AP, Beijing

Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, trying to balance old allies with new responsibilities, said vesterday he still views China as "our trusted friend." even as Pakistan develops closer ties with Washington.

Making his first visit to China since he threw his support behind the US-led war against terrorism, Musharraf told Chinese President Jiang Zemin that close relations with Beijing are "the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy."

"China has been our trusted friend and our relationship has remained time-tested," Mousharraf said. "We are very positive that in the future, also, this relationship, this strategic association and relationship will continue."

China has endorsed the US-led war against the Taliban in Afghanistan and the suspected terrorists they harboured. But Beijing also is uneasy about the sudden US military buildup on its western flank in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Central Asian republics -- regions Beijing regards as key to its security.

Musharraf has helped the US-led international coalition with intelligence, military bases and other logistics support.

At the start of their talks, before reporters were ushered from the room, Jiang did not refer to Pakistan's role in the war but welcomed Musharraf as an "old friend."

"You've made positive contributions to the development of friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries and peoples. We highly appreciate that," Jiang said. "Your visit will serve to vigorously advance our comprehensive partnership.

Later, Jiang and Musharraf presided over the signing of seven economic agreements. They covered power projects, a joint research and development fund, and Chinese loans for copper and gold mining in Pakistan, and for a Pakistani ministry that oversees affairs in the disputed Kashmir

Afghanistan's post-Taliban government was among regional issues that Musharraf also planned to discuss with Jiang, Premier Zhu Rongii and other Chinese leaders. according to Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar.

Musharraf's visit to China, a key provider of military hardware and technology to Pakistan, comes amid renewed tensions between Pakistan and India following an attack on the Indian parliament last

Gunshots at DU halls

Cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) fired at least 20 rounds of gunshot in some halls of Dhaka University Wednesday midnight.

Residential students said the firing started at about 2:00 am from Jashimuddin Hall breaking the midnight silence.

After that, more gunshots were heard from adjacent Ziaur Rahman Hall, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Suryasen Hall.

At present, rival activists and cadres of Monir group are staying at Jashimuddin, Mamun group at Suryasen, Asad group at Zia and Titu group at Bangabandhu halls. However, none was hurt in firing

PM: SAARC

The SAARC secretary-general congratulated Khaleda on her alliance's emphatic victory in the October 1 elections

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamal Siddiqui, Foreign Secretary Shamsher M Chowdhury and SAARC Director Masud Bin Momen were present.

Post-quake plan

disaster management programme. A project for building a postquake disaster management service was taken up in 1997 with help from UNDP but it ran out of steam in June this year.

Only an inventory of available equipment was prepared. which wed the Fire Service did not have cranes or bulldozers, sources in the relief and disaster management ministry said.

Only the Army has some heavy cranes and other equipment. But those are not enough to meet the emergency in a big city like Dhaka, the sources said.

A fresh initiative has been taken to complete preparation of the project document but it will not be complete before June 30 next year and will require support from donors. Now the authorities are looking for

donors to complete the project. After being ravaged by natural disasters, the country has developed an efficient disaster management system to handle pre- and post cyclone emergencies.

tion to meet any possible postquake emergency. It does not have properly equipped seismic observatories even to locate the source of a quake. At least three the sources said. Work had been going on to build observatories in Dhaka, Sylhet and Rangpur but bureaucratic red tape stood in the going to be ready before late next vear, they added.

for make-shift hospitals in the event of damage of major public hospitals.

So far, the disaster management bureau has prepared an inventory of available equipment and a booklet to inform the people what to do in the event of a quake, the sources

possessors get the information.

"Mobile phones are used in this process", he said.

said sometimes they see the activists moving on the campus with firearms but can not arrest them because of the 'directive' from higher authorities.

A provost of one of the halls said unless the JCD leaders who "control" activists at the halls can be nabbed, it is impossible to recover

According to sources in JCD, mainly three factions of the party "control" the eleven dormitories. These are 'Pintu group' led by Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu. 'Laltu group' led by Shahabuddin Laltu and 'Monir group led by JCD's DU

unit president Monir Hossain. Pintu and Laltu were president and general secretary respectively of JCD central committee, activities of which were suspended by BNF

chief Khaleda Zia last month. general secretary and Sayeed Iqbal Mammud Titu, a central leader of JCD lead the 'Pintu group' and 'Laltu group' on the campus on behalf of their leaders while Sultan Salauddin Tuku lead most of the activists of

'Monir group'. Pintu group is dominant at Surva Sen Hall, Mohsin Hall and Salimullah Hall. Mosabbir Titu, Amir and Nirob lead the armed men in Surva Sen Hall and Harunur Rashid Shishir, known as Dog Shishir, in Mohsin Hall. Togor, Monir and Masum Billah lead JCD activists at

Salimullah Hall. Besides, some cadres of Islamic

The sources said Benzir Ahmed Tito backed by the 'Pintu group' controls the activists at Bangabandhu Hall. The JCD activists at Jagannath Hall are controlled by Joyonto Kumar and Tarun Day of

and Jasim Uddin Hall.

Uzzal of 'Asad group', Saidur of 'Monir group' and Azam of 'Laltu group' are dominant at AF Rahman

Atique and Shipon, backed by 'Monir group' and 'Laltu group' respectively, control the cadres at Jasim Uddin Hall. Liton of 'Monir group' and Pavel of 'Laltu group' are dominant at Fazlul Haq Hall. Imran "controls" Shahidullah Hall on

Shimul and Saiful of 'Asad group', another JCD faction led by Asaduzzaman Asad, DU unit organising secretary, "control" Ziaur Rahman Hall while Rahat and Murad of the same group are domi-

nant at Zahurul Haq Hall. When contacted, Monir Hossain refuted the allegation that firearms are in possession of his party men. Stern action will be taken if any one is found possessing firearm, he

"We do not put any political pressure on law enforcers not to recover illegal firearms. There is a firm directive from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to arrest the culprits

India massing troops

The latest incidents were reported after Pakistan warned it would take military action against border "misadventures" as India sent reinforcements to the frontier separating the nuclear rivals.

Tensions have risen steadily since the December 13 attack on the Indian parliament which left 14 dead. India has accused Pakistanbased militants of staging the New Delhi attack

A senior police official said the Indian shelling critically wounded two civilians, including a boy, in their homes in Bandala Mera village in the Samahni sector.

Samahni faces Naushehra in India's part of the disputed Himalayan region, which is claimed

by both neighbours. Three civilians were wounded in the same sector on Tuesday,

according to Pakistani authorities. Sardar Faheem said Indian troops were also shelling villages in Khuratta and Nakval in the Kotli district of Pakistani Kashmir.

AP adds: Indian soldiers in Jammu said they fought and killed five Islamic militants in the disputed Kashmir province yesterday, preventing them from crossing over to India from Pakistan.

The militants tried to cross the cease-fire line between India and Pakistan in the Kerni sector of

2 DU students

arrested

BSS, Dhaka

with arms

Poonch district, 210 kilometers northwest of Jammu, an Indian army spokesman said.

Meanwhile, police and military officials in Muzaffarabad, in the Pakistan-controlled portion of the disputed Himalayan region, said Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy artillery fire across the cease-fire line for several hours over night. They said Indian troops fired on Pakistan troop positions and villages and that three villagers were seriously wounded.

Pakistan warned yesterday it would take military action against "misadventures" along its border as India sent reinforcements to the frontier separating the nuclear rivals. Foreign ministry spokesman

Aziz Ahmed Khan said in Islamabad any provocation or military attack across the border separating the Indian and Pakistani zones of Kashmir would be met with force. "We are of the firm opinion that all

bilateral disputes and differences should be resolved peacefully on the basis of justice and fair play," Khan told reporters. "However, any misadventures on our eastern border in Kashmir

would be met with full force." India says it has evidence that the attack on its parliament was carried out by two Pakistan-based

along the Line of Control (LoC)

militant groups -- Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad -- at the behest of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency.

Khan repeated Pakistan's denial of any involvement.

"The government of Pakistan categorically refutes the allegations made by the Indian Prime Minister (Atal Behari) Vajpayee Wednesday accusing elements in Pakistan of sponsoring the 13th December terrorist attacks on the Indian parliament." Khan said

Pakistan was "itself ... a victim of terrorism (and) condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Xinhua says: The United States on Wednesday urged India to share any evidence it may have with Pakistan about a terrorist attack on the Indian parliament last week. "We've seen statements by

Indian authorities that two Pakistanbased groups, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, are responsible for this," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said at a news briefing in Washington.

"We think, first of all, those two groups have engaged in terrorist activities, but the specific case here needs to be investigated. Indians, I'm sure, will do that," Boucher said.

Truck driver abducted in Rangamati

Police arrested two students of Dhaka University from the campus and recovered a country-made revolver and five rounds of bullet from their possession on Wednesday night. police sources said.

A team of Ramna police arrested Habibur Rahman alias Sumon, 25, a resident of Zia Hall and Mohammad Masud Rana alias Masud, 26, a resident of Mohsin Hall from near the University Laboratory School at about 8:45 pm.

Police said Masud is a student of MBA final vear while Sumon is a student of BBA final year.

Ramna police yesterday produced them before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) and prayed for a five-day remand. The Court granted a oneday remand rejecting bail prayers after hearing both the sides.

A case was registered with Ramna thana in this connection.

JCD demands toll: Launch strike in Barguna

UNB, Barguna

An indefinite launch strike began here vesterday after some cadres of Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) demanded toll from the owners.

Sources said, JCD cadres led by Shawpan attacked two launches --ML Bakhtiar Khan and ML Suravi as their owners refused to pay toll on December 16 and 17.

The JCD men also beat up Chan Miah. a launch supervisor.

Protesting the attack, the launch owners' association stopped plving of their vessels for an indefinite period in all the eight routes from Barguna.

Barguna-bound launches from Dhaka also did not reach here.

The launch owners said they would continue the strike until action is taken against the terrorists.

the Consul General at Bangladesh

mission at Jeddah to accommodate

Foreign Minister M Murshed Khan.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan

Mahmud and their family members

had missed their flight in another

airline and sought Biman's help. But

the Biman flight was fully booked

and it had no alternative but to off-

load the passengers after the Consul

Biman authorities have already

The off-loaded passengers

however returned to Dhaka in the

The ministers were not available

Biman officials declined to make

any comment before receiving a

NU admit cards

and the invigilators are quite

A top official of the NU when

contacted by phone told The Daily

Star that there might have been a

mistake due to carelessness by the

persons concerned. He also said

the college authorities should have

contacted the university authorities

so that the students can sit for the

exams without any hassle, the

The NU will take necessary steps

earlier to solve the problem.

submitted a preliminary report to the

Ministry of Civil Aviation in this

General's request, they added.

The sources said the ministers

'in the interest of the state'

Biman

next flight

for comment vesterday.

report on the matter

unknown to them.

official assured.

Police, however, said they are yet to receive any complaints in this

BSS, Rangamati

A gang of tribal terrorists kidnapped a truck driver yesterday from Sugarmill area in Kaukhali upazila of the district allegedly for ransom.

According to the sources, the terrorists abducted truck driver Mintu Marma, 28, at noon when his truck was being loaded with firewood in a forest near Sugarmill.

The abductors reportedly asked the helper of the truck and labourers working there to pay Taka 50,000 as ransom for releasing the driver.

338 illegal shops FROM PAGE 12

said former Awami League MP Joynal Hazari used to collect huge amount of money as rents from the owners by illegally raising these

Deputy Commissioner AFM Solaiman Chowdhury said the drive will continue until the remaining shops are demolished. UNB adds, 72 shop owners could

not be evicted due to injunction issued by the High Court. The district administration issued

eviction notice on November 18

Rahim named

FROM PAGE 12 Summit in Kathmandu.

The SAARC Council of Ministers will endorse the new secretary general prior to the holding of the summit from January 4 to 6.

The incumbent secretary general of SAARC Nihal Rodrigo comes from Sri Lanka. He was a retired additional secretary in his country's Foreign Service before being appointed to the position.

Earlier Abul Ahsan, a Bangladesh diplomat, was elected as the first secretary general of SAARC

Shiblu murder 3 white youths in UK jailed

UNB, London

Three white youths have been sentenced to various jail terms for murdering Shiblu Rahman, a

A gang of white youths stabbed Shiblu Rahman in front of his Rounton residence in London on March 31 this year. He succumbed to his injuries at a hospital on April 1.

The sensational killing created discontent all over Britain particularly among the Bangladeshi community living in Tower Hamlets who raised their voice against the brutal

After eight months of hearing, the Old Bailey Court on Dec 14 sentenced the accused Stephen Hanson to 13 years prison terms and Terry Cooper and Iran Devlin each to nine years.

While pronouncing the judgement, the Judge said the attack on Shiblu Rahman was a hateful act of

President visits

needs more security and the hurried

filing of cases against her. Azad also pointed out what he said repressive measures and terrorist acts against Awami League leaders and workers as well as chaotic situation in the country due

to breakdown of law and order The acting AL president said the opposition is an integral part of governance in a parliamentary democracy that cannot make progress if there be acts of repression o harassment on the opposition.

Political observers consider the president's visit to Azad's house as a good gesture and it might mark a new beginning in ending the hostile relation between the government

It remains to be seen whether the new president takes any follow-up initiatives to narrow the gap between the two sides.

Bangladeshi living in the UK.

ees, who suspect that they are also in the list, blamed a former secre-

FROM PAGE 12

It was learnt that Azad was informed about the president's visit just an hour before he drove in.

and the main opposition party.

Public places

increasing air and noise pollution by stagnant vehicles, most of which are

faulty and spew poisonous gas. Officials of the DCC's Traffic Engineering Division say unless the authorities ensure proper use of footpaths and other thoroughfares, the city dwellers would always face traffic congestion that can only get

Ashiqur Rahman, executive engineer of the DCC's Traffic Division, told The Daily Star that the improvement of traffic management in the city depended on how efficiently proper use of footpaths and thoroughfares could be ensured.

He said one of the major causes behind traffic jams in the city is encroachment on footpaths and thoroughfares. The long distance bus services defying all rules and regulations operate from the busiest city centers, blocking roads and streets with huge vehicles for hours together, he added.

Moreover, Rahman said

unplanned construction of foot-

bridges should be stopped as they hinder movement of pedestrians as well as other road users at many different city points. "We have official plans for traffic management in the city but it needs to be implemented for bringing

about some discipline on the streets of Dhaka." Rahman said. In the past, Dhaka City Corporation's various moves to rehabilitate hundreds of hawkers failed miserably, and amidst all

these hullabaloo more public places

were requisitioned in the name of hawkers' rehabilitation.

Kader Siddiqui

FROM PAGE 12

ing Kader Siddiqui for taking Tk 15,53,115 as loan from Uttara Bank by submitting 'forged' documents in favour of M/s Sonar Bangla Prokaushal Ltd Company he owned. Mohammad Ismail Khan

Assistant Inspector of the Bureau of Anti-corruption, Tangail, submitted a charge sheet against Kader Siddiqui on January 25, 1998. The IO also prayed for issuing a warrant of arrest against him and attachment of his moveable property. Three other accused were

dropped from the charge sheet as the allegations brought against them were not proved.

Kader Siddiqui appeared before the CMM's Court. Dhaka on July 19. 1999 after warrant of arrest was issued against him. Since then he never appeared before the court.

AL interviews

FROM PAGE 12

the last date for withdrawal of candidature is December 31.

The ALCWC meeting also discussed preparations for holding the More regional travel at economic party's planned national convention styled 'Crimes against Humanity' in mid-January. The meeting was also attended

convenor of the convention steering committee Justice KM

FM in London to attend C'wealth

meeting BSS, London

Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan arrived here yesterday to attend the seventeenth meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG).

Besides Bangladesh, the eightmember CMAG include United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Botswana, Nigeria and Barbados The day-long meeting is

expected to review the recent developments in Fiji Islands and Pakistan, The Ġambia and Solomon Islands and other issues of interest to the ministers. The Foreign Minister will also

attend a luncheon to be hosted by Commonwealth Secretary Genera McKinnon. Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK Gvas Uddin and DG (Europe) of the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs Shahed Akhter are the other members of Bangladesh delegation to CMAG meeting. The Foreign Minister is scheduled to leave London this afternoon

New ministry

FROM PAGE 1 State Minister Major (retd) Quamrul Islam who was not allocated portfolio earlier was given charge of the

new ministry.

Abdullah Al Noman retained the Ministry of Labour and Employment, according to an official handout.

Earlier, the government as per its election pledge formed the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs and placed it under the disposal of State Minister Redwan Ahmed. The government earlier named Harunur Rashid Khan Munnu a

minister. But he is yet to get any

Forced retirement FROM PAGE 12

forced retirement would be given in phases

The government is currently examining whether the persons included in the lists had truly joined the Janatar Mancha or are "highly biased" towards the Awami League the source added. Sources said a group of officials,

including two senior secretaries of the government, are preparing the lists. However, they suspected that some "innocent" officials are being victimised despite the fact that they had not joined the Janatar Mancha. A number of officials and employ-

tary-turned-state minister, who

himself was one of the forerunners

in the "Janatar Mancha" movement Talking to The Daily Star, a minister, who did not want to be named, yesterday said none of the official or the employees to be sent on forced retirement are victimised because they had a "highly political

outlook" and were biased towards a particular party. "We want to set an example so that the government servants do not get directly involved in politics and discharge their duties neutrally all the time." the minister added.

Musharraf

FROM PAGE 1 recent terrorist attack on the Indian Parliament, the Pakistan President continued with his scheduled fiveday visit to China, proceeding to Beijing yesterday. The major schedules have not been curtailed. Pervez Musharraf will hold talks with Chinese President Jiang Zemin and

Prime Minister Zhu Rongji. The visit takes place marking the 50th anniversary of establishing China-Pakistan diplomatic ties

It was learnt that an official of the Pakistan High Commission in Dhaka informed the foreign ministry yesterday afternoon about change in Musharraf's travel plan. The Bangladesh mission in Islamabad was also informed of it almost

simultaneously. General Pervez Musharraf was scheduled to make a one hour 15 minute stopover in Dhaka on way back from China

President Badruddoza

Chowdhury and Prime Minister

Khaleda Zia were due to receive the Pakistan President and hold talks with him at the airport lounge. Pervez Musharraf's brief halt would have been the first stopover by a foreign head of government in Dhaka after takeover by the new government. Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin

Chowdhury told newsmen on

Wednesday, "It's stopover visit. It's

BIMSTEC meet

not a substantive visit.'

FROM PAGE 12 tourism among the member nations. BIMSTEC has also plans to encourage growth of private sector airlines in the region. The members are learnt to be willing to provide concessional air fare and other facilities by reducing "basic operational costs" of private airlines linking the member countries.

rates are seen by BIMSTEC members as a way of increasing peopleto-people contact, growth of tourism industry with consequent increase in intra-country trade, the sources

Peacekeepers in Kabul

FROM PAGE 12

The government said the captured fighters commandeered a bus, one of a convoy transferring more than 150 detainees -- many from Yemen -- to a larger prison in the town of Kohar. But the prisoner who took the wheel lost control and overturned the vehicle.

Seven Arabs died in the initial struggle, and all six guards were killed, a government spokesman said. The Pakistani news agency Afghan Islamic Press reported three more Arabs later died from their wounds, but other sources in the area said only one died during the night.

One Arab and a sergeant of a local paramilitary force were killed in

an exchange of fire in the morning. Some of the dead were buried yesterday in the village of Bugzai, said Faiz Mohammed, a shopkeeper reached by telephone. He said the men still in hiding would be

difficult to capture. "I don't think they will surrender

easily," he said. The area, the domain of Pashtun

BCL activist stabbed at Munshigani

UNB, Munshigani

Hospital in Dhaka.

A group of terrorists stabbed an activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and cut tendon of his right wrist to take revenge at Bagerhatchok in the outskirts of the town yesterday.

Zia, Afzal, Kamal and Abur -picked up Abu Siddique, 25, from Madhyakotgaon at 1:00 pm and stabbed him indiscriminately in broad day light. Police rescued the victim from

the spot and sent him to Pongu

Witnesses said four armed men-

Abu Siddique has been hiding in the house of local Awami League (AL) leader since the defeat of AL in October 1 election. District AL president Afsar Uddin Bhuiyan strongly condemned the

brutal act and blamed the ruling

agency that he had asked for imme-

diate arrest of the accused.

Police Super told the news

with military vehicles as the hunt intensified Thursday. Trucks mounted with machine guns patrolled the roads and barren hills along the border, blocking the

tribesmen who always have been

outside Pakistan authority, bristled

entry into Pakistan of al-Qaida fighters from Afghanistan. The prisoners who revolted were among 156 captured earlier this week. They were driven out of cave hide-outs in the Tora Bora region after weeks of unrelenting US

bombing and ground attacks by

tribal Afghan fighters backed by US

US introduces interim visa procedures

and British special forces.

UNB, Dhaka

The US Department of State has introduced interim visa procedures for non-immigrant visas with immediate effect.

The new procedures will delay the processing of some nonimmigrant visa applications. As a result, applicants for business, tourist, temporary worker, exchange visitor and student visa will be Persons with expired nonimmigrant visas planning a tempo-

rary visit to Bangladesh, particularly

over the Eid and Christmas school

break, and requiring a new visa to

enter the US, may wish to defer their

travel plans or should be ready for

considerable delay in the processing of their non-immigrant visa, said a special release of US Embassy. These procedures however

apply only to new visa applications, and not to unexpired visas. There is also no change in application requirements. The main consideration for applicants is to apply as far in advance of the travel

date as possible. As before, the consular section of the US Embassy in Dhaka requires a valid passport, complete application form, one photograph taken against a light background showing the entire face and full head of the applicant, and other necessary documents pertaining to temporary visitors to the US for work, business, pleasure, family

visits, or studies

Shahriar's bail prayer

party for it.

election on October 1 and he does not believe in the border between

the two countries, the prosecutors

"Such activities might destroy the communal harmony and worsen the country's law and order. So we oppose granting him bail," the prosecutors said After hearing both sides,

court rejected the bail petition.

the court to assist Syed Rezaur Rahman, the chief defence counsel for the case. A large number of people, including the family members of Shahriar

About 100 lawyers appeared at

Family members and relatives burst into tears when he was brought to the court. Police were seen struggling to bring the huge

Shahriar was earlier placed on a

Meanwhile, Shahriar Kabir or

Saturday gave a judicial statement

five-day remand for interrogation in

Kabir crowded the courtroom since

Mohammad Shahadat Hossain officer-in-charge of Airport thana filed a complaint case on sedition charge against Shahriar with the CMM's Court, Dhaka on December

Earlier, the District Magistrate

Meanwhile the High Court on

gave one month's detention to

Shahriar under the Special Powers

December 1 issued a rule on the

Special Branch (SB) of police at

Immigration Desk at Zia

International Airport on his return

from Kolkata on November 22 and

later shown arrested under Section

54 of the Criminal Procedure Code

(CrPC). No specific case was filed

against him till December 7.

government asking it to show cause within a week why the detention of Shahriar Kabir under the SPA should not be declared to have been

Shahriar was detained by the the legality of the detention order.

yesterday.

two phases.

to the magistrate.

morning.

crowd under control

from the notorious traffic snarls in the last few days with the number of pedestrians, rickshaws, autorickshaws, minibuses and other modes of vehicles less than normal The usually crammed buses had

plenty of seats for passengers

at the Bangladesh Secretariat, the

Attendance was thin yesterday

headquarters of all ministries and offices of the Republic. However, most of the ministers and top offi-Sources said only a few staff

talked about their new clothes and how they celebrate the Eid. was virtually no wok at the offices. A good number of officers and employees are on an extended leave to spend more time with their near and dear ones living at their

enough", the sources added. Although all insurance compaconduct the normal business.

employees in state-run banks, post offices, and, in some cases, in private banks and commercial establishments also was less than normal. However, transactions in

made without lawful authority. The court issued the rule following a writ petition filed by the writer's

brother Kalandiar Kabir challenging

The Dhaka Stock Exchange was

back in business from Wednesday

as trading resumed, but the holiday

hangover was very much evident

with the thin attendance of brokers.

auto-rickshaws and minibuses

picked up yesterday, number of

passengers was less. Rickshaw-

Though movement of rickshaws,

Holiday hangover

banks did go as usual.

Act (SPA).

The inhabitants had a respite

cials were present. Presence in other government offices in the capital was thin. turned up and stayed at their offices for some hours. However, they were busy exchanging Eid greetings and embracing each other. They also

Secretariat sources said there village homes "as they find the three-day holiday far from being

nies, semi-government offices, autonomous bodies, multinational companies and the offices of local business complexes in Motijheel commercial area, the business hub of the country, opened to business, the staff seemed too inadequate to Presence of officials and

pullers and auto-rickshaw drivers charged higher than usual in an attempt to offset the loss inflicted by the poor number of fares. Most of the shopping markets, barring those of essen-

There have however been

allegations from different areas that

the city corporation staffers did not

tials, remained closed.

clean the rubbish piled up in dustbins during the holidays. The holidaymakers have started returning to the capital, though in fewer numbers. Officials and employees, who work in government and private offices, were seen coming back to the city -- some with family members and some others alone -- by train, bus and launch at Gabtali, Mohakhali, Syedabad

Kamalapur, Sadarghat and other

Vajpayee

places in the city.

logue."

FROM PAGE 1 parliament attack "are not propitious to create the right climate for dia-

Vajpayee and Musharraf might meet on the margins of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit being held in the Nepalese capital Kathmandu from January 4 to 6.

There had been hopes that

JCD cadres at DU

An official of police intelligence

the firearms.

behalf of Monir group. Mostafizul Islam Mamun, DU unit

even if he is a party man".

But it did not pay enough atten-

way. The observatories are not

Besides, there is no arrangement

Chhatra Shibir are with the JCD cadres at Salimullah Hall.

Activists of 'Laltu group' and 'Monir group' control JCD activists at Fazlul Hag Hall, Zahurul Hag Hall