Vote counting in Gujarat polls today

BJP, Congress wait in cautious optimism

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Just a few hours to go before vote counting of the crucial Gujarat assembly polls begins, there is cautious optimism in the camps of both the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)

and the main opposition Congress. The counting begins at 8:00am today and results of 181 of the 182 seats (election to one seat was countermanded) are expected by late afternoon as electronic voting machines were used in all places.

Exit polls have forecast a BJP victory but the ruling party is still waiting for official results with bated breath The Congress, on the other hand, has brushed aside the exit polls saving several such polls had gone off the mark in the past.

Congress spokesman Satyabrata Chaturvedi says his party is certain of a "comfortable majority" on the basis of the feedback from its Guiarat unit. He pointed out that how exit polls in the past in Madhya Pradesh and Uttaranchal assembly polls, now ruled by the Congress, proved wrong.

The Congress feels the Gujarat elections were held in an "extraordinary" situation in the backdrop of two months of communal violence Chaturvedi savs people of Guiarat have not vet overcome the trauma and are not ready to disclose for whom they have voted.

Both the BJP and the Congress have claimed that they will secure majority and form the new government, saying the high turnout of voters (61.50 per cent) will go to their advan-

Delhi shootout

Two assault rifles, grenades and

some papers were recovered from

rebels were members of the hard-

line Lashkar-e-Taiba Islamic group,

founded in Pakistan but outlawed by

Islamabad after New Delhi blamed it

for an attack on the Indian parlia-

ment a year ago in which 14 people

find the militant who escaped,

A massive hunt was launched to

Police cordoned off the shootout

"It is our guess that the militants

zone and restricted the movement

of people and vehicles in the area

would have targeted defence instal-

lations, or temples -- important

leaders. The target could have been

It had also directed the lower court to

fix a date for taking steps under the

CrPC where the prosecution would

open its case by describing the charge

and stating through what evidence he

observed that the Chief Metropolitan

Magistrate's Court passed orders

"without applying judicial mind, and not

in accordance with the terms of

Section 265 C of the Code of Criminal

public prosecutor did not open his

case in accordance with the CrPC.

Securities for quashing their cases.

The High Court also said that the

It also rejected petitions by three

directors of Chittagong Cement, Imtiyaz

Husain & Company and First Capital

The High Court judgement

anybody," Kumar said.

Share scam

proposes to prove the charge.

Other police officials said the

FROM PAGE 12

their car, he said.

The turnout this time was slightly higher than the 1998 polls (59 per cent) but lower than the 1995 elections (64 per cent).

Long queues of minority voters were seen in booths in Godhra where the attack on a train carrying Hindu pilgrims had taken place on February 27 this year setting off violence in other rts of Gujarat.

By all accounts, an overwhelmingly large number of Muslim voters, who constitute 15 per cent of the 3.32 crore electorate, came out to exercise their franchise this time

That, according to analysts, could be a source of worry for the BJP and good news for the Congress, someing both parties admit privately.

Muslims are reportedly decisive in only six Gujarat constituencies but likely to hold the sway in marginal seats in parts of the state which remained unaffected by violence and where the BJP's Hindutva" plank took a beating from such issues as power and water shortage and lack of developmental work.

Godhra is part of central Gujarat where the Congress fared very well in the 1998 polls, bagging 31 of the 43 seats against the BJP's 12.

Although the Godhra incident is reported to have polarised the voters in some areas, the same may not be the case in other districts where collapse of several cooperative banks have dealt a blow to millions of middleclass depositors and the violence to businessmen and daily wage-earners.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT. Khulna

Monirul Islam, 24, an armed cadre

of outlawed Purbo Banglar

Communist Party (PBCP), was

murdered at Bhabna village under

Fakirhat thana of Bagerhat district in

the bank of Passur river Friday

Police recovered the body from

The outlaw wanted in six murder

cases went to Fakirhat from his

native village Rambhadrapur of

polls Jan 16

The election of Narayangani

Pourasava will be held on January

16, an election commission press

the early hours of Friday.

afternoon

In fact, the cooperative bank scam may prove costly for the BJP. A total of 11 cooperative banks have bust in less than a year in the state. The Congress has in fact made it a maior issue in its election manifesto.

The Congress hopes of regaining power hinge on its ability to break the BJP stronghold in Kutch and Saurashtra region where the saffron party put up a splendid show in 1998 bagging 51 of the 58 seats.

Saurashtra remained peaceful even when several other parts of the state reeled under communal violence. Secondly, such issues as power and water scarcity tended to take precedence by and large over religion and caste factors. Thirdly, the powerful Patel community in Saurashtra may still be sulking over the BJP high command's decision to replace Keshubhai Patel with Narendra Modi as chief minister more than a year ago in the face of sharp bickering within the party. It is said none can win an election in this region by antagonising the

Although Keshubhai did share the poll dais with Modi, it may not have entirely wiped off the bitterness,

analysts say.

The BJP is banking on making inroads in traditional Congress strongholds of central and southern Gujarat that has a sizeable tribal population. The Congress is hoping to cash in on anti-incumbency factor dominating possible polarisation of voters.

Feni accident

Local people rushed the injured to Intra-party rivalry

Feni General Hospital where one PBCP armed succumbed to his injuries. He was identified as Masud, son of Shahid cadre murdered Mian of Prajapati under Debidwar police station in Comilla district. in Khulna

FROM PAGE 12

Police seized the truck and the pick-up. A case was lodged with Feni Sadar police station in this

Driver of the truck fled the scene mmediately after the accident.

Cinema blasts

FROM PAGE 12

Kumar Gupta, first class magistrate Md. Mosharraf Hossain, ASP Md. Shajid Hasan, ASP Rashidul Hasan and OC of Kotwali thana ATM Faruk

Batiaghata upazila on Thursday Till filing of this report at 6:00pm night. But he was stabbed to death yesterday, Justice Khan recorded by his rivals in the party. statements of six persons at the Police said Monirul was murdered Mymensingh Circuit House, includas a sequel to intra-party rivalry. ing Shvamol Chandra Dev and Sukumar Chandra Dey -- light-man and canteen manager respectively Narayangani of Ajanta Cinema Hall. The recording of statements of witnesses municipal from 2:00pm to 3:30pm.

The recording of statements of others persons including eyewitnesses and employees of the cinema halls will begin at 9:30am

Saleem and Pricilla when their

lawyers submitted it. Both are now

Moving the petition, defence

awyers Syed Rezaur Rahman and

Khandaker Abdul Mannan said the

two foreign journalists were the

They planned their visit to

Bangladesh, took video footages

and interviews of local people on al-

Qaeda network in Bangladesh.

Their local guides - Saleem and Pricilla - just helped them do their job, the lawyers told the court.

They submitted that as the main

accused in the case - the two foreign

journalists - were released on bail

and deported to their respective

countries on Wednesday, there was

no scope to keep their guides in jail.

the sedition case is 'clinically dead,'

following release of the main

accused. So, they appealed to the

court to grant bail to Saleem and

Pricilla and release them immedi-

Ón November 25, police

The defence lawyers argued that

main accused in the sedition case.

Bail petition

in Dhaka Central Jail

release said vesterday. According to the schedule FROM PAGE 1 Rahman rejected the bail petition of

announced by the election commission, the date for submission of nomination papers is December 23, scrutiny of nomination papers is December 24 and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is

Additional district magistrate, Narayanganj, has been appointed as the returning officer.

Intellectuals Day

Procedure."

killed as per a blueprint to cripple the new nation intellectually. Their bodies were dumped at Rayerbazar, Mirpur and some

People across the country observed the day through various programmes including hoisting of black flag and the national flag at half mast, seminars, discussion meetings and silent proces-

Newspapers brought out special supplements highlighting the significance of the day. Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television aired special

In the city, different political parties, socio-cultural and professional bodies, student organisations, people in general and members of the martyrs' families visited the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Mirpur and placed wreaths from the morning yester-

President lajuddin Ahmed placrd wreath at the memorial early in the morning. He stood in solemn silence for some time as the bugle played the last post.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar, cabinet members, state ministers, deputy ministers, mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation and the local MP were present at the time.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's political secretary Haris Chowdhury placed wreath at the she was in Thailand on a three-day

Mannan Bhuiyan placed wreath at the memorial on behalf of party

Leader of the Opposition in the parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina along with senior leaders of her party placed wreaths at the Mirpur memorial and also at the memorial at

Earlier, she placed wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Bhaban.

The Dhaka University authorities hoisted black flag atop the main buildings of the university, brought out a silent procession led by Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, placed wreaths at the graves of martyrs on the campus and at the memorial at Mirpur. They also held

The organisations and institutions which observed the day included Jahangir Nagar University, Bangladesh Shaheed Muktijoddha Paribar Sangsad, Bangladesh Krishak League, Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association, Eleven-Party, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

Hasina urges int'l community | PM: Thai investors

come down upon this government for its continued torture on innocent

Protesting the police obstruction to the meeting. Hasina said. " We have not vet started the real movement, we have not even announced any programme or hartal, though this government is creating trouble from the very first day of its rule." She alleged that the main target

the Awami League -- they do not want to allow the opposition to do politics. "Even when this government tortures foreign journalists, how could they expect that the government's image will not be tarnished abroad?"

The opposition leader told her audience that the government is releasing their armed cadres arrested by the army while arresting the opposition workers on "false" allegations. "A new trickery would be applied to arrest the opposition members by planting arms in their houses," she said and asked her About the bomb blasts in

Mymensingh cinema halls. Hasina wondered who could plant bombs when army personnel were in operation

bombs if you look at yourselves...You should ask the partners of your government, your associate Jamaat, as to who manufactured these bombs," she said observing that such bombs could not be made except bomb experts.

Hasina claimed that the home minister had already told Reuters who were behind the bomb blasts at out the world.

deny his remarks and handed him a written rejoinder. "Everybody is familiar with the previous remarks of the home minister and what he could tell," she said.

"The government forced Reuters to withdraw the report from here, but how it would withdraw the report from all over the world?" she asked. She said the opposition cannot damage the image of the country. rather the government destroyed the image through "corruption, terrorism and torture". Sheikh Hasina said when her

party was in power, the then opposition BNP had desperately tried to tarnish Bangladesh's image, but they failed. The image of the nation was rather brightened during the rule of Awami League, she

Refuting the prime minister's allegation against her about speaking against the country, Hasina said, "I had challenged the government to say what word I uttered against the country. But they could not give any reply. I never said anything bad about my country -- what they are doing is enough.

of her arch political rival and asked the government to stop such action. She also asked the government

to release all arrested leaders and workers of Awami League as well as the arrested intellectuals and writers, control price hike and ensure peace and stability in society. "The people of this country

earned the independence at the cost of blood and they would also protect this at the cost of their lives." she said. Senior Awami League leaders

Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Mohammad Nasim Mohammad Hanif and Matia Chwodhruy, among others, addressed the meeting.

Detention of Saber. Selim Osman held Shuvra Dev: HC asks govt to

explain

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to show cause in a week why the detention order against Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Shuvra Dev should not be declared illegal.

A division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Hamidul Haque and Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury passed the order.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Political Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, was arrested on December 9. He was given detention for 30 days on the same day. Singer Shuvra Dev was arrested on December 5. Later. he

was also detained for 30 days. Senior Advocate Mahbubey Alam along with advocates Abdul Alim Miah and Harun-or-Rashid moved the petitions on behalf of the petitioners while Assistant Attorneys General Zaman Akhter Bulbul, Gias Uddin Mithu and Quamrunnesa Ratna stood

Accused in murder case held with arms in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Police arrested an accused in a murder case from village Laxmipur in South Surma thana in the early hours of yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by OC of South Surma thana arrested Salik Miah, an accused in autorickshaw driver Zilu Miah murder case, from a ditch near his house at the village. They also recovered two revolvers, one pistol, one pipegun and eight bullets from Salik Miah's possession.

Autorickshaw driver Zilu was stabbed to death by Salik and his two accomplices, Ashraf and Nazmul, in Lalbazar area in the city on November 27. Police arrested Ashraf and

Nazmul the following day.

Jobs given FROM PAGE 12

proper access to vehicles to go for an official drive, said some officers, Sometimes, they have to requisition vehicles and pay for the fuel as well.

The constraints faced by law enforcers lead them to acquire money from illegal sources, said some officers seeking anonymity. Sometimes, they seek financial help from local influential people to buy the basics to start their iob with. Contacted, a top official of the

supply wing of police said the police department received Tk 3 lakh till December 3 this year for furnishing the police stations. The budget varies each year, he added. However, the amount allocated is

insufficient to furnish the 22 police stations together with about 60 outposts and offices of high-ranking officers, including commissioner, deputy commissioner, additional commissioner and assistant commissioner, said the official. "Each station gets only about Tk 2 thousand," he

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Abdul Qayyum said most police stations in the city are overburdened with officers. "It is very difficult for us to provide furniture to additional officers on limited budget," said the police commissioner.

opt for buying new ones not out of necessity but out of choice for better

reduce the trade gap and for increasing the trade volume for the benefit of business partners of the two countries.

Managing directors, chairmen, advisors of business firms including furniture, iron casting on machinery, mold and dye, pharmaceutical, textile, food, construction, fertiliser and chemical concerns, manufacturers of home

Eksanghkul of Eason Paint Products Co Ltd were, among others, present.

Dr Prommin Lertsuridej, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, attended the

Foreign Minister Morshed Khan, Communication Minister Nazmul Huda, Commerce Minister Amir Khashru Mahmud Chowdhury, State Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation Mir. Mohammad Nasiruddin, PM's youngest son Arafat Rahman and members of the business delegation accompanied the prime minister.

Meanwhile, Board of Investment executive chairman Mahmudur Rahman apprised the investment potentials facilities available in

20 hurt in clash at **KEPZ**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least 20 people including four policemen were injured in a clash at the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ) in the Chittagong city vesterday morning Sources said the clash took

wanted to evict some local people from a disputed land inside the KEPZ at around 11:00am. The villagers attacked police and KEPZ officials with lethal

place when the KEPZ authorities

weapons. Police arrested 26 villagers

following the cash Several hundred people living on the disputed land have long been agitating for compensation and rehabilitation before their

"Thailand and Bangladesh, a new era of Investment and Trade Cooperation".

Proposing joint investment in vari ous sectors specific for Thailand, he said Thailand can not supplying its various products against its demand worldwide and urged for joint venture particularly in electronic, textile, poultry

The BOI chairman said by joining hands with Bangladesh, Thailand can upgrade its world ranking in different trade and business items

Mahmud appreciated the implementation rate of the Thai proposed projects, which are over 65 per cent.

Now trade balance between the two countries is in favour of Thailand. On her last day of stay in Bangkok vesterday. Prime Minister Khaleda was

scheduled to get audience of Thai King Bhumibol in the afternoon. She was also scheduled to attend a private dinner hosted by her counterpart Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra

yesterday afternoon before returning to

Editors urge FROM PAGE 1

explain their behaviour to the world community.

The handout said the meeting discussed various contemporary issues of the country, including propaganda against Bangladesh in foreign media, airing of false report auoting the home minister on Mymensingh bomb blasts and propaganda abroad about existence of Al-Qaeda or extremist fundamentalists in Bangladesh.

Mentioning that foreigners concealing their identities were entering Bangladesh and propagating and tarnishing the image of the country, the discussants urged the government to handle such situation properly and boldly.

The information minister thanked the editors for their frank opinion. He called upon them to play a blatant role against all evil efforts at disturbing the country's stability, tarnishing its image, and digging out conspir-

acy against national interest. Information Secretary KM Nazmul Alam Siddigi, Principal Information Officer Khondker Monirul Alam and editors of national newspapers, news agencies and electronic media took part in the

VoIP by next year

They criticised the restrictive role of the BTTB for not providing necessary interconnections to private telecom operators, which has hindered the growth of private cellular phone operators. They termed the BTTB a 'cash

cow' for the government rather than an institution providing improved services to its subscribers. Posts and Telecommunications

Secretary Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi defending the BTTB said the board has a plan to provide adequate interconnections to private mobile operators and is still working on the Marghub Morshed said. "I am

against restrictions and the market is the ultimate regulator.

Three consultants of Canada-Bangladesh Infrastructure Consultants Dr Tridib Biswas, Ray Yam and Ken Chia presented three technical papers on the VoIP and Bangladesh perspective.

and telecom density in the country. Ray Yam in his technical presen-

tation discussed different ways of VoIP including PC-to-PC communication. PC-to-phone, Phone-tophone and Phone-to-PC communication through VoIP.

Experts at the workshop recommended introduction of all types of the VoIP, but they put special emphasis on phone-to-phone Internet telephony.

Dr Ken Chia observed that there are some ambiguous clauses in the country's telecom act, which might delay the introduction of the VoIP.

One telephone connection adds US\$6,000 to GDP, said a discussant from the private sector. He underscored the need for giving licences to the private sector for installation of

more fixed-line telephones. Participation of private operators in fixed-line telephony would reduce

the initial connection charge. It would also bring competition to the sector and compel the BTTB to improve its service and lower con-

Akheri Munajat

The main speeches were delivered after Fazr. Asr and Maghrib prayers. As part of the Biswa litema tradition, more than 100 marriages were also solemnised without any dowry after Asr prayers yesterday.

A total of 3,644 devotees from 58 countries also joined the litema,

The organisers, however, said devotees from Saudi Arabia and the United States could not make it this year because of the government's restrictive visa policy and recent bomb blast in a number of cinema

on-arrival visa at Zia International Airport but this time many of them were refused, said an organiser, requesting anonymity. He said the number of Saudi

devotees declined at least by half than that of the previous years. A total of 147 devotees came from that country, while the number of devotees from US is only 23 this year, sources said.

Many foreign devotees, however, are still on the way and are likely to join the ljtema this morning.

41 people on suspicion of pickpockets from the ljtema arena, sources at the Tongi Police Station said Meanwhile, three devotees died

after joining the ljtema. Abdul Jabbar, 65, son of Alimuddin of south Moheshpur village under Kamalpur in Dinajpur district died he was hit by a speeding truck on the Dhaka-Mymensingh road in front of Bata Shoe Company on Friday He was rushed to the Tongi

Hospital where doctors declared him dead on arrival. Earlier Ramizuddin Mondol, 60, son of Zahar Ali Mondal of Bheramara, Kushtia and Alauddin Fakir, son of Mohammad Ali of Muktagachha, Mymensingh died of brain haemorrhage. They had been suffering from high blood pressure.

The bodies were handed over to their relatives after Namaz-e-Janaja. Namaz-e-Janaja of two other people who died elsewhere were also held there.

Many devotees, however, fell sick after joining the ljtema. Several dozens were hospitalised while thousands of others were given fist aid at the Tongi Hospital and temporary health camps set up by the local administration and nongovernmental organisations

number of camps for preliminary treatment. Around 15,000 devotees received preliminary treatment at the camp set up by Hamdard, according to sources.

their residences in the city and other places in the city.

sions.

programmes on the day.

BNP Secretary General Abdul chief Khaleda Zia.

arrested British national Zaiba Naz Malik and Italian citizen Leopoldo Bruno Sorrentino, as they were about to cross over to Indian via the

Benapole border. Pricilla, who worked as an interpreter for them, was arrested in Rajbari the same day while she was returning to the capital after seeing off the two foreign journalists. Saleem, Bangladesh Representative of Reporters Sans Frontiers, was arrested from a residence at Uttara on November a discussion meeting.

> Besides, writer and columnist Shahriar Kabir was shown arrested in the sedition case though his name was not in the first information Report (FIR) on December 11. Earlier on December 7, he was arrested under Section 54 of the Hearing of the CID's prayer for his seven-day remand will be held

on December 30. He is now in

Dhaka Central Jail on a one-month

of this government is to eliminate

Hasina rebuked the government for "systematic torture" on Awami League since the October 1 election by terrorists, police and finally by army in an attempt to eliminate it"

party workers to remain cautious.

"It will be clear who made these

No formal charge was brought against

Army also arrested the ward

commissioner of ward No. 15 of the

Dhaka city, Salek Molla, from his

Barun Bhowmik Nayan, a reporter of

daily Al Amin, from his Savar residence

spying, hundi trade and patronisation

of crime gangs. The daily also con-

firmed his arrest but could not give any

UBN quoting police said that

Textiles owned by former

Barun, a public relations officer of

Awami League lawmaker Mockbul

Hossain, claimed himself to be a

reporter of the Al Amin, a vernacular

A team of army and police raided

the recently purchased four-storied

building of Barun at Dakhsinpara in

Savar at about 2:30 am. Sensing

trouble, Barun fled his house but was

Sources said Barun used to pro-

vide shelter to members of the gang

led by Iman Ali and 'Tiger Mama

Bahini'. He was also involved in spying

Barun fled the country but returned

after several years and settled at

the residence of Ahkamullah, publicity

secretary of Sammilita Sangskritik

Jote (SSJ), at Kamalapur on Friday

night. Army personnel took away the

deposit receipts of two licensed guns

of Ahkamullah, family members

concern over the search without any

In a statement, the SSJ expressed

Our Barisal correspondent said

joint forces yesterday arrested 14

people, including Barisal Kotwali

Thana Awami League president Abdul

Kader Molla and a listed criminal. They

recovered four hand bombs and a

revolver and some ammunition from

Barisal, Barguna and Patuakhali, The

listed criminal, Liton Chowdhury, was

arrested from Patuakhali town.

After the changeover in 1975,

In the capital, joint forces searched

daily published from Dhaka.

caught from a nearby tree.

for a neighbouring country.

Police said Barun was involved in

in the early hours of yesterday.

Meanwhile, joint forces arrested

him till the filing of this report last night.

In Barisal, Abdul Kader was arrested from Kashipur area in the town. The other arrested included Jahangir Mreedha, president of BNP unit in Sharikal union under Gouranadi; Ripon Khan and president Bangladesh Chhatra League Patharghata thana unit.

In Faridpur, joint forces arrested three persons including district BNP vice president Khandoker Chand from Badarpur on charge of patronising crime gangs, BNP leader Felu Matbor and his son Mojibor were picked up from C&B Ghat area. All the arrested were sent to jail with 30-day detention. In the 16 districts under Rajshahi

Division, joint forces arrested 16

people including a listed criminal in 24

hours till 8 am yesterday. The listed

criminal was identified as Harunur Rashid alias Dablu of Shantinagar village under Thakurgaon Sadai Human chain Police swoop on Khulna AL

men: 20 hurt STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

police swooped on Awami League a human chain programme in the city yesterday. The injured include party's four ward-level women leaders and six

At least 20 people were injured as

leaders of Chhatra League and Jubo League. Khulna city Awami League organised a human chain programme in front of the party office demanding release of former state minister Talukdar Abdul

Khaleaue MP and former whip Mostafa Rashidi Shuia

Riot police clubbed the participants without any provocation. Police also picked up eight AL BCL and Jubo League activists from the spot. Later, they were released

from Khulna thana.

Pilferers on the prowl

petrol pumps at cheaper rates. An oil tanker (Dhaka-Dha-2884) belonging to Padma Oil Company was seized by law enforcers from Daragaon Tea Estate area in Srimangal while being used for stealing conden-

The sources said supply of condensate through the pipeline has become risky now as several incidents of fire took place while GTCL men were repairing some perforated points in the pipeline in The pipeline passes through

Brahmanbaria districts. Most of the incidents of stealing were detected in different tea garden and rubber garden areas in Chunarughat, Bahubal and Srimangal and in marshy lands in Ashugani and Brahmanbaria. Initially, the crime started in

Ashugani areas in Brahmanbaria

district. It spread to Shahjibazar,

Shahbajpur and Chunarughat

some hilly and haor areas in

Habiganj and Moulvibazar

An official of GTCL admitted large scale stealing of condensate from the pipeline but claimed that incidents of theft have come down. He said the Srimangal-Ashuganj part of the pipeline is most vulnerable, where GTCL has deployed three security guards for every five kilometres.

He admitted that about 50

perforated points had been detected while some others remained undetected. Last week, a newly created

perforated point was detected at a place under Ashuganj thana. Last month, another incident of theft was detected and a case was lodged with Ashuganj thana, he

Tinni murder During the questioning, Latif

confessed that he knew Ovi for a

information from him which can not

"We have extracted some other

long time, Huda said.

be disclosed at this time for the sake of investigation." he said. Latif has been asked to appear at the CID office again on Tuesday for questioning. Film star Manna was questioned

on Thursday regarding the murder.

He has been asked to come to the CID office along with his passport on Tuesday for questioning again, the sources said. On Thursday, Manna told CID that he knew both Tinni and Ovi very well, but denied any involvement in

the killing. Police have so far interrogated 22 people in connection with the murder. They have a list of 80 people including 24 models for interro-

Moreover, the officers do not have

However, the commissioner has denied that the officers buy furniture themselves. Sometimes, officers may

Dr Biswas said Internet telephony would increase both telecom reach

of Islam. The speeches from the main dais were delivered in Urdu. Bangla and Arabic and were translated into many other languages.

according to organisers.

On previous occasions, devotees from Saudi Arabia were given

Police banned rickshaw between Tongi Bazar and Board Bazar on the

Dhaka-Mymensingh road. Vehicles crossing the area are being diverted from the Abdullahpur point towards Ashuliya. Police yesterday arrested People queued up in front of a

the cinema halls in Mymensingh, Referring to the deployment of appliances, automobile and CNG and non-electronic fields. and the news was spread through army, she said at the very beginning stations attended the meeting. people were a bit relieved of extor-Krit Thodpainch of Acme Group The government, she alleged, Holding Co. Ltd. Manapol Poosmboon tion and terror, but so far 35 people tortured the wife of Reuters' journalof Aree Aphiluck Co Ltd. Adisorn have been killed during the drive. ist and forced the news agency to Thumaprudti of Ayutthaya Metal Co Ltd. "The prime minister is violating withdraw its report Athikom Tongnumtago of Bangkok human rights by killing people by the Hasina thinks the prime minister Cable Co Ltd and Petcharat army," she said in a vitriolic criticism had instructed the home minister to