Ban on import of buses, trucks without seatbelts

UNB, Dhaka

The government has banned import of buses and trucks without seatbelts for passengers and drivers as part of its steps to reduce traffic fatalities

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Road Security Council with Communications Minister Nazmul Huda in the chair.

The minister told the meeting that bus and truck owners would have to force their drivers to use seatbelts, or else, legal action would be taken against them.

The meeting decided that rickshaws and other non-motorised vehicles would gradually be made off-limits to major city streets and adequate government and nongovernmental buses would be introduced to meet the requirement of the commuters. However, it did not set any timeframe.

It also directed Dhaka

home in procession from a rally on

and the Bangalee mostly Muslim.

the tempo and assaulted its

the convoy of legislator Kader

Siddiqui, who was returning from

the Joinagachha house of Piren, at

Jalchhatra bus stand the same day.

of most vehicles of the convoy and

wounded Abu Jafar Alam, office-

in-charge of Modhupur Police

Station, who was trying to save the

They smashed the windshields

The BNP activists also attacked

Muslim women passengers.

Metropolitan Police (DMP) Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and Roads and Highways Department to properly execute the decisions.

Some mobile courts in coordination with the DMP, BRTA and environment department would begin work soon to seize vehicles that emit black smoke to pollute the environment.

The meeting was told that rickshawpullers would also be forced to ply rickshaws on lanes demarcated for them on various city streets and traffic police would take proper steps in case of violation of the directive.

It said the work of evicting huts, bazaars and illegal structures on all national and regional roads would be accelerated to restore discipline on the roads and highways.

Jafar is now undergoing treat-

Buy one of these frigates at this price today, all right pay 20 percent more" he challenged the present government. He said, "Six navy officers inspected the building of the frigate at the Daewoo dockyard. Besides, the parliamentary standing committee on the defence ministry, comprising members of BNP and Jatiya Party also visited South Korea Fear stalks Garos

> The frigate was sent to Bangladesh after getting a certifi-cate from the committee members, Jalil said in the statement.

to witness the trial run of the frig-

AL snubs JS

on defence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

body remark

purchase graft

The main opposition Awami

ministry of irregularities in defence

budget spending during the AL

the South Korean naval frigate were

purchased following proper and transparent procedures and there

was no room for irregularities," AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said in

On the promotion of Mustafizur

Rahman to the rank of a general he

said that was done in accordance with the rules of the army. The

statement also brushed aside other accusations of irregularities in the

construction of a mosque and an arch commemorating the liberation

Jalil said the modern frigate was procured at a price \$96 million only.

war heroes.

"The eight Russian Mig-29s and

The AL secretary general claimed, "The Awami League gov-ernment had saved \$170 million of public money by purchasing the eight Mig-29s for only \$119 million." He said it was possible only due to the fruitful negotiations conducted by the then AL government with

Horomoni Chakma, 36, Uzzal Chakma, 17, Doelmoni Chakma

(age unknown), Shutichandra

Chakma, 28, Tunga Chakma (age

unknown), Probhat Ranjan

Chakma, 28, Parashmoni Chakma,

16, Roy Mitra Chakma, 46, Jagatjyoti Chakma, 33 and

Police recovered the body of Shushil Bindu Chakma,

Ukkhyonchhari unit general secretary of the CHT Hill Students

Council, who was killed after abduction in Borkol upazila

The local gangster, Ainul Islam,

s believed to have led the gang that

killed the 25-year-old in deep forest

on his way home, says a press

release of PCJSS's student chapter.

on the Karnaphuli river.

Academy premises

Police found the body floating

The student organisation ves-

terday brought out a procession in

rown and staged a rally, chaired by

its district unit president, Asheen

Chakma, on the local Shilpakala

Armed men believed to be supporters of the PCJSS abducted 20

family members and relatives of

some leaders of UPDF on

December 23 in a fresh flare of

Four people, two of them truck-

Clashes between the two outfits

have left more than 300 indigenous

people dead and several hundred

CNG 3-Wheeler

allegations about the sale of the

three-wheelers and land allocation

for setting up CNG filling stations,'

Uttara Motors, allowed to

import 10,000 CNG autorickshaws,

has sold 8,000 vehicles to local

buyers since January 2003, when

the government phased out petrol-

driven two-stroke three-wheelers

(yesterday) expressed happiness with our initiative to curb corrup-

tion in the communications sec-

tor," said Ataur Rahman Khan, a

member of the committee and

"We will not allow anyone to

strip people of money that is dent-

ing the government's image," he added, describing the high prices

of CNG autorickshaws as a rob-

The complainants also raised

allegations of graft in land alloca-

tion for setting up gas stations and

were willing to provide evidence of

anomaly in an echo of BNP law-

maker SA Khalegue's complaint of

corruption against State Minister

for Communications Salahuddin

Khaleque told the House on

June 28 last year Salahuddin took

Γk 25 lakh in bribe from Ward

Commissioner Monwar Hossain

Dipjol and allowed him to set up a

gas station in Mirpur -- an allega-

tion that prompted the state minis-

ter to accuse the lawmaker of land

"The people I have met today

to cut air pollution in Dhaka.

ruling BNP lawmaker.

Ahmed.

Monjur told The Daily Star.

have been abducted since 1997.

ers, were abducted in

ABDUCTION IN THE CHT

political violence in the CHT.

Khagrachhari on January 1.

Bodhitra Chakma, 40.

Monday night.

10 abducted

Bangladesh Forum for Those kidnapped at gunpoint are

eco-park project.

"We did not expect it from the

Ahmadiyya books

Hasan Mamtazi, Secretary General Tafazzul Haq Aziz, Joint Secretary General Nazmul Haq and some other leaders were present, but the Ahmadiyya Jamaat was not repre-

sources said the government is convinced that the Ahmadiyya literatures hurt majority of the Muslims.

Asked about specific allegations of objectionable materials in any of Ahmadiyya publications, the meeting source did not give further details and said all Ahmadiyya publications

carry such materials. Asked if there were any objectionable materials in any fresh Ahmadiyya publications, the source

answered in the negative. "We have intelligence reports that

their literatures carry such materials and there were street agitation demanding ban on the publications and to declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims," the source said.

Denying that the government took the decision due to pressure from one of its constituents Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) which fuelled anti-Ahmadiyya agitation, the source said the government ponder over the matter for a long time and intelligence reports and present and past street agitation prompted the deci-

Although senior ministers earlier said the government was not at all worried about the anti-Ahmadiyya movement, but now they are saying it had always been under consider ation, the source said after the meetingyesterday,

When contacted for his comment, one answering the phone at Shaiahan's residence said the minister was unable to attend to phone calls due to indisposition.

Iraqi WMD threat FROM PAGE 12

inspectors had discovered that nerve agents in Iraq's chemical weapons programme had lost most of their lethal capability as early as

There was greater uncertainty about Iraq's biological weapons, but that threat was related to what could be developed in the future rather than what Iraq already had, the study by the liberal-leaning think tank said.

Meanwhile, a 400-strong US military team that has been searching for illicit weapons in Iraq have been withdrawn after finding nothing of substance, although a separate group looking for weapons of mass destruction still remains in the country, The New York Times

reported yesterday. The missile programme appeared to have been in active development in 2002 and Iraq was expanding its capability to build missiles with ranges that exceeded

UN limits, it said. The United States justified going to war against Iraq last year citing a threat from Baghdad's weapons of

ment at a local hospital Siddiqui blamed the BNP for the attack at a press briefing at his

Wednesday in protest against the killing of Piren Slan. Locals said the processionists house and his Krishak Sramik damaged the tempo, 'taking the Janata League staged a rally in bait to create a religious divide' Dhaka in protest.

between the indigenous people Protesters at the rally said the who are predominantly Christian government was trying to evict the indigenous people from their They said after the incident, the forest villages in the name of devel-BNP activists spread the rumour oping the eco-park. that the Christian Garos ransacked

They demanded exemplary punishment to the attackers.

Indigenous People (BFIP) also staged a protest rally at Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to condemn the killing of Piren and attacks on ethnic Garos in Modhupur and protest against the

Sita Nakrek, the widow of Piren, and their baby girl attended the

government of a democratic coun-The government decision oves it has surrendered to religious terrorists, such bigots can realise any demand by creating religious terrorsented at the meeting Talking to The Daily Star, meeting ism and any such group can realise any irrational demand through such

> Asked whether they would challenge the government decision, Awal said they are yet to reach any decision in this regard.

agitation programme."

Yesterday's meeting also assured the HKNA of withdrawing two cases filed against some 12,000 anti-Ahmadiyyas activists charged with assaulting policemen guarding Nakhalpara Ahmadiyya mosque on December 5, said HKNA Amir

"The minister assured us of expediting a previous three-point recommendation by a 18-member Ulema committee formed during the previous BNP government," he said.

The committee recommended for the declaration of the Ahmadiyyas as non-Muslims, banning all their publications and removing all Ahmadiyya people from the administration, Mamtazi claimed.

Following the government decision, the HKNA has cancelled its today's demonstration at akhalpara Ahmadiyya mosque.

"Since the government has initiated the move of declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslims, we have changed our programme," Mamtazi adding they will bring out a procession from Rahim Metal Mosque after Juma prayers today and hold a rally at the Nabisco intersection at Tejgaon Industrial Area

The HKNA has been agitating in the city to oust the Ahmadiyyas from their Nakhalpara mosque since November 20 last year.

Anti-Ahmadiyya move across the country assumed new dimension in October 1992 when some people vandalised Bakshibazar Ahmadiyya mosque in the city.

The major attack was a time bomb explosion in a mosque at Nirala Residential Area in Khulna on October 8, 1999 during Juma prayers, which left seven Ahmadiyyas killed and 27 others injured. Another Ahmadiyya, Shah Alam, was killed at Roghunathpur in Jhikargachha, Jessore on October 31. Apart from stray attacks at different places across the country, the anti-Ahmadiyya activists confined many Ahmadiyya families in Bhabanipur in Kushtia, Ambarnagar in Lakkhipur and Fazilpur of Feni.

Yesterday's government press release reads: The government has banned the sale, publication distribution and retention of all books and booklets on Islam published by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat Bangladesh, which translation (with explanation) of

Hasina blasts PM

League stint in power.'

government of destroying three pillars of governance -- executive, judiciary and legislature in a planned way. "Administration and udiciary have been politicised and parliament has been made non-League (AL) yesterday strongly protested the recent accusations made by the parliamentary standing committee on the defence "The parliamentary standing

She also accused the coalition

committees are facing quorum crisis apart from the House and this is a testimony to the government's failure in running parliament."

Hasina termed the BNP-Jamaat government 'weak' and 'without adequate confidence'. "They are aware of the fact that people did not vote them to power. They came to power by promising to sell out natural resources and through

"Had they had confidence in themselves, they would not have resorted to repressive acts against the AL in a bid to eliminate the

"The government has been systematically killing prospective Awami League leaders," she

Hasina urged the lawyers as well as commoners to unite against the misrule of the government. "Now time has come to free the people from the repression and torture of this oppressive government. I urge you all to get united to pull down this government and establish people's rights to justice.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Rokanuddin Mahmud expressed doubts about the initiatives of former president Badruddooza Chowdhury.

Rokan also invited Hasina to attend an opinion exchange meeting at the Supreme Court Bar. Bar leaders Barrister Amirul Islam, Mahbub Ali and M Israfil also spoke at the meeting, which was attended by senior AL leaders.

'squat effect,' the tendency of a

vessel to be pulled downwards

when travelling in shallow water, as the cause of the accident. But the

place of occurrence was very deep,

at the confluence of rivers Padma

Shipping experts and naval architects reviewed the report and

submitted their observations to the

ministry last Tuesday. They too

termed the report partisan and

official capacity to carry 294 passen-gers, it took more than 1,000 pas-

sengers on board and 400 sacks of

rice and pulse on deck on that fatal trip on July 8.

According to witnesses, around 400 additional passengers had boarded the ship on that trip as

another launch on that route

cancelled its journey at the last

the probe body intentionally avoided accusing any of the ship-

ping department staffs and making

any constructive recommendation

in its rather long and detailed

contacted over telephone even after several attempts.

Body fished out

Dhanmondi police yesterday

recovered the body of a young man from Dhanmondi Lake, four days

Police retrieved the body of

Shahadat Hossain, 20, from infront of road No. 5 at around 10:30am and

later sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for

the body but blood was oozing from

ICD leader shot

Four gunmen shot a Jatiyatabadi

Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader at Mirpur in the capital yesterday.

Tawfiqur Rahman Tuhin, 22, convenor of Ward No. 12 unit of the

ICD, BNP's student wing, was a BA

Critically injured Tuhin was

student at Mirpur Bangla College.

admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

UN top official

and also likely to visit Bangladesh Institution for Peace Support Operation and Training (BIPSOT)

His visit comes at a time when

people of Bangladesh mourns the

death of 15 Bangladeshi peace-

As the highest-ranking UN

official dealing with peacekeeping

affairs, he will get a firsthand view

of the capabilities and expertise

available in Bangladesh in terms of

contributing to global peace and

security under the aegis of the UN.

est troops contributing country to

the UN peacekeeping operations.

deadliest helicopter incident for

under fire near the town of Mosul

Paul Bremer, the US administrator

in Iraq, announced the amnesty

Bangladesh is the second larg-

keepers in a plane crash in Benin.

FROM PAGE 12

in Rajendrapur.

9 killed

killing 17 soldiers.

AMNESTY FOR

DETAINEES

FROM PAGE 12

its nose, morgue sources said

at Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There were no marks of injury in

of Dhanmondi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

after he went missing.

Lake

Shafiqul Islam could not be

Shipping experts observed that

Although MV Nasreen-1 had an

and Meghna, he pointed out.

Meghna Launch

passengers missing. A total of 230 passengers escaped death as they either swam ashore or rescued after

But, according to unofficial sources, the death toll would exceed

The Department of Shipping hurriedly formed a three-member investigation committee headed by Shafiqul Islam, engineer and ship surveyor of Mercantile Marine Department, Chittagong.

But the ministry found the probe report submitted by the committee in August last year as 'weak and partisan,' and rejected it. The ministry also asked the probe committee to submit a supplementary report within that month.

The supplementary report also failed to identify the causes of the accident and made some illogical arguments, sources said. The probe committee allegedly did not point out the fact that sur-

veyors okayed the survey reports of the launch during a long 22-year period without even visiting it. MV Nasreen-1 was built in 1981

and refurbished in 1999. The investigation committee mainly blamed faulty design of the launch for the catastrophe, though the sunken vessel is yet to be rescued, commented a shipping expert, wishing to remain unnamed.

The committee mentioned

Dr Kamal calls for patriotic alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Gano Forum (GF) President Dr Kamal Hossain has called for building an alliance of patriotic people to save the country from the evils of black money, terrorism, corruption and politics devoid of

"Only the patriots can now save the country from the grip of incom-petent leaders," he said at a public meeting at Shaheb Bazar here yesterday

Dr Kamal and former president Badruddoza Chowdhury have jointly initiated a process of greater unity of people to give politics a new dimension.

The GF chief said people fit to be in power in a democratic order are now neglected as incompetent ones manage to get elected to parliament.

The parliament has turned ineffective under these unfit leaders, who are plundering the country's resources instead of using those for its development, Kamal

Despite having two-thirds majority in parliament, the ruling alliance has failed to run the country properly, Kamal said. Even many of the ruling alliance members do not attend House sessions, he noted he noted.

Chaired by Rafiqul Islam, the meeting was also addressed by Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Pankaj Bhattachariya, Fazlur Rahman, Shamsul Alam and Ganesh Prashad.

Schoolboy FROM PAGE 12

local businessman Mohammad Lokman, from Abdul Kader's residence at about 7:00am, police said.

Police also nabbed Mohammad Belal, 25, Jahur Ahmed, 35, and Zahed Ahmed, 32, from the house for their alleged involvement in the kidnap.

Belal confessed to his involve-ment in the crime, police added.

Twelve-year-old Jonny, a class seven student of Kumira Residential School in Sitakunda, was abducted on January 3 morning at gunpoint from an audio shop in Pahartali area and the abductors demanded Tk 10 lakh ransom, sources said.

A case was lodged with Pahartali Police Station.

By-election

FROM PAGE 12

a gazette notification yesterday announced the polls schedule. As per schedule, the last date for submission of nomination papers is January 24, scrutiny of the nomina-tion papers on January 25 and withdrawal of nominations on February 8.

Boy hurt in bomb attack on police van

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A bomb thrown at a police van missed its target and went off to severely injure a four-year-old boy at Sheikhpara in Khulna yesterday.

A young man threw a bomb at a oick-up of Sonadanga Police Station from the rooftop of a shop at about 8:00pm near Power Development Board Staff Quarters

Missing its target, the bomb exploded and wounded Sumon, son of Abdul Karim of Haji Ismail Road under Sonadanga Police Station, police said.

However, all six policemen abroad the police vehicle were unhurt, police added. Suman was admitted to Khulna

Medical College Hospital later. Joint forces swung into action soon after the explosion to nab the

Twelve policemen were killed in separate bomb explosions in Khulnalastyear.

PM finds talents

proper training at the very beginning of their service," she told the

Addressing the recruits joining foundation training course Khaleda reminded that their recruitment test was not the last. You will have to face tests to prove your talent, skill and ability regularly," she said urging them to acquire knowledge through read ing and attain skill.

"You have to perform your responsibility with sincerity dedication and honesty," she said pointing out that the nation will fall behind if they fail to catch up with the present competitive

She mentioned her government's programmes and steps to improve standard of education and the rate of literacy in the country.

Chaired by Rector of BPATC Ahbab Ahmad, the function was also addressed by Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, Agriculture Minister MK Anwar, Education Minister M Osman Farruk and Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Establishment Safar Raj Hossain. Members of parliament, diplomats and a large number of civil servants attended the function.

UNDP envoy

at the latter's office.

During the meeting, Larma did not blame any particular community, group, organisation or the authorities for the slide in law and order in the hills region.

Replying to a question, the mission leader said, "Larma did not point a finger at anyone." Other two members of

delegation are Elsa Stama Topoulou of Greece and Victoria Lucia Taul Corpuz of the Philippines. The team later called on the RHDC Chairman Maniklal at his office and was apprised of its functions and responsibilities.

The team informed the chairman about the challenges involved in implementing development schemes and the importance of the RHDC in ensuring good governance, meeting sources said.

The team would leave Rangamati on January 11 for Mahalchhari, where an arson attack took place on the indigenous people on August 26 last year.

Police arrested one of the gun-men, Mahmudul Haq Rony with a revolver and eight bullets but gave 11-party conflicting information about his FROM PAGE 12

Central leaders of the alliance enforced the barricade programme at Kanchpur in Narayanganj and Gazipur roundabout.

Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, also coordinator of the alliance, yesterday at a postbarricade rally at Muktangon in the capital announced a sit-in on January 24 in districts and upazilas.

Menon alleged that during the barricade programme, the BNP activists and police swooped on the 11-party activists across the country, injuring at least 19 in Rajshahi and Kanchpur. Workers Party leader Mahbur

Rahman and Bulbul Ahmed were stabbed and 15 others including Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) Rajshahi district General Secretary Rafigul Islam injured when at least 50 armed BNP activists allegedly attacked a rally at Puthia Bus Stand. In Kanchpur, Suruj Al

Mattobor, Shamim Ahmed and Hafiz were injured in an attack led reportedly by the BNP men. Police also foiled a rally at Natore. Menon warned that the alliance would resist any obstacle put by

Americans in Iraq since Nov. 15, when two Black Hawks collided the government to its demonstrations. He said the government tried to hamper the 11-party's hartal and road-barricade programme in The alliance is on the road also in protest at the deterioration of

ers, were present at the rally.

Garo murder

'Police make forest guards scapegoats'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police are trying to shift the responsibilities of Piren Snal's killing on to the forest guards, says Odhikar, a human-rights watchdog, after a spot investigation into the incident.

Police and forest guards opened ire on a peaceful demonstration of the Garos on January 3 at Modhupur in Tangail that left one dead and injured 25 others, Odhikar said in its finding. The Garo people were on their

way to Gaira Primary School to hold a scheduled rally there to protest the walling up of an ecopark area as well as to save their endangered culture and heritage. As the procession reached albadha, police and forest guards

opened fire on the demonstrators without any provocation. Piren was hit by a bullet and died on the spot during the indiscriminate But police and forest guards claim 200 - 300 armed indigenous people started to tear down the wall of the eco-park. When the law

enforcers ordered them to refrain from doing so, they started pelting stones and chased the law enforcers wielding sharp weapons, according to the law enforcers. Police and the forest guards then fired gunshots in 'self-defence', they claimed. Following the incident, Abu Zafar Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Modhupur Police Station, filed a

case accusing the forest guards of

the murder. Havildar Idris Ali of the

same police station filed another

case accusing 500 600 indigenous

duties and ransacking government The OC claims Piren was killed by gunshots fired from one of the

people of obstructing government officials from carrying out their

rifles of the forest guards.

Local lawyers however said the OC could not shake off the responsibilities of his force in the killing just by filing a case against the forest guards. They said police and forest guards acted as a team and fired indiscriminately on the dem

onstrators.

The indigenous people said they were against the Forest Conservation and Eco Tourism Project which would separate 3,000 acres of Madhupur Gar by erecting surrounding wall of the area earmarked for the eco-park. They see the forest as the sole source of their livelihood, from where they collect their food and firewood, without harming the nature. Their life, culture and heritage fully depend on the forest.

The Odhikar report quoting the father of Piren said he would file a case accusing both the policemen and forest guards. The locals also have taken up non-stop programmes following Piren's cilling to drive home their

The demands include cancellation of the eco-park, compensation for the families of Piren and others injured, judicial inquiry into the killing of Piren and other indigenous people, punishment to the culprits, withdrawal of false cases against the indigenous people and permanent land settlement for

Bush asks Congress

competition amid a sea of illegal immigrants.

"We must make our immigration laws more rational and more humane, and I believe we can do so without jeopardising the livelihoods of our American citizens," Bush said.

Bush telephoned Mexican President Vicente Fox to outline the proposal, which the Mexican leader promptly welcomed as "an immigration plan to clearly recognize the worth of the Mexican men and women who are working in there in the United States. Bush and Fox are to meet on

Monday at a summit of the Americas in Mexico. Ties between the two leaders grew frosty as immigration reforms sought by Fox stalled after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States Under Bush's plan, illegal immi-

grants now in the United States would be allowed to stay for an initial three-year period if they could prove

 $Many of the \, estimated \, 8 \, million \, to \,$ 14 million illegal immigrants in the United States came from Mexico. America's 39 million Hispanics are the largest US minority group and a target of Bush's re-election strategy in states such as Florida and

BDR, BSF

FROM PAGE 12 Fulbari Border Outpost in

A BSF team captured Russell, 25, son of Abdur Rahman of Gangarhat village, and Selim Rahman, son of Abdul Khaleque of the same village, at about 8:00am when they were working in cropland inside Bangladesh territory, BDR sources said.

A source at Fulbari outpost of the BDR said they were in touch with the BSF till the writing of this report at 6:00pm last evening.

California.

California's Republican governor, Austrian-born Arnold Schwarzenegger, said the proposal was "the right approach." But the AFL-CIO labor federation

said Bush's proposals would create an "underclass" of foreign workers and "exacerbate the decline in job quality and job security for all work-Democrats said the proposal fell

far short by failing to ensure long-term illegal immigrants could remain permanently. Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts said it "rewards business over immigrants by providing them with a permanent pool of

disenfranchised temporary workers

who could easily be exploited.'

FROM PAGE 1 Nabi filed a general diary with could not nab Aslam, an aide of top criminal David of Narayanganj and

a ruling BNP activist. Russell Bhuiyan, an industrialist of Rupganj who was bullet hit on August 26, 2002, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the following day. Nabi, then officer-in-charge (OC) of Rupganj Police Station investigated the murder Station, investigated the murder and pressed charges against the

Aslam, now free on bail, also threatened Public Prosecutor in the case Advocate Nurul Iman Babul with life. Babul said he asked

for police protection to the OC of Kotwali Police Station. Aslam did not show up at the scheduled hearing of the case

yesterday. Other prosecution witnesses in the case fear for life, as both police and public prosecutor have been

threatened. Kotwali police said they are

taking necessary action.

FROM PAGE 12

between 1990 and 2050, using elaborate computer models.

Three scenarios for expected climate change were used in the computer models -- a minimum expected total rise of between 0.8 and 1.7 degrees Celsius (1.4 and 3.1 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2050; a midrange scenario with total temperature increases of 1.8-2.0 degrees; and the maximum rise, when the Earth's average climes rise by over 2.0

Australia, one of the regions 2050, thanks to global warming.

nah-type area with a wealth of plant

scientists were Australia, Brazil,

The head of the UN Environment also kill off interdependent plants Toepfer said humans would

planet that will suffer.

suffer from the consequences of global warning, the result of their dependence on fossil fuels. "If one million species become extinct as a result of global warming, it is not just the plant and animal kingdoms and the beauty of the

"Billions of people, especially in the developing world, will suffer too as they rely on nature for such essential goods and services as food, shelter and medicines," he said.

Lee Hannah, a co-author of the

study with the Washington-based

Conservation International, said

that species faced with a dangerously warm environment would naturally seek a cooler area, but this was no longer possible in many cases. "If habitat destruction has

already altered those habitats, the species will have no safe haven. xNot all of the million-plus species would disappear by 2050, Thomas said, but many would be in

decline and en route to extinction.

The UN's Toepfer called the study an alarm which "underlines again to the world the importance of bringing into force the Kyoto Protocol", the international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions which the

Global Warming

and animals.

degrees during the period.

studied, would lose over half of its more than 400 butterfly species by Brazil's Cerrado area, a savan-

and animal species, could lose between 39 and 48 percent of its flora -- thousands of plants whose medical or scientific benefits will never be The six regions studied by the

Costa Rica, Europe, Mexico and South Africa.

United States has refused to adhere

law and order and price spiral of essentials, to protect national resources and save the country from clutches of imperialist forces Wednesday, saying low-threat detainees rounded up since April and held without charges would be Program, Klaus Toepfer, warned that The EC in a separate gazette including World Bank, International Monetary Fund and released as part of efforts to pro-"the figure of one million may be an The sub-committee will start its notification appointed the deputy commissioner of Kushtia returning probe by next week and review the mote reconciliation with Iraqis. underestimate", since it only counts includes the Bengali or any other World Trade Organisation. CNG autorickshaws and US forces have seized around the extinction of species due to officer and the upazila nirbahi 9,000 suspects over the past eight months, most of whom are being Mujahidul Islam Selim, general climate change, without taking into import permit of Uttara Motors, officer of Daulatpur assistant the 'Quran Majid.' account a "ripple effect" that could said Nadeem Mostafa, convenor of secretary of the CPB, among othreturning officer to conduct the the sub-committee. held at Abu Ghraib.