Hasina accuses govt

FROM PAGE 12
"When public life is battered by the unabated price-hike and insecurity, prime minister's family members are siphoning off their ill-gotten money abroad," she said, adding that some of their smuggled resources have been forfeited in

The AL chief said if her party gets a chance to rule they will work to turn Bangladesh into a prosperous and wealthy nation by 2020.

"We will give job to at least one unemployed youth from every family of the country if the AL is voted to power next time," she said.

"We will not kill people by crossfire, we will improve law and order through justice and upholding human rights," she said, adding, "Today killing without trial takes place only to protect the godfathers study materials to students.

Hasina called upon the students to make preparations for ousting the present government and reinstating democratic rule in the country.

Humayun Azad and Dr Mohammad Yunus, Hasina said communal forces with the help of government are killing pro-liberation and progressive teachers at different public universities.

that of August 21 on the AL rally have

government for distorting history of the Liberation War in the textbooks and said the people responsible will be brought to justice in an appropriate time for dishing out erroneous

5 major challenges

Stressing the importance of effecting immediate reforms in the

Besides, failure to utilise the macro economic stability has also been the reason for slow growth of overall economy. "The growth in gross domestic product (GDP) is high but it has been hovering within five plus percentage in the last four years," Debapriya said adding whereas, the economies of neighbouring India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka grew much faster during this

Low domestic savings, poor public investment, unsatisfactory agricultural credit disbursement, rising price inflation, poor agricul-tural output and low foreign aid disbursement plagued the economy during the first half of the current

Given the present global economic trend, over 5 percent rate of GDP growth is not bad but the weakness of the economy is that this growth did not reflect in the investment, he said.

Less than 20 percent of annual half of the current fiscal, whereas the disbursement of money against

He said that the foreign invest-

Referring to the killings of Prof

Hasina alleged that the perpetra-tors of the grenade attacks including not been arrested or punished.

The AL chief also criticised the

The other challenges that lie before the government are bringing about reforms in the state-owned commercial banks and public administration and transparency in invest-

Nationalised Commercial Banks (NCBs), he said future of the reforms in the banking sector depends on privatisation of Rupali Bank.

Debapriya regretted that macro economic stability in the country has sustained now for quite a long time but it did not yet turn into growth in the micro level to provide benefits to the general people.

This is very unfortunate that we could not reap the benefits of the macro economic stability in the country," he said adding that it has been one of the major factors that account for the stagnant economy.

Recalling the CPD's previous prediction about post-quota situa-tion in the garment sector, the economist said it has proved to be accurate as so far hardly any adverse effect has been reported in the sector. Even better, the textile export is being projected to register 24 percent growth this year.

Debapriya, however, appreciated the government for keeping the GDP growth rate over five percent even after a devastating flood in the country last year.

development programme (ADP) has been implemented during the first ADP was over 35 percent, he said.

ment in the country showed an upward trend but that it lacked

The CPD report described

Film show

increase in domestic credit, industrial credit, robust capital market, significant growth in export-import, high remittance earning and comfortable foreign exchange reserve as

the positive sides of the economy. He criticised the government for downsizing the growth target to 6.50 percent during the year 2008, from 7 percent earlier in the poverty reduc-

tion strategy (PRSP). He said the country does not lack resources, as around 2-3 percent of the GDP remains unutilised. This huge amount of resources is not being converted into investment, he said.

The CPD director blasting the poor performance of the government's statistics department said the government needs to set up an independent statistics commission.

CPD Research Director Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Research Fellow Dr Ananya Raihan, Uttam Kumar Deb and Dr Fahmida Khatun were present during the release of the

BDR protests killings of villagers

Flag meeting with BSF held BSS, Thakurgaon

in the battalion commander level flag meeting between Thakurgaon 20 Battalion of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Panjipara 32 Battalion of Indian Border Security Force (BSF), BDR strongly protested the recent killings of six Bangladeshi villagers along Baliadangi borders of Thakurgaon.

In the seven-hour long meeting held in the Indian side of the zero line along Panchagarh border, BDR also protested BSF's recent push-in bids and intrusions of their troops into Bangladesh border.

During the meeting held in a cordial atmosphere, BDR asked BSF to refrain from such activities and cooperate for better border management, maintaining peace along the borders and curbing crossborder crimes including smuggling and trafficking of women and chil-

Regretting the killings of innocent Bangladeshis, BSF agreed to arrange flag meetings at various levels when necessary and assured BDR that no innocent Bangladeshis will become target of BSF and there will be no more incidents of push-in

by BSF troops. Commanding Officer of Thakurgaon 20 Rifles Battalion, who led the 18-member BDR team said the meeting was fruitful.

Tension over BSF's prison cell at zero point

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Tension prevailed at Benapole border yesterday in the wake of Indian Border Security Force's (BSF) bid to construct a pucca prison cell at zero point on Friday in gross violation of international laws. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) strongly

protested the illegal bid but the BSF fired blank shots, creating panic in

The incident halted exportnport through Benapole land port. Earlier reports from the bordering areas said passport holders at Benapole check post and local peo-ple ran helter skelter in panic as the BDR and BSF personnel faced each other Friday noon. BSF jawans equipped with heavy arms fired several blank shots without any provocation from the BDR.

BDR authorities said however BSF men exploded some firecrackers but

The BSF stopped construction of the pucca cell after a company com-mander-level meeting between the BDR and BSF on Friday evening.

PM calls for UN

FROM PAGE 12 have to find out the path of their emancipation.

She said the government has formed a special fund of Tk 100 crore for lending through PKSF (Palli Karmo Sahayak Foundation) for employment generation for the hardcore poor.

The prime minister said her government believes that microcredit is one of the major weapons to reduce poverty and thanked Prof Mohammad Yunus for innovating this economic novelty.

Khaleda said many NGOs run special funds from the savings of micro-credit borrowers and urged the NGO leaders to think whether the money is being utilized properly and can be invested in profitable micro-enterprises.

She said her government will seek support from the NGOs for successful implementation of PRSP (poverty-reduction strategy paper).

The prime minister believes that it is possible to attain the povertyreduction target with united efforts

of all, not by government's singlehanded effort. Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the interest of microcredits will have to be brought down to a logical

level to make the programme dynamic and stable.
Grameen Bank Managing Director Mohammad Yunus urged the prime minister to enact laws for setting up small capital banks and

monitoring authority to monitor the banks as well as

free the information technology

World Bank MD

FROM PAGE 12 from the Washington-based lender

is on the up. Apart from project loans, Bangladesh got \$500 million as budgetary support from the WB in the last two years. The government also expects \$800 million loan from the WB by June this year.

The government is currently negotiating with the WB for \$200 million for health sector programmes, \$200 million for flood rehabilitation, \$300 million for development support credit and \$100 million for education sector.

Although the WB MD's visit is not directly linked to the prospective loans, the government will utilise the visit to show its achievements and difficulties in reform imple-mentation for fruitful negotiations.

Huge security

FROM PAGE 1
He added that all preparations are back up to full speed, with the 'massive security net' for the summit already underway and the 10 subcommittees of the Saarc summit preparation cells restarting their stalled preparations. Twelve thousand security personnel will be deployed around the capital during the summit,

"We're now discussing the nittygritty of the 2-day summit, "he said. Rahman stressed that only essen-

tial programmes would be given priority in the draft schedule, given that the summit itself has been curtailed by a day, while the council of ministers, a meeting comprised of foreign ministers, has been shortened from two days to one.

He also suggested that the Saarc cultural programme, originally sched-uled to be held around the summit dates, is uncertain due to the sombre tone of the summit following the devastation of three Saarc member states by the Asian Tsunami on

Leaders from Saarc member states will arrive on February 5th and will begin leaving on the evening of February 7th, starting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, said foreign ministry spokesman Zahirul Haq.

Most of the bilateral meetings between the Saarc states are likely to be concentrated on the first day of the summit after the opening ceremony, with additional meetings likely to be held on the evening of February 5th and after the concluding session on

Pre-summit agenda setting meet-ings will start on February 1st, with the Saarc Programming Committee comprising senior officials on Feb 1-2nd, Standing Committees comprising foreign secretaries on Feb 3-4th and Council of Ministers comprising foreign ministers to be held on Feb 5.

Gas pipeline deal

pipeline project proposal pushed by a private company, saying such a scheme implies national security issues and needs political decision at the tri-national level with involvement of the governments con-

But in the meantime that stance of the government has reversed and,so, Mosharraf Hossain said, "This pipeline will be set up by an international private sector consortium. The government will not invest in

Each country will be responsible for the security of the pipeline on its

soil, he added. Sharing the outcome of the Yangon meeting from January 12 to 13, the state minister said a sixmember working committee -- with two representatives of each country - headed by the director general of Myanmar energy ministry has been

This committee will hold meetings in all the three countries to determine the pipeline route and deal with the ownership and technical issues. It will prepare and submit a report by March so that the tripartite agreement can be signed by April.

The cabinet of each of the three countries will have to approve its portion of the pipeline scheme to give it the go-ahead.

On the issue of the Indo-Bangla treaty, Dhaka and Delhi in a joint statement on Thursday said, "With regard to Bangladesh's request for the provision of electricity facilities from Nepal and Bhutan to agreed that the Government of India would examine positively any fresh proposals received from Bangladesh in regard to examining required

"In regard to Bangladesh's request for transit facilities to Bhutan and Nepal through India between Bangladesh on one side and Bhutan and Nepal on the other, the Indian Minister conveyed that the Government of India supported this request. He pointed out that some facilities had already been provided at Phulbari which at present were not being fully utilised," the statement said.

The Indian government will favourably examine any further requests that might arise to augment the existing facilities, it added.

On Bangladesh's request to rectify the bilateral trade imbalance, Indian Petroleum Minister Mani Shankar Aiyar said the bilateral trade has to be expanded to bridge the gap. Projects like the tri-national gas pipeline will contribute towards that end, he noted.

The prime minister in December formed a secretary-level committee to scrutinise the various aspects of a transnational gas pipeline that may carry gas from Myanmar to India entering Bangladesh in the east and

exiting in the west. Although the concept of this pipeline is eight years old, Myanmar has been hammering it out in the recent times and then invited Bangladesh and India to talk out the energy issues in Yangon in early

11 die after gang causes

The bandits halted several buses, including the two of the Bar members, near Bhanga crossing at Nowpara felling trees on the road. They broke the windowpanes of the buses and started robbing the passengers of their valuables.

During the holdup, the driver of one of the picnic buses tried to run his vehicle on the back gear to save the passengers. But the bus fell into a roadside ditch, killing 11 on the spot, says a spot account of the accident.

On receiving information, deputy commissioner and police superintendent of Faridpur and firefighters rushed to the spot. Police and firefighters, aided by

local people, retrieved the bodies and rescued the injured. When the bodies were taken to Kushtia Bar Bhaban at 1:00pm, colleagues and people in general

All activities at the district judge's and all the magistrate courts halted as a pall of gloom descended on the

The lawyers hoisted black flag and wore black badges to mourn the tragic end of their colleagues and theirkinsmen. Textiles and Jute Minister

Shajahan Siraj, who is the ministerin-charge of Kushtia, and four MPs from the district expressed their deep shock at the deaths of the lawyers and their family members. Immediately after the accident,

the officer-in-charge (OC) of Bhanga Police Station and another police officer have been put under suspension. Police superintendent, Faridpur,

ordered the suspension of OC Shahidullah and Pakuria police outpost ASI Faruque for "neglect of

Meanwhile, six others died in road accidents yesterday.

In Moulvibazar, three people died and six others were injured when a cow-laden truck hit a tree near Sadar Hospital on DhakaSylhet highway early yesterday. The dead are cow traders Rajab Ali, 43, Shahabuddin, 40, and Giasuddin, 45.

Police said the truck, loaded with sacrificial animals, was going to Sylhet from Kishoreganj.

In Jhenidah, three day-labourers traveling on the rooftop of a bus were killed at Bezpara in Kaliganj upazila on Dhaka-Khulna highway vesterday. Police and witnesses said the

accident took place at about 4pm when the day-labourers, returning home in the Kushtia-bound bus, fell down from the vehicle as it dashed a roadside tree. Two labourers died on the spot

while another succumbed to his injuries on way to the upazilla health

Two of the deceased were identified as Aslam, 30, and Firoz, 22.

Eid holiday

Arabia said on Friday the peak of this year's Hajj pilgrimage will be on January 19 -- a day earlier than it had previously announced.

The committee charged with deciding the start of the month of Zilhaji said in a statement that a mistake had occurred during the sighting of the moon and that the pilgrimage month had actually started on Tuesday, January 11 and

The climax of the pilgrimage will see an estimated more than two million worshippers climb Mount Arafat, the site of Mohammad's (PBUH) last sermon 14 centuries

Saudi Arabia has been facing a wave of attacks by militants and plans to deploy up to 20,000 policemen to safeguard this year's pilgrimage, officials said last week.

Every able-bodied adult Muslim who can afford the trip must perform Hajj, one of the five pillars of Islam, once in his or her lifetime.

BSS.UNB.Reuters

JS body unhappy

FROM PAGE 12 medicare for the poor.

The committee members pointed out the poor performance of the upazila health complexes and rural health centres and said the government spends huge money every year to run the centres, but people are deprived of quality nealthcare service.

They alleged the doctors and other staff are not sincere in discharging their duties. "Most doctors are not found at the health complexes after 12:00noon. They leave several hours before the office-hour ends," said the committee chair-

To tackle the situation, the parliamentary body asked the health and family welfare ministry to strengthen the activities of the upazila health committees headed by local lawmakers and bring about transparency in their spending.

"We have asked the ministry to ssue circulars asking all the upazila health complex officials that they would not be allowed to spend money without prior permission of the health committee," the committee chief said.

The health committees have also been asked to hold meeting at least once a month to monitor the performance of the health complexes, Moshiuradded. Awami League lawmaker and

public hospitals are not satisfactory. We discussed the ways to improve the situation at the hospitals," he told reporters. About the prevailing situation at

the government medical college

hospitals, the former state minister for health said the professors usually do not visit the hospital at night though some of them are supposed Krishak Sramik Janata League lawmaker Abdul Quader Siddiqui

pointed out the poor management of the public hospitals. "Shortage of manpower and lack of discipline among the doctors have made the situation worse," he told reporters after the meeting. Health and Family Welfare Minister Mosharraf Hossain however told the committee that the

government had initiated steps to

improve the situation at public

hospitals. The health ministry has already increased allocation for everyhospital. The parliamentary body formed a sub-committee to identify the obstacles to different development

It also asked the ministry to initiate step to merge the drug administration with the food directorate to gear up monitoring of the market to stop adulteration of food member of the committee Prof M

projects in the health sector.

in microbus

UNB, Rangamati

A British-made grenade and some bullets of 303 rifle were recovered from a microbus at a checkpoint at Betbunia on the Rangamati-Chittagong highway last night.

Official sources said army and police jointly conducted the raid on the microbus at the rubber garden checkpoint at about 8:30pm and recovered the grenade and bullets.

They also arrested all the passengers of the microbus.

Policy decision FROM PAGE 1 Ain O Salish Kendra Director Dr Hamida Hossain initiated discussion at the opinion-sharing meeting with the bureau members of South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR). The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam moderated

the discussion Bangladesh government has assured me of taking neutral stance on various activities of the religious extremists," said Asma who received prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1995 for 'greatness of spirit shown in service of the people'.

She said the government has also assured her that it would ensure the freedom of expression of the followers

ofall religions.

About the Islamist extremists' movement against Ahmadiyya com-munity in Bangladesh, she said, "The civil society of Bangladesh is protesting the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign. But it did not happen in Pakistan in 1974 when similar campaign was going on there. Now there is a law in Pakistan to punish Ahmadiyyas if they claim themselves to be Muslims.

The leaders behind different movements on religious issues consider these as part of their politics but the religious people think it is their divine duty, she noted.

Asma, a founding member of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, called for co-ordinated initiatives by the South Asian rights organisations at national and regional levels to protect human rights in the

Lauding the courage shown by Bangladesh people in the 1971 Liberation War, Asma Jahangir said, The Liberation War will be meaningless if Bangladesh follows the path Pakistan has taken and the way the country is being run."

The SAHR bureau members at the

meeting agreed in principle to identify

discriminations in religious issues in

textbooks and address the problems

2 killed FROM PAGE 1 Islam left behind his wife, a 14-year-

old son and a 23-day-old daughter. At least five thousand people from Laxmikola and the neighbouring villages gathered in the field, about 20km from the district town, to enjoy the show, an annual winter

Witnesses said the first bomb went off in front of the women audience as soon as a woman came on the stage to dance a typically indecent number. The second bomb

followed after about 15 seconds. Locals rushed the splinter-hurt people to Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital, some in critical condition. Talking to The daily Star yester-

day noon, a number of villagers said a local influential quarter had forbidden the organisers, a group of youth, from holding the theatrical shows, which it considered as immoral and irreligious. The locals guess that quarter might have maserminded the attack. A few of the villagers also suspect

a link between the incident and Bangla Bhai, whose home is in neighbouring Karnipara village which he reportedly visited last month. Madla Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Latif said there was no feud

attack was a sequel to other blasts in the country.

Police officials visited the spot but could not immediately ascertain

over holding the theatre, but the

the motive for the attack. UNB adds: Locals and police said the bomb attack was a sequel to clash of two rival groups over horse race, a component of the event, in which six people were injured ear-

lier on the day.

The police super of the district who visited the spot refused to name the attackers before investigation is NATORE

UNB reports: Fuad, 42, of Ankutia village under neighbouring Chatmohar upazila, died in the bomb attack on the Boroigram jatra show at about 1:00am Saturday. Most of the 20 injured were victims of a stampede of the terrified

audience. Of them, the condition of

local union parishad member

Badsha and a peasant named Nasir were reported to be critical. Witnesses said one of the two bombs hurled was exploded in front of the stage when a woman artiste was performing an indecent dance.

Muggers shoot 2

hand of Iqbal who was holding a bag containing the money. Then they shot him in the same hand and grabbed the bag," said

"As the three attempted to wheel away with the money, I cried for help. At this a criminal shot me in the abdomen and ran away," he added. The muggers, aged 25 to 30 years, drove away through Uttarkhan

Majar Road. Firoz and Iqbal were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. Iqbal was later shifted to the Orthopaedic Hospital.

Grenade found | ACC to ask Bac staffs

FROM PAGE 1 by the now-defunct Bac and con-

tinue their proceedings. "We will send letter to the district anticorruption officers giving them with the two tasks," ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan told reporters after a commission meetingyesterday.

But the commission will also officially inform the Bac staff in Dhaka in a day or two about the government notification that declared them government's reserved employees and prohibited their working with the ACC. Meanwhile, confusions devel-oped among the 1,107 former Bac

they are attaching them for temporary period to save the on-trial corruption cases from being ruined. The Bac staff have been in such confusion about whether they would work with the commission since the government issued the notification on January 3. A group of Bac officials stopped working while another

staff as the commission officials say

group continued as they did not receive any official order on the status of their job. "We have heard the government has declared us reserved employees but we did not receive any official order," said a Bac official seeking anonymity. "We have a written order from the ACC chairman who asked us

toworkwith the ACC." About the status of the Bac officials deputed from army, another Bac official said: "Those who came from the army are not bound to comply with such government notification. It is the army authorities who will decide their fate."

On January 9, the commission had decided to temporarily attach all district anticorruption officers. But the law ministry the next day sent a letter to the commission, saying the interpretation of attorney general that Bac staff would be absorbed into the ACC on dissolution of the Bac was not correct. The commission, after receiving

the ministry letter, stopped the

process of attaching the district-level Bac officials. But at a meeting yesterday, the commission decided to implement the decision and send letters to district-level officers. MISSINGVEHICLES Although ACC chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan said on Thursday that the commission

would send letters to 22 ministries asking for statement on 'missing vehicles', but it did not send the letters until yesterday.

The ACC will ask the establishment ministry to find the whereabouts of about 4,230 vehicles bought for development projects under 22 ministries. It will also ask

the ministry to verify nine ministries' reply on the query.

LEGAL EXPERTISSUE

At yesterday's meeting, the ACC also decided to appoint a legal consultant 'A legal consultant is necessary for us as the commission is a new organisation and several rules and regulations are needed to be formed," Prof M Maniruzzaman Mian, ACC commissioner, told The

116 army men fly to Sierra Leon for peacekeeping

BSS, Dhaka

A 116-member contingent of Bangladesh Army yesterday left Dhaka for Sierra Leon to join the UN

peacekeeping mission.

The team led by Lt Col M Saiful Islam of Signals flew to Sierra Leon by a UN chartered aircraft. Another contingent of 116 members is expected to leave Dhaka on January 26 to join the mission, said an ISPR

news release yesterday. As many as 232 army personnel have been working there, the release

Depression

FROM PAGE 12 'It's likely to intensify further and move in a west-northwesterly direc-

tion initially," said the bulletin. Maximum sustained wind speed within 44km of the depressioncentre is about 40kph, rising to 50kph in gusts or squalls. The sea will remain moderate.

Maritime, the ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been asked to hoist distant cautionary signal No. one.

Abbas sworn

FROM PAGE 12

It was the highest-level contact between the two sides in years. Israel had shunned Arafat, accusing him of fomenting violence, an allegation he always denied. Sharon and Abbas had been

widely expected to meet soon to

discuss security coordination in the

run-up to Israel's planned pullout from Gaza later this year and the possibility of resuming talks on peace and Palestinian statehood. Commenting on the Karni attack and the cutting of ties, Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres said: "we lose lives and this is a terrible thing, but

the Palestinians are the ones who

time and again lose the political and

historic opportunity." Israel shut all Gaza border crossings after the attack, suspending movement of Palestinians and goods in and out of the occupied territory. Israeli Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered a series of military operations in Gaza, Israeli media reported.

He however said the commission prefers to appoint a local expert as consultant. The meeting did not take any decision about the Asian Development Bank's proposal for providing the commission with

consultancy service.

Talking to The Daily Star, the ACC chairman said, "If we agree to the ADB's proposal, we will ask them to give us local consultant."

ORGANOGRAM The commission yesterday decided to review its draft rules on the screening of the Bac staff that they sent in December for the president's

The commission will formulate an organogram in the light of two proposed organograms -- one pre-pared by Prof Mian and the other by Maniruddin Ahmed, the other ACC Prof Mian proposed for about 900 staff while Maniruddin suggested

double the number. Maniruddin proposed for appointing a director general (DG) as head of the operational wing and a secretary to look after the administration. The cabinet division, meantime, formally informed the commission about the government cancellation

of Reza-e-Rabbi's appointment as "We'll now appoint a new secre-taryas per law," said Justice Sultan.

Zim hit back

FROM PAGE 1
The Tigers now face a monumental task of saving the match when Mashrafee-Bin-Mortuza (4) and Tapash Baisya, yet to score, resume the innings today still 129 runs in

Bangladesh however started brightly with Nafees Iqbal (28) and Javed Omar (34) producing 58 runs for opening stand. But once Hondo, introduced into the attack as first change in the 11th

over, made the breakthrough by

having Javed caught behind Bangladesh's innings fell like a pack of cards. In his uninterrupted 17over spell either side of the teabreak, Hondo used his in-swingers and occasional reverse swing with supreme control to finish with a richly deserved maiden five-wicket The 25-year-old had Mohammad Ashraful (5) trapped leg before and then clean bowled Bangladesh

captain Habibul Bashar (10) before having Aftab Ahmed (0) brilliantly caught at mid-wicket and got rid of wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud (0) with an yorker. Bangladesh slumped to 107-6 before Mohammad Rafique salvaged some sanity with a typically-entertaining 56 off 79 balls. His second half-century contained seven fours and a mighty six against

leg-spinner Graeme Cremer. Rajin Saleh (24) was the other Bangladeshi batsmen to offer some resistance. Earlier, resuming the day on 244-Zimbabwe added just 54 runs

before being bowled out 20 minutes

before lunch with Taibu hitting nine fours in his undefeated 218-ball

DMP offers

FROM PAGE 12 of cash from one place to another, said a DMP press release yesterday. On the eve of the Eid-ul-Azha, transaction of cash and taking it from one place to another will rise

greatly. Any individual or organisa-tion could take police assistance, the release added. Asked whether incidents of mugging and robbery have increased, acting DMP Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman however said, "Excepting some stray incidents of mugging,

the situation is totally under our He also said police will assist carriers of cash if they seek it even

Anyone seeking police assistance in carrying money should call phone numbers 8616551-52, 9665407, 9661700, cell phone 011806333, police inquiry 999 or the nearest police station, the press release said.

by the Rab and other police forces. But only a small number of those incidents are recorded with police About 300 incidents of robbery

Meanwhile, some police sources

said more than 200 incidents of

mugging are taking place in the

capital every month despite actions

took place in the capital in October-November last compared to 250 last month, the sources mentioned. Criminals even shoot or kill many victims if they are resisted. Foreign nationals and government

top officials are also not spared. Muggers stabbed a Japanese national near the Secretariat and a Korean national at Minto Road a few months back. Another gang stabbed to death assistant secretary of the Planning Commission Ibrahim Kamal at Eskaton Garden Road on November 22 last and took away valuables.

In a daring holdup on Dhaka-

Chittagong Highway at Shanir Akhra

in Demra, robbers gunned down accountant of Alltex Industries Ltd Anjuman Islam, 40, to loot around Tk31 lakh on January 10. Muggers shot assistant accounts officer of Jemini Group Abu Sayeed and took away Tk 2 lakh on Satmasjid Road after he drew the

sum from a local branch of Prime Bankon January 9. A gang shot two officials of Akiz

Corporation Ltd at Dakkhinkhan Bazar in Uttara yesterday and snatchedTk4.6lakh.

Club. Time: 3.00pm

Musical evening Muldhara, a forum of writers, journalists and artists, organises a musical evening. Venue: House-15, Road-7, Dhanmondi.

Road, Time: 3.00pm and 6.00pm.

Dhaka Film Society will screen two films titled

'8 1/2' (1963) directed by Federico Fellini, and

'Dersu Uzala' (1975) directed by Akira Kurosawa. Venue: 62, Science Laboratory

Time: 6.00pm. Prize giving ceremony The annual sports and prize giving ceremony of Viqarunnisa Noon School and College will be held with State Minister for Youth and Sports Faziur

Rahman as chief guest. Venue: School

discussion on 'Nawab Salimullah:

Bangladesh today' with Information Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief guest.

Venue: VIP Lounge of National Press

and college premises. Time: 10.00am. Lekhok Forum discussion Jatiya Lekhok Forum organises a

ESDO workshop The opening session of a three-day workshop on 'Advocacy capacity building for strengthening good governance and human rights initiatives', organised by Environment and Social Development titute of Bangladesh. Time: 9.30am.

A conference on 'Human rights and governance: Local and global

DHAKA perspectives', organised by Manusher Jonno, a human rights and good

governance initiative, will be held. Venue:

BIAM auditorium, New Eskaton.

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute organises a roundtable on the state of economy, existing investment climate and

Roundtable

Time: 3.30pm. Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs will hold a talk on 'Freedom of religion in the context of

South Asian region'. Venue: House-22,

Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.00am.

role of private sector in Bangladesh.

Venue: House-20, Road-5, Gulshan-1.

Workshop

A three-day international workshop on 'Community level adaptation to climate change' will be inaugurated with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel, Time: 9.00am.

people's struggle'. Venue: TSC Road

Discussion

department of Dhaka University. Time: 10.00am to 3.00pm.

Gono-Sangskriti Front organises a discussion titled 'Media imperialism and

Blood donation

Orca Blood for Life organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Sociology

sland of Dhaka University. Time: 4.00pm