STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and 32 others injured in separate road was identified as Md Liton, 32, accidents in Madaripur, but the identity of other victim Chapainawabganj and Pabna in aged about 40 could not be the last two days.

A correspondent in Madaripur reports: Four people were killed people was stated to be critical. and 30 others were injured when a bus overturned on Dhaka-Patuakhali highway at Shibchar on Sunday night.

Witnesses said the Dhakabound bus overturned after hitting a truck from behind at Bakhor Kandi at around 11:30pm, killing Md Jewel, 32, and Md Halim, 20, and injuring 32 others.

Local people rushed the

injured passengers to Shibchar was travelling in the Mishuk, died and Faridpur hospitals where two of them died. One of them

The condition of five injured

driver and helper fled away. Our correspondent in Chapainawabganj reports: A man was killed when a Mishuk collided head-on with a motor vehicle, locally known as Bhut Bhuti, on Chapainawabganj-Rahanpur road at Khairabad at around 9:30 am

vesterday. . The victim, Mamun, 22, who aged to escape.

on the spot. The police sent the body to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Our Correspondent in Pabna adds: A 13-year-old boy was killed and two others were injured when a speeding bus rammed a passenger van of Pabna-Nagarbari highway at The police seized the bus, but its Ahmedpur village on Sunday

> The boy was identified as Md Tarek, son of Abdul Barik of village Birampur in Sujanagar.

> Injured Majnu, the van driver, and Raushan, a passenger, were admitted to hospital.

The police seized the bus from Kashinathpur, but the driver man-

Pak army vows to clear Swat valley of militants

AFP, Mingora

Pakistan will not halt a military offensive in northwestern Swat valley until all Islamic militants are cleared from the once-popular tourist site, the region's army commander said vesterday.

"There is no time frame for completion of the operation as there are still 400 hardcore militants hiding in Swat valley," Major General Nasser Janjua, the regional commanding officer, told report-

"It will take time to wind up the operation" he added.

the trail of Maulana Fazlullah, a radical cleric who has demanded Islamic law in the valley. The army attacks blamed on the rebels. launched a major offensive in November to drive his followers out of Swat.

"He is around Swat district but is bride. hiding somewhere and keeps changing his location. We are behind him, "Janjua said.

Radio" for broadcasting fiery

Janjua said the army had secured 90 percent of the region near the Afghan border, with more than 230 militants killed and 1,035 questioned during the offensive.

He said 36 Pakistani soldiers had died during operations.

The mountainous, snowcapped Swat region is renowned for its ancient Buddhist relics and once attracted large numbers of foreign and local tourists, but has been beset by recent violence blamed on pro-Taliban militants.

Hundreds of people have died across northwest Pakistan in recent Janjua said the army was still on months in clashes between pro-Taliban militants and security forces and in a wave of suicide

> A roadside bomb hit a wedding party convoy in Swat on Friday, killing 14 people including the

Janjua said hardline Islamists were losing support amid ongoing violence, a trend reflected in last Fazlullah is known as "Mullah week's general elections, which into laughter with a huge grin on saw an alliance of religious parties speeches over his private FM radio lose control of the northwest mother Poonam told AFP.

"Locals in Swat have been taken onboard by winning their hearts and minds. They are now resenting the militants," Janjua said.

Indian girl born with 8 limbs takes first steps

AFP, Jodhpur

A two-year-old Indian girl who was born with four arms and four legs has started to take her first assisted steps, more than three months after marathon separation surgery family members said.

Two-year-old Lakshmi Tatma has delighted everyone with her recovery in a small Indian village in the western state of Rajasthan, where her family moved after the November 7 operation.

"When she was put in the baby walker, she started pushing herself backwards with her legs and burst her face. She loves it," Lakshmi's



Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque speaks at a discussion titled 'Politics for change' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Bangladesh Kalyan Party organised the discussion on the occasion of Amar Ekushey.

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AFP, Dubai

A Dubai court has sentenced 45 Indian construction workers to six months in jail followed by deportation over a violent protest to demand wage increases, a local newspaper reported yesterday.

The Court of Misdemeanour found the workers guilty of endangering public security, damaging property and inciting other workers to strike over pay rises, the Gulf News daily quoted a senior court official as saving.

"There are legal channels and legitimate methods for workers who deem they are underpaid to claim their rights instead of rioting violently and unlawfully," Judge Jasem Bager, Head of Dubai Criminal Court, told the daily.

"This is a first-of-a-kind ruling," the judge said.

The newspaper did not say when the ruling was handed down. But it quoted court records as saying that some of the accused confessed to orchestrating violence and inciting others to riot by distributing and posting pamphlets at workers' accommodation.

India wants FROM PAGE 16

election for restoration of full democracy," Patil said in her maiden address to both the Houses of Parliament as the country's first

woman head of state. She said India sought to pro-mote an environment of peace and stability 'in our region and in the world to facilitate accelerated socio-economic development and safeguard our national security.'

"The government has made vigorous efforts to develop friendly and cooperative relations with all our neighbours and strengthen engagement with major powers", the Indian president said.

She said since the 14th SAARC summit was held in New Delhi in April 2007, India has made every effort to strengthen SAARC. Progress has been achieved towards the establishment of the SAARC Development Fund, the South Asia University and the SAARC Food Bank, Patil pointed

As part of India's goal for a peaceful, stable and prosperous neighbourhood, India is committed to extending full support to Nepal's development during its political transition, she said adding that New Delhi also stands ready to assist the Nepalese people! choices in the transition to a democratic, stable and prosperous state.

Referring to Sri Lanka, she said there has been an unfortunate escalation of violence on the island nation but 'there can be no military solution to the ethnic issue'. "It is necessary to find a negoti-

ated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka that is acceptable to all sections of society." Patil said. Turning to Pakistan, she said a stable and prosperous Pakistan is

in the interest of the entire South

"When conditions permit, we will resume our dialogue process with Pakistan, aimed at building mutual confidence and resolving outstanding issues, premised on an atmosphere free from terror and violence," she added.

agreement mandating emissions tions. It is not an alternative to those

in greenhouse gases

United States is ready to accept "binding international obligations" to reduce greenhouse gases, which could be announced as soon as July, a senior White House official said here yesterday.

"The US is prepared to enter into binding international obligations to reduce greenhouse gases as part of a global agreement in which all major economies similarly undertake binding international obligations," said Daniel Price, assistant to President George W Bush for International Economic Affairs.

campus yesterday.

AFP, Paris

The agreement could be announced "in conjunction" with the G8 summit of the world's must industrialised nations in Japan in July, Price told journalists, without fixing a date!

"We would like to reach an agreement on a long term global reduction goal -- this is a collective goal," Pricesaid.

Price, accompanied by James Connaughton, chairman of the White House's Council on AFP, Jakarta Environmental Quality, is in Paris to lay the groundwork for a meeting here of "major economies" that account for 80 percent of the greenhouse gases that drive climate change, expected for mid-April.

The group of 17 -- including the G8 nations, the EU and major developing economies such as China and India -- met at Bush's behest last September in Washington, and then again in January, in Hawaii.

The United States refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol, the UN

reductions for industrialised nations, because it did not cover developing nations.

US ready for 'binding' cut

A seven-day solo sculpture exhibition titled 'Rejuvenation of womanhood' of Habiba Akhter Papia begins at the Institute of Fine Arts on the Dhaka University

negotiations," he said.

energy efficiency.

Indonesian cops turn to silver

reporters.

mercially.

screen to improve image

He said the United States has

already shown its willingness to

pointing to a handful of binding

national programmes imple-

mented since 2001 to reduce green

house gas emissions and improve

tion of renewable fuels by 500 per-

cent before 2022, for example,

would replace 15 percent of current

oil fossil fuel consumption with

goals, non-binding goals, voluntary

me be very clear: that is simply not

improvements," national police

spokesman Sisno Adiwinoto told

police legal division, said the movie

would portray crooked officers

items such as helicopters and

how the police handle cases."

Aryanto Sutadi, who heads the

"It is constantly suggested that

renewable alternatives, he said.

A mandate to increase produc-

"An effective framework requires engage in binding agreements, the participation of all major economies, developed and developing alike," Price said. "Europe and the US could turn out the lights today and come 2030, come 2050 we would not have addressed the problem of climate change."

Price said he was "frustrated" at repeated criticisms that the United States had launched their initiative -- which focuses on technologydriven solutions to climate change -- to compete with UN-sponsored the US favours only aspirational

"The major economies process is measures," he told journalists. "Let intended to supplement, compliment and support the UN negotia- true."

Indonesia's police are to light up

the silver screen in a new action-

comedy film aimed at improving

their reputation for inefficiency

alongside several film stars in the

movie, which will be shown in

cinemas nationwide, police said

views (held by the public) while at

the same time conducting internal

"We want to straighten slanted

Top-ranking officers will appear

and corruption.

yesterday.

had lost their parents during the cyclone and around 1,500 of them cannot be traced now. The government has yet to allocate any funds to safeguard these orphans, they

The alternative report prepared by Manusher Jonno Foundation is aimed at providing information on existing gaps in national policies and practices while suggesting precise recommendations to improve relations between the state and civil society for a more holistic approach to the state of the children in the coun-

Speaking as chief guest, Rasheda urged all to build a childfriendly environment, protect children's rights and end all types of child abuse in the society.

"Bangladesh signed the UNCRC in 1990 and strived to follow the guidelines of the convention and the recommendations of the UNCRC committee for establishing a child-friendly environment," she said adding that mass awareness regarding children's rights is needed as most people are still not aware of the

convention. The adviser also said the primary and mass education ministry last week formulated a policy to ensure supply of textbooks to all children in primary schools.

Human rights activist Dr being punished and would "show Hamida Hossain said a set of priority-based recommendations The film is being privately should be prepared in the CRC funded and will be released comalternative reports.

"Children from the minority Adiwinoto said the police would and ethnic groups, street children only contribute staff and the use of and the dalits are being deprived of education and our efforts are not enough. We should introduce a uniform education system that would ensure education for all

children," she added. Shaheen Anam said childfriendly environment has to be ensured in all spheres of social life and all forms of child abuse should be eradicated.

"We have a children act, but it isn't enforced. We will have to implement the children act. Besides, a plan is needed to share information and experience between the government and the NGOs," she also said.

Representatives of different NGOs including Save the Children and Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) also attended

Hannan starts talks with pro-Saifur group FROM PAGE 16 regarding unity.

FROM PAGE 1

on 178-4.

Asian region.

standing committee as a member on October 29 last year.

"Hannan Shah has received direction from the detained party chief for bringing unity in the party," a leader close to him told The Daily Star.

Pro-Khaleda faction has however got divided over Hannan's initiative as a number of leaders including Khandaker Delwar Hossain oppose the move. They don't want any discussion with Saifur-led leaders before cancelling the decision of the October 29 meeting that made Saifur acting chairperson.

However, BNP Office Secretary Ruhul Kabir Rizvi told The Daily Star last night there is no division or difference of opinion in the party

five wickets after resuming the day

been reduced had Jamaican

umpire Steve Bucknor not ruled

out a confident lbw appeal of ace

left-arm spinner Mohammad

Rafique against Mark Boucher.

Television replays showed Boucher

on 19 runs, also survived several

uncomfortable moments against

Rafique before Boucher cut one

past point to start the celebrations

Tigers' fifth straight defeat against

the formidable South Africans but

without any doubt, they have

showed more improvement in the

match to push the visitors hard in

the first two days on a very tricky

sions, Bangladesh were handed

Mohammad Ashraful's men

created a great opportunity thanks

surface. On the previous four occa-

innings defeats.

In terms of records, it was the

in the South African camp.

AB de Villiers, who was not out

was plumb in front.

"The secretary general did not give any precondition but a BNP leader must accept the decision of Khaleda Zia that made Delwar Hossain secretary general and expelled three leaders," he added.

He went on to say that the decision of the October 29 meeting should also be cancelled. Asked about the discussion

between Hannan Shah and Mofazzal Karim, Rizvi, who is close to both Delwar and Hannan, said he does not know anything.

Hannan, an adviser to the BNP chairperson and also a vocal leader of pro-Khaleda faction, on Sunday told reporters he is ready to sit with the reformists without any condition and hoped for forging unity in

to the career-best bowling of

Shahadat, who captured six wick-

ets for 27 to destroy the tourists in

their drought by taking a first

innings lead but Jacques Kallis

snatched the initiative only to

in Multan and Fatullah respec-

44th Test defeat in 52 played so far,

Young Zunaed Siddiqui how-

second and final Test starting from

February 29 and also the first one-

day international of the three-

match series on March 9 to be held

at the Chittagong Divisional

bundled out for only 182.

duringhis 74-run knock.

Proteas end resistance

The margin of loss could have the first innings, to put an end to

tively.

Stadium.

Earlier, Khaleda-appointed Secretary General Delwar several times categorically said pro-Saifur faction must cancel the October 29 meeting's decision and accept the chairperson's expulsion order.

Party insiders said most of the leaders of pro-Khaleda faction including Nazrul Islam Khan, Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, Selima Rahman and Mohammad Shahjahan also extended support to Hannan.

They also said Hannan wanted leaders.

to bring back the party leaders excluding three expelled leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Ashraf Hossain and Mofigul Islam Tripti and that is why he started discussion with pro-Saifur leaders.

Meanwhile, a group of former student leaders also decided to take a separate initiative to unite

According to their plan they will hold talks with leaders including Delwar, Hannan and Goyeshwar soon and then sit with pro-Saifur

the meeting. CUSTOMER RELATIONS & SALES

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