NEWS

Changes elude JS

FROM PAGE 1 effective. But so far it has made

like 1/11. few efforts to have the opposition back in the House.

Time and again the confron-Arch rivals AL and BNP could tational nature of politics prevented the treasury and opposition benches from resolving to February last year. end the culture of boycott and make the House centre of all activities.

The ruling AL has yet to take steps to frame a charter that it pledged in its electoral manifesto to promote politics of

end before the December 29

between the ruling and opposi-

Through it all, the gap

Many political analysts fear

the legislature might not be able

to break free of the boycott

In his speech to the inaugu-

ral session of the ninth parlia-

ment, Iajuddin Ahmed, then the

outgoing president, termed the

new Jatiya Sangsad the "House

Addressing the new year

session on January 4, President

Zillur Rahman said confronta-

tional political culture must end

for people's desire for a change

The current parliament

began its journey on January 25

last year amid hopes that it

would set the country on the

under a caretaker government

and state of emergency the

received wisdom was that the

political parties would learn

that confrontational politics

July 22 last year, Jamaat also

refuses to accept the parlia-

ment's law making power

sanctioned by the country's

constitution, saying the peo-

ple must not accept anyone

except Allah as the maker of

The EC officials said in the

face of the commission's

objection, Jamaat had deleted

the clause from its provisional

amended charter to get regis-

tration before the ninth parlia-

mentary election. But later it

reinstated the controversial

clause in its ratified charter,

cited it and requested the

party to correct its charter in

line with the commitment

made before getting registra-

Jamaat also did not include

in the main body of its charter

the provision of keeping 33

percent posts in all commit-

tees at all levels reserved for

women, and for achieving the

goal by 2020. Rather the provi-

sion is mentioned in a special

note in the last page of the

include the provision among

the clauses in the main body

of the charter, the commis-

Jamaat's charter allows non-

Muslims to become members

of the party, and compels

those members to work for

Jamaat's aim and objectives.

The EC found the provision to

be discriminatory and asked

the party to 'correct' it, the

The EC also asked Jatiya Party

clause that gives Chhattra

Samaj the status of its associ-

ated body, as the RPO does

political party to have associ-

33 percent posts in all com-

mittees at all levels reserved

for women is also not stated

clearly in the charter, they

said adding that the EC asked

the party to put the provision

in the charter in clearer

The EC also found that the

provision of picking final

parliamentary nominees

from panels of preliminary

nominees sent by grassroots

level committees, also is not

stated clearly in the party's

charter, so the commission

provision more clearly as

well, the officials added.

SEVEN OTHER PARTIES

the EC officials said.

A new provision in

sion officials said.

officials said.

JATIYA PARTY

The EC asked Jamaat to

tion," an EC official said.

"The letter sent to Jamaat

they added.

charter.

Jamaat's goals

After around two years

culture anytime soon.

for change".

to materialise.

road to prosperity.

FROM PAGE 1

national security.

election.

election lauded at home and abroad, the ninth parliament consensus and reconciliation. found itself faced with the task Despite its pledge, it did not of ratifying 122 ordinances and yet arrange for lawmakers to two national budgets passed express views without toeing during the caretaker governthe party line on issues exceptmentrule. ing the ones concerning

In the first session, it approved the caretaker govern-Besides, the opposition was ment's expenditures for around not offered the deputy speaker's two years and ratified some post though the AL chief had ordinances. made an announcement to that

could only lead to changeovers

seem to have changed much.

not patch up differences even in

the wake of BDR carnage in

Instead of working in uni-

Constituted through an

son, they got locked in a bitter

dispute over handling of the

Unfortunately, things do not

It took a strong stance against corruption that took place in the JS secretariat during the tenure of Jamiruddin Sircar as the speaker. tion parties has yawned even

An all-party body formed by the House took up probing allegations of huge financial irregularities in the secretariat.

Following the probe, parliament passed a resolution suggesting the government recover the money "embezzled by Sircar, former deputy speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and former chief whip Khandker Delwar Hossain".

But in last one year the Till Thursday, the House House could not quite live up to passed 69 bills and a number of people's expectations thanks to resolutions including the one perpetuation of negative poliforwar crimes trial.

> Some of the parliamentary standing committees have been working well to ensure transparency and accountability of the executive.

One decision that drew a lot of flak was making MPs advisers to upazila parishads, curtailing further the local bodies' independence.

Immediately after its formation through a credible election, Jatiya Sangsad got back its membership of Inter-Parliamentary Union and Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

Gonotantri Party, Jatiya

Samajtantrik Dal (Malek-

Ratan), National Awami Party,

Bikalpadhara Bangladesh,

Torikat Federation, and

Khelafat Andolon asking

them to amend their charters

again as well, conforming to

ties got registered with the EC

by submitting provisional

amended charters before the

December 29, 2008 parlia-

mentary election. They prom-

ised to get the provisional

changes ratified by national

councils within the

timeframe stipulated in the

party which failed to submit

the ratified charter within the

Freedom Party is the only

A total of 39 political par-

the RPO.

MDG achievers | Tigers falter early

The Multiple Indicator Cluster

Survey reveals that the mortality rate of children under the age of five is highest in Sherpur with a record of 102 deaths per 1,000 births.

FROM PAGE 1

of the damage.

own downfall.

hands.

wicket, but the Bangladesh

batsmen made it look like a

real minefield. Credit to the two

Indian seamers, Zaheer Khan

and left the batsmen do the rest

Kayes who was adjudged to

have edged a nick down the leg

to the keeper off the bowling of

Sharma with the scoreboard yet

to get moving. Kayes could feel

hard done by as replays showed

there was clear daylight

between bat and ball and the

ball seemed to have come off his

thigh pad. However, the next

batsmen had no one but them-

selves to blame as their uncalled

for adventurism caused their

Tamim Iqbal was the next to

go. He missed an in-cutter from

Zaheer, the ball found a way

between his bat and pad before

Next in line was Zunaed

Siddiqui, who replaced

Shahriar Nafees in the side, as

he went on his way swinging

one from Zaheer to the leg side,

managing a healthy edge

instead down to the keeper's

Rokibul Hasan's form didn't

get any better as he fished a

widish delivery outside the off-

stump from Sharma to the safe

hands of Rahul Dravid at second

slip. Mohammad Ashraful is

another who was struggling for

runs, and that has been

extended for one more innings

as he gave away his wicket after

playing a Twenty20-like innings

Some might say that was a

good score in the context of the

innings, but that sort of adven-

turism in the face of adversity is

something one would hardly

wish for. Dancing down the

wicket against a spinner in his

first over with half of the batting

already gone and the team score

just across fifty-run mark only

shows lack of temperament on

of 39 off 31 deliveries.

crushing into the stumps.

The first one to fall was Imrul

this regard is the best with 43 deaths.

The national average in this

Meherpur tops in two indicators--births attended by skilled health personal and net attendance in primary education. Bandarban has performed the worst in the two fields.

"It indicates that huge disparities within the districts remain," said Unicef Representative Carel de Rooy. "We should be exploring very seriously the concept of geographical targeting to reduce disparities to achieve MDGs with equity."

Although there is no improvement in the rate of net attendance at primary education, the MICS has found that retention rate of students at primary schools rose to about 80 percent in 2009 from 63.6 percent in 2006.

progress has been achieved in attaining gender parity in primary education but it is yet to be achieved in secondary education.

The rate of birth registration of children under five has attained a substantial rise, it

Despite a near universal progress in access to improved source of water, the MICS has found that 12.6 percent households in the country drink arsenic contaminated water. "Therefore, special atten-

tion is needed for these households," said Planning Minister AK Khandker.

data will help the government prioritise interventions and allocate resources as well as design the Sixth Five-Year Plan.

Brutality

"But getting separated from the brutal husband could not save my daughter," Monwara said. Beli, who had bled profusely, needed transfusion of several bags of blood.

Locals said the families of Beli and Anis, who hail from Jamalpur, arranged the mar riage when Beli just crossed 13 gave Anis a rickshaw-van as

another rickshaw-van. Anis

separation to marry another person, Mirpur Police Station Sub-Inspector Ashok Chowhan said.

Students

fire to a bus in 3-km long area

deadline.

around Bayezid Bostami, police

Following the mayhem, vehicular movement on the roads remained suspended for about three hours.

The students also clashed with police while they charged batons and hurled tear gas shells at them leaving 15 people including eight cops injured.

The injured policemen, including Assistant Commissioner (Panchlaish) SM Nurul Huda, were admitted to Dampara Police Lines Hospital. Police held four students in this

connection. Our Dinajpur correspondent adds: Students of Pachbari School and College put barricade on Dinajpur-Bogra Highway for four hours following deaths of its two students in a road accident at Pachbari

village in Sadar upazila yester-

to scrap from its charter the Hemanta Chandra Roy, 18, son of Babul Chandra Roy, and his cousin Birodh Chandra Roy not allow any registered Novan, 13, son of Amullya Chandra Roy, of Chowkrampur ated student organisation, village in the upazila died on the spot. Both were students of the The provision of keeping

institution. Police said the accident happened when a Bogra bound bus ran over Noyan and Hemanta while they were going to the school by a bicycle at

10:30 am.

At least 30 passengers of the bus were also injured as it fell into the roadside ditch after hitting the victims and several

Following the accidents, students along with thousands of people blocked the highway and damaged several vehicles.

At 2:30pm, they withdrew the blockade as local lawmaker Igbalur Rahim assured them of compensation for the families

asked the party to state the of the victims. The injured were admitted to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital where the condition of

The EC also sent letters to Workers Party of Bangladesh, five was stated to be critical.

and Ishant Sharma, who Pabna's performance in pitched the balls in right places

indicator is 67 deaths.

The study also shows that

He said this district level

FROM PAGE 1

and Anis was 22. Beli's family dowry.

But Anis sold it after three months of their marriage and started torturing Beli for used to demand that Beli give him her full salary too.

Detained Anis claimed that Beli has not divorced him yet and was only trying to get a

Muhith

FROM PAGE 16 similar opinion on the matter.

The decision was made at a meeting between the speaker and the finance minister on Tuesday.

Besides, employing drivers for the vehicles and selling old vehicles would create problems, he said.

There had been instances in the past that some lawmak ers, who imported duty freevehicles, sold those in the market. The speaker will take necessary steps and engine displacement limit for vehicles will be imposed to prevent

such malpractices. Muhith said a proposal in this regard was sent to the finance ministry from the

speaker's office. The finance minister will send it to the Prime Minister's Office for the premier's

The last caretaker govern ment promulgated an ordi nance scrapping the privilege of importing duty-free vehicles by lawmakers but the current parliament did not

ratify it. Mirza Azizul Islam told The Daily Star that, "The lawmak ers are elected by people but their electorate don't get such privileges."

He said the lawmakers' privilege of importing dutyfree vehicles was misused in the past, which prompted the last caretaker government to cancel it through the promulgation of an ordinance.

The former adviser said luxury cars were imported and sold in the market taking advantage of this privilege.

He, however, said it is good that the proposed scheme has a provision of imposing engine displacement limit for vehicles but there is still ample scope for misuse of this privilege.

the part of the batsman, but that's Ashraful for you.

The next two batsmen, skipper Shakib Al Hasan, who hasn't had a good series with the bat so far, and Mushfigur Rahim, the centurion from the previous innings, looked good for some time and were going in the right direction as they took on rebuilding the wreckage. But again, just when you thought they would find batting easier for the rest of the day, Mushfiq for once failed to negotiate with a nipping delivery from Sharma which caught him plumb in front of the wicket. Losing his partner, Shakib

probably lost his concentration and tried a terrible shot far away from his body and offered a thick edge to the keeper. At 127 for seven, the Tigers looked dead and buried, but for the stubborn resistance from the ever-consistent Mahmudullah Riyad Bangladesh managed to get their score past 200 and past the tea break. Riyad played his natural game and got runs at ease including 13 boundaries. He was supported by the three pacers who stuck with him for periods to make the Bangladesh score look a bit respectable.

Riyad looked good for his maiden hundred in Test cricket, but was unfortunately left stranded on 96 when a vicious off-break from Harbhajan Singh swerved through the defences of last man Rubel Hossain and ended the Tigers innings on 233.

That gave the Indian batsmen about an hour's time to negotiate and they did so too successfully. The stumps were drawn with India racing to 69 for none in just 13 overs, with the tourists firmly in control of proceedings. The wicket is expected to be best for batting for the next two days which means a lot of workload to be shared for the three seamers and two spinners in the Tigers'

Pinky's family FROM PAGE 16 impossible for her to make

used to tease her on her way to school and other places. He added before commit-

ting suicide she left a chit in which she stated that Murad slapped on her face and for that humiliation she committed suicide.

Murad was arrested in Khalispur in Khulna Saturday morning and brought to Dhaka at night. He told reporters he had slapped on her face but that was not "an act of teasing but an emotional expression of his love".

Murad said he on Monday asked her not to talk with him as her grandmother arranged her marriage with a Canadian expatriate, who was also her relative.

"Refused by me, she broke down in tears, left the scene and injured her palm after returning home. On Tuesday at around 9:00am when I saw the wound I could not check myself and slapped on her

He claimed he fell in love with Pinky around nine months ago.

He also claimed he had voice record of their telephonic conversations and photos in his cellphone's memory card, which is now with his mother.

Asked, Ali Ashraf trashed Murad's claims and said Pinky was a minor girl and he had no plan to marry her off. On the photographs, he said digitally doctored photos are no surprises nowadays.

He said Pinky had no cellphone of her own, so it was telephonic conversations which Murad could record.

Deputy Commissioner Chowdhury Monjurul Kabir of Tejgaon zone DMP said, "We'll track call records of Murad to know if he had phone conversations with Pinky. We're trying to recover the memory card to examine the photos."

He added they have sent the suicide note to Criminal Investigation Department to verify Pinky's handwriting.

Ali filed a case against security guard Abul Kalam and Murad on Tuesday with Shere-Bangla Nagar police station. The police arrested security guard Kalam the same day.

Kalam is accused of helping Murad tease Pinky.

Start demolition

FROM PAGE 1 If the demolitions are not

started immediately, the task will not be completed within the stipulated time, he said adding that the illegal structures have to be removed in order to stop encroachment upon the rivers.

The court directive was sent to the deputy commissioners of the four districts who had submitted the survey reports, chairman of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, director general of the Directorate of Land Record and Survey secretaries to the ministries of -- finance, water resources, forest and environment, and land, and to other officials concerned.

Commute penalty

The adjournment followed separate time prayers by the counsels of three other convicts on death row--Syed Farooq Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan and Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Making the appeal for commuting death penalty of Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, their counsel Abdullah-Al Mamun said his clients have been suffering in condemned cells for long, and they have already been punished greatly.

He mentioned that both his clients have crossed 70. If the court rejects their review petitions, it can give them any other punishment instead of death penalty considering their old age and sufferings for

clients.

The three other convicts' counsels -- Khan Saifur Rahman and Abdur Razaque Khan-- sought adjournment of the hearing for a week so that they can make adequate preparations for placing arguments on behalf of their

Syed Farooq Rahman and Mohiuddin, appealed to the court to consider the feelings of his clients since it is being said every day that they will be executed.

He placed before the court a newspaper containing a report stating that the convicts will be executed soon after the SC rejects the review petitions. The court then said the press even does not spare it.

Khan Saifur said they did not get enough time to make preparations for hearing of the review petitions since they got certified copy of the SC judgement on December 21 last

year. Principal state counsel in this case Anisul Huq opposed the time prayers, saying lawyers for the convicts have been preparing since November 19 last year when the apex court gave its verdict.

The SC confirmed death sentence of a dozen ex-army personnel including the five in prison in this case. Of the seven others, one died and six Khan Saifur, counsel for are on the run. assist".

President

FROM PAGE 16

of a head of state to Bangladesh since the Awami League-led grand alliance assumed power in January last year.

Earlier, President Zillur Rahman paid a 6-day visit to Turkey from November 6 last year to attend Economic Summit of COMCEC (Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation) organised by Organisation of Islamic Conference. A team from Turkey would arrive in Dhaka prior to the

trip, official sources said. Bangladesh wants to expand trade with Turkey. The issue of trade will be of paramount importance during the visit of the Turkey president, officials

presidential visit to finalise the

schedule of programmes in the

Different aspects of bilateral relations and multilateral issues including cooperation between the two countries in different international forums like OIC and the United Nations will come into discussion, officials at the foreign ministry said. A high-profile business

delegation from Turkey will accompany President Abdullah Gul. On February 13, a joint meeting of businessmen from

both the countries will be held in presence of the Turkey president. According to the tentative schedule, the president upon his arrival in Dhaka will pay

tribute to the martyrs of 1971

Liberation War at the National

Mausoleum in Savar. The same day in the afternoon, he will have a discussion with President Zillur Rahman at Bangabhaban.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will pay a courtesy call on the president at his hotel suite. Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Commerce Minister Faruq Khan and Foreign Minister Dipu Moni will also meet the president. Export of different commod-

ities like readymade garments, jute materials, leather, and frozen foods from Bangladesh to Turkey is increasing. According to the statistics of

Export Promotion Bureau, Bangladesh earned \$33 crore by exporting goods to Turkey in 2008-09 fiscal year while the amount was \$23 crore in the previous fiscal year.

In the last political visit from Turkey, former Turkey president Suleyman Demirel along with Palestine President Yasser Arafat and President of South Africa Nelson Mandela attended a public rally in Dhaka in the celebration of 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence on March 26, 1997.

Proshika

FROM PAGE 16

The judge also asked Qazi Farugue to file a leave-toappeal petition with the SC against the HC order within seven days.

Police took away the keys of the Proshika Bhaban and locked it on January 13.

Upon a writ petition filed by Mahbubul Karim, the HC on January 19 asked the police to hand over the keys of Proshika Bhaban to the petitioner within two days.

Proshika head office reopened on January 23 after police handed over the keys to its CEO on January 22 as per the HC order.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud appeared for Qazi Faruque while advocate Abdul Baset Majumder and advocate Anisul Huq stood for Mahbubul Karim.

Green office

technology.

FROM PAGE 1 residential houses environmentally friendly using 'green

The Science & ICT ministry officials informed the committee that it would provide laptop to all 345 lawmakers within two months and also another computer to each MP's office to digitalise and make easy their communication.

'We asked the ministry concerned to take a pilot project to build its office building using green technology as part of the initiative," Zunaid Ahmed Palak, a member of the committee, told The Daily Star after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Elaborating on the green

technology, Palak, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said building of offices and residences using green technology would not release any carbon to environment. Besides, all wastes of houses

and offices will be recycled and to produce energy, said Palak. "Several other lawmakers and I shared our experience of

recent visit to the southern state of Karnataka and West Bengal of India where we saw offices and houses were built using green technology," said the AL lawmaker. "An Indian delegation of

West Bengal Electronics City will visit Bangladesh in the next month to discuss different technological issues including building of zero carbon emitting buildings," he added saying "India's one of the largest software exporter Infosys, also expressed their willingness to

Manmohan rejects

FROM PAGE 16

Copenhagen Accord to combat climate change but emphasised it was a political rather than a legal agreement, which must feed into a legally binding global accord negotiated by all coun-

After a seven-hour meeting here, environment ministers of BASIC (Brazil, South Africa, India, China) also 'expressed their intention to communicate information on their voluntary mitigation actions to the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change) by January 31, 2010'. The intention, expressed in a

joint communique after the

meeting, put at rest speculation

about whether India and China would support the accord that they -- along with the US, Brazil and South Africa -- had negotiated at the last moments of the Copenhagen climate summit in December. India's Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh said,

"We support the Copenhagen Accord. But all of were unanimously of the view that its value lies not as a stand-alone document but as an input into the two-track negotiation process under UNFCCC." One track is on long-term cooperative action to combat

climate change. The other is for developed countries to commit to what extent they will reduce their greenhouse gas emissions after 2012, when the current commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol runs out. BASIC countries asked the UNFCCC secretariat to hold six

the next climate summit in Mexico City this December. Asked if the Copenhagen Accord would become a legally

frazzle in an explosion of a gas

The fire at the slum origi-

nated from an oil lamp around

meetings of negotiators this

year, starting in March, so that

this process could culminate by

Youth dies FROM PAGE 16

a day labourer.

cylinder at a bus depot at Kutubkhali in Jatrabari. The youth burnt alive was identified as Abdur Rahman, 22,

2:30am, said the fire service Seven fire fighting units put out the fire after a joint effort for three hours and recovered the

youth's body. According to the fire service officials, the bus depot of Dhaka Transport Line Ltd caught fire after a gas cylinder went off

around 2:00am. Four fire service units fought for one hour to put out the fire.

the institute on Friday. The fresh date of the test has been fixed on February 5.

and private offices, mills and

factories in Dhaka, Tongi and

Gazipur was low, as a large

number of employees and

officials left their workplaces to

attend the Munajat. The hurdles

are nothing when it comes to

following the path of Allah," said

Mojibur Rahman, a resident of

began with the delivery of Aam

Bayan (principal sermon) after

the Fazr prayers on Friday.

Throughout the three days,

Islamic scholars from different

countries delivered sermons on

various aspects of Islam. The

Tablig-e-Jamaat has been

organising the ijtema since

Around 18,000 personnel from

different agencies and several

hundred plainclothes law

enforcers were deployed in the

others injured last night as a bus

carrying them overturned near

Uttara police said the bus

Tight security was in place.

The three-day congregation

"Every year, I come here to

join the Munajat.

Kakrail.

Ijtema ends

attended the solemn event. The gathering of devotees of all ages spilled over the adjacent

Market in Tongi. others injured in two separate accidents in Tongi and at Uttara

The Munajat started around 12:18pm and ended at 12:40pm. Maulana Jobayerul, in Urdu and Arabic, called upon the Muslims to follow Islam in everyday life and dedicate them to establish Islamic values in the society. The Munajat was relayed to farflung areas through loudspeak-

President Zillur Rahman had listened to the sermons for nearly one and a half hours sitting adjacent to the main stage at the congregation before the Munajat started.

The prime minister joined the Munajat from the rooftop of the Civil Aviation Authority headquarters at Tongi, reports BSS. Her cabinet colleagues, political leaders, high civil and military officials, among others, joined the Munajat with the premier.

Khaleda Zia attended the Munajat from atop Atlas Bangladesh building. Party leaders accompanied her. Ministers, state ministers,

for them. MPs and leaders of different political parties were also present. Roads, sidewalks, open spaces, footbridges and roof-

tees participated in the prayer sitting in front of TV sets as some private television channels broadcast of the prayer live. Pilgrims willing to join the Munajat had to walk several kilometers as traffic movement

ground came to a halt. correspondent that despite

ground of ijtema.

DU question Vice-Chancellor Prof AAMS

The Daily Star yesterday. Prof Delwar Hossain Sheikh, convener of the three-member probe body, placed the report

bers of the institute's internal admission test committee was also another reason behind the Another five-member com-

"Carelessness of the mem-

gating the matter to dig out overall scenario of the incident he added. DU Syndicate member AFM

member probe committee. Following the question paper leak, the DU authorities

postponed the admission test of

roads stretching from Biswa Road bus stand to Cherag Ali Meanwhile, at least seven devotees were killed and 23

in the capital.

Leader of the Opposition

and government officials took part in the Munajat from separate platforms specially erected

tops of nearby houses and factory buildings were teeming with people. Many of the devo-

from Joydevpur to Kuril, on the Mirpur Beribadh Road and in areas adjacent to the ijtema Many devotees told this

starting early in the morning Witnesses said the overloaded boat capsized when it bumped into a pillar of the

Hospital.

The prime minister had sought this clarification in a letter sent to the UN chief Friday, a move that prompted the UNFCCC to indefinitely defer its Jan 31 deadline for countries to

binding treaty later, Ramesh

replied, "It has no hope of doing

support to the accord came after

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-

moon clarified to Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh that the

accord was a political statement

of intent that would have no legal

Official sources said India's

indicate their support to the But the BASIC group would stick to the deadline. South Africa's Water Resources and Environment Minister Buyelwa Sonjica said, "We feel obligated that we must commit what we ourselves were part of. That's a leadership obligation, even if Yvo

(de Boer, the UNFCCC chief) has

decided to extend the deadline." In this their second meeting at the ministerial level, all BASIC countries were at pains to state their group was very much a part of the Group of 77 developing countries. Ramesh said, "Our decisions

reflect that BASIC is very much a part of G77." However, Yemen, the current G77 chair, did not attend the meeting, though it had been invited. At the Copenhagen summit, Sudan, then G77 chair, had expressed dissatisfaction because BASIC had negotiated the accord with the US without involving other countries.

Arefin Siddique disclosed this to

before the vice-chancellor at the latter's office yesterday evening.

leakage," Prof Arefin said. mittee formed by the university administration is also investi-

Mezbah Uddin heads the five-

As well as the devotees from home, thousands of Muslims from more than 70 countries

The government arranged special trains, buses and river craft to carry devotees from ijtema ground to their homes. SEVEN KILLED IN TWO ACCIDENTS Four devotees including three women were killed and eight

Uttara embankment in the The identity of the deceased could not be known immedi-

overturned and skidded off the road at Uttara sector-10 at about 9:30pm as its driver lost control oversteering. Meantime, three women died when a motorboat carry-

in the afternoon.

ing pilgrims from Biswa Ijtema

capsized in Turag River at Tongi

Of the deceased, two were identified as Shahida Begum of Rupganj in Narayanganj and Zobeda Akter, 60, and the identity of another 55-year-old woman could not be known immediately. The boat was heading

towards Narayanganj with at

least 50 passengers on board.

Fifteen people were wounded in the accident. Seven of the injured who swam ashore were rushed to Dhaka Medical College

braving the winter cold, they

could not reach the main Turnout at the government bridge.