Farid Gazi

FROM PAGE 1 Mass Education, was admitted to the hospital on October 14.

He was suffering from diabetes for a long time and had complications involving kidney and heart, reports our Sylhet correspondent. He let out his last breath around 5:40am.

He left behind five sons, two daughters and many friends and relatives to mourn his

President Zillur Rahman expressed deep sorrow at the death of Gazi who was elected from Habiganj-1 constituency

in 2008 election. In his condolence message, the president said Gazi always stood against all sorts of repression in the society.

"People will remember his contribution to the movement of independence and the struggle for democracy in the country," he said.

President Sheikh Hasina in a message said, "The country has lost a dedicated leader." She conveyed sympathy to

Prime Minister and AL

the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul, reports BSS. After the death, Gazi's body

was taken to his Segunbagicha residence in the city and then to the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque where his first namaze-janaza was held, according to a press release of Awami League. His second namaz-e-janaza

took place at the South Plaza of the National Parliament at 4:00pm. Ministers and lawmakers of different political parties including the main opposition BNP attended it. The corpse was then taken to

Gazi's residence at Lama Bazar in Sylhet.

Today around 8:30am, Gazi's namaz-e-janaza will be held at Bahubal Upazila Sadar Eidgah Maidan while at 9:30am at Devpara Eidgah Maidan in his village and at 10:30am at Nabiganj JK High School field, reported our Sylhet correspon-

The body will be buried at the graveyard adjacent to the shrine of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) in Sylhet after the Asr prayers. Before that, the body will be kept for some time at the Sylhet Central Shaheed Minar where people will pay homage to the veteran AL leader.

Dewan Farid Gazi was born on March 1, 1924 in Devpara village under Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj.

He completed his primary education in Moulvibazar Junior Madrasa and secondary education in Sylhet Rashomov Memorial High School. Gazi studied Bachelor of Arts in Madan Mohan College in Sylhet. He also studied in Sylhet Alia Madrasa and MC College.

Gazi had been in politics declared Khoka dead. since his student life and Father of the Nation connection.

during the dry season auto-

The engineers and experts

involved in the project, how-

ever, said restoring water flow

alone cannot remove pollut-

ants from the rivers.

Installation of effluent treat-

ment plants (ETP) should be

made mandatory for all indus-

tries and organisations, for

instance Dhaka Water Supply

and Sewerage Authority

Humayun Kabir said they

would start the dredging from

Dhaka end where 23 kilo-

metres stretch of an area

unfortunately overlaps with

the Bangladesh Inland Water

Transport Authority's dredg-

ing plan in the Buriganga and

Turag. "We will soon find a

The dredging, both

mechanical and at places

manual, would reward 6.5

million cubic metres of sand,

technically called dredging

spoil. This sand is a highly

demanded commodity in the

construction sector with a

market price of Tk 70.62 per

cubic metre. The extracted

sand in the project would

generate around Tk 45.90

trouble of managing the spoil

rather decided to handover

the responsibility to the con-

tractor. While bidding for the

work a contractor would be

required to deduct the esti-

mated amount earned from

the sand," said Humayun

During the dry season and

about seven months a year the

water flow in the entire river

system of the capital remains

cut off. The Buriganga, Turag,

Balu and Shitalakkhya

become stagnant during the

time when millions of gallons

of highly toxic industrial and

human waste keeps accumu-

lating in the water turning the

"We are not taking the

solution," he added.

matically flushing pollutants.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Stalkers

Wednesday evening.

In Gopalganj, a mobile court

sentenced a stalker to one-

year imprisonment for harass-

ing a schoolgirl at Chitrabani

Cinema Hall of the town

Officer-in-Charge Motian

Rahman of Gopalganj Police

Station said Anisur Rahman,

34, was harassing a student of

class VII of Binapani

Government High School

when she with her elder

brother went to watch a

movie. The hall authorities

informed police as they got

A mobile court team led by

In Rangpur, an upazila

nirbahi officer (UNO) fined

three youths Tk 5,000 each on

charges of stalking a girl of

Hajipur village Thursday

Mohammad Ali, 15, Monir

The three stalkers were

UNO Rezaur Rahman

Sarker of Baderganj upazila

who is also an executive mag-

istrate set a mobile court in

Supri Bridge area after the

stalkers were caught red

5,000 each in fine or serve a

seven-day sentence if they

on payment of the fine the

sentenced a motorcycle

mechanic to one-month

imprisonment for stalking a

school student at Chupria

Executive Magistrate

Mobile court sources said

Igbal Hossain, 21, has been

stalking Nipa, 14, daughter of

Mujibar Rahman, on her way

Action Battalion (Rab)

arrested two youths Thursday

night from Uttara on charges

of stalking a schoolgirl on the

city's outskirt Tongi on

Mohammad Riad Hossain, 22,

and Hajrat Ali, 22, of

Hossain, father of a 13-year-

old schoolgirl, filed a stalking

case with Tongi Police Station

on November 18, accusing

assistant police commissioner

of Rab-1, said the youths

harassed the girl on her way to

Kurigram, Gopalganj

Rangpur, Satkhira and Dhaka

Ashraf gives

Ashraful, however, did not

clarify his party's stance --

whether to be in the streets to

resist the anti-government

Our correspondents from

school on November 11.

contributed to the story.

FROM PAGE 1

Zahurul Islam, senior

Riad Hossain and Hajrat Ali.

The arrestees are

Rab sources said Monir

In Dhaka, a team of Rapid

to school for months.

November 11.

Barodewra in Tongi.

Mushruba Ferdous delivered

village in sadar upazila yester-

The stalkers were released

In Satkhira, a mobile cour

Magistrate Motassimul Islam

went to the spot and delivered

FROM PAGE 1

into a fight.

the verdict.

Hossain,

handed by locals.

failed to pay the fine.

same night.

both sides.

andShahabuddin, 18.

He played important roles in various national movements and had been the civilian adviser and administrative council chief in sector 4 and sector 5 during the Liberation

Gazi was elected member of National Assembly from Sylhet sadar in 1970. In 1973, he was state minister for commerce in

the Bangabandhu's cabinet. Reportedly, Gazi was forced

to join the Moshtaque-led government as a state minister after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He was elected lawmaker in 1996, 2001 and 2008 elections.

Apart from political arena, he also made laudable contribution to different educational, cultural and social welfare activities.

Gazi served as editor of the then weekly Jugabhery (now daily) in 1952-54 and the weekly Esatern Herald (now defunct) in 1953-55. He was Sylhet AL general secretary from 1957 until the Liberation War. He participated in the 1962 education policy movement and the six-point movement before being arrested in 1969 for 11 months.

Girl commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A class-V student of Siddheswari Girls' School committed suicide yesterday.

Suraya Akhter Mukta, 12, tied her neck with a scarf and hanged herself from the ceiling fan in her home at Shanti Nagar around 6:30pm.

Her parents unlocked the door, got her down from the fan and rushed her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The family filed an unnatural death case with Paltan Police

Cattle hides

FROM PAGE 16

Khijir Ahmed to buy his cattle hide. Khijir told the gang that his cattle hide was not for sale, as he wanted to donate that to an orphanage house.

Meanwhile, the gang tried to snatch the cattle hide forcibly from them and started beating him up mercilessly. Seeing this, Khoka Mollah, brother-in-law of Khijir, came to save him. The criminals also beat him, leaving both of them critically injured.

Locals rushed to the spot and took them to sadar hospital where the on-duty doctor

A case was lodged with

worked as a close associate of sadar police station in this

The Buriganga River

Restoration Project would also

resume the age-old waterway

after over two decades. Goods

from the southern part of the

country can be transported

faster through these channels.

Moreover, several regions

along the route would benefit

in terms of irrigation and

transportation of goods by

headhunting for a candidate

with thorough knowledge on

river system for the proper

implementation of the project

as the incumbent project

director is soon going on

change socio-economic

scenario of the entire region

and enhance the transport

system reducing pollution,"

said Naimul Ashraf, a hydrau-

lic engineer and river-system

transport goods from the

southern regions of the coun-

try to the capital every day.

This pressure on the highways

could be drastically reduced

by the opening of the channels

at the Jamuna confluence," he

Modelling conducted the

feasibility study on the project

ing water will not affect the

environment as over 2,000

cubic metres of water flows

through the Jamuna every

second usually during the dry

The institute of Water

Experts believe that divert-

"Thousands of trucks

"The project is going to

The government is now

biodiversity.

stream.

waterway.

retirement.

expert.

added.

season.

in April 2003.

movement. He said as BNP claims to be a democratic party, it should Dhaka rivers follow the democratic norms. Any sort of violence in the name of anti-government environment extremely unhymovement would not be toler-

> gienic and ruining the ated, he added. Ashraf's remarks came following BNP Chairperson During monsoon rising Khaleda Zia's speech on water in the Jamuna floods the Wednesday where she said her silted riverbeds at the confluparty would wage a tough ence and flow into the river movement across the country system around the city flushin protest of "evicting" her ing polluted waters down-

from the cantonment house. State Minister for Local Government and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, lawmakers Habibur Rahman Mollah and Aslamul Hug, LGRD Additional Secretary Mahbub, DCC CEO and Chief Engineer Abul Kalam Azad and Brig Gen Abdul Kadir accompanied the minister during the visit at the under-construction Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover.

The construction of the flyover is expected to be finished by December 2012 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the project on June 22, 2010.

Huda blames

sightedness that led to her "eviction". "She [Khaleda Zia] would not have had to leave the house if her lawyers had sought a stay on the High Court order in the cantonment house

Criticising BNP's November 14 strike, Huda said it would have been better, had the programme been called after Eid.

"The sympathy that Khaleda Zia had earned faded soon partly due to the hartal, he added.

Meanwhile, Khaleda's counsel and party lawmaker Mahbubuddin Khokan said they have submitted an application for stay, which is still pending. The government is out to

create confusion, and has been able to confuse even some BNP leaders, he told the BBC last night when asked about

Huda's remarks. Khokan, also joint secretary general of BNP, said there was no scope to file another petition as the one already filed was yet to be disposed of.

First glimpse

NEWS

FROM PAGE 16 the Milky Way.

The pair are believed to be part of the Helmi stream, a group of stars that remains after its mini-galaxy was devoured by the Milky Way some six to nine billion years ago, said the study in Science Express.

"This discovery is very exciting," said Rainer Klement of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy.

"Because of the great distances involved, there are no confirmed detections of planets in other galaxies. But this cosmic merger has brought an extragalactic planet within our reach."

Astronomers were able to locate the planet, coined HIP 13044 b, by focusing on the "tiny telltale wobbles of the star caused by the gravitational tug of an orbiting companion," the study said.

They used a powerful telescope owned by the European Southern Laboratory at La Silla Observatory in Chile, located at an altitude of 2,400 meters (7,800 feet) some 600 kilometers (375 miles) north of the He ordered them to pay Tk capital, Santiago.

> The planet is quite close to the star it is orbiting, and survived a phase in which its host star went through a massive growth after it depleted its core hydrogen fuel supply, a phase known as the "red giant" stage of stellar evolu-

"This discovery is particularly intriguing when we consider the distant future of our own planetary system, as the Sun is also expected to the judgment after hearing become a red giant in about five billion years," said lead researcher Johny Setiawan of the Max Planck Institute for Astronomy.

The exoplanet is likely to be quite hot because it is orbiting so close to its star, completing each orbit in just over 16 days, and is probably near the end of its life, astronomers said.

The star may have already swallowed other planets in its

Rangamati

FROM PAGE 16

Locals and police said a group of BCL cadres went to Arif's house and picked him up at gunpoint around 10:30am. Later, they killed Arif at a nearby jungle, they said.

Shyamol Kanti Barua, officer in-charge of Kawkhali Police Station, said Arif was accused in four cases including two for robbery.

Arif, jailed in a robbery case, was released a month back.

Bahar Uddin, victim's elder brother, filed a case accusing 15 AL and BCL activists with Kawkhali Police Station in this connection.

orbit, making the star spin more quickly and meaning that time is running out for the surviving exoplanet.

Astronomers were mystified as to how the planet might have formed, since the star contained few elements heavier than hydrogen and helium and planets typically form out of a complex cloud of spinning space rubble.

"It is a puzzle for the widely accepted model of planet formation to explain how such a star, which contains hardly any heavy elements at all, could have formed a planet,' said Setiawan.

"Planets around stars like this must probably form in a different way."

3 murdered

FROM PAGE 1

The body of about 25-year-old victim was recovered at 9:00am, sais Md Sirajul Islam, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station.

Police suspected attackers might have killed her elsewhere and later dumped the body there.

Dakkhin Keranigani police sources said locals chased a gang of alleged bandits as they were gathering at Polashpur Ferryghat area near Abdullahpur and planning to commit robbery Thursday night.

They caught and beat up seven of them severely. Police reached the spot after the incident and sent the injured to Mitford Hospital. Among the injured, Arzu, 30, died at the hopital.

Police later rescued another injured, Sirazul Islam, 30, from the spot yesterday around 2:00pm and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he expired around 5:30pm. The injured claimed they

went there to find out a lost truck, which was stolen a few days back from Uttarkhan of the capital.

Besides, unidentified offenders killed a mobile phone shopkeeper early on Wednesday when he was on way to Vaoalvita from Abdullahpur by a motorcycle, said sources at Dakkhin Keraniganj police.

Chopper

FROM PAGE 16

occurred minutes after its take-off from the Tawang helipad at around 12 noon. The helicopter was en route to Guwahati, capital of Assam

IAF officials said the wreckage of the copter has been located by the Army in Bomdir

Three bodies have been recovered so far. Kalia said adding, a search is on for the remaining bodies.

Eid-ul-Azha

In Dhaka, the main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah, where President Zillur Rahman offered his prayers.

Chief Justice, cabinet members, MPs, high-ranking government officials and distinguished personalities, along with thousands of commoners, joined the congrega-

Maulana Muhammad Salah Uddin, khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, conducted the prayers seeking divine blessings for the Muslim ummah, as well as peace and prosperity for the people of Bangladesh.

The biggest Eid congregation of the country was held at Sholakia Maidan in Kishoreganj.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia greeted the countrymen on the occasion.

The "Festival of Sacrifice" also marked the end of Hajj, the annual pilgrimage by millions of devout Muslims to the holy city of Mecca. From the very onset of the

five-day Eid vacation, which included the weekly holidays following the three-day government holiday, the city looked deserted. An estimated three million people left for village homes to celebrate the occasion with their nearest of kins.

On the Eid day and the day after, parts of the city, however, wore a festive look. Main thoroughfares and road islands were decorated with miniature national flags and banners inscribed with 'Eid Mubarak'.

of vagrant centres and children at orphanages also Dressed in colourful enjoyed special meals on the clothes, thousands of men, Eid day. Government and political women and children flocked leaders hosted receptions for into public parks, lakes, dignitaries, the elite and cross-Sangshad Bhaban area, Dhaka

zoo and many other recre-

ation spots of the city.

"There are not many options when it comes to recreation in the city. We have to visit same places over and over again," said Arif Ahmed who came with his three children to the Shishu Park on Thursday.

Rickshaw pullers, who decided to work during the Eid holidays, enjoyed three days of unrestricted access to all VIP roads. Rickshaw owners also waived fees for the shifts. Sohel from Bogra stayed back in the city just to pull rickshaw during the holidays.

"Today for the first time I pulled rickshaw over the Khilgaon flyover, the owners won't charge fees and I feel very happy with the earnings. I want to return to my village after the holidays," he added.

Most drivers of threewheelers, CNG-run vehicles and taxicabs also enjoyed the same exemption of rent from their owners. Pavements in the city were

free from encroachers. Many families were seen taking strolls on the streets till late at night, which was inconceivable a week ago. Rab personnel patrolled

failure and quit, or the country the deserted city roads on will go 40 years backward. motorbikes and vans, while police were also seen in pickups at different parts. "This is the city where we want to live. The pavements

of Moghbazar.

sections of people.

the house. The government has failed to fulfil its commitment...failed in all fronts of are free from encroachers and state affairs," Mirza Fakhrul we enjoy walking here, which Islam Alamgir, BNP's senior we cannot do usually. The joint secretary general, told streets are free from vendors reporters yesterday. and many other nuisance," He said they will map out said Anisul Haque, a resident the street programmes at the

next meeting of the standing Prison inmates, residents committee. He, however, could not give the meeting date. MK Anwar, a standing

committee member, said they will consider different programmes including hartal and road march.

William, Kate FROM PAGE 1

1 killed in train

bound passenger train from

The victim was identified

as Abul Kashem, 30, of

Nandail. Six others were

admitted to Mymensingh

Medical College Hospital.

Four hours after the acci-

spot at about 9:00am and

said the Bhawal Express

boarded with passengers

inside and rooftops departed

When the train arrived near

Kaoraid station in Sreepur

upazila at about 5:15am, three

compartments of the train

4 flats looted

4:00am through the collaps-

ible gate using duplicate keys,

inspector of Sutrapur Police

Station, said they could not

ascertain the worth of the

stolen goods as the owners of

No case was filed yet in this

Meanwhile, a gang of rob-

bers looted cash and gold

ornaments from a house of an

Italy expatriate tying up the

six armed criminals broke into

the house of Golam Sarwar of

13/H Abhay Das Lane and

looted gold ornaments and Tk

20,000 in cash tying up his

family members at around

was filed in this connection

but none was arrested.

prepare for a movement.

Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

they added.

Ziaur Rahman.

the capital.

Sutrapur police said a case

A number of BNP leaders

said the standing committee

will sit shortly to chalk out the

programmes. Non-stop

hartal, long march or road

march will be announced to

"bring down" the government,

owns a four-storey building on

35-katha land in Gulshan, said

she is now "homeless" and

asked the people to pray for

The government allotted

The government residence

her the house following the

assassination of her husband

of the Leader of the

Opposition in the parliament

is also ready at Minto Road in

homeless today," she said

while talking to reporters at

the reception. She was accom-

panied by senior BNP leaders.

Khaleda vacated her can-

tonment house on November

13 and later claimed that she

has been evicted. Inter

Services Public Relations

(ISPR) said the former premier

the countrymen for making

the hartal, which BNP called

the following day to protest

greetings to the countrymen,

expatriate Bangladeshis and

said the government is filing

"false cases" against BNP

leaders and arresting them to

destroy the party. Similar

attempts were made in the

past to eliminate BNP but they

all went in vain, as people

rallied behind the party with

the government to accept

She said it is now time for

"It's not merely the issue of

more vigour, she added.

Muslims across the world.

She also conveyed her Eid

Talking to reporters, she

Khaleda, however, thanked

left the house willingly.

the "eviction," a success.

"Please pray for me as I'm

The two-time premier, who

3:00am.

Police sources said five to

family members at gunpoint.

the houses are yet to return.

connection, the SI said.

Delwar Hossain, sub-

began rescue operation.

critical condition.

2:30am.

derailed.

FROM PAGE 1

they added.

Dhaka derailed on Tuesday.

derailment

in Gazipur of William's position in the line of succession behind his father UNB, Gazipur Prince Charles, plus a tempo-

rary separation when it all got At least one was killed and 29 too much. The couple briefly split in other people were injured 2007 as William's military when a compartment of an career saw him cooped up in over crowded Mymensingh

the barracks, while paparazzi photographers stalked Kate's every move. The media attention she received reminded many observers of what William's late mother Diana faced when

she became engaged to Charles in 1981. Three of the injured were in But as they announced their engagement Tuesday, the couple said they felt stronger dent, a relief train reached the for having come through it all and feel ready to face the future

together, which should see Railway and local sources them become king and queen. They met in September 2001 at the University of St Andrews, where they both embarked on art history for Mymensingh at about degrees.

> William struggled to adjust to student life and Middleton was credited with persuading him to switch to a geography course and carry on.

The following year, they moved into a shared student house with two other friends. Relatively little is known of

their time at St Andrews due to a privacy deal with the media. "When I first met Kate knew there was something very special about her," William

"We were friends for over year first and it just sort of blossomed from then on. We just spent more time with each other had a good giggle, had lots of fun and realised we shared the same interests.

Middleton added: "I went bright red when I met you and sort of scuttled off, feeling very shy about meeting you. "It did take a bit of time for

us to get to know each other but we did become very close friends from quite early." They were pictured together on a skiing trip and

holidayed together in Kenya. In what was seen as a hugely significant sign of her acceptance in royal circles, Kate watched William graduate as an army officer in December 2006, in the presence of his grandmother Queen Elizabeth II.

after graduation in 2005, they

He began his army training in March 2007, but it seemed like his lengthy periods away with the military had stretched their relationship too far. "We went through a few

stumbling blocks as every relationship does, but we really picked ourselves up and carried on," the prince said. By the end of the year, the

romance was back on again.

their relationship quiet, with the focus on William's military career.

He is now a Royal Air Force search and rescue helicopter pilot, working at the RAF Valley

base on the island of Anglesey, northwest Wales. William proposed three weeks ago on holiday in Kenya, having carried his mother's

engagement ring around in his rucksack. "I was planning it and then it just felt really right out in

Africa. It was beautiful at the time," he said. Middleton said "it was a total shock when it came,

know the ropes, William is obviously used to it, but I'm willing to learn quickly and

work hard," she said. After the glitz and glamour of the royal wedding set for next year -- the biggest since William's parents Charles and Diana married in 1981 -- the couple will attempt to settle

William is to carry on with his RAF role, while they also hope to start a family.

The rural setting of their new home, far from the palaces and media attention of London, might suit them but it is hard to envisage the couple enjoying a quiet life for long.

Tk 20 to Tk 40 higher than the price fixed by Bangladesh Finished Leather, Leather Goods and Footwear Exporters' Association and Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants' Association.

animals slaughtered during this year's Eid was 20 percent more than that of last year, said tanners in the capital. Seasonal traders in differ-

rise in their prices, they said. "I along with 11 others controlled the trade of hides during the Eid in my locality.

We hope to make a profit of Bazar seeking anonymity.

chased a thousand cowhides from a seasonal trader for Tk 1,710 to Tk 2650 each, which should have been between Tk Since then, they have kept 1,300 and Tk 1,500.

70 killed in Delhi

'We will look into the issue of illegal construction later. Right now, clearing people from these buildings is our priority.'

waterlogging from the nearby Yamuna river and extra storeys being added illegally to the structure. The Hindustan Times

reported that 20 people were still missing at the site of the collapsed building, where bulldozers on Wednesday cleared rubble into trucks. "We have taken our workers

out. Only machines are active at the site now," Gulshan Rai Insan, from a volunteer group involved in the rescue work, told AFP. "From last night we were only finding broken furniture

and household goods. We

weren't pulling out dead bodies. Now there is no hope of finding survivors.' The Press Trust of India news agency, quoting a medical official, said two bodies were pulled from the rubble late on Wednesday, taking the

death toll from the collapse to 69, with 82 people still being treated in hospital. The building had contained dozens of cramped, one-room flats rented by about 60 families from the states of West Bengal and Bihar, as well as some small businesses includ-

ing a cloth exporting company

and a food snacks group. Newspapers said it had originally been a three-storey structure erected at least 15 years ago. A sixth floor was thought to have been under construction.

The owner of the building was arrested at a relative's house after reportedly sleeping in a park to avoid police. He has been charged with culpable homicide not amounting to Dunu Roy, director of the

Delhi-based Hazards Centre campaign group, said many housing developments in the city failed safety standards. "Most buildings lack final clearances from the regulatory

authorities and the capacity of the government to regulate private builders is close to nil," Former High Court judge Lokeshwar Prashad was on

the inquiry into the accident, with orders to submit his report

when the building at Lalita Park in Laxmi Nagar came crashing down around on November 15. Most of the victims were migrant labourers and their

family members.

adding that joining the royal family was a daunting pros-"It's nerve-wracking. I don't

down to life together in north Wales.

Middlemen **FROM PAGE 16** outside the capital. But seasonal traders sold per square foot of cowhides at

The number of sacrificial

ent areas controlled the trade of hides causing an artificial

around Tk 1 lakh this time, said a youth in west of Karwan Kamal Uddin, executive member of Bangladesh Leather and Leather Goods Cooperatives Ltd in Hazaribagh, said he pur-

Delhi, had been weakened by

flooding after a heavy monsoon season. After the collapse, rescuers used sledgehammers to try to Blame for the disaster has smash their way towards survifocused on poor construction, vors, while others formed

> concrete piled on top of vic-Emergency teams had trouble getting lifting gear and cranes through the narrow

human chains to remove

streets to the disaster scene. Mohit Sarkar, 40, a vegetable vendor originally from Kolkata, had lived in the building for two years with his wife

and four children. "I was working when my niece called me and told me that the building had collapsed. I came home and found

that my 12-year-old son was dead," he told AFP. OWNER SENT TO POLICE

CUSTODY

A Delhi court yesterday remanded Amrit Singh, the owner of the building which collapsed in New Delhi on

Monday killing 70 people, in

police custody for two days,

reports PTI. "The accused is remanded in two days police custody,' Additional chief Metropolitan Magistrate Kiran Bansal said.

The Crime branch of Delhi Police, which was entrusted with the case yesterday, had sought three days police cus-

tody of the accused saying they have constituted a team of experts to look into the issue. They pleaded that they have to unravel the chain of events pertaining to the material that had been used in the construc-

tion of the ill-fated building. They also said that they need to interrogate the accused about the identity of the contractor. The counsel for the

accused, however, vehemently

Geeta Colony in New Delhi, has

been booked under section 304

opposed the plea of the prosecution contending that whatever was required by the investigating agency had already been provided by the accused. The accused, who was arrested on November 16 from

(culpable homicide not amounting to murder) of the IPC, which prescribes life imprisonment as the maximum sentence. Seventy people were killed and 82 people were injured

Wednesday appointed to head

within three months. Investigators will probe whether the building, located in a congested area of east