

### His first day at university never came

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A university student was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus near Mouchak Market at the city yesterday morning.

The deceased Nazmul Hossain Rubel, 18, who got admitted at the department of BBA in Stamford University only two days ago, was on his way to attend the first class at the university's Siddheswar campus from his Sutrapur home.

"Rubel got off from his bus near Mouchak Market and was about to cross the road when a speeding bus knocked him down," said Zillur Rahman, witness of the accident.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



### Sharon in critical state

AFP, Jerusalem

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was fighting for his life yesterday after suffering a massive brain haemorrhage, throwing the country into turmoil less than three months before a general election.

The 77-year-old Sharon, dubbed "the Bulldozer," underwent seven hours of surgery before doctors were able to halt bleeding in his brain but the prime minister remained in a critical condition.

Doctors called a halt to an initial

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

## People scramble for scarce Eid tickets

Brokers rule city terminals, railway station

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

City dwellers preparing to go back to their village homes to celebrate the Eid-ul-Azha are facing tremendous difficulties in getting tickets for their home bound journey by bus, train and launch a day or two ahead of the second greatest religious festival of the Muslims due on January 11.

The staffs of bus, train and launch claim that most of the advance tickets for those days have already been sold. But there are widespread allegations that brokers in connivance with a section of the staffs have "captured" tickets, especially for luxurious buses, upper classes in trains and launch

cabins for earning quick bucks.

A large number of people were seen returning from Kamalapur railway station, major bus terminals and Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday, failing to get tickets for January 8 to 10.

Bangladesh Railway started giving advance tickets for Eid journey on January 1, and all the tickets for January 8 to 10 have been sold. A small number of tickets for January 6-7 are still available, railway sources said.

Shaon, 20, had queued up at Kamalapur station for four tickets for his family members in the early hours yesterday but went back disappointed at 11:00 am. "I could

not reach the counter even in 10 hours before the advance tickets were sold," he said. His family wanted to go to Dinajpur for celebrating the Eid.

Many passengers alleged that brokers took advantage of the situation as four tickets were sold to each person. Many brokers in the guise of passengers bought huge advance tickets and created an artificial crisis.

The railway has arranged two special trains on Dhaka-Jamalpur and Chandpur-Chittagong route before and after the Eid. It will also operate the regular train services

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

## Pak-SL role at WTO comes under fire

Their diplomats defend opposition to Dhaka's textile quota

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The role of Sri Lanka and Pakistan against LDCs in the Hong Kong Ministerial meeting of the WTO came under criticism at a dialogue yesterday but diplomats of both the countries said Bangladesh would have done the same thing if it were in the similar position.

Gamini Munasinghe, high commissioner of Sri Lanka in Dhaka, said duty-free and quota-

free access to developed countries' market for LDC (the least developed countries) products might have adversely affected Sri Lanka's garment exports.

Around 50 percent of Sri Lanka's total export earning comes from the apparel sector and that's why it expressed its concern over the issue, he explained.

Echoing Munasinghe, Roubina Taufic Shah, commercial secretary of Pakistan high commission in

Dhaka, defended her country's stance, saying Bangladesh would have done the same thing if it were in the position as Pakistan.

Earlier, a former BGMEA president, trade experts and NGO activists taking part in the dialogue on "Hong Kong Ministerial Conference of the WTO: Outcome, LDC Interests and Bangladesh's Concerns" criticised the two Saarc countries' role.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

POLICE FIRING

### Palli Bidyut sues 3,000 villagers

UNB, C'navabganj

About 3,000 people were sued yesterday on charges of damaging property of Palli Bidyut during Wednesday's clash that left two people dead and 90 injured.

The clash erupted when Palli Bidyut subscribers went to lay a siege to Palli Bidyut Samity Office

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

### Call money rate on rise

Dollar still costlier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interest rate in the call money market and dollar price in the foreign exchange market are on the rise with the Eid-ul-Azha approaching near.

The peak interest rate in the call money market was 25 percent yesterday, which was 15 percent last week. In the inter-bank foreign exchange market, dollar price was

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

RESCUED INFANTS

### One given for adoption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parents of one of the two infants rescued Tuesday in the city gave the baby to Jharna Begum for adoption, Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) sources said.

Hakil Bepari, the father of the baby boy aged around 17 days, told some DMCH staff that he gave his son to Jharna of Chhayaneer, Khilgaon, for adoption around a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Baul Ali Azim and his daughter Monira who left home three years ago prefer to stay at the Kuakata sea beach singing spiritual songs.

## A baul and the sea

EMRAN HOSSAIN EMON, from Kuakata

In a stoic spring afternoon three years ago, he had left home for Kuakata to see the wide blue sea but its fascinating beauty held him back from returning home.

Baul Ali Azim Khan, 55, along with his nine-year-old daughter Monira, now wander along the sea beach from evening till midnight, breathing the spiritual ecstasy of his song into the fresh sea breeze.

"I have come here to watch the sea and I wonder I could not finish yet as the sea seems wider than life," said Baul Azim with a beguiling look in his eyes.

"I have been searching the ultimate truth in my songs. Where should I return? I have no home, no address," said a contented Azim playing on *Ektara*, his only belonging, while Monira played superbly on cymbals standing on the beach

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

## Arrest terrorists immediately: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday directed police high-ups to immediately arrest armed terrorists along with their top leaders.

"No one should be spared," she said in her directives given in a meeting with police officials ranking SP and above on the occasion of Police Week-2006 at the International Conference Centre (ICC).

The prime minister urged the senior officials to work with honesty, sincerely and responsibly and

keep watch so that "no corruption and irregularities" take place in the police department.

Describing her government's various pragmatic steps for enhancing police strength, professional skill and development and their welfare for ensuring public peace and security, Khaleda told the officials that her government is providing necessary support to them.

"You have to file cases against the criminals properly and press charges correctly so that no one

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

## Mobile courts file cases against 102 outfits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile courts filed cases against 102 diagnostic centres, hotels, restaurants, bakeries and petrol

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Prayer Timing		
January 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

