

### Housewife injured in bomb blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was injured by a bomb thrown by unknown miscreants at Demra in the city yesterday.

The bomb exploded in front of the house of the victim Mamtaz

Begum, 22, of Swamibagh Daroga Lane at 12:00 noon when she was sitting in the lawn with her child.

With severe injuries on her back, she was rushed to Dhaka medical College Hospital. The child, however, did not receive any injuries.



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Sir Salimullah Medical College stage a demonstration in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting question leakage in the admission tests for the government medical colleges.

## 68,660 women repression incidents occurred in 5yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different rights organisations yesterday observed the International Day for Elimination of Violence against Women in the country as elsewhere in the world with a call for ensuring women's rights.

At a press conference at the National Press Club, leaders of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad demanded restoration of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 2000 by cancelling its amended version of 2003 which provides no punishment to eve teasers.

They said the restoration is a must as a considerable number of girls in the country were forced to commit suicide for eve teasing during the last couple of years.

The parishad also urged the youths to come forward to stop eve teasing and form a united social movement to establish women's rights.

To mark the occasion, another press conference was organised jointly by Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC), Bangladesh Human Rights Defenders Groups (BHRDG), Nari O Manobadhikar Foundation (Nmaf) and Bangladesh Coalition for Child

Rights (BCCR) at the National Press Club.

Speakers at the press conference called for reactivating the Women and Children Repression Prevention Court to stop violence against women and children.

They also called for strong measures to check violence against minority community including tribal women ahead of the ninth general election.

While reading out a written statement Sharif A Kafi, national coordinator of BHRDG, expressed concern over the increasing rate of violence against women in the country.

He said a total of 68,660 incidents of repression on women took place from October 2001 to March 2006 which marks an increase of 22,741 incidents over the corresponding period of previous five years.

In observance of the day Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) organised a discussion titled 'Stability in family, society and politics to prevent violence against women and children'.

Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights (BSEHR) organised a cultural programme at Dhanmondi to increase awareness about women's rights.

National Girl Child Advocacy Forum formed a human chain at Shahbagh while Partnership of Women in Action formed another human chain in front of the High Court with a call for bringing the women engaged in non-institutional sectors under the labour law of the country.

The day was also observed by rights organisations in hill districts urging the government to create three reserve posts for women alongside the male in the district councils of Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari.

The Rangamati district unit of Stop Violence Against Women (SVAW) organised a rally on the premises of Deputy Commissioner's office.

Broti and Durbar Network expressed solidarity with the rally.



PHOTO: STAR

Commuters on Sayedabad-Gulistan road in the city experience a huge traffic congestion yesterday as a few roads around Bangabhaban were closed due to security reasons.

### Robbers kill 1, loot Tk 12 lakh valuables

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

One person was killed and cash and valuables worth about Tk 12 lakh were looted in two separate robberies in village Khandaker Para of Tilagaon union under Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar district at midnight on Friday.

Kulaura police said a gang of robbers attacked the house of Nirod Chandra Sen of Khandaker Para village at midnight and took away cash money and valuables worth Tk about 10 lakh purchased for the wedding of her daughter at gunpoint.

On the same night, the robbers went to the house of Kripesh Dutta of the same village and looted cash and goods worth about Tk two lakh.

Hearing hue and cry after the robbery, Madhab Dey, 28, son of Gopesh Dey, come out of house and the fleeing robbers opened fire on him leaving him seriously injured.

Doctors declared Madhab dead when he was rushed to Kulaura Upazila Health Complex.