

**Inside Today**  
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**Bliss Was it in that Morn to be Alive...**

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Peace would be endangered if India conducts any N-test

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T&T may profit Tk 900cr from commission of 19 exchanges

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**DSE MARKET**

DSE price index 822.75 (+0.25%)  
Market capital Tk 5337.53 cr  
Transactions in volume 137790  
Transactions in value Tk 2.33 cr

**CSE MARKET**

CSE price index 414.53 (+0.02%)  
Market capital Tk 2335.27 cr  
Transactions in volume 11185  
Transactions in value Tk 30.86 lakh

**Supplement**

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page special supplement on National Day of Bhutan Pages 8, 9

**NOTICE**

A photo feature on the Victory Day events will be published tomorrow

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Bomb hurled at industrialist's car**

Unidentified miscreants hurled a home-made bomb at the car of an industrialist at Tejgaon in the city yesterday. Witnesses said KM Shahidullah, Managing Director of SHS Sweater Ltd, came under the bomb attack when his car reached the factory at about 8.45 pm. Shahidullah, however, escaped unhurt, but his car was badly damaged, reports UNB.

**Trawler looted at Barguna**

From Staff Correspondent. BARISAL, Dec 17. Armed dacoits looted Taka 50 thousand and merchandise worth about Taka two lakh from a trawler at Kaliarkhal under Patharghata thana in Barguna today. The trawler was going towards the Bay of Bengal from Ramphal, in Barguna district police said.

**Appointment**

Rauful Alam, officer on special duty (joint secretary) of the Ministry of Establishment, has been appointed joint secretary of Finance Division. Earlier, the government in a notification cancelled his prior transfer order as member of the Handloom Board, said a PID handout last night, reports UNB.

**2 shot dead in Meherpur**

MEHERPUR, Dec 17. Two members of the outlawed Purbabanglar Communist Party were gunned down in sadar thana Saturday night in an intraparty feud. Police said Barhat and Shanti, both in their mid-30s and inhabitants of Damurhuda thana, were found dead on the bank of Patapoka beel this morning, reports UNB.

## 3 killed as APSU, Shibir activists clash at BAU

Bangladesh Agriculture University in Mymensingh was closed Saturday till December 31 after a series of bloody clashes that left three students dead and about 50 injured, reports UNB.

Campus sources said two students were missing following the violence. It was the fiercest clash at the university since 1981 when four students were killed.

At the orders from the BAU authorities, male students of the university vacated their dormitories by 6 pm Saturday and the female by 10 am yesterday.

The authorities, however, termed the closure of the campus as winter vacation. The decision was taken at an emergency joint meeting of

Academic Council, provosts and deans with VC Shah Mohammad Faruque in the chair Saturday afternoon.

Those killed in the gunfight between the activists of the All Party Students Unity (APSU) and the Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), were identified as Monzurul Kabir (1st year, Honours, Agriculture), Shawkat Hossain (MSC), Agriculture and Alauddin (4th year, Honours, Animal Husbandry) — all residents of Nazmul Ahsan Hall.

The three hailed from Muktagacha thana of Mymensingh, Bakerganj of Barisal and Porshuram of Feni respectively and were identified as members of the Chhatra Shibir.

The injured, most of them

identified as Shibir activists, were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and different clinics of the town. Condition of four of them were reported critical. Seriously injured another three Shibir leaders were brought to Dhaka.

Protesting the killings Shibir at a rally at Charpara crossing in Mymensingh called a half-day hartal there today but later called it off due to primary scholarship examinations.

The BAU authorities also formed a high-powered probe body to investigate the incident.

Students said the clash between All-Party Student Unity (APSU) and Chhatra Shibir erupted when the lat-

ter allegedly exploded several homemade bombs on a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) procession in front of the Shahjalal Hall early Saturday.

The Shibir and APSU activists exchanged about a 100 rounds of fire and blasted homemade bombs for about an hour till 1:30 am, according to the campus sources.

After a lull, the gunfight resumed at about 11 am when the APSU supporters marched towards three dormitories — Shahjalal Hall, Isa Khan Hall and Jamal Hossain Hall — the strongholds of Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Witnesses said the campus battle continued until police

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## ALCWC meeting observes President should ask PM to step down

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) at a meeting yesterday expressed the hope that the President would advise the Prime Minister to resign and would appoint a neutral person as prime minister to form a non-partisan caretaker government for holding free and fair polls.

The meeting held at the party's Dhamondi Office, in a resolution, said that as the President had requested the Prime Minister to continue in office after the dissolution of Parliament, he should now request the latter to step down to rid the people of the present crisis.

With party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the

meeting discussed the persisting political impasse and agitation programmes, according to a party press release last night.

The meeting said "The Prime Minister's greed for power and arrogance is pushing the country towards a deep crisis and confrontation. By shifting the election date without going for a proper solution, the government wants to stage a mockery in the name of elections by branding the present political crisis to a constitutional one".

"The government wants to keep power in its grip by resorting to rigging in the elections, it wants to con-

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## 7th SAF Games open in Madras today

Sports Reporter

The Seventh South Asian Federation (SAF) Games will begin in the Indian city of Madras this afternoon.

Prime Minister PV Narashima Rao will inaugurate the biggest sporting event of the Sub-continent at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

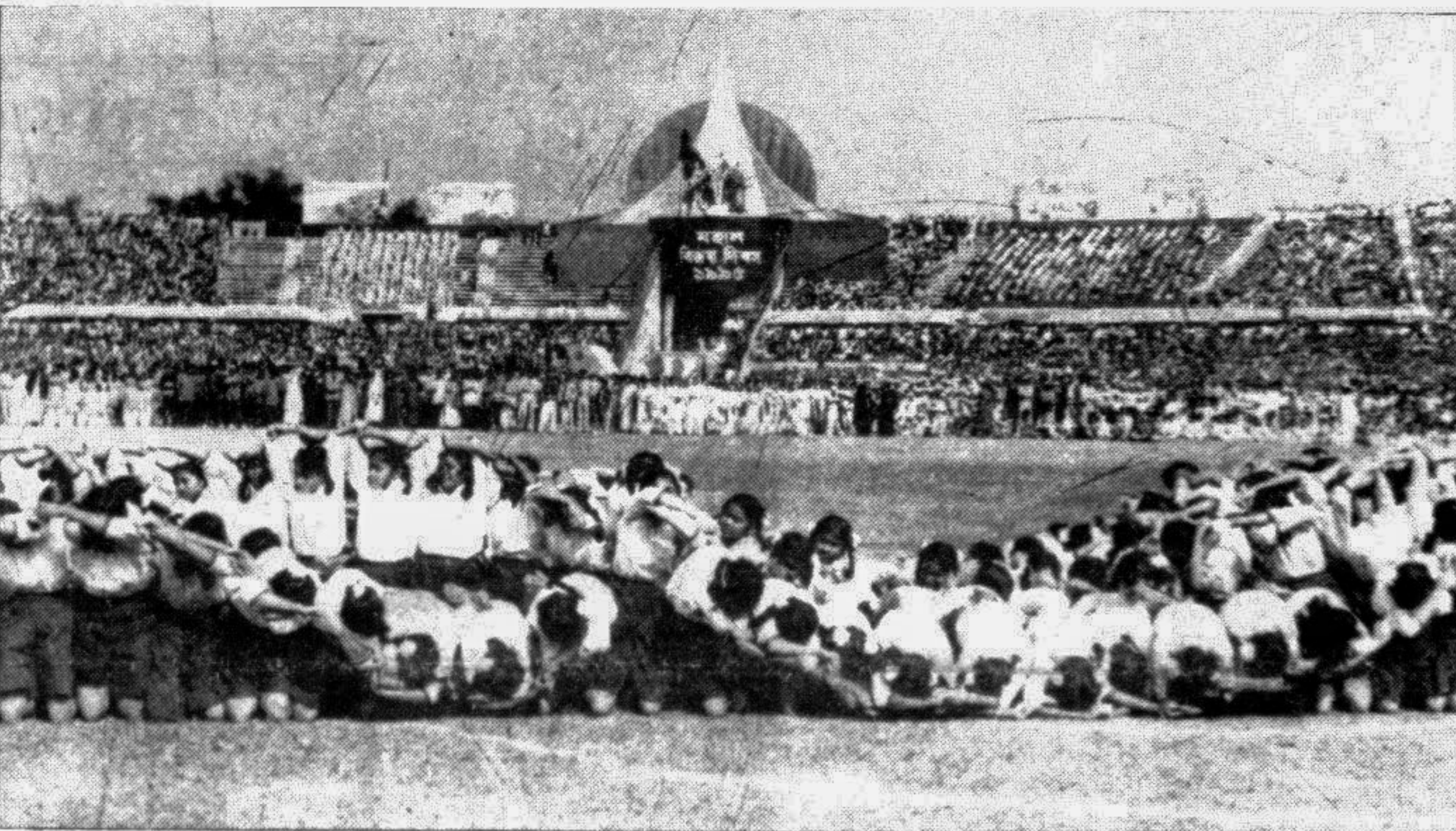
About 1000 athletes and players will battle for 129 golds on offer in the record 14 disciplines.

Hosts India will field the biggest contingent with 264 athletes and players followed by Sri Lankan team of 217. Pakistan have the third largest team of 205 while Bangladesh have 174 including 13 female athletes, for the ten-day event. The 12-men Bhutanese team is the smallest contingent of the Games. Bangladesh will compete in all the 14 disciplines.

Details on page 10

## New spirit, jubilation mark 25th Victory Day

By Staff Correspondent



A colourful children's rally at the Dhaka National Stadium as part of the Victory Day celebrations on Saturday. — Star photo

A new spirit of determination swept over the country as the nation Saturday celebrated the 25th Victory Day.

There was something special in the air on the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day which renewed the promise of the country's people for the national well-being.

Numerous programmes drawn in the capital and elsewhere in the country on the day testified how intensely people's aspiration for a better Bangladesh got expressed.

The day started with a 31-gun salute to herald the dawn of the 25th Victory Day.

Thousands of people visited the National Mausoleum at Savar to pay tributes to the valiant freedom fighters who wrested the country's independence from the clutches of the Pakistani occupation forces after a nine-month-long war.

The day's programme included placing of wreaths at the mausoleum, discussion, cultural function, rally and

procession. The National Flag flew atop all private and public buildings which were illuminated. Main streets of Dhaka were decorated with bunting.

Seven huge arches were raised at different parts of the capital in the name of the seven Br Shreshthas.

Saturday was a public holiday.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas led the nation in placing wreaths first at the National Mausoleum at Savar.

The President stood in silence for some time as buglers tuned the 'last post'. A contingent drawn from the Army, Navy and Air Force presented arms.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, along with her cabinet colleagues, also placed wreaths a little later. Diplomats and civil and military officials were also present.

She also placed wreaths at the mazar of her husband, See Page 12 Col 3

## Opposition may finalise next programme at today's meet

By Staff Correspondent

A meeting of the liaison committee of the opposition political parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — is likely to be held today, according to the Opposition sources.

This is going to be the first meeting of the three parties after the Election Commission refixed the schedule for the parliamentary polls on December 15 last.

The three parties may finalise their next course of action at the meeting, party sources said.

The Opposition has been agitating for the last 20 months for holding the general elections under a non-party caretaker administration. The demands of the Opposition also include the resignation of the Prime Minister.

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## Drastic drop in advance orders for garments

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

The persisting political impasse has already taken its toll in the ready-made garments (RMG) sector, the highest foreign currency earner for the country, as advance orders have dropped drastically, according to garments manufacturers.

The garments exporters, who usually bag five months' advance orders by this time of the year, are now finding themselves in rough waters as their order books show hardly two months' booking. They say the sector, new earning about two billion US dollars annually, may face a bleak future next year.

"By November, we had our hands filled with orders till April," said Redwan Ahmed, President of the Bangladesh

Garments Exporters and Manufacturers Association (BGMEA). "This year, hardly any of us have bookings after February which casts a dark cloud on the garments sector and the national exchequer."

Political uncertainty is the reason that the buyers are shying away from Bangladesh, the garments manufacturers say. "The political uncertainty has led to the decline of our market," said MR Ali, a garments manufacturer. "The foreign buyers are not getting the confidence that Bangladesh can timely meet their demand amidst strikes, hartals and unrest."

Taking advantage of the country's difficult position, a number of emerging exporting countries are lobbying

hard to pursue away the buyers, garments manufacturers. "Our long-time buying partners are going to other countries," Ali lamented.

"Indian lobbyists are taking away our buyers," said Ali, also a BGMEA adviser. "Although their pricing is higher than that of ours, they persuade buyers saying that it's better to pay a little higher than to get stuck up with a country like Bangladesh that has so much of political problems."

Under the phasing out of Multi-Fiber Arrangement (MFA), garment exporting countries to USA have to phase out quota at the rate of 16 per cent in 1995, 17 per cent in 1996 and 18 per cent in 1997. See Page 12 Col 4

## Jubo League activist shot dead in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 17: A Jubo League activist, Amirul Islam Bablu (28), was kidnapped by some youths from near the Rupsha police outpost and later shot dead at West Tootpara today.

Police recovered the body from a roadside ditch in that area with three bullet wounds in the chest and head.

The GD made by Khulna city Jubo League stated that Bablu was kidnapped at gun point by six persons.

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## Dacoits kill night coach passenger

RAJSHAHI, Dec 17: Dacoits disguised as passengers swooped on a night coach on Dhaka Rajshahi road and looted cash and valuables worth about 15 lakh killing one passenger and wounding 25 others on Friday, reports UNB.

Police and passengers said a group of six dacoits in guise of passengers boarded the Dhaka bound bus from Rahanpur and attacked the passengers near Belpukur rail-gate in Puthia thana at about 8:30 pm.

The robbers opened fire and stabbed the passengers indiscriminately when they

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## PM likely to lay foundation of Ctg WTC Dec 20

From Staff Correspondent.

CHITTAGONG, Dec 17. All preparations are afoot to lay the foundation stone of World Trade Centre at Agrabad commercial area on December 20 official sources said.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to attend the ceremony as the chief guest, officials said.

The World Trade Centre, to be built by the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) will be the first of its kind in the country under a private initiative. Chamber sources said a

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## New missions in The Hague, Tashkent

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh is opening two new missions, one in Europe and the other in Central Asia.

The new embassy in The Hague, Netherlands will become fully functional after the ambassador designate Dr Taufiq Ali presents his credentials. Dr Ali who was serving as Minister (Political) at the Washington Embassy has already moved to The Hague.

A senior official of the Foreign Ministry said, opening of the mission in The Hague is basically a relocation of an European mission following the decision to close the Bangladesh embassy in Rumania.

The first mission in Central Asia, to be located in Tashkent, Uzbekistan will start operations after necessary preparations are com-

pleted. Khawja Sharif Hasan, now Consul General of Bangladesh in Los Angeles has been named as the ambassador designate to Uzbekistan.

Opening of a mission in the Central Asian States became very important as Bangladesh remained virtually unrepresented in those countries which holds immense trade and economic potential.

The prospect of Bangladesh's trade with the Central Asian Countries have become bright after the signing of a tripartite transit agreement between Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan during the recent visits of Iranian President Rafsanjani and the Economic Relations See Page 12 Col 8

## 'Organised networks recruit prostitutes'

By Masud Arif and Mizan Ali

A number of well organised networks operate in big cities and towns recruiting new entrants in prostitution, exploiting their miseries and at the same time using loopholes of the existing laws, according to official sources.

Most of the teenaged girls involved in prostitution in Dhaka and other cities come mainly from rural areas, said some police officials in the capital.

The networks are run through prostitutes in the brothels, some private houses and hotels and floating in the streets.

In every district, there exists at least one brothel. Besides, prostitutes' dens are known to exist in almost all the river and sea ports.

"They do not even want to disclose their actual addresses or identities fearing damage to their business," said a police official. These girls impersonate themselves in different ways and move from one area to another. The street girls, who do

not operate from a fixed place, have networks of people such as police agents and guards of public places. Besides, they also maintain links with vendors, shopkeepers, movie houses and rickshawpullers, sociologists pointed out.

Marginalisation of women in their traditional field of work and poverty force many

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## Oil tanker hits ATP plane at ZIA

An aircraft of Bangladesh Biman was damaged after it was hit by an oil tanker at Zia International Airport yesterday, reports UNB.

The ATP aircraft was parked along side the tarmac when the tanker of Padma Oil hit on its tail.

Biman sources said the authorities had taken necessary steps to probe into the incident. They said it would take about a month to repair the damage of the aircraft

## Ek seunder nai bharosa, Feroz Shain sang & died

By Staff Correspondent

Renowned pop vocalist, Feroz Shain, whose mystic songs led the young generation of the newly-independent Bangladesh to a soul searching, is dead. He was 43.

His last song — sung at a Victory Day function — is a stark reality — a reality that struck him only moments later.

*Ek seunder nai bharosa, Bandha hoibo Rangtamasha* (No guarantee of life for one second. The fun will end) he sang and collapsed on the stage at the Shilpakala Academy in the city Saturday.

He suffered a massive heart attack and was rushed to hospital where doctors declared him dead.

"Iskul Khulache Re Maula, Iskul Khulache." Feroz once sang out to the young men who were experiencing a whole new kind of difficulties in coping with the hard re-

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Feroz Shain collapsed on the stage immediately after his performance at a Victory Day function at the Shilpakala Academy on Saturday. — Star photo

## Scouts' jamboree begins today

A five-day special jamboree of scouts of the Asia-Pacific region begins today at a coastal venue in Barguna district, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to inaugurate at 2:30 pm the Second Asia-Pacific Community Development Camp (COMDECA) at Ta Ma Tu (Taitai, Malipara and Tulatali villages) in Amtali thana of the southern coastal district.

More than 3,000 Scouts, Rovers and Scout leaders from about 24 Asia-Pacific countries are expected to participate in the camp

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