



### Spielberg finishes it finally

AFP, Los Angeles

Hollywood director Steven Spielberg was awarded a bachelor of arts degree Friday, 33 years after dropping out from college to get a head start on his movie-making career.

Spielberg, director of the blockbusters "ET" and "Saving Private Ryan," among other hit films, received the degree from California State University at Long Beach with a bachelor's degree in film and electronic arts.

"I wanted to accomplish this for many years as a thank you to my parents for giving me the opportunity for an education and a career, and as a personal note for my own family -- and young people everywhere -- about the importance of achieving their dreams."

### Salvage ships leave spot

ARDOP TALUKDAR, Barisal

Salvage operation for the sunken launch MV Subha which sank in the Baleswar river on May 23 was abandoned yesterday.

Salvage ships BNP Teesta, BNS Shahjalal, BNS Surma and BIWTA vessel Hamza left the spot in the afternoon.

The decision to abandon the operation was taken by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) with the approval of the shipping ministry, R Azad Chowdhury, police superintendent of Pirojpur told The Daily Star.

All officials involved in the salvage operation left the spot and the

# Ctg dockers opt for go-slow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Despite calling off an indefinite strike on Thursday, stevedoring workers and employees of Chittagong Port are now reportedly enforcing a go-slow policy, thus reducing the usual cargo handling to almost half.

In a press statement here Friday, Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) that represents the owners and employers brought allegations against port workers and employees of deliberately restricting their output and called for measures to persuade the stevedoring workers to refrain from the practice within the next 24 hours.

Otherwise, the statement

warned, the association might be compelled to go for stern steps against the stevedoring workers and employees.

The statement said that after the 'unconditional' withdrawal of the 'illegal' work abstention, the employees enlisted with the Stevedoring Staff Union, a Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) at the port, in a most 'capricious' and 'wilful' way had adopted a go-slow policy since resumption of work from 8:00pm on Thursday.

The statement further said that the reported go-slow brought down the cargo handling at the port to half its normal volume thereby increasing the stay time of the vessels at the port that may eventually lead to a

possible congestion of ships at the port.

In the statement signed by BMSA Chairman AHM Monjoorul Alam, the stevedore leaders further alleged that the non-cooperation of the stevedoring employees was raising the operational cost giving a bad name to the port as a costly port.

The Chittagong Dock Bondor Sramik Karmochary Parisad, a forum of 22 Trade Union (TU) bodies working at the Chittagong port, called an indefinite strike from 7.30am on Wednesday demanding cancellation of a revised circular

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### Govt wants to snatch freedom of expression, says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged conscious citizens including journalists to find out ways to end what she called misrule and torture perpetrated by the coalition government.

"A way must be worked out to get rid of this dangerous and suffocating situation. People have become totally frustrated and are living in a dark and anarchic situation," she said during a meeting with the newly elected office bearers of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at AL's Dhanmondi office.

Sheikh Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat government only likes "arms, violence and conspiracy" to consolidate its power. She urged the newsmen to continue their "war of pen" against "this tyrant government."

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# 12m to die in 'worst-case' Indo-Pak nuclear war

Classified Pentagon report says

AFP, Washington

Between nine million and 12 million people would die in a "worst-case" nuclear war between India and Pakistan, a US defense official said Friday, citing a classified Pentagon assessment.

That projection does not take into account subsequent deaths from disease, famine and contaminated water supplies, only the immediate casualties of a nuclear conflagration between the South Asian neighbors, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The classified assessment was updated last week by the Defense Intelligence Agency amid soaring tensions between India and Pakistan as they squared off over Kashmir.

In the worst case scenario, the official said, "the fatalities would be between nine and twelve million and the injuries between two and six million" in the short term.

"Long-term you would be talking about starvation,

pollution of the water tables, birth defects, and all that other stuff," the official said.

The scenario took the number of nuclear weapons each side was believed to have, and matched them to their most likely target list, then assumed all weapons would be successfully delivered and all would burst on the ground, sending up clouds of radioactive fallout, the official said.

Because of the greater fallout, such ground-burst nuclear explosions would likely produce several million more casualties if nuclear weapons were detonated in the air.

An airburst nuclear explosion produces "more damage on structures, but it doesn't produce the fallout that a surface burst does," the official said. Jane's Strategic Weapons Systems estimates that India has between 50 and 150 nuclear weapons, and Pakistan between 25 and 50.

The US defense official said the Indian nuclear weapons were estimated to be in the low 10-kilotonne

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### Khulna Jubo Dal leader shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

'Listed criminal' KI Hasan, Vice-president of Sadar thana unit of Jubo Dal, was gunned down by three unidentified youths in the city yesterday, police said.

Three shots were fired in his head from a close range when he and his eight-year old daughter Shova were returning to their house at Haji Mohsin Road in a rickshaw. Shova was unhurt.

Pedestrians took him to Khulna General Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

Hasan belonged to the BNP group led by Whip Manju, according to sources in Juba Dal, youth front of the ruling party.

Police went to the spot soon after the incident and took into custody Shova and the rickshawpuller, Selim Howlader, for questioning.

The party sources said Hasan left the 'Mayor group' and joined the 'Manju group' before the last Khulna City Corporation (KCC) election. Since then he received several death threats from some of his rivals with whom he had strained relations over possession of Jail Khana ferry ghat, his family alleged while talking to this correspondent.

After the alleged threats, Hasan



Slum-dwellers in Karwan Bazaar-Tejgaon area living along the Dhaka-Tongi railway line are at constant risk of being run over by trains. Evicted several times earlier, the poor and destitute have again crowded alongside the track.

### Attempted rape case Charge-framing against Kamal Majumder July 1

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The First Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday fixed July 1 for hearing on charge-framing in an attempted rape case against former Awami League lawmaker Kamal Ahmed Majumder and two others.

Judge Mohammad Shah Alam Miah passed the order after the case was placed before the court for fixing next date of hearing.

The two other accused are -- Kamal's brother Anwar Hossain Majumder and one Nazma Hossain.

In the case, filed with Pallabi police station, it has been alleged that on December 30, last year, eight men forcibly took a 35-year-old woman to Kamal's political office at Mohana in the city's Pallabi area where Kamal tried to rape her.

Later, the victim filed a rape case with Pallabi thana under the Prevention of Women and Children Repression Act 2000 against Kamal Majumder and two others.

Following the case, Kamal Majumder was arrested from his Banani residence in the city on January 1.

Later, he was granted ad-interim bail by the High Court on January 31.

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# 'Extensive training programme to boost manpower export'

M ANWARUL HAQ

Bangladesh can hope to send a greater number of workers for employment abroad in future if it takes a more managed training programme to develop their skill and quality.

For this, the government should take up more extensive programmes for training, cultural orientation and development of language skill of intending migrants, Brunson McKinley, director general of International Organisation for Migration (IOM), now on a visit here, told The Daily Star in an interview.

The remittance sending process should be easier and returnees given more facility, he said.

Germany and several European countries will encourage migrants as they will need them at various levels, the head of the Geneva based IOM said.

McKinley said his organisation is keen to extend all possible assistance to Bangladesh to develop English language skill of intending migrants, help stranded migrants return home and prevent illegal trafficking of women and children.

McKinley who opened an IOM-sponsored English language centre in Dhaka for intending migrants said increasing English language skill is key to higher positions in several western countries.



Brunson McKinley

The IOM has a regional office in Dhaka since mid-1999 to assist six countries in sending migrant workers.

The IOM extended assistance to some 72,000 Bangladeshi returnees from Kuwait and Iraq after the Gulf War.

McKinley said Bangladesh can profit more from migration of workers if it encourages employment abroad only through legal channels.

"All countries including Bangladesh have to recognise that migration is a phenomenon which

needs to be managed. An orderly migration can be a boon for Bangladesh and all other manpower exporting countries," he said.

He mentioned the policy followed by the Philippines for several decades and said efforts by successive governments to improve the quality of Filipino workers and also helped the governments to place them in several countries "in an effective way."

He said the Philippines has created a mechanism to locate appropriate job markets for intending migrants. It has also made the remittance sending process easier and provided one-stop service to returnees so that they can settle at home.

### Scope in Germany and Europe

McKinley said IOM is working with the German government to create new migration laws, which could be effective within a year or so. The new laws will allow more foreign migrants to be employed at various levels.

Germany, he said, will set a criteria a point system for having foreign migrants.

He said Germany and other countries like France realise that

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### Guard beaten to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A guard of a residential building was beaten to death by unidentified miscreants at Sukrabad in the city yesterday.

The dead was identified as Yunus Mohammad Lotus, son of one Abul Kashem Howlader, of Anduara, Mirzapur of Patuakhali district. He along with his wife worked in the residence at Sukrabad under the Mohammadpur Police Station.

Sources said the miscreants came to the spot at noon while Yunus was supervising the reconstruction work of the second floor of the four-storey building. They beat him up seriously with iron rods and

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# AL not sitting for talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) cannot sit for a dialogue with the government or join the parliament because of 'continued persecution' by the ruling-BNP on opposition activists and the Hindus, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid said yesterday.

"I request BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to visit some of the places where political persecution took place in recent times before he repeats his invitation for dialogue," Hamid told a press conference at his parliament chamber.

"I am sure he (Bhuiyan) will then

realise what's actually going on. You cannot grasp the reality sitting in power," he said, repeating his party's viewpoint that the atmosphere is not there for the AL to join the parliament.

The deputy opposition leader said killing and rape of, and torture on opposition activists and the religious minorities, and implicating them in criminal charges have destroyed the political atmosphere for dialogue.

Hamid, also the immediate-past speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad, described his experience of visiting some areas including Sirajganj, Tangail and Narayanganj where two AL activists were killed and many others including two MPs were recently attacked allegedly by their BNP rivals.

He led AL parliamentary delegations to these areas to 'probe' allegations of persecution.

Speaking about the killing of an AL activist, Fazlul Haq Bhuiyan, at Rugganj in Narayanganj, he said Bhuiyan died in jail custody follow-

ing "torture either by the police and by ruling party activists".

The AL leader further claimed that the police arrested Bhuiyan, an elected Union Parishad member, although he was not named in the FIR filed in connection with the suicide of a woman in Rugganj.

Disclosing his findings about the armed attack on former home minister Mohammad Nasim in Sirajganj, he said it was planned to kill him.

The deputy opposition leader said the house of AL MP Ekabbor Ali was attacked in Tangail to avenge the BNP's debacle in the recent elections to Mirzapur municipality.

In all three incidents, he claimed that the government did not act against the culprits.

"Can we sit for a dialogue while the government not only keeps mum on the brutal attacks but also refrains from taking actions against the culprits? Lives of the opposition

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