#### **AL** divisional conferences begin later this month

REAZ AHMAD

The Awami League (AL) will hold a series of divisional conferences of the party from later this month mainly to boost the morale of its workers prior to the crucial central council of the main opposition party billed for December 22-23.

The conferences to be attended by grassroots level leaders and workers in all the seven organisational divisions of the AL -- Sylhet, Chittagong, Barisal, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Khulna and Dhaka -would further strength the party before the council, party leaders

The council would elect a new central committee of the AL. Election of a fresh central committee is viewed as vital against the SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

#### Rly workers oppose govt plan on BR corporatisation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Railway Sramik Union yesterday reiterated its demand that the government give up its move to corporatise the stateowned railway and modernise it with its own resources instead.

The union warned that it would go for an indefinite strike, if the Bangladesh Railway Corporation Act 2002 was passed.

Leaders of the union were addressing a press conference in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

#### Police rescue abducted brothers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued two minor brothers who were abducted from Hazaribagh area Tuesday morning, from Uzila, Sripur in Gazipur on Wednesday A team of

headed by its officer-in-charge went to Gazipur and rescued Palash, 10, and Payal 7, in the morning

Police also arrested six people who were Shafiqul Islam, Saiful SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

|         | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|---------|-----------|----------|
| Sept 20 |           | 5-57 pm  |
| Sept 21 | 5-45 am   |          |

| Prayer Timings |         |        |  |  |
|----------------|---------|--------|--|--|
| S              | Sept 20 |        |  |  |
|                | Azan    | Jamaat |  |  |
| Fajr           | 4-40    | 5-15   |  |  |
| Juma           | 12-15   | 1-20   |  |  |
| Asr            | 4-30    | 4-45   |  |  |

7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

8-15

Maghrib

# Saudis to recruit 4,200 Bangladeshi medics

RAFIQ HASAN

Saudi Arabia will recruit 4,200 medical professionals from Bangladesh on an emergency

They will include doctors, medical teachers, nurses, technicians, demonstrators and paramedics, according to sources in the ministry of expatriate welfare and overseas employment.

Five Saudi delegations will come between September 22 and October 20 to select the professionals through interview.

The recruitment would be done within this year.

They will be appointed in medical colleges and institutes and government hospitals initially for at least three years, which may be renewed as per requirement, the source said.

be sent through the state owned Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Limited (BOESL).

They will get salary according to their post and job description. A leading recruiting agent said doctors and engineers usually get salary between 2000 and 3000 The Saudi ministry of health

decided to recruit the professionals

after talks with the Bangladesh ambassador in Saudi Arabia The Saudi government started recruiting Bangladeshi doctors and medical professionals in 1976-77. A

Saudi Arabia since then The recruitment declined recently because of reduced salary structure in the Kingdom

total of 2,500 doctors got jobs in

"But now Saudi Arabia is showing interest to recruit more professionals from Bangladesh following diplomatic efforts by the new government," claimed State Minister for Expatriate Welfare Mohammad Quamrul Islam while talking to The

Daily Star yesterday.

Many other countries like Botswana, Kenya and Nigeria also showed interest to recruit doctors and engineers from Bangladesh, he

Quamrul Islam said the govern-

ment is also trying to send IT (infor-

mation technology) professional

According to government estimate, around 4,000 doctors, nurses and medical professionals graduate from government and private medical colleges and institutes every year. Many of them remain jobless.

#### **DS-Viqarunnisa** English debate championship underway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"The Daily Star-Vigarunnisa 2nd English Debate Championship 2002" started yesterday with 18 school-level and 12 university-level teams taking part.

The six-day championship is being organised jointly by the Viqarunnisa Noon Debating Club and The Daily Star for the second consecutive year.

Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, noted economist and former advisor to the 1996 caretaker government, inaugurated the competition at the Vigarunnisa Noon School and College auditorium as chief guest.

"There is a difference between articulation and oratorical skill. One has to go by logic when he debates, Professor Mahmud said.

He noted that debating should become part of the regular curricu



Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, an economist, speaks as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of The Daily Star-Viqarunnisa Second English Debate Championship-2002 at the Viqarunnisa Noon School and College Auditorium in



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the least developed countries expert group workshop titled "Capacity Building for Preparation of National Adaptation Programmes of Action" in a city hotel yesterday.

mander, David Krauze.

of them seriously.

town Tel Aviv.

"Apparently it was a suicide

bombing. The injured have all been

evacuated to hospital," he said. It

was not immediately clear if the toll

of five included the suicide bomber.

An ambulance service spokes-

A political leader of the radical

expected a new wave of suicide

killed five people in a bus in down-

claimed Wednesday's attack, said

the latest blast "proves that our

people will not submit, however

great are the murders, destruction

and collective punishment" carried

suicide blast

Five people were killed and more

than 40 injured yesterday when a

Palestinian suicide bomber blew

himself to pieces in a bus in down-

town Tel Aviv, police said, a day

after another kamikaze killed a

many days buried a six-week

period of calm, as both Israel and

Palestinian groups warned of a

new wave of attacks promised by

hardliners ahead of the second

anniversary of the uprising which

has claimed more than 2,500 lives.

around 1:00pm in the central

Allenby Street area, a busy shop-

ping area full of cafes. The bus was

autted by the powerful blast and its

"The attack on board a Tel Aviv

front mangled and blackened.

The powerful bomb went off

The second human bomb in as

policeman in northern Israel.

## Climate change impact holds LDCs back: PM

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said impacts of climate change add additional complexities and burdens to planning for sustainable develop-

It's a real challenge for the governments of the LDCs to simultaneously address the issues of climate change and sustainable development, she told the inaugural session of a 3-day LDC Expert Group Workshop at Hotel Sheraton in the morning.

More than 140 participants from 46 countries and representatives of donor countries and organisations are participating in the workshop on "Capacity Building for Preparation of National Adaptation Programme of

The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised the workshop in association

### 5 killed in Tel Aviv South Asia needs to co-ordinate efforts 40, eight of them seriously," said the city's deputy police com-

#### Yunus tells BEA conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned economist and Managing Director of Grameen man said there were 49 injured, 10 Bank Professor Muhammad Yunus has called for coordinated efforts by the South Asian coun-Islamic group Hamas told AFP he tries for poverty alleviation and bombings in Israel after a kamikaze economic development.

"There is no alternative to coordinated efforts in the region Mohammad al-Hindi, a senior for reducing the poverty level," he leader of Islamic Jihad, which observed.

Prof Yunus was presiding over a working session of the biennial conference of Bangladesh Economic Association in the city

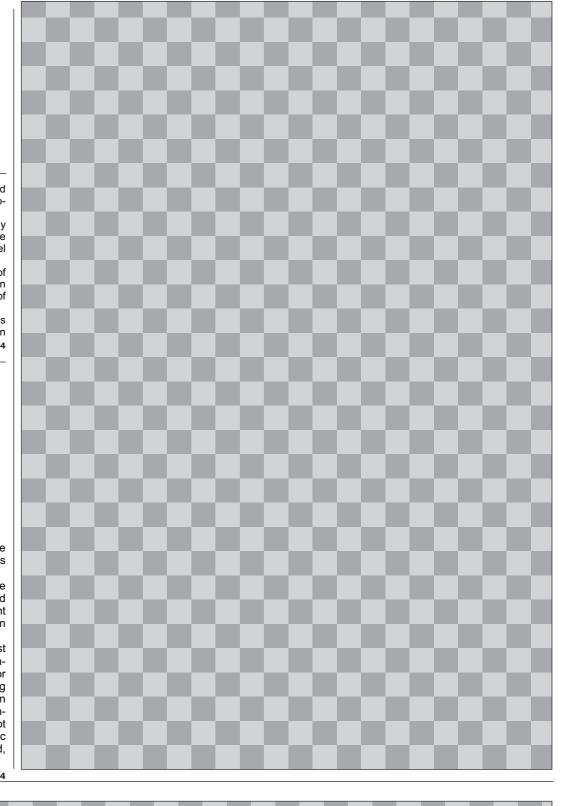
yesterday. He however hoped that poverty

level in Bangladesh could reduce greatly due to open policies of its government.

But he criticised successive governments for what he said creating barriers to development efforts in many fields, rather than gearing up those.

In this context, the economist underscored minimising government's role in different sectors for reducing poverty and accelerating economic growth. It has been proved that whenever the government tried to do business or got involved in any sort of economic activities, the result was not good,

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



bus killed five people and injured SEE PAGE 11 COL 1