



Children engrossed in painting during a programme on traffic art, organised by "Stretch your mind", on the road in front of the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

## Dhaka terms AI report one-eyed

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh termed the Amnesty International's report one-sided and said that it failed to reflect ground realities of the country.

The annual report of the London-based human rights watchdog, Amnesty International, was released last Wednesday.

In its report, the Amnesty

International said Bangladeshi authorities have frequently resorted to torture and have failed to investigate dozens of reported custodial deaths.

Amnesty said 38 people reportedly died after torture in army custody and eight after torture in police custody.

The international human rights

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## Make global trading system equal

### Civil Society Forum demands

STAR REPORT

Members from both national and overseas civil societies at a meeting yesterday lashed out at unequal global trading system under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Speaking at the International

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WB team due June 1 to see urban transport project

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A World Bank (WB) team from Washington will visit Dhaka on June 1 to review the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP), sources said.

Task Manager of the bank Steyne Lundby and Senior Transport Economist Navid Qureshi will lead the delegation.

During their month-long stay, they will hold meetings with the communications ministry and the DUTP.

After the review, the WB will decide whether they are going to fund the second phase of the DUTP. The first phase ends in June next year.

During the review meeting with the WB delegation, the DUTP will propose three new projects -- construction of a new road network for the capital, construction of two bridges over the Buriganga river and an integrated traffic management plan.

But DUTP officials are sceptical about the meeting as a large segment of the tasks under the project

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Dhaka hands over relief for Iraq

BSS, Dhaka

Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf yesterday handed over the first consignment of relief for Iraqi people to the representatives of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BRCs).

Head of the delegation of International Federation, Anthony Ronald Maryann, and Secretary General of BRCs, A FM Obaidur Rahman, received the relief worth Taka 10 crore at a function at the ministry.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia sanctioned a relief of Taka 12 crore for Iraqis.

The second consignment would be sent shortly, he said.

### SHAZNEEN CASE

Hearing adjourned till June 3

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Cross-examination of the 15th prosecution witness in the Shazneen case, Sub-inspector Mohammad Shamsul Haq, continued for the second day yesterday and the hearing was adjourned till June 3.

He was cross-examined by the lawyers of five of the six accused for about two hours in the Second Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka.

Judge Kazi Rahmat Ullah then adjourned the hearing.

During the cross-examination,

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'Bangladesh always against terrorism'

BSS, Tehran

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said that Bangladesh strongly opposes any form of terrorism at the Islamic Conference of Foreign Minister (ICFM) here.

"Bangladesh is committed to upholding the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq and the inherent rights of the Iraqi people over their natural resources," he said while making a statement later on the day at the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) conference centre.

He also urged the coalition forces to fulfil its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention by taking urgent measures to restore

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HSC, Alim, Fazil exams

## Over 1,000 expelled on first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 1,000 examinees were expelled for cheating on the first day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), Alim and Fazil examinations.

The seven general education boards expelled about 770 examinees during the English first paper examinations, and over 300 examinees were expelled from the Madrasah Education Board centres.

Meanwhile, a teacher was manhandled by two examinees at the Dumki Janata College exami-

nation centre under the Barisal Education Board, as he punished them for cheating.

Last year, over 7,000 examinees were expelled on the first day of the HSC examinations, which suggests that cheating curved down this year thanks to government measures to check unfair means in examinations.

The education ministry has taken up several counter-cheating measures like summary trial court, fine, restriction on people's movement and installation of video

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'Criminal' David held at Gopibagh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Fatullah police yesterday arrested a Jatiyatabdhi Juba Dal leader on charge of beating up a traffic police at the Dhaka-Narayanganj link road.

Mominullah David, also a listed criminal, was arrested from Brothers' Union Club at Gopibagh at around 5.00pm.

On May 8, David beat up a traffic police on the pretext of failure to maintain traffic.

David is an accused in about 30 cases of criminal activities filed with Narayanganj, Siddhiganj and Fatullah police stations, police said.

He had been on the run since the incident.

AL dares govt to snap polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday challenged the ruling BNP-Jamaat-e-Islami coalition to midterm polls and demanded its immediate exit.

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PHOTO: STAR

Students appearing in the Alim examinations at the Gahira FK Jameul Ulum Alia Madrasah fall at the feet of State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon on being caught cheating.

## World Heritage Site hostage to caretakers

### Renovators barred from Khan Jahan Ali Mazar

SOHEL ISLAM back from Bagerhat

Religious caretakers are preventing the Department of Archaeology from carrying out renovations to historic Khan Jahan Ali Mazar and Mosque at Bagerhat and threatening to do it themselves.

Only the rules and edicts of the

caretakers, locally known as khadem, reign supreme at the shrine, one of three world heritage sites in Bangladesh, declared by the UNESCO in 1983.

Ulugh Khan Jahan alias Khan Jahan Ali died on October 25, 1429, but it is not clear when the mazar was built.

The khadem had also extended the mosque without authority, marring the relic's aesthetic.

They covered the mosque's floors and walls with bathroom tiles and established a graveyard for family members on its southern side before the Bagerhat district

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New structures have been erected at the Khan Jahan Ali Mazar and Mosque in Bagerhat, destroying the World Heritage Site's originality.

PHOTO: STAR

Sun Rises Sun Sets

May 30 6-41 pm

May 31 5-11 am

Prayer Timings

May 30

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 4-15 4-45

Juma 12-15 1-20

Asr 5-00 5-15

Maghrib 6-45 6-50

Esha 8-15 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation