

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the foundation laying ceremony of Dhaka Leather Industry City at Savar

# 4 opposition parties demand govt's resignation

**RU CORRESPONDENT** 

Leaders of four opposition parties vesterday demanded immediate resignation of the government.

Addressing a joint meeting in front of the Raishahi Press Club. they said the people have lost their faith in this government.

The parties were Awami League (AL), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Communist Party of Bangladesh

The opposition leaders urged their party workers to get ready foran all-out agitation to oust the government.

They also urged all progressive political parties to take to the streets to quicken the fall of government.

Rajshahi city AL President Mahabubul Hague Dulu presidedover the rally addressed by AL city General Secretary Khairuzzman Liton, Proliberation Doctors' Association

President Sayed Shafiqul Alam, JSD city General Secretary Abdullah Al Masud, CPB city unit President Abul Kalam Azad, BSD city General Secretary Lutfuzzman Babu, Bangladesh Chhatra League central committee members Rashidul Islam. BCL city unit President Abdul Momin. and Chhatra Union General Secretary Saial Biswas

Earlier, a procession was brought out in the city. The processionists paraded the

main city streets chanting various slogans against the government. Rajshahi Peshajibi Parishad also

took out a procession and held a rally

Speakers at the rally demanded mmediate arrest and trial of the killers of former finance minister Shah AMS They also demanded resignation

of the government if it fails to punish

Awami League leaders chant anti-government slogans at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city during hartal hours



# **Bomb attack on DU debate** programme condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations and individuals yesterday condemned the bomb attack on a friendly debate competition organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) on the campus to mark the Valentine's Day.

The society held a protest rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla sculpture and brought out a silent procession participated by about five hundred debaters.

Present and former officebearers of the society also called for exemplary punishment to the perpetrators terming it a barbaric attack on the freedom of knowl-

edge and democracy. Education Minister Dr Osman Farruk condemned the attack while visiting the injured at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He asked the hospital authorities for their proper treatment.

Bangladesh Communist Party President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and Member-secretary of Jativa Oikya Mancha Abdur Rouf, in separate statements, condemned

The attack is a consequence of

headway in grisly grenade and bomb attacks in recent times that had infused a deep sense of insecurity among the common people, said Ain O Salish Kendra in a press statement.

Sammilita Ainiibi Samannov Parishad, at a protest meeting with Barrister Amir-ul-Islam in the chair, condemned the attack and demanded proper treatment of the injured and exemplary punishment to the perpetrators.

Secretary General of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights Sigma Huda said it is disquieting that the country's highest seat of learning has become the target of bomb attack.

President of Sammilita Samajik Andolon Ajoy Roy, Executive Director of Human Rights Review Society Advocate Mohammed Sayeedul Hoque and Director of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Samonnov Parishad Advocate Mohammad Shamsuddin, in separate statements, condemned the attack and demanded immediate punishment to the culprits.

Bangladesh Debate Federation, Mymensingh Debate



Debaters stage a demonstration at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday to protest the Monday's bomb attack on a friendly debate competition on the Dhaka University campus.

Jatiya Chhatra Dhara, Bangladesh Chhatra Kendra and Bishwa Bhalobasa Dibas Udiapon Parishad also issued separate statements decrying the attack.

Federation, Bangladesh Chhatra

Federation, Biplobi Chhatra

Moitri, Progotishil Chhatra Jote,

### 'Declare Feb 14 Sundarbans Day'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira.

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon the government to declare February 14 Sundarbans

They also urged the government to protect the bio-diversity and wildlife of the Sundarbans.

The discussion was organised by the Sundarbans Day Udjapan Committee at Satkhira sadar upazila parishad auditorium with its Convenor Principal Asit Kumar Majumdar in the chair. Taking part in the discussion as

chief guest, former minister Dr Aftabuzzaman said Bangladesh is blessed with a unique heritage of the Sundarbans, the biggest mangrove forest in the world. A unique ecosystem including various types of animals, birds,

fishes and insects is found in the forest which is the only habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger, he added. The speakers said the Su bans, which has been protecting the

South-Western region of the country from natural calamities, is now on the verge of extinction. Prof Mohammad Ali, Kamrul Islam Farooq, Mariam Mannan and Madhab Chandra Dutta also

Mentionable, the Sundarbans Day is being observed here by different socio-cultural organisa-

tions for the last five years.

### Chehlum



Rana Hossain Kabir will be held at his ancestral home, Miah Bari, in Ghorasal after Juma prayers on Friday, says a press release.

Chehlum of

The mother of the deceased, his daughter Tasmin and son Rajan have requested the relatives. friends and well-wishers to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

### Death anniversary



Today is the 6th death anniversary of journalist Motahar Hossain Siddiqui, says a nress release. A milad and doa mahfil will be

held at his home

UNB, Dhaka

Citv/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

country. Met Office said.

at village Bahadurpur in Shibchar. Madaripur after Zohr prayers. Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to

### **Anwara Begum**

attend the milad.



anniversary of Anwara Begum will be observed toady, says a press release. Quarnkhwani and milad mahfil will be held at House # 15.

The 8th death

Road # 5, Block # Kha, Nawab Fayezunnesa Waqf Estate, Pallabi after Asr prayers on Friday.

Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to attend the milad.

# 'Political conflicts obstacle to achieving MDG'

UNB, Dhaka

Political conflicts and constant political turmoil that cause international aid fatigue might impede Bangladesh's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goal, said Erna Witoelar, UN special ambassador for MDG for Asia and the Pacific, yesterday.

She explained that hartals and conflicts between the government and the opposition parties impede the development efforts aimed at the poor and vulnerable groups. Erna is now in Dhaka to see the

MDG targets by 2015. "Bangladesh as a country can generate better understanding of international community and generate more support for long-term

country's progress in reaching the

development plans," she said. In an interview with the UNB, the ambassador said in a democracy, the party in power should be allowed to implement its development plans for the poorest and vulnerable to improve their livelihood.

"I think the essence of the opposition is to constantly correct whoever is in power and that is democracy. But if the opposition becomes an obstacle to the development for the people, then it will be a loss for all, especially for the ordinary people," Erna said

Responding to the opposition's complaints against denial of democratic rights, killings and repression, the UN ambassador said, "It takes two to cause this situation... It is counterproductive."

"I'm not blaming the opposition, and not blaming the government in power either. I am stating that constant political turmoil is counterproductive for development efforts,"

The envoy said any country needs a stable political environment, normal internal trade, indus-

জাতায়তাবাদী

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal took out an anti-hartal procession in the city

No change in temperature

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.0 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 5:54pm today and rises at 6:30am

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

20.3

19.0

15.6

17.2

17.5

16.2

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

84

45

77

61

Mornina

52

70

44

77

86

66

recorded at Patuakhali and the lowest of 13.7 degree at Rangour.

Temperature in

Celsius

Max

31.1

31.5

30.2

32.0

31.6

31.3

29.0

country in the next 24 hours till 6.00pm today.

some major cities and towns vesterday were:

চাৰ্যা মহানগৰ

trial development and congenial atmosphere for its people to improve their livelihood.

She, however, said that Bangladesh is on the track in reaching the MDG targets and praised the country's quick success in the field of primary education, child health and to some extent in women empowerment and poverty allevia-

### Photojournalist Mufti Munir passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Mufti Munir, a noted photojournalist, passed away due to kidney ailments yesterday at the age of 50.

Munir began his career as a photojournalist in 1979. He worked with the daily Sangbad, AFP and the daily Amar Desh. He started working as a freelancer recently. He is survived by his wife, one

son and a daughter. His body was taken to his village home at Golachipa in Patuakhali

last night for burial. Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina expressed

The Bangladesh Photoiournalists' Association also expressed deep shock at the death

#### Sameena Siddiqui UNB, Dhaka

condolence at his death.

Sameena Siddiqui, a senior journalist, died of a cardiac ailment at her Elephant Road residence on Monday morning at the age of 52. She is survived by her husband,

one son and one daughter. She was buried at Mirpur Martvred Intellectuals Gravevard.

Sameena, who obtained diploma in iournalism from London School of Journalism, began her career as a feature writer in The New Nation in 1979 and was promoted to senior reporter in 1981.

She also worked in The Pulse, The Morning Sun and The Bangladesh Observer. Later, she joined the Hosaf Group of Companies as a public relations officer, said a press release.

### Sheikh Md Ilias

UNB, Dhaka

Sheikh Mohammad Ilias, central member of Bangladesh Workers' Party and a valiant freedom fighter, died of a cardiac arrest at a local clinic in Gopalganj yesterday at the age of 56.

He left behind his wife, two daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn his

In a condolence message, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon and General Secretary Bimol Biswas expressed deep shock at the death of Ilias.

### M Shamsul Haque

UNB, Dhaka

M Shamsul Haque, a mail operator at sorting and air division of RMS of Bangladesh Postal Department, died of brain hemorrhage at the Metropolitan Hospital on Monday at the age of 47.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of relatives and wellwishers.

Samsul Haque was buried at his native village Belabo in Ghorashal of Narsingdi district on Monday, said a press release

#### Orientation

The orientation of executive participants in Master of Business Administration Programme of University of Information Technology and Sciences will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani. Time: 6.00pm.

#### Painting exhibition

An exhibition of paintings by Fahamida Akter Kakoli will be inaugurated. Venue: Zainul Gallery, Institute of Fine Arts. Time: 6.00pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 22 from 11.00am to 8.00pm daily.

#### Unesco exhibition

On the occasion of the International Mother Language Day, a two-day Unesco Book and Publication Exhibition-2005 will be inaugurated by Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed as chief quest. Venue: Central Public Library premises, Shahbagh. Time: 11.00am to 6.00pm

#### Musical evening Bishwasahitya Kendra organises a solo

musical evening of Ferdous Ara. Venue: Bishwasahitya Kendra auditorium, Bangla Motor. Time: 6.30pm **Publication** 

#### ceremony The publication ceremony of a book

titled 'Papi Nakkhatrer Galpo' by Rita Chowdhury will be held. This is a translation work from Asomia language by the author herself. Venue: Lekhok Kunja, Ekushey Book Fair, Bangla Academy, Time: 5.00pm.

#### Memorial discussion

A discussion will be held in observance of 21st death anniversary of Bangabir General MAG Osmani, Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

### DAB discussion

Doctors Association of Bangladesh will hold a discussion in protest against hartal with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan as chief quest. Venue: Shaheed Dr Milon auditorium of Dhaka Medical College. Time: 12.00noon.

### Eye camp

Bangladesh Jatiya Jubo Council in

collaboration with Lions Club of Dhaka Dhanmondi organises a free eye camp. Venue: Dhalpur Community Centre, Golapbagh. Time: 9.00am to 4.30pm.

#### **Triennial** conference

The triennial conference of Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Paishad Supreme Court Bar unit will be held. Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium. Time:

#### Roundtable South Asian People's Union against

Fundamentalism and Communalism will hold a roundtable on successive bomb/grenade attacks and the duty of civil society. Venue: Cirdap auditorium Topkhana Road. Time: 4.00pm.

#### IFC meeting International Farakka Committee

organises an opinion sharing meeting. Venue: National Press Club. Time: **IUBAT** workshop

International University of Business

Agriculture and Technology organises a

#### workshop on 'Current issues in nursing education and practice.' Venue: University conference room, Uttara. Time: 9.00am.

CUP workshop Coalition for the Urban Poor organises its central workshop. Venue: CUP secretariat, Mohammadpur. Time:

## **DHAKA**

#### Art exhibition The inaugural ceremony of an art

exhibition by Liudmila Yakovleva, a Russian artist, will be held. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House-510, Road-7, Dhanmondi. Time: 5.30pm. The exhibition will remain open till February 23 from 11.00am to 7.00pm

### **AEB** discussion

Association of Engineers, Bangladesh organises a discussion to protest successive hartal calls. Venue: Engineers Institution, Bangladesh.