

Dhaka-KLjt  
commission  
meet June 6-7

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh-Malaysia Joint Commission meeting to be held in Dhaka June 6-7 will discuss trade, investment and manpower export among other issues.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan will lead the host side while Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Abdul Hamid Albar will lead his country at the meeting.

Morshed said a large number of Bangladeshi workers are employed in Malaysia. For the time being, the sending of manpower has been stopped, but the Malaysian authorities have decided to accept Bangladeshi workers on tourist visa and give work permit in that country.

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BNP leader  
roughs up  
journo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A ruling BNP leader yesterday assaulted a journalist of a national daily for writing a report that had gone against him.

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Pak cricket  
legend Fazal  
passes away

REUTERS, Karachi

Former Pakistan Test bowler Fazal Mahmood, one of Wisden's five cricketers of the year in 1954, died in his hometown of Lahore on Monday.

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JOBS IN MALAYSIA

# New visa conditions cloud fate of 1,000

**PORIMOL PALMA**

Ambiguities in new visa requirements introduced by the Malaysian government have thrown into question the fate of some 1,000 workers seeking jobs in Malaysia, who are required to secure a visa stamp by today, sources at Baira said.

According to the Malaysian government, none of the 8,500 workers, who returned home from Malaysia between November 2004 and February 2005 under a general amnesty, will be allowed to return if they do not get their visa stamped by today.

So far, not more than 1,000 of the total 8,500 workers have applied to go back to Malaysia. For unknown reasons, not a single one has yet received a visa stamp, an official in the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) said.

It is unclear why the remaining 7,500 have not applied to return to Malaysia. About 150 recruiting agencies even placed advertisements in newspapers about overseas employment opportunities following the declaration that the Malaysian government would take back the workers. But the majority of workers seem to have responded to those announcements with disinterest.

Confusion, meanwhile, reins

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# Twin Iraq blasts kill 27 ex-cops

## Senior Kurdish official shot dead

**REUTERS, AP, Hilla**

Two suicide bombers strapped with explosives blew themselves up in a crowd of protesting former policemen south of Baghdad yesterday, killing 27 in one of the deadliest attacks in a month of escalating violence.

The blasts in the mostly Shia town of Hilla and the reported arrest of a Sunni Arab political leader by US forces in Baghdad put fresh strain on Iraq's sectarian divisions. al-Qaeda's network in Iraq claimed responsibility for the bombings in separate statements posted on the Internet.

Police said the bombers mingled with former police commandos who were demonstrating outside a government office because their unit had been disbanded. The first bomber detonated his explosives in the middle of the crowd. As survivors scattered, the other bomber ran with them and blew himself up nearby.

"You just can't count the dead because the bodies were torn apart," said one Iraqi man surveying the scene. "May God punish those who did this."

More than 100 people were wounded, police said. Body parts lay in pools of blood on the street

beside discarded sandals and shoes. Workers carried shredded bodies on stretchers and sheets and loaded them onto the back of pick up trucks.

Insurgents have stepped up suicide attacks and ambushes over the past month, killing more than 700 Iraqis since a new Shia-led cabinet was announced on April 28.

Seventy US troops have been killed in May, making it the deadliest month for the US military since January when insurgents tried to derail the Jan. 30 elections.

In an effort to restore public confidence sapped by relentless

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# Zia's 24th death anniversary observed

**UNB, Dhaka**

The 24th death anniversary of president Ziaur Rahman was observed across the country yesterday.

The days programmes included placing of wreaths at the grave of the leader at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Quran Khwani, special prayers, voluntary blood donation, discussion, seminar and photo exhibition on the life and works of the late president.

President Iajuddin Ahmed placed wreath at the grave and offered fateha in the morning. He also prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

Ministers, including BNP

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PHOTO: PID

Khaleda Zia, flanked by her cabinet and party colleagues, offers prayers after placing wreaths at the grave of president and BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital on his 24th death anniversary yesterday.

# Robbers shot dead 2 in Ctg

## Woman's body found in train

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg**

Robbers shot dead two persons who were chasing them in Rangunia upazila in the early hours yesterday.

Before the shooting, which left two others injured, the robbers looted cash, ornaments and valuables worth

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Prayer Timing		
May 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35
Source: Islamic Foundation		

# DRIVE AGAINST REBELS

# Dhaka for similar Indian action

**UNB, Dhaka**

Against the backdrop of the slaying of six suspected Indian rebels during a major operation, Dhaka hopes that Bangladesh's anti-insurgent action will help improve relations with its neighbours.

"We hope that similar operations will be made against Bangladeshi criminals who have taken shelter in India," Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan told diplomatic correspondents at his office yesterday.

Morshed said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has repeatedly said that Bangladesh will not allow any insurgents to operate from within its soil.

"Anti-insurgent operation in Moulvibazar has reflected our con-

# French say firm 'no' to EU treaty

**REUTERS, Paris**

France overwhelmingly rejected the European Union constitution on Sunday, pitching the EU deep into crisis and dealing a potentially fatal blow to a charter designed to make

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