#### PM performs Ziarat at Madina

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has performed Ziarat at the Rauzamubarak of Prophet Hazarat Mohammad (SM) in Madina Al Monawara.

Khaleda Zia, who reached here on Thursday night from Makka, offered prayer and special munajat at the Masjed-e-Nababi. She prayed for peace, progress and prosperity of the country and Muslim

Earlier Prime Minister reached the sacred city of Madina by special aircraft of Saudi airlines from Jeddha after attending the third extraordinary summit of OIC in

She was accompanied, among others, by Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Mosaddeq Ali MP, Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin and PM's Secretary Khondaker Shaheedul Islam and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia SM Ekramul Haque.

#### Road mishap kills woman

UNB, Comilla

A woman was killed and 20 people were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Kheron Khal in Chandina upazila yesterday afternoon

Police said the accident took place at about 1:00pm when a Noakhali-bound bus from Dhaka hit a roadside tree, killing an unidentified woman passenger, aged about 35, and injuring 20 people.

The injured bus passengers have been admitted to different hospitals for treatment.

#### 13 houses gutted in Feni

A total of 13 houses were burnt to ashes in a devastating fire at Kachua village in Parshuram upazila early yesterday.

Witnesses said the fire originated from an electrical short circuit at a room of Zakir Hossain and soon engulfed other houses in the area.

On information, fire fighters from district town rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze.

Local sources estimated the loss



#### Death anniversary of Sirajuddin Hossain today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 34th death anniversary of eminent journalist Sirajuddin Hossain, a martyr of the War of He remained missing since the

Pakistani forces and their collaborators, Razakars and Al-Badr, took him away from his Chamelibagh residence on this day in 1971. A pioneer of investigating report-

ing, Sirajuddin was the executive and news editor of the daily Ittefaq. His writings helped mobilise support for the War of Liberation.

During his long career in journalism, Sirajuddin was involved in all

movements, including the Language Movement, to establish the rights of Bangalees. He was also awarded the

International Press Institute Award. A milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 3/11 Asad Avenue, Mohammadpur, after Maghrib

prayers today. A Qurankhawni and milad will also be held at his village home at Sharusuna in Shalikha, Magura.

#### **Amir Uddin**



second death anniversary of Amir Uddin, a retired executive engineer of Bangladesh Water Development Board, says

Today is the

A doa mahfil will be held at his residence on the occasion

Family members have requested the relatives and admirers to pray for the salvation of the departed



Visitors look at photos at an exhibition of six photojournalists at the gallery of Fine Arts of Dhaka University that

## Raise awareness about heart diseases: President

President lajuddin Ahmed yesterday called on cardiology experts to come forward to disseminate the knowledge of keeping good health for greater interest of the people.

He was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the international conference on 'Updates on Management in Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery' organised by the LabAid Cardiac Hospital at a city

"Heart disease is one of the leading causes of death in our country. Each year, the number of death due to cardiovascular diseases is alarmingly increasing," the

"In the year 2000, about 16.7 million people died of cardiovascular diseases, amounting to 30.3 percent of all deaths worldwide," he

President lajuddin noted with concern that South Asia comprising India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka represents more than a quarter of the developing world, and is likely to be strongly affected by the increase in cardiovascular diseases.

He said: "Nowadays, every one is looking for answers. Patients want new and better ways of healing. So, physicians, government, community, social leaders want to reduce the impact of heart disease."

The president said the treatment

sive, which the poor people of the region cannot afford Mass awareness regarding the causes of these diseases can play a vital role in reducing the heart dis-

of cardiovascular disease is expen-

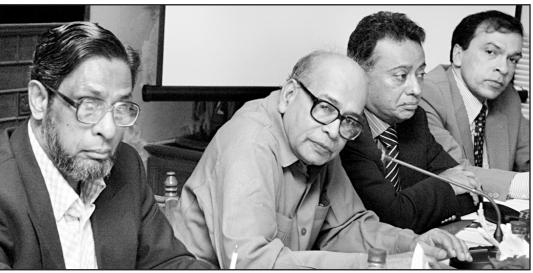
eases, he added. He hoped that the conference

would contribute towards raising professional efficiency, helping the physicians to render improved services to the people of the region with enhanced commitment and dedication.

The president urged the rich as well as the benevolent persons to extend their help in the services of humanity by establishing a Heart Centre of international repute in

This will benefit the patients irrespective of their economic status, he said, adding that foreign exchange could also be saved.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof MA Hadi were, among others, present at the inaugural function.



Professor Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a seminar organised by Transparency International Bangladesh at the National

schools and universities contra

dicted "basic values of integrity,

equity and the public good" and

risked perpetuating the problem by

fostering a negative perception of

opinion poll at two major universities

bribes for passing exams and

selling diplomas were common-

municipalities lose up to 55 percent

of their federal school subsidies to

age family reportedly paid 30 dollars

(25.50 euros) each year in kick-backs and bribes for access to

to combat the problem, TI said,

citing parent-teacher associations

in Zambia, which control school

finances as a successful anti-fraud

Suspected JMB

Shahadat' loudly and the other two

began searching something in their

They handed all the three over to

Ebaidullah carried a diary with

"We have to spread out our

He was taken to Paltan Police

Police also seized from him

him which contained a quotation

network sacrificing our lives," one

some leaflets and a book with a

picture of former US president Bill

Clinton on its cover. They however

declined to disclose the contents of

Paltan police kept on the arrest. The

officer-in-charge of the police sta-

tion could not be met despite

Approached by newsmen,

Station and was being quizzed.

pockets, witnesses said.

devotee said.

the leaflets.

repeated attempts.

Giving examples, it said an

Bosnia-Herzegovina revealed

In Brazil, a study found that poor

Meanwhile, in Mexico, the aver-

Efforts are, however, being made

authority and institutions.

place on campus

fraud in procurement.

measure.

supposedly free education.

## Most corrupt bodies

**FROM PAGE 16** 

But the problem also extends to education, with serious consequences for students and the development of countries concerned. TI argued, launching a separate report entitled "Stealing the Future: Corruption in the Classroom".

Both documents were released to coincide with the United Nations international anti-corruption day.

Overall, citizens of 48 countries believed corruption had increased over the last three years while only six -- Colombia, Georgia, Indonesia Hong Kong, Kenya and Singapore -said it had decreased.

In 13 countries -- Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, India, Israel, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines and Venezuela -- more than 50 percent felt corruption increased a lot.

Africans and Latin Americans felt most negative about the past.

The future offered a more mixed bag: 12 countries expected corruption to fall but 34 countries were pessimistic about turning around the situation.

TI chairwoman Huguette Labelle described corruption as "a major problem of our times". '

"Its most deadly impact is on the poor," she said. "If people are pessimistic, they will not feel they can do something about it.

"The results of the survey are a call for alarm for people. It can change, but it requires leadership will and pressure.

The 85-page education report meanwhile, cites evidence from 10 countries revealing corruption including bribes to secure a child's admission to school to passing university exams.

"A basic textbook and a good grade should not depend on greasing the palm of a corrupt teacher or administrator." said Labelle.

"Poor parents who are forced to pay up may choose instead to feed their families, leaving a generation gap of students without a proper

education and perpetuating the poverty trap," she added. The report said such practices in

#### Wife kills husband

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An enraged wife killed her husband at one stage of altercation at Keranigani near Dhaka in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said Harunur Rashid, 35 a rickshawpuller of Dharmasur, died of suffocation when Razia Begum tied his neck with a muffler at about 3:00am after she was allegedly beaten up by her husband.

Police arrested Razia and sent the body to Mitford Hospital morgue

for autopsy Razia told police that her husband used to beat her very often although he could not provide her

Nasir Ahmed, victim's brother lodged a murder case

#### 'Mass upsurge needed to end corruption

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Speakers at a discussion yesterday said a mass upsurge is needed to eradicate massive corruption of the government that are eating up the very vitality of the nation.

The discussion was organised by Chittagong City Sacheton Nagorik Committee in association with Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) at the Chittagong Press Club on the occasion of the International Anti-Corruption Day. The speakers said every sector

grip of corruption. TIB Representative Ikram Hossain presented a concept paper on corruption at the discussion.

of our national life is now under the

Renowned social scientist Dr Anupam Sen, Dean of sociology department of Chittagong University Dr Moinul Islam, Prothom Alo Resident Editor Abul Momen and Writer Moshtari Shafi were the

#### Weeklong V-Day programmes of LWM begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Liberation War Museum (LWM) kicks off a weeklong programme today to mark the Victory Day.

The programme includes discussions, dramas, musical sessions and poetry recitation. A discussion on '1971: Crime

against humanity' will be held this

The trustees of the museum announced the programmes at a press conference on the museum premises at Segunbagicha yester-

They proposed that the government should include the contents reflected in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) in the curriculum of schools and madrasas with a view to instilling humane values in the new generation.

"The inclusion of UDHR and ideas of harmony and peace in the curriculum has become very important in the present national and international contexts," said Mofidul Hague, a trustee of the Museum.

Dr Sarwar Ali. Ziauddin Tareque Ali and Rabiul Hossain also spoke.

#### World Human Rights Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

World Human Rights Day is being observed in the country today amidst concern over deaths in 'crossfire' with law enforcers, and the absence of a human rights commission even 34 years into independence.

On this day in 1948, the Universal Human Rights Charter was signed in Paris, and its principles and philosophy were later included in various international human rights charters for implementation in many countries.

On the eve of the 56th World Human Rights Day, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan has urged all to work together 'to develop and nurture in future generations a culture of human rights to promote freedom, security and peace in all

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia have given separate messages on the occasion reaffirming Bangladesh's commitment to upholding human Leader of the Opposition and

President lajuddin Ahmed and

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in her message blamed the government for its 'failure' to ensure the rights of the citizens. Different rights organisations have chalked out elaborate

programmes to mark the day. These include discussion, rally and human Human Rights International

vesterday held a meeting presided over by its presidium member Dr Mohammad Salim The meeting expressed shock

and grief at heinous attacks by the suicide bombers on innocent people across the country

It urged the government to take more effective measures to stop such attacks in future.

The organisation will form a human chain today.

Bangladesh Bastobayan Sangstha, Orpito Samppati Ain Protirodh Andolon Jatiya Committee, Centre for Communication Network. World Peace and Human Rights Movement Bangladesh, Initiative for Radical Human Rights, Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, Human Rights Review Society, National Garment Workers Federation, Coalition for the Urban Poor, Bangladesh Awami Sangskritic Forum, Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, The Hunger Project, EPZ. Workers Centre Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantric Dal, and Bangladesh NGO Sammilan have arranged different programmes to mark the

#### Obituary

graveyard at Narinda

on December 12.

Syed Shahidullah, secretary of Phoenix Insurance Company Limited, passed away due to cardiac complications at his Mirbagh residence in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 62, says a press release. A former chief officer of TCB, he

is survived by his wife, a son, two daughters and a number of grandchildren. He was buried at his family

His gulkhwani will be held at his residence at 'Falguni', 15 Mirbagh



Youth citizens of Chittagong forms a human chain at Shilpakala Sarak in Chittagong city yesterday protesting continuous bomb attacks across the country.

## Crop output in Bangladesh better than expected: FAO

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in a report has said crop output in Bangladesh this year is better than expected along with increased global rice produc-

were among the Asian countries that increased their rice exports substantially this year, the FAO said. Global rice paddy production is expected to hit 622 million tons this

year, up by 2.6 percent from 2004,

Bangladesh and the Philippines

with better than expected crops in Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia and Thailand, it "World paddy production would

be 2.6 per cent or 16 million tons higher than in 2004." said the FAO in its latest Rice Market Monitor. The FAO has also forecast that

global rice trade will be 27.6 million tons in 2005, up by one million ton from last vear. "The global export expansion

was in spite of a retrenchment in

Thailand -- due to reduced availabil

ities and government intervention to sustain prices -- with many other leading exporters stepping up their shipments and more than compensating for Thailand's shortfall."

Thailand has been the world's leading rice exporter for decades. followed by the US and Vietnam.

"In 2006 rice prices may fall by five percent on average based on current supply/demand prospect, predicted the FAO monitor.

### Yadav was coaxed

FROM PAGE 1

work-place and village, his employer, rescuers, locals and his relatives strongly denied the accusation that Yadav was a militant.

The local police, who briefed the

state minister about Yadav's being a

suicide bomber, however, could not

substantiate that he carried out the blast. Sources in the police said the local investigators are now confused about the minister's claim. WITNESS COAXED YADAV "He was not willing to go when I asked him to visit the spot with me.

Ripon, owner of a motorcycle repairing shop now receiving treatment at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital, said. Hearing the sound of blast from his house on the Court Road, Ripon

headed for the spot, and on his way

he met Yadav standing in front of his shop. me, he said he had to go somewhere to collect money where he worked for a person," Ripon said, adding, "But I coaxed him into

going. "When we reached the spot, we got separated in the crowd," he

continued in a weak voice. "I tried to go close to the spot where the first bomb exploded and suddenly heard the ear-splitting sound of a blast that made me unconscious," narrated Ripon, who sustained injuries to the chest, ear, head, leas and stomach

POLICE WITNESS Sub-Inspector (SI) Manwar Hossain, who saw both the blasts, told this correspondent that the police reached the spot at about

"I was picking up splinters from the spot of the first explosion when the second bomb blasted," he described. "I saw around 30-40 people including several of my colleagues lying on the floor and the street stained with blood," he said.

About Yadav, Manwar said, "We did not know who is who as the blast mutilated the faces of some of the "But I saw Yadav, whose identity

we learnt later, with severe wounds in the thighs," he narrated. "Lots of small wire pieces, used as splinters in the bomb, pierced both his thighs. one through his penis, and some smoke sort of thing was seen coming out from his thighs," he added.

Seeing the smoke, we primarily suspected that he could have been one of the bombers, but the injury could also be like that as he was so close to the explosion." he said. "We [police] suspected he may

have more bombs tied to his thighs but did not find any after he was taken to hospital," Manwar con-

YADAV'S NEIGHBOURS People at Yadav's work-place on

Kachari Road including Montu Chowhan, owner of a rickshawmaking shop; Dilip Sarker, owner of a nearby tea-stall; Moinuddin, a wood trader, Monju Miah, a blacksmith; and several others, told this correspondent that Yadav by no means could have been involved in the blast.

He merely went to the explosion spot to see what was happening, said the neighbours, who know him for many years. They said Yadav was a calm, gentle and polite boy and never had any connection with any sort of strangers

Monju Mia said he saw Yadav standing in front of his shop in the sun after he took his bath in the

nearby pond at around 10:00am when a man came to the place and they both went together after a little talk. He did not even have any clothes on then when he was stand-

ing there, he added Yadav's neighbours in the village--Taiyab Ali and Samsul Mia-also described Yadav as mild natured. He used to come to the village often to give his family members money. They also said they had never seen anyone accompanying him to the village, contradicting the claim that he was involved in mili-

POLICE AND LOCAL ADMINISTRATION'S REPORT

Samiul Alam, officer-in-charge (OC) of the local police station, said Yadav was clean. No cases or complaints were found against him

Similar report came from the police authority of Yadav's village Barhatta. The ward commissioner of ward No. 7 also told the press that he used to know the boy. "He was a good and polite boy," he commented, expressing his surprise that Yadav was named as a suspect

or a bomber. **FAMILY VERSION** 

Yadav's brother Biplob Das, an employee of a godown of Mangal Saha at Barabazar, and sister Dipa Das, an employee of CARE, strongly denied the allegation and condemned the government's

divert the issue to some other track,' Dipa told the press, adding, "It's also a plot against him to deprive him of The police, meanwhile, released

"The government is trying to

Yadav's siblings Thursday evening after detaining them at noon. The SP of Netrakona said they held Yadav's brother and sister as the siblings of a suspected bomber, but could not say anything about why they released them later.

Rana Mandol, employer of

Yadav, also brushed aside the idea of Yadav being a militant, "Rather, he was a good-natured boy, studied at his leisure period at the workshop where he used to spend his nights," he said, adding, "He even passed SSC exams from Open University

last vear." SP CONFUSED IF YADAV IS

THE BOMBER Netrakona SP Ali Hossain Fakir yesterday expressed his confusion about Yadav being the bomber.

Sources in the police said the SP

briefed the state minister about Yadav when he visited the spot following the observation of the doctors of Sadar Hospital. The SP told The Daily Star that

he suspected Yadav as a bomber after seeing his injuries. Although he claimed to have taken the opinion of the bomb experts of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and local explosives experts, he could not name them.

The SP also said the police have yet to confirm Yadav as a bomber and it would come after making an

investigation. Meanwhile, a member of the expert team from Dhaka visiting the blast site said they are yet to confirm if Yadav is the bomber. Seeking anonymity, the official added that they were also not clearing Yadav of

the suspicion. He also said the other suspect, who was on the bicycle, may be the actual bomber, and when he activated the bomb, the blast ripped his right hand off. Yadav might have been very close to him and so his injuries are of such a nature that

rouse the suspicion.

## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours ending at 6:00pm today. Light to moderate fog may also occur over the river basins of the

country in the early morning, Met office said, predicting nearly unchanged night temperature. Yesterday's highest temperature of 31.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakundu and the lowest of 11.0 degrees at

The sun sets in the capital at 5:12pm today and rises at 6:31am tomorrow.

some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature Humidity in in Celsius percentage Morning Max Evening 27.1 14.3

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

City/Town Dhaka Chittagono 30.5 19.0 78 78 88 73 Raishahi 27.3 14.2 76 27.3 14.5 Khulna Barisal 27.8 13.4 Svlhet 29.5 15.0 Cox's Bazar

# WEATHER TO D A Y