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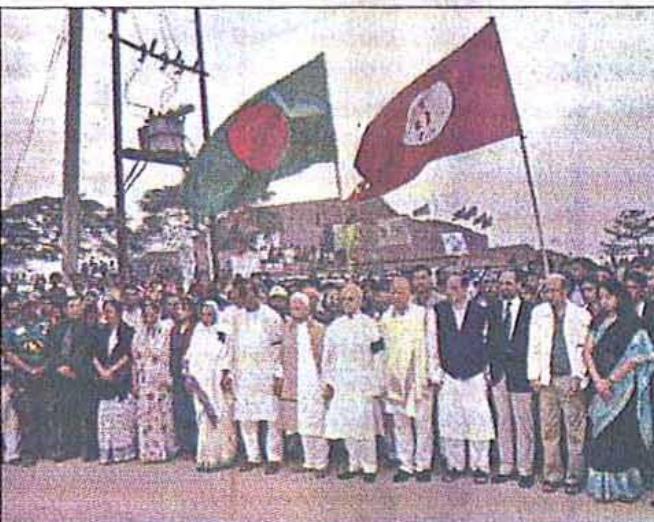
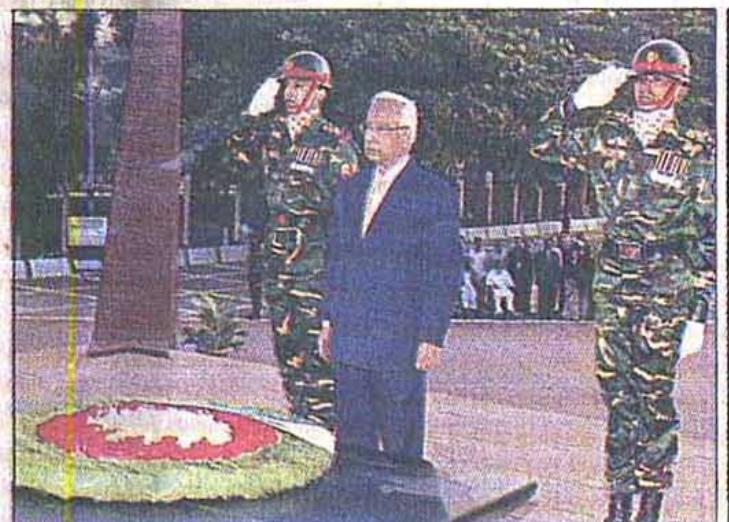
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WEDDING

SEASON GIFT

TRANSCOM

ELECTRONICS



President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed pay homage to the martyred intellectuals at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the capital yesterday. Members of the Sector Commanders' Forum and others, third right, observe a two-minute silence at Rayer Bazar Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum on the day, while students march towards Mirpur demanding trial of the war criminals.

LDCs should upgrade IP frameworks  
Debapriya tells WIPO forum in Geneva

STAR REPORT

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh should actively upgrade their legal and institutional frameworks in intellectual property (IP) in order to take advantage of the flexibilities expected to be offered by the WTO.

The international community also needs to support the efforts of LDCs, said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations office in Geneva.

"Once flexibilities are offered by the WTO, LDCs would have to comply with international IP standards," he said, adding, "Using IP

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## Signs of compromise as Bali talks miss deadline

APP, Nusa Dua

reached Friday, Watson said: "These things tend to go on, but I'm hopeful."

The unofficial target of noon (0400 GMT) had been set by Yvo de Boer, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change organising the conference, in a bid to spur events.

Delegates said there had been good advances on some technical matters and financial questions, but no breakthrough on the key dispute dividing the United States from the European Union and developing countries.

The Bali summit's task is to launch negotiations for a new pact that will slash greenhouse gas pollution after 2012, when current commitments under the Kyoto Protocol run out.

Asked if an agreement would be

reached Friday, Watson said: "The European Union and developing countries want the text to mention an ambition that developed nations would cut by 25-40 percent by 2020 from 1990 levels their greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming.

The United States is opposed, however, and delegates said its position was shared by Canada, Japan and Russia. The United States is the only major economy to reject the Kyoto Protocol, with Bush arguing it is too costly.

German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel said the conference had reached agreement on a variety of issues including the transfer of green technology to developing nations, but that talks were going down to the wire on an emissions reference.

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Release teachers, students without delay: Duta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday reiterated its demand for withdrawal of cases against the detained teachers and students of the university and their immediate release.

The Duta renewed its demand at a discussion marking the Martyred Intellectuals' Day at Dhaka University Club in the evening. A one-minute silence was observed at the meeting to pay homage to the martyred intellectuals.

The teachers' body also demanded trial of the war criminals who killed the intellectuals at the fag end of the Liberation War in 1971.

The Duta urged the government

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## Fraud claims by opposition already cloud Pak election

Musharraf to lift state of emergency today

AP, AFP, Islamabad

Islamic extremism. President Pervez Musharraf determined to show that he is sincere about bringing democracy to Pakistan has tried to blunt the opposition's criticism by promising to lift a state of emergency ahead of the January 8 vote.

He is also considering granting opposition demands that he suspend mayors to prevent them from influencing the vote and scrap a

two-term limit for prime ministers, Attorney General Malik Mohammed Qayyum said Friday.

The Pakistan government insists basic rights will be fully restored for all people Saturday when President Pervez Musharraf lifts the controversial emergency rule he imposed last month.

Musharraf drew international criticism for imposing a state of

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SSKOP welcomes

move to review

wage board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the government move to form a review committee on the just-declared Sixth Wage Board Award, Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) yesterday said they had sent a memorandum to the chief adviser and the information secretary on Thursday to remove anomalies in the award.

In a joint statement, the oikya parishad expressed the hope that the government will remove anomalies in the Wage Board Award

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POST-SIDR SUNDARBANS

## Fear of loan sharks haunts fishermen

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, back from Sundarbans

Fishermen in the chars of the Sundarbans region anticipate insufficient catch this year as many have not returned to the trade following the devastation of cyclone Sidr.

They fear this will ultimately leave them unable to pay their loans taken from local fish traders on high interest.

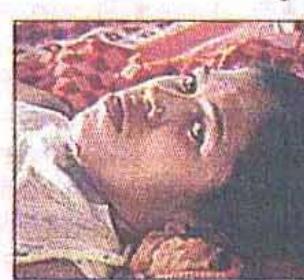
Cyclone Sidr washed away almost everything, including houses, nets, boats and other necessary belongings, of these fishermen on nine islands. But they are beginning life afresh, building houses and repairing boats and nets.

Talking to The Daily Star, fishermen and fish traders demanded that the government build permanent houses for the fishermen and

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## Agonising tale of a husband's brutality

SHAHEEN MOLLAH



It was love that parted schoolteacher Mahbuba Khanam from her parents. With high hopes disregarding her parents' opinions she got married to a man six years ago, and they had a happy conjugal life until recently.

Now she lies on a hospital bed in the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with third degree burns on a quarter of her body, tied by the very man she had tied with solovingly.

"Mahbuba will have to undergo treatment here for a long time," according to Project Director of the Burn Unit of DMCH Dr Samanta Sen.

Lying on the hospital bed, Mahbuba told The Daily Star that her husband doused her with petrol and set fire to her as she tried to stop him from having an extra marital affair with another woman.

She said five months ago Anwar, her husband, resigned from the army where he used to work as a non-commissioned soldier, and settled at Borhanuddin in Bhola. The couple managed to set up a phone-fax centre which doubles as a stationeries shop, named after their four-year old son

Mahbuba Khanam

Fahmida, at the local bus stand. They had to sell off Mahbuba's jewels to gather the required capital.

Over the last few months Mahbuba had been noticing a change in Anwar. After her own investigation, she found that her husband had been in an extra marital affair with another woman living in Jessor, Mahbuba said. Since the startling revelation, the couple had been quarrelling most of the time.

Speaking about her experience of the last five months, Mahbuba said, "On November 23 night, Anwar beat me mercilessly leaving me badly bruised. And then he put salt on my bruises."

In the morning of November 24, Mahbuba went to their shop

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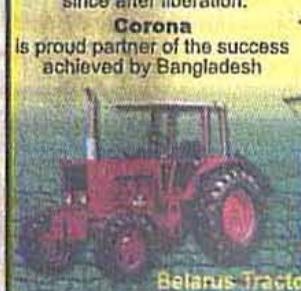
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Swiss, ROK aid for cyclone, flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Switzerland Thursday provided an additional \$3.6 million for emergency cyclone assistance and post-flood rehabilitation programmes, while South Korea donated \$300,000 as immediate lifesaving assistance for the Sidr victims.

SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh donated Tk 68.05 lakh for the

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Prayer Timing

December 15

	Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	3-45	4-00	
Maghrib	5-22	5-25	
Esha	7-00	7-30	

Source: Islamic Foundation