

## Intel to provide

**FROM PAGE 16**  
going, the programme speeds up with the help of right partners to implement," Davies said.

Intel is also discussing with the education ministry about accommodating its education content in the curriculum and how to train the teachers for the World Ahead Programme.

Davies noted that the cost of Internet connection in Bangladesh is incredibly high in the world as well as in the region. This is why Intel is looking for other ways to provide education contents in the most cost effective way.

"For instance, there could be local caching service. Contents like math or science may be kept in the local server so that students can access them without any Internet connection," he said.

Intel has signed agreements with Grameen Solutions and Bangladesh Telecentre Network to set up telecentres that will offer an array of services to the public. Intel will be offering a model to help the country's goal of setting up 40,000 such centres across the country by 2011.

"The personal computer will be a service delivery platform for farmers, workers, students and all kinds of people. They can have interactive tele-medicine services, register land, file application for passport, access market information, library and other things," Davies said. Some of these services are already being provided by different agencies. "Our model will accommodate future demands and technological require-

ments," he added.

The other issue Intel is looking at is how to provide cost effective computers to rural students. Intel has already developed low power computer processors which helped manufacturing of the second generation \$250 'Classmate' computers, shock-proof and spill-proof PCs for students. This price tag is half of that of notebook computers.

Davies said the third generation processor 'Atom' for Classmate PCs will be available from July next and it will make these computers more powerful and cost efficient. "These computers will encourage kids to go to school," he said.

"Intel's SKOOL is a package of program that combines math, physics, chemistry, biology etc. This will be made available. We will have it converted in Bangla. We are looking for partners to do it," he said.

Davies noted that in the last four years, Intel has given 40 million computers to different countries under the World Ahead Programme and trained five million teachers. "This programme is evolving continuously," he said.

Last September, Intel Corporation Chairman Dr Craig Barrett announced introduction of its World Ahead Programme to be implemented in Bangladesh jointly with Grameen Solutions in collaboration with the government. Dr Barrett noted that ICT gives four impacts on the society—education, economic development, healthcare and e-governance.

## Wheat

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The farmers of Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh and Joypurhat have cultivated wheat on about 82,905 hectares of land this year with a production target of 248,715 tonnes.

Of those, 21,500 hectares of land were cultivated in Dinajpur, 48,800 hectares in Thakurgaon, 12,830 hectares in Panchagarh and 1,275 hectares in Joypurhat.

WRC officials also said lands in Rangpur, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Kushtia, Jessore, Faridpur, Madaripur, Jamalpur, Pabna and the districts in greater Rajshahi have been brought under wheat cultivation.

If bumper production of wheat is secured this year, it will help reduce the country's dependency on imported food grains, added WRC officials.

A large number of farmers in the district said favourable weather, adequate irrigation and training on wheat cultivation organised by the WRC in Dinajpur would help them achieve bumper production of wheat this season.

Farmers are becoming interested in wheat cultivation as both demand and price of the food grain have increased considerably, said WRC officials.

Ajay Kumar Sarkar, a farmer of Bhojchaganj upazila in Dinajpur told The Daily Star that he started cultivating wheat following growing demand and high price of the crop in the market.

"Besides, wheat cultivation requires less irrigation," he added.

At least 2,000 wheat cultivators across the country were given training by the WRC in a bid to boost wheat production this year.

Farmers are expecting to harvest about four to five tonnes of wheat per hectare of land against three tonnes per hectare the previous year. The harvest time begins by the end of this month. Different varieties of wheat including Shatabdi, Prodeep, Shourav and Bijoy have been cultivated this year.

WRC officials said the country's yearly demand for wheat is about 35 to 40 lakh tonnes while its domestic production stands at about six to eight lakh tonnes a year.

Dr Khirudh Candra Roy, Director of WRC in Dinajpur, said the country is likely to attain a bumper production of wheat this year and they have been working hard to help the farmers in every possible way.

## Rice allocation

**FROM PAGE 16**  
allocate another 1,500 tonnes for OMS every day, he added.

The target groups for the increased OMS facilities include the working community especially the garment workers. "Besides, we are considering expanding the OMS network down to the union level so that rural people too can have the benefit," he said.

The adviser said introducing ration cards for the public servants would cost a lot of money. "Instead, the government is thinking of making a provision of dearness allowance for them," he added.

Asked when that [provision] would take effect, he replied the finance ministry is working on the matter.

Ministry sources said the finance division is now examining financial implications of the plan to provide up to 30 percent dearness allowance.

Citing from discussions at yesterday's meeting, the commerce adviser said almost 70 percent people of Kalkini union in Madaripur, an area hit hard by Cyclone Sidr, are getting 15 kilograms of rice a month under the VGF programme.

In unions like Shahpur of Gaibandha, a district not affected by the deadly storm in last November, about 40 percent people receive 15 kilograms of rice a month.

A portion of the rice allotted for VGF programmes will be diverted to the food for work programme with a view to create work opportunities for the rural poor, said the commerce adviser.

In view of the bumper harvest of potatoes, the government is planning to use the vegetable in place of an amount of the food grain under VGF.

Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation's Managing Director Kazi Mezbahuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies Director General Kazi Shahabuddin, Brac Executive Mahub Hossain, Bangladesh Rifles Director General Major General Shakil Ahmed, Dhaka University teachers Atiq Rahman, Mahub Ullah and MA Taslim, and economist Sazzad Jahir were present at the meeting with Hossain Zillur.

The same 'Truth Commission' model in South Africa and in some other countries might not be effective in our country, Justice Habib cautioned.

AK Khandker, deputy chief of the Liberation War, presided over the meeting and vowed to continue the movement until the trial process starts.

"The war criminals' trials should be held as soon as possible to ensure justice and holding of a free and fair election," Khandker said in his opening speech adding that the nation today is united and demands barring the war criminals from participating in all elections.

Although General Zia repealed the 'Collaborator Act', it is still possible to try the war criminals under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, he said.

The war hero urged all to boycott war criminals and anti-liberation war elements socially, politically and from all spheres of life.

He also urged the government to ban all fundamentalist and extremist parties who are misleading people in the name of Islam.

## War criminals

**FROM PAGE 1**  
freedom fighters, the best sons of the soil, reminisced their accounts of valour during the War of Liberation and voiced their opinion for trying the war criminals that committed crimes against the humanity in 1971.

The emotionally charged freedom fighters all throughout the programme created an electrifying ambience with their shouting of 'Joy Bangla' -- the battle cry the Mukti Bahini shouted as they went into battle during the Liberation War in 1971.

Salamat Ullah, a freedom fighter and a poet from Chandpur, came to the convention straight from a city hospital where he had been undergoing treatment.

Asked about his feelings about the issue of war crimes, the poet freedom fighter who wrote about 600 satiric songs about Razakars said, "Freedom fighters are mournful under the national flag. Razakars became ministers. Our patience is wearing out."

Wounded freedom fighter Delwar Hossein from Patuakhali said it is incomprehensible why war criminals have not been punished even after 36 years of the independence.

Another freedom fighter named Sokhina Khatun, who killed five Razakars during the war, came from Kishoreganj. Asked why she was attending the convention, valiant fighter Sokhina, now in her sixties, replied, "I brought victory, why won't I be here?"

Participating freedom fighters from Sokhina's area said Sokhina, now a widow, receives only Tk 600 per month from the government.

Syed Shaiful Alam, a freedom fighter from Rajshahi, said, "We returned our arms, but not our training. We are ready for a second war to try the war criminals if necessary."

About 1,700 invited guests including freedom fighters from all districts and expatriate freedom fighters from the United Kingdom, teachers, students, community leaders, leaders of political parties, members of the civil society, journalists, cultural activists, human rights activists, lawyers and a number of pro-liberation organisations attended the convention bearing the spirit the month of Independence.

A few of the freedom fighters arriving without invitation cards were not allowed to enter the convention centre as police took stringent measures to ensure security at the much awaited convention of the SCE.

The programme commenced at 9:40am with the observance of one-minute silence to honour the martyred freedom fighters, followed by playing the national anthem. Artists from Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro and Chhayanaut performed several patriotic songs that inspired the freedom fighters during the Liberation War.

Former chief adviser Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman, SCF President Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) AK Khandker, sector-11 commander Maj Gen (ret'd) KM Shafiqullah, sector-5 commander Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali, sector-4 commander Maj Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, and Prof Mizanur Rahman from Department of Law, Dhaka University, sat on the dais during the inaugural session of the convention.

A group of freedom fighters raised a hue and cry as Sector-8 commander Lt Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury was absent on the dais.

Politicians and eminent personalities present on the occasion included Dr Kamal Hossain, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak, Suranjit Sengupta, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Rashed Khan Menon, Dilip Barua, Hasanul Haque Inu, Mainuddin Khan Badal, Dr Anwar Hossain, Faiz Ahmed and Birshrestha Motiur Rahman's wife Mill Rahman.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman during his speech as chief guest said if there is impediment in trying the war criminals, it could be resolved by amending the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act-1973 or formulating a new act after consulting international jurists.

He urged the government to form an inquiry commission and declare its 'terms of reference' according to the International Crimes Act.

He also advised that the government should seek assistance of the United Nations General Assembly and engage international jurists with the commission to simplify and expedite its task.

The same 'Truth Commission' model in South Africa and in some other countries might not be effective in our country, Justice Habib cautioned.

AK Khandker, deputy chief of the Liberation War, presided over the meeting and vowed to continue the movement until the trial process starts.

"The war criminals' trials should be held as soon as possible to ensure justice and holding of a free and fair election," Khandker said in his opening speech adding that the nation today is united and demands barring the war criminals from participating in all elections.

Although General Zia repealed the 'Collaborator Act', it is still possible to try the war criminals under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, he said.

The war hero urged all to boycott war criminals and anti-liberation war elements socially, politically and from all spheres of life.

He also urged the government to ban all fundamentalist and extremist parties who are misleading people in the name of Islam.

Prof Dr Anisuzzaman in his speech said the trial of war criminals is being demanded to ensure justice in the society, not as an act of revenge.

The state has to take the initiative of trying the war criminals because the war crimes were committed

against the state, he added.

Echoing Dr Anisuzzaman, eminent educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said, "It's a shame for all of us that we failed to try the war criminals who killed the best sons of this soil -- the freedom fighters."

"If we love our country, we have to revile them [war criminals]," he said. "The unfinished task of our Liberation War is to bring the war criminals to book," added Serajul Islam Chowdhury. "The War of Liberation is still on and we shall be victorious."

Former army chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Harun-ar-Rashid explained objective of the SCE.

He said time has come for the pro-liberation forces to get united and resist the anti-Liberation War forces and to stop their insolvency for good.

Dr MA Hasan urged the government to form an inquiry commission and gather information about the war criminals.

KM Shafiqullah demanded the government forfeit citizenship of the war criminals who opposed the Liberation War and the constitution of the country.

Mir Shawkat Ali said, "Nizami and Mojahid are not Muslims because they took stance against the country [their motherland] during the Liberation War and still believe in Pakistan."

CR Dutta vowed that they would continue the movement until the war criminals are tried.

Kazi Nuruzzaman said trial of war criminals is possible only if pro-liberation forces form the government.

Lt Col (ret'd) Abu Osman Chowdhury said he was ready to do anything to put the war criminals on trial.

Nasiruddin Yusuf of Sammlita Sanskritik Jote, Shahriar Kabir of Ekattorer Ghatok Dalal Nirmur Committee, President of Supreme Court Ajimibi Samity barrister M Amirul Islam, Khan Muhammad Belayet Hossain of Muktiyoddha BCS Association, Shahin Reza Noor of Projonmo Ekattor, Makhduma Nargis of Mohila Muktiyoddha Sangsad, among others, expressed solidarity with the demand of the SCE.

## Power sector

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the country must deal with now to stave off future growth setbacks.

Okonjo-Iweala, appointed as the World Bank's managing director in October last year, also said development will be difficult without political stability, and encouraged 'dialogues' in the country for 'getting a democratic process that produces stability'.

In reply to a question on whether reducing corruption is enough for the country to become middle income in the next two decades, she said although a number of developing countries share Bangladesh's problems with infrastructure, it really does act as a major constraint on growth.

She also pointed to the severe power shortage in the country as a factor that is holding back Bangladesh's industries.

"If you do not solve your problems with the availability of power --- your capacity to increase output for manufacturing sector --- small and medium enterprises and other industries cannot produce to their potentials," she added.

The second highest WB official was however hopeful that the government's target of doubling the power output to 8,000 megawatts from the current level of 4,500 megawatts will help to push forward the country's manufacturing sector to higher levels of growth.

She also stressed that WB's encouragement for 'clean technologies', such as using clean coal technologies, will help the country bypass the negative effects of industrial development.

"We have been talking to rich countries to help Bangladesh adopt cleaner technologies, either through financial or through technical assistance," said Okonjo-Iweala adding that will be a significant step towards practicing sustainable development.

Okonjo-Iweala also said Bangladesh needs to adapt to a 'structural shift' to cope with the rising price of energy, which she said is unlikely to come down anytime soon according to WB researches.

Along with rising food prices, which she said is also likely to be a long-term phenomenon, Bangladesh faces long term policy challenges as well, which also need to be dealt with now.

"The question is how Bangladesh copes with this structural shift. The country must start thinking now, not just short term fire fighting measures like how to import food from India, but to make permanent long term plans," she explained.

She also identified climate change as a significant challenge to the country's development, but was encouraged by the 'rising level of consciousness' on the issue among government officials, the civil society, and the business community.

"If you don't deal with what is needed to mitigate and adapt to the problems right now, you would be losing percentage points from the growth rate, and worse, you would be losing lives," she said.

"We are looking at how to help Bangladesh seize the momentum on the global stage for helping it," added the WB managing director, who was also the finance and foreign minister of her native country Nigeria.

Okonjo-Iweala also said Bangladesh needs to look at strategies, such as better water management programmes, to get insured against climate changes.

She also said the government's reform process is a 'beginning', and was hopeful that the population is 'buying into' the reforms, which the WB says is crucial, and will lead to a 'second generation' of reforms for strengthening governance.

## 2 shot dead

**FROM PAGE 16**  
khash land at Kolkoliabazar by the Jagannathpur-Sunamganj road.

About 25 to 30 gunshots were fired during the clash, injured said.

Fifteen of the injured were admitted into the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds while the others were taken to Upazila health complex.

According to locals, there has been a long-standing rivalry between the two groups. Jamal Miah built a temporary shop on the disputed plot of khas land sometime ago and his rivals yesterday burnt down the shop.

At one stage, both groups clashed with each other. Badsha Mia, 25 and Zafar Ullah, 50, both from the village Shaktirgaon were shot dead on the spot. They both belonged to Sajjad Miah group.

Later, the mob set Jamal Miah's stationary shop at Kolkolia bazar on fire.

The SP of Sunamganj visited the market and deployed police guard at the market.

## Miladunnabi

**FROM PAGE 1**  
including milad mahfil, discussion meeting and Qurankhwani, to mark the day.

Different political parties organised indoor discussions and milad due to restriction under the state of emergency.

A number of religious organisations took out separate processions in the capital on the occasion.

Bangladesh Television (BTV), Bangladesh Betar and private TV channels aired special programmes highlighting the significance of the day while newspapers published special articles on the Prophet.

## Artefacts found

**FROM PAGE 16**  
and member of the excavation team, said the 2.1-metre width brick-built structure crossed the basement of the main temple built by King Dharmapala in the eighth century.

The structure was found in the northeast corner of more than 1,200 years old main temple 'Somapura Maha Vihara', which is locally known as Paharpur Monastery.

Md Mahabub-ul-Alam, assistant custodian, Paharpur Museum and excavation team member, said a huge number of pots/herds have been found under the monastic cell no-21 in the northeast corner of the Vihara.

Probably, these were used over 1,500 years ago, said Mahabub, adding that it is likely to be the first habitation over the virgin soil in this area.

World famous archaeologist Dr KN Dikshit believes there was a Jain monastery at Paharpur but no traces have survived.

Archaeologists of the archaeology department believe the recently discovered structure was the part of the Jain temple.

There has so far been no structural existence of Jain temples in Bangladesh. But Chinese pilgrim Hsien Tsang saw several Jain structures during his visit to Pundranagar in Bogra and adjacent areas in 639-645 AD, said Mahabub.

## Tamim

**FROM PAGE 16**  
70, but it was not good enough to stop the Tigers from securing their sixth one-day series whitewash. With the success Mohammed Ashraful's boys not only avenged their last World Cup defeat against Ireland but also continued their supremacy over the ICC associates.

The home side put their opponents under a pile of runs thanks to a 109-run opening stand between Tamim and Shahriar Nafees, who signalled his return to form with three consecutive half-centuries to be adjudged man-of-the-series.

Bangladesh made a flying start with Nafees taking the early charge with four boundaries off Kevin O'Brien's first two overs and they lost the first wicket when Nafees offered a simple catch to Ryan Strydom at mid-on for a breezy 56-ball 54 that contained nine fours.

Tamim however played sensibly during his 136-ball 129, the second-highest score by a Bangladeshi after Shakib Al Hasan's unbeaten 134. His knock saw 15 fours and sixes.

The left-hander must however thank Andre Botha, who spurned a simple return catch when he was on 30, to reach the three-digit in his 27th appearance.

The dashing Tamim executed a brilliant cover drive and then sliced a wide delivery off pacers Trent Johnston to become the sixth Bangladeshi batsman to score a hundred in the over-limit game after Mehrab Hossain, Mohammad Ashraful, Nafees, Rajin Saleh and Shakib.

Bangladesh suddenly lost their batting momentum when medium-pacer Alex Cusack bowled a double-wicket maiden to send back Nafees and Aftab Ahmed and they soon found themselves at 179 for 5 after 37 overs.

Mahmudullah Riyad joined Tamim to share 82 runs for the sixth wicket to put up the formidable total on the board.

Riyad remained not out on 49 off 44 balls with the help of four boundaries.

Ireland got off to a positive start by making 33 runs in the first five overs before a series of run outs derailed the chase. And it was also left-arm spinners Abdur Razzak and Shakib who tightened the noose around the tourists in the middle by taking two wickets each.

## Pakistan PM

**FROM PAGE 1**  
new parliament meets tomorrow, ahead of a looming showdown with key US ally President Pervez Musharraf.

"I have great pleasure in calling upon Yousuf Raza Gilani in the name of Shaheed (martyr) Benazir Bhutto to accept the heavy responsibility to lead the coalition government and the nation," said a statement by Benazir's widower Asif Ali Zardari that was read out to reporters by a party spokesman.

The statement said that Gilani was the "consensus" candidate of the coalition.

Musharraf, whose political backers lost heavily in the elections after five years in power of the nuclear-armed nation, is set to swear in the new premier on Tuesday.

Gilani is a stalwart figure in the PPP and friend of Zardari who spent five years in jail under Musharraf's regime on corruption charges that were later overturned.

He was speaker during his second term in power from 1993 to 1996 and a minister during her first term from 1988 to 1990.

Party spokesman Farhatullah Babar would not comment on reports that Gilani would be a stop-gap premier until Zardari, who is not an MP, becomes eligible to stand for the post by contesting a by-election in May.

The party struggled to settle on a candidate amid a power vacuum left by the charismatic Benazir's assassination in December, with Gilani emerging only in the last week.

The other contenders were ex-trade minister Ahmed Mukhtar, party president Makhdoom Amin Fahim and Punjab province party chief Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Sharif said in Lahore that his Pakistan Muslim League-N party "will raise no objection on the PPP nominee," adding: "Musharraf should understand that the days of dictatorship are numbered."

A nominee of Musharraf's allies meanwhile quit the race for the premiership, but the main party that supports the US-backed president said it would field another candidate so the PPP's nominee would not be uncontested.

The president's political ally, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), said it had decided to withdraw its candidate as a "gesture of goodwill."

"We have decided to extend

## Release Khaleda

**FROM PAGE 1**  
her choice.

"Khaleda Zia's and Sheikh Hasina's only crime is that they head the two major political parties of the country," she said, adding, "They are in jail since they did not leave the country according to the will of the government."

The 118 leaders also demanded announcement of parliamentary elections schedule before holding local government election.

Their other demands are: immediate withdrawal of emergency, effective measures to arrest price hike of essentials, introduction of rationing, employment opportunities in rural areas, free supply of food grains to industrial workers and resuming production at all closed mills and factories.

## Geeta Pasi

**FROM PAGE 1**  
we haven't had a bomb go off in the last 14 months. We did not have a shot fired in anger by the state in over one year," he said, adding that Bangladesh is one of the most stable countries in the region at present.

He said Bangladeshis are intellectually capable of resolving their own problems.

"There is a new tiger being born in Asia, and that is a Royal Bengal Tiger," the foreign affairs adviser said.

The government has reacted strongly to a string of recent reports about and comments made by foreign governments and envoys.

Last week, the government said the US State Department's human rights report on Bangladesh 'lacked balance'.

Earlier this month, Food Adviser AMM Shawkat Ali reacted sharply to comments made by Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty.

Shawkat alleged Chakravarty's comment had gone 'out of diplomatic norms', and wrote a letter to the foreign ministry, urging steps regarding the comments made by the Indian envoy.

Chakravarty had said that the Bangladesh government is responsible for the delay in importing rice from India.

## 27 vehicles

**FROM PAGE 16**  
fellow students and a rumour that students were kept confined at Gabtoli, students at Jahangirnagar University barricaded the highway around 3:00pm and damaged the 27 vehicles. During their blockade, tailbacks were seen on the highway and nearby roads.

Around 3:30pm university proctor and other officials went to the highway and tried to calm the students down. Later, Savar and Ashulia police reached the spot to breach the situation under control.

The students removed their blockade around 4:30pm after university authorities and police assured them that no student was kept confined at Gabtoli.

The university administration had a meeting with top police and intelligence officials later on and decided to take measures so that such incidents do not occur in future.

unconditional support to the PPP nominee," Farooq Sattar, the candidate of the Karachi-based MQM, told AFP by telephone.

Sattar, who met leaders of the Pakistan Muslim League-Q (PML-Q), which backs Musharraf, later confirmed that he was quitting the race at a news conference.

PPP spokesman Babar hailed the MQM support as 'a positive development.'

But PML-Q chief Chaudhry Shujaat Hussain said his party would nominate Sattar's replacement on Sunday.

"We have decided to contest the election for prime minister and not to withdraw from the political process," Hussain told reporters here.

## Cop close

**FROM PAGE 16**  
would inform him beforehand of any drive by the police.