Minar died

FROM PAGE 20 Dr Sohel said they have

collected samples of liver, kidney, blood, stomach, heart and the powder from the body for visceral and chemical tests.

"The main reason of his death would be ascertained after getting the test report," he said adding that there were no internal and external injuries to his body which could have caused his death. He also hoped to get the

test reports within a month. But there were wounds in his right wrist and hand which were not of much significance, he added. Morgue sources, how-

ever, said the wounds indicate that he might have thrashed his right hand at something hard. K M Firoz, inspector

(investigation) of Khilkhet

Police Station, said they

found powder-like substance in Minar's nails and on the carpet of the hotel room. A police team of Criminal Investigation Department also collected samples from

his fingernails and the room

for investigation, he said. In the review of the hotel's CCTV footage, they saw Minar entering the hotel room with bare hands on Wednesday at 10:45am, the inspector added.

Meanwhile, Minar's body was taken to his Uttara residence and his first namaj-eanaza was held after Juma prayers, his brother Mehedi Hasan told The Daily Star.

The body was taken to his ancestral home in Faridpur where his second namaj-ejanaza will be held at 9:00am today. He will be buried at Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard today, he added. Talking to The Daily Star

over the phone, Minar's wife Lajuk claimed that Minar became quite annoyed with the media for the last three years as he did not get any better opportunity in the

The 53-year-old journalist, who did his graduation in sociology from Dhaka University, returned home in 2009 from self-exile in the US.

Major rise

FROM PAGE 20

Blood in the urine can be an early sign that something is wrong.

But kidney cancer, is diagnosed early, can often be cured by surgery.

The experts say that being overweight increases the risk of this cancer, as well as others including breast, bowel and womb cancer, because it causes the higher levels of certain hormones to be produced, compared with those seen in healthy people.

Smoking rates in the UK have fallen over the last 35 years, but overweight and obesity levels are rising with nearly 70 percent of men and almost 60 percent of women in the UK having a BMI of 25 or more - which means they are classed as

1970s and 2005-09.

HORMONE LINK

drugs control the disease in

most patients but do not

problem in the first place

maintaining a healthy

weight and not smoking

are the best ways of doing

Sara Hiom, director of

information at Cancer

Research UK, said: "Too

few people know about the

significant cancer risks

associated with being very

"While giving up smok-

ing remains the best way to

cut your chances of devel-

oping kidney cancer, the

importance of keeping a

healthy weight shouldn't

"It is best to prevent the

cure it.

that.'

overweight.

be overlooked."

initiative. being overweight. However the five-year survival rate for kidney

cancer has increased by 85 percent between the early world at present. Professor Tim Eisen, a Cancer Research UK kid-

ney cancer expert based at the University of Cambridge, said: "Over the last 10 years, Cancer Research UK has helped to develop new drugs which destroy the blood supply to Chittagong period. the kidney cancers. These

Also, there will be a map on the communication system of Chittagong in Sultanate and

display, 18 are of various types of copper plates, vases and coins of Harikela periods; 20 are of tombs and mosques, among other things, of the Sultanate era; 25 of mosques, tombs and ruins of different structures of Mughal period and 14 are of different struc-

Chittagong jives

FROM PAGE 1

former president of Bangladesh Economic Association (Ctg chapter) Prof Sikander Khan; former chief secretary to the prime minister Abdul Karim; and Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee leader Mustari Shafi. Representatives of the

partners of the festival Syed Tahmeed Azizul Huq, head of corporate communications of Grameenphone; Ali Hussain Akber Ali, chairman of BSRM Group; Abul Bashar, chairman of BSM Group; Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed, director of UCBL; Tariq Ahmed, director (operations) of TK Group; Tanvir Ahmed of Pacific Jeans; Khurshid Alam of RB Industries; BGMEA First Vice-President Nasir Uddin Chowdhury; Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCCI) President Morshed Murad Ibrahim; its Senior Vice President Mahbubul Alam; Managing Director of Western Marine Shipyard Shakhawat Hossain; and Trustee Secretary of AK Khan Foundation Salauddin Kashem Khan also took the

Binod Bihari, the 103years-old living legend, with his inspiring voice urged the audience to love the country keeping all sorts of divisions aside. He hoped the festival would help revive the glorious past of Chittagong and make the young generation proud.

oath on stage.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam thanked The Daily Star for taking such wonderful initiative of highlighting the history, culture and other distinctive features of Chittagong.

In his speech, Mahfuz Anam said The Daily Star had initiated the festival to project the indomitable spirit of Chittagong.

"We love our country, but many of us do not know the exact history of its different areas. Dhaka has a history of 400 years. But it is nice to hear that Chittagong has a rich history of more than 1,400 years," he said.

The festival would showcase Chittagong's golden history of revolution against the British colonial rule, successful trade, and to-beproud-about socio-political role as well as immense prospect of a bright future, added Mahfuz Anam.

He said The Daily Star would continue to take such initiatives to solve problems

of the port city. People of all strata of life

Showcasing

FROM PAGE 1

Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, said in his welcome speech that The Daily Star has organised the exhibition to highlight the history and heritage of Chittagong.

He added the event would be taken to Dhaka and other parts of the country so people across the country could know Chittagong and its potentials better.

Architect Abu Syed Ahmed thanked The Daily Star for the

Shamsul Hossain, who planned and designed the entire programme, said numerous researches and studies are being done on Chittagong throughout the

The exhibition showcases the historical significance of Chittagong during five periods -- pre-historic period, Harikela of the Pre-Medieval period, Chatigram-Chatigaon of the Sultanate period, Mughal Chatgaon-Islamabad period and Colonial

A total of 77 photographs, an artwork depicting the lifestyle of the people of Chittagong in pre-historic period, a model of a Mughal tomb and a painting on Karnaphuli battle of 1666 between Mughals and Arakans will be on display.

Mughal periods. Of the photographs on

tures of colonial period.

thronged MA Aziz Stadium since 3:00pm. By 6:00pm the venue was full to the brim. The audience enjoyed the evening

in remarkable discipline and

with a cheerful heart. The function started at 5:00 pm with songs of local band Sustain. Close-up singer Orin came on the stage at 5:30pm with a few musical pieces. Popular model Nobel also made the crowd excited. His address to the audience in local dialect delighted all.

Tiny tots of Sahajpath Fulki sang the national anthem. The students of Fulki also performed a patri otic song accompanied by their peer dancers. Local singer Kishore

performed a few songs followed by a song by folk singer Abdul Gafur Hali and his group. Another folk singer Sirajul Islam Azad also performed his popular local song 'Headmastor Tuaare Toaiee'. Popular musical bands

audience with their perfor-The cultural programme ended at 9:30pm.

LRB and Renaissance and

soloist Arnob enthralled the

International

FROM PAGE 1 would take a message to

Geneva that Bangladesh was characterised highly vulnerable to disasters but the people were also well known for their resilience. She was speaking to jour-

nalists during a visit to a disaster-resilient habitat project at Bainpara of Dacope upazila in Khulna where cyclone Aila-affected people were staying. Comprehensive Disaster

Management Programme (CDMP) in partnership with local NGO Sushilan and with support from the UNDP, UKaid, European Union, Norwegian Embassy, Sida, and Australian AID, has been implementing a pilot project

During a meeting held there, members of local disaster-management committee said salinity of water and soil had been a huge problem for

Agricultural productivity plummeted with farmers growing only one crop a year. Their livelihood options also declined and many of them were exploiting resources of the Sundarbans.

Wahlstrom, who is based in Geneva, said she was convinced that climate-resilient houses, stronger and higher embankment along the coast, alternative sources of income could in many ways help address the climate-change impacts.

Not only agriculture, but also seasonal migration to townships, manufacturing industries in the urban centres could help generate employment for the poor, she said.

Bangladesh's economic growth is strong and the government is trying hard for sustainable solution, said Wahlstrom, adding that things, however, were not going to change overnight.

On the challenges that Bangladesh faces in tackling climate-change risks, she said the aspiration of Bangladeshi people was very high and they were quite impatient and want things done quickly.

Bangladesh government should engage people, have dialogue for better understanding of the issues and for better solutions to the problems, she said.

Wahlstrom responded in the positive when asked if Bangladesh had resource shortages but she said not everything could be done with

"See, 70 percent of Bangladeshis use mobile phones. Almost 100 percent children are going to schools. Could you think about it 10 years ago?" she said, adding that Bangladesh has a bright future but the efforts must continue.

World Food Programme

Representative in Bangladesh Christa Rader, Disaster Management and Relief Division's Secretary Aslam Alam, CDMP National Project Director Abdul Qayyum, UNDP Deputy Country Director Robert Juhkam, UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Asia-Pacific Regional Proframme Officer Madhavi Ariyabandu were also presentatthe meeting.

Bin Laden fathered four children while on run: wife

AFP, Islamabad

Osama bin Laden fathered four children as he hid out in Pakistan after the 9/11 attacks, his youngest wife told interrogators, according to a police report seen by AFP yesterday. Amal Abdulfattah's

account provides rare details of the al-Qaeda leader's life from when he fled Afghanistan in late 2001 until his death aged 54 last May during a US Navy SEAL operation in Abbottabad, in Pakistan. Abdulfattah, from Yemen,

was arrested by Pakistani authorities following the US raid on bin Laden's compound near the Pakistani capital Islamabad, along with two of his Saudi wives, and her five children.

Foreign aid **FROM PAGE 20**

The allocation for the Khulna 150 MW Power Plant Project is going to be downsized by Tk100 crore as a shipment of imported goods had been deferred due to delay in signing an agreement between the government and the concession-Three donors including

the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) have been financing the 10-Town Power Distribution System Development Project. The main financier ADB has completed all the purchases for the project. But in the meantime, the

deadline for Norad's loan activation expired and as the donor did not renew the deal, Tk 60 crore project aid would be slashed, mentioned the ERD report.

After preparing the tender schedule for the Southwest Region Gas Distribution Network Project, it was sent to the financier ADB in August last year for its opinion. The Energy Division had received ADB's opinion after four months.

Due to this delay, completing the purchase for the project would not be possible in the current fiscal year and consequently Tk 119 crore foreign aid would be carved.

About Tk 203 crore would be slashed from the Road Network Improvement and Maintenance Project, funded by ADB.

After the government had acquired the required land, the concessionaire sought another year to complete the project. But as the ADB refused to extend the loan execution period, the authorities had to downsize the scheme.

The project aid for laying a double line railway track between Tongi and Bhairab Bazar would be slashed as the matching funds were not available.

Engage noted

FROM PAGE 1 The rally was jointly organised by the Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) and Jatiya Nodi Rokkha

Andolon. Noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud alleged that the government is playing double-standard centring the Tipaimukh dam. "On one hand, the government says that Bangladesh will not accept the dam if it harms the country, while on the other it gives consent to construct the dam," he said.

Several members proposed in the committee have been speaking in favour of the dam since the beginning, while there are some others who are not experts on river, water or the environment, he pointed Urging the government to

take the issue seriously, Maksud said, if necessary, the government should take initiative to conduct the study by an impartial and efficient experts' team of a third country.

Dhaka University teacher Prof Dr Asif Nazrul, Bapa General Secretary Dr Abdul Matin and Architect Iqbal Habib also spoke at the function.

Land hitch bars KEPZ

FROM PAGE 1

unable to bring in the much needed investment into the zone. Such allegations are absolutely baseless and untrue," said Saadat.

He noted that for any EPZ to launch operations, four basic clearances are necessary: operational licence, environment clearance, **Custom Statutory Regulatory** Order (SRO) by the National Board of Revenue, and the deed of transfer of land. The KEPZ applied for the operational licence and

environment clearance in 1999. The licence was given in April 2007 and the environment clearance in 2009, which was cancelled on Thursday. It applied for the Custom SRO in 2001, which was given in 2010. The KEPZ requested the

government to conclude the deed of transfer in August 2001. This remained stuck until 2009 due to a legal hitch caused by the government's arbitrary price fixing of the khas land sold to the KEPZ sources have said. After the legal issue was

resolved in favour of the KEPZ, the government assured the KEPZ of handing over the deed by February 2011, but the KEPZ is still waiting for that. According to the KEPZ

president, the KEPZ is also facing some serious hurdles like the government's unilateral annulment of tax holiday, restriction on the types of industries that could be set in the zone and introduction of a provision to obtain government permission for setting up industry there. DEED OF LAND TRANSFER

Explaining complications over the Deed of Land Transfer, he said of the 2,492 acres of KEPZ land, 700 acres belonged to private owners and the rest to the government. In 1999, when the KEPZ started paying private land owners, it paid private land owners 50 percent more than the rate of the government. The enhanced rate was recommended by the government. But afterwards, the gov-

ernment suggested that the KEPZ also pay 50 percent more for the government khas land. The KEPZ failed to see the legal premise for this extra payment and turned to the court. After a long legal battle the KEPZ won. However, in late 2010, the

government asked the KEPZ to pay the extra through an out-of-court settlement so deed of transfer by February 2011.

imposed a condition: That set up. Others will require the

upon the issuance of the deed the KEPZ would have to complete land development within two years or the undeveloped part would be taken

back by the government. On this point, the KEPZ argued that whereas the government owned Chittagong EPZ with an area of 453 acres has taken around 14 years to develop, KEPZ with 2,492 acres should be given at least eight years time for development. Following this argument,

the director general of the Private EPZ Cell visited the KEPZ site last year and was convinced of the need for eight years for land development. But the government is yet to officially approve this. "It took more than two decades for the government

EPZs to complete development of their land. We have to be given a reasonable time frame," said Saadat. "Is the KEPZ responsible

for the delay? All we say is let us follow the law under which we operate. That would solve all the problems," he noted. TAX HOLIDAY

WITHDRAWN As per the Private EPZ Act,

1996, the KEPZ applied to the Executive Cell, Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in September 2001, for tax holiday within the zone. Tax holiday for 10 years was accorded by the NBR in April 2008, in line with the facility and exemption allowed to industrial units at the government-owned EPZs. However, just when

Youngone was completing the first phase of its Karnaphuli Shoes Industries Ltd at the KEPZ, the NBR in July 2011, withdrew the tax holiday. In effect, the 10-year tax holiday was withdrawn before the zone could go into full operation. The NBR justified the withdrawal by saying it was

applicable to all EPZs. But the truth is that other EPZs are all old and saturated with investors with no further scope for land for new investors. The KEPZ had not even taken off. "This will not only discourage prospective foreign investors from investing in the country but will send the

wrong signal worldwide,"

said Saadat, adding that the

NBR for restoration of the tax

holiday. RESTRICTION ON INDUSTRY TYPES

Describing the problems with government restrictions that it could hand over the on the type of industries for aims at attracting investthe KEPZ, Saadat said, "At present only 14 kinds of The government later industries are allowed to be

approval from the Board of Governors."

The private EPZ Board of Governors meets once a year even though the Private EPZ Act says that there should be at least four meetings a year.

This made investment opportunities inflexible and the KEPZ requested the Private EPZ Cell in 2010 to review the list and allow it to set up all kinds of industries permissible under the Industrial Policy 2010, including garments and textiles. In the government-owned

EPZs, there are no restrictions on setting up of any type of industries permissible under Industrial Policy 2010. The president of the KEPZ said Section 16 of the Private EPZ Act ensures that all concessions applicable to government EPZ's are also applicable for the KEPZ. But the authorities are

foot dragging. He even cited the Foreign Private Investors Promotion & Protection Act, 1980, which clearly stipulates that foreign investors must be accorded similar investment opportunities as are accorded to citizens of Bangladesh. PERMISSION AUTHORITY

On the issue of permission for setting up an industry in the KEPZ, Saadat pointed to the Private EPZ Act Section 14 (2), which clearly says that permission for setting up industries by enterprises in private EPZs shall be granted by the sponsor company based on the guidelines provided by the Executive Cell. This empowers the KEPZ with the authority to receive and evaluate an investor's application and approve it.

But, unfortunately in 2010, the Board of Governors of the Private EPZ passed a decision saying that the KEPZ would grant permission to investors but it would then have to be approved by the Private EPZ Cell. This blatantly disregards the provision of the Private EPZ Act and complicates and delays approval for setting up indus-

The KEPZ has filed an appeal with the Private EPZ Cell for reviewing the deci-

With \$200 million, the KEPZ had appealed to the KEPZ has so far developed a substantial area of land as industrial plots, 22km of internal road network, a facility for foreign investors and expatriate staff. When fully operational, the KEPZ ments over \$1 billion and employ around 100,000 people directly and another 200,000 indirectly.

expires on January 24, 2014.

lawmakers, who joined the

inaugural sitting of the cur-

rent parliament, opted for

boycotting the House in

phases. First, they started to

keep away from House pro-

ceedings in June 2009 and

continued the boycott til

for 64 consecutive sittings,

they returned to parliament

June 2010 and it did not

end until March 16, 2011

by which time the opposi

the House for 74 consecu-

on February 10, 2010.

Having remained absent

A fresh boycott began in

February 2010.

this year.

Fighting

rages near

key Sudan

border with the newly inde-

pendent south, sources on

The clashes came as

both sides said yesterday.

The BNP-led opposition

BNP may go

"The government's attitudes towards the opposition leader forced us to boycott the last sitting of the parliament's 12th session," a BNP MP yesterday told The Daily Star requesting anonymity.

He said if the situation deteriorates the opposition deputies would not return to

the House. "If the government does not change its position, opposition MPs' joining parliament will not yield any good result," said MK Anwar, a member of BNP national standing committee, when asked if the opposition would go for another round

of parliament boycott. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Anwar, a BNP MP and former minister, said they want to join the parliament to make it effective. "But the way the prime minister and her party MPs keep attacking the opposition proves that they do not want to make the House effective.'

Mahbubur Rahman, a member of BNP national standing committee, echoed the same view.

"We are seeking a fair political atmosphere. Discussion will take place in parliament to resolve problems. But we are very sorry to say that the government is not sincere in allowing the opposition to play its due role in parliament," Mahbub told The Daily Star. And if that be the case,

then opposition MPs might Citing the BNP's demand need to return to the House for expunging the remarks on alleged ISI funding of once to save their memberships before the tenure of BNP in 1991 parliamentary polls, he said the demand is the current parliament

very rational as the then ISI chief denied funding the

The opposition leaders also questioned the Speaker's neutrality and criticised his Thursday's speech. The Speaker on Thursday blasted the opposition leader for not placing any proposal in parliament outlining the caretaker government system she

the Speaker, rather an Awami League MP was speaking," said Andaleeve Rahman Partha, chief of Bangladesh Jatiya Party, a component of BNP-led alliance. Asked if the opposition would return to the House in

the next session, Partha said,

"The Speaker overre-

acted. It seemed it was not

"Let's see what happens before the next session." Returning to the House on March 18, the opposition deputies avoided losing their memberships in parliament on grounds of remaining absent for 90 consecutive sittings, the party leaders and MPs said.

If the opposition parties go for another round of House boycott, their deputies would be able to stay away from parliament proceedings for around a year until March or April next year before risking membership again.

negotiators were finalising the details of a joint UN, Arab League and African Union plan for aid to the area, where food shortages have sparked global concern.

AL leader

FROM PAGE 20

On information, police rushed to the scene to calm the situation. They sent the body to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue for an autopsy. Police arrested two

youths Mohammad Mamun and Zafar Alam, in connection to Osman's murder, officials said. "The situation is under

control now," said Ranjit Kumar Barua, officer-incharge of Moheshkhali Police Station, adding that additional police have been deployed there. Osman Goni was the son of the district's first

Liberation War martyr Mohammad Sharif, also the then chairman of Kalarmar Chhara union. His brother Syed Noor

was killed in a gunfight with Rapid Action Battalion in the upazila last year.

Old trees **FROM PAGE 20**

Engineer Shahidul Alam,

firm Mahfuz Enterprise, however, denied the BCC official's claim, saying that they were felling the trees as per the approved plan, design and schedule of the tender contract of BCC. If BCC authorities want to spare those trees, they have to

proprietor of the contractor

revise the terms and conditions of the schedule, he added. They are felling those trees to complete the construction work of footpath and drain

speedily, an official of the

construction firm told The

Daily Star preferring not to be named. They are doing the work at their own cost as the hospital authorities refused to cut down the trees, he said adding that the trees will be sold and the proceeds will be deposited to the hospital

Dr Md Shamsuddin, resident medical officer of the hospital, said the BCC authorities could construct the drain and footpath keeping the old trees in their places.

He also mentioned that the hospital authorities recently constructed a new boundary wall without cutting down the BCC plans to widen the

road in front of the hospital from 30-foot to 38-foot with a four feet wide drain cum footpath along the boundary Dr Mizanur Rahman, member secretary of Barisal

Nagarik Samaj, protested the

incident of tree felling, saying "Any development work must not continue at the cost of our heritage or environment." Advocate Subhash Chandra Das Bipro Bedanti, district coordinator of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said they do not have enough

paigns to stop illegal tree 'Earth Hour'

manpower to launch cam-

FROM PAGE 1

prime minister, told newsmen in the city on Thursday. The government could save about 400 tonnes of

liquid fuel and 1.6 million units of electricity if all people in the country observe the Earth Hour, said ASM Alamgir Kabir, chairman of Power Development Board. Power Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said they have

started a campaign for the

event. "Letters have already been sent to all the deputy commissioners to ensure it tion had been away from is observed across the countive sittings. They then The Earth Hour is a global stormed out of parliament event organised annually by on March 24 and returned World Wide Fund for Nature to the House on March 18 (WWF) at 8:30pm on the last Saturday of March. Its aim is

to highlight the charity's call

on governments, organisa-

tions and individuals to

pledge their commitment to

tackle climate change. The concept of Earth border village Hour was conceived by the WWF and The Sydney Morning Herald in 2007, when 2.2 million residents of Sydney had joined the cam-Sudanese troops fought deadly battles with rebel paign by turning off all of fighters in the strategic their non-essential lights.

village of Talodi, close to the Following Sydney's lead, many other cities around the world adopted the event in 2008.

Hundreds of millions of

people and businesses unite each year to support the event. More than 5,200 cities and towns in 135 countries worldwide had switched off their lights for the Earth Hour 2011.