## Biker killed in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed when a speeding bus ran over his motorcycle in the capital's Sabujbagh area yesterday.

The deceased, Moazzem Hossain Shwadhin, 42, from Agailjhara in Barisal was a resident of Narayanganj.

Kalindra Golder, subinspector of Sabujbagh Police Station, said the accident took place around 11:30am on Atish Dipankar Road.

A Khilgaon bound bus belonging to Labbayek Paribahan hit Moazzem's bike from behind killing him on the spot, he said.

Police seized the bus but

the driver managed to flee. Mehedi Hasan, a nephew of the victim, told The Daily Star that Moazzem was on his way to Hasan's Gulshan residence when the accident happened.

"He had often come to our house on his motorcycle before," he said. Moazzem is survived by his

wife, two sons and a daughter.

### EC lags FROM PAGE 20

The EC took around a month to hold talks with the civil society personalities and journalists seeking their opinion on redrawing the boundaries. It sat with the civil society personalities on September 13 and with senior journalists on October 10. During the talks,

any draft proposals for redrawing the boundaries. On top of this, it is yet to decide when it will sit with the political parties seeking their views on it, although Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad on several occasions said the

the EC did not provide them

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said the political parties could give their opinion after the draft list was published.

EC would do it.

Officials of the EC secretariat said they had prepared a draft policy on redrawing the boundaries and submitted it to the EC long ago for approval.

"Now the commission will approve the policy which will determine whether the number of seats in the capital will be decreased and how the boundaries of other constituencies will be redrawn," a senior EC official told The Daily Starwishing anonymity.

On finalisation of the policy, the official said they would soon start working on the preparation of the draft for redrawing the boundaries. "It is true we could not complete the necessary works within the stipulated timeframe, but we will start working in full swing once the policy is finalised, added the official.

### A diamond

FROM PAGE 20

of Cancer and is moving so fast that a year there lasts a mere 18 hours. Discovered by a US-Franco

research team, its radius is twice that of Earth's with a mass eight times greater. That would give it the same density as Earth, although previously observed diamond planets are reckoned to be a lot more dense. It is also incredibly hot, with

temperatures on its surface reaching 3,900 degrees Fahrenheit (1,648 Celsius).

"The surface of this planet is likely covered in graphite and diamond rather than water and granite," said Nikku Madhusudhan, the Yale researcher whose findings are due to be published in the journal Astrophysical Journal Letters.

The study -- with Olivier Mousis at the Institut de Recherche en Astrophysique et Planetologie in Toulouse, France -- estimates that at least a third of the planet's mass, the equivalent of about three Earth masses, could be

Diamond planets have been spotted before but this is the first time one has been seen orbiting a sun-like star and studied in such detail.

"This is our first glimpse of a rocky world with a fundamentally different chemistry from Earth," Madhusudhan said.

The discovery of the carbon-rich planet meant distant rocky planets could no longer be assumed to have chemical constituents, interiors, atmospheres, or biology similar to Earth, he added.

# Beware! Easy

FROM PAGE 1

authorities "revised" his salary, reducing it to Tk 3,300, just a third of what it was.

As Bazlur refused to do the job with the reduced salary, they threatened him and told him to leave the hostel. He had no choice but to leave the following day.

Bazlur shared his experience with The Daily Star recently. He is just one of many job seekers who are being duped by dodgy organisations everyday. Such fraudulent compa-

nies take advantage of the unemployment problem of the country. Bazlur and a few other

victims claimed that there were many such companies in the capital that were "doing this business" and keeping the police silent by paying them a monthly amount. Md Abdul Ahad, assistant

commissioner of Detective Branch of police, said, "We know there are many organisations in the city that are cheating people. We take legal action against such a company if we get specific dayfor each job seeker." allegations."

Hasikul Islam from Dinajpur and Rajib from Shariatpur also fell victim to Daily Ajker Bashundhara.

They said fraudulent companies publish ads for

jobs using different names, including Best-Tech Buying, Padma Group, Beximco Buying and Basudha Buying. When people apply for the jobs, the companies take money from them for "training fees", "hostel fees", and fees for "identity cards".

Hasikul said, "They [Daily Ajker Bashundhara] charged me Tk 4,500 as training fee. In the five-day training programme, they just gave me a small book and showed some pictures of pants, shirts and different equipment of a garment factory."

"Nobody can stay in the hostel for more than one or two days," said Mahbub Alam, from Narsingdi, describing how horrible the living condition was at the hostel the Daily Ajker Bashundhara put him in. Visiting its office at

Fakirerpool, The Daily Star spoke to some people working there. They said none of them were newsmen. Bithi, owner of the hostel

at Malibagh, said, "The company gives me Tk 100-200 a Hayat-uz Zaman, officerin-charge of Motijheel Police Station, said, "I didn't hear about the 'newspaper'.

Please, send any of the victims to us and we will take action.'

# Long wait

FROM PAGE 1

Thursday. It damaged scores of thatched houses, uprooted trees and snapped power connection and road communications in many

Meanwhile, some 100 fishermen of Borguna, Patuakhali and other districts returned home yesterday. A few hundred more are yet to come back, said fishermen's families and district authorities.

The people of the affected areas said they were unaware of the storm. This

Management and Relief Minister AH Mahmood Ali yesterday said the fishermen had been instructed to go to safe shelters from the sea but they did not pay heed to it. "Had they returned abiding by the Met Office instructions, the death toll from the storm could have been less," he added.

at a press briefing on "Inter-

government had already sent 700 tonnes of rice and Tk 20 lakh in cash as relief for the affected people in Bhola, Noakhali, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar.

cyclone.

Meanwhile, three more bodies of storm victims were recovered in Noakhali -- two in Hatia and one in Subarnachar -- yesterday morning. This raised the death toll in the district to 15, adds our Noakhali corre-

Fifty fishermen of the district were rescued yester-

## Indian state drops cartoonist's sedition charge

dropped sedition charges against a cartoonist whose arrest over his anticorruption drawings outraged freedom of speech campaigners, his lawyer said.

online cartoons include the national parliament

other charges continue," his lawyer Vijay Hiremath told AFP, after western Maharashtra state's top law officer filed a revised affidavit on Friday to the Bombay

Construction worker dies falling from building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker died after his scaffolding collapsed while he was working on the fourth floor of a building in city's Rampura yester-

The victim, identified as Chan Miah, 35 from Kalkini in Madaripur was a resident of Jamtala in East Rampura. Mohammad Mohsin, co-

worker of the victim, said they had been working on the six-storey old building at West Rampura for three days. "Chan was working on the fourth floor on a bamboo scaffold. At around 4:00 pm

the scaffold collapsed and

he fell down. He was criti-

cally injured," Mohsin said. Co-workers along with a son of the building's owner rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead at 5:10pm.

fled after this, Mohsin added. Mozammel Haque, police

The building owner's son

camp in-charge at DMCH, said the body was sent for an autopsy.

### AL, BNP FROM PAGE 1

Reporters Unity in the capital, the members of the organisation also blamed the Rohingyas and Jamaat men for the violence.

After a two-day visit to Ramu of a 15-member team of the body, its coordinator Rubayet Ferdous revealed their findings before the reporters. Referring to media

reports, Ferdous, also a Dhaka University teacher, said the presence of some attackers at the prime minister's rally in Ramu had raised questions about the sincerity of the government in finding out the real culprits.

Columnist Syed Abul Moksud said it was as an acid test for the government to unearth the truth behind the incident to ensure communal harmony among the minorities.

Convenor of Gono Oikya Committee Pankaj Bhattacharya, who was questioned the roles of cies during the attack.

they placed some demands including formation of a judicial probe committee led by a retired Supreme Court judge to investigate the incident.

A 14-member team of Sammilito Ainjibi Samonnoy Parishad led by its president barrister M Amir-Ul Islam visited Ramu yesterday.

constitution, reports our Chittagong correspondent.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested two more people at Ramu for their alleged involvement in the violence.

Alam, 25, of Sreekul, and Hafez Ahmed, 35, of Ukhier Ghona in the upazila.

FOOD AID PROGRAMME

# US, others pledge up to \$535m

AFP, Tokyo

developing countries.

South Korean finance minister Bahk Jae-wan said Seoul will provide \$30 million over the three years from 2013 to 2015, while Japan's vice finance minister Tsutomu Okubo pledged the same amount.

The promises were made at the GAFSP meeting held on the sidelines of the IMF and World Bank annual gatherings in Tokyo.

# Corals in peril

FROM PAGE 1 and appear white, which is

called coral bleaching. This phenomenon can-

not be controlled locally, he said, but the government can still play a role to save corals as coastal development and human activities causing pollution and sedimentation exacerbate the effects of climate change. The Saint Martin issue

should be given attention soon since 25 percent of all marine life depends on corals, Anisuzzaman added. Corals, alive (soft) or dead (hard), provide protection and shelter for many differ-

ent species of fish. Without

coral reefs, fishes would

have nowhere to live and spawn eggs. Coral bleaching was first noticed at Saint Martin in 1998, Prof M Maruf Hossain of Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries, Chittagong University, said, "But we are yet to take any

measure to save them.'

traveling to and from the resources of Saint Martin, island smother corals with layers of silt, biodiversity experts who dived in the water of the island said. Anchors dropped from the ships often hit the corals,

both candidates on some

claims and moving on to

various topics covering both

domestic and foreign policy.

Obama administration has

taken the nation in the

wrong direction, asserting it

has hindered economic

recovery and weakened US

influence around the world.

times, in reference to the

recent terrorist attack on a

US diplomatic compound in

Libya and other anti-

American protests, that

"what we are watching on

our TV screens is the unrav-

elling of the Obama foreign

Ryan's remarks "malarkey"

and challenged Americans

to trust their common sense

when judging proposals by

the Republican challengers.

reforms proposed by

Romney and Ryan would

harm the middle class and

On the topic of reforming

The tax and entitlement

Biden called several of

policy.'

He also repeated several

Ryan repeatedly said the

FROM PAGE 20

damaging them, which restricts their further growth.

Besides, extraction of corals has increased for commercial purposes, which needs to be stopped immediately. The coral species near the

jetty at the island were almost ruined, said Anisuzzaman. Bangladesh has around 65 species of coral, said Prof

Maruf, who has been work-

ing on corals for years. "But we do not even know of their distribution."

The government should follow other South Asian countries, like Sri Lanka, to save corals, Maruf said, adding Sri Lanka had stopped human interventions and replaced bleached or damaged corals with live ones to facilitate their growth.

As many as 94 species of fish are dependent on corals, Maruf said. An urgent monitoring

programme is required to Frequent tourist ships save these precious marine experts say. The temperature of the

Bay of Bengal has significantly increased in the last four decades, raising acidification in the water and

the Medicare programme

for senior citizens, which

Romney and Ryan seek to

partially privatize, Biden

referred to a Ryan proposal

to provide partial govern-

ment payment for seniors in

the future to buy private

presidential debate before

the November 6 election

pitted Biden, 69, and his

almost four decades of expe-

rience in national politics

against the 42-year-old

The lone vice-

health care.

Committee.

Biden, Ryan fight

destroying many of the 22 species of corals available there, scientists say.

Exactly 0.45 degree celsius temperature has increased in the last 40 years, Ahsanuddin, a former reviewer Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change, said. Excessive carbon dioxide emission that contributes to climate change also raises acidification in the ocean

albeit very low, but enough to destroy sensitive corals, he said. It was learnt from several divers that honey comb

corals on the east coast of

Saint Martin are severely

affected by coral bleaching. The reef of Saint Martin is situated in the extreme southern part of Bangladesh, with more than 700 species of seaweed corals, fish and other marine

life forms.

Though the island was declared to be an ecologically critical area in 2003, no government agency has made an effort to conserve ecological resources in and around the island. On top of that, growing numbers of tourists are polluting and damaging the natural habitats of many species.

### WB may "This president doesn' **FROM PAGE 20** bluff," Biden said.

Adviser Gowher Rizvi at Ryan, however, insisted that Iran was closer now to Imperial Hotel in Tokyo having a nuclear weapon yesterday. than it was four years ago, The panel told Muhith

> investigation was on the right track, said a Bangladesh official who was present at the meeting. On Thursday, Isabel Guerrero, WB vice president

similar assurance.

added.

Rescued Jahura said Arif

### favour the wealthy, Biden said in seeking to depict Republicans as protectors of the privileged.

Radio Mullah

FROM PAGE 1 schoolgirl who had angered the Taliban by speaking out for "Western"-style girls' education.

Tuesday's shooting of Malala Yousufzai was the culmination of years of campaigning that had pitted the fearless, smiling young girl against one of Pakistan's most ruthless Taliban com-

manders. Their story began in 2009, when Fazlullah, known as Radio Mullah for his fiery radio broadcasts, took over Swat Valley, and ordered the closure of girls' schools, includingYousufzai's.

Outraged, the then-11year-old kept a blog for the BBC under a pen name and later launched a campaign for girls' education. It won her Pakistan's highest civilian honor and death threats from the Taliban.

the dangers. In her hometown of Mingora, Fazlullah's Taliban fighters dumped bodies near where her family "I heard my father talking

Yousufzai was not blind to

about another three bodies lying at Green Chowk," she wrote in her diary, referring to a nearby roundabout. Yousufzai continued speaking out despite the

danger. As her fame grew, Fazlullah tried everything he could to silence her. The Taliban published death threats in the newspapers and slipped them under her door. But she ignored them. The Taliban say that's why

she would not stop (speaking

they sent assassins, despite a dirty language against us," tribal code forbidding the Ahmad said. killing of women. "We had no intentions to kill her but were forced when

Now that they had failed to kill Yousufzai, they would target her father, Ahmad said.

against us)," said Sirajuddin Ahmad, a spokesman of Swat

agreed to kill her. The task was then given to military commanders to carry out. The militia has a force of around 100 men specialised in targeted killing, fighters

aged between 20-30, who were locals from Swat Valley. Their trademark is to kill by shots to the head.

Now it was Yousufzai's "Before the attack, the two

fighters personally collected information about Malala's route to school, timing, the vehicle she used and her security," Ahmad said.

make the point they could strike anywhere, he said. On Tuesday, the two men stopped the bus she was riding home in. They asked

said she wasn't there, the men fired at her. Shot in the head and the neck, Yousufzai still lies unconscious in hospital, unaware that world leaders from UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon to US President

Shariatpur; and Jahura Begum, 20, of Mymensingh. Subedar Ayub Hossain of Putkhali BGB Camp 26 said

they launched a drive in the area in the afternoon on secret information and rescued the nine when they were being trafficked to Indian through Putkhali

took her to Benapole to send her to India promising her better employment.

### stance. Anyone who takes side with the government against us will have to die at our hands," Ahmad warned.

tant people will soon become victims.

**43 BNP** 

FROM PAGE 20 (investigation) of Paltan Police Station Alamgir Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet to Dhaka Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

"You will see. Other impor-

The case was filed on October 2 under the Speedy Trial Act.

The court will decide on Sunday whether it would take into cognisance the charges brought against the accused. "We have submitted the

charge sheet after investigating into the case properly," said Alamgir. BNP's youth wing Jubo Dal President Sved

Moazzem Hossain Alal, who was arrested on October 3 in connection with the case, is now on a two-day remand. On October 2, the pro-

opposition activists clashed with law enforcers in Naya Paltan and Kakrail areas when news spread that ruling party men foiled an opposition rally in Netrakona. BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas was scheduled to attend the rally as chief guest. Police the same night

filed three cases against over 500 pro-opposition leaders and activists with Paltan and Ramna police

the worst. The GHI report shows global hunger has declined since 1990, but remains at a

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1

level characterised as 'serious'. It also shows that Bangladesh's GHI score has come down to 24 points from 27.8 last year, meaning

that the country's hunger

still remains within the

'alarming' range.

"Among the regions, South Asia has the highest 2012 GHI score. Although the region reduced its GHI score by more than 6 points between 1990 and 1996 -mainly through a large 15percentage-point decline in under-weight in children, but this rapid progress could not be maintained," the

report says. Social inequality and the low nutritional, educational, and social status of women are major causes of child undernutrition in this region and have impeded improvements in the GHI score, according to the report. More importantly, it adds,

and 2006-08, but rather showed a transient increase of about 2 percentage points around 2000-02. The report raised serious concerns over the unplanned use of land,

the proportion of under-

nourished people did not

decline between 1995-97

# minister's Foreign Affairs

water and energy.

and Rizvi at the meeting that it could give the go-ahead for a fast-track release of the \$1.2 billion fund the WB has promised if it finds the

for South Asia, gave Muhith

The panel, however, would continue reviewing the ACC probe, the official

The two other members of the panel -- Timothy Tong, former commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Peoples Republic of China, and Richard Alderman, former director of the UK Serious Fraud Office -- were present at the

Japanese capital to attend the semi-annual meetings of the WB and the International Monetary Fund. At the meeting, Muhith

assured the panel of all-out support from the government to assist the investigation. The WB had cancelled its \$1.2 billion loan deal on June 29, saying it had proof of a

government officials and executives of a Canadian The Washington-based global lender announced on September 20 to reengage in the project after the govern-

The conditions included: (i) placing all public officials suspected of involvement in the corruption scheme on

processes. The government is des-

perate to get the fund as it tries to start the project at the earliest to fulfil one of its key election promises.

#### FROM PAGE 20 raises questions about the below 10 reside in houses role of the Met Office before which are only around 15 any natural disaster. yards off the hill. However, Disaster

Mahmood was speaking national Day for Disaster Reduction", scheduled to be observed today.

The minister said the

Director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department Arjumand Habib, who also attended the press briefing, said the storm was caused by a depression; it was not a

spondent.

AFP, Mumbai

Indian prosecutors yesterday Aseem Trivedi, whose

depicted as a huge toilet bowl, was detained in Mumbai early last month before being released four days later on bail after an outcry from campaigners. "The sedition charges have been dropped but the

High Court

day while around 50 more on

Patuakhali and 30 of Charfassion and Monpura in Bhola are missing, report our correspondents from those districts.

Borguna Trawler Owners' Association, said they had sent several trawlers in the Bay to search for the missing fishermen. Narrow escape

Farid Chowdhury, senior station officer of Agrabad fire service station, said they reached the spot around 12:40pm. "Locals had rescued the three boys before

local resident, told them that a boy might have been left under the mud, the fire brigade men searched in the soil till 2:30pm. Deputy Commissioner of

But as Mizan Munshi, a

we reached there."

Chittagong Joynul Bari said none was missing in the incident. Visiting the spot, The Daily Star found marks of

hill-cutting. Local lawmaker (Chittagong-10) MA Latif paid a visit to the spot in the afternoon. He demanded exemplary punishment to those involved in cutting hills, which ultimately

# causes mudslides. Japan should apologise for war past: N

Korea AFP, Tokyo

North Korea's ceremonial head of state Friday urged Japan to apologise for its wartime aggression, dismissing Tokyo's request for the release of Japanese nationals kidnapped by the North, a news report said.

"It is vital for Japan to

settle its past if it wishes to

improve relations with

(North) Korea," Kim Young-

Nam said in an interview

with Kyodo News in Pyongyang. Japan occupied the Korean peninsula from 1910 until 1945.

The issue of the North's

abduction of Japanese

nationals "has already been

settled", he added.

"Without apologising for its past crimes, Japanese leaders have misled public opinions with the abduction issue and used it as a card to remain in power." Secretive North Korea

admitted in 2002 its agents

kidnapped Japanese people in the 1970s and 1980s to help train spies by teaching Japanese language and culture, and later allowed five of them and their families to return home.

12 trawlers are still missing. At least 65 fishermen of

Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, president of

present at the briefing, police, local administration, and intelligence agen-At the press conference,

Barrister Islam told reporters that the attacks on the Buddhist community were tantamount to an attack on the country's

The arrestees are Manjur

The United States, Japan and South Korea pledged up to \$535 million to a World Bank-sponsored food security programme yesterday, in a bid to reduce poverty in

military strike to prevent Iran from becoming capable of developing a nuclear weapon.

Taliban now based in Afghanistan's Kunar prov-He said the Taliban held a meeting a few months ago at which they unanimously

said. They chose two men,

They decided to shoot her near a military checkpoint to

for Yousufzai by name. Although the frightened girls

Barack Obama have pledged support. "Actually the media gave it so much importance and now even Ban Ki-moon used

"We have a clear-cut stations.

Ryan, a 14-year congressioof Madaripur; Biplob Saha, nal veteran who rose to the 18, of Gopalganj; Tuhin, 27, chairmanship of the powerand Sheuli, 23, of Jessore; ful House Budget Alauddin, 40, of Habiganj; Kabir Bepari, 25, of On Iran, widely backed

**FROM PAGE 20** 

international sanctions pushed by Obama have devastated that country's economy, Biden said. He rejected assertions that Obama failed to work closely with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and that the United States lacked commitment to a possible frontier.

blaming the administration for allowing that to happen. He bluntly said that Tehran must not be allowed to become a nuclear power.

Nine rescued

Those rescued are Maya Saha, 55, and Gopal Saha, 17,

meeting, sources said. Muhith is now in the

"corruption conspiracy" in the project involving some

ment had taken action to fulfil WB's conditions for its return to the project.

leave from government employment until the investigation is completed; (ii) appointing a special inquiry and prosecution team within the Bangladesh Anti-Corruption Commission to handle the investigation; (iii) agreeing to provide full access to all investigative information to an external panel of internationally recognised experts so that they can give guidance to the bank and co-financiers on the progress, adequacy, and fairness of the investigation, and; iv) agreeing on new implementation arrangements that give the bank and co-financiers greater oversight of project procurement