

THE DAILY Star ON FRIDAY

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24 PAGES PLUS THE STAR PRICE: Tk 12.00

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

A Weekly Publication of The Daily Star
theSTAR
 stories behind the news



A TRIP TO SONADIA

Today's Wide Angle features the biodiversity hotspot

PAGE 16

SOVIET BREAK-UP

Russian lawmakers want Mikhail Gorbachev probed for treason

PAGE 9



One killed, 10 burnt critically

Fire originates from chemical shop in residential building

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One person was killed and 10 others were injured as flammable chemicals caught fire and exploded at a shop on the ground floor of a residential building in the capital's Tejgaon yesterday.

Most of the victims were pedestrians and at least six of the injured are fighting for life with over 30 percent of their bodies burnt. Two university students and a minor boy are among the injured.

The dead is Abdul Latif, 50, a rickshaw van puller. He had been admitted to the burn unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 96 percent burns. He succumbed to his injuries around 1:00am today.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



Onlookers and firemen in front of the shop, marked, in the narrow alley near Farmgate. The shop on the ground floor of a residential building sells accessories to garment factories nearby. The explosion of chemicals even injured a cook in a restaurant on the ground floor of the pink building that houses several apparel factories.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Saad died a lonely death

None dared to help injured BAU student for fear of BCL

EMRAN HOSSAIN with AMINUL ISLAM, from Mymensingh

Saad died the kind of lonely death that happens in a society terrorised by violent politics, teachers and students of Bangladesh Agriculture University have said.

A former organising secretary of the Chhatra League's Ashraful Haque hall unit, Saad was a class representative who had unparalleled popularity on the campus.

Yet there was no one beside him for the seven hours he writhed in pain on the floor of Mymensingh district hospital's congested surgery ward. Neither his two roommates nor any of his classmates, juniors from his department or any other friends from a university of around 5,000 students paid him a visit.

This because nobody dared to be around him, given the fearsome atmosphere the BCL men have created on the campus over the past five years, said the teachers and students.

"Saad's killing is not an isolated incident. It is the result of an uncontrolled culture of torture creating a reign of terror at the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



AL bars Star from covering its events

STAR REPORT

The ruling Awami League has barred The Daily Star from covering all its programmes, even those open to the press, without showing any reason.

A Star reporter was asked to leave the AL president's Dhanmondi office on Wednesday when he went there to cover a party meeting.

As the reporter entered the office premises at 11:15am, a guard wanted to know his identity. When told that he was from The Daily Star, the guard requested him to leave.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

Forex reserves hit \$20b

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign currency reserves continued its record growth to reach \$20 billion yesterday, thanks to weak import demand, private sector companies taking foreign loans on low interest, and the central bank's initiatives to keep the exchange rate stable.

Bangladesh has achieved the feat though exports

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Padma issue won't affect dev projects

WB president insists ties with Bangladesh govt continues to be good

ARUN DEVNATH, from Washington

The World Bank president has vowed to continue their support to the development of Bangladesh, saying the Padma bridge issue would not have any impact on other development projects.

"Our relationship with the government of Bangladesh has always been good, and will continue to be good," WB President Jim Yong Kim told The Daily Star at a roundtable with reporters from developing countries at the WB headquarters in Washington DC on Wednesday.

On Padma bridge project, Kim said this was one project where the WB had trouble with and where it disagreed. "But that was just one project. We had many other projects going with the government at the same time."

Also, he said, the WB was now finalising plans to sign agreements for \$2.7 billion worth of new investments in Bangladesh. "So, Bangladesh is a very important partner for us."

But the stance the bank takes on showing zero tolerance for corruption is one that it will always take, and it doesn't matter which government it is.

"And, just like in the Bangladesh case, because there has been a problem with corruption, doesn't mean that we break off the relationship," he said.

The WB scrapped its \$1.2 billion loan deal for the Padma bridge project in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Jim Yong Kim

Tarique's remarks ISI-prescribed

MPs slam his statement on Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior ministers and lawmakers in parliament yesterday demanded the government bring BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman to book immediately for his "seditious" comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Tarique, who has been living in exile in London since 2008, deliberately made the remarks to distort history and destabilise the country as part of a conspiracy by Pakistan and its secret service ISI, they said.

Triggering huge criticism, Tarique, elder son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, on Tuesday said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had become Bangladesh's prime minister "illegally" in 1972.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

I'm married Admits Modi for the first time, after 46 years

STAR REPORT

It is official now.

Narendra Modi, the Hindu nationalist and front-runner to become India's next prime minister, has publicly stated for the first time that he is married.

The 63-year-old controversial BJP leader has admitted about his marital status under oath that he has a wife. At the age of 17, he married Jashodaben who almost of his age.

In election papers filed on Wednesday to run for a seat in Gujarat's Vadodara constituency, Modi wrote the name "Jashodaben" in a mandatory column regarding his marital status. He had left the column blank on previous occasions, including in the last Gujarat state election in 2012.

Jashodaben is a retired school teacher in Brahmanwada, a village about 35km from Modi's hometown, Vadnagar, and gets a monthly pension of Rs 14,000 a

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1



Jashodaben

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GREEN AWARD-2014

Call for Entries

Honouring the Pioneers of Greener Bangladesh

The Southeast Bank-Financial Express-Policy Research Institute Green Award Trust is going to recognize individuals and organizations by introducing green awards for their significant contribution towards making a difference in promoting environmentally sustainable development.

The awards will be given based on the performance of the individuals/organizations during the year 2013 in the following categories:

Category 1: Pioneer in Climate Leadership in Business and Operation
 For: I) SME II) Women Entrepreneurs III) Corporate Entities

Category 2: Pioneer in Climate Leadership in Community Awareness
 I) Pioneer in Climate Leadership in Knowledge Management
 For: Research Organization, Educational Institution, Media or Individual
 II) Pioneer in Climate Leadership in Community Engagement
 For: Individuals or Organizations working for poverty reduction and improvement of the living condition of communities in the environmentally vulnerable areas

Eligibility:

Any individual or organization may apply for one or more categories.

Please log on to www.southeastbank.com.bd/greenaward.php for detailed information about eligibility criteria and filing nominations. Nomination form with relevant documents may be filed either through the above website or by mail to the following address: M. Nurun Nabi, Member Secretary, Southeast Bank-Financial Express- Policy Research Institute Green Award Trust, Eunoos Center, Level-06, 52-53, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000

Nomination must reach by April 30, 2014

E-mail: greenaward@southeastbank.com.bd

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