



### Serena wins Aussie Open

**REUTERS, Melbourne**  
Serena Williams etched her name in tennis history yesterday, beating elder sister Venus for her first Australian Open to complete a sweep of the Slams. The siblings had spent the morning lying on a bed watching cartoons together but in the afternoon Serena battled to an emotional 7-6, 3-6, 6-4 victory to become only the fifth woman to hold all four grand slams at once, a feat she is calling the 'Serena slam'. "I never get emotional, but I am really, really emotional now and really, really happy," the world number one told the crowd during the presentation.

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# US plans Baghdad blitz in March

## Washington counts on support from a dozen countries

**REUTERS, Washington**

A US war plan calls for the launch in March of three or four hundred cruise missiles a day at the start of a war on Iraq, more than those fired during the entire first Gulf War, according to a televised report on Friday.

US officials and analysts have predicted for months that an attack on Iraq would be swift, massive and designed to catch Baghdad by surprise. They call it 'a big war', much bigger than the previous Gulf War.

But the report by CBS Television, quoting Pentagon sources, offers new details of Pentagon thinking at a time when the Bush administration is undergoing a military build-up and trying to persuade President Saddam Hussein force will be used if he does not disarm. A Pentagon spokesman declined

to comment.

CBS said the battle plan, called "shock and awe", focuses on the "psychological destruction of the enemy's will to fight rather than the physical destruction of his military forces".

"If the Pentagon sticks to its current war plan, one day in March, the Air Force and Navy will launch between three and four hundred cruise missiles at targets in Iraq - more than what were launched during the entire 40 days of the first Gulf War. On the second day, the plan calls for launching another three to four hundred cruise missiles," the network reported.

During the 1991 Gulf War, a US-led armoured column swept into Kuwait and destroyed Saddam's elite Republican Guard divisions in the largest tank battle since World War II.

But this time the target is the Iraqi leadership and the battle plan is designed to "bypass Iraqi divisions whenever possible," the network reported.

Meanwhile, the United States is counting on support from "at least a dozen" governments if it decides to attack Iraq without a fresh UN resolution, Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Saturday in Zurich.

Powell said these unnamed governments, like Washington, would prefer a UN Security Council resolution authorising the use of force against Iraq, but would not insist on that.

"There are quite a number of countries that already have indicated that they would like to have another resolution, but without another resolution they will be with us," he told reporters on his way to

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Locals gather to have a look at the dead bodies laid on the bank of the Dhaleshwari. A trawler capsized in the river on collision with a launch at Munshiganj, killing at least 14 passengers, mostly women, yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

# Blames fly over US terror-risk list

**NAZMUL ASHRAF**

While Dhaka still awaits Washington's explanation for the decision to include Bangladesh in its terror-risk list, the government and the opposition have started blaming it on each other.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, backed by their party stalwarts, have engaged in a war of words over who should shoulder the responsibility for the diplomatic setback, since Dhaka came to know about the United States immigration restrictions on January 16.

The political controversy appar-

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ently aimed at discrediting each other is getting louder with more people from both sides are joining it.

The government-opposition eloquence has seemingly damaged the prospect of a national consensus to face the crisis feared to hit the country hard.

Interestingly, the US embassy in Dhaka has so far remained tight-lipped about the reason why Bangladesh along with 24 other countries was listed for the special US registration to identify suspected

terrorists.

"There is criteria, although vague," said US Ambassador to Dhaka Mary Ann Peters.

According to the US Department of Justice, five more countries, including Bangladesh, have been brought under tougher immigration rules "in light of recent events and based on intelligent information available to the Attorney General".

However, Attorney General John Ashcroft's notice on the US action elaborated neither the 'recent events' nor 'intelligent information'.

"Certain nationals or citizens of

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## Dhaka may protest push-in today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh may protest the repeated push-in moves by India today, said sources in the foreign ministry yesterday.

The authorities in Dhaka may hand a note over to the Indian High Commission, protesting the attempts to push Bangla-speaking Muslims into Bangladesh.

"We are monitoring the situation and gathering information through the BDR and the office of our deputy high commissioner in Kolkata. We plan to call officials of the Indian High Commission on Sunday to the foreign office," said a foreign ministry source.

# BDR thwarts more push-in bids

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna**

The BDR foiled BSF attempts to push 200 people into Bangladesh through all the border areas in Jessore district and another 200 through Shamanta in Jhenidah at about 3 am yesterday.

BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) pushed them back to the no-man's land but BSF did not allow them to re-enter the Indian territory, BDR sources said.

The BSF continued their push-in attempts till 1-30 pm yesterday and mercilessly beat the 200 people in the no-man's land in Shamanta border, the sources said.

They said the situation is "highly tense" as BSF (Border Security Force) is trying to push-in people through all the border areas in Jessore and Jhenidah districts.

Quoting reports from across the border, the sources said over 800 people have been brought to BSF camps at Kalyani, Bajitpur, Mostafapur and Shutia BSF. Several truckloads of people have been assembled at Meherani BSF outpost.

The sources they are apprehending that BSF might try to push-in them through several "smuggling points" in Jessore and Jhenidah.

BSF has divided the deportees into small groups to make the push-

in easier, said a top political leader of the ruling party's Sharsa upazila unit.

Preferring anonymity, he said BSF is not only involved in push-in attempts, but also inciting BDR to enter into confrontation to escalate tension in border areas.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds: The BDR foiled a push-in attempt by the BSF through the Mohehpur border in Jessore on Friday night.

Sources said the BSF took some 150 persons to the Indian territory of Mohehpur border to push them into Bangladesh. But the BDR personnel stopped the move.

## BGMEA polls today

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The garment owners will elect their new leaders for a two-year term today, as the Supreme Court yesterday overruled a government order to defer the polls for a month.

A faction of the BGMEA leaders, however, obtained a lower court injunction on elections yesterday.

But as the injunction order did not reach the election board till yesterday, it has decided to hold the polls.

The polls will be held in Dhaka and Chittagong as per the order of the Supreme Court, a press release by the BGMEA Election Board Chairman Anisuzzaman said.

Two panels are contesting the election this year - Sammlito Parishad Forum led by Kazi Moniruzzaman and Anisul Huq and the Oikhya Jote led by Fazlul Azim.

Parishad and Forum participated in previous elections as rivals. But this time, they announced a joint panel.

On the other hand, Fazlul Azim, who is leading the Oikhya Jote, contested the last general elections with BNP ticket but could not win. Several other Jote candidates are also BNP lawmakers.

According to Sammlita Parishad Forum leaders, the joint panel aims at preparing the country's largest export-oriented sector to face the

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A woman cries as she recovers kitchenware from the burnt-out remains of her house. Fire burnt down some 1,000 shanties at Pallabi in the city yesterday.

## City fire razes down 1,000 shanties

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Fire gutted some 1,000 shanties at Pallabi in the city yesterday, leaving one person injured.

The fire at the Nagra Basti shanty beside the Dhaka Cantonment might have originated from an oven at about 1:20pm yesterday, fire brigade sources said.

A portion of the adjacent Sattar Basti was also affected.

The victim, Manik, 17, received burn injuries and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital immediately.

Fire fighters from Mirpur, Mohammadpur and Tejgaon brigade rushed to the spot and extinguished the fire at around 4:20pm.

# BSTI to seize banned condensed milk today

## Producers call it 'political conspiracy'

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) is likely to start confiscating condensed milk brands produced by the shutdown four companies from the market today.

The government banned four brands of condensed milk - Danish, Starship, Goalini and Fresh - as they contained ingredients potentially hazardous to health.

The condensed milk produced by the companies has vegetable fat instead of milk fat.

The BSTI has also rejected the statement by the producers of those brands published in different national dailies yesterday. It termed the statement "baseless and inconsistent with facts".

The BSTI reiterated its request to consumers not to use condensed milk produced with vegetable fat.

Contradicting the statement by the four companies, the BSTI said it has no knowledge of 'recognised standard of producing condensed milk with vegetable fat' in any country in the world.

"Those companies also failed to

present any internationally recognised standard of producing condensed milk with vegetable fat," the BSTI claimed.

Explaining the process of manufacturing condensed milk, the BSTI further said it should be produced by mixing condensed milk with refined sugar. The condensed milk must be concentrated form of cow milk, goat milk or buffalo milk.

The BSTI has also specific standard for condensed milk, which all the four companies had been violating, it said further.

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# DMP tries to boost police morale

**ABUL KALAM AZAD**

In a desperate bid to boost the morale of its forces, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) are holding meetings everyday with mid-level officials, asking them not to pay any heed to any intimidation in their drive against criminals.

Besides revitalising its different wings and police stations, the DMP is revising strategies to net criminals, now coming out of their hide-outs after the army pullout.

To do that, lobbying and intimidation by influential quarters for release of arrested persons must stop, mid-level officials say, according to meeting sources.

The meetings are told that police officials concerned would be

charged with negligence and failure for any crime incident in their areas.

"We have already warned police stations, relocated their areas and ordered close vigilance on movement of criminals," DMP commissioner Mohammad Abdul Quayyum told The Daily Star yesterday.

"In case of negligence and failure, action will be taken against police stations and officials concerned," he said.

He said police officials have been asked not to pay any heed to lobbying for release of an arrested person.

"Action will also be taken against the lobbyist, no matter whoever he is."

Other regular duties of police have been minimised to mobilise

more manpower and logistics for the anti-crime drive, he said. "Police patrol and block-raid have been increased in some selected areas."

Quayyum said, barring some crime incidents after the army pullout, DMP has been able to maintain law and order in the city.

"Police are now more active than before and are moving quickly if any incident takes place in any part of the city," he added.

The 87-day 'Operation Clean Heart' by the joint forces saw an improvement in law and order in the city.

Since the pullout, two persons have been killed and extortion,

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## Sony murder Accused surrenders to court

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

An absconding accused in the Sabequn Nahar Sony murder case surrendered to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Dhaka Division, yesterday.

The accused, Year Mohammad, along with his lawyers appeared before the tribunal at 10:30 am and sought bail. Special public prosecutor Abdul Latif Talukder opposed it.

After hearing both sides, Judge Shahed Noor Uddin rejected the bail petition and sent Year Mohammad to jail.

The Detective Branch (DB) of

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# Hasina blames govt for terror-risk list inclusion

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina has again blamed the BNP-led alliance government for the recent inclusion of Bangladesh in the terror-risk list of the US authorities.

She urged the people to stand united against this government to restore the image of the country and build a self-reliant economy.

"The present government has humiliated Bangladesh internationally," Hasina said while inaugurating the fifth national congress of Awami

Jubo League, youth wing of the AL, at the Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday. The congress was attended by thousands of councillors.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad alleged that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her alliance government are involved in gross violation of human rights, repression on the opposition and patronisation of criminals. Because of this, the country's image has been tarnished before the international

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## Case framers sent to jail

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Special Tribunal in the city sent two persons to jail as they appeared for bail yesterday, about two months after their conviction for filing a false case against a person.

Nuruddin Ahmed had filed a case with Mirpur thana on June 21, 2000, that Abbas Uddin abducted his minor daughter Sabrina Ahmed Rima and raped her. The case was filed under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

After investigation, the charges against Abbas Uddin were proved false.

The First Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka on November 2

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