The Daily Star

NEWS

AL demands probe Armed attack into Dinajpur explosions

UNB, Dhaka

Expressing grave concern over Dinajpur bomb blasts, opposition Awami League said the latest incident proved there might be more than one "terrorist network" active in the country.

Acting AL President Johra Taiuddin and General Secretary Abdul Jalil in a statement yesterday criticised the administration for allegedly trying to suppress facts about the explosions that they said occurred in a "hideout of a fundamentalist terrorist group

called Jamaetul Mujaheedin". The Awami League leaders demanded proper inquiry into the incident, which took place on Thursday morning. They also demanded arrest of those involved. In the statement, they repeated

the party's earlier remark that "the evil force that wanted to make Bangladesh a Taliban state is in the BNP-Jamaat government".

They alleged that to protect the terrors and divert people's attention the government was putting blame on AL men. "Instead of nabbing the culprits who carried

And such silence of the government made the "fanaticterrorist groups more fearless and reckless," the opposition leaders observed in the statement.

They particularly criticised the local administration for its alleged move to cover up the criminal act and for not allowing journalists to go to the spot.

Zohra and Jalil noted that during the AL rule eight people, including a commander of this group, were arrested from said people became skeptical madrassah and hostels in engaged in arms buildup and

abroad

out similar acts in Satkhira, Tangail and other places, the government has maintained a mysterious silence." they said.

fired shots during the attack. Of the injured, Balayet Hossain Sumon, Abdul Khalak, Sirazul Hoq Badu and Rasul Ahmed were admitted to different clinics in Feni town.

BSS, Feni

Friday night.

Rahman and Abdul Malek.

Pakistani PM

Pakistani Prime Minister Zafarullah

Jamali has cancelled a planned trip

to neighbouring Iran, state media

announced today. Jamali had

planned a three-day visit to Tehran

He cancelled it "owing to some

Elections for Pakistan's first

important affairs including the

upcoming Senate elections," the

Associated Press of Pakistan (APP

to Iran

AFP, Islamabad

starting February 17.

Parbatipur along with arms. They cancels trip about police investigation. Police failed to detect anything when "the same group, establishing Dinajpur, have long been

bomb manufacturing", they said. The AL leaders alleged that because of killing, rape, repression and violation of human rights under the present government country's image was tarnished

NO on Eid reunion in Feni: 8 hurt At least eight people were injured when armed criminals attacked an Eid reunion at Koraismunshi Bazar under Dagonbhuiya upazila on Police arrested two criminals from the spot. They are Mafizur Police and witnesses said a gang of 50 criminals attacked the Eid reunion organised by a local social welfare organisation at about 8.30 The gang exploded crackers and

Rawja Mubarak UNB, Dhaka Awami League chief. Sheikh Hasina offered fateha at Rawia Mubarak of Prophet Hajrat Mohammad (SM) in Madina on Friday. She prayed for peace and prog-

Hasina offers

fateha at

Prophet's

ress of Bangladesh people. Sheikh Hasina also attended a dinner hosted by the wife of Saudi King for the women royal guests on the Eid day, said an AL press release here yesterday

The royal hostess presented two pieces of the Quran and a wall-mat to Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier on the day, expatriate Bangladeshis met Hasina at Sheraton Hotel in Makkah.

Meghna tragedy FROM PAGE 1

Express-- sank with 29 people on board. The launch went to Ichali Ghat in Chandpur from Dhaka and capsized on its way back.

Earlier reports said at least eight people drowned and three were missing in the launch tragedy.

The dead included A F M Siddig managing director of Siddiq Textile Mills, and his family members. An activist of the Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal carries a placard during an

The victims' bodies were handed over to their relatives and they were buried vesterday.

Aussies run thru' India Delhi for action

7.2

Papal envoy holds

Papal envoy Cardinal Roger Etchegaray held two hours of talks

with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein

yesterday in a bid to "guarantee

peace talks

AFP, Baghdad

peace.

with Saddam

Result: Australia won by nine

0 49 0

0 24

UN must act on Iraq or lose its voice: Bush

REUTERS, Glasgow, Scotland

n the Scottish city of Glasgow.

passes then ... the menace, and not

just from Saddam will grow. The

authority of the UN will be lost." he

In a setback for the United States

and Britain, top UN arms officials held

out hope on Friday that inspections

were working. That prompted

Russia, France, China, Germany

allow inspections to continue.

said

assessments, allowing wavering Britain's Tony Blair said yesterday council members to declare it was weapons inspectors would get more premature to take military action. time to scour Iraq but warned the A Brussels report adds: A compro-United Nations that it's authority mise to end a NATO crisis on protecwould be lost if Saddam Hussein was tive measures for Turkey in case of

US led war on Iraq is likely to be not disarmed peacefully or by force. "Dr Blix reported to the UN yesteragreed next Monday or Tuesday, day and there will be more time given diplomatic sources said yesterday. nspections," the prime minister told The refusal of France, Germany his ruling Labour Party's conference and Belgium to allow the 19-nation

alliance to start defensive planning "But if we show weakness now, if for Turkey has plunged NATO into we allow the plea for more time to one of the most serious crisis in its 54 become just an excuse for prevaricavear historv tion until the moment for action

areas, lacked the bite of his previous

"There is a general move towards a descalation and the search for a solution early next week," one senior diplomatic source said.

He gave no details but other sources said NATO would reaffirm its solidarity with Turkey and allow national defence measures such as the transfer of patriot air defence missiles and anti-chemical and antibiological warfare units to Turkey.

and others, in a dramatic Security Council showdown, to demand The 18-nation NATO defence planning committee, of which France peace be given another chance and is not a member, would agree to send

A crucial report by chief inspector AWACS early warning aircraft to Hans Blix, while critical of Iraq's Turkey. failure to deliver information in vital

Dolly's death

FROM PAGE 12

Many cloned offspring die within the first 24 hours of birth from malformed heart, lungs and kidneys. Others, apparently healthy at birth, survive longer but then die sud-

denly. And some evidence -- including the circumstances of Dolly's death -suggests clones may age prematurely because their DNA source is older

A post-mortem will now be carried out to tell whether the incurable lung disease that Dolly contracted was a result of her being cloned. Sheep can live to 11 or 12 years. In February 2002, the American

Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) backed proposals to outlaw reproductive cloning, saying the process incurred "serious health risks".

Wilmut says that scientists have a long way to go before understanding exactly how genetic mechanisms work

"The fate of cloned embryos is determined by molecular events within hours of nuclear transfer," he wrote in the British journal Nature last October

"It is disappointing that so little is known about these events during the early development of cloned embryos.

The method pioneered by

Another is the risk that the cloning process somehow hands on tiny flaws that later cause chronic ill health.

A team led by Jerry Yang at the University of Connecticut found last year that cloned cows had flaws in nine out of 10 genes studied on their X-chromosome -- one of the two sex chromosomes that determine a mammal's gender.

Females have two X chromosomes, whereas males have an X and a Y chromosome. Among females, one of the X chromosomes "silent" -- it does not activate

Among the cloned cows, the flaws meant the copy of the X chromosome was incompletely switched

Rather like a computer which receives spluttering, conflicting instructions from two sets of the same software programme, the cow's protein-making machinery went haywire, with catastrophic results for the animal's survival. Yang team member Cindy Tian

said the findings were important because secret labs trying to replicate a human being are basically using the same cloning method. "Ninety-nine per cent (of cloned (os) will fail to come t term and of the one percent that might live, a high percentage will die shortly after birth because of gene expression problems," she told AFP at the time. Even if a cloning technique emerges that is safe and reliable, Human genetic duplication is viewed with abhorrence because it evokes the stench of Nazi-style eugenics, with all the nightmare implications of a master race that is fit to be cloned and underlings who

senate since it was suspended in the wake of the October 1999 army coup are scheduled for February 24 and 27. Jamali recently toured the four

reported.

Gulf states of Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates seeking non-military solutions to the Iragi crisis İran lies between Pakistan's

south-west border and Iraq.

Only 15 beds FROM PAGE 12

said at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday, held in observance of nternational Childhood Cancer Day.

Seventy per cent of such patients can be cured through proper diagnosis and treatment, they said and demanded setting up of a cancer hospital for children There is also scarcity of skilled

physicians and nurses for treatment of cancer, they said.

Different international organisations have assured Ashic to help it with medical equipment, medicine, and oncologists and to train local physicians and nurses if a childhood

cancer hospital is set up, they said. Chairperson of Ashic Salma Chowdhury, Afzal Hossain Chowdhury, Prof MA Mannan of BSSMU and Executive Member of London-based International Confederation of Childhood Cancer

bat with a 40-run stand for the eighth Harbhajan hit 28 off 32 balls, ncluding an astonishing six over third man off Lee, while Kumble said Gillespie.

anti-war rally in Dhaka. The socialist party demonstrated yesterday against a

remained unbeaten on 16. "It's hard to explain why we've fallen off in recent months," Ganguly

told AFP during the lunch break. "It's not that we are not trying, but nothing is falling in place. Batting was our strong point, but it is letting

possible US-led strike on Iraq.

FROM PAGE 1

wicket

the side down. India must now win all the three kev games against Zimbabwe. England and Pakistan to ensure a place in the super-six round.

A combination of reckless batting and devastating pace bowling saw India lose their first four wickets for 45 runs by the 15th over after Ganguly won the toss and elected to

Ganguly (nine) and Virender Sehwag were caught behind off Lee slashing outside the off-stump. Rahul Dravid played Gillespie's first delivery on to his stumps, while Yuvraj Singh was given leg-before off Glenn McGrath by Sri Lankan

the pad.

the ball to flick, missed and was caught plumb in front of the wicket.

We decided before the game that Brett would take the new ball to see if he could rattle the batsmen,'

"A couple of wickets fell early on and I just chipped in. It was vital to get Tendulkar out because he was looking good.

SCOREBOARD Scoreboard of the World Cup Pool A match between Australia and

Saturday: INDIA Ganguly c Gilchrist b Lee Tendulkar lbw b Gillespie Sehwag c Gilchrist b Lee Dravid b Gillespie Yuvraj Ibw b McGrath Kaif c Symonds b Gillespie

Mongia c Symonds b Lee 13 Kumble not out 16 Harbhajan Ibw b Hogg 28 Zaheer lbw b Lehmann Srinath run out

Extras: (lb-5, nb-1, w-10) 16 Total: (All out in 41.4 overs) 125 Fall of wickets: 1-22, 2-41, 3-44, 4-45, 5-50, 6-78, 7-80, 8-120, 9-125 Bowler 0 Μ

8 3

9 1

R W "It was to see if everything had 23 36 3 13 0 international community," he said.

them," he said.

FROM PAGE 1 India announced last month a drive to deport millions of Bangladeshis it said had entered its territory illegally and could pose a security threat.

The issue bubbled over into a major diplomatic crisis last week when a group of snake charmers was apprehended by Indian border guards in eastern West Bengal state.

New Delhi said the 213 men, women and children held in no man's land between the two countries were Bangladeshis and should be taken back, while Dhaka said they were Indians

After days of diplomatic tensions the group left no man's land. India claims they were taken back by Bangladesh, but Khan denied this.

"We have not taken them back. I don't know where they have gone. They have gone back to where ever they came from, but we have not taken

Last Ariane-4 rocket launched **REUTERS**, Kourou

"My meeting with President Saddam Hussein centred on concrete questions," the French cardinal told reporters.

The final mission of Europe's Ariane-4 rocket series placed a telecommunibeen done to guarantee peace by cations satellite into orbit yesterday, restoring a climate of trust which allows Irag to recover its place in the

International human rights group Amnesty International yesterday said it was gravely concerned over recent reports about the fate of people whose nationality was disputed along the

Indian-Bangladeshi border. Amnesty said these people were subjected to "push-in" and "push-out"

attempts by security forces on both "The organisation considers that

such collective expulsions by India and Bangladesh across the border without offering recourse to judicial remedy or appeal to the persons being expelled appear to be arbitrary and to deny them their fundamental human

rights," Amnesty said in a statement. Amnesty asked both governments to refrain from mass expulsions and to ensure that anyone who was expelled was provided with competent legal representation.

It also said detainees should be protected from mob attacks and be given food, shelter and medical facili-

US extends

ROM PAGE 12

The registration was prompted by concern about the lack of records on tourists, students and other foreign visitors after the Sept 11, 2001

Temporary male visitors from

Pakistan or Saudi Arabia who were



Harbhajan

Kumble

PHOTO: STAR

Wilmut remains the dominan cloning technique around the world.

It entails removing the nucleus or core, from an egg and replacing it with DNA from a donor and then fusing the two together with a jolt of electricity

This imported DNA "reprogrammes" the egg, transferring into it the entire genetic code of the donor.

In theory, all the right genetic machinery is there for the egg to develop normally, yet that machinery can still malfunction in many

Lab experience shows that some genes do not appear to switch on and off as they should at key phases - a huge problem in the complex ballet of making proteins, the material that comprises virtually all of the human body.

Dinajpur blasts

FROM PAGE 1

in the investigation is unlikely till the condition of Badal improves to allow interrogation or any other resident of the tin-shed house in caught". A three-member CID team from

Dhaka, led by ASP Atiqur Rahman Munshi, and a police team led by Kotwali thana OC Shahid Shukrama are jointly investigating the bomb blasts.

It is suspected that the persons responsible for the incident belong to Za'amatul Mujahidin Bangladesh (ZMB), allegedly an Islamic extremist group.

The organisation has been doing its "underground work" in the region for more than a year now, said a highly placed police official.

A heavy contingent of armed police is still cordoning the house.

In October last, one Hafez Shahidullah of Kamar Kachai area in the town and one Kari Obaidul, an official of Al Falah Alam (universal) Development Organisation, rented a ground floor of a three storied building in Chhoto Gurgola area and opened the madrassah.

They also rented the two-room tin-shed house to lodge teachers of the madrassah. At least seven teachers were residing but many others used to stay there occasionally, local people said

They said residents of the tinshed house hardly mixed with them.

are not. And cloning on a large scale would be bad news indeed for human evolution, for it would encourage stagnation rather than a dynamic mixing of the gene pool. Homo sapiens would mark time as a species

as they used to recite from the holy

Quran always and acted like typical

Islamic clerics," a house owner in

region came to light on May 20 last

year when police arrested eight of

its members including 'commander'

Shahabul Islam from Jahauabad in

petrol bombs, ten audio cassettes.

Police had also recovered 25

The presence of ZMB in the

the area said.

Parent Organisations (ICCCPO Geoffrey Thaxter spoke at the press conference Later, a human chain was formed

in front of the press club in which 15 children with cancer took part.

Abbas

FROM PAGE 12

Meanwhile, Inspector Munshi Ruhul Kuddus of the DB pleaded with the court that Abbas be shown arrested for killing Dhaka City Corporation commissioner Saidur Rahman Newton and placed on a seven-day remand

In his forwarding letter, the nspector claimed Mohammad Aiyub, also accused in the murder case, had linked Abbas and some others with the killing in his confessional statement.

"Abbas is accused in five murder cases and 10 other cases of extortion, intimidation and assault filed with different police stations." The court ordered that Abbas be

shown arrested in the Newton They even did not go to nearby murder case and placed on a fivestores to buy essentials, they said. day remand "They were above all suspicion

The police have so far arrested 31 people in connection with the killing of the ward No. 8 commissioner, gunned down at Dhanmondi on May 10 last year. Thirteen are in jail and the rest on bail.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Kohinur Mia. Assistant Commissioner Akhtaruzzman, and Inspector Shahnur Khan are leading the DB team interrogating Abbas, arrested at a fast food shop Friday afternoon.

Assam border

Additional police will keep a

To expedite the ongoing border

lookout along the waterway, the

fencina work. the meetina decided

to hand the works and construction

of border roads over to a new

The AASU demand for upgrad-

FROM PAGE 1

sources said.

agency

soon

six subscription collection receipt books, four diaries and three registry books from them. The eight are in custody and investigation is on but no clue could be found, police sources said.

Parbatipur in Dinajpur.

RAT nabs 3 FROM PAGE 1

against him while the others are also accused in a number of cases.

The RAT raided a house in Badda at 3:30am and arrested the criminals with a shotoun, a bulletproof jacket. 25 rounds of cartridges. 170 rounds of 0.22 bore rifle bullets. 50 rounds of 7.65 bore bullets and five rounds of .32 bore bullets.

The criminals have been taken on a one-day remand for interrogaa list of genuine Indian citizens living in the state

Gilles wicket soon after when Mohammad Kaif hooked a short ball down Andrew Symonds' throat at deep square leg to make India 50-5.

umpire Asoka De Silva even though

replays showed the ball hit the top of

At the stage Gillespie had 2-2 from three overs, building on McGrath's 1-23 from eight and Lee's 2-16 off six.

Gillespie stopped the run flow by conceding just six runs in his next five overs before grabbing the wicket the Australians wanted more. Tendulkar, who faced 59 deliveries watching the batting collapse at the other end, went inside the line of

2 Gille 10 6 0 25 Symonds 0 Hogg 4.4 16 l ehmann 4 0 7 AUSTRALIA Gilchrist st Dravid b Kumble 48 Hayden not out 45 Ponting not out 24 Extras: (lb-3, w-8) 11 Total: (For 1 wkt in 22.2 overs) 128 Fall of wicket: 1-100 Did not bat: Martyn, Lehmann,

Bevan, Symonds, Gillespie, Hogg Lee and McGrath. M R W 0 Bowler 0 26 0 Srinath 4

The meeting in Baghdad came a day after Pope John Paul II urged Iraq to respect UN resolutions in talks with Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz.

Etchegaray said Wednesday after talks with Aziz and Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan that he would deliver a message to Saddam from the pope.

The Vatican reiterated Friday its opposition to a US-led war on Iraq. saying military intervention would "worsen the suffering of a population already tested by long years of embargoes.

ending a 116-launch career two after the loss of the space shuttle Columbia.

Yesterday's Ariane-4 flight was to have been a triumphant event, but the destruction of Columbia on February 1 with seven crew and problems with Ariane-5 have cast a shadow over space exploration.

The Ariane-4 rocket deployed the satellite for global operator Intelsat after its launch had been delayed for three days due to bad weather, Arianespace officials said at the launch site in French Guiana on the northeast coast of South America

the names of some NGOs to be

brought to book for their involve-

Since then, different govern-

ment agencies the NGO Affairs

Bureau, the Bureau of Anti-

corruption and the National

Security Intelligence have been

investigating the alleged political

But whenever the representa-

tives of the NGOs contacted the

authorities, they were told that the

investigation was on, and there

was nothing to be done at " that

stage" as there was no signal from

the government high-ups, alleged

should be made public," said

Grants worth over Tk 21 crore

from the Swiss Development

Cooperation, Embassy of the

Netherlands and Danida were

approved against "Towards a Just

Society" project in January. It is the

NGO Affairs Bureau, which is

delaying the process of releasing

blocked is Tk 324 crore of

Proshika's "Towards a Poverty

Free Society" project, running

The biggest chunk of money

involvement in political activities.

"Whatever they have in hand

FROM PAGE 1

ment in politics.

links of some NGOs.

the NGO executives.

the funds.

NGO fund stuck

in the United States before Oct 1 were given an additional four weeks to register, until March 21. Temporary male visitors from Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia,

hijacked plane attacks.

Jordan or Kuwait who were in the United States before Oct 1 also got four more weeks to register. Their registration period will last from Feb 24 until April 25, the Justice Department said.

World protests US plans

McGrath

Lee

FROM PAGE 1

favour of extending weapons inspections.

Iraq can claim to have won a round in the fight against the United States at Friday's Security Council meeting, a ruling Baath Party official said.

"The round was in Iraq's favour," said Saad Kassem Hammudi, who runs the government-backed Organisation of Popular Arab Forces. Hammudi said the session had "tamed the runaway American bull ... and given the inspectors the opportunity to purse their mission in line with Resolution 1441."

The influential Babel newspaper, run by President Saddam's elder son Uday, saw in the chief inspectors' report fresh ammunition for those opposed to a US attack on the Baghdad regime.

"The Iraq issue may be an important chance ... for countries like Russia, France, China, Germany, and groups like the the decision earlier taken for joint European Union and the Arab patrol by the Border Security Force League and others, to rise up and (BSF) and Assam police along the carry out their duties effectively." border should be implemented

But defiant US Secretary of State Colin Powell had said after the session that Washington would only wait "weeks" before deciding whether to launch its own action and Bush also expressed his exasperation at the UN debate.

"Saddam Hussein is a danger and that's why he will be disarmed one way or the other," he said.

ing of the National Register of Protest organisers around the Citizens (NRC) 1951 till March 25. world were expecting to see 1971 was also accepted to prepare people march for peace yesterday on a scale not seen since the

demonstrations against the war in Vietnam

The mass protests kicked off in New Zealand, in Wellington and Auckland, as well as across Australia in Perth, Hobart and Canberra to be followed on Sunday by others in Brisbane. Darwin. Adelaide and Svdnev. spreading through Asia and on to Europe, with major demonstrations taking placed in key capitals and other big cities.

In the Italian capital Rome organisers said three million people took to the streets, while police in London said half a million people had turned out.

In London, more than half a million people were taking part in a march against a looming US-led war against Iraq, police estimated, while organisers of the event put the number at around one million

the march the biggest demonstration in the British capital since World War Two.

a million now. At the end of the day million.

to finish at about 5:30pm.

but two massive anti-war demonstrations, Papal envoy Cardinal Roger Etchegaray held two hours of talks with Saddam in an effort to

Afterwards he said: "In the name of Pope John Paul II, I dare to appeal to the conscience of all those who, in these decisive days, carry weight for future peace. Because, when all is said and done, it's conscience which will have the final say, over all strategies, ideologies and even religions.

Hangover FROM PAGE 12

Those who turned up were seen exchanging Eid greetings and gossiping away time

Some ministers and most of the top officials however attended office but they were in a relaxed mood. Their rooms were seen open for all for exchange of Eid greetings.

Private offices in commercial hubs like Motiiheel were open for business but attendance of staff was thin.

Transaction in banks was usual but with less staff. Trading was dull at Dhaka Stock Exchange.

Though the number of rickshaws, auto-rickshaws and buses in the citv increased vesterday, those were seen playing with less number of passengers. Rickshaw-pullers and auto-rickshaw drivers charged higher fares to compensate for the loss due to lack of passengers.

small NGOs to accelerate develop-But the scene was different at ment and fight illiteracy. Kamalapur railway station. Sadarghat launch terminal, and Gabtali, Mohakhali and Syedabad bus terminals. Crowds were seen there as people started returning to the city after the holiday.

He said the government blocked Minister Khaleda Zia mentioned the money in an unjust way.

"It is donors' money. If they find that the fund raised with their taxpayers' money was not being used, then they could transfer it from Bangladesh to other poor countries.'

Funds of over Tk. 14 crore of BNPS projects on promoting responsive governance and gender justice, and Taka seven-crore of the ADAB project of 'Strengthening the Role of NGOs and Civil Societies Towards Sustainable

Development' were also blocked.

Morshed Khan

FROM PAGE 12

Aroma Dutt, executive director of between the two countries is simply the PRIP Trust, denying any impossible, given the size of Indian economy.

> Indian Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal told reporters Friday night that the talks were in the nature of "cleaning the air"

Providing zero tariffs to Bangladeshi goods does not make much sense and the two countries should reach a free trade arrangement, said Sibal

Rice diseases

since 1999. It supports some 600 FROM PAGE 12

rich treasure of e-learning "It is like confinement without courses, fact sheets, reference trial," President of Proshika Qazi materials, training materials as Faruque Ahmed, who is also the well as rice biological database chairperson of the NGO apexand geological information sysbody, ADAB, told The Daily Star. tem (GIS) maps.

New York is the focus of the main United States anti-war demonstration, with hundreds of thousands expected at a rally near UN headquarters.

A figure of over 500,000 makes

John Rees, one of the protest organisers, said: "We are calling it think it will probably be over a

The march started around midday (1200 GMT) and was due

In Baghdad, which saw not one

"guarantee peace".