

# Uphold bright image, encourage investors

## PM tells expats in Malaysia

BSS, Kuala Lumpur

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon expatriate Bangladeshis to uphold the 'bright image' of the country abroad and give a befitting reply to false and motivated propaganda against Bangladesh.

"You know a vested quarter has resorted to anti-Bangladesh campaign at home and abroad to lead the country and its people to danger. You will have to give a positive and appropriate reply to this propaganda," she said at a reception hosted by expatriate Bangladeshis in Kuala Lumpur in her honour at a local hotel yesterday.

Khaleda Zia arrived here yesterday to attend the 13th NAM summit. Instead of cooperating with the government in its development activities, some "political leaders" have started a campaign against the country and the people to destroy the country's 'bright image' abroad, she alleged. This has led to inclu-

sion of Bangladesh is US terror-risk list, she added.

Khaleda Zia described various development and reform programmes undertaken by her government and hoped that the lot of the people would improve in a couple of years upon implementation of the programmes. She appreciated the contribution of expatriate Bangladeshis towards development of the country's economy and said, "You are good ambassadors of the country. The image and reputation of Bangladesh depend on your behaviour and activities."

She called upon the expatriates to encourage foreign investors to invest in Bangladesh availing the liberal investment policy.

She suggested to the expatriates to also invest at home in joint ventures with foreign investors.

On her arrival at the Prince Hotel, Khaleda Zia was received by the expatriates amidst cheer and applause.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, Bangladesh High Commissioner to Malaysia Masud Aziz and on behalf of the expatriates Dr Abdur Rashid, Engineer Badalur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman and Engineer Ekramul Haq also spoke.

The expatriate Bangladeshis thanked the prime minister for her success in curbing terrorism.

They also expressed their gratitude to her for creating a new ministry for expatriate welfare and overseas employment.

## Gaibandha blast victim dies in Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Badal Mia, 18, who was fatally injured in the February 13 bomb blasts at Dinajpur, died on Sunday.

He fought for life for 10 days at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka.

Badal's elder brother took his body to their village home at Moymanthpur in Shaghata upazila of Dinajpur yesterday for burial.

Earlier, autopsy of the body was conducted at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

Meanwhile, two others were seriously injured in the bomb explosions in a tin-shed house at Chhoto Gurgola at Dinajpurtown.

## Sarwar

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mayoral candidate, Abdul Majid Munshi, of Jatiya Party.

Advocate Enayet Pir in enjoying financial benefit as principal of Barisal Law College and so he can not run in the mayoral race, Munshi said.

Election officials said Munshi's objection will be dismissed because as per the certificate issued by the law college authorities, Enayet Pir is doing a part-time job there and not enjoying any financial benefit from government.

All the nomination papers were being scrutinised yesterday.

## Altaf smells

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ment were recovered from the area. He said the Jubo League leader along with some of his armed associates had been staying in the hut where the blast took place at Dangpara village of Shah Makhdom thana in Rajshahi.

"Moment's carelessness of the armed men caused the blast," the home minister said.

The hut belonged to a woman named Zarina and the criminals escaped after the incident.

## Vajpayee

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shortly before the Indian leader to urge the forum to back "just struggles of peoples against illegal occupation."

"We must not shy away from the principle of self-determination for peoples fighting foreign occupation or suppression by force," he told the summit.

He later told journalists that India should make more of an effort to help solve the dispute, which has sparked two wars between the perennial foes since independence from Britain.

"If they want to speak to me I will because I've tried my best in the past," said Musharraf, who routinely calls for negotiations with New Delhi, when asked whether the nuclear-armed neighbours would talk at NAM.

"I'm not the only one who should keep trying, they should also try. If they don't want, I'm not too keen at all."

Nuclear-capable India and Pakistan came close to a third war over Kashmir last year, with more than a million troops deployed to border areas following a deadly attack on India's parliament building by suspected Islamic militants.

The two leaders have shared the dais at four conferences since the parliament assault but have not held talks.

## Court-martial

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ment in court on February 10 and 11 backed Nuruzzan's claim.

The businessmen said Captain Atiqur and his men planned abduction of the hundi trader. They went to Shyamoli bus stand in an army vehicle and picked up Suresh in the morning of January 29.

The captain extorted Taka three lakh from Suresh and then allowed him to go. The booty was shared among eight. They included Atiqur's cousin Dulal, informant Nuruzzaman and Dinesh and Nital.

After a week, eight policemen and Nuruzzaman went to Bangabazar to abduct Suresh and they were caught by traders there.



PHOTO: AFP

A Palestinian woman searches the rubble of a destroyed house in Rafah, south of the Gaza Strip yesterday. The Israeli army pulled out of Beit Hanun after a 48-hour reoccupation that failed to stem Palestinian rocket attacks.

# Kenya shock Sri Lanka

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win, Sri Lanka were limping along at 112-5 when the 21-year-old Obuya turned the tide by having dangerman Aravinda de Silva caught by Kennedy Otieno after the veteran batsman had made 41 off 53 balls.

"I am so happy," said Obuya. "Now I just want to become the best spinner in - Kenya!"

As well as dismissing Hashan Tillakaratne and Kumar Sangakkara, Obuya also took two spectacular catches off his own bowling to get rid of Mahela Jayawardene and Chaminda Vaas, the second of which sent him off on an impromptu lap of honour around the ground as his team sensed a famous win.

Maurice Odumbe secured the win by bowling Dilhara Fernando. Sri Lanka skipper Sanath Jayasuriya, whose team had gone into the match with three wins out of three, was left despondent.

"This was one of the worst matches of my life. I am very disappointed," confessed the captain who made just three before he fell to Suji.

"Their score of 210 was very gettable, but we played like amateurs, not professionals which we are supposed to be.

"We have to forget this as quickly as possible and get on playing good cricket. This was very bad cricket by all of us."

Chaminda Vaas chipped in with 3-41 to become the tournament's highest wicket-taker with 12 after Sri Lankan captain Sanath Jayasuriya won the toss and elected to field.

Opener Kennedy Otieno was the only Kenyan batsman to make an impact, scoring 60.

Kenya, who now have 12 points from four games, including the four they gained after New Zealand's refusal to play their match here on February 21 for security reasons, will now fancy their chances of

reaching the Super Sixes with Bangladesh and West Indies still to play.

Kenya's shock triumph has also thrown Group B wide open with the West Indies on ten points and co-hosts South Africa and New Zealand on eight apiece with two matches left.

Veteran Maurice Odumbe took 3-15 when Kenya upset the West Indies at Pune in 1996, but this time it was Obuya who struck the telling blows on Sri Lanka who were cruising along nicely at 71-2 at one stage despite losing in form openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu.

Obuya had Tillakaratne caught on the deep square leg boundary in the 18th over and, six overs later, held an easy return catch to dismiss Jayawardene to leave Sri Lanka at 87-4.

Obuya's double strike, dismissing Sangakkara for five and the vital wicket of de Silva ended Sri Lankan hopes of a recovery. Captain Steve Tikolo, another veteran of 1996, sent the home fans and his teammates into a wild celebration when he claimed the last two wickets leaving Russel Arnold stranded not out on 25.

## SCOREBOARD

Full scoreboard of the World Cup group B match between Sri Lanka against Kenya at Nairobi on Monday:

Kenya	Sri Lanka
Otiemo c Muralitharan 60	60
De Silva 10	10
Shah lbw b Vaas 12	12
Patel c Sangakkara b Vaas 10	10
Tikolo lbw b Muralitharan 26	26
Odumbe c Arnold 26	26
Oduyo c Sangakkara b Vaas 6	6
C. Obuya not out 13	13
A. Suji b Muralitharan 6	6

Ongondo b Jayasuriya 20	20
M. Suji not out 3	3
Extras: (b5, lb11, w10, nb2) 28	28
Total: (for nine wickets in 50 overs) 210	210
Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-46, 3-75, 4-112, 5-152, 6-163, 7-163, 8-173, 9-205	
Bowling: O M R W	
Vaas 10 14 13	13
Nissanka 7 229 0	0
Fernando 7 0 33 0	0
Muralitharan 10 128 4	4
Jayasuriya 9 130 1	1
De Silva 5 123 1	1
Arnold 2 0 10 0	0

## SRI LANKA

Atapattu b Odoyo 23	23
Jayasuriya c Patel b M. Suji 3	3
Tillakaratne T. Suji b C. Obuya 23	23
De Silva c Otiemo b C. Obuya 41	41
Jayawardene c and b C. Obuya 5	5
Sangakkara c Otiemo b C. Obuya 5	5
Arnold not out 25	25
Vaas c and b C. Obuya 4	4
Nissanka c Odoyo b Tikolo 2	2
Muralitharan c T. Suji b Tikolo 10	10
Fernando b Odumbe 7	7
Extras: (b2, w6, nb1) 19	19
Total: (all out in 45 overs) 157	157

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-39, 3-71, 4-87, 5-105, 6-112, 7-119, 8-131, 9-149

Bowling:	O	M	R	W
M. Suji 8 1 24 1	8	1	24	1
Odoyo 7 0 33 1	7	0	33	1
C. Obuya 10 0 24 5	10	0	24	5
Ongondo 5 0 22 0	5	0	22	0
Odumbe 10 0 39 1	10	0	39	1
Tikolo 5 1 13 2	5	1	13	2

Toss: Sri Lanka  
Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and Russel Tiffin (Zim)  
TV umpire: Arani Jayaprakash (Ind)  
Match referee: Denis Lindsay (Rsa)  
Man of the match: C. Obuya (Ken)  
Result: Kenya won by 53 runs

# Dhaka committed

FROM PAGE 1

gions and civilisations. Referring to Bangladesh's position against terrorism, Khaleda Zia said Bangladesh was one of the first countries to join the current global fight against terrorism after September 11.

"We remain firm to carry on this fight as terrorism and peace cannot co-exist," she asserted. She firmly suggested that NAM must make its contribution towards forging an international consensus on tackling terrorism effectively taking the advantage of its diverse membership.

"This is the need of the hour," said Khaleda Zia who is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the NAM summit.

The NAM summit is taking place at a crucial juncture of the forum's evolution against the backdrop of fundamental changes in global politics and economic arena.

Leaders of 109 countries including 63 heads of state and government are attending the summit of the broad-based forum of developing countries.

Khaleda Zia also dwelt on concerns of weaker developing countries in the globalised economy, equitable rights of the least developed countries on natural resources, revitalisation of NAM, nuclear disarmament and issues relating to Palestine and Iraq.

She called upon all nations to rededicate themselves to the cardinal principles of NAM, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations and settlement of all international conflicts by peaceful means.

She stressed the importance of creating a rule-based international political order. "Nations must seek solutions to their problems through recourse to peaceful means based on good faith," she observed.

Referring to the degraded old Palestine crisis, Khaleda Zia urged the NAM leaders to work steadfastly towards a lasting and just solution to the tragic problem of the Palestinians.

"The daily persecution of the Palestinian people and the continued occupation of their lands by Israel is not only morally and politically unacceptable, it is also a threat to international peace," she said and underscored the need for a wider agenda for peace in that region.

The Bangladesh prime minister mentioned the Iraq crisis as "another major source of worry for us" and favoured consensus-based UN initiatives on such problems without departing from the principles and standards enshrined in the UN Charter.

Drawing a gloomy picture of the present world, she said: "Our 13th summit is taking place at a time of considerable uncertainty and foreboding. Total nuclear disarmament, which has been one of the most important NAM objectives, remains unfulfilled. Peace in a comprehensive sense yet remains elusive."

The Bangladesh leader said the world has failed to overcome the problems posed by rising intolerance, recourse to force, terrorism and trafficking in narcotics and illegal arms.

Albeit poverty affecting millions around the world and "development of underdevelopment" continue to be blights on our collective conscience, she continued.

"During the present summit, it is our main challenge to see how we can overcome these formidable challenges being united in our purpose and effective in our actions," she said, adding, "This is easier said than done."

Raising the issue of support to UN peacekeeping operations in different parts of the world, Khaleda Zia told the forum about contribution of Bangladesh to the peace missions.

"I take pride in informing my fellow NAM colleagues that despite many constraints, Bangladesh has made and continues to make significant efforts in this area. Indeed, we are now the largest single contributor to UN peacekeeping force in the world," she said.

In order to keep NAM relevant, she said the member-states must be prepared to adapt and change.

"We must also remain deeply committed to the core values and principles from which the NAM derives

its strength. This surely calls for an active role by NAM on issues which are crucial for our collective security, peace and progress," she said.

The Bangladesh leader stressed the need for establishment of an equitable international economic order taking into account the legitimate concerns of the weaker developing countries.

She said prosperity for some and poverty for the majority is itself a source of major problems including terrorism.

Referring to new challenges brought about by globalisation and issues relating to trade, aid and investment, she said, "There are many amongst us in the developing world who do not benefit from the opportunities offered by globalisation. Therefore, what we want is an inclusive globalisation from below, and with a human face."

She hoped that NAM would continue its strong advocacy role in support of the critical demands on trade, aid, debt relief, transfer of technology, and finally the overall goal to make the present world economic order more equitable and just.

She said the NAM must also take a clear position in sustainable management and equitable sharing of common natural resources. "We must also strive to be equal partners in the international decision-making on orderly management and non-discriminatory flow of goods, services, capital, labour, technology, and above all, information and knowledge," she said.

Observing that the Kuala Lumpur summit provides a unique opportunity to chart a meaningful course for NAM in the face of many challenges, Khaleda Zia said, "This movement has been a force for the good, strongly advocating peace, disarmament, development, and international cooperation."

The role of NAM still remains important, the Bangladesh leader said.

Congratulating the newly elected NAM Chairman Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad, Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hoped that he and his country would lead NAM as a dynamic movement "we want it to be".

"The relevance of NAM will very much depend on how we make a difference in the world we live in, the security that we enjoy, the prosperity that we share in peace, and the benefit we derive from the opportunities," she said, and called upon all to work together to achieve these objectives.

## Indemnity bill assented

BSS, Dhaka

President Dr Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday gave his assent to the Joint Force Indemnity Bill 2003.

The bill was passed in the current 6th session of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad, an official handout said.

## Iraq war

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Britain, which has proven itself Washington's closest ally in the US campaign, insisted that there was still time to solve the crisis peacefully.

A tide of international leaders urged Iraq to bow to its UN commitments and for the United States to allow diplomacy to run its course, with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan insisting that war was not inevitable.

Weapons inspections were making headway and must be allowed to resolve the crisis, Annan told the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit in Kuala Lumpur, in a speech presented by his special representative Lakhdar Brahimi.

Opposition to war was echoed by South African President Thabo Mbeki, who also warned against attacking Iraq without UN approval, while Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad accused the West of trying to "dominate the world."

# China quake

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"some schools" collapsed and caused casualties, but was not able to provide a figure for the number of children killed.

Beijing Seismological Bureau official Li Qianghua confirmed the high death toll, blaming the poor quality of structures in the quake-plagued area.

Official state news agency Xinhua said more than 1,000 buildings had collapsed in one village in Bachu County.

The tremor hit 40 kilometres east of Jiashi city near the Xinjiang border with Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, local officials said.

Other areas shaken by strong tremors included Artux County, Markit County and Kashi city.

A shipment of tents, quilts and other emergency supplies was being hurriedly collected and sent off, Xinhua added, and China's Red Cross Society offered 250,000 yuan (\$30,000) to its branch in the north-western region.

A rescue team bearing large quantities of cotton-padded clothes, quilts and other essential relief materials worth 200,000 yuan from the Xinjiang Red Cross Society was also on its way to the victimised region.

An official at the Jiashi county government said weather was not expected to hamper rescue efforts.

Jiashi, located about 55 kilometres east of the historic oasis city of Kashgar, is mostly populated by members of the Muslim Uighur minority who refer to the city as Payzawat.

The city and the surrounding area have lived through a number of strong, fatal earthquakes.

Twenty-four people were reported killed in March 1996 when a quake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale hit an area about 120 kilometres north of Jiashi.

On January 21, 1997, an earthquake measuring 6.4 on the Richter scale struck closer to Jiashi, killing at least 12.

In April of the same year, a 6.6-degree earthquake occurred, killing another nine. Xinjiang accounts for one-eighth of China's territory but is sparsely populated.

None came close to matching China's worst ever earthquake, which killed 242,000 people and injured 164,000 on July 28, 1976.

The deadly quake wiped the city of Tangshan in northeast China off the map in just seconds.

# CID: Bomb crude

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planning to shift the bombs to some other place when the explosion occurred, Rabindranath Biswas said.

The investigating officer SI Mahfuzul Haq said that two of the arrested Ibrahim Sheikh Lalon and Abdul Mannan—were placed on a four-day remand yesterday. A magistrate court here granted the remand after Haq sought a seven-day remand for the two.

About the recovered grenades, the experts said they were at least 40 years old.

One of the two grenades was live and another was empty. RMP commissioner Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star that police were now examining the firearms which, police believe, would have been shifted to some hideout of the miscreants.

Without naming anybody, he also said that a group of activists of a political party might have been involved in the incident.

"They used the houses as their shelter and depository of arms and ammunition," he added.

Wazed Ali, assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch, said Jubo League leader Khokov was in the police list of wanted persons.

Khokov had crossed the border after the Operation Clean Heart began and returned to the city following the withdrawal of the army.

Quoting Khokov's wife, Ali said Khokov used to visit Zarina's house where the explosion occurred.

He is also known to have clashed with BNP-Jamaat supporters in the past.

## DESCO

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as well, argues ADB. However the systems loss of DESA has also decreased to about 25 per cent as opposed to its previous 44 per cent.

The systems loss occurs, for most part, because of power theft by consumers with the help unscrupulous meter readers and ledger writers.

The systems loss in the proposed three areas is comparatively lower than 14 other DESA zones, said a top DESA source.

Of the 14 DESA zones, Narayanganj area has the highest systems loss of over 30 per cent with the industries there involved in rampant power theft.

"As per ADB prescription, all areas will gradually go out from DESA to DESCO," said another source.

DESCO is a fully owned company of DESA and headed by a managing director and three directors appointed on contract. DESCO leases out metering responsibilities to groups and provides maintenance and connection services in its area.

## A rare gesture

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restrictions, the compulsory registration of Bangladeshis with the US immigration authorities began yesterday.

Deputy Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqi, who was presiding over the sitting then, listened to both sides and said he would inform the House about his decision soon.

Earlier on January 16, the US included Bangladesh in a list of countries to face more restrictions in the US immigration process following September 11 events.

Under the new restrictions, Bangladeshis males between the ages of 16 and 45 are required to register with US immigration authorities. They are also to visit the Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) offices to be photographed and fingerprinted. They will also be required to show certain documents during the period between February 24 and March 28.

## Six petroleum marketing companies to be privatised

BSS, Dhaka

Six petroleum marketing companies under Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation will be privatised gradually under a privatisation programme, minister in charge of the cabinet division Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told the parliament yesterday in reply to a question from Akhteruzzaman Mia (BNP).

The companies are Padma Oil Company, Jamuna Oil Company, Meghna Petroleum Limited, LP Gas Limited, Eastern Lubricants Limited and Asiatic Oil Company Limited.

The minister said the process for their privatisation is underway and work for an assessment of their assets and liabilities is on.