The Baily Star

countries.

terrorism.

a human face."

equitable and just.

said

cooperation.

obiectives

its strength. This surely calls for an

active role by NAM on issues which

are crucial for our collective security,

the need for establishment of an

equitable international economic

order taking into account the legitimate

concerns of the weaker developing

poverty for the majority is itself a

source of major problems including

brought about by globalisation and

issues relating to trade, aid and invest-

ment, she said, "There are many

amongst us in the developing world

who do not benefit from the opportuni-

ties offered by globalisation.

Therefore, what we want is an inclu-

sive globalisation from below, and with

tinue its strong advocacy role in sup-

port 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

clear position in sustainable manage-

ment and equitable sharing of com-

mon 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

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

The role of NAM still remains

Congratulating the newly elected

Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda

Zia hoped that he and his country

would lead NAM as a dynamic move-

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 opportuni-

ties," she said, and called upon all to

work together to achieve these

Indemnity bill

assented

BSS, Dhaka

"The relevance of NAM will very

ment as "we want it to be"

Observing that the Kuala Lumpur

She said the NAM must also take a

She hoped that NAM would con-

She said prosperity for some and

Referring to new challenges

The Bangladesh leader stressed

peace and progress," she said.

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 vesterday.

Khaleda Zia arrived here vester day to attend the 13th NAM summit.

planning to shift the bombs to some

other place when the explosion

occurred, Rabindranath Biswas

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 ·

the experts said they were at least

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 mis-

Without naming anybody, he

"They used the houses as their

Wazed Ali, assistant commis-

Khokon had crossed the border

also said that a group of activists of a

political party might have been

shelter and depository of arms and

sioner of the Detective Branch, said

Jubo League leader Khokon was on

the police list of wanted persons.

involved in the incident.

ammunition," he added.

About the recovered grenades,

One of the two grenades was live

day remand for the two.

40 years old.

creants.

The investigating officer SI

FROM PAGE 12

said.

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-

CID: Bomb crude

sion of Bangladesh is US terror-risk

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 implementa-

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.

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.

A highly placed source said last

night that Jubo League leader

Khokon was an arms trader. "The

armed cadres of the BNP. Jamaat

and Awami League used to buy

arms from Khokon. "the source

added. Police also raided the

houses of 17 activists of the three

major political parties vesterday.

Six petroleum

companies to

be privatised

Six petroleum marketing companies

under Bangladesh Petroleum

Corporation will be privatised gradu-

ally under a privatisation

programme, minister in charge of

the cabinet division Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan told the parliament yester-

day in reply a question from Akhteruzzaman Mia (BNP).

marketing

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh depend on your behav-

ior and activities.

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 Hag also spoke. The expatriate Bangladeshis

Gaibandha

blast victim dies in Dhaka

Badal Mia, 18, who was fatally injured in the February 13 bomb plasts 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

College Hospital morgue. Meanwhile, two others were seriously injured in the bomb explosions in a tin-shed house at Chhoto

FROM PAGE 12

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.

doing a part-time job there and not enjoying any financial benefit from aovernment.

being scrutinised yesterday.

Altaf smells FROM PAGE 12

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

after the Operation Clean Heart The minister said the process for began and returned to the city their privatisation is underway and following the withdrawal of the army. work for an assessment of their Quoting Khokon's wife, Ali said assets and liabilities is on. Khokon used to visit Zarina's house where the explosion occured

list, she added.

tion 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

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

conducted at the Dhaka Medical

Gurgola at Dinajpur town.

Sarwar

mayoral candidate, Abdul Majid

Election officials said Munshi's objection will be dismissed because as per the certificate issued by the

law college authorities, Enayet Pir is

All the nomination papers were

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

escaped after the incident.

Vajpayee

FROM PAGE 12

occupation.

summit

from Britain.

talk at NAM.

all

talks

FROM PAGE 1

Makhdum thana in Rajshahi. "Moment's carelessness of the armed men caused the blast," the me minister said

shortly before the Indian leader to

urge the forum to back "just strug-

gles of peoples against illegal

or suppression by force," he told the

"I'm not the only one who should

Nuclear-capable India and

The two leaders have shared the

dais at four conferences since the

parliament assault but have not held

Shyamoli bus stand in an army

vehicle and picked up Suresh in the

lakh from Suresh and then allowed

cousin Dulal, informant

After a week, eight policemen

and Nuruzzaman went to

Bangabazar to abduct Suresh and

they were caught by traders there.

Nuruzzaman and Dinesh and Nitai.

The captain extorted Taka three

keep trying, they should also try. If

they don't want, I'm not too keen at

by suspected Islamic militants.

Court-martial

backed Nuruzzan's claim

morning of January 29.

"We must not shy away from the



NEWS

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

FROM PAGE 1

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 - Kenva!"

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 Monday: 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

Patel c Sangakkara b Vaas only Kenyan batsman to make an Tikolo Ibw b Muralitharan Modi b Muralitharan Odumbe c Arnold b Muralitharan C. Obuya not out A. Suji b Muralitharan

reaching the Super Sixes with Ongondo b Jayasuriya Bangladesh and West Indies still to M. Suji not out Extras: (b5, lb11, w10, nb2) Kenya's shock triumph has also Total: (for nine wickets

thrown Group B wide open with the in 50 overs) West Indies on ten points and co-Fall of wickets: 1-1, 2-46, 3-75, hosts South Africa and New 4-112, 5-152, 6-163, 7-163, 8-173 Zealand on eight apiece with two 9-205 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

Jayasuriya c Patel b M. Suji

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, dismiss-

Captain Steve Tikolo. another

last two wickets leaving Russel SCOREBOARD

KENYA Otieno c Muralitharan b De Silva Shah Ibw b Vaas

Toss: Sri Lanka Umpires: Daryl Harper (Aus) and 12 Russell Tiffin (7im)

26

26

6

13

6

Dhaka committed

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.

20

3

28

210

W

13

0

0

23

25

10

157

0

2

RW

33

13

OMR

2 0 10

10

7 2 29

10 1 28

9 1 30

5 1 23

Tillakaratnec T. Suji b C. Obuya

De Silva c Otieno b C. Obuya 41

Jayawardene c and b C. Obuya 5

Sangakkara c Otieno b C. Obuya 5

Arnold not out

9-149

M. Suji

Odoyo

Bowling:

C. Obuya

Ongondo

Odumbe

Tikolo

(Ind)

(Rsa)

(Ken)

Vaas c and b C. Obuva

Fernando b Odumbe

Extras: (b2, w6, nb1)

Nissanka c Odoyo b Tikolo

Total: (all out in 45 overs)

Muralitharan c T. Suji b Tikolo

Fall of wickets: 1-13, 2-39, 3-71,

4-87, 5-105, 6-112, 7-119, 8-131,

0

8 1 24

7 0

10 0 24 5

5

10 0 39

TV umpire: Arani Jayaprakash

Match referee: Denis Lindsay

Man of the match: C. Obuya

Result: Kenya won by 53 runs

Μ

0 22

14

0 33

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 decades old important, the Bangladesh leader Palestine crisis, Khaleda Zia urged the NAM leaders to work steadfastly towards a lasting and just solution to NAM Chairman Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad,

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 President Dr lajuddin Ahmed yesterworld has failed to overcome the day gave his assent to the Joint problems posed by rising intolerance, Force Indemnity Bill 2003. recourse to force, terrorism and trafficking in narcotics and illegal arms. Abject poverty affecting millions

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

Bowling: Vaas Nissanka Fernando Muralitharan Javasuriva De Silva Arnold

SRILANKA Atapattu b Odoyo Obuya had Tillekeratne caught

ing Sungakkara for five and the vital wicket of de Silva ended Sri Lankan hopes of a recovery.

veteran of 1996, sent the home fans and his teammates into a wild celebration when he claimed the Arnold stranded not out on 25.

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

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

DESCO

FROM PAGE 12

as well, argues ADB.

However the systems loss of DESA has also decreased to about 25 percent 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 FROM PAGE 12

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 Bangladeshi 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.

Prime accused in Raju murder

case arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested the prime accused in the murder case of Dhaka City Corporation ward commissioner KN Ahmed Raiu at Ramna Sunday night.

Raju was killed in October last. Detectives arrested the accused, Wahidul Hasan alias Dipu, from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital at 9:30pm.

Dipu is the brother of Pichchi Helal an alleged top criminal who controls the underworld. Helal is now in jail. Members of the Rapid Action Team

(RAT) arrested seven criminals including Asaduzzmana alias Sujon, an accomplice of criminal "Kala" Jahangir at East Nakhalpara area Sunday evening.

Ukhia polls violence victim dies **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's**

Bazar

Helal Uddin, who had sustained bullet wounds in UP poll violence, died at Ukhia Upazila Health Complex in the early hours of yesterday.

Helal Uddin, 15, was injured when armed miscreants clashed with law enforcers at Motherbonia UP poll under Ukhia upazila on centre Sunday morning.

The autopsy of his body was performed at Cox's Bazar Sadar . Hospital morgue yesterday morning. Police arrested four persons in

connection with the Motherbonia incident. Ukhia thana police also filed three separate cases against UP chairman candidate Ahmed Sharif and his associate, notorious criminal Jamir for their involvement with Sunday's violence

The local officials and people told The Daily Star that the report carried by some newspapers that two persons had died was not true.

UP polls in Teknaf will be held on Feb 27. Local people have demanded deployment of the BDR , as the presence of the armed supporters of some candidates already pose a threat to law and order.

mpact, scoring 60. The hut belonged to a woman

all of us."

Kenya, who now have 12 points named Zarina and the criminals 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

Odoyo c Sangakkara b Vaas

Politics takes toll Road

principle of self-determination for FROM PAGE 12 peoples fighting foreign occupation

Nasim Osman and Selim Osman and Khokon Shaha were implicated in a fresh case now pending with the

He later told journalists that India CID. should make more of an effort to Four separate cases were filed in connection with the Mymensingh help solve the dispute, which has sparked two wars between the bomb blasts, but no name was perennial foes since independence mentioned in the first information report (FIR).

"If they want to speak to me I will Most bomb blast cases are now pending with the CID. The CID has because I've tried my best in the prepared the final report of the case past," said Musharraf, who routinely relating to a bomb found at the calls for negotiations with New Janakantha Bhaban. Delhi, when asked whether the The BNP-led coalition set up a nuclear-armed neighbours would

judicial commission to probe the bomb explosions that took place during the AL regime.

But the commission's report was politically biased and it embarrassed the government, which decided not to push it further.

Pakistan came close to a third war The first of the 11 blasts took place over Kashmir last year, with more in Jessore at an Udichi function on than a million troops deployed to March 6, 1999, killing 10 and injuring border areas following a deadly over 100 attack on India's parliament building

During the five-year Awami League regime since 1996, six bomb explosions took place.

After the BNP-led alliance came to power in 2001, the first explosion took place in Satkhira on September 28, 2002. Two powerful bombs simultaneously exploded at a cinema and the district stadium where a circus was going on. Three died in the blasts

Bomb explosions at four cinemas ment in court on February 10 and 11 n Mymensingh on December 7 killed 22 and injured more than 200. The businessmen said Captain

In another blast at a Kadiani Atigur and his men planned abducmosque in Khulna on October 8, 1999 tion of the hundi trader. They went to

killed seven and left 10 others injured. Explosions at a Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) rally at the city's Paltan Maidan and at Bangabandhu Avenue on January 20, 2001 left seven people killed and more than 50 him to go. The booty was shared others injured. among eight. They included Atiqur's

Ten people were killed and more than 20 others were injured in an explosion at the Ramna Batamul during the Bangla New Year celebrations on April 14, 2001. In a June 3, 2001 bomb blast at a

Catholic church at Bainarchar in

Gopalganj, 10 died and 30 others were injured.

Another explosions at the Narayanganj Awami League office on June 16, 2001 left 22 people killed and over 100 injured. During the regime of the caretaker government, three incidents of bomb

explosions took place in 2001. Explosions at a public meeting of the Awami League at Mollarhat in

2001 left nine people dead and more than 30 injured. In another explosions at the

four people, including an eight-yearold boy, were killed. On the same day, two died in another explosion at a house in Sylhet.

The latest bomb explosions in Dinajpur killed one and injured three on February 13.

Police recovered powerful bombs from a public meeting venue of the then Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kotalipara in Gopalganj, the Janakantha newspaper office and different mosques in Dhaka.

lender FROM PAGE 1

can be opened

Meanwhile, Shipping Ministry Akbar Hossain dismissed allega tions of any BIWTA wrongdoing. "It (BIWTA) has kept the Spanish authorities informed of the developments at every step.'

The BIWTA even explained to Huelva and Murueta why their technical bids had been rejected, he said

"If the Spanish government does not have any problem with a company supplying US dredgers, why would we?

However, the minister said the Spanish authorities can force the BIWTA to accept any of the technical offers of the disqualified companies. "As it is a tied credit, the Spanish government has the final sav

Bagerhat distrcit in September 9,

Shalla Upazila complex in Sunamganj in September 26, 2001,

repairs ROM PAGE 12

Instead, it is bureaucratic tangle

which is delaying the work," said an official, preferring anonymity. He added that if necessary the DCC would consider allocating funds from other projects since the road repairs is urgent.

"A handsome amount of money can be channelled from the Environment Improvement Project," he added.

At present, the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is conducting a main road repair project under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project. But hundreds of alleys, link roads, and lanes and by-lanes are being ignored.

Also, the pressure of rickshaws recently increased on these alleys, lanes and by-lanes, as some major thoroughfares have been made off-limits to rickshaws.

The commuters, especially the women and children, suffer greatly due to worn-out carpets and potholes causing tedious traffic congestion.

For instance, lanes and bylanes in East and West Rajabazar, Indira Road, Tejkunipara, Green Road, Free School Street Road Kanthalbagan, Bhuter Goli and Central Road have seen increased pressure of rickshaws. Even Banani and Uttara, said to be designated residential areas, have similar problems.

Commissioner of DCC Ward No.40 at Tejkunipara in Tejgaon Anwaruzzaman Anwar said the residents of his area have complained to him about the rundown roads and the delay in the repairs

. He added Tk 1 crore was allocated for works in his area. Commissioner of Ward No.1 in Uttara Hafizul Islam Kusum said he is yet to receive the work order to start work worth around Tk 2.50 crore.

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

China quake

FROM PAGE 1 '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 quakeplaqued area.

Official state news agency area have lived through a number of Xinhua said more than 1,000 buildstrong, fatal earthquakes. ings had collapsed in one village in Bachu County,

The tremor hit 40 kilometres east reported killed in March 1996 when a quake measuring 6.9 on the of Jiashi city near the Xinjiang Richter scale hit an area about 120 border with Kyrgyzstan and Taiikistan. local officials said. kilometres north of Jiashi.

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 northwestern region.

sparsely populated. A rescue team bearing large China's worst ever earthquake. quantities of cotton-padded clothes, which killed 242,000 people and quilts and other essential relief njured 164,000 on July 28, 1976. materials worth 200,000 yuan from the Xinjiang Red Cross Society was of Tangshan in northeast China off also on its way to the victimised the map in just seconds. region

Irag war

FROM PAGE 12 Britain, which has proven itself Washington's closest ally in the US

campaign, insisted that there was still time to solve the crisis peacefully. Atide of international leaders urged raq to bow to its UN commitments and for the United States to allow diplo-

macy to run its course, with UN Secretary General Kofi Annan insistng 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."

members of the Muslim Uighur

minority who refer to the city as

The city and the surrounding

Twenty-four people were

On January 21, 1997, an earth-

quake measuring 6.4 on the Richter

scale struck closer to Jiashi, killing

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

None came close to matching

The deadly quake wiped the city

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

Pavzawat.

at least 12.