



PHOTO: STAR

The compound of the office of the Special Branch of Police went under water following heavy rains yesterday.

### Australia, Bangladesh Parliamentary Group formed

BSS, Dhaka

The Australia-Bangladesh Parliamentary Group has been formed in the Australian capital Canberra recently.

The group is consists of 13 members of the parliaments of both Bangladesh and Australia.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra hosted a reception on the occasion, an official release said here yesterday.

Chairman of the Group Bob Charles, MP, and Australian Senate President Hon Paul Calvert were present on the occasion.

A number of mission heads, diplomats, senior officials of the department of foreign affairs and trade, department of immigration and multicultural affairs and indigenous affairs in Australia and members of Bangladesh community serving in the Australian government offices and university teachers were also present.

Addressing the reception, Bangladesh High Commissioner Lt. Gen. (Rtd) M Harun-ar-Rashid expressed the hope that the newly formed group would help two friendly countries to a great extent to work in close cooperation in the days ahead.

The reception was followed by a cultural function. Members of Bangladeshi community residing in Canberra presented a colourful show at the function.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Diploma Student Nurses Union took to the streets of the city yesterday demanding punishment to those involved in the attack on unemployed nurses.

## Al-Qaeda chief's brother caught in Pakistan

AP, Islamabad

The younger brother of Hambali, al-Qaida's suspected point man for Southeast Asia, has been arrested on immigration charges in Pakistan along with several other people, two senior Pakistani Interior Ministry officials said yesterday.

The man, Rusman Gunawan, was one of 17 people from Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar arrested Saturday in raids on three Islamic schools in the southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, said one official, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The official is closely involved in Pakistan's campaign against terrorists.

Officials said the men would be questioned to see if they were suspected of any crimes other than visa violations.

An Indonesia-based terrorism expert said Gunawan was believed to be in charge of the Pakistan branch of Jemaah Islamiyah, the terror network his brother is accused of helping found. Gunawan is believed to have arranged trips for Hambali to Pakistan and Afghanistan, said the expert, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Gunawan's capture came amid a series of arrests of suspected terrorists in Pakistan as President Gen. Pervez

Musharraf prepares to address the U.N. General Assembly in New York on Wednesday about his country's role in fighting terrorism.

Musharraf, in an interview with The New York Times, said his country needs more helicopters and other assistance from the United States to fight al-Qaida and Taliban in the remote and rugged northwest region along the border with Afghanistan.

Hambali, whose real name is Riduan Isamuddin, was Southeast Asia's most wanted man until he was arrested Aug. 11 in Thailand by Thai police and the CIA.

### 1920 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested 1,920 people, including seven listed criminals, during their countrywide drive in the last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

During the drive, police recovered 24 firearms, eight other weapons and 79 bullets, and filed ten cases against 18 people under the Arms Act, says a police headquarters press release.



Mustaque Ahmed, Joint Secretary, ERD, and Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA Representative to Bangladesh, signed an agreement on financial assistance for a health project yesterday.

## Tk 13.79 cr EU-UNFPA aid for health sector

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive 2.4 million US dollars equivalent to Tk 13.79 crore under the EU-UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA) Programme.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) here yesterday.

Mustaque Ahmed, Joint Secretary, ERD, and Ms Suneeta Mukherjee, UNFPA Representative to Bangladesh, signed the documents on behalf of their respective sides.

Senior officials from ERD, UNFPA, EC, Health and Family Welfare Ministry and partner NGOs were present in the signing ceremony.

The assistance will be used to implement a project styled 'Better Sexual and Reproductive Health for Young People in Urban and Peri-

urban Areas of Bangladesh' over the next two and a half years (2003-2006).

"The project is expected to contribute to Health Sector Programme and IPRSP," says a UNFPA news release.

Five national NGOs--Marie Stopes Clinic Society (MSCS), Family Planning Association of Bangladesh (FPAB), Save the Children UK-Bangladesh (SC-UK), Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) and Concern Women for Family Development (CWFD)--will work in partnership with UNFPA and MOHFW/GOB. The RHIYA projects will cover Sylhet.

These projects will mainly target the poor under-served and vulnerable adolescents and youth of 10-24 years of age in 24 sites and in selected 16 district towns and four metropolitan cities.

## 'Terror war abuses fuel militants'

REUTERS, United Nations

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned world leaders yesterday that the war against terrorism must go beyond simply fighting extremists but also hold out the promise of a "better and fairer world."

Annan opened an international conference on terrorism only hours after UN headquarters in Baghdad was attacked for a second time, wounding 19 people, including two Iraqi UN workers, and killing a security guard. The first attack on Aug. 19 killed 22 people, including senior staff.

"Terrorism will only be defeated if we act to solve the political dispute and long-standing conflicts which generate support for it," Annan said. "If we do not, we shall find ourselves acting as a recruiting sergeant for the very terrorists we seek to suppress."

Annan told more than 20 heads of state at the conference that human rights violations, like targeted assassinations, which Israel has carried out against Palestinian militants, as well as civilian deaths from off-target bombings in Afghanistan and Iraq ran the risk of winning over converts and spurring new terrorist acts.

"Paradoxically, terrorist groups may actually be sustained when, in responding to their outrages, governments cross the line and commit outrages themselves -- whether it is ethnic cleansing,

the indiscriminate bombardment of cities, the torture of prisoners, targeted assassinations or accepting the death of innocent civilians as 'collateral damage,'" Annan said.

"These acts are not only illegal and unjustifiable. They may also be exploited by terrorists to gain new followers and to generate cycles of

violence in which they thrive," he added.

The summit at a New York hotel was scheduled on the eve of a two-week high-level session of the 191-nation UN General Assembly, due to open on Tuesday which is expected to focus on terrorism and post-war Iraq. President Bush was invited to the conference but the administration sent Sen.

### National Hawkers' Federation formed

UNB, Dhaka

A new organisation styled National Hawkers' Federation has been formed aiming at realising the legitimate demands of the hawkers.

A 30-member central committee of the federation was formed at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday with Meer Harun-or-Rashid Idris, Shahin Reza Khan and Molla Abdur Rab as its president, general secretary and executive president.

Speakers at the press conference demanded to stop the eviction of hawkers before their rehabilitation, not to collect tolls from them and construct hawkers' markets on government khas lands in all districts to maintain their livelihood.

### Dr Moniruzzaman Trust Fund Introduced at DU

UNB, Dhaka

Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman Trust Fund has been introduced to award scholarship for the meritorious students of Bengali Department at the Dhaka University.

Professor of the Department Dr Mohammad Moniruzzaman handed over the cheque for Tk one lakh to Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz at the latter's office yesterday.

Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yousuf Haider, Dean of the Arts Faculty Prof Kazi Shahidullah, Chairman of Bengali Department Prof SM Lutfar Rahman, Deputy Registrar Mohammad Enamuzzaman and donor's wife Rashid Zaman were present.

Under the trust fund, one meritorious student who will secure highest marks in the courses of "Modern Bengali Poem" in BA (Hons) final examination will be awarded scholarship every year.



Students who secured GPA 5 in the SSC examinations this year pose with State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haque Milon during a meeting with him at the education ministry yesterday. They discussed the river cruise programme for the meritorious students. The Zia Shishu Academy will organise the programme.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Drawing competition**  
The Youth Ending Hunger, city unit, organises a drawing competition for the children aged between 7 and 11 to mark the National Girl Child Day. The subject of the contest is 'My family'. Venue: The Hunger Project, House # 27, Road # 27, Dhanmondi. Time: 3.00pm.

**Regional conference**  
A two-day regional conference on 'Strengthening cooperation and security in South Asia-post 9/11', organised by the Bangladesh Enterprise Institute, will begin. Venue: Institute premises, House # 20, Road # 5, Gulshan # 1. Time: 9.30am.

**AGM & election**  
The Begum Badrunessa College Alumnae Association will hold its annual general meeting and election, with Principal Jahanara Begum as chief guest. Principal Jahanara Haq and Principal Hazera Nazrul will be present as special guests. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 4.30pm.

**Memorial meeting**  
The Swadhinata Chikitsak Parishad will hold a meeting in memory of Dr SK Mukharjee, former BMA leader, who was killed by assailants in Jhenidah. Venue: Parishad central office, 290/1 Sonargaon Road. Time: 7.30pm.

**Reception**  
The Society for the Welfare of the Intellectually Disabled, Bangladesh will

accord a reception to the award-winning mentally challenged players who took part in the Special Olympics 2003. Venue: Alamgir MA Kabir auditorium, 4/A Eskaton Garden. Time: 4.00pm.

**Discussion**  
The Bangladesh Awami Ulama League organises a discussion and waz mahfil on the occasion of Shab-e-Meraj. Venue: 23 Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.

**Blood donation programme**  
The Orca Blood for Life organises a voluntary blood donation programme. Venue: Bhuiyan Computers, 72 Saat Masjid Road, Dhanmondi. Time: From 9.00am to 6.00pm.

**Human chain**  
The Projanmer Chetana will form a human chain to protest the Mohalchhari incident. Venue: Shahbagh intersection. Time: 4.30pm.

**Rotary Sonargaon Dhaka**  
Regular meeting of the Rotary Club of Sonargaon Dhaka will be held. Members have been requested to attend the meeting. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.

**Rotary Ramna**  
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Ramna will be held, with Professor Dr Rabbani as the guest speaker. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 5.30pm.