



Nepalese PM in city, talks with Khaleda today

Nepalese Prime Minister and Chairperson of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) Surya Bahadur Thapa arrived in Dhaka last night. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia welcomed him at Zia International Airport.

Bush faces EU, UN flak over death penalty idea

President Bush said Saddam deserves the "ultimate penalty" for his crimes, but he faced objections from European countries, the United Nations and the Vatican, which are adamantly opposed to capital punishment. While most European countries have abolished the death penalty, it's not clear how vociferously they would object to a death sentence for the captured Iraqi president. A day after saying his opinion on Saddam's fate doesn't matter and

it's a decision for Iraqi citizens, Bush stepped forward with an unequivocal statement of his views. "Let's just see what penalty he gets, but I think he ought to receive the ultimate penalty... for what he has done to his people," Bush told ABC News' Diane Sawyer in an interview broadcast Tuesday. "I mean, he is a torturer, a murderer, they had rape rooms. This is a disgusting tyrant who deserves justice, the ultimate justice." Bush said Saddam's punishment "will be decided not by the president of the United States but by the citi-

zens of Iraq in one form or another." British Prime Minister Tony Blair's spokesman said earlier this week that Britain opposes the death penalty, but it would have to accept an Iraqi decision to execute. Yet Britain's top representative in Iraq, Sir Jeremy Greenstock, said his country would not participate in a tribunal or legal process that could lead to execution. The Vatican's Cardinal Renato Martino stressed the Roman Catholic Church's longtime opposition to

PM urges her political rivals to work together for welfare

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon her political opponents to get infused with the spirit of Liberation War and work together for people's welfare. "Our opinions can be different in a democracy, but we should not have disagreements when it comes to development. Let's work together for peace and stability," Khaleda said in her brief address to a high-profile rally at Paltan Maidan, organised to mark Victory Day. "Let's unite and work for the country the way we fought the occupation forces for independence in 1971," she said before leading a colourful procession down different roads. City BNP President and Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka chaired the rally, also addressed by the party's Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. Khaleda said the political opponents in the name of countering the coalition spread what she said was propaganda against Bangladesh, which halted "devel-

Glowing tributes to war heroes

Pledging afresh to move forward resolutely to build a prosperous future, the nation celebrated the 33rd Victory Day on Tuesday paying glowing tributes to the heroes who sacrificed their lives for independence of the country. On December 16 in 1971, the Pakistani occupation forces surrendered to the joint forces of the Indian army and freedom fighters at the then Race Course (now Suhrawardy Uddyan) Maidan in Dhaka after a nine-month independence struggle. The day started with a 31-gun salute and laying of wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar. President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia placed wreaths at the memorial in the early morning. Cabinet mem-



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia sets free a white pigeon to open Victory Day childrens' programme at Bangabandhu National Stadium Tuesday.

140 killed as Bhutan cracks down on Indian rebel camps

At least 40 soldiers and 100 militants were killed in two days since Bhutan launched its first ever modern military operation against Indian separatists on Monday, according to military and administrative sources. Armed Indian rebel groups hit back yesterday and forced the Bhutanese army to retreat after two of their alleged training camps came under offensives. Bhutan, allegedly with the help of India, is carrying out operations on three Indian separatist rebel groups -- ULFA, the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and the Kamtapur Liberation Organisation. Military sources here yesterday said that the rebels were heavily armed and were using sophisticated weapons. The attack was launched on the rebel camps at Guabari and Kalikholia. "There was difficulty in raiding the camps at higher altitude because of heavy rains and slush," an Indian Army official quoted information from Bhutan as saying. Meanwhile, talking to a few journalists in Assam, ULFA commander-in-chief Paresh Barua confirmed that the Bhutanese army



Former president Badruddoza Chowdhury reacts angrily to the presence of police detectives at the launch of his new office in Baridhara Tuesday.

B Chy prepares outline for his style of politics

Former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury is drawing an outline for 'programme-based politics' instead of the conventional power politics. A source close to Badruddoza, founding secretary general of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), told The Daily Star that he

Hasina again asks Khaleda to quit

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her party will announce its final agitation programmes to topple the government from a rally at Paltan Maidan in the capital on January 10 and asked Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to quit power immediately admitting 'absolute failure' to govern the country. "The day is not far off when people will unseat the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government and end the

Dhaka not on Iraq reconstruction list

Bangladesh has been left out of the list of countries eligible for participation in contracts for Iraq reconstruction funded by the US although minnows like Eritrea, Marshall Islands and Ethiopia are there. The US Department of State recently published on its website a list of 63 countries eligible to bid for Iraq contracts, with none of the South Asian countries figuring on it. "This list names mainly those

Economy makes mild recovery

The economy recovered slightly during the July-November period this year from the two-year-old slump thanks mainly to the agriculture sector's contribution to GDP. The major contribution to GDP growth during the period came from the agriculture sector, which maintained the trend growth rate of the previous quarters and helped offset the deceleration in the industrial sector's growth, says Metropolitan

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CMD is an Internet based absolutely advanced Computerized online health checkup system that checks the status of 12 main organs and systems of the body including the lungs, heart, kidney, liver, gallbladder and intestine and provides a full online report in just about 20 seconds. CMD was developed after 35 years of research by about 600 scientists from four different countries Russia, China, Germany and Japan and has successfully been in use for the past 11 years. It was developed and used primarily for the quick medical checkup of astronauts-especially for those who were part of the expedition to Mars and those stationed at the Russian MIR Space station. After such complete success in utilizing CMD, it was introduced to the general public on 21 September 2001, in Switzerland. This thoroughly technical health check-up system is used by more than 1,00,000 health conscious people throughout Europe America and Asia everyday to get instant, accurate health analysis.

Prof. Dr. Uwe Meffert, inventor of CMD, will be present as guest speaker at the launching ceremony of CMD and will provide a detailed description of the benefits of this amazing useful technology.

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