

Indian cities on alert

AFP, New Delhi
India's capital New Delhi and financial hub Mumbai raised security yesterday amid US warnings of possible al-Qaeda attacks. One day after Britain said it had foiled a major plot to bomb trans-Atlantic airliners, the US embassy said militants may be planning a series of blasts in the run-up to Independence Day next Tuesday. The embassy has learned that foreign terrorists, possibly including members of al-Qaeda, allegedly intend to carry out a series of bombing attacks in or around New Delhi and Mumbai in the days leading up to India's Independence Day, the embassy said in a statement on its

TERROR PLOT IN BRITAIN 19 identified, bank accounts frozen

AP, London
British officials identified 19 of the suspects accused of plotting to blow up US-bound aircraft on Friday, making public a list of names that fuelled suspicions of a Pakistan connection. Travellers at Britain's airports again struggled with increased security, and dozens of flights were cancelled. Five Pakistanis have been arrested in Pakistan as suspected "facilitators" of the plot, a government official said, in addition to two Britons arrested there about a week ago. The Bank of England said it had frozen the accounts of 19 people arrested on Thursday. The men, ranging in age from 17 to 35, were said to be British Muslims, and neighbours said at least two of those arrested were converts to Islam. Investigators, describing a plot on the scale of the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, said the attackers planned to use common electronic devices to detonate liquid explosives to bring down as many as 10 planes. The bombs were to be assembled on the aircraft apparently with peroxide-based solution and everyday carry-on items such as a disposable camera or a music player, two American law enforcement officials told The Associated Press. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because Britain asked that no information be released. A federal law enforcement

PM urges UNSC leaders for Lebanon truce

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday sent letters to the leaders of five permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and the UN secretary general calling for immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Lebanon. In her letters to US President George Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, French President Jacques Chirac, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Chinese President Hu Jintao and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Khaleda expressed Bangladesh's deepest concern over the grave crises which threaten to destabilise the whole Middle East region. The prime minister urged the P-5 leaders and the UN secretary



Arrested activists of Islamist militant organisation Hizbut Tawhid.

7 militants arrested in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT
Chittagong Metropolitan Police arrested seven militants, including an engineer of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL) and a sales manager of Suncrest Cola, in separate raids in different areas of the port city on Thursday night. Police sources said all the arrestees are active members of Hizbut Tawhid, an Islamic organisation that aims at establishing Islamic rule in the country through armed revolution. The arrestees were identified as Abdul Hamid Mian, 44, of Tangail, Humayun Kabir, 38, of Munshiganj, Munir Khan, 28, and Mohammad Akkas, 32, of Barisal, Nurul Islam Khokon, 26, of Khulna, Jamal Uddin, 35, of Laxmipur, and Mohammad Raju, 26, of Satkhira. Abdul Hamid, deputy assistant engineer of CUFL, and Humayun Kabir, sales manager of Suncrest Cola, are the amers of Hizbut Tawhid's north and south units in the port city, the police said. According to sources, a team from Bandar Police Station raided the Chittagong Export Processing

Security beefed up at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Security at Zia International Airport (ZIA) and diplomatic enclaves has been beefed up following an abortive terrorist attempt to blow up US-bound planes in the UK. "All sorts of security measures have been tightened to ensure fool-proof security at Zia International Airport," Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner SM Mizanur Rahman told the press yesterday. Extra security measures have also been put in place in Baridhara and Gulshan diplomatic enclaves, the DMP commissioner told a meeting of reporters at his office. A 'near red alert' situation has been declared taking all cautionary measures to avert any untoward incident, a security official at the

WATERLOGGING IN 3 SOUTHWEST DISTRICTS 'Massive' projects only add to woes



Silted up bed of Hamkura river under a bridge in Dumuria upazila is now used for raising poultry.

SHARIFUL ISLAM, back from south-west region
Bangladesh Water Development Board's (BWDB) several projects including a Tk 272 crore one to address river drainage congestion and waterlogging problem in the south-west region have proved futile. After implementation of the projects, the situation has rather worsened while local people alleged that most of the money allocated for the BWDB projects was misappropriated. The perennial problem that has already marooned over five lakh people and posed a serious threat of further waterlogging in most parts in the region is deliberately kept alive as it serves the interest of corrupt officials who can pocket a

Zakiganj border tense as both sides reinforce troops: Flag meet tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet
Indian Border Security Force (BSF) is reinforcing its troops along the Zakiganj border adding to the tension ahead of tomorrow's scheduled flag meeting after the 14-hour-long firefight, which started on Wednesday night, with its counterpart Bangladesh Rifles (BDR). Bangladesh border guards have also made preparations to face any untoward incidents but there were no reports of shots being fired since Thursday noon. Thousands of panic-gripped villagers who fled their homes

Oli doesn't care about party ticket or action

To contest from more than 3 constituencies in Ctg



RAKIB HASNET SUMAN
Ruling BNP Standing Committee Member Col (retired) Oli Ahmed will contest the next general election from more than three constituencies in Chittagong, whether or not he gets the party nomination. "I will contest from more than three constituencies including Chittagong-14, although the people of Chittagong want me to run for at least five constituencies," he told The Daily Star in an interview on Monday. In 2001 election, Jamaat leader Shahjahan Chowdhury was nominated as the four-party candidate in Chittagong-14 and won the election. Defying the party decision, Oli fought against Shahjahan and was defeated. He, however, won from Chittagong-13 as an alliance candidate. Asked what he will do if BNP takes disciplinary actions against him for violating its decision, he replied, "I don't care." Criticising the ruling coalition, Oli said price hike of essentials, power crisis and corruption have been causing immense sufferings to the ordinary people and have



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Stevedores at Ctg port resume work

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Container handling at Chittagong Port resumed at 6:00pm yesterday after a fruitful meeting between Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) and Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA). The meeting started at 2:30pm in the office of CPA Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain where BMSA President AHM Monjur Alam and others were present. The meeting decided to stop operations of trailers of three local



Regional dialogue in Faridpur today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 11th regional dialogue on "National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development" will be held in Faridpur today. It is being held as part of a series of programmes jointly organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Channel.

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