

# Gulf, Israel next targets

Threatens Qaeda tape as world mourns 9/11

AGENCIES, Dubai/ Washington

al-Qaeda warned in a video aired on the fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks that US allies Israel and the Gulf Arab states would be its next target in a campaign that would seal the West's "economic doom."

The USA began a solemn observance of the fifth anniversary of the Sept 11 attacks yesterday, with sorrowful family members clutching photos of the victims at the World Trade Centre site and quiet remembrances planned around the country.

A moment of silence was... SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A tearful US sergeant at a somber ceremony in Kabul, Afghanistan yesterday to mark the fifth anniversary of September 11, 2001 attacks on US. PHOTO: REUTERS

## EU election mission arrives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A six-member European Union (EU) Election Observation Exploratory Mission arrived in Dhaka yesterday to assess the situation before a fully-fledged team of observers are sent for the upcoming parliamentary elections.

After their report is submitted to the European Commission headquarters, the commission will decide on sending a full observation... SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## RU controversial hiring stayed

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for five weeks the process of recruitment of some 546 lower grade employees at Rajshahi University (RU).

Passing the stay order, a vacation bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Siddiqur Rahman Miah issued a rule upon the RU authorities to explain why its recruitment process should not be declared unlawful.

The court orders came following a public interest litigation (PIL) writ filed by Fazle Hossain Badsha... SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Phulbari carnage investigation starts

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The two committees to probe the August 26 incidents in Phulbari coalmine area launched their investigation yesterday.

The committees, formed on September 7 as per the August 30 agreement between the government and the National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas and Mineral Resources, will submit their report within 15 days, Phulbari Upazila... SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## OFFLOADING NCB SHARES

# Saifur shifts task to caretaker govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the next caretaker government will be able to take decision for off-loading shares of three nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) in the process of privatising those.

"I am confident that the interim government will be formed with learned people at the end of our tenure, and they will take the decision," Saifur told reporters after a meeting with a visiting IMF mission.

Asked about the caretaker government's jurisdiction to take such a 'policy decision', the finance minister said, "This is not a complicated issue and proposal is ready. The interim government will be able to take the decision considering it as part of its regular duties."

He went on, "We had plans to off-load one third shares of these banks in the stock market like those... SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

of Rupali Bank to increase the banks' capital as well as make the share market vibrant," he said. But the present government dose not have adequate time to convert the NCBs into companies, he added.

The government's five-year tenure expires on October 28. At the meeting with the IMF mission, Saifur explained the government position on privatisation of the NCBs.

The mission led by Thomas Rumbaugh, adviser of the Asia Pacific Department of the IMF, is visiting Bangladesh before releasing sixth instalment of the Poverty Reduction Growth Facility (PRGF) loan.

As a precondition for disbursement of the sixth instalment, the government was supposed to turn the three NCBs into companies like Rupali Bank.

A proposal in this regard was placed at the cabinet meeting last... SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

month but the cabinet sent it back for more scrutiny.

At yesterday's meeting, the IMF mission asked the government to adjust prices of energy products including fuel and power. It also expressed dissatisfaction over the low revenue collection. But the finance minister said it is not possible for the government to increase prices of fuel ahead of the general election.

Thomas Rumbaugh said the government has agreed with the mission that fuel prices should be adjusted, and Bangladesh needs to increase revenue collection. "It is the government's decision now when it will increase fuel prices."

Saifur said, "Lesser fuel price is like haemorrhage to our economy—the loss is too much—and it will be very hard to cover that whoever comes next. The adjustment is very... SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## CEC slates NDI for comments on him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criticising the visiting National Democratic Institute (NDI) representatives, Chief Election Commissioner Justice MA Aziz yesterday said the remarks they made about him were devoid of courtesy.

"They [NDI] should know that... SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Meat prices fixed for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday fixed up the prices of different kinds of fresh meat till Ramadan 26.

A meeting between city Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and meat traders fixed the prices as part of the government's initiative to keep the prices of essential items stable during the holy month of Ramadan... SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## 3 Ctg robbers lynched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three robbers were killed and another was injured in two separate incidents of mob beating at Banskhali and Anowara upazilas in the district in the last two days.

Two of the dead were identified as Rafiq, 30, of Askarabad under the city's Double Mooring Police Station and Abul Kalam Abu of Burumchhara village under Anowara.

According to the police and locals, a group of ten robbers broke into the house of Nurul Alam at Duari village under Shadhanpur union of Banskhali at around 1:30am yesterday.

When Alam informed the neighbours of the attack over cellphone, they cried out for help through the loud speaker of the local mosque... SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Tk 400CR HEALTH MINISTRY TENDER 11 JCD men charged with obstructing bidders

COURT CORRESPONDENT

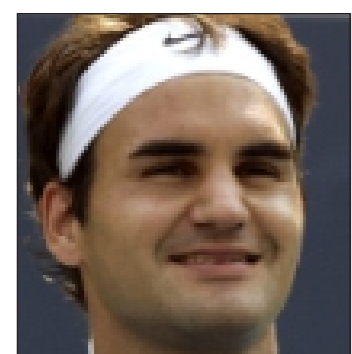
A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against 11 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders and activists arrested for preventing participants from bidding in a tender at the Construction Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU) of the health ministry on July 30.

The court also rejected bail petitions of nine arrestees submitted by their lawyers on August 23 saying that they were arrested on the spotted-handed... SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

The accused are Intiazur Rahman Prokash, Sahabur Rahman, Humayun Kabir, Mafizur Rahman, F Kabir Khan Shilpi, Sajjad Hossain Robin, Shariful Islam Sabuj, Majedul Islam, Abu Bakar Siddiqui, Asaduzzaman Asad and AKM Azad Swadhin (obtained bail from the High court).

Of them, Asad is still at large and will be tried in absentia.

All the accused, excepting Asad, pleaded not guilty and demanded... SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



## Federer's US Open treble

REUTERS, New York

Roger Federer claimed his third US Open title in a row with a flourish on Sunday, beating Andy Roddick 6-2, 4-6, 7-5, 6-1 to capture his... SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

# Suicide blast at Afghan governor's funeral kills 6

Nato, Afghan troops kill 92 more Taliban

AFP, Kandahar/ Khost

A suicide bomber killed six people at the funeral of an assassinated Afghan politician yesterday, as Nato said the Taliban death toll from a major offensive had risen past 500.

The attacker blew himself up amid mourners including several cabinet ministers at the ceremony for Hakim Taniwal, the respected governor of Paktia province who was killed in a suicide blast the previous day.

The latest blast coincided with the fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the United States and highlighted the continuing threat from the Taliban movement that was overthrown as a result.

"President Hamid Karzai condemns the terrorist suicide attack, in which six countrymen attending the funeral of the late Taniwal were killed and more than 10 others were wounded," his spokesman Karim Rahimi told AFP.

"The enemies of Afghanistan... SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

attacking innocent people during the funeral of the late Taniwal showed that they're not only the enemy of the Afghan people but they're also the enemy of Islam," he said.

Five of the dead were police officers, a doctor at a nearby hospital said, adding that 30 people were injured. Officials said none of the high-ranking dignitaries at the funeral in neighbouring Khost province were affected.

The bomber struck after funeral... SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Barbed wire barricades kept on Tongi Diversion Road for using to stop the opposition's Prime Minister's Office siege programme today. PHOTO: STAR

## Saber might have critical head injuries

S'pore doctors say

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, political secretary to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, might have sustained critical head injuries, presume physicians at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore.

Saber's family sources said quoting his physicians in Singapore that he has been suffering from a condition called 'double vision'.

The organising secretary of... SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## BSF kills 1, abducts 10

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) of Bauspara camp shot dead a Bangladeshi citizen at Mohammadpur point early yesterday while another BSF team of Jalangi camp abducted 10 Bangladeshis from Challishpara border point in Daulatpur upazila on Sunday night.

The dead was identified as Nilchand, son of Zaker Ali of Dargerpara in Daulatpur upazila... SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Palestinians reach deal on nat'l unity govt

AFP, Gaza City

Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas and Prime Minister Ismail Haniya said yesterday an agreement had been reached on a political programme for an incoming national unity government.

"We have finished defining the political programme of a national unity government, based on the national reconciliation document," which was agreed on by factions on June 27, Abbas told reporters.

Haniya, the head of the Hamas-led government, confirmed the deal after talks with Abbas.

"This agreement was anticipated because the will was real and honest in the greater interest of the Palestinian people and to strengthen national unity and to protect (Palestinian) rights and principles," he said.

Haniya's Islamist movement Hamas and Abbas's moderate Fatah party have yet to agree on... SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

the actual composition of the government.

Palestinians hope that a unity government could lead to badly needed Western aid flowing back into the depressed territories, which have been gripped by a political and financial crisis since Hamas swept to power in March.

Meanwhile, the ruling Islamist movement Hamas on Sunday once again rejected conditions set by the West for resuming ties with the Palestinian government.

"Hamas rejects the conditions of the quartet as they are unjust conditions," Sami Abu Zuhri, a spokesman for the movement, told AFP, referring to the international quartet for Middle East peace.

"We are doing everything possible to lift the siege against the Palestinian people but this will not be done at the expense of Palestinian principles and rights," Abu Zuhri said... SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
September 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation