

Bush warns

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displays of sympathy and support in the wake of the terrorist attacks," Bush said. "Today, all three nations are supporting our fight against terrorism."
On Friday, the North's state-run radio called Bush "the most evil and war-crazed president in the history of the United States."
South Korea's national police said they will go on alert because activists were planning demonstrations against Bush's trip.
"Bush is a war maniac and an international hooligan," 500 anti-US activists chanted in downtown Seoul on Saturday.
During his visit, Bush also planned to give a boost to Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, whose approval ratings have sagged along with that nation's economy. Koizumi has offered a painful program of changes designed to right the Japanese economy and banking system.
"Today, Japan is in the midst of economic uncertainty and transition," Bush said. "But I have great confidence in Japan's future and in the unlimited potential of its people, and I'm confident that Japan will make the bold reforms needed to restore growth and opportunity, which will benefit the people of both our nations."
Bush also said he will prod the Chinese government to open up their markets to American agricultural products, and to embrace "the universal demands of human dignity, freedom of conscience and religion, and the rights and value of every life."



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presents awards to members of the Ansar and VDP at their National Rally and Parade 2002 at Shafigapur yesterday.

Patiya gunfight

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purchased land after the court lifted the injunction on the land, which was imposed following the dispute.
"There was no reason of clashes centring the land issue. Rather, a vested quarter instigated the local people to cash in on the issue for reasons unknown to us," said the madrassah authorities at a press conference in the city Thursday afternoon.
The district administration formed a one-member committee consisting of Additional District Magistrate Golam Mostafa to investigate the matter. The probe committee has been asked to submit its report by March 11.
Security was tightened at Patiya with deployment of police forces and the paramilitary BDR.

BDR 'excess' alleged

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DU campus yesterday evening upon his release from the Ramna thana.
He said the BDR personnel demanded from him nothing in particular and threatened to throw acid in his eyes.
"When they came to us at the Mohsin Hall at 5:00am on Friday, they told me and a friend of mine to go to Pilkhana with them for some questioning, saying that we should be released unharmed," Farid said.
But at the Pilkhana, Farid and his friend were tied up and blindfolded and kept inside a room for more than 18 hours. Farid said there were many others there like him who had to endure the same torture.
Apart from the 85 arrested from the DU area, the rest of the total 291 arrested were picked up from different parts of the city in a similar manner.
"We thought a robbery was in progress in our house when the BDR men broke open the collapsible gate at the dead of night," said a resident of Arambag who wanted to remain anonymous.
Sources said the BNP-led coalition government, in view of the declining credibility of police, assigned the BDR jawaans to arrest criminals and recover firearms from the Dhaka University campus, keeping the decision of Friday's raid a tightly guarded secret all the while so as to catch criminals unawares.
But Friday's raid proved to be a miserable failure as none of the 23 listed top terrorists could be netted even after two months of police operation.
Ahead of the 'massive' raid at the DU dormitories, the BDR men were provided with a list of troublemakers and the probable numbers of their rooms, campus sources said.

Haji Selim

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the CMM's court on January 23.
The judge's court heard the appeal on February 5 and fixed February 16 for order on the issue with case diary (CD).
Santi, 32, a BNP leader was shot dead at Killarmor in the city's Lalbagh area on June 9, 1996.
Victim's mother Sakhina Begum filed a murder case with Lalbagh thana the following day, accusing JCD leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and 17 others.
But the investigation officer (IO) of the case submitted the charge sheet dropping the names of 14 FIR-named accused, including Pintu on January 20, as the allegations brought against them were not proved.
Selim was charge sheeted in the case although his name was not in the FIR (First in formation report). Moreover, the complainant of the case, did not accuse Selim.
Selim was shown arrested in the case on January 22.
In the charge sheet, 30 people were shown as prosecution witnesses.
The CMM's court accepted the charge sheet on January 29.

Polybags
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After cabinet's approval, the draft will be sent to the Ministry of Law for formulation of a bill to be placed at the parliament.
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Minister for Environment and Forest Shahjahan Siraj said he would try his best to get the law passed and enforce it as early as possible.
Steps to reduce emission of black smoke, river encroachment, noise pollution and other environmental hazards will be taken very soon, he added.
Sources said the highly profitable polybag manufacture and marketing in the capital continue unabated despite a ban since January 1 and repeated requests by authorities concerned to manufacturers and traders to gradually close down their businesses considering the adverse effects of polythene on health and environment.

Bush praises Dhaka

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to the US Sayed Hasan Ahmed in the Oval Office on Thursday. Ambassador Ahmed earlier presented his letter of credence to President Bush, who welcomed and wished him well for his tenure as Bangladesh envoy to the US, an official release said yesterday.
Expressing his happiness on successful holding of the October 1 general elections and lauding the march of democracy in Bangladesh, President Bush praised the new government for the high priority it had placed on strengthening the rule of law and ending terrorism in Bangladesh.
He expressed the hope that bilateral trade will increase in future, but on investments he said, "Investors look for countries that have a commitment to economic growth and guarantee the safety of their investment." He also said that Bangladesh and the United States currently enjoy strong relations and that he looked forward to deepening and expanding the ties between the two nations.
The US President also described

Bangladesh as a positive example for others as the country seeks to reinvestigate the SAARC as a forum for strengthening ties within the region, the news release said.
Ambassador Sayed Hasan Ahmed after handing over his letter of credence to President Bush said his main task would be to further strengthen the existing friendship and cooperation between Bangladesh and the United States.
He also highlighted, among others matters, Bangladesh's recent parliamentary elections and its commitment to democracy, priorities of the new government, duty-free and quota-free access of the RMG to the US market, regional cooperation, commitment to counter terrorism, the situation in Afghanistan and the Indo-Pak standoff.
The ambassador extended an invitation from the President and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the US President and his wife Laura Bush to visit Bangladesh. Bush said he would favorably consider the invitation, the message added.

Poverty increased

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reforms can claim little credit, he said.
Khan also said: "Macroeconomic stability of the Bangladesh economy-- an object of praise for the international development agencies-- was largely a result of a low impetus for economic growth."
He also questioned the country's industrial growth estimate in the 1990s and said it was calculated much above the actual figure due to faulty calculation procedures.
"It is alleged that the BBS [Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics] growth estimate of large-scale industries in the 1990s is seriously overstated due to an inappropriate revision of the industrial index. It is also stated that the actual growth rate is probably no more than three-fifths of what has been estimated," Khan said.
He also mentioned that the acceleration in growth in the second half of the 1990s was "more than entirely due to the higher growth in agriculture, a phenomenon that itself is inadequately understood possibly due to questionable statistical procedures."
However, two former finance ministers SAMS Kibria and M Syeduzzaman differed about his observation.
"I do not think there is any reason not to understand the agricultural growth phenomenon. There is also

no reason to raise questions about statistical procedures. Basically, we followed a very conservative estimation method," Kibria, the immediate past finance minister said.
He also maintained that high agriculture growth was achieved due to the last government's targeted efforts and different incentives offered to the sector.
Earlier, Khan in his presentation also mentioned that manufacturing growth declined sharply and service sector growth remained unchanged in the second half of the 1990s.
The conclusion seems to be that but for the higher agricultural growth during the second half of the 1990s, which can hardly be attributed to any growth impulse due to Bangladesh's integration with the global economy, there is no sign of increased economic growth due to globalisation, he said.
Khan suggested some incentives for local industries for a limited period to help them withstand the pain of globalisation.
He also stressed the need for effective governance, maintenance of law and order and efficient delivery of public administration for economic growth.
Khan stated that the government work independently so that the elite class cannot influence it to offer incentives and controls at the cost of the society's welfare.

Murder of Afghan minister

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said.
Zalmay Khalilzad, US President George W Bush's special envoy for Afghanistan, told the "NewsHour with Jim Lehrer" that he spoke with Karzai, who described the killing of Abdul Rahman as "a conspiracy involving some security officials from the (Afghan) intelligence agency and the defense department."
Abdul Rahman was pulled off an airliner at Kabul airport on Thursday and beaten to death, highlighting the problems facing the interim government grappling to reconcile rival ethnic groups and rebuild a volatile and wounded state.
Khalilzad said Karzai told him the killing appeared motivated by resentment that Rahman had belonged to a different Northern Alliance group than the suspects during the alliance's war against the former Taliban leadership.
But he downplayed the risks of such in-fighting for the Afghan

leadership, saying Afghanistan was generally in a much situation now than it was during the past two decades.
AP from Kabul adds: Karzai accused six senior government officials of killing Rahman and said they were motivated by a long-standing feud.
Abdul Rahman was killed Thursday in what appeared to be a mob attack on his plane at Kabul's airport by pilgrims angry that he had been unable to travel to Makkah, Saudi Arabia. Witnesses and officials had said pilgrims beat the minister to death and tossed his body to the tarmac.
Karzai, however, said the attack "has nothing to do with hajjis" or those making the pilgrimage.
"He was killed by people who planned it," Karzai told reporters at a hastily called news conference. "We are asking the Saudis to arrest them and bring them back. ... We will try them. We will put them behind bars." It was unclear whether he was

Eid cattle markets

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maximum from a single cattle market last year.
"This year we are getting only Tk 28 lakh for the market (Nawab Yusuf Market) through we floated tender twice," said a DCC official.
Similar things also happened in leasing out the Jhigatola-Hajaribagh Math and Postogola-Swashanghat, Khilkhet Tanpara and Kawan Bazar cattle markets.
When asked a top DCC official seeking anonymity said, "The understanding (between bidders) is taking place outside the Nagar Bhaban where DCC has nothing to do other than going for re-tendering in a bid to increase the amount of revenue."
DCC is getting only Tk 14.91 lakh from Karwan Bazar cattle market against last year's Tk 21 lakh. Last year, a top thana unit leader of Awami League was the lessee of the market. This year a top thana unit leader of BNP has taken lease of the market at Tk 14.91 lakh only.
According to sources, the AL leader did not bid for the cattle market this year following an understanding with the BNP leader.
DCC, however, did not go for re-tendering to lease the Karwan Bazar cattle market. When asked, DCC's Chief Estate Officer Fazle Elahi told The Daily Star yesterday that it was not possible due to 'time constraint'. "We opened the tender only two or three days back. It is not possible to go for re-tendering as the cattle market will start from Tuesday next".



Foreign delegates who joined the national convention titled "Crime against Humanity" called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan yesterday.

Ctg BCL leader arrested

BSS, Ctg
President of BCL Islamia College unit was arrested here on Friday night.
Acting on a tip-off, Doublemooring thana police arrested Mohammad Sazzad, 24, a listed criminal, from the city's Badamtali area, according to CMP release.
A number of criminal and arms cases are pending with Doublemooring, Kotowali and Bandar Police stations against Sazzad, the release added.

Pirates killed

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Two bullet-hit Bangladeshi pirates, Ferdous, 30, and Afzalul, 28, of village Pankhali in Shyamnagar upazila were handed over to police by the fishermen. They were admitted to hospital at Sakhira.
According to police, pirates of both the groups exchanged more than 200 rounds of bullets during the gunfight.
Extra forces have been deployed in Matidanga village and other areas adjoining Chunkri river, apprehending further gunfight.
A case has been lodged with Shyamnagar thana in this connection.
Hundreds of bawolis and fishermen have left the Sundarbans out of fear.
Hunters and forest guards are reported to have taken shelters in the areas adjacent to the Sundarbans, said officials of two Range offices of Sundarbans Forest Division.

Proposed NHRC Members to be selected as per JS body suggestion

UNB, Dhaka
Members of the proposed National Human Rights Commission will be selected as per recommendation by the parliamentary standing committee on Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.
The President would give final appointment to the members as per proposals to be made by parliament.
The decision was taken by a high-powered Cabinet Committee, assigned with formulating a law for setting up the National Human Rights Commission, in its fourth meeting held yesterday with Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed in the chair.
An official announcement quoting the meeting decision said the NHRC would comprise five members, including a chairman with the status of Chief Justice.
The cabinet committee also decided that at least one woman member would be inducted in the commission.
Matters related to definition of the law, appointment system of the commission and its work-plan also came up for discussion before taking the decisions.
A proposal was presented in the

AL programme on Mother Language Day

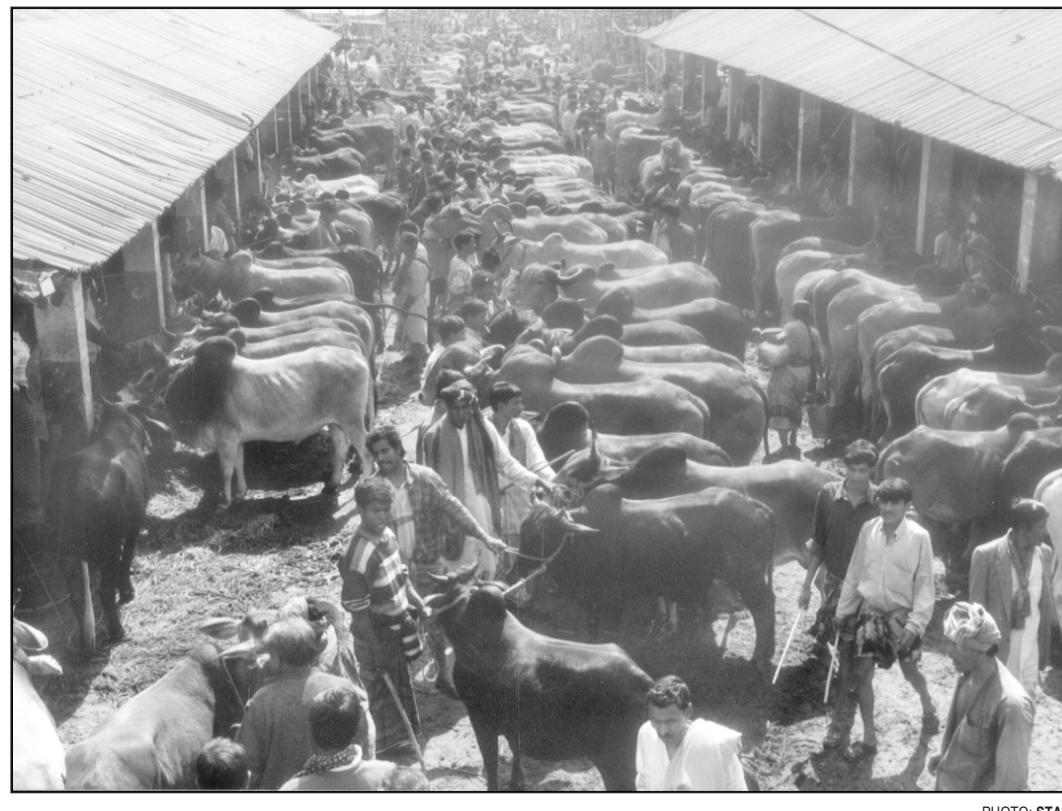
UNB, Dhaka
The Awami League has chalked out a five-day programme to observe the International Mother Language Day on February 21.
Party chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the programme at the Institution of Engineers at 3 pm on February 17.
On Feb 18, a memorial programme will be held at the Institution of Engineers at 3 pm. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman will chair the programme. Sammlito Sangskritik Jote will arrange a cultural function at 7 pm on the day.
A memorial programme will be held at Mahanagar Natya Mancha at 3 pm on Feb 19 to award some language movement veterans. Sheikh Hasina will attend the programme as chief guest.
On February 20, children will form a human chain in front of National Press Club to protest what Awami League calls distortion of history. A rally will be organised at Paltan Maidan in the afternoon.
On February 21, party and national flags will fly at half-mast and black flags atop all party offices. Party leaders and workers will join a mourning procession at 7:30 am to place wreaths at the Mazars of language martyrs at Azimpur graveyard and at Central Shaheed Minar.
Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote will arrange a cultural programme at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm on the day.

Pak cops now suspect a plane hijacker

AP, Karachi
Delving deeper into Pakistan's murky Islamic underworld, police searched yesterday for a man suspected of having helped spring reporter Daniel Pearl's self-confessed kidnapper from an Indian jail two years ago.
Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, who on Thursday confessed in court to Pearl's kidnapping, and two other Islamic militants were exchanged by India in December 1999 for passengers aboard an Indian Airlines jet that was hijacked to Afghanistan.
Pakistan authorities have rejected Saeed's claim that Pearl is dead.
Police now suspect one of those hijackers identified as Mansour Hussain is involved in Pearl's kidnapping too, a police official said on condition of anonymity. Hussain is believed to be using at least two false names: Haider Ali Faruqi and Imitiaz Siddiqi, the official said.
The use of aliases is common in the twilight world of Islamic militancy. Militants here have come under increasing pressure since the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, as the government has sought to shed Pakistan's image as a hotbed of extremism.

Ershad repents quitting 4-party

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He replied in the negative when asked whether his return home indicated that he has reached an understanding with the ruling BNP, which was aggrieved at his party's departure from the BNP-led alliance prior to the election. Following BNP's election victory, it was apprehended that Ershad would be arrested on some pretext.
There are 14 graft cases and a murder case against the former military ruler.
Explaining why he had left the country immediately after the October 1 election, Ershad said yesterday, "I was saddened by the defeat. In addition, I needed to go abroad for treatment. I never intended to leave the country for good."
The JP chairman also urged Awami League to accept the election results and join parliament session.



With a week to the Eid-ul-Azha, cattle markets in the city are getting larger.