

# 2000 Bangladeshis in US registered with INS in a month

BSS, New York

Over two thousand Bangladeshis registered their names with the US Immigration and Naturalisation Services (INS) in the last one month since beginning of the programme.

They registered their names under the mandatory registration process for non-immigrants from several countries including Bangladesh, INS sources said.

Of them, 60 Bangladeshis were served with "notice to appear" (NTO) to appear before the Immigration Judge. However, no reports were received about arrest of any Bangladeshi during the registration process.

Three hundred twenty-one Bangladeshis have registered in New York city. However, 13 of them were served with NTO notice, Bangladesh Consul General Rafique Khan and Vice Consul Khandkar Habib Ahmed have been personally supervising the registration activities for

convenience of the Bangladeshis concerned.

The sources said, the meetings between the US administration and Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan during his visit to the USA immediately after enlistment of Bangladesh's name with US special registration programme yielded positive results. Khan requested the US administration, especially the immigration authorities, to look into the cases of Bangladeshis with sympathy.

Meanwhile, 550 Bangladeshis were given free counseling services from 9 assistance cells set up to provide advocacy on various aspects of US immigration laws.

## PBCP activist arrested in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Khalishpur police yesterday arrested Hossain Ali, 30, an activist of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), from a clinic.

He was admitted to Fair Health Clinic in the early morning with bullet injuries in his knee.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the clinic and nabbed the outlaw.

Son of Ruhul Amin Biswas of Milky Dearth under Rupsha police station, Hossain Ali was injured in an armed attack by his party cadres on Saturday night.

He has been shown arrested in Sheikhpara police murder case.

## Road accidents

**FROM PAGE 12** An unidentified person died on the spot in Mirzapur area of Sherpur upazila as he fell from the roof of a Bogra-bound coach yesterday noon.

In Narayanangj, two persons were crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Aliganj in Fatulla thana on Dhaka-Narayanangj road yesterday, according to UNB.

The dead were identified as Abdul Latif, 35, and Bazul Rahman, 30, of Amtoli in Barguna district. They were day labourer.

## Japan to give emergency aid to Gulf states

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japan will provide emergency humanitarian and other assistance to the Gulf countries to minimise the adverse impact of the war on the region.

Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi said this in a statement, according to a press release issued yesterday.

He also said Japan would continue its efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East.

"Japan wants to strengthen its ties with the Islamic world and deepen its understanding of the region (Middle East) through cultural exchanges with the Muslim countries," said Kawaguchi.

## Luxury items

**FROM PAGE 1** earnings are also normal, he said.

He ruled out any possibility of fuel crisis and said the government has reserves for the next two months.

"If necessary, we will import refined petroleum products from Indonesia, Brunei or Singapore".

He also ruled out any possibility of food shortage. Twenty-two lakh tonnes of food grains have already been imported in the first seven-month of the current financial year. Besides, Boro harvest will begin within four to five weeks, he said.

But the flow of aid and remittance may decline if the war prolongs. "We will have to face and manage the situation through institutional measures and capacity building".

"There is nothing to be worried". The war might bring some positive results as additional manpower and other services will be needed for post war reconstruction, in which a large number of Bangladeshis will be able to participate, he said.

On a question on the government's policy regarding the US-led attack on Iraq, the influential cabinet member said everything should be done considering the country's interest.

Asked about his meeting with the chief of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) yesterday, the finance minister said the Japanese government assured continued cooperation and all out support to Bangladesh.

## Flu virus

**FROM PAGE 12** in other circumstances, would likely have taken months or more. This rapid advance is fuelling the hope that SARS can and will be contained."

Hong Kong has been at the centre of the global outbreak since an American businessman succumbed to the disease here on March 13 after visiting China and Vietnam.

Tourism, a key pillar of Hong Kong's economy has been hit by the outbreak of the disease.

The decision of France and Italy to withdraw from an international rugby tournament here on Friday citing health worries dealt the territory another blow.

SARS is thought to have killed at least seven people in Hong Kong and infected another 222. Twelve people have died, the latest a Canadian, and 386 suspected SARS cases have been reported in 13 different countries.

Minister Khaleida Zia sought cooperation in her government's efforts for agricultural diversification and setting up agro-based and fruit-processing industries to increase exports.

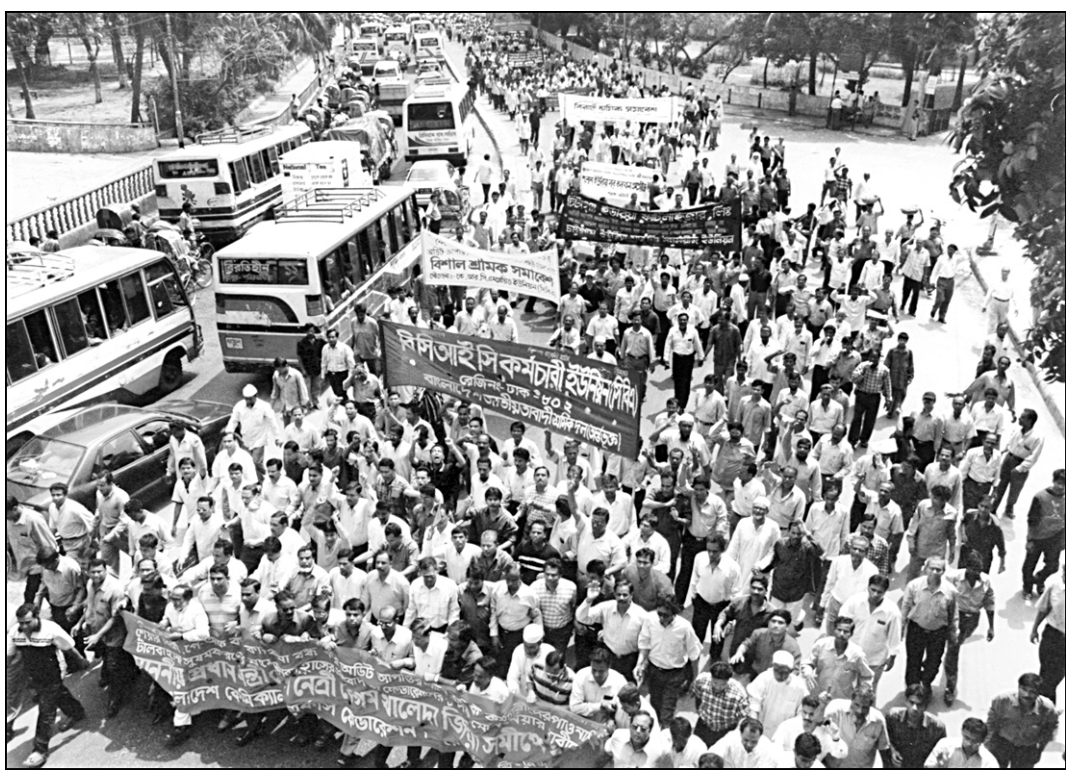
Khaleida Zia also informed that education, particularly that of girls, environment and ICT were the priority sectors of her government.

She urged JICA to provide training to ICT personnel that will help create employment opportunities.

She also mentioned her government's programmes in the poultry and dairy sectors and training of women undertaken for alleviation of poverty.

Appreciating Japanese assistance in construction of the Jamuna Bridge, Khaleida Zia hoped that Japan would also render assistance in building a bridge over river Padma. Japan is at present conducting feasibility study of the bridge.

PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamaluddin Siddiqui and Japanese Ambassador Jiro Kobayashi were present.



Members of the Bangladesh Chemical Workers Federation bring out a procession in Dhaka yesterday to protest layoffs of factory workers.

# Awesome Australia

**FROM PAGE 1** But the man-of-the-tournament made just four after pulling the fourth ball of the innings from McGrath to the boundary.

Next ball, Tendulkar's miscued hook gave McGrath a simple catch.

Saurav Ganguly (25) went cheaply before McGrath had Mohammad Kaif (nought) caught behind to make it 59-3.

A 25-minute rain interruption after 17 overs excited the thousands of Indian fans here who knew that 25 overs had to be bowled in the second innings to avoid a Monday replay.

But, as long as Sehwag remained, India's supporters could still dream of an improbable victory.

However an attempted quick single off Andy Bichel saw Sehwag beaten by Lehmann's direct hit from mid-off. He faced 82 balls including three sixes and 10 fours.

India were now 147 for four in the 24th over and the match was over as a contest.

Earlier, Ponting's 13th one-day international hundred lasted 121 balls in all with eight sixes and four fours. Martyn faced 84 balls with one six and seven fours.

India's bowlers added to the run-fest by sending down nearly four extra overs in legal deliveries.

Off-spinner Harbhajan Singh (two for 49), snared Adam Gilchrist (57) and Matthew Hayden (37) after the openers got Australia off to a flyer with a hundred partnership in 92 balls.

Ponting cut loose after passing fifty by lofting Harbhajan for successive sixes, the second over mid-wicket and out of the ground.

He topped that with a one-handed flicked six over square leg off left-arm seamer Asish Nehra. India knew then it was Australia's day.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the Cricket World Cup 2003 final between Australia and India at The Wanderers in Johannesburg on Sunday.

## AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist c Sehwag b Harbhajan 57

Hayden c Dravid b Harbhajan 37

Ponting not out 140

Martyn not out 88

Extras: (b-2, lb-12, w-16, nb-7) 37

Total: (For 2 wickets in 50 overs) 359

Fall of wickets: 1-105, 2-125

Did not bat: D Lehmann, M Bevan, A Symonds, B Hogg, A Bichel, B Lee, G McGrath

## Bowler

Zaheer 7 0 67 0

Srinath 10 0 87 0

Nehra 10 0 57 0

Harbhajan 8 0 49 2

Sehwag 3 0 14 0

Tendulkar 3 0 20 0

Mongia 7 0 39 0

Yuvraj 2 0 12 0

## INDIA

Tendulkar c and b McGrath 4

Sehwag run out 82

Ganguly c Lehmann b Lee 24

Kaif c Gilchrist b McGrath 0

Dravid b Bichel 47

Yuvraj c Leeb Hogg 24

Mongia c Martyn b Symonds 12

Harbhajan c McGrath b Symonds 7

Zaheer c Lehmann b McGrath 4

Srinath b Lee 1

Nehra not out 8

Extras: (b-4, lb-4, w-9, nb-4) 21

Total: (All out in 39.2 overs) 234

Fall of wickets: 1-4, 2-58, 3-59, 4-147, 5-187, 6-208, 7-209, 8-223, 9-226

## Bowler

McGrath 8.2 0 52 3

Lee 7 1 31 2

Hogg 10 0 61 1

Lehmann 2 0 18 0

Bichel 10 0 57 1

Symonds 2 0 7 2

**Result: Australia won by 125 runs.**

**Man-of-the-final: Ricky Ponting.**

**Man-of-the-tournament: Sachin Tendulkar.**

**Toss: India**

**Umpires: David Shepherd (England) and Steve Bucknor (West Indies)**

**TV umpire: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)**

**Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka)**

## 'No biological, chemical agents in Iraqi missile'

AFP, Berlin

German experts who examined an Iraqi missile which landed in Kuwait have found no traces of biological or chemical agents, the defence ministry said Saturday.

"Our team has examined the site where the missile fell Friday afternoon and didn't find anything," said a ministry spokesman. "According to the Kuwaitis, the missile was an Iraqi Scud."

Germany has a team 200 nuclear, chemical and biological (NBC) weapons specialists stationed in Kuwait as part of the US-led "Enduring Freedom" anti-terrorism operation set up after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States.

The German specialists are not taking part in any military operations in Iraq.

# Japanese aid

**FROM PAGE 12** present government's efforts in reducing poverty and improving the lot of the people.

JICA, the implementing agency of Japanese assistance with special focus on human resource development and capacity building, has so far trained 4,000 Bangladeshis in Japan.

JICA also sends Japanese technical experts, volunteers and senior officials to work at the field level in various Japanese-assisted education, health, maternal and child healthcare, rural development and agricultural development projects.

Kawakami thanked the prime minister for the government's support extended to the Japanese experts, volunteers and the officials during their stay in Bangladesh.

The JICA president informed that his organisation was also involved in arsenic mitigation and building of multipurpose cyclone shelters in Bangladesh.

Thanking the donor agency chief for the assistance, Prime

Minister Khaleida Zia sought cooperation in her government's efforts for agricultural diversification and setting up agro-based and fruit-processing industries to increase exports.

Khaleida Zia also informed that education, particularly that of girls, environment and ICT were the priority sectors of her government.

She urged JICA to provide training to ICT personnel that will help create employment opportunities.

She also mentioned her government's programmes in the poultry and dairy sectors and training of women undertaken for alleviation of poverty.

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PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamaluddin Siddiqui and Japanese Ambassador Jiro Kobayashi were present.

## Trade deal

**FROM PAGE 12** major concern for India is that export of its yarn, which had a good market here, declined following the ban.

Opening of new customs stations in border areas and improving infrastructure facilities in the borders are other issues that will come up for discussion.

## PM

**FROM PAGE 12** Barrister Aminul Haq were present.

PM's political secretaries Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddeq Ali, cabinet secretary Dr Sadat Husain, PM's principal secretary Dr Kamaluddin Siddiqui, finance secretary Zakir Ahmed Khan and senior officials were also present.

At the outset of the meeting, the cabinet secretary placed a report on the activities of different ministries.

While expressing her satisfaction over the progress of various projects, Khaleida Zia asked all concerned to implement them in time so that the target group could reap the benefits.

The meeting was informed that remittances increased and foreign exchange reserve situation was also satisfactory.

About speedy trial, it was informed that a significant number of criminals had been sentenced to jail for varied terms.

There were positive results of the monitoring cell formed to look into sensational cases and the number of acid-throwing incidents came down due to the enactment of two laws, the meeting observed.

# Fresh wave of bombings on Baghdad

**FROM PAGE 1** tripartite American-Anglo-Zionist aggression."

The statement follows a report on official Iraqi television that an Israeli-made missile had been found in Baghdad.

After winning a fierce battle, an armoured US column pushed on towards the central city of Najaf and came within 180 kms of the Iraqi capital, a Reuters reporter said.

But correspondents with US and British units in Iraq reported widespread clashes -- near Umm Qasr, on Iraq's narrow south coast, Najaf, a holy city for Iraq's Shi'ite majority, and Nassiriyah where the Euphrates river was crossed.

"There's a serious firefight going on here," Reuters' Adrian Croft said from Umm Qasr, a day after US officials said they had won control of the strategic port.

"There is a hell of a lot of machinegun fire going on." Two targets were bombed on the outskirts of the town.

US military spokesmen said the US and British troops had chosen not to enter Nassiriyah in a bid to avoid nasty, house-to-house urban combat, and were attempting to negotiate a peaceful surrender in the southern city of Basra.

Basra, the country's second city and main port, is a key objective for the US-led coalition, tasked by US President George W Bush with forcing Saddam from power and

disarming Iraq of its alleged weapons of mass destruction.

US Army General Tommy Franks, who is directing the campaign from his high-tech command base in Qatar, said troops were bypassing the southern city on their march to Baghdad in order not to "create a military confrontation."

But Iraqi Information Minister Said al-Sahhar told reporters yesterday that cluster bombs dropped by US and British war planes on Basra the day before had left 77 civilians dead and 366 others wounded.

Coalition planes unleashed a fresh wave of air raids on Baghdad early yesterday -- the fourth day of fighting -- with most of them hitting suburban targets, after a night of massive explosions that temporarily cut power to the city.

But the bombings lacked the intensity of raids unleashed on Baghdad on Friday night, which Iraqi authorities said left three dead and more than 200 wounded.

Saddam Hussein probably survived a cruise missile attack on his compounds in Baghdad but was reportedly taken away in an ambulance, British Foreign Office minister Mike O'Brien told BBC radio yesterday.

British defence sources said, the ground war to capture Baghdad should begin by Tuesday.

The source said thousands of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's

elite Republican Guard forces were dug in around the capital city of Baghdad and that US-British forces expected to encounter fierce resistance.

"That will be a tough fight. It will be interesting to see how they play it," the source said.

Franks said US and British forces had already taken between 1,000 and 2,000 Iraqi prisoners of war in their campaign to remove Saddam and thousands of other Iraqi fighters had "laid down their arms and gone home."

But US-led forces met fierce resistance in the strategic southern port of Umm Qasr, with Western news channels showing scenes of sporadic yet intense clashes in the town, Iraq's sole deep-water port.

A British military spokesman said the task of taking control of the town had been complicated by Iraqi soldiers who had shed their uniforms, donning civilian garb and blending into the civilian population.

Despite the air assault and simultaneous ground push to Baghdad, Iraqi state television broadcast images late Saturday of a smiling Saddam in military uniform meeting with his inner cabinet of top advisors.

Iraqi officials have rejected any suggestion that Saddam's grip on power has been challenged and his aides lauded the "resistance and heroism" shown by Iraqi troops since war broke out early

Thursday.

Yesterday, Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan, who had been reported dead by US media, said state television would show pictures of US prisoners of war.

But the television network did admit a member of Saddam's ruling Baath party had been killed in fighting near the Shi'ite Muslim pilgrimage city of Najaf, 125 miles south of the capital.

Franks said Saddam's whereabouts remained a mystery but US forces would know more in the coming days, adding that the US-led campaign aimed to cripple Saddam's entire network of power, not just the Iraqi leader himself.

Coalition forces away from the front lines faced danger as well, with one US soldier killed in a grenade attack apparently carried out by one of his comrades and a British war plane shot down by a US Patriot missile.

Twelve other soldiers were injured in the grenade attack at camp Pennsylvania, a sprawling and heavily guarded US military camp in the northern Kuwaiti desert that is home to members of the elite 101st Airborne Division.

One soldier, who reportedly had recently been reprimanded for "insubordination issues," was taken into custody but the motive for the attack was not immediately clear.

The coalition also confirmed that a British Royal Air Force air-

craft has been shot down by a US-operated Patriot missile near the Kuwaiti border. The number of people aboard was not immediately known.

The incident was one of a string of accidents to plague the Anglo-American forces, which saw 19 of their soldiers killed in two helicopter crashes in recent days.

In northern Iraq, US forces targeted the key city of Mosul, with Qatar-based satellite channel Al-Jazeera reporting intense bombing on the outskirts of the city and to the east, in the direction of Kirkuk.

Four Jordanian students were killed when a missile exploded near their car as they were driving out of Mosul to flee the US and British air raids, a government official said in Amman.

Washington's plans to open a northern front from Turkey were thwarted Saturday when the country's parliament refused to allow allied troops to cross Turkish soil.

But a senior Kurdish rebel leader said his militiamen were poised to join US forces in opening a new front, days after the United States announced that Kurdish fighters would come under its military command.

But Ankara's threats to invade the north continued to complicate coalition planning, as Turkish troops were reported to have entered Kurdish-held territory, defying US insistence that such a deployment would be "unhelpful".

# Water Forum

**FROM PAGE 12** in reference to controversial issues including the construction of large-scale dams.

The nature conservation group WWF regretted that the declaration failed to prioritize conservation of freshwater ecosystems.

"The ministerial declaration could have been a blueprint for averting further human suffering caused by inadequate water supply and sanitation, instead it is marked by reticence to put protection of ecosystems first," said the group's living waters program director, Jamie Pittock.

Other ministers complained that the language of the declaration did not express true commitment to action to ensure water and sanitation for the world's 2.4 billion without it.

"I think we should not be apologetic. We should be very clear," said Monyane Moeleki, the minister of natural resources for the southern African nation of Lesotho.

"We are ministers gathered here. We sound very half-hearted and unsure."

Absence of the characterization of water as a human right was also regretted by NGOs.

"Without direct references to the rights issue, I am not sure how we can ensure that governments will make water issues and serving the poor their priorities," said Rosemary Rop, a member of Kenya's Maji na Ufanisi, or Water for Everyone.

The declaration omitted reference to the rights issue due to international disagreements over development and other rights to water, explained Seiji Morimoto, a Japanese foreign ministry official.

Undaunted, forum organizers hailed both the ministerial declaration and the week-long forum gathering 12,000 participants a success, insisting such criticisms reflected the meeting's wish to include a wide scope of opinions.

"NGOs made this meeting vibrant," said Ryutaro Hashimoto, the former Japanese premier and the chair of the forum's steering committee.

"I hope they will continue to participate in passionate discussions about water."

Meanwhile, the declaration that emerged Sunday from the Third World Water Forum from a convocation of 101 ministers from 96 countries does little to address the global water and sanitation crisis affecting 2.4 billion people, ministers said.

Crucially missing from the consensus document was the importance of considering the effects of climate change on the world's poor, in terms of flood, drought and a rising sea level due to the warming of the planet, said the Dutch minister for development cooperation, Agnes Van Ardenne-van der Hoeven.

"It is important to consider in what way the rich world can change its policy and support, in an

indirect way, poverty reduction," she told AFP.

The document did not demand concrete commitments either financially or technically to achieve the UN Millennium Goals of halving to one billion the number of people without water or sanitation by 2015, said a special adviser in charge of water in the west African nation of Mali, Attaher Ag Mohamed.

"We are just six months from (the Earth Summit) in Johannesburg but we don't have the impression that we have come very far," he said. "There are plenty of good intentions -- but no financial commitments from partners."

"(In Mali) we have done a lot to decentralize and hand power to local communities, but that action must be accompanied with funds if we want to fight poverty. There are tonnes of initiatives