

## 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 Khandker Habib Ahmed have been personally supervising the registration activities for

## '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

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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

## Trade deal

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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

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Barrister Aminul Haq was present.

PM's political secretaries Haris Chowdhury and Mosaddeq Ali, cabinet secretary Dr Sadat Hossain, PM's principal secretary Dr Kamaluddin Siddiqui, finance secretary Zahir 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, Khaleda Zia said 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.

## 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.

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

## Luxury items

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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, Brunel 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.

## Road accidents

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

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

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

## Flu virus

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

Khaleda 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, Khaleda 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.

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.

## Fresh wave of bombings on Baghdad

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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.

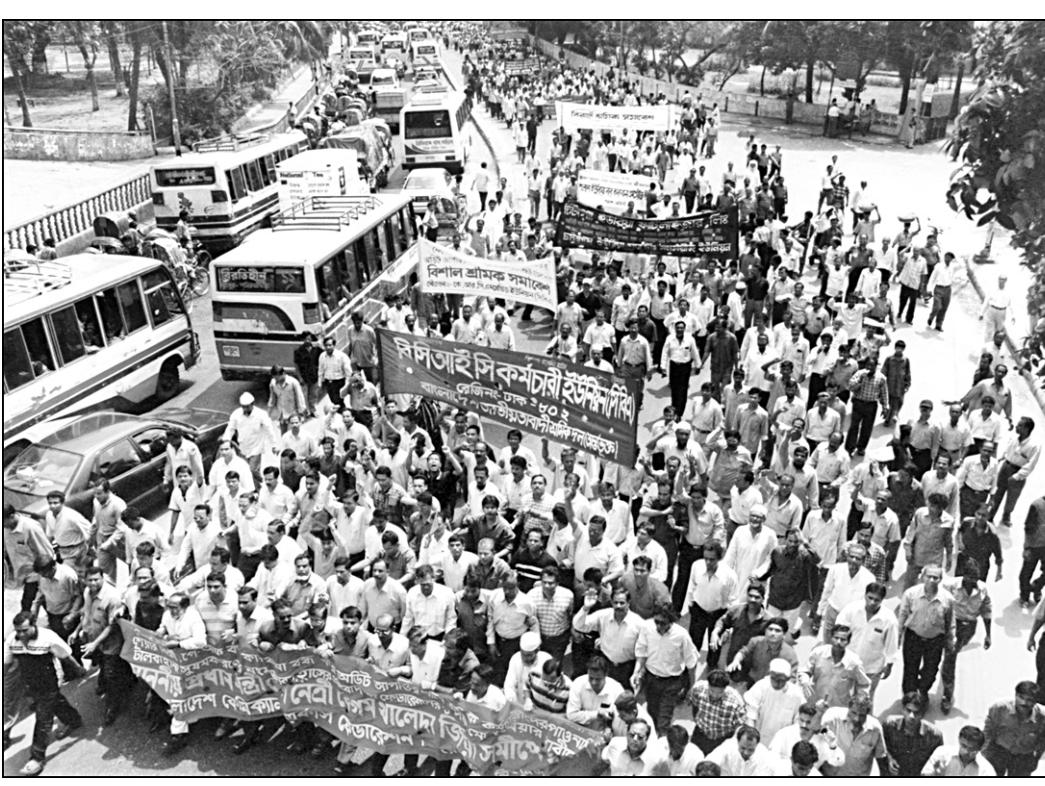
"There is a hell of a lot of machinegun fire going on." Two targets were bombed on the outskirts of the town.

US military spokesmen said the US and British forces 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.

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

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

## Awesome Australia

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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 misjudged 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 Monday's play.

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

However an attempted quick singe 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 illegal 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 Sunday:

#### AUSTRALIA

Gilchrist, Sehwag v. Harbhajan 57

Hayden, Dravid v. Harbhajan 37

Ponting not out 140

Martyn not out 88

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

Total: (For 2 wkts 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** O M R W

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

Toss: India

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

TV umpire: Rudi Koertzen (South Africa)

Match referee: Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka)

Tendulkar and McGrath 4

The measures include body search at the exam hall gate, restriction on use of photocopies in surrounding areas, cancellation of Monthly Pay Order (MPO), restriction on mobile phones, expulsion of teachers failing to nab cheats, restriction on entry to the examination centres, imposition of Section 144 and deployment of intelligence agencies to monitor law and order at the examination centres.

Milow, however, defended himself by referring to the Public Examination (crime) Act, 1980.

Education Minister Dr. Osman Farrukh preferred to leave the matter to the conductors of examinations, saying that they could expel an examinee or allow her/him to appear in an examination.

The education ministry has taken a series of steps to prevent cheating in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC), Dhakil and SSC Vocational examinations.

Of them, 9,33,652 will appear in the SSC examinations under the seven education boards, 31,628 in the SSC Vocational examinations beginning on Thursday.

Chairmen and controllers of examinations of the education boards attended the press conference organised at the conference room of the education ministry.

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.

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.

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 oil 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