

Opposition

repressive

measures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition parties yesterday

accused the government of attempt-

ing to foil today's human wall

programme through repressive

measures like mindless arrest of

their leaders and activists across the

Lutfozzaman Babar, however,

denied the opposition allegation

and said the police are making

arrests as part of the routine cam-

paign against criminals. He was

talking to the BBC Bangla Service

State Minister for Home Affairs

alleges





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S Asian nations for joint assault on terrorism, crime

Seven South Asian nations pledged yesterday a joint assault on terrorism and transnational crime in response to regional violence and

Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal and Thailand programmes and mechanisms for more effective action, an official

The Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) will serve as a platform for cooperation to enhance "operational and strategic capabilities in preventing and suppressing terrorism and transnational crime'

India's northeast, which borders other BIMSTEC nations, is wracked by myriad insurgencies in which thousands of people have been

killed over the past five decades. A 13-point agenda was adopted at the meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) that concluded here vesterday.

The JWG was set up at the first BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok in July to coordinate efforts in areas such as intelligence sharing and capacity building to combat terrorism and transnational crimes.

After a meeting of key leaders of The summit had noted that the opposition parties, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "The terrorist groups gather strength SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Teknaf to Tentulia human wall today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) and its left-leaning allies will form a cross-country human wall today to express 'no-confidence' in the BNP-led coalition government in an unprecedented way.

Opposition leaders expect that around 50 lakh people will join the 1000-km human wall from Teknaf to Tentulia in their biggest ever show-

The 3:00pm to 4:00pm programme will be a springboard for a vigorous oust-government movement to realise their ninepoint demand, the leaders said.

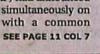
The human wall will touch 53 upazilas in 18 districts apart from two metropolitan cities -- Dhaka and Chittagong -- but the opposition parties also plan to mobilise their activists and people from the districts adjacent to the human wall

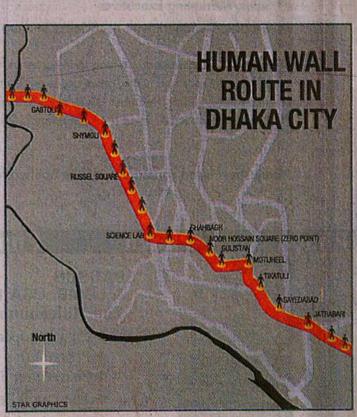
Different social, cultural and professional bodies have decided to join the human wall expressing solidarity with the opposition demands.

The programme will not hamper traffic movement as the participants will not occupy the roads and high-

ways, opposition leaders said. Success of the programme will pave the way for a platform of the opposition parties, they mentioned.

The AL, 11-Party alliance, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and National Awami Party (NAP) had announced the programme simultaneously on November 18 with a common





SAVING GRACE: Bangladesh batsman Mohammad Ashraful, who remained unbeaten on 60, gets ready to sweep on the opening day of the first Test against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Pathan polishes Bangladesh off

SPORTS REPORTER

Irfan Pathan made most of a damp wicket to destroy Bangladesh's first innings for 184 runs with his career best 5-45 on the opening day of the first Test yesterday. The start was delayed by two and

half hours due to a wet pitch and Indian captain Sourav Ganguly did not hesitate to field first after winning the toss at the Bangabandhu

India's latest pace sensation Pathan enjoyed significant inward movement to right-handers captur-ing three-21 in a fiery first spell while fellow left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan supported him well as the home side were reduced to 50-5 by the 16th over. But Mohammad Ashraful's sixth Test fifty and as ever a stubborn tail gave the total some respectabil-

28 overs were remaining when the Indian openers came out to bat with the floodlights on but in a bizarre twist, umpires Jeremy Lloyd and Aleem Dar had a brief discussion and offered the light to the Indians which they gleefully

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accepted and a bemused Bangladesh team were left wondering what might have been had Mashrafee-bin-Mortuza and Tapash Baisya managed a crack with the

The day was a memorable one for Anil Kumble who became India's highest Test wicket taker when the egspinner trapped Mohammed Rafique Ibw to surpass pace legend Kapil Dev's 434 wickets.

Pathan, troubled all the toporder Bangladeshi batsmen and laved Omar was the first of his four lbw victims. The opener paid for padding up in the third over of the innings while Nafees Iqbal, who settled for a quickfire 20, was beaten by a similar delivery.

In the very next ball, Rajin Saleh was also leg before but Ashraful handled the hattrick delivery.

But there was no respite as Habibul Bashar failed to see a trap and pulled a short ball by Zaheer straight to Sachin Tendulkar at square-leg. The Bangladesh innings was halved when Khaled Mashud SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

GrameenPhone

Concern over violation of human rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at the inaugural session of a fair marking International Human Rights Day yesterday expressed grave concerns at escalating human rights violations in the country including violence against women and children, persecution of minorities, deaths in 'crossfire', mass arrests and corruption.

They asked the government and the people of Bangladesh to honour and promote the fundamental principles of personal liberty and freedom as guaranteed in the constitution. They also urged all to exercise the principles of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

Bangladesh Human Rights Advocacy Program (BHRAP) of the Academy for Educational SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

10 injured as JCD, Shibir clash at CMC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Some 10 activists were hurt in a clash between Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) at Chittagong Medical College yesterday.

The clash ensued as the college units of the JCD and ICS, student wings of ruling BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, came face to face in separate processions. They brought out the welcome processions on the campus during an admission test at 11:00am.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

CPA plans airship to combat piracy

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) plans to procure an airship for combating piracy at the outer anchorage of the Chittagong port, port officials said. The aircraft shaped like a balloon

will be used as surveillance equipment to keep a round-the-clock watch on areas surrounding the Chittagong port. It can be steered around and it can remain stationary in the sky. Such an airship may cost about Tk20 crore, said CPA sources.

A high level meeting of anti

piracy committee at its office Wednesday afternoon discussed the plans, they added. Chairman of CPA and convenor of the committee Shahadat Hossain chaired the

Member (operation) of CPA Kamrul Hossain was made member secretary of this committee formed by the Ministry of Port and Shipping.

The representatives from port, customs, mercantile marine department, navy, coast guard, port secu-

rity, police and other agencies attended the meeting, port sources Kamrul Hossain said, "We

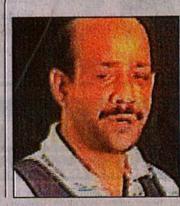
decided to go for a airship following a request from Bangladesh Coast Guard to equip its station at the outer anchorage with an airship to pump up the anti-piracy drive. "We will also seek approval from

the Bangladesh Air Force authorities for launching air patrol," Hossain said adding, "We have taken the fight against piracy seriously as we want to keep the image of country's premier port clean globally."

The meeting also decided to set up a base on a floating barge at Patenga to help the coast guard in anti-piracy operations. Besides, the coast guards will be provided with another patrol boat, he said.

The committee at Wednesday's meeting also decided to float a tender for installing vessel traffic system (VIS) at Chittagong port to monitor arrivals of ships at the outer anchorage of the port.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



Faruk talks to wife, brother after release

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi truck driver Abul Kashem Faruk, who was freed by Islamic Army of Iraq (IAI) Thursday, talked to his family over telephone

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



টেবিল ল্যাম্প প্রতি ১০ টন ৬০ গ্রেড ডিফরমড্ বার কিনলে পাবেন একটি স্ক্র্যাচ কার্ড প্রতি কার্ডে পাচ্ছেন উপরের যে কোন একটি নিশ্চিত পুরষ্কার !

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Rashid's death is linked to son's arrest STAFF CORRESPONDENT Police will take actions if investiga-

tion by a top Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) official confirms any link between Abdur Rashid's death and his son's arrest. "First we will see whether Rashid's death has any link to his

son's arrest. And if it has, we will take action," DMP Commissioner Ashraful Huda told The Daily Star yesterday.

Abdur Rashid, 55, died on Thursday allegedly after being assaulted by Sutrapur police when he went to the police station to arrange the release of his son Papon, who was picked up by police during SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Key witness to Ahsanullah murder stabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader and key witness in Awami League lawmaker Ahsanullah Master murder case was stabbed and critically injured last night at Arich pur under Tongi upazila. SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

