

HARASSMENT
Govt won't stop sending women ansars abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government does not want to stop sending female ansars abroad to work as domestic helps, although some of them have returned home because of unbearable work-pressure and sexual harassment. At least five women from ansar-village defence party (ansar-VDP), auxiliary law-enforcing agency, disclosed their horrifying experience of sexual harassment in Saudi Arabia. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**

AUG 17 BLASTS
Trials to start in Jan, end within Feb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The trials of the cases filed in connection with the August 17 blasts across the country will begin in January and are set to be complete by February. The government yesterday also ordered police to submit charge sheet in the judges killing case in Jhalakathi in a week. "Some legal complications are delaying the trial process... we are trying to remove those so that we can go for the trials after the court **SEE PAGE 2 COL 6**

116 mostly
Bangladeshis arrested in Singapore

AFP, Singapore
Singapore immigration officials raided a makeshift dormitory and arrested 116 mostly Bangladeshi men in the largest blitz of its kind here, a report said Wednesday. The raid early Tuesday morning netted 114 men and two Thai women. Of the 116 arrested, 14 had valid immigration documents but the rest did not, the Straits Times reported. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

Govt mulls lifting ban on women's overseas jobs

PORIMOL PALMA
The government is seriously considering withdrawal of the partial ban on emigration of female domestic workers following a set of initial recommendations from the Bangladesh Association for International Recruiting Agencies (Baira), sources in the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment said. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the expatriates' welfare ministry at a meeting recently formally concurred to allow emigration of female domestic workers and asked the ministry to design a modus operandi in consultation with Baira. State Minister for expatriates' welfare Major (retd) Md Quamrul Islam said his ministry had asked the ministry of law for opinion on whether Baira as a trade body may deposit money with the government and may have offices abroad outside the foreign missions to look after the expatriate workers. Presently, only eight recruiting agencies are authorised to send female workers only to Saudi Arabia against a security deposit of Tk 50 lakh with the government by each of them as guarantee for compensations in cases of return of workers due to any breach of contract and abuse. "This meagre scope has created more problems than solutions. Absence of monitoring of the standard of training and the resultant dodging by recruiting agencies has failed to



These Bangladeshi youths are among 116 illegal foreign workers arrested by the Immigration and Checkpoint Authority in Singapore on Tuesday.

Terrorism, graft main problems

Says Kamal
BDNEWS, Dhaka

Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the rise of terrorism and sky-high corruption are the main problems in the country. Dr Kamal made the observation while addressing a meeting organised by the central committee of Jatiya Chhatra Dhara at the Teacher Student Centre (TSC) seminar auditorium of Dhaka University. He said people of the country **SEE PAGE 15 COL 2**

NGOs asked to work in partnership with govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday heavily criticised the NGOs for what he called their "ignoring attitude" towards the government, urging them to work in partnership with it. "The [NGOs] do not understand that if the government pulls the string, it will be difficult for them to work," Saifur said at the inauguration of the Bangladesh NGO Foundation at the Bangladesh **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

PMO order stops workshop on CHT people's land rights

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati
A two-day workshop on the land rights issues of indigenous people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) that began yesterday morning at Rangamati was forced to stop in the afternoon following a 'directive' from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). The deputy commissioner of Rangamati informed the police super about the PMO 'order' and directed the officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station to take immediate action. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 5**



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, inset, addresses a public rally on Hafiz Ibrahim College premises in Borhanuddin in Bhola district yesterday.

Top Sunni leader, his 4 sons killed in Iraq

US talking troop reductions

AGENCIES, Baghdad, Washington
Gunmen in 10 army-type vehicles yesterday shot dead a Sunni Arab tribal chief and four of his sons in a pre-dawn raid in Baghdad as the United States again indicated troop reductions could be near. The gunmen, masquerading as Iraqi soldiers, broke into the southeast Baghdad home of Sheikh Fadel Sarhid Ali around 4:00 am (0100 GMT) and shot the tribal leader and his sons before escaping, said police. These attacks were shortly followed by the assassination of a high ranking official in the ministry of industry, Radi Ismail Jawad, and the former chief of traffic police, General Mahdi Kassem -- both in Baghdad. Leaders from all religious and political affiliations have been regularly targeted by death squads in the strife following the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003. The latest bloodshed came as the death toll for a car bomb aimed at police forces on a busy market street the day earlier in Kirkuk rose to 22 dead, include four police, with 28 wounded. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

11 die in road crashes

STAR REPORT
Eleven people were killed and 35 others injured in three road accidents in Sirajganj and Bogra yesterday. Seven people were killed and 30 others injured, eight of them critically, at Chandikona Bazar in Sirajganj district yesterday evening, our Sirajganj correspondent reports. A Bogra-bound bus from Dhaka collided head-on with another bus from the opposite direction at around 8:15pm, killing six people on the spot and injuring 30 others, police said, adding that another passenger, Sakhina, 40, died at the hospital. The injured were taken to Sirajganj General Hospital and Mohammed Ali Hospital in Bogra. Earlier a schoolboy was killed as a bus ran over him in Sirajganj. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 2**

BFUJ condemns BNP lawmakers' media mauling

BDNEWS, Dhaka
Journalists' leaders yesterday expressed concern over a blistering attack on the media and provocative comments by some ministers and BNP lawmakers in parliament on Tuesday. Reacting sharply to media-bashing by the ministers and the ruling BNP MPs, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) said the provocative comments by the ministers against the media made the journalists more vulnerable. "This is a matter of grave concern that the prime minister who was present in the House during **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

Prayer Timing		
November 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation