

Govt's inaction about militants causing death

Hasina on Netrakona blast

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League (AL) President and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina said the government's wilful abstaining from taking actions against the militants is causing deaths to innocent people in bomb blasts every day.

Terming the Netrakona blasts 'outrageous, anti-Islamic and anti-humanity', she said, "Unless the patrons of militancy hiding in the alliance government are brought to trial, the barbarous acts will not stop."

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

# Take concrete steps to combat terrorism

PM urges OIC leaders

Bss, Makkah

Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia on Wednesday urged the OIC member countries to reaffirm their faith in the solidarity and display it in concrete action by adopting a common stand to overcome the common threats faced by the Muslim Ummah.

Addressing the third Extraordinary Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) at the Al-Safa Palace, the PM called upon all OIC countries to take

concrete measures to combat terrorism by sending strong signals to the perpetrators of such despicable acts so that they find no shelter in any Muslim country.

In her speech, she proposed several recommendations including establishment of a concessional fund for poverty alleviation, to fund a programme of "Capacity Building for Poverty Alleviation in the least developed and low-income member states of OIC".

Seeking strong support from all

OIC member countries to implement this programme, the PM called for taking up immediate actions in three areas of capacity building, poverty alleviation and disaster relief to help fellow Muslims strengthen unity and solidarity.

Referring to various external threats and negative campaigns

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Threat to blow up schools if assembly sings national anthem

UNB, Shariyatpur

Banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has threatened to blow up at least five schools in Sadar upazila, if the school authorities raise the national flag and the students sing the national anthem at school assembly.

In the letters sent to the schools on December 7, the sender who identified himself as JMB's sector-63 Director Maulana A Rouf warned the authorities that JMB would blow up the schools within January 1, 2006 if they hoist the national flag or sing the national anthem.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia meets Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf during the third extraordinary summit of the OIC in Makkah on Wednesday.

No reservation about China, Japan's Saarc observer status

Says Manmohan

PTI, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday said India has no reservation about China and Japan being conferred the status of Saarc observers.

The decision to give the two countries observer status will be taken at the next ministerial meeting of the seven-nation grouping in July next year.

"We have no reservations with China and Japan (on their getting observer status). The question is one has the specific obligation and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

# Steps to stop money laundering in import

High-powered meeting also for speedy enactment of anti-terror financing law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-powered meeting chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday adopted some specific measures for immediate implementation to stop exploitation of customs and banking loopholes in the import procedure for money laundering.

In case of food imports, the meeting decided to make post-landing inspection compulsory to make sure the food meets the internationally used Harmonised System Code, meeting sources said.

"Presently, importers open letters of credit to import expensive fine rice, but bring in cheap and

coarse rice. A substantial amount of foreign exchange is being siphoned off thus and there is no scope now to detect these forgeries," explained Saifur to the press, coming out of the meeting held at the finance ministry.

In case of importing goods through the land ports, any letter of credit (LC) worth over \$5,000 now has to be sent to the advising bank through SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication). The meeting urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to develop infrastructure for such speedy telecommunication services.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



Children attend a candlelit vigil arranged by Naripakkha to commemorate the Liberation War martyrs at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday.

# Mine explosion kills 74 in China

REUTERS, Tangshan, China

A gas explosion at a Chinese coal pit has killed at least 74 miners, state media said yesterday, notching up another statistic in a grimly predictable series marking the world's deadliest mining industry.

Hours after Xinhua News Agency broke the news of the deaths in northern Hebei province, it said seven miners had been trapped in a flood at a mine in Jilin province in the northeast. One has since been rescued.

Thirty-two miners were still missing in freezing temperatures at the Liuguantun colliery in Tangshan, 180 km (110 miles) east of Beijing in Hebei, after Wednesday's blast.

Xinhua said initially that 186 miners had been working in the pit at

the time but later revised the figure to 106. The State Administration of Work Safety put the number in the pit at 123.

China has been struggling to clean up its mining industry, which killed 2,700 people in the first half of 2005 alone, but a string of accidents in recent weeks has made a mockery of safety campaigns.

"Hebei province on Thursday decided to tighten measures on production safety in the wake of a deadly coal mine blast," Xinhua said.

Police struggled to hold back hundreds of relatives crowding around the mine's entrance hoping for information. But with high gas levels inside the shaft, rescue efforts were going slowly.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

# SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP Solid start for Bangladesh

AL-MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

Ariful Kabir Farhad struck twice as Bangladesh launched their title defence in the Fourth SAFF Championship with an easy 3-0 victory over underdogs Bhutan at the People's Sports Complex Stadium here yesterday.

The shaven-headed striker

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Prayer Timing		
December 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-15	5-50
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		