



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 20 PAGES



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XV NO. 322

DHAKA MONDAY DECEMBER 12, 2005

AGRAHAYAN 28, 1412 BS

JULQAD 9, 1426 HIJRI

20 PAGES PRICE: Tk 7.00

www.thedailystar.net

## JP to declare March 1 its polls alliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (Ershad) will clarify in March whether to form an electoral alliance with the government or the opposition while majority of its district-level leaders yesterday suggested the party chief take a stand against the ruling coalition.

"I will declare on March 1 how we are going to contest the next poll and with whom to form the alliance," Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad told a view-exchange meeting of the party leaders at a city hotel yesterday.

Calling on the leaders to make all-out preparations for the March 1 grand rally at Paltan Maidan, he said, "We will have to prove our strength at the rally. We must be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Terror talks start amid opposition boycott

PM meets Kader Siddiqui first

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The national dialogue on how to stop bomb terrorism in the country begins today in absence of the mainstream opposition parties and pro-opposition professional bodies.

The much-talked about dialogue of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will kick off with the talks with Krishak Samik Janata League at 3:00pm at the prime minister's office (PMO). Leaders of Bangladesh Medical Association are scheduled to meet the prime

minister at 3:30pm, said sources.

HM Ershad's Jatiya Party, the second largest opposition in parliament, ruling alliance partners, some minor political parties, and different pro-government organisations that include associations of lawyers, doctors, engineers, agriculturists, journalists and other professionals will join the dialogue amid boycott of the main opposition Awami League (AL)-led 14 party alliance.

Officials at the PMO are still working on the schedule of the dialogue. "Except the 14-party

opposition alliance, almost all the invitees responded positively. We are trying to timetable the dialogue with the prime minister on consultation with the political parties and professional bodies," a senior PMO official yesterday told The Daily Star.

Asked about the mode of the dialogue, he said it has yet to be fixed whether the talks between the invitees and the prime minister will be held separately or jointly.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, meanwhile, has once again

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## 3 suspected JMB men held in Kishoreganj

One resembles Abdur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals caught three people in Kishoreganj yesterday suspecting one of them to be JMB chief Abdur Rahman and handed them over to police.

The police said the man resembling Abdur Rahman introduced himself as Hamidur Rahman, hailing from Birampur upazila of Dinajpur.

The police started interrogating the three -- Hamidur, 55, Alamgir Hossain, 30, of Noakhali and Hanifur Rahman, 23, of Daudkandi in Comilla -- at Kotiadi Police Station to verify their statements.

Barhatta police on Friday night asked Satyen Chandra Das and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

## YADAV CONTROVERSY His father, brother still in custody

Cops give contradictory statements

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The superintendent of police (SP) of Netrakona and an officer-in-charge (OC) have given contradictory statements about picking up the father and brother of Yadav Das after they had spent over 36 hours in police custody.

The town was rife with rumours yesterday that police are pressing them to admit Yadav embraced Islam to substantiate the claim of the state minister for home that he was a suicide bomber.

Barhatta police on Friday night asked Satyen Chandra Das and

Biplob Das, Yadav's father and brother, to come to the police station and detained them at dawn Saturday when they showed up to meet the OC.

OC Mostak Hossain of Barhatta Police Station yesterday reiterated his claim that the two have been kept in police custody for their own safety.

But SP Ali Hossain Fakir told The Daily Star last night the police detained the two to quiz them about Yadav and his activities.

Asked why they were not released even after 36 hours, lie

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## UK to provide £57.5m for rural power supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) will give Bangladesh a grant of £57.5 million to supply the poor with low cost electricity in rural areas and arrange hassle free transfer of remittance with less charge.

Two agreements to this effect were signed yesterday at the residence of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in Dhaka.

Md Ismail Zabihullah, secretary of Economic Relations Division, and David Wood, head of DFID-Bangladesh, signed the agreements.

Visiting British Minister for International Development Hilary Benn, Saifur Rahman, Foreign

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Media mogul Turner enchanted by microcredit borrowers

STAR REPORT

Visiting UN Foundation Chairman and Founder of CNN Ted Turner witnessed the Grameen Bank's activities including its microcredit programmes at village Joymandup in Singair under Manikganj district yesterday.

Turner, along with the members of the Board of Directors of UN Foundation, came on a four-day visit to Bangladesh on Saturday to promote public-private partnerships here.

"Bangladesh is a nice country and the people have numerous potentials," said the media mogul, who was highly impressed to see how the rural poor, especially the women, are changing their lots through the microcredit programmes of the Grameen Bank.

"The world is following the Grameen Bank programmes," he said.

Chairman of Turner Enterprises Inc, environmentalist and philanthropist Turner created the UN Foundation in 1998 with his historic gift for the United Nations.

"We have just started visiting

Bangladesh...the UN Foundation so far provided \$7million in last six years and we will decide for further measures to take about Bangladesh," Turner told the newsmen during his Singair visit.

Beneficiaries of Grameen Bank's programme and Palli Phone women shared their experience with Turner who gave a patient hearing to know how the suffering people changed their lots.

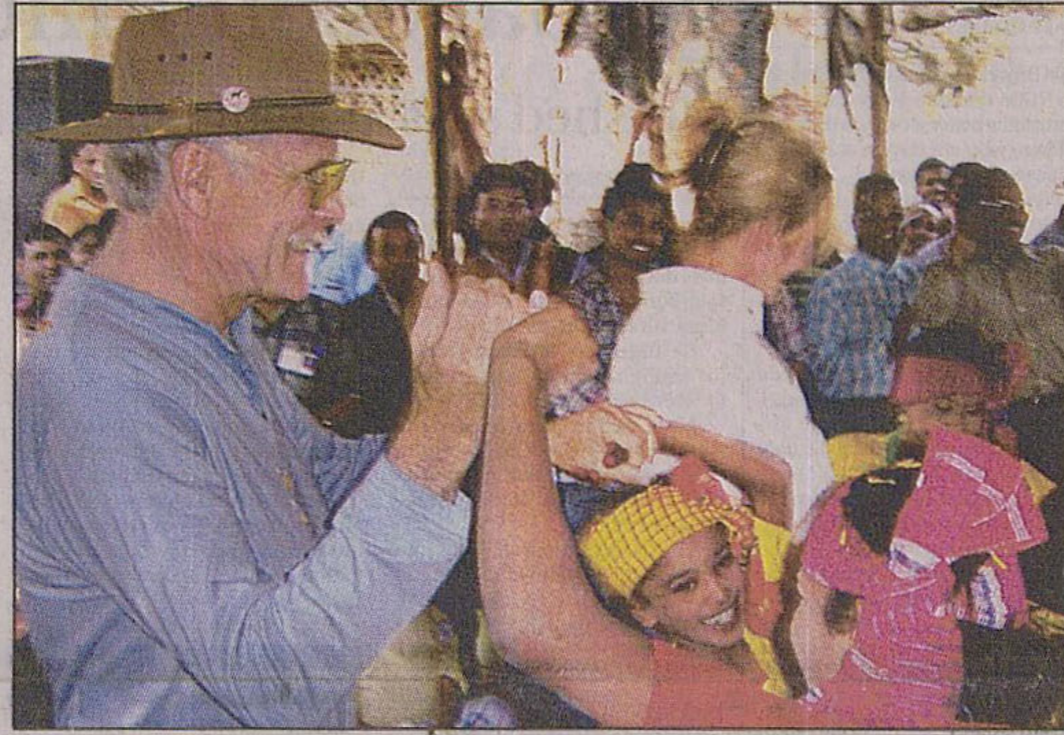
He was pleased to hear how the borrowers succeeded in eradicating poverty, illiteracy and early marriage as well as establishing gender equality and empowering themselves.

Turner and his board members noted with satisfaction that rural poor are using loan from Grameen Bank for educating their children in different educational institutions, including colleges and universities.

Turner went to the house of Roksana, who established a bio-gas plant at her house at Joymandup village with the credit support from Grameen Bank.

Maron Chandra Sarkar, once a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



UN Foundation Chairman Ted Turner dances with children at a cultural programme while visiting a Grameen Bank project at Singair in Manikganj yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP Bangladesh take on India today

AL MUSABBIR SADI from Karachi

Defending champions Bangladesh and two-time winners India face off for the 20th time when the regional soccer rivals meet in a Group B match in the SAFF Championship here today.

The match will kick off at 7pm (Bangladesh time) at the People's Sports Complex Stadium. In the day's earlier match, Nepal will take on Bhutan in their final appearances in the eight-team meet.

Both Bangladesh and India have

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Tangail turns into hotbed of militancy

5 JMB training camps busted; '30 suicide bombers' move elsewhere in country

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Five training camps of Islamist militants were unearthed in Tangail so far and at least 30 more members of suicide squads of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) are spread out across the country waiting for instructions to attack, said intelligence sources.

Though the members of the suicide squads recruited from

different upazilas in Tangail have been identified, they are yet to be arrested as they left their own areas and remain in hiding since August 17.

Tangail police arrested at least 50 militants from different upazilas of the district since August 17. At least two of the arrested are members of suicide squads.

Intelligence sources said at least 200 JMB cadres still remain in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 14-party rally vows to fight militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of people joining the protest rally organised by 14-party alliance yesterday vowed to fight against militancy to uphold the country's sovereignty, democracy and the spirit of hard-earned Liberation War.

At the rally called to protest the bomb attacks by the banned Islamist militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and mourn for the people killed in the incidents, the 14-party leaders blamed the BNP-Jamaat alliance government for harbouring the militants.

They pledged to form committees to resist militants in every

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## Haji Biman chartered flight stumbles on first day

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The chartered Boeing-747 aircraft of Biman Bangladesh Airlines stumbled on its first day of hajj flight yesterday.

The hajj flight of yesterday evening was cancelled as the Saudi government did not permit the aircraft to land at Jeddah Airport.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the first hajj flight of the year yesterday morning which took 274 pilgrims to Jeddah in a Biman DC-10 aircraft.

Biman sources said the Boeing-747, chartered from the Corsair Airlines of France, was supposed to take off for Jeddah with 500 pilgrims at 3:00pm. But the Saudi government's disapproval of the aircraft's landing at Jeddah forced Biman officials to reschedule the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## BNP executive body meets after 5 years, skips burning issues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Executive Committee of the ruling BNP yesterday met after long five years but there were no discussions on many burning issues including the recent rise in militancy.

The meeting attended by 97 members mostly from Dhaka, however, agreed to hold a big public rally on December 21 at Paltan Maidan to show the party's strength.

The meeting was held at the Bailey Road residence of BNP

Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, who chaired the meeting.

It was expected that issues related to the rise of the militants, countrywide serial bomb blasts, Jamaat-e-Islami, demands of the opposition, restructuring of the party and other burning political matters would be discussed during this meeting.

But none of the issues was raised in the meeting at the instruction from the BNP high command, party insiders said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Bangladesh Shines in Colors 374 Thanas of 61 Districts

NEW THANAS

- Rupsa, Khulna
- Bhedarganj, Shariatpur
- Damudya, Shariatpur
- Delduar, Tangail
- Kalia, Narail



ISO 9001:2000 CERTIFIED COMPANY

A TM Company

# Simply Irresistible!

FREE\* outgoing at Happy Hour

LOWEST rate to 3FnF numbers



1.90/min\* during Peak Hour even LESS at other hours

10sec Pulse from first minute

\*Connection charge: AKTEL FnF 1.00 Others 2.40

• Connection price (including VAT): MobileLink (mobile-mobile): 550.00 Standard (BTB incoming and outgoing): 1,550.00

• This tariff is valid till 31 March '06  
• This offer is applicable for Pre-Paid MobileLink & Standard  
• Conditions apply