

WB to fund for enhancing court security

UNB, Dhaka

The World Bank yesterday expressed its interest to provide financial and infrastructure supports to Bangladesh in enhancing the security of judges and court premises.

"Access to justice is a right for all Bangladeshis and the World Bank

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Victory Day plans curtailed for bomb fear

SURANJITH DEABNATH

While the nation observes the Martyred Intellectuals Day tomorrow and the Victory Day two days later, mounting public fear about reckless bomb blasts by Islamist militants has this time led to curtailment of programmes on these occasions reminiscing the Liberation War compared to those in the previous years.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Rich-poor consensus on free trade pact unlikely

WTO meet begins today in Hong Kong

AP, HONG KONG

Trade negotiators gathered for World Trade Organisation talks in Hong Kong conceded yesterday that prospects for progress toward a global free trade treaty were bleak, with rich countries and the developing world still at an impasse over agriculture.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson bluntly said a breakthrough at the six-day meeting that starts today was "not possible," and that the 149 member countries should instead strive to make headway on formulas for cutting farm tariffs and subsidies, with the goal of drawing up an outline for a deal by the first quarter of 2006.

"There's simply too little on the table to negotiate about in Hong Kong," Mandelson told reporters. He said his objective for the six-day gathering was to "find the common ground on the building blocks" in key areas of agriculture, services and

manufacturing trade.

The meeting in Hong Kong, itself a citadel to free trade, was meant to wrap up the so-called "Doha round" of WTO negotiations.

But the talks have been stalemated for months, with developing countries saying that offers by the EU, U.S. and other rich countries to dismantle their trade barriers are inadequate.

A draft text for an agreement released by WTO chief Pascal Lamy disclosed wide differences between members across a wide array of sectors. "Now it is clear that unless a miracle occurs - and I'm not even sure what kind of miracle - we won't have a final deal ... in Hong Kong," Brazil's foreign minister, Celso Amorim, told reporters on Monday.

Amorim accused the wealthy industrialized nations of sacrificing the interests of 70 percent of the developing world - farmers barely getting by - for the sake of a tiny

segment of their own populations.

"Who are the farmers of France? It's the people who own little farms and make Camembert cheese or who sell Bordeaux," he said.

For poor countries in Asia, Latin America and Africa, selling exports of commodities like grain and sugar to the industrialized world are the key to economic growth and development.

Dashing hopes for concessions, Mandelson reiterated Monday that the EU would not move beyond the average 46 percent cut in farm tariffs it offered in October until other countries budge on reducing barriers on services and manufactured goods.

But he said he was receptive to counteroffers from developing countries, led by India and Brazil, on non-farm trade areas.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

China grants free access of 84 products from Jan 1

BSS, Dhaka

China granted zero tariff access to 84 Bangladeshi products under the Asia Pacific Trade Agreement with effect from January 1, 2006.

The special tariff arrangement was originally due to be effective

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SC extends stay order on Niko account freezing

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court yesterday extended for six weeks its order staying a High Court order that had asked the government to freeze all bank accounts of Canadian gas exploration company Niko Resources Ltd.

After hearing a petition filed by Niko Resources Ltd, chamber

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



PHOTO: PID

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks to the leaders of Krishak Sramik Janata League at her office yesterday, the first day of the national dialogue on how to stop bomb terrorism.

Speedy Trial Act to get 2-yr extension

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cabinet meeting yesterday approved the draft of the Law and Order Disruption Crimes (Speedy Trial) Act (Amendments), 2002, for retaining it for two more years for the second time. The act was due to expire on April 9 next year.

The meeting also extended the ban on cutting trees in the reserved

and natural forests for five years more. The ban was first put in 1990 for ten years and later extended for five years that is due to expire this year.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presided over the meeting where cabinet members, the cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the prime minister, and other secretaries

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



From university to suicide squad

EMRAN HOSSAIN EMON

They disappear and then return as totally changed men after a long absence. Neither the family members nor the law enforcers in Kaliakoir have any idea about the place and circumstances that have been bringing such a wholesale change in young men. One of these men is KM Wahidul Islam Wasim, a student of economics department in Jahangirnagar University (JU) also a resident of Kaliakoir in Gazipur, who was arrested on Saturday by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

One dies a week in ship breaking

Reveals study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

On average one worker dies every week and one gets injured every day at the ship-breaking yards in Bangladesh and the number of casualties is on the rise, said a survey report styled "End of Life

Ships-The Human Cost of Breaking Ships" that was presented at a city restaurant yesterday.

Released simultaneously in Bangladesh, India and Switzerland, the report was prepared by globally a c c l a i m e d

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: STAR

From left: Gro Harlem Brundtland, former Norway premier, Nafis Sadik, special adviser to the UN secretary general, Ted Turner (standing), UN Foundation chairman, Timothy E Wirth (sitting), president of the foundation, and Prof Muhammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank, in informal talks after the foundation's press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nation Foundation sponsored by media mogul Ted Turner will launch a massive public health campaign in Bangladesh and immunise 35 million children aged nine and ten.

The campaign against measles will begin from the next January and continue for about two years. The programme will be implemented at a cost of \$33 million by 40,000 vaccinators and 1.5 lakh volunteers, said Ted Turner, chairman of the Turner Enterprise, also founder of CNN, at a press conference yesterday afternoon.

Turner withdrew most of his investment from CNN and started new business ventures.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

The UN foundation funded several UN programmes in Bangladesh ranging from empowering adolescent girls and removing arsenic from tube wells in hundreds of villages, he said.

Other visiting board members including Gro Harlem Brundtland, former prime minister of Norway, Grameen Bank founder Dr Muhammad Yunus, advisor to the UN secretary general, Nafis Sadik, and president of the UN foundation Timothy E Wirth also spoke and responded to the queries of journalists.

Ted Turner who created the UN foundation in 1998 and contributed \$1 billion to it told journalists that the immunisation programme

SAFF CHAMPIONSHIP Bangladesh face Pakistan in semis Draw 1-1 with India

AL MUSABBIR SADI, from Karachi

Bangladesh set up a semifinal clash against hosts Pakistan in the Fourth SAFF Championship when a second-string side of the defending champions drew 1-1 with ten-man India in the last group match

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

JMB replaces Rajshahi chief

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) has purportedly replaced its Rajshahi division commander Abdul Awal, son-in-law of the JMB leader Shaikh Abdur Rahman, with its Shura Board member Khaled Shaifullah.

A person claiming himself to be

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Archer Blood to be honoured for opposing Pak crackdown

UNB, Dhaka

US Embassy in Dhaka will name the American Center Library today in honour of Archer K Blood, American consul general in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
December 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Standard Chartered Bank