

PM vows to find out bombers, punish them

BSS, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her firm commitment to find out the bomb attackers and give them exemplary punishment. Addressing a Victory Day rally of children and adolescents at the National Stadium in the capital, she said no one, not even by carrying out bomb terrorism, can halt the forward march of the nation that has earned its independence through a

war, restored its democracy through struggle, and is always making efforts to improve its lot through labour. A misguided group, who have indulged in intrigues taking advantage of democratic atmosphere in the country, are out to destroy all achievements of the nation by resorting to bomb terrorism and acts of sabotage, she said, adding, **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**



A Victory Day procession brought out by Awami League marches from Suhrawardy Udyan to Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the capital yesterday.

Ulfa threatens to take up guns if talks delayed

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Guwahati
The outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (Ulfa) yesterday threatened to resume its armed campaign if New Delhi fails to begin immediate peace talks to end nearly three decades of militancy in Assam. The Ulfa, a rebel group fighting for an independent Assamese homeland since 1979, has put on hold its 'struggle' since October. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on October 26 held the first **SEE PAGE 15 COL 3**

Colourful AL procession calling to eliminate militancy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Thousands of Awami League (AL) leaders and activists took out a colourful procession to mark the 34th Victory Day yesterday, calling for eliminating anti-liberation and communal forces and establishing a secular, democratic and poverty-free state. The AL loyalists marched in a festive mood with band parties towards the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital. They gathered in front of the institute around 3:00pm wearing colourful clothes. They danced with the rhythm of drums, sang patriotic songs and chanted slogans against militancy and all evil forces that are hindering development of the country. Led by the AL central leaders, the long procession began marching down the streets at 4:15pm and ended at Bangabandhu Smriti Museum around 5:00pm. The AL city unit, Jubo League, Mohila League, Mohila Jubo League, Sramik League, Swachhasebak League and the AL ward units led by their leaders came one after another holding the national and party flags, portraits **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

DRAFT PACKAGE AT WTO MEET Duty and quota-free access to imports from LDCs agreed



A Bangladeshi farmer takes part in a demonstration on the sidelines of the World Trade Organization Summit in Hong Kong yesterday.

AP, PTI, Hong Kong
Negotiators at a World Trade Organisation meeting reached an agreement on a draft text yesterday that would grant duty-free and quota-free access to imports from so-called least developing countries, Indian and Indonesian officials said. **More stories on page 8**
In talks that began late Thursday and spilled over to Friday morning, key negotiators were able to agree on a text that addressed both the demands of the poor countries and also the concerns raised by the United States and Japan, an Indian official said, requesting anonymity because an official announcement was due later. According to the draft, rich countries as well as leading developing countries like Brazil, India and China would provide duty-free access on "a lasting basis," he said. "I think it's acceptable to all developed and developing countries," Indonesian Trade Minister Mari Elka Pangestu told reporters. The draft text now must be **SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**

Bomb scare forces Indian parliament to adjourn abruptly

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi
The Indian security establishment was plunged into a tizzy yesterday following a bomb scare on the parliament premises here, after which the sessions had to be abruptly abandoned and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, his cabinet colleagues and hundreds of members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha were escorted out. Both houses of the parliament were adjourned at about 11:48am during the question hour, soon after their presiding officers Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee and Rajya Sabha Chairman Bhairon Singh Shekhawat had received communications to the effect that a bomb had been planted somewhere on the parliament premises. Bomb disposal squads of the Army and the elite National Security Guards, which were promptly called in, searched the entire parliament complex for possible explosives and gave an all-clear signal after about an hour and a half. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**



A visitor reads a catalogue while attendants look on at a stall of Bangladesh Tourism Fair 2005 at the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

Tour operators elated as visitors throng fair

SHARIFUL ISLAM
With the on-going tourism fair getting a huge response from visitors on the second day yesterday, the organisers of it and the participating organisations are expecting further boost in the tourism sector, which has already witnessed a significant rise in domestic tourism in the past few years. The four-day Bangladesh Tourism Fair-2005 began in the China-Bangladesh Friendship Conference Centre on December 15 and will continue until December 18. Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation organised the fair aiming to promote tourism in the country and to encourage private companies to get involved in this sector. Visitors were found going from stall to stall and gathering information about the sites of their possible visits. They were also inquiring about packages offered by different tour operators. Encouraged by his experience in the fair, Saifur Rahman, a businessman from Mirpur area of the capital, is already planning a visit to the Sundarbans with his family this winter. "I always remain occupied with my business and did not know about the touring facilities to the Sundarbans different private tour operators are offering," he said. A number of private tour operators said the tourism sector in Bangladesh could have boomed and contributed greatly to the national economy, if the govern **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**

Prayer Timing		
December 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation