"You talk of sedition charges,

but you are a traitor yourself," she

told the Rajshahi divisional rally of

the 14-party opposition combine

led by her party Awami League (AL). "You held anti-militancy meeting (Wednesday's Paltan

meeting) but you protected mili-

tants by not speaking against them. Rather, you came down heavily on

held at the Madrasa Maidan that

Jamaat is not a party that stands for 'Islam as preached by our prophet.

They (Jamaat) project 'Islam of

Maodudi' who opposed the inde-

pendence of the then Pakistan and

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

The AL chief told the huge rally

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People's Right to Know

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Reacting to the prime minister's

warning of sedition charges against

her for 'creating anarchy', Leader

of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday lashed out at Khaleda Zia, branding her as a traitor for forming government with Jamaate-Islami that opposed the coun-

try's very independence.
"You protect and have made those

people ministers, who collabo-

rated with the occupation forces in

1971, killed our intellectuals, do

not believe in our independence,

dishonour our national flag and

national anthem. So, who is the

traitor, you or I?" Hasina asked,

pointing at Jamaat chief and cabi-

net member Motiur Rahman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

private sector joint drive is imme-

diately launched to gain the maxi-

mum possible benefits from the

rest of the Doha Round negotia-

tions, experts told a meeting yes-

A few speakers at the review

ICC REVIEW MEET ON WTO TALKS

United move must to

salvage WTO losses

Hasina hits out at PM

over sedition threat

POUSH 9, 1412 BS • JILQAD 20, 1426 HIJRI • 20 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE: TK 12.00

Depression in Bay causes

The capital and some parts of the country yesterday experienced drizzles brought in by a depression

a mild cold wave is however weakening now and likely to die soon clearing the clouds over the coun-

The weathermen forecast that the cold wave may persist in the next three to four days.

influence of the depression.

The sky was overcast and the



A Bangladesh Biman aircraft with its lights on prepares for take-off in a foggy afternoon yesterday at Zia

9 journalists, BNP leaders get death threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Outlawed operatives in a letter threatened nine Jhenidah-based journalists, six ruling party leaders and officer-in-charge (OC) of Jhenidah Sadar Police Station with death by "brushfire" and bomb

> On Wednesday evening, SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

US issues travel alert

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US Department of State has issued travel warnings to its citizens residing in or travelling to Bangladesh urging them to take extra care considering the security situation in the country.

Making the public announcement, SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

Warid Telecom becomes sixth mobile phone operator

AFP, Dhaka

United Arab Emirates, Warid Telecom became the sixth operator in Bangladesh's booming mobile phone market after paying 50 million dollars to win a licence, an

official said yesterday. Warid Telecom, a venture of the Abu Dhabi Group of United Arab Emirates, beat its lone rival, Omniah of Jordan, to get the SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

CONTAINS ADDED FLAVOURS. CONTAINS NO FRUI

Sixth World Trade Organisation The country's key export items (WTO) Ministerial Conference in may not get any duty- and quota-Hong Kong also termed a proper free market access to the developed preparation including capacity economies, unless a governmentbuilding for the negotiations in

a humanitarian issue.

The meeting organised by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Bangladesh advised the national WTO team to SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

2006, the end year of Doha Round,

Saifur sees no harm in hunting guest birds

also of Bangladesh, she said.

UNB, Dhaka

the opposition."

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday dubbed the migratory birds "cause of havoc" as "they invade wetlands, crowd out local spe-cies, gobble up crops and insects and then fly out of the country."

The finance minister launched his tirade against the foreign birds as environmental issues cropped up while he was addressing the opening ceremony of an international plastic SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

drizzles STAFF CORRESPONDENT

formed in the southwest Bay of Bengal last week. The depression that also caused

try, met office sources said.

They said the port city of Chittagong and its adjoining areas have been experiencing drizzles since Wednesday noon under the

sun remained invisible yesterday across the country.

Polls on time under Ahmadiyyas appeal existing system

Declares PM at unofficial election Bigots to besiege Bakshibazar complex today rally in Jessore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday unofficially kicked off election campaign for her party and reiterated that the next general elections will be held on time under the existing caretaker government system in accordance with the

constitution.

Addressing a big public meeting

at Jessore Eidgah Maidan, the BNP chairperson introduced Environment and Forest Minister Tariqul Islam as the party candidate for Jessore-3 constituency and

The prime minister accused the opposition of trying to divide the BNP-led four-party alliance and conspiring against the government

STAFF CORRESPONDENT Ahmadiyya community has

stop the zealots of Khatme Nabuwat Andolon Bangladesh (KNMB), which is scheduled to lay a siege today to the Ahmadiyya urged the electorate to vote for him. headquarters in the city's Bakshibazar, before they can do

The KNMB will hold a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mokarram

for govt protection National Mosque after the Juma prayers today, take out a proces-

appealed to the government to Ahmadiyya base. KNMB activists from 22 districts will join the siege programme, its President Mufti Noor Hossain Nurani told The Daily Star, claiming, "We'll do everything peacefully and will not violate the law."

The KNMB yesterday brought out a truck procession from the SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

sion and then march to besiege the



Special Correspondent:

While Bangladesh this year attributing this cold wave to the situation and was experiencing its shortest the appearance of 7up Ice in break the record winter in a decade due to Bangladesh. Others are for swimming global warming in all looking into the possibility that in coldest probability, meteorologists 7up Ice is connected to some water. The said, a sudden unexplained greater global phenomenon. 22-year cold wave have started to rock Unconfirmed sources informed o 1 d the country. Some are linking it that wherever in the globe 7up currently to the appearance of 7up Ice in Ice has shown up it was holds the Bangladesh.

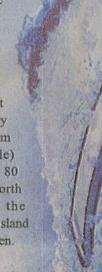
A meteorologist at the fronts and significant drop in the most country's Meteorological temperature. Department, said, "The But, whatever the reason is swim - a 1 km sudden chill that has showed already underway.

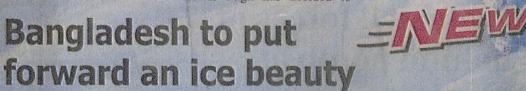
Some of the meteorologists are take advantage of accompanied by sudden cold record for

meteorologists are analyzing people have breathed a breath (0.6 the weather data to determine of relief to have their winter sprint at 80 whether the short season was back, and, as some sources degrees north caused by global warming." mention, preparations for a off "But, we're baffled by the grand reception of 7up Ice is Norwegian island

up in mid December," the Taking Advantage British long aforementioned meteorologist distance swimmer 22-year old Lewis Pugh has decided to

northerly





"Bangladesh is going to bring home the next Miss World crown" - confidently says a leading beautician. She was conveniently bolstered by the fact that Unnur Birna Vilhjalmsdottir, known internationally as the Ice Queen, from Iceland has won the crown in 2005. The current cold front in Bangladesh was behind her confidence, she admitted, and added, "We must make use of all our advantages." She also suggested that washing your face two times a day with iced cold water will stop it from aging fast, and rubbing ice on the skin actually kills of most bacteria hosted there.

Ice beyond Earth

Bangladesh to put

Martian Correspondent:

The European Space Agency released a rare photo of a Martian ice lake in the far northern reaches of the planet. Capping a swirl of dunes at the bottom of a 23-mile-wide (35-kilometer-wide) crater, the frozen lake is thought to exist year-round. The modest temperature and pressure changes in this latitude would not be enough to allow the ice to melt or evaporate. NASA is looking into the possibilities of 7up Ice showing up on the Red Planet.



where the temperature went as Antarctic the southern-most Mount Everst. That may not be low as -91° C (-132° F) in July and coldest continent on earth so impressive if we consider 18,1997, which is colder than registers regularly around -30° that, 90% of world's ice is C to -60° C.

But, in December 2005, that much more impressive is the record has been usurped from new record set in Bangladesh, the Russians or the Antarctic, where the Ashulia Lake, near and Bangladesh has registered Fantasy Kingdom has the ever lowest temperature on measured an ice covering 5 km record. Shortly after the launch (3.2 miles) thick. of 7up Ice in Bangladesh the temperature dropped below -95° C (-140.6° F). A Pan Bangladesh Cold Wave Investigations (PBCWI) station is being prepared to examine the phenomenon.

Thickest Ice

The thickest ice-pack on earth in the past has been measured in Eastern Antarctic, 320 km inlands from the shore of

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stored in the Antarctic. What is