

# PM sings success

FROM PAGE 1

Abdur Rahman, the prime minister said what Bangladesh did today with its merit, labour, courage and honesty, many rich and powerful countries of the world couldn't.

"Many militants of such stature like Shaekh Rahman still remain out of touch abroad, but security forces of Bangladesh have caught the kingpin of bomb terrorism," she said.

The prime minister observed that militant movement in international arena is not a new phenomenon, but its extreme manifestation happened through 9/11 in America. This movement has become a national problem for some countries, but an international problem for the world community.

She mentioned that such terrorism first raised its ugly head through bomb attack on Udichi function about 10 years ago. Later, it took a violent turn and even shrines, mosques, churches, public meetings, cultural and religious functions, offices and courts were not safe.

She said the August 17 serial blasts in 63 districts put people into constant fear. "The terrors targeted courts and administrative buildings."

Recalling her pre-election pledge in 2001 to root out terrorism from the country, Khaleda said although the coalition government in the last four years achieved success in improving overall law and order situation, but it was in fear about any bomb attack at anyplace at anytime.

She said it was the greatest challenge for the government to protect the people from such suicide attacks. Therefore, the government deployed all its strengths in tracking down suicide terrors and identifying the misguided people who involved themselves in terrorist activities in the name of religion.

"I firmly believe that the arrest of Abdur Rahman will be marked as an epoch-making good event in the history of Bangladesh," the prime minister said.

She, on behalf of the countrymen, extended her sincere thanks and gratitude to the members of the

law-enforcement agencies for achieving such highest success in curbing terrorism, recognising them as undaunted heroes.

"Today, we have proved how violence and crisis could be combated," she said, adding: "We have already removed the social terrorism and we have made substantial progress in fighting against political and religious terrorism."

The prime minister was all praise for the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), assuring the nation that Rab has become a trusted institution comprising police and armed forces in providing security for the people.

"But, unfortunately, a certain quarter is always critical of using the members of the armed forces at the time of vital national necessity."

Earlier on the day, the prime minister addressed a rally at Jatata High School ground at Dharmapasha in Sunamganj district.

At the rally, she declared that Bangladesh is now a terror-free country with the arrest of what she called a top-most terrorist and bomber.

The prime minister said a few people of Bangladesh started terrorism in the name of Islam. They are the enemies of religion, Islam, nation, democracy and development.

"They misled the people and worked against Islam," she said, adding that people, including ulema, opposed their activities.

Congratulating cross-sections of people, political parties and professional groups on their assisting the government in rooting out terrors, Khaleda said 'only a political party' did not cooperate since they wanted 'anarchic situation and patronised the terrorists'.

"People in Bangladesh are for peace, but they are for chaos; they want indiscipline," she told the rally.

## Tigers caught

FROM PAGE 20

reached a milestone as he became the first ever bowler who bag 1000 international wickets after dismissing Bangladesh wicketkeeper Khaled Mashud.

Muralidaran's 6-54 helped the tourists wrap up Bangladesh's second innings for 181 and make the off-spinner's hundredth Test a memorable one-tha nine-wicket haul.

Sri Lanka, who need further 138 runs to win, reached 25 without loss before bad light stopped the day's action with 7.3 overs reaming.

Bangladesh got off to a bright start when Shahadat Hossain dashed the visiting team's hope of taking a handsome first-innings lead as the Narayanganj quick removed danger man Thilan Samaraweera (58) in the fifth over.

Javed Omar flew back to take a spectacular catch wide of square leg, inspiring the young paceman pick up two more wickets to finish with 4-83, his best in Test cricket after taking 4-108 against the same opponents in September last year. His efforts helped the Tigers book Sri Lanka for 338 after resuming on 313-6.

Trailing by 19 runs, Bangladesh openers Javed and Nafees Iqbal looked set to keep the pressure on the opponents but Dilhara Fernando removed both of the batsmen to reduce Bangladesh to 56-2.

Captain Habibul Bashar failed to serve in crisis as he was trapped lbw by leg-spinner Malinga Bandara in similar fashion to the first innings.

Muralidaran soon began the carnage taking a sweet revenge against Mohammad Ashrafu, who was spectacularly caught by Upul Tharanga at forward short leg. Ashrafu, who made a magnificent century in the first innings, was dismissed for one.

Mashud joined Shahriar Nafees to repair the damage but a controversial decision by Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf ended the 59-run fifth wicket stand.

Bangladesh managed to put on a decent total in the end, thanks to a quickfire 49-ball 40 by Mohammad Rafique, who smote two big sixes off Muralidaran.