

## 2 gunned down in city gang violence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed assailants gunned down two rickshaw passengers in front of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Bhaban at Agargaon last night.

Of the dead, Rezaul Karim, 40, was a businessman from Daulatpur in Khulna. The other victim was Anwar alias Mintu, 33, but his identity could not be established immediately.

Police said an armed gang on motorcycles went to the scene at about 8:30pm and killed the victims,

who were going to Mirpur-10 on a rickshaw, in a burst of staccato gunfire.

Mohammadpur police retrieved their bodies from behind the IDB Bhaban at around 9:00pm and sent them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

Bullets hit Rezaul in the thighs and Anwar in the right hand and ribs.

Rezaul's relatives said he ran

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Adamjee machines to be removed in 4 months

STAR REPORT

The jute ministry was instructed yesterday to vacate within four months all fixed assets of the Adamjee Jute Mills to expedite conversion of the area into a new industrial zone.

A committee formed to study utilisation of the 294 acres of land of

the jute mills -- shut down in June 2002 -- at a meeting gave the jute ministry a set of instructions to achieve it.

Agriculture Minister MK Anwar chaired the committee's debut meeting at his ministry.

The meeting decided that within the next 15 days the jute ministry

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8



Bangladesh Chhatra League workers protest Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to Dhaka University yesterday by covering their faces with black cloths in front of Aparajeyo Bangla.

## AL calls hartal for Jan 3

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) has called a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal on January 3 to protest what it said was infringement on democratic and political rights of the opposition and killing of its leaders and activists by ruling alliance loyalists.

The decision to enforce the 6:00am to 6:00pm shutdown was taken at an emergency meeting of the AL presidium yesterday at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Outlaw top boss held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Second-in-command of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) Paresh Mondol alias Kuddus alias Makhon along with six others was arrested by the joint forces yesterday.

Paresh, 40, an accused in 50 cases including 12 for murders, and the others were nabbed in Satkhira town when they were on way to India in a microbus, police said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## \$84m gap in BB-BoI FDI records

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has asked the Board of Investment (BoI) to share FDI (foreign direct investment) information before publication following gross inconsistencies in FDI reporting by the two organi-

sations.

The central bank, which posted a \$204.1 million FDI during the January-June period, is currently scrutinising a BoI survey that reported a \$287.67 million FDI during the same period, represent-

ing a gross discrepancy of \$83.6 million between the two figures.

According to the BB statistics, the country received \$97.3 million in equity in the first six months of 2003.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia poses for photograph with gold medal winners of Shushikha Barsha (good education year) 2003 at Teachers-Students Centre at Dhaka University yesterday.

## DU students protest PM's visit

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different Dhaka University student organisations demonstrated yesterday on the campus protesting Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit there while Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, rallied to welcome her at the university.

Thousands of JCD activists and leaders gathered on the campus early in the morning and later brought out a procession.

The prime minister handed over gold medals to outstanding students of the university at an award-giving ceremony held at the Teachers' Centre

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## US raises terror alert to high

REUTERS, Washington

The US government raised its terror alert to the second highest level Sunday and warned Americans there was a high risk militants might launch attacks around the holidays in the United States that could be bigger than those of Sept. 11, 2001.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said threat indicators are "perhaps greater now than at any point" since the 2001 attacks and promised that all federal departments and agencies would increase their defenses against what he called "al-Qaeda's continued desire to carry out attacks

against our homeland."

The warning came despite White House assurances that many of al-Qaeda's operations had been disrupted and that the occupation of Iraq was making the world safer.

Ridge said al-Qaeda might try to use aircraft in new attacks -- as Osama bin Laden's global network of militants did to strike the World Trade Center and the Pentagon more than two years ago, killing nearly 3,000 people.

US officials attributed the warning to "credible sources," and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## NOAKHALI AL COUNCIL

## 35 activists hurt in bomb attack

UNB, Noakhali

At least 35 activists of the Awami League (AL) were injured in a bomb attack on the council venue of the party's Begumganj unit yesterday.

Witnesses and hospital sources said seven to eight bombs were hurled at the Awami League supporters at about 11:00am.

Nine of the injured were admitted to Noakhali General Hospital and the upazila health complex, while the rest were released after first aid.

However, the party council continued despite the attack and a new committee was formed with Jafrullah and Mamunur Rashid as president and general secretary.

Awami League presidium member Tofail Ahmed was present at the council as chief guest, while central committee Joint Secretary Obaidul Qader was there as special guest.

Local Awami League blamed the activists of the ruling coalition for the bomb attack.

## Libya seeks ties with US

### Faces early nuke checks

BBC/AP from Cairo

Libya hopes to reopen relations with the West and gain lucrative oil contracts blocked by US sanctions as well as reap other economic benefits by abolishing weapons of mass destruction.

Under the surprise disarmament agreement by Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, Tripoli will

open its nuclear activities to spot inspections by the UN watchdog agency, a diplomat said Sunday. Libya believes that decision, made Saturday as a Libyan delegation met with International Atomic Energy Agency director general Mohamed ElBaradei, will return the country to the good graces of the international community.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Rejoinder, our reply

The finance ministry in a rejoinder on The Daily Star report headlined, "IMF suspends anti-poverty loan tranche" on December 22 termed the report incorrect.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Prayer Timings		
December 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-40	4-00
Maghrib	5-23	5-28
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation