

## inside BUSINESS PAGE

### Remittance up 34.83pc

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Despite global economic recession, the inflow of remittance continued to show upward trend in the first quarter of this fiscal.

The amount of remittance totalled 732.07 million US dollars during the first three months of fiscal year 2002-03, which is 34.83 per cent more than last year's figure. During the first quarter of the last fiscal, the amount was 542.92 million US dollars.....SEE PAGE 17

### FBCI task force for BTRC reconstitution

#### STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The FBCI task force on information and communication technology (ICT) policy of Bangladesh has recommended reconstitution of the Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The task force has recommended that the BTRC should be reconstituted with equal representation from both the private and public sectors. ....SEE PAGE 17

## CU besieged

#### CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong University (CU) is in a standstill due to an indefinite siege enforced simultaneously by the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the students of the Institute of Marine Science (IMS) of the university.

Yesterday, the third consecutive day of the siege programme, no classes were held. Student turnout was very poor.

Though the shuttle trains of the university moved between town and the campus, no buses plied between university gate No. 1 and railway station.

The BCL enforced the indefinite siege programme on the campus from Monday protesting the attack and injury of one of its leaders by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres on Sunday on the campus.

Saiful Mahmud Sohad, assistant general secretary of BCL CU unit was assaulted by some of the ICS cadres on Sunday on the campus.

On the other hand, the agitated students of the IMS called an indefinite siege programme on the campus protesting the police attack on the institute students which left 20 students injured.

Police clubbed and dispersed about a hundred students of the institute when they sat on the Dhaka-Chittagong rail line at the city's Battali railway station to observe the programme on Monday morning.

The CU IMS students observed the token blockade protesting an announcement of the Public Service Commission (PSC) barring the institute students from appearing in the upcoming Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations under the fisheries cadre.

## School girl commits 'suicide'

BSS, Dhaka

A teenage girl, Rumana Islam Nishi, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan at her Azimpur residence under Lalbagh thana yesterday.

Rumana, 14, daughter of Monwara Begum and a student of class seven of University Laboratory School, allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan by using her own scarf at her Azimpur Colony residence yesterday noon.

Police recovered the body but reasons behind the suicide could not be known immediately.

An UD case was lodged with Lalbagh thana in this connection.

# Ditch home minister

## Disgruntled DCC commissioners tell mayor

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the killing of two ward commissioner in less than 48 hours, ward commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at a meeting with Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday demanded removal of the home minister for his ministry's failure to maintain law and order in the capital.

"Our brothers are being killed everyday, sisters widowed, but there is no government initiative to put a stop to this," said one woman ward commissioner.

Commissioners have virtually become unwanted, she added and sought an effective measure to stop them from being killed.

Most of the ward commissioners said the Dhaka Metropolitan Police has miserably failed to maintain law and order in the capital and so the DCC should take care of it.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury and State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, who went to the Nagar Bhaban later to attend a meeting on the law and order prior to Durga Puja, preferred not to comment on the failure of their ministry.

The mayor and ward commissioners asked the government to take the necessary measure to bring the killers of slain ward commissioners to book in three months. Otherwise, they threatened to stop all sorts of development activities in the capital and launch a massive street agitation.

They also asked for immediate

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PHOTO: STAR

A ward commissioner escorted by police leaves the mayor's office after yesterday's meeting. The government asked the commissioners to take security measures following the recent killings.

# Raju murder JCD men crowd accused list

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve people, 11 of them leaders and activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the other a Jatiya Party (JP) leader, were accused in a murder case yesterday in connection with the killing of ward commissioner KM Ahmed Raju in the city on Tuesday.

The case was filed with the Mohammadpur Police Station at 3:30am yesterday by KM Khorshed Ali, brother of the slain commissioner of ward No. 44 of the Dhaka City Corporation.

The accused are Sohel, JCD convenor of Mohammadpur thana unit, Fahim and Dipu -- both younger brothers of Picchi Helal, Milan, nephew of a city police official, Killer NI, GS Topu, Hanif, Faruq, Killer Mahbab, Hafiz, Nurul Islam and Shafiqul Islam Shentu, a Jatiya Party (JP) leader and Raju's rival candidate during the last ward commissioner election.

None of the accused was arrested till 10:00 last night.

Police are currently interrogating 28 people placed on a two-day remand on Wednesday for their suspected involvement in the ward commissioner's murder.

Meanwhile, the murder case was handed over to the Detective Branch (DB) of Police yesterday.

The first information report (FIR) of the case states that the murder was political. It said a bitter political rivalry developed between Raju and his rival Shentu over the ward commissioner election and that

several leaders and activists of BNP had also gone against Raju for some of his political initiatives.

Unidentified gunmen shot and fatally wounded Raju and Sanaulah Haq Nuri, acting general secretary of ward 46 in front of the ward commissioner's office at Mohammadpur Town Hall on Tuesday morning.

Nuri died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) shortly after the incident while Raju succumbed to his injuries in the evening at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

Meanwhile, detective police yesterday took Picchi Helal on a five-day remand in connection with a murder case. Sources said he is likely to be quizzed to find out whether he or gangsters loyal to him had anything to do with Raju's killing.

Sources said Raju had a good relationship with Picchi Helal and was implicated in a murder case in October 1997. However, the two became rivals as Raju tried to get better of Picchi Helal.

They said Raju had a hand in the arrest of Helal. Gangsters loyal to Picchi Helal became cornered following the arrest. Helal soon found himself on the list of 23 most wanted criminals in the city. Meanwhile, Raju came closer to the mayor, which allowed him to exert more power and reign supreme in his area. His rivals were looking to strike back at him and they eventually became successful on Tuesday.

# Satkhira blast DB takes up case

#### OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The detective branch (DB) of police has taken over the investigation into cases of the twin bomb blasts in Satkhira town.

DB Inspector Golam Sarwar Bhuiyan has started investigating the cases filed in connection with the bomb explosions at Roxy cinema and at a circus event in Satkhira stadium on September 28 within a span of five minutes.

Meantime, ward commissioner Mominullah Mohon, who was arrested on October 1 in this connection and subsequently remanded in police custody for three days, was placed on a fresh remand for five days on expiry of the earlier remand yesterday.

Ward commissioners at a meeting yesterday presided over by the Pourashabha chairman Sheikh Ashrafu Huj condemned the arrest of ward commissioner Mominullah Mohon.

# Zookeeper's death Probe report tomorrow

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-member committee investigating the death of zoo-keeper Ismail Hossain Howladar at the Dhaka Zoo is likely to submit its report on Saturday.

The committee's finds based on relevant documents will focus on why the zoo authorities did not take emergency measures to save the zookeeper, sources said.

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# Criminal commissioners Police apathy leads to bloodletting

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police kept their eyes shut to the 'listed and identified' criminals who took part in the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) elections, and the result is the recent killings of ward commissioners.

The press extensively reported that top criminals had won the elections, some of them with BNP tickets. Some 72 criminals filed nomination papers for the DCC polls. Of them, 25 are top criminals and four among the most-wanted 23 criminals of the city. Thirty-two of them won the elections.

When the criminal candidates submitted their nomination papers at the deputy commissioner's office, police remained inactive.

The inspector general of police (IGP) on several occasions told the press that the criminals would be nabbed whenever found. But it remained as a promise only.

As police remained indifferent towards the criminal candidates, violence increased in the city ahead of the elections. Several ward commissioner candidates were gunned down or injured in attacks by their rivals.

It was then feared that law and order would deteriorate if these criminal candidates came out winners. And yet, no tough measure was taken against them.

Paramilitary BDR and special police forces were deployed in the city to improve the law and order, but they also proved futile.

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# Security scurry for Durga Puja

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is to provide special security for the peaceful observation of Durga Puja.

Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka and Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury disclosed this at a meeting with the leaders of Puja Ujjapan Parishad (observation committee) yesterday.

The mayor said both patrol and plainclothes police would be deployed at the mondir and adjacent areas during the Puja.

He said that the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) would arrange the lighting facility at the place of immersion of the deity, repair the Ghats, provide sufficient water at mondirds and would take necessary steps for the removal of garbage during the Puja.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain sought cooperation of the leaders of Puja Committee so that miscreants could not use their political advantages.

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# Waste recycling plants remain in backburner

#### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Successive governments have absolutely failed to implement recycling projects for several thousand tons of solid waste due to lack of prompt initiatives.

At least half a dozen initiatives about waste recycling projects have been shelved over the years, sources said.

Although the power cell of the energy ministry has recently moved to initiate a waste-to-power project, the move has created suspicion, as previous experience about such projects was pessimistic.

In fact, the Dhaka City

Corporation (DCC) has hardly taken any initiative for recycling waste, which could earn revenues. According to the Conservancy Department of the DCC, about 5,000 tons of solid wastes are generated every day.

The sources also said the DCC had earlier taken a waste-to-power project to produce power from the waste but the project hangs in the balance due to fund crisis.

Initiating a waste-to-power project, the DCC carried out a feasibility study in 2000 and made a plan. The study jointly conducted by the DCC and the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA), clearly recommended that the government take necessary initiatives about power generation, the DCC sources said.

On the basis of the feasibility study, the DCC had taken an initiative and was expecting to sign a memorandum of understanding with a Canadian firm for power generation in 2000.

Yet, due to failures of the DCC and the government the project has been stranded, said the sources.

"Lack of policy-level interest towards the project, is the reason why it is being delayed," said a senior DCC official preferring anonymity.

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PHOTO: PID

South African batsman Jacques Kallis (R) tries to send a delivery down the fine leg as Bangladesh wicketkeeper captain Khaled Mashud looks on during the one-day international match at the Northwest cricket stadium in Potchefstroom yesterday.

# Rickshaws to be reined in from Jan 1

#### UNB, Dhaka

Restriction on movement of rickshaws and rickshaw-vans on different city streets will be imposed from Jan 1, 2003 to ease the city's traffic congestion.

Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda said this at a meeting with the representatives of Rickshaw and Rickshaw-van Owners and Workers' Association here yesterday.

"Discipline will be restored in movement of rickshaws and rickshaw-vans in the city after implementation of the decision," he told the meeting.

The meeting on introduction of long-term strategies to restore discipline on plying of rickshaws and rickshaw-vans to ease the city's traffic jam was held at the ministry's conference room.

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## Dhaka Bank

Progoti Insurance