



General Secretary of the Awami League Abdul Jalil, left, shakes hands with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at the close of the National Policy Review Forum 2003, organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo, at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. Dhaka Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, third from left, speaks as chief guest at a working session at CIRDA. PHOTO: STAR

Gas supply improves as Sangu field resumes production

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Energy supply situation in Chittagong improved with the resumption of gas production at offshore Sangu field yesterday noon. The gas-fired power and fertiliser units in Chittagong, which were shut down on Wednesday evening following suspension of Sangu gas production, started working slowly. Technicians of Shell Oil, the Anglo-Dutch operator of the gas field, restored normal 'hydraulic level' in the gas production wells through some primary repairs. But Shell reported to Petrobangla that the exact nature of the problem was yet to be determined. The Power Development Board (PDB) and Petrobangla sources said the power and gas demand was lower across the country yesterday and it would remain the same today. The peak gas demand in recent times soared as high as 1,275 million cubic feet per day (mcf) against the Petrobangla capacity of 1,250 mcf. When Sangu was shut down, there was a gas supply shortfall of 160 mcf. As Sangu's gas was meant for the Chittagong region, it suffered heavily yesterday. Meanwhile, the PDB was bracing for another crisis last night as the 450 MW Meghnaghat Power Plant needed to be shut for emergency maintenance. "The plant's cooling water pump went out of order and it needs immediate attention," said a PDB official. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 7**

BNP, AL stalwarts offer to toss criminals out of party

Thugs are liabilities, not assets, Bhuiyan and Jalil agree at the National Policy Review Forum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The second-in-commands of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the main opposition Awami League (AL) yesterday expressed their willingness to rid their parties of criminal godfathers. Secretary General of BNP Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and General Secretary of the AL Md Abdul Jalil offered to discard criminals amidst huge applause at the closing ceremony of the three-day National Policy Review Forum 2003 at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. The two stalwarts also declared that the godfathers would not be allowed to get back in the party fold once expelled. The Forum, co-organised by the

CPD
Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo, was presided over by CPD Chairman Prof. Rehman Sobhan. CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, the Prothom Alo Editor Motiur Rahman and The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam delivered separate statements. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 1**

Khoka for special cops to fight encroachers
Illegal billboards to go by June
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka yesterday demanded a special police force under the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to fight encroachment on open spaces and illegal occupation of sidewalks. "The police (DMP) are not enough to protect open spaces and free footpaths and city streets of hawkers, s... **SEE PAGE 11 COL 4**

Corruption eating into education
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Corruption and lack of efficiency are the two major weaknesses in the education sector responsible for deterioration of education quality, speakers at a discussion said yesterday. They also called for a political consensus and a holistic approach for improvement of education quality. Terming the present allocation for education inadequate, they demanded an increase by five per cent of GDP. The speakers were giving their observation on a task force report on Education Policy. The report is a part of **SEE PAGE 11 COL 3**

5 robbers killed, 6 cops hurt in Hatia gunfight

UNB, Dhaka
Five robbers were killed and six policemen injured in a gunfight at Boyarchar in Hatia upazila yesterday. Police lost a rifle with five bullets during the fight that erupted at about 9am. On a tip-off that the criminals of Suleman 'Bahini' plundering and setting houses on fire, a nine-member police team led by Sub-inspector Osman Gani went to the village. But the bandits surrounded **SEE PAGE 11 COL 8**

Cop-criminal connection

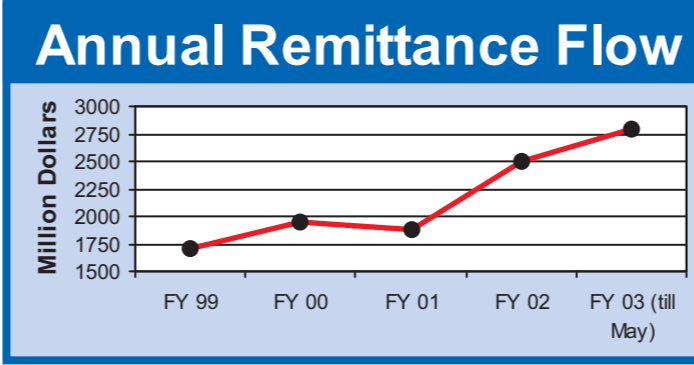
'Pichchi' Hannan got alert call before raid
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
'Pichchi' Hannan received an alert call on his cell phone from a member of law-enforcers minutes before police team raided an under-construction building at Agargaon where the notorious criminal was holding a meeting with his associates Tuesday. "Hannan indeed received a call minutes before the raid. We came to know about it while checking the caller's list on the mobile phones we recovered," said a police source yesterday preferring anonymity. Hannan and his deputy, Nitel, left two cellular phones while turning tail after a 20-minute shootout that left Sub Inspector (SI) Humayun Kabir dead. Police confirmed recovery of the cell phones but refused to say anything on record about the caller's identity. "We are still trying to identify the caller," said investigation officer (IO) SI Kanchan Kumar Roy when approached. SI Kanchan Kumar Roy however said they found out the identity of the owners of the car and motor-bike left on the spot. But he declined to disclose their names for the sake of investigation. He also did not confirm whether the criminals were using stolen car. Police are yet to make any progress in arresting the absconders that also include Sanga Babu and Nitel. A police team including the assistant commissioner and officer in charge of the Mirpur Police Station raided in vain the residence of Nitel's sister at South Paikpara on Wednesday night. They were informed by a source that Nitel, who is believed to have received bullet during the firefight, was hiding there. SI Kanchan is interrogating the two criminals, Masum and Ainul, who failed to escape. He said he already got some important information about the gang while quizzing the two arrestees, now on a five-day remand. "After we're done with them, we will raid some other places in the city tonight to nab absconders," he told The Daily Star last evening.

BREAKING NEWS
Probe report no longer secret. Be the first to read it.
Bangladesh Cricket Board President Ali Asghar had formed a two-member inquiry committee on March 19 to unearth the reason(s) behind the country's disastrous World Cup campaign in South Africa. Recently, The Daily Star Sport managed to obtain a copy of that top-secret 31-page report which is being published, excluding its recommendations, on page 15.

Give up offensive, Khaleda asks AL
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the main opposition party, the Awami League, to put an end to 'offensive political behaviour'. "You lost power and became detached from the people for creating disorder and if you still continue the practice, you will no more be in the opposition (in parliament)," she said. Khaleda, who is also the chairperson of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), said that the AL did not work for the country's development **SEE PAGE 11 COL 4**

Remittance flow clocks new record

MONJUR MAHMUD
Remittance inflow hit a new high as \$2,787.17 million poured in during the first 11 months of the current fiscal year. In May alone, \$256.36 million was received, which pushed the total figure beyond last fiscal's total amount of \$2,501.13 million, official sources said. "We expect around \$3 billion in remittance this fiscal. In June, the last month of the fiscal, we expect another \$250 million," said a Bangladesh Bank official. The increase in remittance inflow also bolstered foreign exchange reserves, which stood at \$190.40 billion yesterday. During July-May period of this fiscal, remittance inflow was \$518 million higher than that of last fiscal's same period. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 6**



Ten get lifeterm for murder in Barisal
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal
The Speedy Trial Tribunal of Barisal convicted 10 persons yesterday in the sensational Faruk murder case of Nalchity upazila under Jhalokathi district. Judge Abdul Kuddus Mia sentenced each to life imprisonment and fined Tk 10,000 in default to suffer rigorous imprisonment for one year more. The convicted are Abdul Jalil Howladar, Hablib Howladar, Jabbar Howladar, Shouaaf Howladar, Majid Howladar, Rafik Molla, Harun Molla, Majid Molla, Shahid Howladar and Jalal Howladar. **SEE PAGE 11 COL 8**

Notice
Flip through Page 8 for reports on the final working sessions of the National Policy Review Forum 2003, co-organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, and Page 16 for news.