

## Dravid on top of the world

**REUTERS, London**  
India batsman Rahul Dravid was named World Player of the Year at the inaugural International Cricket Council (ICC) Awards on Tuesday. He was chosen by a 50-strong panel of former cricketers, national captains, umpires and referees. "It is quite unbelievable, I am

# PM assures recruitment of 35,000 pry teachers

### Opens Tk 5,000cr education development plan

**UNB, Dhaka**

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said education is not only an effective weapon to alleviate poverty and attain social development but also the guarantee of safeguarding democracy. The prime minister was speaking at a function organised in observance of the International Literacy Day 2004 and for the launch of a Tk 5,000 crore Second Primary Education Development Program (PEDP-II) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre yesterday. About 35,000 qualified teachers will be recruited and 30,000 new classrooms built under the PEDP-II to be implemented over a period of

six years from 2004. The main objective of the programme, designed by the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education, is to ensure quality of primary education for all children in Bangladesh. According to the financial planning, the government will provide the major portion of nearly 64 per cent while the rest will be provided by other co-financiers, including the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, DFID, European Commission, the Netherlands, Norad, Sida, Cida, Jica, Australian government and Unicef. The PEDP-II was conceptualised meeting the key objectives within the framework of the National Plan of Action for "Education for All-

2002-2015", Millennium Goals and the Poverty Reduction Strategy in line with good governance. Speaking at the function, the prime minister expressed her belief that the PEDP-II would have immense and far-reaching contribution to the expansion and improvement of the standard of primary education in the country. She urged all to work together to ensure education for all. The prime minister also mentioned the formation of the Primary and Mass Education Division in 1992 which the BNP-led four-party alliance government upgraded to a full-fledged ministry. She said the government has taken up a new project called

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## Opposition to announce next agitation plans tomorrow

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The mainstream opposition parties will declare the next agitation programmes tomorrow putting emphasis on mass mobilisation for the one-point oust government movement, as their nine-day programme expires today. Senior leaders of the Awami League (AL), left-leaning 11-party alliance and Jatiya Samjantrik Dal (JSD) are likely to sit today or tomorrow to finalise the next course of action. A nationwide down-to-dusk hartal may be called in this month, sources said. Earlier, the 11-party alliance refrained from declaring simultaneous agitation programmes. The AL, Workers Party (WP) of the left alliance and JSD observed the nine days of agitation. However, the 11-party at a meeting Tuesday agreed in principle to launch simultaneous

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, right, speaks at the function organised to mark International Literacy Day and launch a Tk 5,000-crore Second Primary Education Development Programme in city yesterday.

## JUDICIAL COMMISSION

### Zillur gives deposition

**BSS, Dhaka**

Elderly Awami League (AL) leader Zillur Rahman MP yesterday gave his deposition to the one-member Judicial Commission on the August 21 grenade attacks on AL rally. The Judicial Commission recorded the deposition of Zillur Rahman at his Ivy Tower residence, Gulshan, in the morning. Justice Joydul Abedin, chairman of the commission, said the AL leader has given deposition through affidavit and later signed the written statement. He, however, declined to say anything about the statement. Talking to the BSS Zillur Rahman said, "I have told the commission that my testimony would bring no benefit to it, as I have seen nothing from where the grenades were thrown, from above or down and who had thrown." "I along with Ivy went to the Awami League office from our residence on August 21," Zillur, who

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Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil speaks at a public meeting in the city organised by all front organisations of the main opposition party protesting the August 21 grenade attack on its rally on Bangabandhu Avenue.

## Bomb spree leads to stricter watch on Secretariat

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

In the wake of mushrooming incidents of violence and bomb explosions, the government has decided to hike up security measures at the Secretariat by using modern electronic surveillance equipment. A network of close-circuit (CC) television cameras would soon be installed to watch and detect suspicious elements in the Secretariat round the clock under a centrally run surveillance system. State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar told The Daily Star yesterday. Metal detector gates and CC TV cameras have already been set up at the main entrance to the country's administrative headquarters, besides deployment of extra police personnel, he added. A mirror metal detector is also being used to check

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## Unlawful recruitment bid at RU draws flak

**ANWAR ALI and ABU KALAM, Rajshahi**

The Rajshahi University (RU) authorities have initiated a process to recruit 10 teachers for the Computer Science and Technology (CST) department allegedly resorting to forgery and without approval of the CST Department Planning Committee (CSTPC), causing an outcry among the faculty members. Talking to newsmen yesterday four of the five members of the CSTPC protested the move terming it unnecessary and irregular and blamed the department Chairman Khwaza Zakaria Chisti for the scheming. They said they would complain to the vice chancellor and launch a movement subsequently demanding cancellation of the recruitment process. The four CSTPC members -- AKM Akhtar Hossain, Somlal Das, M Nazmul Huda and M Abdul Alim --

on September 5 also had submitted a written complaint to the RU registrar seeking immediate action to stop the recruitment. If the recruitment were done, it would intensify the hostility among teachers of the department, a senior CSTPC member, Akhtar Hossain, told The Daily Star yesterday, as "Fresh recruitment will negate the seniority of some teachers appointed on a temporary basis three years ago. Besides, it will also breach the authority of the planning committee," Hossain explained. Sources said the CSTPC in its August-2 meeting decided not to recruit any more teachers before regularising the services of 13 teachers who have been working for the last three years on a temporary basis. But, Chisti, the fifth member of the CSTPC, differed with the decision and in a letter falsely informed

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## NIKUNJA BIHARI KILLING HC upholds death term to two

**UNB, Dhaka**

The High Court yesterday confirmed the death sentence of Gaus Miah alias Rana and Ramzan awarded by the lower court for murder of Nikunja Bihari Debnath, joint secretary of the government, in January 2000. Death sentence of two others, Deen-e-Islam and Shahinor, was commuted to life imprisonment. The vacation bench comprising Justice AK Badrul Huq and Justice Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan upheld the life imprisonment of accused Shukur Ali and acquitted three others Mujibur, Mahinur and Morshed. Nikunja, joint secretary of the Establishment Division, was stabbed to death by the accused near Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University at 6:30am on January 11, 2000, while he was returning to his Azimpur government staff quarters by a rickshaw from Kamalapur Railway station.

## Govt to recruit over 4,000 new cops

**Rab men's basic pay to be doubled**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Over four thousand new policemen and police-women may be added to the force, and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) members may have their basic pay doubled as part of a government initiative to improve law and order. In a proposal sent to the finance ministry for approval last week, the home ministry also asked for Tk 5 lakh in compensation to the family of a police personnel killed on duty, instead of Tk 2 lakh at present. The home ministry proposes 4,132 new posts, including a new 1,594-member riot police department for Dhaka, a 869-member independent Highway Police, a

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## Mutilated Savar rape victim faces paralysis

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The condition of the housewife, reportedly gangraped and left on the leafy Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus on August 22 with her throat cut, is improving, but doctors fear her becoming partially paralysed. Dr Shafique Uddin Ahmed, head of the neurosurgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, yesterday told newsmen that she may survive but with lifelong paralysis. "As she was abandoned for four days on the open, her injuries were exposed to infection. Her spinal cord was cut off, which is most likely to cause paralysis," he said. The attackers are threatening the victim's husband with death for revealing their names. As she learnt about her condition, she said in a contemptuous

tone: "I don't want to live any more." Her mother on hearing the incident from her daughter described it once again to reporters, accusing two more attackers, Akash and Kabir. "My daughter went to visit a nearby zoo with one friend. She was returning alone along JU premises when Liton, her former colleague and a youth of the neighbourhood, asked her to meet another colleague Delwar," she said. Liton and Delwar with the two others waiting there gagged her mouth with her scarf and robbed her of gold ornaments and Tk 2,800 she received earlier in salary, she alleged. "You won't escape the aftermath, since I know you all," the woman

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## Businessman beaten dead, student buys freedom in Kushtia

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia**

A college student bought his freedom eight days into abduction and criminals beat a businessman to death in captivity in Kushtia on Tuesday, while an abducted Jhenidah farmer is still hostage to his captors. Abductors released Asaduzzaman Liton, 24, an Alamdanga Degree College student, Tuesday night on a ransom of Tk 60,000 from his family, sources said. Liton was found with his hands and legs tied and blindfolded from an isolated Durgapur field in Sadar upazila shortly before noon as the captors earlier gave them an

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# \$10m bounty offered for Chechen rebels

**Hostage video shocks Russia**

**AFP, Moscow**

Horrifying pictures of masked gunmen rigging a gym with explosives crammed with hundreds of terrified children sparked revulsion in Russia Wednesday as authorities put a 10 million-dollar reward on the heads of two top Chechen leaders. Russian television late Tuesday screened video footage of the scene inside the gym at the school in southern Beslan seized a week ago by gunmen demanding independence for Chechnya. "These are people are animals," Olga Beovayeva, a 60-year-old, said in Beslan after seeing the images on Russia's NTV television network, as the death toll from the bloody standoff climbed to 336. Russian authorities meanwhile announced they would pay a 300 million-ruble (10 million-dollar) reward for information leading to the "neutralization" of two top Chechen rebel leaders Chechen rebel leaders Aslan Maskhadov and Shamil Basayev. The airing of the video footage came hours after tens of thousands of people rallied on a square beside the Kremlin in a government-

approved demonstration against terror and in remembrance of the Beslan victims. The 87-second tape showed hundreds of school children, parents and teachers packed into North Ossetia school where they were seated on the gym floor in muted fear, many visibly sweating, as hostage-takers stood over them. The video showed home-made bombs suspended from wires that ran the length of the gymnasium attached to two basketball hoops. At one point a masked man holding an automatic rifle is seen pointing forcefully to an object under his foot that looked like a book but that had wires running to it. A television commentator said it was a mine. A young boy, hands on his head, cowered at the man's feet while in a darkened doorway a woman dressed all in black and wearing an explosive-packed suicide belt brandished a pistol. "Do not bring in the children here yet," one man was heard yelling in accented Russian as another continued to string up wires and rig explosives in the gym, stepping amid streaks of blood on the floor.

The video images sparked a fierce reaction among Russians and the mood across the country Wednesday, exactly a week after about 1,000 hostages were seized, was a mix of inconsolable grief and mounting rage. "You can never forget this," said one woman in Beslan who would give her name only as Lisa. "How can you forget this when so many children died this way? They will be in our memory for years." Russian news agencies meanwhile reported that the FSB security service had put up a huge reward for information Maskhadov and Basayev. Maskhadov served as president of Chechnya during a brief period of de facto independence in the second half of the 1990s, while Basayev is a noted rebel fighter who has claimed responsibility for many attacks against Russian troops. Officials have accused both men of involvement in the Beslan school hostage-taking. Through a spokesman however Maskhadov has denied any responsibility in the tragedy.

## Two to die for killing girl in Manikganj

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**

A Dhaka court yesterday handed down death sentence to two for killing a 15-year-old girl in Manikganj on June 6 last year. The convicts of Lipi Akhter murder case are Abdur Rahim, now behind bars, and Arshad Ali, tried in absentia. Judge AR Masud of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 also fined Rahim and Arshad Tk 1 lakh each and directed the collector (district magistrate of Manikganj) to realise the fine from them and hand that over to Lipi's father. The convicts can appeal to the High Court against the judgement in 30 days and the punishment of fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said. The court has acquitted six

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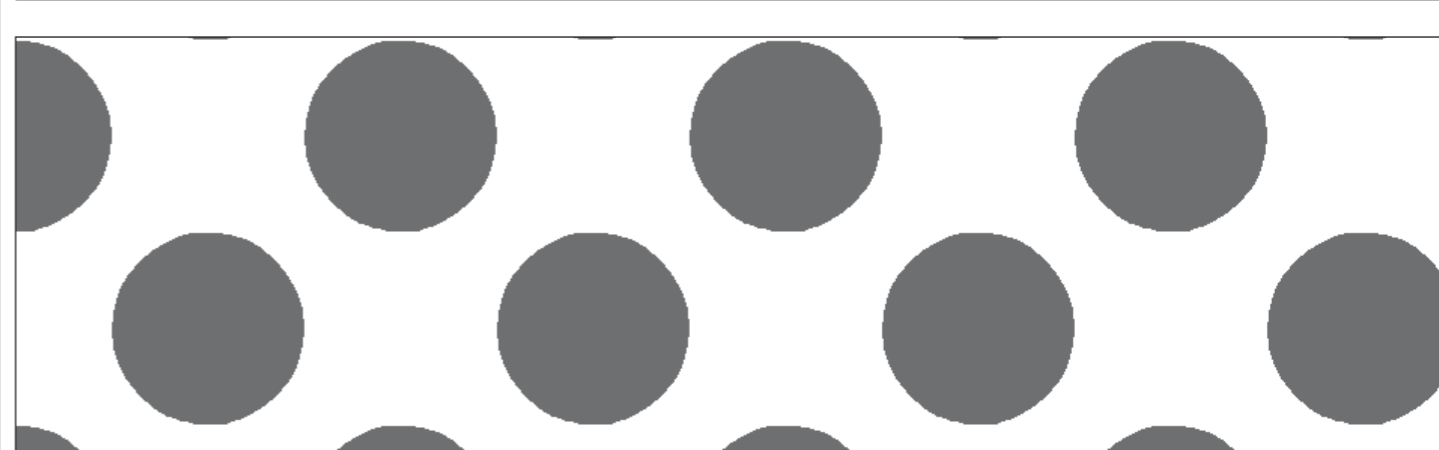
## North Pole 'was once subtropical'

**BBC ONLINE**

An international scientific team which has been drilling beneath the bed of the Arctic Ocean says it enjoyed a sub-tropical climate 55 million years ago. The Arctic Coring Expedition (Acex) has recovered sediment cores from nearly 400m (1,300ft) below the sea floor. It says fossilised algae in the cores show the sea temperature was once about 20C, instead of the average now, -1.5C. The expedition, which has relied on three icebreakers during its work, is now heading back to Tromso in Norway. The scientists, from eight nations, recovered the cores from below the sea floor in waters 1,300m (4,260ft) deep. Acex has been taking cores from

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The vast horizon of ice world was totally different 55 million years ago.



Prayer Timing		
September 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation