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# Taiwan targets \$3b investment in 6yrs

Investors say 8 companies ready to rush in

UNB, Dhaka

Taiwan eyes Bangladesh as a potential business destination with an investment target of \$3 billion for the next six years, a visiting Taiwanese delegation said here yesterday.

"Seven to eight companies are ready right at this moment for investment," leader of the delegation Chii-Ming Yin, also Taiwan's vice minister for economic affairs, told a press conference.

The delegation, drawn from 54 Taiwanese companies, arrived in Dhaka Sunday night on a three-day visit to explore trade and investment opportunities. They opened a two-day "Business Matching Meeting" at Sonargaon Hotel just before the press conference.

Yiin pointed out that the small group wants to invest rapidly, but their efforts would be a bit delayed for lack of readily available plots of land with ready utility facilities.

The plots in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) have already exhausted, they were

apprised.

Yiin, however, expected that they would be able to invest around \$100 million, mostly in textile sector, by the first quarter of 2005. He said their total investment target is \$1 billion by year 2007 and \$3 billion by 2010.

Taiwanese entrepreneurs have already invested \$100 million in the fiscal 2003-04, according to an unofficial account, which Board of Investment (BoI) records show as \$25 million.

"Investment depends on improved infrastructure and environment. More and more Taiwanese investors will come here for investment if these are ensured," the delegation leader told a questioner.

"Because," he added, "you have a very high productive people. They are friendly." He went on to praise the locals, saying that the delegation members feel more comfortable here than in India where they just concluded a visit.

"This is a very good time for Bangladesh to attract investment from Taiwan because mainland

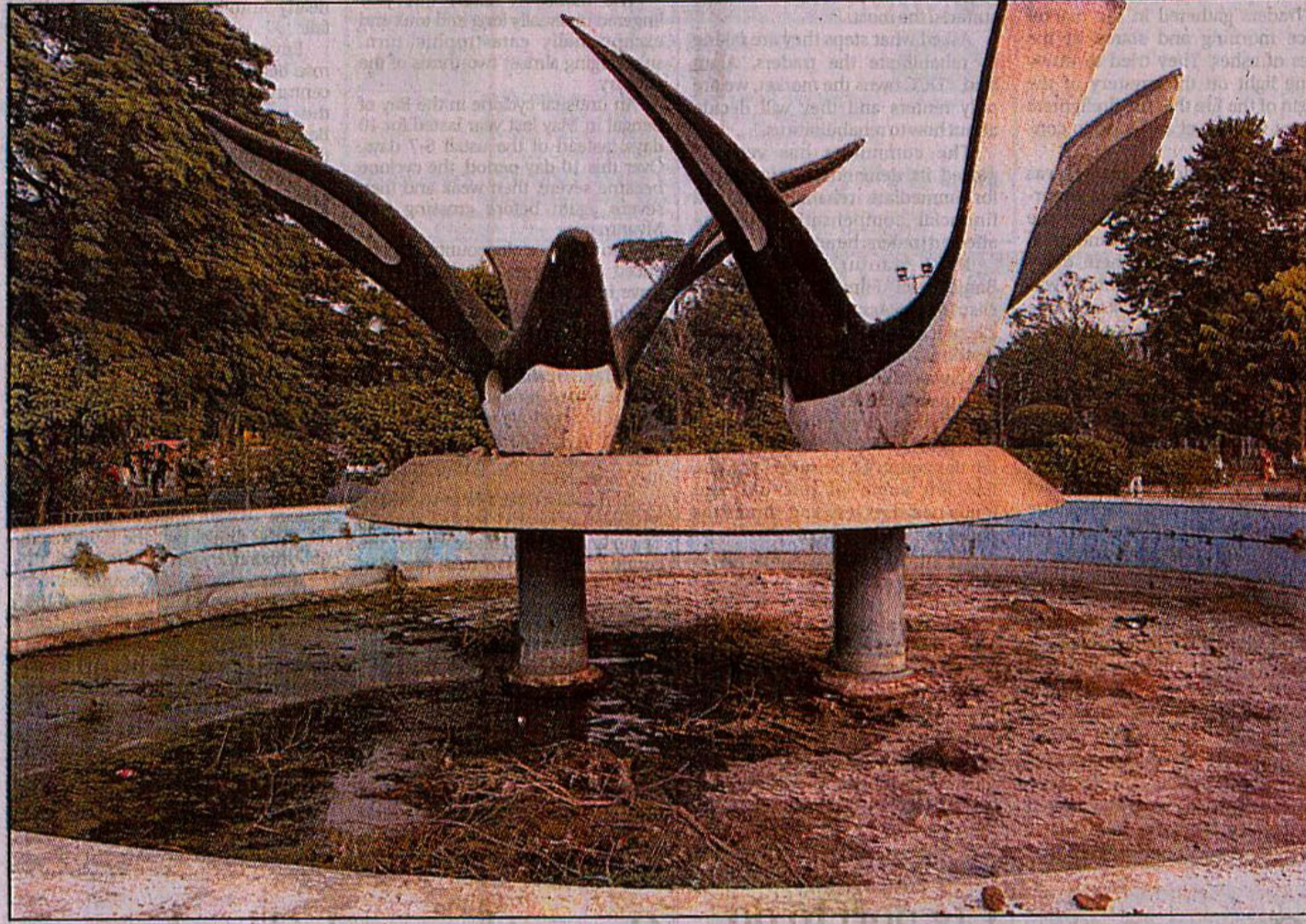
China is running with shortage of power and shortage of workforce," the Taiwanese minister told the reporters.

Besides Bangladesh's advantage in manpower, EPZ facilities and investment-friendly environment, the country has a very good advantage in terms of market access to the developed countries—a facility the investors would like very much.

He also cited an "aggressive policy" pursued by the Board of Investment, the official agency of Bangladesh for investment promotion.

Replying to another question, he said Taipei does not need to have any diplomatic relation to promote trade and investment in a country. "We don't have diplomatic relation with countries like Vietnam and Thailand, but we've a very good business with them. Business is business."

Addressing the press conference, Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) Chairman MA Awal said Taiwanese companies have several



When authorities are beautifying Dhaka and building new fountains in the city ahead of Saarc Summit slated for next January, old fountains like the one at Doyel Chattar are left to ruins.

# AL plans big for Dec 11 human wall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In parallel with the combined move of the opposition parties, Awami League (AL) is making preparation of its own to ensure huge participation in the December 11 no-confidence human wall stretching from Teknaf to Tetulia.

Central leaders of the AL will visit all the 18 districts and 48 upazilas that the human wall will touch. They will be stationed there at least four to

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# PM reiterates help to FFs

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday assured the freedom fighters and their families of doing whatever possible to resolve their problems despite limitations and resource constraints.

Addressing the gallantry award winner freedom fighters and their family members at the International Conference Centre (ICC), she said, "The whole nation will always remember with gratitude the freedom fighters for their role in the War

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# BNP leaders lobby to retract cancel order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top leaders of ruling BNP have started hectic lobbying for withdrawal of the government order cancelling recruitment of Class Three and four employees for district and lower administration.

The government Saturday cancelled ongoing recruitment of around 20,000 class three and four employees under district administration in the wake of widespread allegations of political influence, irregularities and corruption.

Highly placed sources said some top-ranking ruling party leaders cum cabinet ministers in the last two days tried to persuade the prime minister to revert the Saturday decision.

They said the senior and influential ministers took up the issue to the prime minister at repeated request of their cabinet colleagues, lawmakers and other party leaders.

Convinced by a quarter, the prime minister took the decision without consulting any of her policymakers, said a senior minister asking not to be identified.

Another minister termed it the government's most "unwise and wrong" decision in the past three years. He suspects its consequence would be dangerous if the cancellation is not withdrawn immediately.

Sources at the Prime Minister's Office said the senior ministers argued that the appointees might move against the BNP. It may also have a serious negative impact on the next general elections since lakhs of people are involved.

Some ministers said instead of wholesale cancellation, the government should take actions against those involved in the alleged corruption.

However, most of the leaders

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# Jailed husband of Benazir gets bail in all cases

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court has granted bail to the husband of former premier Benazir Bhutto and his release was imminent after eight years in jail, a defence lawyer said yesterday.

"The Supreme Court has ordered the release of Asif Zardari ... in a corruption case," his lawyer Farooq Naik told AFP.

Zardari, who has been in jail for

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# Nephew refuses to rule out Arafat poisoning

REUTERS, Paris

Yasser Arafat's nephew said yesterday that medical records released by France showed no trace of known poisons in the late Palestinian leader but the cause of death remained a mystery.

Nasser al-Kidwa, Palestinian envoy to the United Nations, said the 558-page medical report gave "no clear diagnosis" of what caused

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# EU agrees on military units for world crisis

AFP, Brussels

EU defence ministers agreed yesterday to create 13 so-called battle groups, military units which can be deployed rapidly to crisis situations around the world, the EU's Dutch presidency said.

The 1,500-strong tactical groups, which will put flesh on long-standing EU plans to have an independent military capacity, will be able to be deployed within 15 days.

One unit will be up and running by next year, while all of them should be operational by 2007.

"The European Union has entered a new stage in the process of strengthening military capabilities for crisis management," said the EU presidency in a statement at a meeting of EU defence ministers in Brussels.

"The battle groups are at the forefront of capability improvement, providing the Union with credible, rapidly deployable, coherent force packages capable of stand-

alone operations, for the initial phase of larger operations."

France, Italy, Spain and Britain have each agreed to form one unit, and all other EU states have agreed to contribute to at least one group, said Dutch Defence Minister Henk Kamp.

"It seems that we should be able to have enough battle groups to respect the targets we set ourselves, including having an initial capacity in 2005 and full capacity in 2007," said EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"That shows that we all agree on the importance of this project," he said, while noting that some details still remain to be hammered out, including decision-making arrangements.

He warned that such arrangements should not be allowed to slow down the battle groups' deployment.

"We have to... keep in mind the essential quality of these battle

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# COMILLA-7 BY-POLL Seven submit nomination papers

UNB, Comilla

Seven people yesterday filed nomination papers for Comilla-7 parliamentary by-election scheduled for December 18.

Those filed nominations are Zakaria Taher Sumon (BNP), Nurul Islam Milan (JP-Ershad), Krishak Mohammad Sadek (BKSPA), Maulana Abdul Aziz Khomeni Hujur (Ind), Delwar Hossain Patwari (Ind), Mohammad Mozammel Hossain (Ind) and Abdur Rahman Mazumder (Ind).

The scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held today.

The seat fell vacant following the death of BNP lawmaker AKM Abu Taher on September 23.

| Prayer Timing |       |        |
|---------------|-------|--------|
| November 23   |       |        |
|               | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr          | 5-05  | 5-40   |
| Zohr          | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr           | 3-45  | 4-00   |
| Maghrib       | 5-21  | 5-24   |
| Esha          | 7-00  | 7-30   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Sunni cleric, GI killed in Iraq

4 more bodies of Iraqi soldiers found

AFP, Mosul

A senior Sunni Muslim cleric was killed yesterday in a drive-by shooting in the northern city of Mosul while a US soldier was killed in a late night attack in Baghdad.

Gunmen in a vehicle shot Sheikh Faidh Mohammed Amin al-Faidhi as he was leaving a place of worship in Mosul's Al-Rifaq district at around 9:00 am (0600 GMT).

"The cleric was shot four times, in his chest and abdomen, and died shortly after he was transferred to hospital," said Abdel Jabbar Mohammed, a doctor at Medinat al-Teb hospital.

The cleric was a member of the Council of Muslim Scholars -- the top Sunni Muslim authority in Iraq -- and the brother of the organisation's spokesman in Baghdad, Mohammed Bashir al-Faidhi.

"A Task Force Baghdad soldier died from wounds sustained in an attack at about 10 pm (1900 GMT) on November 21 in southwestern Baghdad," the statement said with-

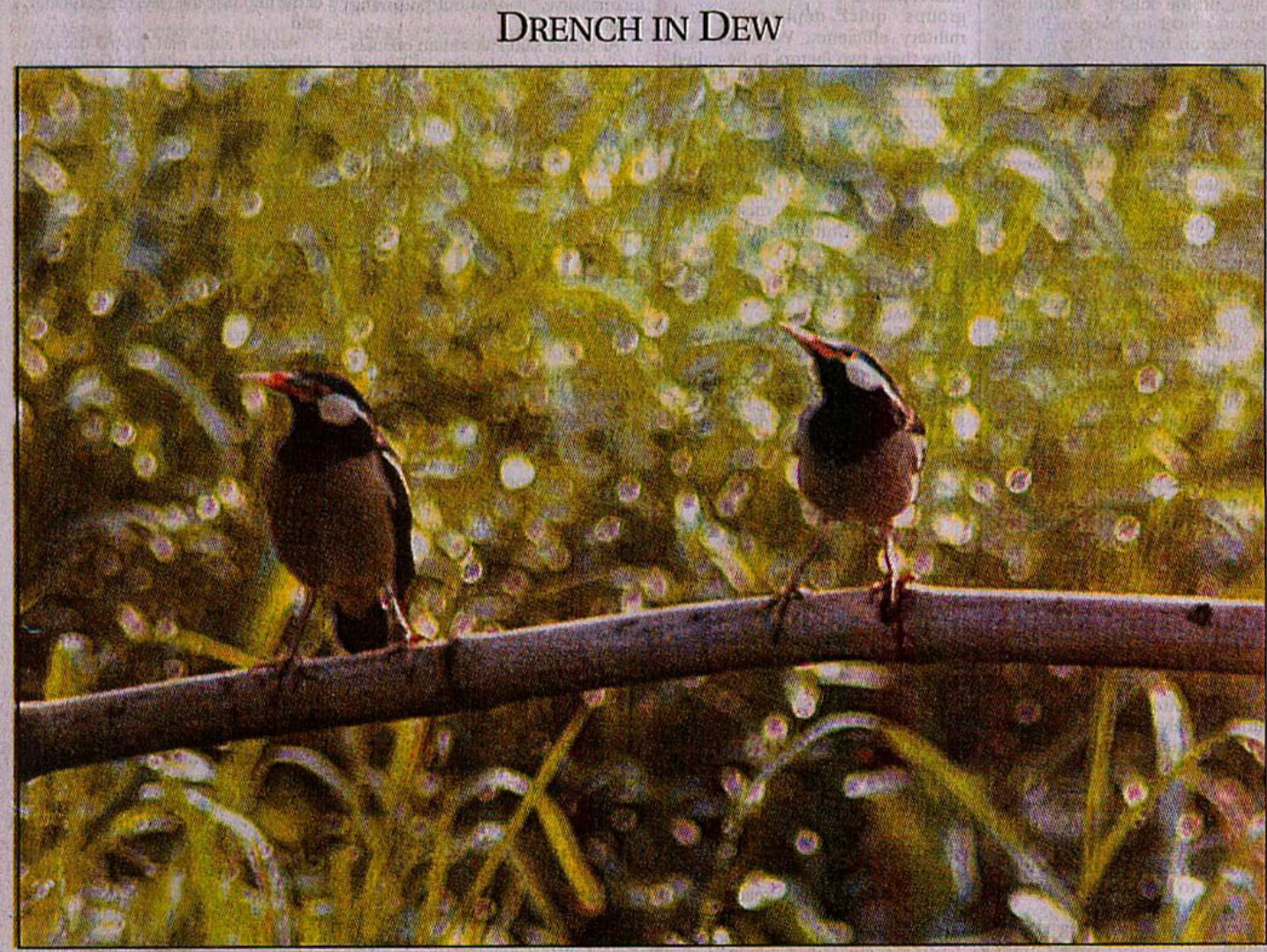
out elaborating. The latest death brings to 1,215 the number of US troops killed in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion of the country, according to Pentagon figures.

Earlier four more bodies, at least three of them Iraqi soldiers, were found in the past 24 hours by the US military in the restive northern city of Mosul, a US army officer said on Monday.

"We found them at 2300 (2000 GMT Sunday), they had been dead for at least a couple of hours and their bodies set against the sidewalk, shot in the head and hands tied," Lieutenant Colonel Michael Kurilla told AFP, adding that three of them were confirmed as being Iraqi soldiers.

The bodies were found near the Al-Yarmuk roundabout, an insurgent stronghold in western Mosul, and brought to 15 the number of Iraqi soldiers thought to have been executed by rebels in Iraq's third largest city over the past two days.

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A pair of Shalik (pied myna) sit on the branch of a tree wet with early morning dew as winter sets in. The picture was taken from Manda on the outskirts of the capital.

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# RECRUITMENT Showcase on DC

UNB, Thakurgaon

A Thakurgaon court yesterday asked the Deputy Commissioner and four others to show cause as to why the recruitment of a low-grade employee will not be declared void.

The order came following a petition filed by Nihar Banu, an applicant for the job of MLSS (class IV employee). The petition accused the respondents of appointing a non-resident of Thakurgaon violating the recruitment rules.

The recruitment of 47 class III

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

# 10-year-old girl raped, killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Unidentified miscreants raped and killed a ten-year-old girl at Godagari in Rajshahi yesterday.

Police recovered the slaughtered and stripped body of the victim Rumiza, daughter of Sadikul Islam, a day labourer, from only 10 yards off the Sultanganj BDR outpost.

A portion of her dress was recovered from a makeshift room of the BDR outpost, police said.

Rumiza was missing since she went out of home as usual for selling winter cakes near Sultanganj corridor at dawn.

**DCCI** **দি ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রি**  
"ঢাকা চেম্বার অবন"  
৬৫-৬৬, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, জিপিওঃ ব্লক নং ২৬৪১, ঢাকা-১০০০  
ক্যাংবলঃ চেম্বার, ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৮০-২-৯৫৬০৮৩০, পিবিএক্স-৯৫২২৫৬২  
ডিসি-৮(২৫)/২০০৪/১৮৯৯ নভেম্বর ২১, ২০০৪ইং

**ডিসিসিআই নির্বাচন তফসিলের**  
**সংশোধিত কর্মসূচী সম্পর্কিত বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

এতদ্বারা ঢাকা চেম্বার অব কমার্স অ্যান্ড ইন্ডাস্ট্রির সম্মানিত সদস্যগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, বিশ্বের দ্বিতীয় বৃহত্তম ও দিন ব্যাপী ইসলামী জনসমাবেশ (বিশ্ব ইজতেমা) এবং ৫ই ডিসেম্বর আখেরী মোনাজাত অনুষ্ঠানের প্রেক্ষিতে ৫ ও ৬ ডিসেম্বর, ২০০৪ইং ঢাকা এবং পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার যানজটের কারণে ৫ ও ৬ ডিসেম্বর ঢাকা ও পার্শ্ববর্তী এলাকার যান্ত্রিক কার্যক্রম প্রায় বন্ধ থাকিবে। এই প্রেক্ষিতে গত ১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর, ২০০৪ইং তারিখে ঢাকা চেম্বারের নির্বাচন বোর্ড কর্তৃক জারীকৃত নির্বাচন কর্মসূচীর (জেনারেল ও এনোসিডেন্ট) ট্রিটবার্গ (সে) বর্ণিত বিধানের অধীনে ক্রমিক নং ১৭ থেকে ২২ পর্যন্ত নির্বাচন কার্যক্রম নিম্নবর্ণিত ভাবে পরিবর্তন করা হইলঃ

| ক্রম নং | বিবরণ   | দিন         | তারিখ      | সময়   |
|---------|---|-------------|------------|--|
| ১৭।     | পরিচালকমন্ডলীর সদস্যদের নির্বাচন  | মঙ্গলবার    | ০৭-১২-২০০৪ | সকাল ৯-৩০ মিঃ থেকে দুপুর ১-০০ মিঃ এবং বেলা ২-০০ মিঃ থেকে বিকাল ৫-০০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত। |
| ১৮।     | ভোট গণনা ও ফলাফল ঘোষণা  | মঙ্গলবার    | ০৭-১২-২০০৪ | ভোট গ্রহণ শেষ হওয়ার পর থেকে গণনা শুরু এবং গণনা শেষ হওয়ার পর ফলাফল ঘোষণা        |
| ১৯।     | সভাপতি, উচ্চতন সহ-সভাপতি ও সহ-সভাপতির নির্বাচন  | বৃহস্পতিবার | ০৯-১২-২০০৪ | বেলা ১২-০০ মিঃ   |
| ২০।     | নির্বাচন ফলাফল ঘোষণা সম্পর্কে নির্বাচন আপীল বোর্ডের নিকট আপিল পেশ করার শেষ তারিখ ও সময় | শনিবার      | ১১-১২-২০০৪ | বেলা ১২-০০ মিঃ   |
| ২১।     | নির্বাচন আপীল বোর্ড কর্তৃক আপিল (যদি থাকে) সম্পর্কিত তদানী                              | সোমবার      | ১৩-১২-২০০৪ | বিকাল ৩-০০ মিঃ   |
| ২২।     | নির্বাচন বোর্ড কর্তৃক চূড়ান্ত ফলাফল ঘোষণা  | মঙ্গলবার    | ১৪-১২-২০০৪ | সকাল ১১-০০ মিঃ   |

নির্বাচন বোর্ডের নির্দেশক্রমে  
*Rasul Karim*  
(এক-এম নওশেরুল আলম)  
ভারপ্রাপ্ত সচিব