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## BDB, Oikya Mancha call for combating graft

AKBAR HOSSAIN from Narayanganj

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Bodruddoza Chowdhury and Jatiya Oikya Mancha Convenor Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday once again urged people to unite to combat corruption and lawlessness in the country.

The leaders made the call at a mass dialogue held at Narayanganj Press Club as part of a process they initiated to formulate a 'people's manifesto'.

The dialogue ended peacefully amid tight security inside and outside the press club. Police using metal detector checked each participant in the dialogue.

People belonging to various professions took part in the dialogue and expressed their resentment over price spiral of essentials, rising corruption, increasing unemployment and deteriorating law and order.

Earlier in October and

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## AIR QUALITY

# Industrial emissions ignored in setting standards

MORSHED ALI KHAN

The Department of Environment (DoE) has prepared air quality standards that completely ignore industrial emissions, one of the largest air pollutants after vehicles.

Each year, thousands of industries such as tanneries, brick kilns, and dyeing mills spew lethal gases into the atmosphere day and night. And yet the new pollution standards set by the Air Quality Monitoring Project (AQMP), a project financed through a World Bank loan of Tk 23.16 crore and a government fund

of Tk 5.84 crore, only incorporates vehicular emissions. In contrast, other developing countries like Sri Lanka, India and Myanmar have strict standards for both vehicular and industrial emissions to control air, land and water pollution.

Sources in the DoE said that the standards on vehicular emissions were set as per recommendations by the World Bank. The proposed standards are now being vetted by the Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs, before being officially adopted. The AQMP however is working to set standards for

ambient air. But even these ambient air standards would only be used for warning people of air quality around them — not for identifying and prosecuting any polluters.

World Bank officials said that industrial emissions were not taken into consideration because their findings showed that industrial air pollution was 'low' compared to vehicular pollution. Dr M Khaliquzzaman of the World Bank Environment and Social Team told The Daily Star that Dhaka's air is mainly polluted with vehicular

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## One shot dead, another's body found in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants gunned down the manager of a telephone shop at Basila in Mohammadpur yesterday.

Rinku, 22, manager of Zaker Telecom, received a bullet in the throat and died on the spot.

Three youths went to the shop at about 4:00pm to make calls. At one stage they tried to go out of the shop with a cellphone set.

As Rinku barred them from taking away the phone set, one of the criminals shot him point blank.

After the incident criminals

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## Short circuit caused New Bangabazar fire

Says probe body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Probe committee on November 21 New Bangabazar blaze yesterday submitted its report concluding that the fire originated from a short circuit.

"Examining the bits of evidence and interviewing traders and other people concerned, we have come to the conclusion that the fire originated from a short circuit at shop No. 216," said MA Razzak, chairman

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Hasina returns, blasts govt for Rab killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday blasted the government for law and order slide, saying the killing of people by 'special forces' without trial has tarnished the country's image abroad.

"The government is killing people by special forces in the name of maintaining law and order. Such killings are violation of human rights," said Hasina who returned home yesterday ending a 46-day

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## JS body to ask BTRC for lowering mobile charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday decided to ask Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to fix lower call tariff for mobile phone calls in line with its recommendations and implement it within three months.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications decided to ask BTRC to fix the pre-paid mobile phone call charge at Tk 5 per minute including Vat (value added tax) for peak hours and Tk 3 for off-peak hours.

Pre-paid cellphone charge is Tk 6.90 per minute now.

It also decided to ask BTRC to reduce the post-paid call charges by Tk 1 to 2 per minute.

"We will soon send a letter to BTRC to implement the committee's recommendations," Committee Chairman GM Fazlul Haque told reporters after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

The parliamentary body also discussed the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board's (BTB) mobile phone project.

Referring to the BTB officials the committee chairman said BTB mobile phones will be available in December, adding that its call charges will be lower than the private operators.

The parliamentary body also asked the BTRC to take steps so the 21 private companies that got licence for fixed phones start their operation immediately.

## Rawshan meets PM, promises all-out support

UNB, Dhaka

A 13-member delegation of the Jatiya Party (Ershad), led by its parliamentary party chief Rawshan Ershad, yesterday met Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and exchanged views with her on the country's prevailing political situation.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury said the JP members expressed satisfaction with the improvement of law and order and assured their all-out cooperation in maintaining peace.

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## House tutors of Jagannath Hall resigns

Allege harassment by JCD-backed outsiders

UNB, Dhaka

All the 12 acting house tutors of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University (DU) have resigned alleging some students misbehaved with them.

According to hall office sources, the house tutors submitted resignation

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### Prayer Timing

December 7

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Most coral reefs under threat

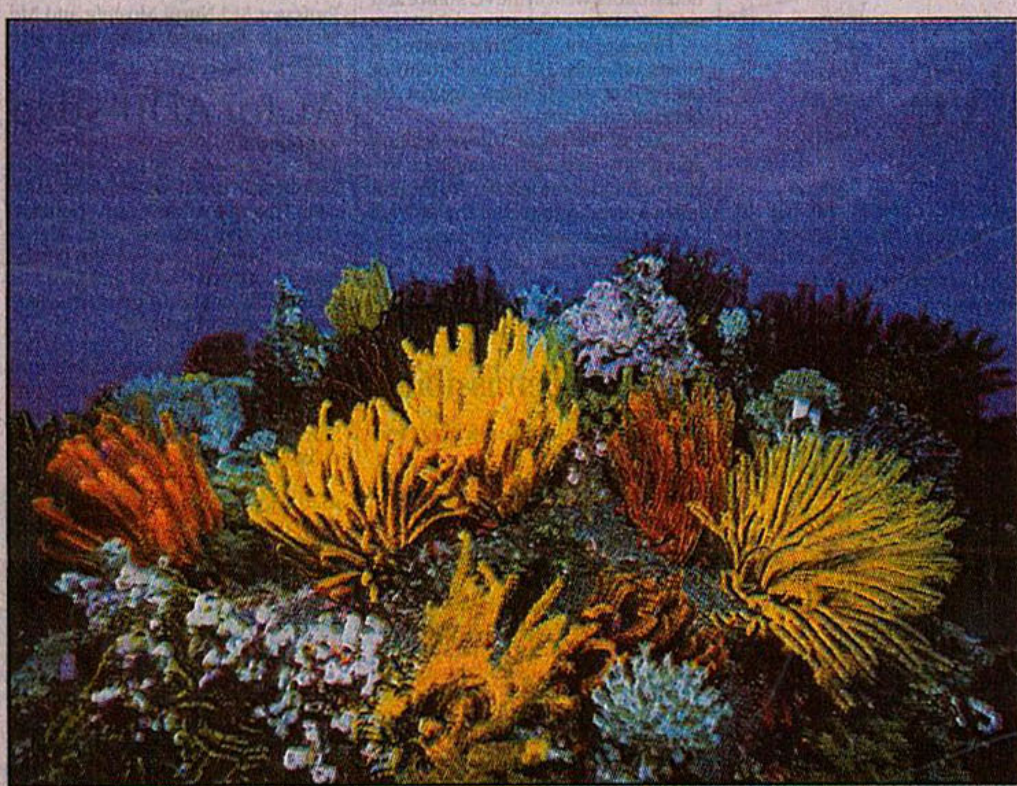
REUTERS, Oslo

About 70 percent of the world's coral reefs have been wrecked or are at risk from human activities but some are showing surprising resilience to global warming, a report said yesterday.

The international survey, by 240 experts in 98 nations, said that pollution, over-fishing, rising temperatures, coastal development and diseases were among major threats to reefs, vast ecosystems often called the nurseries of the seas.

"Twenty percent of the world's coral reefs have been effectively destroyed or show no immediate prospects of recovery," said the report, issued on the first day of a U.N.

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STARFILE PHOTO

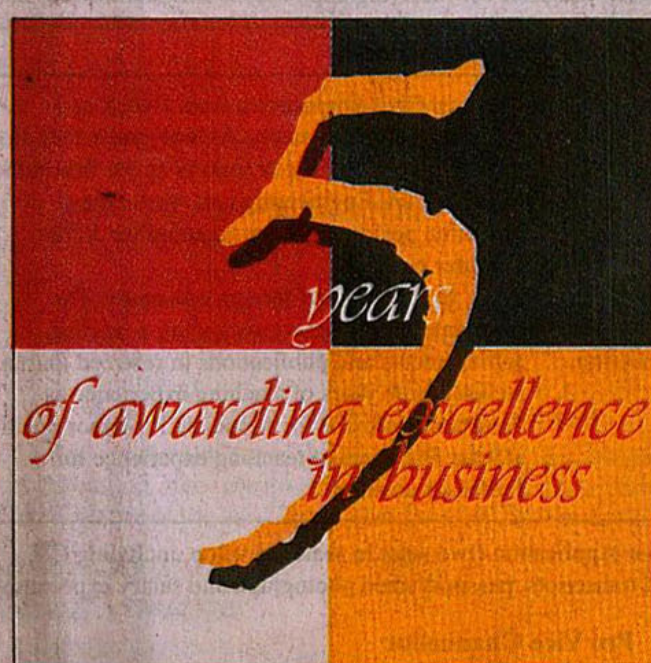
Coral reefs are at risk from human activities.

## Inviting Nominations for

# Bangladesh Business Awards 2004



DHL The Daily Star



Friday, March 18, 2005

Bangladesh Business Awards 2004  
Celebrating its 5th year honouring the  
Highest Achievers in the world of business.

The Highest Achievers: 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003

### Business Person of the Year

Samson H. Chowdhury, Chairman, Square Group, 2000  
Anisur Rahman Sinha, Chairman, Opex Group, 2001  
Syed Manzur Elahi, Chairman, Apex Group, 2002  
Mohammed Mizanur Rahman, Chairman, PHP Group, 2003

### Outstanding Woman in Business

Salina Akther, Proprietor, Aakor, 2000  
Rehana Kashem, Proprietor, Saatrong Handicrafts & Fashion, 2001  
Geetara Safiya Chowdhury, Chairman & Managing Director, Adcomm Ltd., 2002  
Monjulika Chakma, Proprietor, Bain Textiles, 2003

### Enterprise of the Year

Concord Engineers & Construction Ltd., 2000  
Rahimafrooz (Bangladesh) Ltd., 2000  
Otohi Ltd., 2001  
Micro Electronics Ltd., 2002  
M. M. Ispahani Limited, 2003

### Joint Venture Enterprise of the Year

GrameenPhone Ltd., 2002  
Coats Bangladesh Limited, 2003

### Criteria

#### Business Person of the Year

The nominee will be selected for his/her leadership, financial performance, personal qualities, managerial skills and contribution to Bangladesh's development. In financial performance, the nominee must have made outstanding contribution to his/her organization. In case of a public company, he/she must have contributed to a substantial increase in the returns on shareholders' funds. In case of a private company or sole proprietorship, he/she must have contributed to an improvement in return on capital invested. Personal qualities will include integrity, entrepreneurial abilities and personal leadership. Managerial skills will depend on depth of management, adaptability, tenacity, innovation, productivity, creativity and good labour management.

#### Outstanding Woman in Business

The nominee must be an entrepreneur who has proven her capability to successfully establish and run a business on her own. She must be a person of integrity and tenacity and her success should be a source of inspiration for others. She must be an example to others that women can be successful in business against all odds that they are faced with. Focus would also be given on her dynamism, innovation, determination, adaptability and depth of management.

#### Enterprise of the Year

Open to small and medium-sized companies, the nominee will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean success of the company in innovation of either products, services or new markets. In financial performance/productivity, the enterprise must have made outstanding growth in profit. Company management will focus on creative management style in developing harmonious relations within the organisation.

#### Joint Venture Enterprise of the Year

Open to joint venture enterprises, the nomination will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean the success of the company in innovation of either products, services or new markets. In financial performance or productivity the company must have an outstanding and sustainable growth in profit. The life span of the company will be taken into consideration in relation to profit track record. The company must also have clean banking and tax records. In the area of company management the organisation must display an effective management style and have a viable organisational structure. The company must have a track record of establishing and maintaining harmonious relations within the organisation and set examples for the industry. The company should have made positive contribution to Bangladesh's development.

#### Rules of Eligibility

The awardee should be involved in private business enterprise and must be a Bangladeshi citizen or ordinarily resident in Bangladesh. He/she must have clean banking and tax records. There is no restriction on age or race. In case of Enterprise Award, only Bangladeshi companies will be considered with published balanced sheets. In case of Joint Venture Enterprise Award, a company incorporated in Bangladesh for carrying out business activities jointly by Bangladeshi and foreign investors will be considered. The shares in the company are to be held by Bangladeshi and foreign shareholders as per joint venture agreement. The Bangladeshi investor must have invested at the start-up capital of the company. Shareholding by Bangladeshi shareholder(s) as a nominee shareholder in a subsidiary company in Bangladesh of a 100% foreign owned company will not fall under this category.

#### Selection process

An independent eleven-member jury panel comprising of leading intellectuals, business persons, academicians, lawyers, financial experts and eminent personalities with high social standing, credibility and prestige including CEOs of the two sponsoring organisations shall select the winners.

The decisions of the Jury shall be final and binding and cannot be contested.  
Please fill the attached form and send it to:

BBA Secretariat c/o DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS  
House-1, Block: CEN(A) Rd. 95 Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212, Bangladesh  
Tel: 9895810 Fax: 8823248 e-mail: bbawards@dhl.com

### Nominate the Highest Achievers Now!



#### Business Person of the Year 2004

Nominee:

Company:

Why:

#### Outstanding Woman in Business of the Year 2004

Nominee:

Company:

Why:

#### Enterprise of the Year 2004

Nominee:

Company:

Why:

#### Joint Venture Enterprise of the Year 2004

Nominee:

Company:

Why:

Nominator:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Fax:

Nomination Deadline January 15, 2005