

24

24 hours a day!

7

7 days a week!

365

365 days a year!

**FedEx**  
Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.  
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Call: 9565114  
for further details!

we live to deliver

Lx8500W (Tk. 54,900/-)



**Buy The Best Home Theatre System**  
With Wireless Rear Speakers

**PHILIPS**

Features:

- DVD, DVD+R/RW, DVD-R/RW, VCD, SVCD, MPEG-4, SACD, CD, MP3-CD, CD-R, CD-RW, Picture CD playback, DivX R 3.1 i14.x/5.x
- DTS, Dolby Digital, Dolby Pro Logic II, SACD multi-channel
- Progressive Scan (PAL & NTSC) \* 600 Watt RMS

HEAR EVERY THING EXPERIENCE EVERY THING

**TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS**

Tel: Dhaka: 8110163, 9882192, 9896285, 9569613, Bogra: 66215  
Chittagong: 637669, 653758, Khulna: 720304, 723695

# Pay commission may report in mid-Jan

Salary structure not yet decided

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Pay Commission is currently considering five different models of government employees' salary structure and is likely to present its recommendations to the government in mid-January.

Upon receiving the commission's report, the finance ministry will form a committee to scrutinise it and supervise its speedy implementation, sources at the ministry said.

"But, whenever the government announces the new pay structure, it will be effective retrospectively from January 1, 2005," said a finance ministry official.

The commission members in a meeting yesterday discussed a rough draft of its report that has not yet proposed any salary structure, commission sources said. The members were asked for their opinions on the draft.

The meeting decided to complete report drafting within this

month accommodating the members' opinions, and the commission will outline a pay structure in early January. In case of a delay due to any unforeseen reason, the commission will finish its task by early February, the sources said.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday a pay commission member categorically dismissed some reports run in some dailies that a pay structure has been proposed. "We have not outlined any salary structure. We could not even finish our draft report yet," he said.

Earlier this week, some newspapers reported that the commission has recommended Tk 27,000 as the highest monthly salary, which is Tk 15,000 at present.

The Daily Star also has received a leaflet claiming to have been signed by the commission's member secretary, Khandker Rashidul Haq, and requesting the media to publish its content. The leaflet shows the highest proposed pay in Grade 1 as Tk

24,000 and the lowest in Grade 20 as Tk 3,000.

Government employees are paid in 20 different salary grades.

When contacted Rashidul Haq denied outlining such a salary structure. "This is a report commissioned by those who had printed it in the newspapers," he quipped.

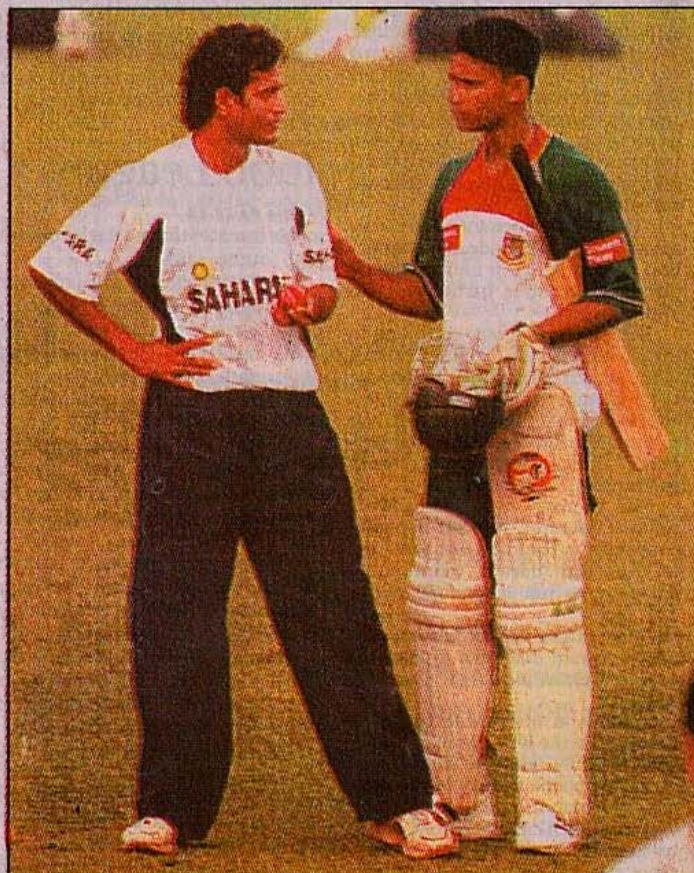
Sources said the finance ministry earlier had told the pay commission to formulate a salary structure that is affordable for the government.

In deciding an affordable salary structure, the commission is looking into a range of factors, particularly the growth of revenue collection, possibilities of increased revenue growth through sealing off collection leakage, inflation and ability of the government.

It also is considering what should be the salaries if the employees paid their own taxes instead of the government paying for them.

The commission may suggest the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ME BAT, HAVE YOU? Bangladesh pace tearaway Mashrafe bin-Mortuza, right, has a friendly chat with India's pace sensation Irfan Pathan during practice at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday ahead of the first Test starting today.

## World HR Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country observes World Human Rights Day today amidst a wave of concern over deaths in 'crossfire' with law enforcers, and absence of a human rights commission even 33 years into independence.

The government appears unmoved by rights bodies' demands to stop law enforcers from killing people in the name of 'crossfire' that

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Jubo League man dies in Rab 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A convicted Jubo League leader died in 'crossfire' between Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and his associates at Shiddhirganj in Narayanganj in the wee hours yesterday.

Abu Jafar Khan (Ragkara Jafari), member of the Jubo League central committee and also a top cadre of the Shamim Osman group in Narayanganj, died at Kadamtali Balurmath (south) receiving bullets

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

## DIARRHOEA TREATMENT

# Zinc supplement can save 75,000 children's lives

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scientists working on 'zinc supplement' for treatment of diarrhoea yesterday announced it can save the lives of 30,000 to 75,000 under-five children a year in Bangladesh both as a treatment for diarrhoeal illness and by preventing future infectious diseases.

Zinc treatment not only reduces the duration of diarrhoea but also prevents its recurrence and strengthens the immune system, they said.

On a global scale, zinc treatment could effectively prevent diarrhoeal diseases, saving the lives of some 400,000 children under five a year, the scientists thought.

Disclosing the findings of their research at a press briefing in Dhaka, the scientists said zinc treatment reduces the severity and duration of diarrhoea as well as the likelihood of

its recurrence and the need for hospitalisation.

The researchers worked on management of childhood diarrhoea with the micronutrient for the last 24 years at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B).

The ICDDR,B's research is supported by the WHO and Unicef recommendations for use of zinc in the treatment of acute or persistent diarrhoea.

Leading child specialists also favoured zinc supplement saying it has many benefits.

National Professor and chief of the Institute of Child Health, Shishu Hospital, M R Khan was present as one of the panelists at the briefing. "If zinc is taken with oral saline, it enhances 20 per cent chances of survival from diarrhoea," he observed.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Disclaimer 'Best Teachers/Best School'

The British Council wishes to make it clear that a pamphlet released in Dhaka on Saturday 4 December '04 containing lists of "Best Teachers of 2004" and "Best Schools of 2004" was not issued by the British Council. We neither have nor publish any rankings of this nature.

The use of the British Council name and logo is unlawful and may lead to criminal prosecution. If you are in doubt about the authenticity of any item attributed to British Council, please check with your nearest British Council office in the first instance.

BRITISH COUNCIL | 70<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY 1934 - 2004

## Father dies after innocent son's arrest

UNB, Dhaka

As the father of a schoolboy died allegedly after being assaulted by police, agitated people laid a siege to the city's Sutrapur Police Station yesterday evening.

Witnesses said Abdur Rashid, 55, went to the police station as his son, Tapan, was held by police in the afternoon. A class-nine student of Saint Gregory School, Tapan was caught on police dragnet during blackraids.

After getting the news, his father went to the police station to have his son released, but police refused and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## BTTB CELLPHONE Pvt operators given 5 days for interconnection

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

While the telecoms ministry wants the country's private cellphone operators to provide connectivity to the state-owned BTTB's mobile phone service before its soft launch on December 15, industry sources fear the time, less than one week, is totally inadequate to establish the interconnections.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## Sky to remain cloudy today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The gloomy weather would continue today as the Himalayan clouds spreading from the northern and northeastern regions to other parts of Bangladesh would block sunlight out.

The sky is likely to remain cloudy, although the met office forecast no change in temperature and light to moderate fog across the country.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Mild tremor jolts Sylhet, Ctg regions

STAR REPORT

A mild tremor jolted Chittagong and Sylhet regions yesterday afternoon, report our correspondents.

A small quake jolted the port city and several parts of greater Chittagong at around 2:50pm and lasted for 24 seconds, Seismic Observatory Centre sources said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
December 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5:15	5:50
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:19	5:22
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

## SONARGAON CROSSING Electronic traffic signal flops on very first day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC) high-profile electronic traffic control system installed at Sonargaon intersection yesterday to ease congestion turned out to be a fiasco, as it created more congestion, forcing

authorities to switch back to manual system.

The city authorities switched to the digital traffic control system at the busy Sonargaon intersection in the morning, only to revert to the manual system an hour later, as it

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## 36pc babies born underweight

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 50 percent of the children in Bangladesh are malnourished while 36 percent of the babies are born underweight.

The country has around six million working children and about 2.5 lakh children die every year despite a significant fall in child mortality over the past one decade.

Country Representative of the

United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) Morten Giersing gave these figures yesterday while launching the Unicef report on State of the World's Children (Sowc) at the Jatiya Press Club.

Unicef Bangladesh is going to undertake a project to provide schooling to two lakh working children, he said.

Giersing made three suggestions

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

**PEPSI MUSIC**

৬ ডিসেম্বর থেকে ৩০ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪

**ডিভিসি মিউজিক্যাল ক্যাফে-তে**

এ মেলায় থাকছে ৬ ডিসেম্বর থেকে ১৫ ডিসেম্বর

**গানের বিকিকিনি**

এবং ১৬ ডিসেম্বর থেকে ৩০ ডিসেম্বর

**গান, গান আর শুধুই গান**

গাইবেন দেশের প্রখ্যাত, জনপ্রিয় ও শ্রদ্ধেয় সঙ্গীত শিল্পীবৃন্দ

নতুন মাত্রিকের এই মেলায় আসুন উপভোগ করুন সঙ্গীতের মূল্যবান প্রতিদ্বন্দ্ব

ডি ভি সি মিউজিক্যাল ক্যাফে ১৯, সাঈদ এলেনিট কলোন-১, ঢাকা

**The Daily Star**

**WE MORE MUSIC MORE PEPSI**

## Our Cricket Team has played 32 tests

When this team takes the field against the mighty Indians, every single one of us will raise our spirits, hoping against hope that this time...maybe this time...we will make it happen. One may not understand it, but this is the power of spirit.

**Maybe this time we shall...**



Let Glory Shine  
Wishing for a glorious One Day and Test Series against India

**GrameenPhone**  
Official Sponsor of Bangladesh National Cricket Team