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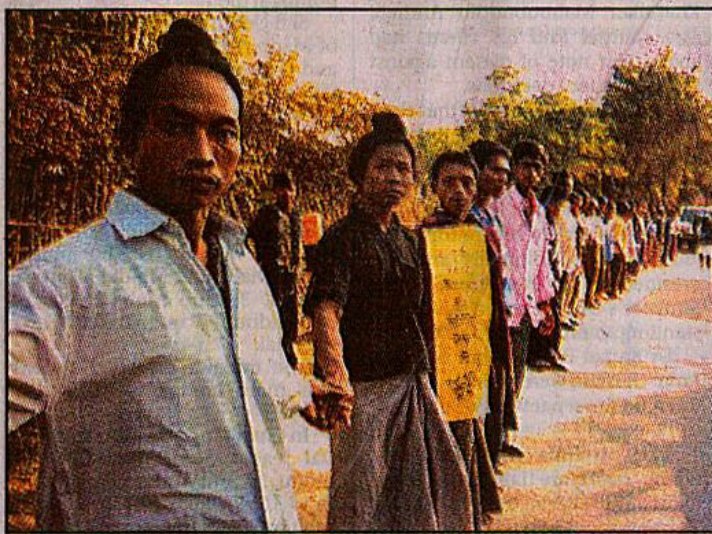
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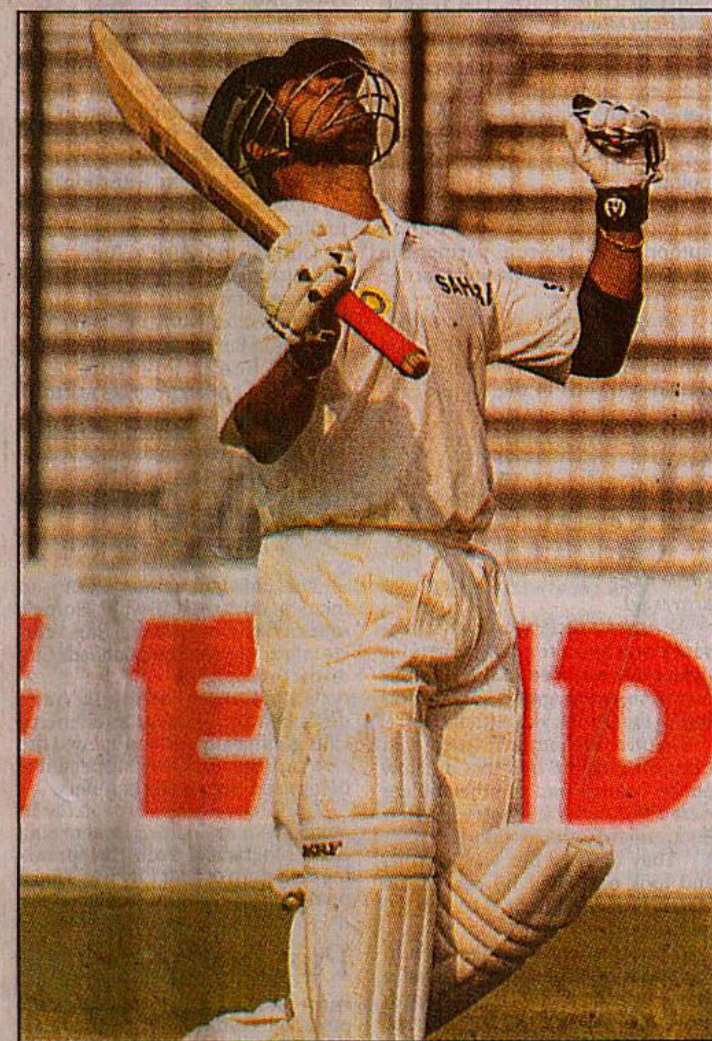
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Leaders, activists and supporters of the main opposition Awami League and its allies stand hand in hand, from left, at Muktangan in the capital, the hill district of Bandarban, the port city of Chittagong and the north-western town of Syedpur yesterday. The 14-party opposition line-up formed, for the first time ever, the 1,000km cross-country human wall as an expression of no-confidence in the BNP-led four-party coalition government.



India's batting maestro Sachin Tendulkar says a prayer to heaven after scoring his world record-equalling 34th Test century at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

ZIA won't allow visitors during Saarc Summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) will increase security at Zia International Airport (ZIA) during the upcoming 13th Saarc Summit in Dhaka taking place on January 9-11.
Strict procedure for entrance to the ZIA and security checking will be carried out during the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit, said a Caab press release yesterday.
No empty vehicles, visitors seeing off their kin, nor officials without any duty will be allowed entry to the airport during the summit.
All passengers will have to show their tickets while entering the airport, the press release added.

Pay body report not ready yet

BSS, Dhaka
The National Pay Commission yesterday said it has yet to finalise its report and urged all concerned not to be misled by any press reports on the new pay structure.
In a rejoinder against news items published recently in a section of the

Drafts of 2 vital Saarc treaties finalised

Customs, double taxation agreements to be signed at Dhaka summit

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON
The Saarc countries have finalised the drafts of two agreements to be signed in the upcoming summit providing for a regional customs co-operation to check import duty evasion and forgery, and allowing exchange scholars to earn tax-free up to \$3,000 a year.
One of the documents, the draft Multilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement covering 14 areas, was finalised in Islamabad last week. National Board of Revenue (NBR) Member AS Jahir Muhammad intialled the draft on behalf of Bangladesh.
The seven South Asian countries

A BANGLADESHI MAID'S ORDEAL Battered in Dubai, robbed in Dhaka

SHAHIN MOLLAH
A Bangladeshi teenage girl who worked as a domestic help in Dubai is now at a Dhaka hospital having been seriously assaulted by her employer, and being robbed of all her possessions on arrival in Dhaka.
Sixteen-year old Jamila, daughter of Abdur Kader of Jagail, Banglabazar

EMAIL THREAT HC asks govt why Partha won't get bail

UNB, Dhaka
The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to show cause why Shaibal Shaha Partha should not be given bail.
Partha is an accused of the August 21 grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital and a subsequent email threat on the life of opposition leader Sheikh Hasina.
The son of an employee of a shop at Muradnagar in Comilla, Partha returned home from India after obtaining a Master's degree from Chennai in July last. He was picked up from a cyber café at Elephant Road in the capital late August.
A bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui issued the rule upon a petition moved by Dr Kamal Hossain. The rule is returnable in two weeks.

Prayer Timing		
December 12		
	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

US soldier jailed for Iraq murder

Insurgents kill top policeman

REUTERS, Tikrit, Iraq
Gunmen have ambushed a group of senior police officers in northern Iraq, killing two of them and wounding three, one of the survivors said near the town of Ash Sharqat.
Two other high-ranking officers, a brigadier and a colonel, were gunned down in southern Baghdad, a police source said yesterday.
Meanwhile, a US soldier was sentenced to three years in prison for murdering a severely wounded Iraqi teenager earlier this year, the US military said.
Staff Sergeant Johnny Horne, 30, from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, had pleaded guilty to charges of murder and conspiracy to commit murder at a court martial in Baghdad on Friday. He was sentenced by a panel of seven senior soldiers after four hours of deliberation.
Four employees of the Ministry of Education were wounded when the bus taking them to work in Baghdad was raked by gunfire.
In the northern city of Mosul a car bomb exploded near a US military convoy wounding at least two passersby, witnesses and the US

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Inviting Nominations for Bangladesh Business Awards 2004

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
Geeteera Safiya Choudhury, 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
Otobi Ltd., 2001
Micro Electronics Ltd., 2002
M. M. Ispahani Limited, 2003

Joint Venture Enterprise of the Year
GrameenPhone Ltd., 2002
Coats Bangladesh Limited, 2003

5 years of awarding excellence in business

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 either in 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 organization.

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 CEO's 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: 9695810 Fax: 8623248 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: _____
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5th Anniversary