

## Business Awards

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he had visited the country. Taiwan exported bicycles to the global market, which encouraged Bhuiyan to venture into a bicycle manufacturing plant in Bangladesh.

"The Taiwanese can export products to the European market, so can we," he said, narrating the background of establishing his project.

Bhuiyan thinks that Bangladeshi entrepreneurs need not much cash incentive. "If the government ensures electricity and other utility services, the country's entrepreneurship will grow automatically."

Sabrina Islam, winner of the Outstanding Woman in Business award, said she believes women have more advantages than men in doing business. "Women are more creative than men."

Receiving the award for the Best Financial Institution of the Year, BRAC Bank Chairman Muhammad A. (Rume) Ali said: "SMEs (small and medium enterprises) are the engine of economic growth."

Abdul Monem of Abdul Monem Group said: "Whatever I do, it has to be the best. I have always strived for the best and I became the best."

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said: "I think in Bangladeshi culture business is not given as much recognition and respect as it deserves."

Businesspeople are seen more as 'makers of money', seeking profits in whatever way possible, Anam said, referring to common public perception.

"However, the whole mechanics of launching a successful business and develop it into an institution, I think make them deserve far more credit than we give them."

Dwelling on the ongoing global recession, he said: "We now face the global meltdown, a crisis of unprecedented proportions that is shrinking the economy."

## PM issues cheques

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there, MP Enamul told them to do as Salam asks.

Parijan was given the cheque for his husband Rafiqul who was tortured by Bangla Bhai but is now behind bars for suspected links to Purbo Banglafar Communist Party.

Salam took the two to a room and asked to give him the cheques.

"He said, 'As our MP had to spend time and money to have the funds approved, you should share the grants with us. After cashing the cheque, we will keep Tk 50,000 and you'll have the rest,'" Ataur continued.

"As we told him that we did not bring the cheques with us, he body-searched us but couldn't find any. 'Get out!' he screamed, seething with rage."

He and Razzak however contacted us again and said they would never let us convert the cheques."

Describing similar experience, Parijan said, "I pray for Sheikh Hasina for what she did for us. But what's the use of this cheque if I can't get cash out of it?"

Unlike Ataur and Parijan, the 19 other victims had to give in to the pressure of the MP's associates.

"Had our MP not tried, you would never get any money. He will try for more donations for you in future. So, you better split the amount with us," Manik, another JMB victim, quoted Salam as telling him.

"Salam had us put our signatures on the cheques, and promised to give us each Tk 50,000," Manik added.

Abdul Gafur of Jhikra, Asir Uddin of Khalimpura and Anisur Rahman of Chhoto Madhaimuri - everyone's story is much the same.

Talking to The Daily Star last night, Enamul Haque denied the allegations.

He said, "My men were only trying to help them cash the cheques. None of the victims will be deprived of the money granted by the prime minister."

The MP said at least 24 cheques, each worth Tk 1 lakh, have been issued for the JMB victims in Bagmara. Three were yet to be distributed as identity of the claimants could not be confirmed.

Asked if he knows that the cheques were indeed taken away from the recipients after they went to his cold storage, he said he would look into it.

"I asked my men to arrange for the victims to gather at my place so they can be photographed and shown to the prime minister," he added.

"Most people in our area are illiterate. They don't know how to open a bank account and cash cheques. So I asked my men to help them."

Enamul said some quarters are out to make an issue of the matter.

Abdus Salam too dismissed the allegations as baseless.

Zakirul Islam Santu said they had asked the cheque recipients to get together for a group photo with the MP. "We didn't task for their cheques."

He added that there are at least 600 JMB victims in

## US environment agency deems CO<sub>2</sub> health risk

AFP, Washington

The US Environmental Protection Agency shifted course and deemed carbon dioxide a health risk, in a turnabout important to global warming-related regulation.

"After a thorough scientific review ordered in 2007 by the US Supreme Court, the Environmental Protection Agency issued a proposed finding... that greenhouse gases contribute to air pollution that may endanger public health or welfare," an EPA statement posted on the agency's website read.

This finding confirms that greenhouse gas pollution is a serious problem now and for future generations. Fortunately, it follows President Obama's call for a low carbon economy and strong leadership in Congress on clean energy and climate legislation," Administrator Lisa Jackson said.

"This pollution problem has a solution - one that will create millions of green jobs and end our country's dependence on foreign oil."

## Faisal

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"With a PhD in chemistry, Faisal has vast knowledge on how to make explosives and bullets. We suspect the JMB cadres might have been taught the skills," another investigator told The Daily Star asking anonymity.

Investigators said they believe the British chemist, who had faced terror charges twice in the UK, might even have been providing funds and logistic supports for JMB's regrouping.

Both Faisal and Badal were arrested at Pubail in Gazipur on April 6 following an exclusive discovery of a 'mini-ammunition factory' at a madrasa-cum-orphanage in Bhola on March 24.

Rapid Action Battalion seized 10 firearms, 2,500 bullets, 3,000 grenade splinters, 200 grams of gun powder, different components of ammunition and 72 books on jihad, Abul Ala Maududi and Osama bin Laden.

## Barisal medical

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unit had been suspended a month ago and the BCL has no liability for the recent incidents.

Hayatul Islam, assistant commissioner of Barisal Metropolitan Police, said a general diary has been filed by Rabibul's roommates Mehdi, Tanvir and Shahin at the Kotwali Police Station in connection with the incident.

He said the police are trying to find out the whereabouts of the abducted student.

Prof Md Abu Taher, acting principal of SBMC, told The Daily Star that the SBMC authorities were reported about the abduction of a student.

Barisal City Corporation Mayor and city AL Convener Shawkat Hossain Hiron told The Daily Star that the law enforcers have been asked to take action against anyone trying to hamper the law and order and educational environment on the campus.

## Bodyguard

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yesterday.

"Nothing can be said with certainty about the activities and plans of Russell until a preliminary interrogation is completed," said Superintendent of Police of Bogra Akram Hossain.

However, police sources after questioning Russell said he had a meeting with Bhagna Shaheed, current JMB commander of Bogra and its adjacent areas, two to three days ago and he talked about JMB's organisational activities with him.

Russell is an accused in a case filed in connection with the JMB attack on Khetal Police Station in Joypurhat in 2004 and the looting of a rifle, wireless sets and bullets from the police station.

At least seven associates of Bangla Bhai are absconding since the government launched a drive against JMB.

Bangla Bhai, who once spread Islamic militancy, was captured wounded on March 6, 2006 from a remote Mymensingh hideout and was later hanged.

Suspected militants were identified as Sohel Tahery of Doulaput union under Fatikchhari upazila, Mojamal Attary of North Gurga under Raozan, Kalimullah Kadery of Cox's Bazar, Mahmudul Hasan alias Mehmed Attary of Rangunia, Boshar Attary of Dhalia under Feni, Nurul Azim Attary of Patharghat in Raozan and Faruk Attary.

Police seized four computers, a scanner, a printer, a number of CDs, and VCDs, several booklets and leaflets on teaching of Islam from their possessions.

Bangla Bhai and his men killed 22 people and maimed and tortured over 300 in the JMB's vigilante operations in the northern region from April to July 2004.

Baidyanathola mango grove was named Mujibnagar as a tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was declared president of the government-in-exile and the supreme commander of the armed forces.

Syed Nazrul Islam was made acting president in absence of Bangabandhu as the Pakistani

## Cyclone Bijli hits

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very rough. But the details of damages caused by the storm could not be ascertained till filing of this report at 11:00pm last night.

The local administrations took precautionary preparations and cautioned people through megaphones. Trained volunteers of the government's Cyclone Preparedness Programme and the Red Crescent evacuated people from the coastal areas, said administration sources.

The coastal districts of Patuakhali, Barguna, Pirojpur, Lalakhati, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, and their offshore islands and chars were under danger signal number five. There was no report of damage or casualties available late last night.

However, the maritime port of Mongla has been asked to keep hoisted danger signal no 5 till further notice.

Our Chittagong office added that all-out preparations were taken there as the meteorological department asked to hoist maritime signal number seven for the district.

The rehabilitation of the people of the coastal areas there are 457 cyclone shelters in the district, 56 of which are in the city, the administration sources added.

Meanwhile, Chittagong

opening weekend's double-headers have been sold out for a week.

Matches will be played in eight different venues over 37 days. The packed schedule involves moving 700 people, including over 200 television and digital media crew.

The tournament features almost all the top international players including England's Kevin Pietersen and Andrew Flintoff, West Indian captain Chris Gayle and India's Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

After being moved out of India due to security and logistical concerns, the tournament authorities have done a remarkable job of arranging everything on time in a new setup in just three weeks.

Setting up the 2009 IPL tournament in South Africa inside three weeks has been a logistical task unparalleled in world sport," the league's chairman Lalit Modi told a news conference on Thursday.

Foreign spectators are expected to supplement the local crowds, with Modi saying four-thousand Indians were set to enjoy themselves in sunny South Africa for the next five weeks.

"It remains a challenge to engage with the broad base of all South Africans and get everyone excited by the IPL," Modi said.

But we've come so far in an incredibly short time already that I'm optimistic that we can do it," added the tournament chairman.

## Mujibnagar Day

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and stood in solemn silence to show reverence to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation.

Ministers, MPs, central leaders of the party and leaders of different front organisations were present on the occasion.

Later, AL central leaders placed wreaths at the grave of Mujibnagar government's acting president Syed Nazrul Islam at the Mujibnagar ceremony. He received salute and hoisted the national flag of independent Bangladesh.

The Mujibnagar government with Tajuddin Ahmed as prime minister led the country's nine-month Liberation War that ended in surrender of the occupation forces on December 16, 1971.

The four national leaders were murdered in Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975 after the gruesome killings of Bangabandhu and most of his family members on the night of August 15 the same year.

National and party flags were hoisted at Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhaka central office and Mujibnagar.

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## Elephants kill villager in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

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injured with gunshot wounds to his head, chest and arm, while his aide suffered minor injuries.

Sondhi and his driver were later moved from one hospital in Bangkok to another, medical authorities confirmed, though no reason was given.

Government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn said the attack was an attempt to create more trouble in Thailand, where protests by the Red Shirts left at least two dead and 123 injured before being shut down by security forces Tuesday.

"The act took place while the state of emergency is still in effect. It was an attempt to create unrest," Panitan said.

Bangkok and surrounding areas remain under a state of emergency declared on Sunday.

Wild elephants have been attacking the villages of Hazachara and Borana Chhatri areas for the last five years.

Some 12 dwelling houses and many fruit-bearing trees were destroyed only in last one week by elephants, said Akbar Hossain, elder brother of Sajeda.

However, no step has been taken so far either from the administration or from the forest department for security of those villagers, locals alleged.

Barkal Upazila Nirbahi Officer AKM Tariqul Alam confirmed yesterday's incident.

Shamim Osman

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Stadium and terminated at the Diamond Cinema Hall intersection.

People stood in long queue

on either side of the road to have a glimpse of Shamim as supporters of Shamim marched in procession.

2 murdered

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youths came to the site of an under-construction building at Senpara Parbata at about 6:00am and looked for the owners of the construction work.

"As Anwar asked them why they needed the officials, the gang first stabbed him and then fired a gunshot at him before leaving the scene," he said.

Anwar who hailed from Gaibandha died on the spot.

Neighbours said the criminals had demanded extortion money from the house owner a few days ago.

"Nineteen people have been martyred and 25 wounded. A hundred houses were destroyed. Some 350 to 400 animals were also killed," he said.

Delwar Ahmed, officer-in-charge (OC) of Kafrul police station, said they were not informed about the matter.

Meanwhile, Sub-inspector Alamgir Hossain of Lalbagh police station told The Daily Star that three to