

Business Awards

FROM PAGE 1
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 Bangladeshis 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 (Rumee) 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 Bangladesh 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 econ-

omies of the biggest countries of the world and pulling us, the developing countries, along with it."

"If we may not have shared the booty of globalisation, we are certainly affected by the negative impact of the globalised economy," he added. Anam referred to Albert Einstein's famous quote that "in the middle of difficulty lies opportunity."

"So I think the economic crisis is an enormous opportunity to allow our creativity in new life." Thanking the business leaders for their outstanding contribution to the country's economy, Anam felt: "All we need is self-confidence and a positive regulatory framework and a government that appreciates and supports business."

Malcolm Monteiro, senior vice president of DHL, said the current economic crisis is the 'acid test' of fundamentals of business.

"But from our own experience, Bangladesh is among the few economies that come on top in terms of bucking the global trend."

Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, the central bank chief, who handed over the awards to the winners said Bangladesh is less affected by the global recession.

However, considering the possible adverse impact on the economy, the government is taking measures to cushion different sectors, he added.

Appreciating the private sector's contribution to the economy, Ahmed said: "The government should not do business, rather it should create an environment conducive to business."

Ahmed also stressed market regulation to ensure financial discipline. "Business is everything, it covers the entire gamut of life," he believes.

Ahmed also appreciated the role of media in making an environment for business.

US environment agency deems CO₂ health risk

AFP, Washington

The US Environmental Protection Agency shifted course and deemed carbon dioxide a health risk, in a turn-about 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 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

FROM PAGE 1

"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 Pabai in Gazipur on April 6 following an exclusive discovery of a 'mini-ammunition factory' at a madrasa-cum-orphanage in Bholan 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

FROM PAGE 1

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 Rabiul's roommates Mehdi, Tanvir and Shahin with 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

FROM PAGE 1

"Nothing can be said with certainty about the activities and plans of Russell until 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.

Bangla Bhai, who used to introduce himself as Azizur Rahman and Omar Ali Litu while conducting militant operations in the northern region in the name of outlaw-cleansing, started his activities openly with direct patronage from local administration, police and some ruling party lawmakers and ministers in April, 2004.

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.

Cyclone Bijli hits

FROM PAGE 1

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, Jhalakathi, Bagerhat, Khulna, Sakthira, 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.

To rehabilitate 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

Former minister

FROM PAGE 1

In the application the attorney termed the cases against Aminul 'false and politically motivated' and those were filed to harass him and tarnish his image.

"We submitted the application as a government circular said it would allow applications for review of the false political cases," said Ashrafuzzaman Mollik, a lawyer of Aminul in Rajshahi.

Aminul, a minister of the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance, went into hiding the moment the caretaker government took over and now he is staying abroad, one of his close aides said.

Aminul allegedly patronised Islamist militants by using local police and district administrations in Rajshahi during 2004-05.

JMB operation commander Bangla Bhai before his execution disclosed Aminul's name as one of the patrons of Islamist militancy and later Aminul was jailed for 31 and a half years.

Mujibnagar Day

FROM PAGE 16

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, prime minister Tajuddin Ahmed and minister captain Monsur Ali at Banani graveyard in the capital. Rajshahi district AL leaders also placed wreaths at the grave of AHM Kamruzzaman there.

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 Dhanmondi, AL central office and Mujibnagar.

Our Kushtia correspondent reports: a group of the central AL leaders led by president member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury placed wreaths at the Mujibnagar monument in Mujibnagar. A discussion was later held there.

AL leaders and some ministers including Amir Hossain Amu, Abu Sayeed, Adviser to Prime Minister Tofig-e-Elahi Chowdhury, LGD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam, State Minister for Home Affairs Tanjim Ahmed Sohel Taj, Joyal Abedin were present.

Sajeda told the gathering that the government was determined to try the war criminals. She urged the people to wage a war to free the country from militancy and its patrons.

The ministers promised to complete the construction of Mujibnagar Complex soon and open it to the public.

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

Port Authority and Chittagong City Corporation set up a number of control rooms in the city.

Our correspondent from Cox's Bazar reported that the sea was rough while the water level rose seven to eight feet higher than the normal tidal water level. Lower parts of the coast were inundated due to the very high tide.

The weather remained gloomy and it was drizzling all day in Cox's Bazar coastal areas. Stormy wind blew over different parts of Teknaf, Maheshkhali, and Kutubdia.

The weather was drizzly in Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna, Barisal, Gopalganj, Patuakhali, Jhalakathi, Noakhali and Chandpur all through yesterday, our correspondents reported.

IPL takes off

FROM PAGE 16

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.

Elephants kill villager in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

A man was trampled to death by a herd of wild elephants at Hazachhara village in Barkal upazila early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Saiful Islam, 30, son of Md Berek of the village.

Police and locals said around eight elephants also destroyed two tin-shed houses and a banana plantation when they entered the village in search of food at about 2:00am.

Saiful was killed on the spot by an elephant when he came out of his residence on the night sensing the presence of elephants. Villagers recovered the body in the morning.

Wild elephants have been attacking the villages of Hazachhara and Borana Chhari 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 Saiful.

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

FROM PAGE 1

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

FROM PAGE 1

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.

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 four associates of Reaz stabbed him indiscriminately at about 12:30am and fled the scene, leaving him critically injured.

Reaz was rushed to DMCH where the doctors declared him dead around 1:00am.

"So far, we could know that Reaz was killed following an internal feud," the SI said.

In another incident, assistant sub-inspector (ASI) Abdul Kader of special branch (SB) came under attack while he was going to his office from his Rampura residence around 4:00am.

Police said the muggers took away his mobile phone, watch and cash money he was carrying.

The ASI with the help of pedestrians caught one of the muggers, Shiplu who was later handed over to police.

The injured ASI was first taken to DMCH then shifted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital.

War crime trial

FROM PAGE 16

them with about the facts of history.

"Children should realise the sacrifices of the martyrs and also the crimes perpetrated by the people who opposed the country's independence during the Liberation War," he said.

The children of Khelaghar Asar took an oath to uphold the spirit of the Liberation War and demanded the trial of the war criminals. The law minister conducted the oath taking session.

The Khelaghar children later brought out a colourful procession from the Shaheed Minar to Mahanagar Natya Mancha parading different streets of the city.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, eminent writer Selina Hossain, Khelaghar Asar chairman Ali Asgar also addressed at the inaugural session of the conference.

Anti-Thaksin leader

FROM PAGE 16

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.

Thailand has been beset by four years of turmoil, with mass protests wreaking havoc with daily life and occasionally erupting into violence.

At the heart of the dispute is Thaksin, a polarising populist adored by his mainly poor supporters and loathed by Sondhi's PAD and its backers among Bangkok's elite in the palace, military and bureaucracy.

Thaksin, a billionaire tycoon currently living in exile to escape a jail term for cor-

ruption, urged Thailand's revered king to step in to heal divisions in the country in an interview Friday.

"I urge his majesty humbly that, please, it is time for his majesty to step in to intervene because otherwise there will be more division and he is the only person who can reconcile the whole country," Thaksin told the Financial Times newspaper.

The PAD held huge rallies in the streets in 2006 that opened the way for the military to remove Thaksin from power in a coup.

Thaksin supporters are pushing for the current premier, Abhisit Vejjajiva, to resign and call fresh elections, saying he came to power illegitimately in the wake of a court decision that ousted Thaksin's allies.

Anti-government rallies shut down a summit of Asian leaders in the kingdom last weekend, prompting the government to cancel Thaksin's passport and hunt for protest leaders, aggravating allegations of double standards.

In the face of criticism that the Yellow Shirts have gone unpunished for the airports blockade, which caused huge inconvenience and economic losses, Abhisit said he would speed up efforts to prosecute leaders of those protests.

Twin quakes

FROM PAGE 16

"The work is going on and the rubble is being removed to try to find more dead bodies or injured people," interior ministry spokesman Zemarai Bashari told AFP.

A US military provincial reconstruction team (PRT) based in Jalalabad, the provincial capital, also provided emergency assistance.

"The PRT based in Jalalabad dispatched a convoy of humanitarian assistance to the villages affected, in coordination with local NGOs and at the request of the Afghan government," said US military spokeswoman Major Jeny Willis.

Ahmad Shekib Hamraz, an official with the disaster management directorate, said hundreds of animals had also been killed.

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

The US Geological Survey said two moderate earthquakes rattled the Hindu Kush border area between Afghanistan and Pakistan in the early hours of Friday.

A 5.5-magnitude quake struck at 1:57 am Afghan time (2127 GMT Thursday) 85 kilometres (55 miles) southeast of Kabul, according to the US agency.

The quake was at a shallow depth of eight kilometres.

It was followed just over

IMF forecasts

FROM PAGE 16

Japanese banking crisis of the 1990s, shows that the decline in capital flows tends to be "sizeable and drawn out."

"Given their large exposure, emerging European economies might be heavily affected," said the 185-nation institution, whose mission is to promote global stability.

The Washington-based IMF highlighted the need for global coordination to battle the downturn and contain the financial meltdown.

"A coordinated policy response by advanced and emerging economies is required to prevent further escalation and spreading of financial stress," it said.

The publication of the first two WEO chapters, which focus on recovery from recession and the spreading of financial stress from the advanced to emerging economies, came as the IMF prepares for its spring meetings with the World Bank, to be held April 25-26 in Washington.

The sober tone of the chapters appeared to signal significant downward revisions for the forthcoming WEO forecasts, due to be published next Wednesday.

In an update last month, the IMF predicted the first global contraction in 60 years, of between an annual negative rate of 0.5 percent and 1.0 percent in 2009.

The world economy was expected to gradually stage a "modest recovery" in 2010, with growth between 1.5 percent and 2.5 percent, it said.

two hours later by a 5.1-magnitude aftershock at a depth of just three kilometres.

Northern Afghanistan and Pakistan are frequently hit by earthquakes, especially around the Hindu Kush range near the collision of the Eurasian and Indian tectonic plates.

A 7.6-magnitude earthquake in northwest Pakistan and Kashmir in October 2005 killed 74,000 people and displaced 3.5 million.

Robbers stab

FROM PAGE 16

mobile, phones, electronic goods and other valuables from the house.

Ferdous said a gang of seven to eight armed robbers in masks stormed into his house. The robbery happened in between 2:00am and 3:00am, he said.

Burglars broke into the house of Bimal Chandra Mandal, accounts officer of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, on the third floor of a three-storey building at Mohammadpur in the evening when Bimal and his family members went out for shopping, said Bimal's relative Anindan Haldar.

Shajahan Kabir, officer-in-charge of the Mohammadpur Police Station, said they visited the spot and a case was filed with the police station.

Mumbai attacks

FROM PAGE 16

Kasab's "confession statement" to the police and on transfer to jail, he had said he was 21.

Judge ML Tahilyani asked Kasab to stand in the dock and then commented: "As one looks at accused No. 1, it does not appear that he is below 17 years."

Rejecting the application, the judge added: "In my considered opinion, the plea is frivolous and intended to delay the trial."

In his opening arguments, Nikam said Kasab was part of a "meticulously planned and ruthlessly executed" plot hatched across the border.

"All the accused persons, including the wanted and deceased persons, are the products of a strategic terror culture," Nikam told the court.

"This terrorist culture has penetrated deep into Pakistan by terrorist organisations like Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). It is institutionalised there. It has taken a firm root... Pakistan has indeed become a hotbed of terrorism," he said.

Nikam said there was "sufficient evidence on the record to conclude that this criminal conspiracy was hatched in Pakistan" by the LeT and unnamed "supporting agencies" -- a veiled reference to Pakistan's spy service.

"This is a multi-headed dragon capable of asserting itself in various forms," he added.

The Mumbai attacks saw 10 gunmen, of whom Kasab is alleged to be the sole survivor, land in the city by boat and murder more than 160 people.

A railway station, a café, two luxury hotels and a Jewish centre were targeted in the 60-hour attacks and hundreds were injured.

PM issues cheques

FROM PAGE 1

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 Banglar 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