

PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS &amp; FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

FedEx.  
Federal Express

The World on Time

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, DEPZ 9338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108  
Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Gani, Tel: 9714336

## Survey report 47 killed, 1955 hurt in UP polls violence

By Staff Correspondent  
A total of 47 people were murdered and 1,955 injured in violence during the month-long Union Parishad elections which ended on December 31, according to a survey conducted by the Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB).

Three persons were killed and 250 injured — the highest number in an area on a single day — when clashes broke out between supporters of two rival candidates in Laxmipur on December 14.

In Bholia Sadar thana, 100 people were injured in polls-related violence on December 2. This was the second highest number of casualties in an area on a day.

The CCHRB said that besides their own on-the-spot observations in 750 union parishads of 44 districts, they compiled the figures from reports in the national dailies.

The UP elections were generally peaceful with large turnout of voters, especially female ones. Voting was slow with voters having to wait for long due to inadequate number of polling booths, it noted.

In most polling centres, there was no privacy for the voters to cast their votes."

The CCHRB suggested that the number of female voters casting votes must be made available. The voters should be provided with identity cards and more election staff be deployed for smooth polling, it added.

## Pvt sector to play vital role

From page 1

sphere" in Bangladesh.

There is evident interest of Italian investors to be more active in Bangladesh. I am confident that the private sector will play a significant role in furthering trade and investment between our two countries."

The Italian Prime Minister said his country supports the promotion of regional cooperation pursued by Bangladesh.

We are also happy about the Ganges water sharing treaty with India and the CHT peace accord signed recently."

Praising the CHT accord, Prof. Prodi observed, "It would bring necessary peace for accelerating development efforts."

Europe has developed because of peace and "you also need the same for your development," he noted.

Responding to a question, he said it is true that Bangladesh has many problems, mainly because of its size. He, however, added, "The economic fundamentals of Bangladesh are quite good and there is no reason that this country will not prosper."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said at the joint press conference that the two sides had discussed ways and means of increasing trade and investment flows between the two countries.

We also reaffirmed our willingness to strengthen the existing friendly relations, intensifying cooperation in various fields."

Sheikh Hasina recalled with gratitude the support and assistance extended by Italy in rebuilding the war-ravaged economy of Bangladesh immediately after its independence in 1971.

"We also appreciate the assistance given to us by Prime Minister Prodi that Italy will seriously consider participating in the Ganges Barrage project," she said.

Earlier in the morning, official talks were held for an hour between the two sides at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO). Sheikh Hasina led a 12-member

## Erratic gas supply in city areas

By Staff Correspondent

The people of the city are suffering badly for the last few days as gas supply in different parts of the city has become very poor and irregular due to a supply shortfall in the national grid.

### Cold wave

From page 1

In its special forecast for the cricket tournament, the Met office said the weather will remain "generally dry" during the matches until January 20. A thin veil of mist will however prevail on Monday and Tuesday.

Visibility will substantially improve from Monday, bringing the touch of a "fine weather" during the day time, the forecast said.

The night temperature all over the country will gradually fall. With the disappearance of the cloud, there will be a sharp fall in the night temperature, the forecast said.

Both sources said, two domestic flights of the airline was cancelled due to fog yesterday evening.

Railway sources said 32 train services including eight mail trains remained suspended since Thursday.

Ferry services were also disrupted.

**Our weekly feature 'Down to Earth' could not be published today due to space constraint. Inconvenience to the readers regretted.**

## Repatriation of refugees thru' Tabalchhari begins today

From Our Correspondent

KHAGRACHHARI, Jan 9: The next phase of repatriation of tribal refugees will begin tomorrow through Tabalchhari frontier point of the district.

Refugees in Thakumbari, Shilachhari, Karbuk, Pancharanpara, and Lebachhara camps will return to their homes. One thousand two hundred and seven tribesmen belonging to 200 families are expected to return home at Shilachhari tomorrow through the Tabalchhari point. They are residents of Matiranga, Panchhari and Dighinala thanas.

Earlier, a total of 263 refugees belonging to 54 families returned home on the ninth day of the sixth phase of repatriation today.

With this, 7895 refugees of 1581 families have returned home through Ramgarh frontier point from Kathalchhari refugee camp in the Indian state of Tripura. The sixth phase of repatriation through Ramgarh has ended today.

### President

From page 1

tions and the visit of Romano Prodi would further strengthen the existing ties between the two countries, he added.

President Shahabuddin observed that Bangladesh and Italy have cooperative relations in various international forums and both the countries have similarity of views on major global issues.

Bangladesh considers Italy as one of her dependable friends," he said adding that Italy is one of the largest export destinations for Bangladeshi products like garments, frozen foods and leather goods in Europe.

Prime Minister Prof Romano Prodi appreciated the warm hospitality of the people of Bangladesh and the government shown to him and the members of his entourage.

### Home-coming

From page 1

Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages on the occasion recalling the historic return of Bangabandhu to the motherland on January 10, 1972.

The President in his message urged all irrespective of party affiliations to make efforts in establishing a happy and prosperous country.

In her message, Sheikh Hasina reiterated her pledge to build the country as dreamt by the Father of the Nation.

On this day in 1972, our great leader returned to the home land, the independent Bangladesh after being released from Pakistani jail, she said.

"His return gave Bangladesh its independence its completeness. Therefore, the January 10 is a glorious event in the political history of Bengal."

Bangladesh Awami League and its front organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The programmes include hoisting of national and party flags atop its central and all unit offices across the country and Bangabandhu Bhaban at 6 am, and laying wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8 am.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will attend a discussion meeting organised by Awami League at Engineers Institute at 3 pm.

Bangladesh Betar and Television will put out special programmes on the occasion.

### Ferry service

From page 1

asked the authorities concerned to implement it "as soon as possible."

A high official of BWTC while talking to the Daily Star yesterday said, "Once the new ferry service is opened, the load of cargo vehicles going through the capital will be cut down by at least 40 percent."

He said, "It will be a great step forward in the road communication system in the country. The ferry service will be of great convenience especially for the truck drivers who travel to Khulna and Barisal divisions from Chittagong division."

He said, "It will be a great

step forward in the road communication system in the country. The ferry service will be of great convenience especially for the truck drivers who travel to Khulna and Barisal divisions from Chittagong division."

every match seriously. Bangladesh is an emerging nation, but there is no scope of underestimating them," said the Hydrabad-born most successful Indian captain.

At official briefing, Syed Ashraf Haque, a vice-president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, declined to disclose the financial dealings of the tournament.

"I am not authorised to say anything other than introducing the officials of the three teams," he said in reply to a volley of questions from the newsmen, who were eager to know the deal between the Board and America-based WorldTel.

Ashraf, however, assured that the board would disclose all the details about the deal in a month.

The wicket looked a bit damp in the morning when we had our practice at the venue. I don't know how it is going to be tomorrow. I think no one can make any prediction until the match starts," said Ashraf.

"However, we have come here to play and we are taking

every match seriously. Bangladesh is an emerging nation, but there is no scope of underestimating them," said the Hydrabad-born most successful Indian captain.

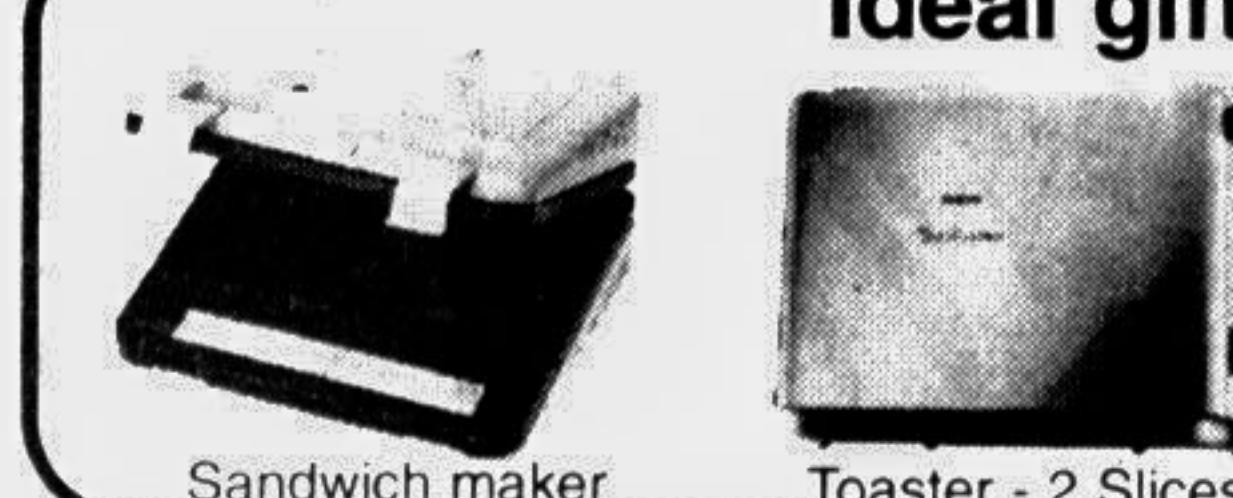
At official briefing, Syed Ashraf Haque, a vice-president of the Bangladesh Cricket Board, declined to disclose the financial dealings of the tournament.

"I am not authorised to say anything other than introducing the officials of the three teams," he said in reply to a volley of questions from the newsmen, who were eager to know the deal between the Board and America-based WorldTel.

Ashraf, however, assured that the board would disclose all the details about the deal in a month.

The wicket looked a bit damp in the morning when we had our practice at the venue. I don't know how it is going to be tomorrow. I think no one can make any prediction until the match starts," said Ashraf.

"However, we have come here to play and we are taking



Ideal gift for any occasion.

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets  
Dhaka : 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg : 716353, 723578  
Khulna : 720304, Bogra : 6215

Backed by  
Guarantee

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

## 10 hurt in Narsingdi gunfight

From Our Correspondent

NARSINGDI, Jan 9: At least ten people were injured in a gunfight today in connection with the last month's Union Parishad elections at Srinagar under Raipura thana.

At least 15 rounds of shots were fired during the violence that lasted for about two hours, according to witnesses.

Of the injured, Anis Miah, 25, sustained serious injuries and was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Others were under treatment at Raipura hospital.

The violence took place when a group of about 100 people attacked the house of Shah Alam Master, reportedly a supporter of a newly-elected UP chairman Rezaul Karim Khan, at Bhetuarchar village in Srinagar at about 10 am.

Police said none was arrested or no case was lodged in connection with the incident till Friday night.

## Golam Kashem Daddy dead

Renowned photographer Golam Kashem, Daddy died of old-age ailment in the city yesterday at the age of 104, reports UNB.

Golam Kashem was a pioneer of photography in the country. He died at his Indira Road residence at 9 pm, family sources said.

### Terrorists

From page 1  
of arms racketeering and drug smuggling groups.

Allegations are also there that some unscrupulous elements in the law enforcement agencies also supply ammunition to the gangs.

Firearms are also reportedly manufactured in Dhaka and some other parts of the country, including Jhenidah, Barisal and the hill areas of Chittagong.

For the convenience of carrying, the gang members prefer to use small weapons like pistol, revolver and sawn-off rifles, the sources said.

But they also possess heavy arms like LMG, SMG and even rocket launcher. Some of those are smuggled from other countries, the sources added.

**FBCCI**

From page 1  
at 258 million US dollars and direct foreign investment from Italy is yet to reach a satisfactory level. We think the position can improve significantly with increased and meaningful communication and interaction between the private sector of the two sides."

The meeting concluded with the signing of a protocol of cooperation between the General Confederation of the Italian Industry and the FBCCI. Confederation official Giovanni Cordini and FBCCI vice president Kazi Shafiqul Islam, initialised the protocol.

## গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সতর্কতার বিষয়টি

\* এখন শীতকালে অনেকেই ঘর গরম রাখা, কাপড়-চোড় তোনো সেডিং এর সময় গ্যাস জ্বালিয়ে কিংবা একটি ম্যাচের কাঠি বাঁচাতে মূল্যবান প্রাক্তিক সম্পদের অপ্যবহার করছেন। গ্যাসের এই অপ্যবহার ও অপচয় রোধ করন।

\* সামান্য অস্তর্কতা বা তুলের কানে অগ্নিকান্ত ঘটে জানমালের ক্ষতি হতে পারে। গ্যাস ব্যবহারে অধিক সতর্ক থাকুন এবং আগামী জ্বলনের জন্য গ্যাস ব্যবহারে মিত্ব্যাহা হউন।

\* আজই আপনার বাড়ি, বেংগলো বা কল-কারখানার গ্যাস লাইন অনুমোদিত কর্মী দ্বারা পরীক্ষা করুন।

\* কোথাও গ্যাসের গুরু পেলে বা গ্যাস সংক্রান্ত যে কোন সমস্যায় হানীয় গ্যাস অবিসে অবিলম্বে যোগাযোগ করুন।

\* গ্যাসের পরিকল্পিত ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করুন নিয়মিত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন।

জনসেবায় নিবৰ্দ্ধ  
তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড টিভিবিউশন কোম্পানী নিঃ  
(পেট্রোবাল্টার একটি কোম্পানী)  
ফোন : ৯৫৬৩৬৬৬, ৯৬৩৬৮৮, ৯১২৩৭৯ (সিলা রাত)  
পুরুষ প্রিমি এন্ড প্রিমি প্রিমি প্রিমি ৮২

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> and Email address: [dstar@bangla.net](mailto:dstar@bangla.net)