Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

NEW DOHS

184/A, Eastern Road, Lane # 2 Mohakhali, Dhaka Tel # 9884851, 603798

GULSHAN

OPEN 24 HOURS Bilguis Tower

Gulshan Circle-2, Dhaka Tel # 9883927, 887771

Baly Complex, Sector-3 Airport Road, Uttara, Dhaka Tel # 894213

a population growing bigger ev-

ery day with limited resources.

experts, policy planners and

aspiration in agriculture sector

at the doorsill of a new century

ees, two third of the country's

workforce, and agriculture accounts for over 30 per cent of

the country's GDP. Subsequent

bumper crops in last boro and

current aman seasons salvaged

a flood-ravaged economy when

other sectors including indus-

Former agriculture minister

AZM Obaidullah Khan gives his

view in fayour of establishing

better linkage between credit

and market, saying that "if or-

ganized even small farmers can

grow high-value agro-products

and upgrade themselves to the

level of commercial farming

He sees loss in soil fertility.

organic materials and scarcity

of water as main roadblocks in

hindering agricultural growth

for biotechnological maneuver-

ing, the question remains

whether we become a new

colony of multinationals," he

apprehended. A former ranking

and Agriculture, Khan, sounds

urgency in preserving biodiver-

sity and establishes patent

Dr Mahabub Hossain, head

economist of the IRRI, says that

countries do not necessarily re-

quire self-sufficiency in rice to

achieve or sustain food security.

He cites the following examples

Malaysia imports 40 per cent

rights on own plant resources.

official of the UN body for Food

"Although we may have to go

from subsistence farming".

in the new millennium.

tries, failed miserably.

Agriculture sector employ-

beginning today.

Guarantee

Let's make things better.

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

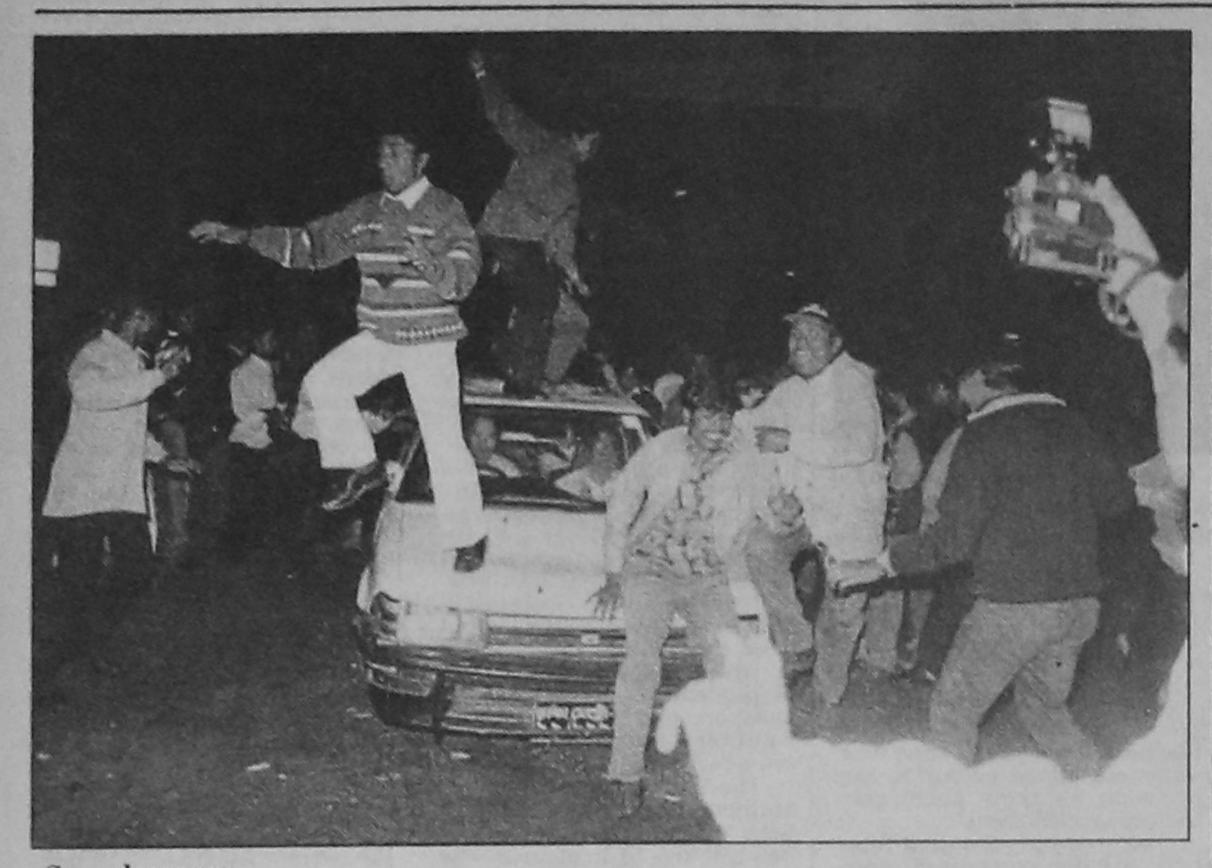
Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg.: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215 Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today





Cordless Kettle



For many, the city streets weren't safe during the midnight celebrations. This photo shows youngsters dance to their own tune at the cost of a car while some foreign nationals inside watch helplessly. Many others complained that they had similar -Star photo experience in some parts of the city.

Putin plans shake-up

MOSCOW, Jan 1: Vladimir Putin hinted of cabinet shakeups on Saturday after plunging with a flourish into his new job as president with a New Year's Eve visit to Russian troops in in charge. Chechnya, reports AFP.

"Any mechanism, any collective is in the process of constant perfection," Interfax quoted Putin as saying. "So these (changes in government) are possible.

The comments appeared in vented. character for Putin, who spends little time talking to the press about his government and whose advisers are secretive as

But the new Russian president is big on showmanship.

Within hours of becoming Russia's acting president, Putin, 47. flew to the North Caucasus for a morale-boosting visit to troops fighting rebel forces in Chechnya, ringing in the new millennium while flying in a military helicopter.

eter," Putin told Russian terevision. "The pilot said we did not yet have clearance to land, so we had to turn back, but we opened the bottle

From page 1

chaos have led not only broth-

ers killing each other but it

proved suicidal for the nation.

The nation must be saved from

such a situation," he said. So.

apart from unity, it is more

necessary to take the future in

consideration of the politi-

sion on Bangladesh facing the

challenges of 21st Century held

committee member Prof AQM

Badruddoza Chowdhury, oppo-

sition Chief Whip Khandaker

Delwar Hossain, former vice-

chancellor of Dhaka University

Prof Moniruzzaman Mia, Dr

Khalilur Rahman among others

key-note paper said Bangladesh

would have to face two main

challenges in economy and en-

vironment globally like econ-

omy in agriculture and industry

and global warming and ar-

lenges if can use science and

technology for which it needs

broad based culture of educa-

tion, development of science

and technology and its applica-

tion," the former VC told the

In this regard, he said the in-

Prof Moniruzzaman said

formation technology is the

key-point for advancing the

'We can always face the chal-

Prof Moniruzzaman in his

spoke at the discussion.

senic problem.

discussion meeting.

nation.

BNP organised the discus-

Chaired by BNP standing

mistakes.

false successes.

cians, he added.

at 29 Minto Road.

president was visiting soldiers in the war zone, national television broadcast a pre-recorded New Year's address to the nation

the limits of the constitution of Russia, will be firmly pre-

"The goal is peace on Chechen soil, prosperity for Chechen people," Putin told troops in Gudermes, Chechnya's second city Russian troops recently recaptured from the

We opened the champagne in the republic, Putin also repeated his stock offer to negotiate with the rebels.

"We are always ready for talks," he said, according to Interfax news agency. If Chechen leaders denounced terrorism, As the youthful new acting extradite criminals and free hostages, Russia will reciprocate, Putin said.

He told the troops that their mission was critical for the country. "You are restoring our honour and dignity and putting "There will not be a minute an end to Russia's debacle, Putin told the troops.

As he was choppering around Chechnya through the night, the presidential box reserved for Putin and his wife for a gala event at the Bolshoi Theater sat empty while other members of Russia's elite partied the night away.

In his television address, the steely-eyed former KGB spy. now the clear frontrunner to win presidential elections pencilled in for March 26, also vowed to defend free speech and human rights.

Putin's first official engagement as acting president will come Sunday when he meets party chiefs in the newly-elected State Duma lower house of parliament, aides said. Three days later, he will at-

in city today

By Staff Correspondent

programmes to muster support

for tomorrow's (Monday) hartal

has called the hartal to protest

holding of Chittagong City Cor-

poration (CCC) polls scheduled

According to a BNP press re-

BNP chairperson and leader

lease issued yesterday, the party

will bring out separate proces-

sions from 11 points of the city.

of the opposition Khaleda Zia

also issued a statement yester-

day urging all to make hartal a

Hijackers 'not

in Pakistan'

ISLAMABAD, Jan 1: Pak-

istan said today it would arrest

and try the hijackers of an In-

dian airliner if they entered the

Haider, quoted by the official

APP news agency, said the five

hijackers, and the three

militants freed by India on Fri-

territory, they will be appre-

hended and tried as per estab-

lished international rules and

conventions to which Pakistan

militants disappeared from

Kandahar airport in southern

Afghanistan on Friday after the

end of the eight-day hijacking

and release of 160 hostages who

Indian foreign minister

Jaswant Sngh said in New

Delhi intelligence reports sug-

gested the hijackers and the re-

leased militants were on their

way to Quetta, capital of Pak-

istani province of Baluchistan.

stage o negotiations in Knda-

Singh supervised the final

"Pakisan is on high alert,

and in case they enter Pakistan

territory, they will be appre-

hended and tried as per estab-

lished international rules and

conventions, to which Pakistan

cific instructions" to the con-

cerned officials and agencies of

the two border provinces of

North West Frontier Province

and Baluchistan, the minister

of terrorism and abides by the

international conventions.

rules and regulations," he said.

Pakistan "condemns all acts

He has issued "clear and spe-

is a signatory," Haider said.

were flown back to India.

The hijackers and three

is a signatory."

day, had not entered Pakistan.

Interior Minister Moinuddin

"In case they enter Pakistan

country, reports Reuters.

throughout the country.

for tomorrow.

BNP has drawn up elaborate

BNP-led opposition alliance

tend a special session of the neighbours do. upper house, Federation Council The critical factor for food which is to set a date for early security is "self-reliance", the presidential elections. Election economist says, which requires officials are considering March favourable export growth so 26 for the polls. that those with rice deficit can import food from those with surplus. Self-reliance also re-BNP processions

farming By Reaz Ahmad

commercial

The 'Millennium challenge' by Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. before the Bangladesh agriculwhich is the assurance of proture is to graduate itself from the level of subsistence farming ductive employment so that people can buy food from the

to commercial farming and feed Obaidullah Khan fully agreed with Hossain. Khan said, As the country is well poised "employment generation with a record high food volume should be the main thrust if we in stock, The Daily Star talks to do not want to see more and more unemployed farm labourfarmers to know the nation's ers in the rural Bangladesh".

"The first sign of civil unrest can often be traced to rising rice prices", says IRRI head economist Dr Mahabub Hos-

sain. Poor distribution and lack of purchasing power are also often responsible for hardship, as experienced in the famines in Bengal in 1943-44 and in Bangladesh in 1974-75. says Hossain. Abdul Hakim, a farmer in

Dinajpur, told The Daily Star how he cherished agriculture to grow in the country in the days to come. To him, pricing of the produces was one of the main factors. Besides, Hakim says that "farmers can always gift the nation with good harvests provided quality seeds and inputs are made available and in time"

Officials in the Agriculture Ministry say that government wants to create an environment where private sectors come up and join efforts in growth of agriculture, till date, the main fuel of the engine of the Bangladesh economy.

Private sector representatives told this correspondent about their willingness to take up the millenium challenge of agriculture. "Lot of possibilities surfaced before us - biotechnology, gene revolution and modern agro-machinery development. What we have to do only is to reach the benefits of these developments to our hardworking farmers", opined one

Experts say that feeding an of its rice, and wealthy ever-increasing size of popula-Singapore and Hong Kong have tion would be one of the major Letter records of food security challenges before Bangladesh than their major rice-growing in the new millennium. Though the country has successfully controlled its otherwise very high birth rate over the years. they explained, because of a broad population-base that we already have, more new mouths to be fed will be added to put stress on valuable foods that we quires "entitlement," as coined grow on scarce land.



the important personalities who had died since the previous session parliament. MPs from the four-party opposition alliance were absent. -Star photo

one of his former employees

was with the group who in the

absence of others purchased two

lakh shares of Paper Processing

Mohammad Ullah also sought

cancellation of the particular

the sub-brokerage firm and an-

other employee have been re-

General Diary were lodged with

the Motijheel police in this re-

Ullah lodged an FIR and a Gen-

eral Diary while the other FIR

was lodged by wife of M A Karim

DSE official confirmed that

they received the complaint af-

ter trading hours on Thursday.

ready been initiated in this re-

gard." the official said.

Talking to The Daily Star, a

"An investigation has al-

gard on December 31, 1999.

Explaining the situation,

After the incident, owner of

Two separate FIRs and one

DSE member Mohammad

at the rate of Tk 205 each.

ported missing.

Khan.

DSE probing Tk 4 cr share purchase scam

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) has launched an investigation into alleged purchase of shares worth Tk 4.1 crore by unfair means by some out-

The DSE investigation follows a complaint by a brokerage house, M/s Mohammad Ullah and Shabbir Ahmed. It alleged that a group of four to five men entered the sub-brokerage house and tactfully brought them out of the office. M A Karim Khan rented the subbrokerage firm.

Mohammad Ullah said in the complaint before the Chief Executive Officer of DSE that

Justice Latifur Rahman takes oath as CJ

President Shahabuddin Ahmed administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Chief Justice, Justice Latifur Rahman, at a simple ceremony at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Cabinet secretary Qazi Shamsul Alam conducted the oath-taking ceremony. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina was present on the oc-

Former chief justices Justice Mostafa Kamal, Justice ATM Afzal and Justice Kemaludin, cabinet ministers, judges of the Supreme Court Appellate and High Court Divisions, members of parliament, attorney general. senior advocates, president and general secretary of Supreme Court Bar Association, vice president of Bangladesh Bar Council and high officials were present on the occasion.

Midnight

From page 1 ing winter on the Dhaka streets as soon as the clock struck zero

Some simply roamed about the city streets on tricycle-rickshaw vans, blowing whistles and shouting welcome to the

Most 'noisy' parties were held at the posh Gulshan area where police had to break up two such parties as the revellers turned violent, damaging at least 20 vehicles, passing by the

area during the celebrations. Earlier, police mobilised water cannon and riot-cars, sealed off entries to the Gulshan and Banani to prevent revellers getting out of hand.

But the revellers suddenly poured out in to the streets. from restaurants and hotels in the Gulshan area, and went into partying on the streets, bursting crackers and indulging in fire works into the night sky welcoming the new millennium.

Most of the casualties were reported from the Gopibagh. Gulshan, Demra and old city areas.

In Dhaka University, a young woman was abused by a group of unruly youths soon after the clock struck zero hours. witnesses said. Police later rescued the woman whose identity could not be known immedi-

groups, also used abusive words towards the young girls who gathered at the TSC area of DU to welcome the new millennium.

boys and girls thronged the TSC dancing throughout the night.

Exploding series of crackers. they also | rranged fireworks. which here ded the advent of the new milennium. Sound of gunshots were also heard from inside different residential

Obituary reference Speaker Humayun Rasheed

Chowdhury yesterday moved an obituary reference at the first session of the Millennium which coincides with the inauguration of the 16th session of the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad, to condole the death of former President Mohammadullah. Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, National Professor Dewan Mohammad Azraf, National Professor Abdur Razzak, Rokanuzzaman Khan (Dadabhai) - a veteran Organiser of Juvenile movement "Kachi Kanchar Mela" and a former Member of the Jatiya Sangsad AFM Reazul Huq Chowdhury.

The obituary reference cited in essence of the glorious contributions they made towards the nation-building process along with their brief life sketches.

The reference contained appeal from the Chair to appreciate their valuable contributions in their respective fields and adopt it unanimously. The members stood in

solemn silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the departed souls before they offered munajat to the Almighty and adopted the reference.

BE WITH PARJATAN, EXPLORE DHAKA AND THE GLORY OF GOLDEN BENGAL

every Friday to provide you an opportunity to enrich your knowledge about the historic city.

Date of tour

January 2000

Starting Place

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

& Time

Tk. 150.00 per person Tk. 125.00 for minor & students

(subject to presentation of ID

Parliament House, Lalbaghfort, Dhakeshwari Temple, Three Leaders Mausoleum, Curzon Hall, Sohrawardi Uddiyan,

Services

Liberation War Museum. Non A/C transport, Snacks,

Tour-2

Bengal - Sonargaon/place of national pride and

Every Saturday from 15th

at 9.00 A.M

Tk. 300.00 per person

Tk. 200.00 for minor & students (subject to presentation of ID card)

Non A/C transport, Snacks. Entrance fee, Lunch, Guide &

parking.

Tour will be operated subject to sale of minimum 10 tickets for

For Tickets please contact: Tours Division (Head office): 8118658, 327842

each tour.

(Near Bijoy Sarani) **Tourist Information Centre**

From page 1 in late afternoon. office at Anderkilla at about 5

pm, was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Bombs were exploded at Sir-

and witnesses said.

tors by resorting to lathi

Opposition leaders said the programme of a "curfew hartal" was announced to keep voters

Awami League held a meeting at Laldighi Maidan this afternoon amid tight security. Police and BDR were deployed in and around the ground where all entry points were closed. Some cocktails were exploded near the meeting venue, witnesses

supporters could not go to the Laldighi Maidan and hold its planned rally as police and BDR put up barbed wire barricades and intercepted their processions at Cinema Palace crossing. Bexirhat crossing. Lovelane and Port Road, witnesses said.

ploded a series of home made bombs and put up a barricade on the Port Road, halting traffic

Hunger procession by businessmen in Chittagong

business community in the name of the politics, reports

The rally was held prior to a 'Vukha Michhil' (hunger procession) in the city protesting frequent hartals and deteriorating law and order.

greater Chittagong Shop Owners' Association Mohammad Yunus, the rally was addressed by member-secretary of the association Abdus Sabur and leaders of different shopping centres in the city.

Police said the processions were intercepted to avert clash. The Opposition alliance then held a protest rally at

Tension mounted in the port city yesterday when the ruling Awami League and the Opposition announced that they would hold their planned rallies at Laldighi Maidan at the same

Administration sources said security has been tightened by stepping up police and BDR patrol. They said 10,000 police, 300 BDR and 150 army personnel were deployed in the port city today to maintain law and

On the other hand, ward commissioners candidates and their supporters continued campaigning in the city defying sporadic bomb explosions and

Most of the shops were closed at the places were bombs were exploded

No chance of deferring CCC polls: Acting CEC Acting Chief Election Com

chance of deferring the Chittagong City Corporation elections because of legal compulsions, reports UNB. The business community of the port city yesterday appealed to the Election Commission as well as the President and the

Prime Minister for deferring

the polls because of prevailing

turbulent political situation

missioner Mushtaq Ahmed

Chowdhury ruled out any

Main opposition parties including BNP, are boycotting the CCC elections scheduled for tomorrow and continuing violent campaign against the vote.

Talking to UNB over telephone last night, the acting chief election commissioner said: "We don't have any option but to conduct the election. There is no chance of deferring the election. What the election commission could hardly do is cancelling elections at troubletorn centres.

Opposition parties have declared that they would resist the election anyhow and announced hartal for today and tomorrow, the election date. Meanwhile, the Election

Pre-poll violence

ajuddallah Road, Anderkilla, Chawkbazar, Bahaddarhat, Muradpur, Probartak crossing, Agrabad, Barik Building crossing, Kadamtoli, and in front of the Chittagong Press Club and the stadium where an 'election control office' was up, police

The autorickshaw and the bus were torched this evening at the EPZ crossing by anti-polls demonstrators, police said. Police dispersed the demonstra-

indoors during the polling.

However, the ruling party

The Opposition activists and

Angry processionists exmovement for about two hours

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: A rally organised by the members of business community here today urged all political parties to find out alternatives to hartal and not to make hostage the

Presided over by convenor of

Commission will send a highlevel official observer team to see the situation and recommend what to do in case of bad law and order situation.

Tour-1

Parjatan offers Dhaka City Sightseeing Tour

Every Friday from 14th

at 9.00 A.M

Tour Price

card) Places to cover

Entrance fee, Guide & parking.

Parjatan offers trip to ancient capital of glory - Savar in every Saturday.

Date of tour

Starting Place & Time

Friday night and welcomed new the millennium by singing and The celebrations started early, well before the zero hours. The halls of residential students had parties that ran through the whole night.

January 2000 Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Services

N.B.

Thousands of jubilant young

Tour Price

Unruly youths divided into

Head Office 8119192

BANGLADESH PARJATAN CORPORATION

that political commitment is pre-requisite for the progress of the country and cope with the challenges of the modern world. JS panel of

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury yesterday nominated a 5-member panel of chairmen to conduct the House in absence of the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker, reports

chairmen

Syeda Zebunnesa Haq.

They are: Prof Ali Ashraf, K M Shafiullah, Tasmima Hossain, Prof Ethin Rakhain and

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: 8616772-4, Commercial: 8616771, Fax No: 88-02-8613035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

BNP defines politics

Bhuiyan said the politicians tics that people are against autocracy as well as terrorism. are engaged in endless and Bangladesh is not out of the fruitless debate and fratricidal fight to kill each other claiming world politics, Deputy Leader of the Opposition said. The pre-"The political friction and

> that not only political leaders. people of all strata should come

> come under the proper leadership, he said. Dhaka University said it would be the first and Farz (mandatory) duty of all to re-

DESA steers clear fear

bagh area in the evening, because of 'technical reasons' said a DESA source.

ply line," the source said. city and suburban areas had an almost load shedding-free day at beginning of the third millennium. The DESA's highest consumption was 901 Megawatt

Board (PDB) supplied electricity to the DESA, to meet it's requirement, the DESA source pointed out. The power supply situation in the whole country could not be known despite repeated attempts over telephone. Nobody picked up the phone at the PDB control room last evening.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail,

which made clear that he was of power vacuum in the country." Putin said. "I would like to warn that any attempts to exceed the limits of Russian laws,

Putin's current popularity has been attributed largely to his commitment to bring Chechnya firmly back under Moscow's control, and he declined Saturday to set a deadline for achieving that objective.

As heavy fighting continued

Prof B Chowdhury said that it is almost true in world poli-

sent government was 'a terrorism dependent terrorist government,' he added. Giving importance to build up skilled manpower for the advancement and prosperity of the country B Chowdhury said

forward for building up the country.

The country will have to Dr Khalilur Rahman of move the 'fascist and failed government' by the first year of the

new century to face the domestic

challenges.

By Staff Correspondent The Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) did not have any shortage in power supply yesterday in the area under the command of DESA, save a twohour long load shedding in Lal-

"The power supply of that area had to be suspended for some time because of weak sup-Except Lalabagh area the

yesterday. The Power Development