

Your 20-page weekend paper

3rd Millennium

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by Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury

face with Ekram Kabir

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country chief Anwar Kamal Yuree face to Popular novelist Imdadul Haq Milon talks about his teenage life to Ziaul

COMMENT

announced on satellite based cable channels. The local film industry can hardly argue from a moral high ground as most of the films produced in Bangladesh beat the worst of foreign films hollow in terms of obscenities, violence and outrageous fantasy, Hasnat Abdul Hye writes in Circling the Wagon

There is no way that a wholesale ban can be

A national dream is therefore important, which lodged in the hearts of every citizen, must run like a thread from the heart of the father to that of his son, writes Mohammad Badrul Ahsan in Why Do the Poor Want to Live?

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### for full House Winter JS session on

#### By Staff Correspondent

The winter session of Jativa Sangsad began yesterday with the Speaker repeating his call for all MPs to attend the proceedings of parliament.

Legislators belonging to main opposition BNP and its allies are continuing their abstention from the House.

However, lawmakers of a facrion of Jatiya Party and the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, both loval to the Awami League government. and rebel BNP MP Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman joined the session with the Treasury Bench members.

"... I hope all the members of parliament will join the session regularly and carry out their duties considering the welfare of the nation," Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury said in his introductory speech.

He also reminded the lawmakers of their constitutional obligation to participate in the businesses of parliament.

Beginning at 11 a.m., the oneand-a-half-hour opening sitting of the 20th session ended with adoption of separate obituary references on Salahuddin Yusuf. a minister and a member of the present parliament, and eight other former lawmakers, who died since the previous session was prorogued.

See page 11 col 4

# Speakers calls for full House Unocal sticks to 'ghost' payment claims

US company's reply to Petrobangla warning leaves JS body bewildered

By Nazrul Islam

Magurchhara blowout through the Supplemental Agreement to Blocks 13 and 14 Production Sharing Contract (PSC), dated November 25, 1998.

In a meeting of the parliamentary subcommittee on Energy yesterday, officials discussed a Unocal reply to Petrobangla's recent warning letter on the Magurchhara issue, sources said.

In its November 2 letter, the US company wrote: "Cash was paid to some individuals and business that had proven damage claims; repairs were made by OBL (Occidental Bangladesh Limited) to mitigate damage in other instances.

"In the case of Petrobangla, contractual changes were made for compensation. All cost details had previously been sent to Petrobangla and the contractual changes were well-known. Yesterday's meeting observed that the Supple-

Unocal -- had proved to be a 'reward.' expired on January 10, 1998 due to its failure to fulfil the minimum work commitment that included

drilling of one exploratory well. The Supplemental Agreement was signed through an understanding that the Occidental would gradually pay all compen-At the meeting yesterday, one of the investigators

of the Magurchhara blowout said that the disaster had happened due to negligence of Occidental. The investigator was invited to the meeting as the

Unocal has once again reiterated that committee members wanted to know who was actu-Petrobangla has been fully compensated for the ally responsible for the blowout. The original probe

committee report still remains under wraps. "It was an incident, not an accident," a member of a parliamentary sub-committee told The Daily Star yesterday following the meeting with the officials from the energy and mineral resources ministry and Petrobangla.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources recently formed the sub-committee to look into the Magurchhara incident and its compensation issues, which has been virtually shelved by certain highlevel government officials.

The committee in its meeting asked the ministry officials to submit the probe report on the Magurchhara blast, which is still missing after its preparation in June 1997. The 500-page report is not available to any of the officials of the ministry mental Agreement of Occidental -- now owned by and Petrobangla, and nobody knows where it is.

The ministry officials are still looking for the Occidental's PSC for blocks 13 and 14 had report. If found, they would submit it before the committee immediately.

One of the members of the 1997 probe committee, who attended yesterday's meeting, informed the subcommittee the report was submitted to the then secretary of the ministry.

According to the member, the probe committee found the Occidental responsible for having failed to maintain the standard in its work as per the plan they had submitted to the Petrobangla. See page 11 col 1

# The odyssey begins

Cricket Test against India from today

By Syed Ashfagul Haque and Al-Amin

Bangladesh write a new page in their sporting history when a 24carat gold coin will be flicked up in the air to decide the toss of the historic Test match against India at the Bangabandhu National Stadium today.

No matter who wins the toss, Bangladesh captain Naimur Rahman and his Indian counterpart Saurav Ganguly would be dying See page 11 col 7



The colours of cricket: Tiny tots engrossed in drawing during a competition at the National Museum premises yesterday on the occasion of Bangladesh's Test baptism. --Star photo





# ICC's Asia Confce begins today

Star Report

The first Asia Conference of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) will start in the city today with a hope to attracting foreign investors to the region and eliminating disparity in the flow of global investment.

An investment guide to Bangladesh prepared by ICC and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) will also be released at the close of the conference.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in a message to the conference has mentioned the joint role of the UN and the ICC in promoting free and fair trade as one of the ways to overcome poverty and promote investment in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). See page 11 col 3



Dr S Panitchpakdi



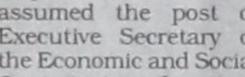
Tadao Chino

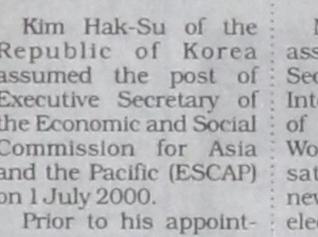
October 2002. He will : being unanimously : on 1 July 2000. continue in the post till : elected by the Board of : Prior to his appoint - : elected by unanimous





Dr. Supachai: Tadao Chino, for-: Kim Hak-Su of the: Maria Livanos Cattaui demonstration in the city, he was Panitchpakdi. Deputy : merly Chairman of the Republic of Korea : assumed office of the Prime Minister of Thai- : Board of Counselors of : assumed the post of : Secretary General of the Point. land, will take over from : Nomura Research Insti- : Executive Secretary of : International Chamber Mike Moore as Director ; tute Ltd, took over as the ; the Economic and Social ; of Commerce (ICC) the General of the World : President of ADB on 16 : Commission for Asia : World Business Organi-Trade Organisation in January, 1999 after and the Pacific (ESCAP) sation, recently. The





new chief executive was

Maria L Cattaui

### and satellite channel a ill pro ide li e co erage of the Test from the ig o l

### Noor Hossain Day today

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day will be observed in the country today, reports UNB.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain sacrificed his life for democracy.

killed in police firing near Zero

With slogans "Down with Autocracy and Let Democracy be Unchained" painted in his chest and back, Noor Hossain was participating in a procession when a bullet pierced through his body.

## Ashik's arrest on PM's order?

By Staff Correspondent

Had the Prime Minister not ordered arrest of Chief Whip's son Ashik Abdullah and his accomplices on Tuesday, police would not have made any move to arrest the gang which had long terrorised residents of Dhanmondi and Lalmatia areas, various sources said.

Ashik Abdullah, Wasim Islam and Wahidul Haq Rajan were sent to jail on Wednesday after allegedly forcing their way into a house at Dhanmondi, beating up inmates and demanding money. They also During an anti-autocracy | threatened to kill the inmates including two young brothers, it was

When Yasmin Yakub, mother of the two young men, complained in writing to Dhanmondi police, the incident was relayed to the Prime

Minister and she ordered arrest of the accused. Parents of several victims of this gang said that they (gang) frequently moved about in the area and committed various crimes in front of police. In some cases, police even turned people away when they

wanted to lodge complaints. "When the gang pounced on my son taking away something expen-See page 11 col 1

#### Sumon's father taken on remand

By Staff Correspondent Sultan Ahmed, father of Sumon, the main accused in

Sutrapur double murder case. was placed on a one-day remandyesterday. The Detective Branch in connection with the double murder case arrested him on Wednesday. See page 11 col 3

> For more on Bangladesh's first cricket Test read our special supplement on pages 17-20

TEST WORLD WELCOME BANGLADE .. BON VOYAGE

Profiles continued on page 11 col 7

### BCL leader gunned down in city

Followers go on rampage

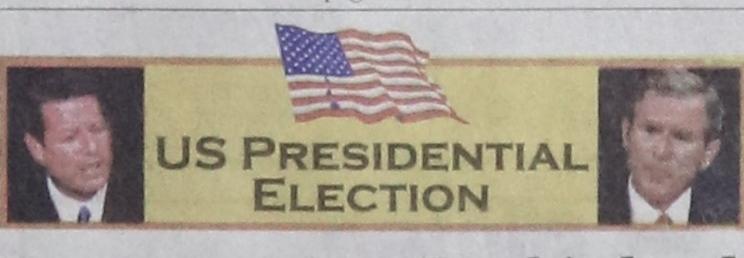
By Staff Correspondent

General secretary of Dhaka city unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (North) was gunned down and four others were injured when some unidentified gunmen opened fire on them at Road No 108 of Gulshan-2 in the city last night.

The slain BCL leader was identified as Akkashur Rahman Akhi, 30. The injured are Shawkat Ali, 24, Sohel Parvej Pallab, 26, Delwar Hossain, 22, and Abid Hasan Biplob, 32. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with bullet injuries.

Of them, Biplob is an employee of a nearby dental clinic while the rest three are Akhi's associates.

DMCH sources said the incident took place when Akhi along with his associates were gossiping in front of a dental clinic at about 7.30 pm. About eight unidentified gunmen on board a white microbus arrived at the scene and fired on Akhi and his associates. Akhi was hit by bul-See page 11 col 7



### Recount trims Bush's lead Allegations of improprieties surface

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, Nov 9: The recount of presidential balloting in Florida was to resume Thursday just hours after disputed Palm Beach County results came in and helped Al Gore trim 843 votes off

George W Bush's lead in the presidential race, reports AP.

Vice President Gore gained 1,189 votes Wednesday, compared with

346 votes gained for Bush. With 32 of the state's 67 counties finished with their recounts Wednesday, that meant Gore cut Bush's lead by more than half, leaving Gore 941 votes behind the Texas governor. See page 11 col 4

Jamaat

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 10		5.15 pm
Nov 11	6-11 am	

#### Prayer Timings November 10

5-35 Fajr 1-30 Juma 12-30 4-00 4-15 Maghrib 5-25 5-30 7-45 Esha Source: Islamic Foundation

Azan

#### Roller-coaster ride for media By Raffat Binte Rashid in Houston, Texas

This has been the most exciting election for the Americans since they elected John F Kennedy in 40 years back. This scrambled egg of an election left the American people as well as the media in bewildered.

The roller-coaster US presidential race forced television networks to retract their fore See page 11 col 3

