

FedEx Express

We live to deliver
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Fastest to the whole of U.S.A.

TEL: 9565114



PHILIPS Domestic Appliances
With 1 Year Warranty Card



Tel: Dhaka: 8110163, 9882102, 9896285, 9569613
Bogra: 66215, Khulna: 720304, 723695
Chittagong: 637669, 653758.
Also available with Authorized Dealers

See the sticker before you purchase
Marketed by **TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS**
On the carton On the Product

66 Maoists, 10 troops killed in Nepal clash

AFP, Kathmandu
At least 66 Maoist rebels and 10 government troopers were killed in an overnight clash in Nepal's far-western Pandon village, the bloodiest incident in the Himalayan kingdom in months, an army officer said yesterday.
"The clashes began Saturday night and continued until Sunday morning at Pandon village in Kailali district," the officer said on condition of anonymity.
"The bodies of 16 rebels were found from the clash site and 50 others were found 50 metres (yards)

away," he said.
"In the clashes, 10 security personnel were killed while 16 others were injured."
The number of fatalities could not immediately be verified by independent sources.
But another officer, Colonel Ramsharan Karki, who is in charge of the area where the clash broke out, told AFP by telephone that "between 60 and 70 bodies (of the Maoists) are lying scattered around Pandon village."
"We have not yet decided whether we should collect the



A fireman, left, sprays water on burning shops at New Bangabazar Hawkers' Market in Gullistan yesterday and owner of a shop, right, hauls a bundle of recovered clothes to safety.



PHOTO: SYED ZAKIR HOSSAIN

Dhaka loses right to vote at IUCN meet

ABDUL JALIL BHUYIAN, Bangkok
Bangladesh has been disqualified to cast its votes as state member in yesterday's election to elect a 32-member executive council of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) at its third congress in Bangkok.
Each state member has three votes. The government of Bangladesh will not be able to cast its votes as it failed to deposit its yearly contributions to the IUCN due to bureaucratic red tape, IUCN officials said.
Immediately after being voted into office, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) led four-party coalition decided not to pay contributions to some international agencies, including the IUCN, the officials said.
The decision was later changed in this regard and former environment and forest secretary

Iraq sets Jan 30 as election day

AGENCIES, Baghdad
Iraq will hold national elections on January 30 to choose a transitional parliament that will pick a new government and oversee the writing of a permanent constitution, the Electoral Commission said yesterday.
"The Electoral Commission set the date of Jan. 30 as the date of the election in Iraq," commission spokesman Farid Ayar told Reuters. The date had previously been tentatively set for January 27.
Under Iraq's timetable for democracy, once the January elections are held a constitution will be drafted, and then a referendum will be held to approve it. Once it is approved, a further general election will be held by end-2005.

Iraq's majority Shias, long oppressed under Saddam Hussein, are insisting that the elections go ahead on time. But many Sunni Arabs want a delay and are threatening to boycott the elections because of violence in Sunni areas.
AFP adds: Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari heads to an international conference on Iraq's future today seeking to overcome old differences and muster broader support for the transition process.
"For the first time we will be able to bring all the countries who have different views on the situation in Iraq to the same table and ask them to support the process in Iraq," he said in an interview with AFP.
The governments of Iraq and neighbouring countries will meet on Monday, on the first day of the conference in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm-el-Sheikh.
Representatives from the United States, United Nations, European Union, Arab League, Organisation of the Islamic Conference and Group of Eight leading industrialised countries will join in on the second day.
Zebari said his government had originally suggested the meeting be held in October but agreed to postpone "after some participants refused to have it before the US election."
"Now that the operation in Fallujah has been completed, it will not overshadow this important event," the foreign minister said, referring to a massive US-led operation to wrest control of the Sunni

55 killed in China plane plunge

AP, Beijing
Xinhua said. The area is about 330 miles northwest of Beijing.
A small passenger plane crashed into a lake in northern China immediately after takeoff yesterday, killing all 53 people aboard and two people on the ground, the government said.
The plane crashed in Baotou, a city in the Inner Mongolia region, seconds after taking off at about 8:20 a.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said. The China Eastern Airlines flight, which was heading to Shanghai, was carrying 47 passengers and six crew members, the agency said.
All were confirmed dead by government officials in Baotou, it said. Two people on the ground were also killed.
The plane crashed into a frozen lake in Nanhai Park "only about a dozen seconds" after taking off,

Dhaka's role sought to take Saarc to its goal

Pak FM asks it to cash in on better Indo-Pak tie
UNB, Lahore
Pakistan Foreign Minister Khurshid M Kasuri hoped that the forthcoming Saarc summit in Dhaka would help in steering the forum to its desired goal through reaping the peace dividend out of reduction of tensions between India and Pakistan.
"Bangladesh assumes the Saarc chair at a time when tension between India and Pakistan is reducing rapidly," he told UNB yesterday on the sidelines of the 2-day Safma (South Asia Free Media Association) conference.
"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as the next chairperson of Saarc is very lucky to play a role in guiding the Saarc to its goal," he said.
The Pakistan foreign minister would, however, not make any comment as to whether his country would seek any amendment to the Saarc Charter to deal with political disputes between the member states. Present Saarc Charter does not permit dealing with any issue of

Mixed reaction among high-ups to cancellation of recruitment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Saturday's cancellation of recruiting some 20,000 Class Three and Class Four employees for district and lower administrations has produced a mixed reaction among the ruling BNP members and government officials.
Sources said a large number of BNP leaders and workers, including ministers and parliament members, are very unhappy with the government decision, which they think would go completely against the interests of BNP and its members.
They said the recruitment process of hundreds of people was completed, mostly by influence of central and local ruling alliance leaders, and they have already joined the service. Some even received the Eid bonus.
According to sources, the mid-

Fresh raids to find Jamal in hills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cg
Police and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) launched fresh raids on the dens in the remote hilly areas of Fatikchhari upazila and Khagrachhari hilly district in the past few days to trace the whereabouts of magnate Jamal Uddin Ahmed, abducted 16 months ago from the port city's busy Chawkbazar area.
Being tipped, a police team including CID officials aided by over 3,000 local people raided a hideout in search of four accomplices of absconding prime accused Kashem chairman near a tea estate at Kanchannagar village of Fatikchhari upazila on Friday night but the four managed to escape.
Police seized two guns left by those criminals.
Police teams also raided some

other hideouts at Fatikchhari three days ago in a bid to arrest them.
Meanwhile, CID Inspector Anwar Hossain, the investigation officer (IO) of Jamal Uddin abduction case, told The Daily Star that they would start questioning Kashem Chairman's second in command Kala Mahub, now receiving treatment at Chittagong Jail Hospital.
"We will also interrogate Jahedul Islam alias Dalaiah who worked as an aide to Kala Mahub to supply food to Jamal Uddin at the hideout," the IO said.
"Now we are in a dilemma on what way to proceed as we don't know whether Jamal Uddin is alive," Anwar said, adding, "We have geared up our drive and we set some sources at Fatikchhari to provide us information about Jamal Uddin and his abductors."
Earlier, Kala Mahub after his arrest by Rab gave contradictory statements about Jamal Uddin.
Initially he told the Rab officials that Jamal Uddin was killed by infamous Fatikchhari based criminal Osman, chief of Osman bahini.
Later he said that Jamal Uddin is alive and under the captivity of some activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at Duikkapahar in Khagrachhari district.
Meanwhile, Rab Chittagong unit commander Col. Kazi Emdadul Huq said they raided some areas in Khagrachhari hills following the statement of Kala Mahub, but nothing could be traced.
"Actually it is difficult to trace anything in the terrain of Khagrachhari hills without specific location," the Rab commander said, adding, "We are continuing our drive."

48 get 14-yr RI in Jessore jail revolt case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
Forty-eight people have been sentenced to 14 years' rigorous imprisonment in Jessore Central Jail revolt case.
Belayet Hossain, additional district magistrate, Jessore delivered the verdict on Saturday in the presence of six convicts, namely, Mona, Kayum, Golam Mustafa, Shimul, Ujjal, and Abdul Malek.
Among the rest, 41 are on bail and one is absconding.
The convicts joined the Jessore Central Jail revolt on December 16 in 1996 that led to bloody clashes with law enforcers, the prosecution says.
Four convicts, five under trial prisoners and constable Rafique died in the BDR-police action.
Over 200 including Deputy Commissioner Abdul Malek Mia and acting DIG (prisons) Liaquat Ali were injured.
Five separate cases were lodged on behalf of jail authorities and police.
Four cases are still under trial.

US banks to close Sonali's accounts

Setback in remittance from America feared
REJAUUL KARIM BYRON
Sonali Exchange, licensed in the USA and shown as a subsidiary of Sonali Bank, remits expatriates' money through accounts in six American banks including Habib American Bank, Wilshire Bank, Bank of America and National City Bank.
"To tackle this situation, we are now considering to open a branch of Sonali Bank in New York," said a Sonali Bank high official. The issue will be raised at its board meeting soon and a proposal will be sent to the finance ministry.
"As a short-term measure, we will ask Sonali Exchange to open alternative remittance accounts with other American banks. But the same problem may arise with other banks as well. Therefore, we need to open a fully-fledged branch there," headed.

Musharraf opens Pakistan to free movement of journalists

UNB, Lahore
Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has announced provision for South Asian journalists of moving freely in any Pakistani city or place without restriction.
"I would like to open up Pakistan border for Safma journalists.... From now on you can move anywhere you want," he said Saturday at the inaugural session of the three-day

Prayer Timing		
November 22		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:05	5:40
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:21	5:24
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

WINTER RETREAT

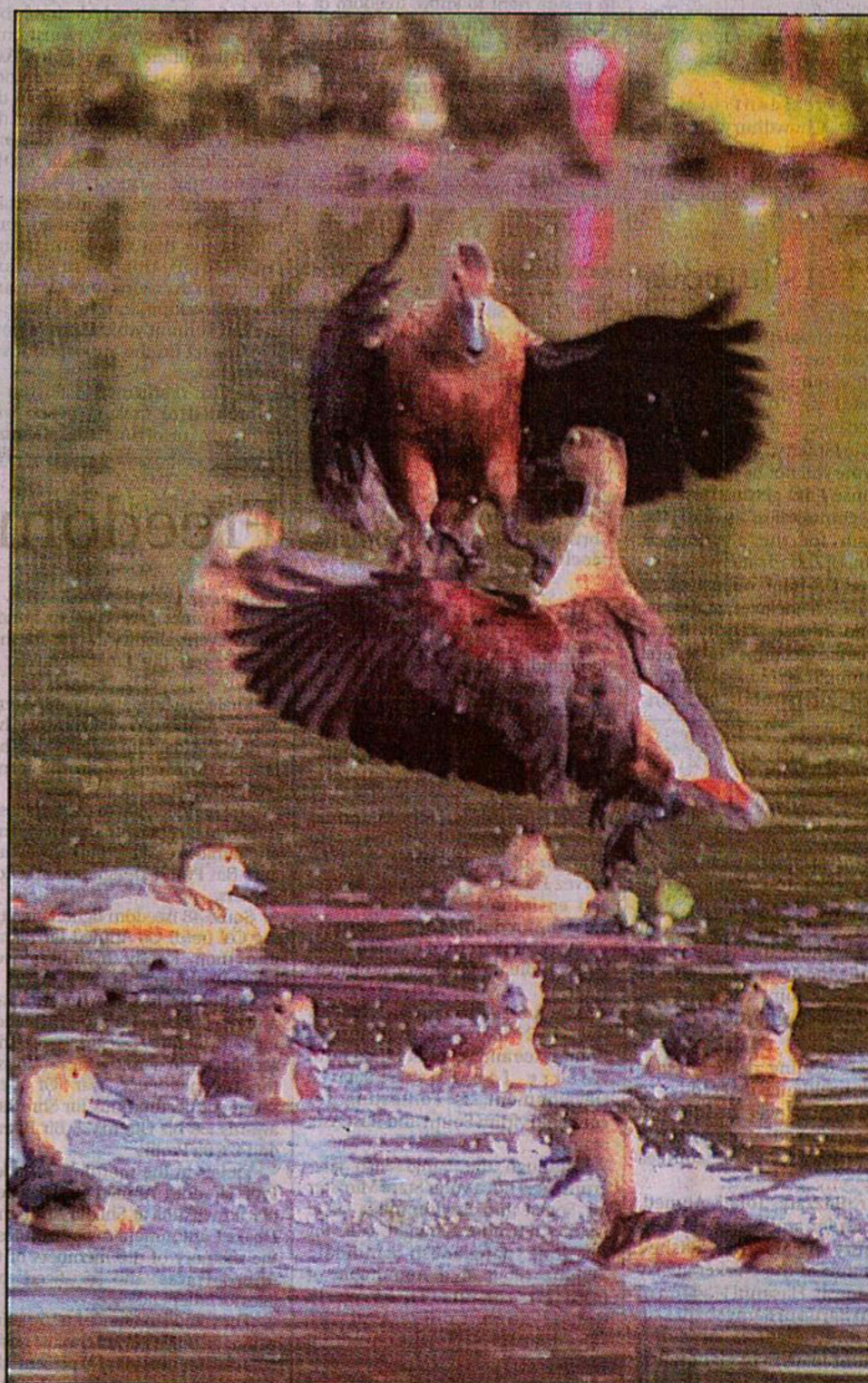


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Their wings tired from long flights all the way from the Arctic Circle, migratory birds are finally finding a roosting ground at Jahangirnagar University lake. Defeating the city's clamour, one can still hear their shrill cries filling the night sky as winter sets in.

CPB won't share power with AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said it has no plan to share power with the Awami League (AL) in future although it is waging a simultaneous anti-government movement with the main opposition party.
"We have decided to go for a joint movement with the Awami League on certain issues such as fighting against fundamentalism, maintaining our separate political ideology but I should make it clear that the

King Gyanendra accepts Dhaka's invitation for bilateral visit

BSS, New Delhi
King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev of Nepal has accepted an invitation of President Iajuddin Ahmed to visit Bangladesh, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said here yesterday.
Morshed said he met with the Nepalese monarch in Kathmandu to hand him over a letter of invitation to pay a state visit to Bangladesh. The king accepted the invitation and

CUSTODIAL DEATHS Arahazar OC closed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj
The police authorities yesterday closed the officer-in-charge (OC) of Arahazar Police Station and suspended four of his subordinates for beating two youths to death in custody.
Besides, an assistant superintendent of police (ASP) was served a show-cause notice for giving false information in the probe report into the incident.
The inspector general of police ordered to close OC A K Barua following reports published in some