

24

24 hours a day!

7

7 days a week!

365

365 days a year

FedEx
Express
Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Call: 9565114
for further details!

we live to deliver

Super Slick, Wall Mountable CD Audio System

PHILIPS

Features:

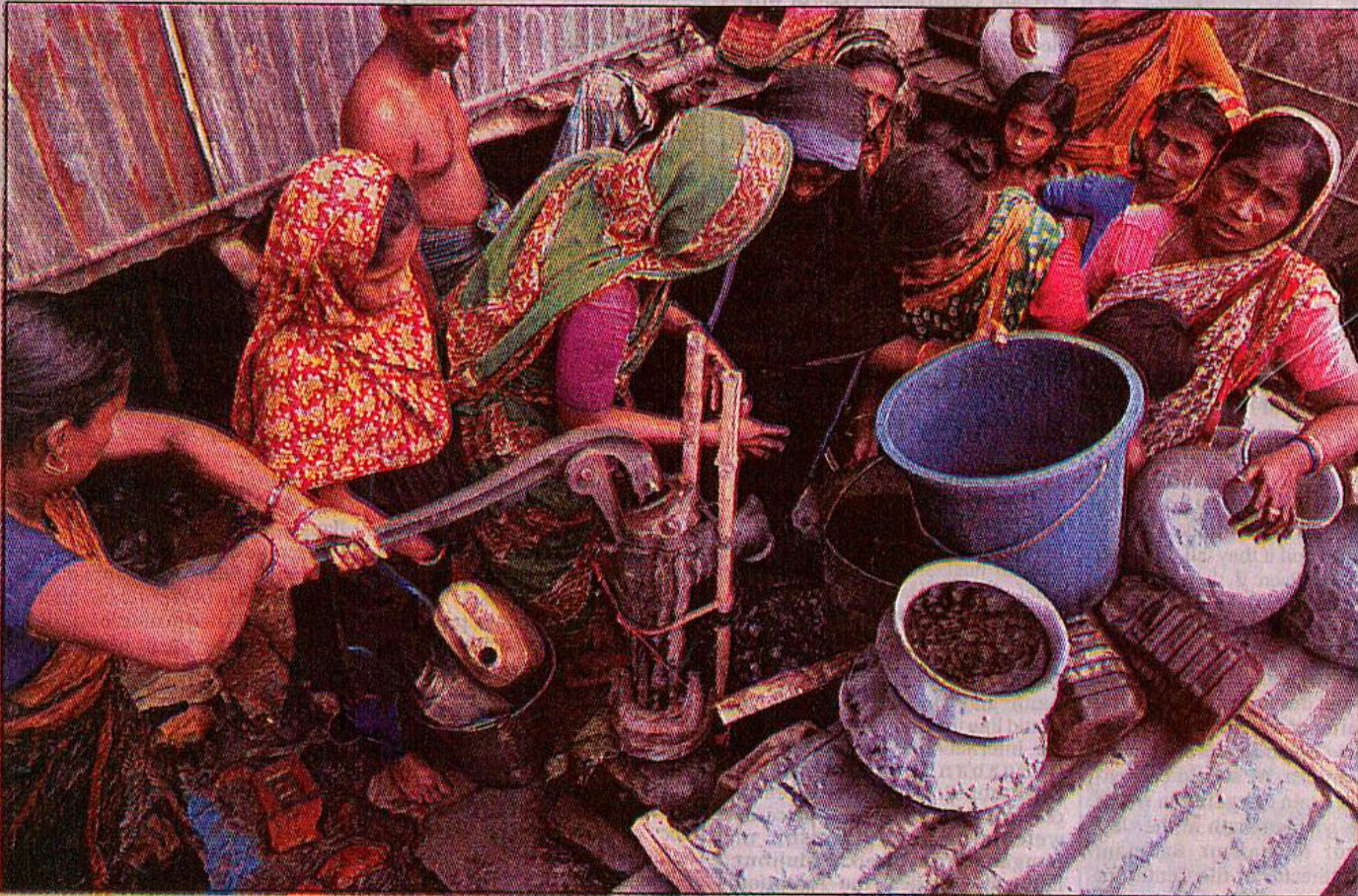
- Can Play CD, CD-R, CD-RW
- Digital Sound Control
- Base Reflex Speaker System
- Dynamic Bass Boost
- Digital Tuning with 40 Preset Stations
- LCD Display
- Wall Mountable

mc 230 (Tk. 9,900/-)

HEAR EVERY THING EXPERIENCE EVERY THING

Tel : Dhaka: 8110163, 9882192, 9896285, 9569613, Bogra: 66215
Chittagong: 637669, 653758, Khulna: 720304, 723695

TOO LITTLE FOR TOO MANY



Women and children scramble to get a share of the scanty water collected overnight in a tank and being pumped out yesterday at a slum in the city's Rayer Bazar. The competition is fierce, as the water supply is too meagre to serve all the slum dwellers.

Benazir's husband rearrested

AFP, Islamabad

The husband of former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto was rearrested yesterday, less than a month after he won his freedom following an eight-year stint behind bars.

Police seized Asif Ali Zardari as he stepped off a plane at Islamabad airport, party officials said, hours after a court cancelled his bail in the case of the murder of a high court judge and his son.

Violent clashes erupted between police and hundreds of Zardari's supporters outside the airport, with police baton-charging the crowds and using teargas to disperse them, according to witnesses.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

Pac to recover illegally drawn salaries of public university teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Public Accounts Committee (Pac) of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday decided to initiate stern actions against the public university teachers who have illegally drawn salaries and other allowances while overstaying abroad.

In a bid to recover the public money, the committee asked the office of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) to prepare a

list of the teachers who stayed abroad after the expiry of their leave period and drew salary and other allowances from the public exchequer.

It also decided to file FIR (first information report) with the police station and publish their photographs in newspapers if they fail to return money.

Pac members blasted the teachers concerned as well as the authorities that allowed them to go abroad

frequently and overstay there on public money.

They asked the public university authorities to initiate measures to stop the trend termed it brain drain from the country.

"It is very much unfortunate that the teachers who go abroad on public money do not return in due time, but draw their salaries regularly," committee Chairman Harun Al Rashid told reporters.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

US resolve in Iraq upset by violence

Bush admits Iraqi bombers 'are having an effect'

AP, Washington

In a sobering assessment of the Iraq war, President Bush acknowledged Monday that Americans' resolve has been shaken by grisly scenes of death and destruction and he pointedly criticised the performance of US-trained Iraqi troops. "No question about it," he said. "The bombers are having an effect."

At a year-end news conference, the president also refused to say whether his strategy for overhauling Social Security would entail cutting benefits, raising the retirement age or limiting benefits for wealthier workers. "Don't bother to ask me," Bush said, adding that he would not tip his hand until he starts negotiating with Congress next year.

Bush declined to criticise Russian President Vladimir Putin despite concerns that he has strengthened authoritarian controls and backtracked on post-Soviet democratic reforms. Bush said he has a good personal relationship with Putin and "I intend to keep it

that way." The United States and Russia have disagreements, the president added, but he said the relationship is good.

The president also offered a warm testimonial for Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in the face of spreading expressions of no-confidence by GOP senators. Rumsfeld appears "tough and gruff," Bush said, but "he's a good, decent man. He's a caring fellow."

For 53 minutes, Bush fielded questions on international and domestic affairs. It was his 17th formal news conference, held one day before he flies to the presidential retreat at Camp David for a vacation that will stretch into early next year and include a stay at his Texas ranch.

Bush spoke a day after the deadliest attacks in Iraq since July, killing at least 54 people in Najaf and at least 13 in Karbala and six weeks before Iraqis vote for a transitional assembly that will choose a president and a government and draft a

permanent constitution. American newspapers showed chilling pictures of rebels in the heart of Baghdad executing election workers in cold blood.

"And so the American people are taking a look at Iraq and wondering whether the Iraqis are eventually going to be able to fight off these bombers and killers," Bush said in perhaps his clearest expression of frustration with Iraqi forces. Bush's strategy calls for American troops to protect Iraq while local police and soldiers are trained to do the job themselves, eventually allowing the United States to withdraw.

"Now I would call the results mixed in terms of standing up Iraqi units who are willing to fight," Bush said in a candid assessment. "There have been some cases where, when the heat got on, they left the battlefield. That's unacceptable. Iraq will never secure itself if they have troops that, when the heat gets on, they leave the battlefield." What is needed, he said, is a better military command structure.

Gas pipeline fire put out

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

The fire that caught the Kailashila-Ashuganj natural gas pipeline in Singapon area near the district town on Monday was extinguished yesterday.

Fire brigade personnel and officials of the Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL) made frantic efforts and doused the fire by noon.

Officials put the losses at around Tk5 lakh.

There is no report of losses of private property as the blaze was on a crop field.

The fire broke out as condensate thieves drilled a hole in the pipeline.

Three people were arrested last night in the town for their alleged involvement in drilling the hole. The arrestees are Pronojit Pal, Nidhu Pal and Swapan Kumar Pal.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prayer Timing

December 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-25	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-24	5-27
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Ronaldinho rules the world

INTERNET SOURCE, Zurich

Barcelona's Brazilian playmaker Ronaldinho was named FIFA World Player of the Year in Zurich at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

CHEHLUM



The chehlum of Mr Badal Ghosh will be held on Friday 24th December after Magreeb. A Doa Mahfil is arranged on this occasion. All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Mahfil and pray for the Salvation of the departed soul.

Late's Wife
And Family Members

ADB okays \$30m for Ctg port efficiency

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of \$30.6 million for enhancing the efficiency of Chittagong Port and enabling it to meet international port security and environmental standards.

The loan was approved in Manila yesterday to finance Chittagong Port Trade Facilitation Project, the first external assistance to the country's port sector in more than two decades.

Modern computer system will be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Dhaka Sheraton HOTEL

Children's Party

Enjoy this Christmas with Santa & his many activities at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel

Collect your ticket from the hotel lobby

For the more information please call 861 3391, ext 4212, 4159

skin so
smooth & silky...

POND'S moisturising lotion
with vitamin E

Moisture is an essential requirement for every skin type. Pond's Institute brings to you Pond's Moisturising Lotion, enriched with Vitamin E to nourish and soften your skin from within.

Use daily to give your skin a silky smooth feel.

POND'S INSTITUTE
TOKYO • NEW YORK • MADRID

POND'S as beautiful as you want to be