

Congratulations!
Bangladesh Cricket Team
 Keep up the winning trend

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



Super Sleek, Wall Mountable CD Audio System

PHILIPS

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

HEAR EVERY THING EXPERIENCE EVERY THING

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

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



Handcart and rickshaw pullers badly in need of money to feed mouths brave the icy drizzle and raw winds that made most of the city dwellers stay indoors yesterday.

Iraq insurgents kill 17 in string of attacks

India allows GMG to fly to Chennai, Mumbai

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

REUTERS, Tikrit

A car bomb killed seven policemen in Saddam Hussein's home town and gunmen shot dead eight people in a minibus south of Baghdad yesterday in the latest attacks to threaten Iraq's Jan. 30 election.

The bomb struck police headquarters in Tikrit, a Sunni Muslim stronghold 110 miles north of Baghdad. Authorities said eight officers were also wounded.

Repeated guerrilla attacks on the Iraqi police and soldiers who will be tasked with protecting polling stations have deepened fears of major bloodletting on the day Iraqis vote in the controversial election.

Shortly after the blast, gunmen attacked a minibus traveling through Iraq's notorious "Triangle of Death," killing eight people and kidnapping three, police in the area said.

Police said it was not immediately clear who was in the vehicle. Sunni insurgents regularly target Iraq security forces and Shia pil-

grims in the lawless zone of dusty towns, which is regarded as one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq.

Cars are routinely stopped by insurgents setting up illegal checkpoints to search for those they regard as collaborators with US-led troops and the American-backed interim government.

In the northern Iraqi city of Samarra, a roadside bomb against a joint US-Iraqi convoy killed two Iraqi National Guards, police said.

Leading Sunni Arab political parties say they will boycott the election because violence in the Sunni heartland will scare away voters and skew the results in favor of majority Shias, who expect to emerge dominant after years of oppression.

On Monday, gunmen assassinated Baghdad's deputy police chief, and a suicide bomber in an explosives-packed vehicle resembling those used by police rammed into a police compound in southern Baghdad, killing at least three people.

The shooting of Brigadier Amer Nayef came just six days after guerrillas assassinated Baghdad's provincial governor.

An al-Qaeda-linked insurgent group headed by Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi has claimed responsibility for both assassinations.

The group is behind most of the deadliest suicide bombings in Iraq since Saddam's overthrow, and has beheaded several foreign hostages.

Washington is offering \$25 million for information leading to the death or capture of Zarqawi, whom it regards as its number one enemy in Iraq.

A senior US commander said last week that four of Iraq's 18 provinces, including parts of the capital, were still too insecure to hold elections and predicted a surge of violence.

Bangladesh's only private domestic carrier GMG Airlines Ltd has been given franchise to operate flights between Dhaka and Indian cities Mumbai and Chennai, Indian Civil Aviation Ministry sources here said yesterday.

The permission for GMG to introduce its service to these metro cities has been given under a bilateral agreement and as part of India's increasingly 'open sky' policy, the sources said.

Both Mumbai and Chennai are considered lucrative routes as a lot of Bangladeshis visit the places for medical and business purposes. The GMG had recently launched flight service between Kolkata and Chittagong.

Air Sahara, one of India's leading private airlines, is likely to introduce its service between Kolkata and Dhaka in about a month's time.

With the growing liberalisation of India's civil aviation sector and Indian government's decision to allow its domestic private airlines to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Police reform project starts

UNB, Dhaka

A far-reaching police reform project titled 'Strengthening Bangladesh Police' has been launched to improve the law and order situation.

The Ministry of Home Affairs launched the project yesterday in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

The three-year project, involving \$13 million, aims at improving performance and professionalism at all levels of the police force.

It will focus on crime prevention through better engagement with the community, investigation, operation and prosecution, human resource management, training and

strategy and oversight, including clear performance target.

The project will also focus on helping women get access to police service. Besides, more women will be recruited and promoted within the force through activities under the project, such as a nationwide recruiting campaign and the drafting of a 'Women in Policing Strategy'.

Of the 1,15,500 police in Bangladesh, only 12 percent are women, said a UNDP press release yesterday.

"Yesterday's agreement sets the foundation for increasing public confidence in police and we have hard work ahead. We look forward to working with the UNDP and the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

TIMBER SMUGGLING

15 forest staff suspended

10 army men also found guilty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Environment and Forest has suspended 15 officials and employees of Forest Department under Kaptai region for their alleged involvement in smuggling of forest timber.

The ministry also ordered immediate filing of departmental cases against the suspended staff and stern action against them.

The action followed a secret report the Armed Forces Division submitted to the Prime Minister's

Office (PMO).

The suspended staff -- all from Alikhali range under Bilaichhari zone of Kaptai region -- include Range Officer Nurul Islam, Beat Officer Tapan Kanti Das, forest guards Shenaha Kumar Chakma, Razzak, Nurul Islam, Anwar, Alamgir, Emdad and Shariful Islam. The others are boatmen Abdul Gani, Yeasin Ali, Mohammad Solaiman and Yeasin and gardeners Uday and Nurul Amin Havlader.

A highly placed source at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Rising up, straight to the top.

Have the guts, got the glory.

Went the distance.

Now they are not going to stop.

Eleven men and their will to survive.

It's the eye of the tiger.

It's the glint in the eye.

Rising up to the challenge of their rivals.

Congratulations Bengal Tigers.

Apex Footwear • Galerie Apex • Apex Pharma • Apex Enterprise • Grey Worldwide • G3 Communications • Quantum Market Research

Grenade carrier's relative seen as arms syndicate leader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intelligence personnel investigating the Monday's grenade seizure in city's Amin Bazar yesterday said a relative of the arrested carrier might lead the arms syndicate that had smuggled in the grenade.

The law enforcers however could not arrest the suspected leader of the cartel till 7:30pm yesterday.

"Our primary investigation suggests a close relative of the carrier Mohammad Hossain might be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

US lauds Dhaka's efforts to rein in trafficking

UNB, Dhaka

The United States (US) praised Bangladesh government for making general progress in sustaining, institutionalising and integrating various measures against trafficking in persons (TIP) since last June.

Bangladesh's new anti-TIP inter-ministerial taskforce meets and reports monthly to the home secretary based on a daily report the former receives from a nationwide TIP-monitoring cell, said the US State Department.

The home secretary continues to serve as the national coordinator overseeing Bangladesh's anti-TIP

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
January 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Federal HONIU

China's Famous Honiu Brand Motorcycles now assembled in Bangladesh jointly with Federal Motors Ltd.

Distributor Wanted:
 Applications are invited from Genuine Traders for Distributorship from all districts of Bangladesh. Please apply with valid Trade Licence, proof of Bank Solvency and eligibility of excellent sales performance in a similar trade along with details of show room, godown space, transport facilities & manpower etc. to the following address by 31 January, 2005:

Federal Motors Limited
 48, Kemal Ataturk Avenue (2nd Fl.), Banani
 Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
 Phone: 9861669, 9890607, Fax: 880-2-9889134
 E-mail: fmotors@bdonline.com

CONCORD
 The Relentless Pursuit of Quality

Rush for the last 10 units near the Beach

FANTASY KINGDOM RESORT BUNGALOW
 RELAUNCHING WITH NEW CONCEPT & MODERN FACILITY

FANTASY KINGDOM Resort Bungalow Ashulia

Attractive features for Resort Bungalow :-

- Gated Community
- Swimming Pool
- Snack Bar
- Party Hall
- Work out Gym. Facilities
- Retreats
- Indoor games facilities

For every Purchase of Resort Bungalow : Air Ticket for "Kuala Lumpur" - (Have a nice Holiday)

Concord Real Estate & Building Products Ltd.
 Concord Center (1st Floor), 43, North C/A, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
 Tel: 9886740, 9886886, 8815293, 0189-227732, 0189-229698, 011-859516, 0189-222503, 0189-229699, 011-095215, 0171-316704. Fax: 8823607.
 E-mail: crpl3@concordgroup.net, crpl1@mail.concordgroup.net, Web: www.concordgroup.net

Valid up to 31 January 05