## Two dead as truce ends in Philippines

AFP, Manila

More than 50 communist rebels attacked an army patrol base in the southern Philippines yesterday, leaving one pro-government militiaman and a guerrilla dead in the clash, officials said.

The daring pre-dawn attack by the New People's Army (NPA) on the southern island of Mindanao was the first since an 18-day Yuletide truce declared by the government ended on Monday, the military said.

The attack came on the same day that the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), the NPA's mother organisation, reiterated a demand for the government to release detained senior rebelleaders.

### Yunus calls

FROM PAGE 20

economic theory that business is all about making profit and said all economic activities should focus on solving the problems of society.

Speaking at the inaugural session of an international conference on Technology Enhanced Education at Amrita Mutt near Kollam town in southern Indian state of Kerala, the Grameen Bank founder said it was important to use technology to improve the lives of the common man.

"Business is also for solving problems in society and not merely to make money,' he said.

Recalling his experience in developing Grameen Bank to help poor women in rural areas of Bangladesh, Yunus said 97 percent of 8.3 million beneficiaries of various schemes o Grameen Bank were women.

Explaining how he used technology to solve the energy crisis in Bangladesh, he said promotion of solar energy had greatly helped solve the power crunch.

In 1990s, nearly 70 percent of the population in rural areas had no access to electricity. The situation had changed dramatically with the introduction of "solar home system" which his organisation had promoted, Yunus said.

Right now, about 750,000 solar systems are operating in Bangladesh, which could go up to 1 million by the middle of his year. A similar revolution had also taken place in the use of mobile phones, he said.

### Govt wants

FROM PAGE 1

conspiracy to thwart the road march. Many arches set up in Chittagong ahead of the programme have been torn up, burnt and pulled down as part of the conspiracy," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said yesterday.

He was briefing reporters after a meeting with the leaders the party's front organisations at its Naya Paltan office in the capital. The meeting discussed the preparation of the road march and also mapped out programmes to mark the 76th birth anniversary of party founder Ziaur Rahman

on January 19. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will start the road march from the capital at 10:00am on Sunday. She will hold street rallies at Chandina and Comilla and a public rally in Feni on the day. The march will end through a public rally on Polo Ground in Chittagong

the next day, Fakhrul said. He sought cooperation from the government to make the march peaceful and said, "It'll be the largest

ever road march." "The economy is in a deep crisis. The law and order has worsened and the prices of daily commodities are soaring. The government has failed in every sector," he said, adding that there was no coordination between

the government agencies. Programmes on Zia's birth anniversary will include hoisting of party flag at all offices of the party, placing wreaths at his grave, and holding blood donation programmes and discus-

sions.

# Small mistake

FROM PAGE 20

in case Ishrat got noisy or caused disturbance.

On her advice, Rozina left her daughter in the waiting area and went for a check-up which lasted about 25 min-

Emerging from the ward, she found her daughter missing and searched around the hospital in vain.

She then informed the DMCH authorities and sought their help.

At around 11:30am, the hospital authorities through loudspeakers requested hospital visitors, officials and doctors to report to them should they find the

At about 1:00pm, a security guard reported that a child had been found on the second floor of the 11-storey Centre for Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound building. Prof Md Sanowar

Hossain, director of Centre for Nuclear Medicine and Ultrasound, said the child was found on the second floor staircase, which is a quite deserted area.

Police sent the body to the DMC morgue for autopsy.

On preliminary examination, morgue officials found some injury marks in Ishrat's abdomen.

Police said she might have been killed by kidnappers who initially tried to take her away.

The DMCH authorities had hoped to get a clue about her killers from CCTV footage. "But after an extensive search, nothing could be found from the footage, said DMCH Director Brig

### Govt to buy

**FROM PAGE 20** contract worth Tk80.24

crore. The meeting also approved a tender of Bangladesh Water Development Board to procure dredger and relevant equipments to implement

A joint-venture of a US firm and the local Ananda Builders won the contract

The meeting gave its nod to appoint consultant for a project on higher education expansion under the education ministry.

approved work-order of two gradation project.

ment of bridges in the Eastern region at a cost of Tk 599.33 crore also received the nod at the meeting.

Chaired by Finance Minister AMA Muhith, the meeting was attended by senior ministers and secretaries concerned.

# Tannery relocation

bidder, took the matter to court for the second time with "an apparent intention of delaying the project."

The tanneries pour thou-

sands of litres of untreated and highly toxic liquid waste health.

has taken up the project to relocate the tanneries as soon as possible considering the hazards posed to the environment and health.

gation here for the ministry as the High Court has ordered the government to relocate such polluting companies.

VA Tech WABAG came second with Tk 523.82 crore, for the cabinet committee.

According to court records, the Indian company has claimed that JLEPCL-DCL's submitting the bank guarantee through

Central Procurement

Technical Unit.

Bangladesh Ltd. The message has put in these words: "without any risk, responsibility and

Islami Bank Bangladesh, local correspondent of Shanghai Pudong Development Bank, and Bangladesh embassy in China authenticated the

"The SWIFT message spondent does not dishonour the message," said a

Contacted, a senior bank official said all SWIFT messages should be accepted as legal.

However, a full-bench of the appellate division of the High Court will hear the writ

"We want to set up the CETP as soon as possible and relocate the tanneries in a transparent way,"

Gen Shahidul Haque Mallik.

the river dredging project.

worth Tk 220.32 crore.

The purchase body also

packages under the Dhaka-Chittagong 4-lane up-A tender for the improve-

into the Buriganga River every day, posing a serious risk to human and animal The industries ministry

There is also a legal obli-

On December 5 last year, a cabinet committee on purchase approved the ministry's proposal to award

the contract to the Chinese company, JLEPCL-DCL joint JLEPCL-DCL emerged as the lowest bidder offering a price of Tk 477.46 crore while

according to the minutes that the ministry prepared

SWIFT code is illegal. The Indian company has filed a writ petition with the High Court, seeking an order to the government to implement the judgment of Review Panel-2 of the

According to the Panel-2 judgement on October 5 last year, the bank guarantee is not authentic as a Nanjing branch of a Chinese bank has issued it using SWIFT message through the local correspondent, Islami Bank

engagement on our part". bank guarantee.

issued by the Chinese bank is authentic as its local corresenior lawyer at the High Court, preferring anonymity as the matter is sub-judice.

petition tomorrow.

Industries Minister Dilip

Barua has said. "I hope the higher court will come up with a judicious solution on the matter, considering the public interest so that we can relocate the tanneries soon as possible," he told The Daily Star.

The government has undertaken a Tk 5.45 billion project to construct the proposed leather estate in Savar on the city's outskirts. A site has already been developed at Hamyetpur on nearly 200 acres of land. The government pre-

pared the first project proposal in 2003. It floated tender twice

seeking international bids. But it could not issue the work order as the VA Tech WABAG Company had filled a case against the government decision to award work order to the lowest bidder in 2008.

The court ordered that a fresh international tender to

build the CETP be invited. Experts say the CETP is necessary not only to meet the demands of the exportoriented leather industry but also to comply with the rules of European Union countries, which import a sizeable volume of leather and leather goods from

Bangladesh every year. Bangladeshi leather goods will not have access to developed countries including those in the European Union, if the government fails to set up the CETP by 2014.

## Chinese firm

**FROM PAGE 20** will cost Tk275 crore, of which the Chinese government will provide Tk145 crore as grant and Tk 55crore as interest free loan. The government will provide the remaining Tk 75 crore for land acquisition, resettlement and other preliminary

work. China has already conducted a feasibility study and created a design for the

bridge. Bangladesh government will hand over the site in the next three months, RHD officials said. The project is expected to be completed by 2014, they added.

Three smaller bridges will also be constructed at Takerhat, Tumchar and Angara under the same project. Abdul Kuddus, chief

engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD), and Jin Chuan Zong, vice general manager of Anhui Construction Engineering Group Ltd, signed the deal on behalf of their sides.

Communications Minister Obaidul Quader and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xianyi were present during the signing ceremony.

Father kills son

**FROM PAGE 20** 

Following a feud with his wife Bina Akhtar two months ago, Shafiqul had been staying in the shop. Bina had been living at her father's house, just a few yards away from the shop, with the two children.

Ali Hossain, grandfather of the two kids, said Shafiqul took Sadia to the shop from a nearby street on Thursday morning and Azizul from a Madrasa, where he studied, in the evening.

After the children went missing, a general diary was filed with police the following day. Md Mizan, who lives right

behind the shop, told this correspondent that they called police yesterday after getting a foul smell coming out of the shop, which was locked for the last couple of days.

## Cops argue

FROM PAGE 1

He said there are many allegations that police are showing unwillingness to record cases at police stations, people are not getting services when they go to the police stations.

People are being harassed at check-posts and in the name of vehicle requisition, he added.

"Police are not being trained properly, power is being misused and corruption in the force is increasing," said Phani.

At that point, DMP Commissioner Benazir, who is also an additional IG (current charge), shouted out, "I want to respond!"

As an astounded Phani took a pause from his speech, the state minister for home and the IGP requested Benazir to wait until the police coordinator's speech is over, and calmed him Phani then resumed his

look into whether the chain of command in the force has broken down. It is the best time to correct ourselves, and be introspective, as this government is doing everything for the betterment of the police department, which none did in the past." State Minister for Home

speech and said, "It is time to

Shamsul Haque Tuku in his speech said, "Although the police coordinator exaggerated the allegations to a certain extent, allegations do exist." There are also examples

ings and punishments in connection with corruption, abuse of power, and negligence in duty, he added. "It is our duty to figure out

of departmental proceed-

how to bring down the number of allegations. We will have to take responsibilities," the state minister said. Home Minister Shahara

Khatun delivered a written

speech, but did not say any-

thing about the allegations or about the incident at the meeting. The IGP in his speech reminded his colleagues that the theme of this Police Week is "self-purification".

He said the new recruits are doing much better. Earlier the DMP commissioner in his speech expressed his dissatisfaction about the home ministry's "lack of attention towards the proposals and demands sent

by the police department", said meeting sources. Nazrul Hossain, a superintendent of police (SP) of Madaripur, told the meeting that there is no coordination between police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at the district level.

He said as a result quite often both forces work on a same case separately, which sometimes causes face offs between them. He suggested that Rab

camps at district levels be

put under the command of

superintendents of police. Joint Commissioner of DMP (Finance and Admin) Shahabuddin Qureshi complained that although the capacity of Rajarbagh Police Line is to accommodate only 3,000 persons, currently 11,000 police are living there.

Police officials attending the meeting expressed mixed reaction about Phani's speech and the DMP commissioner's reaction. Some officials criticised

the DMP commissioner for his reaction to his superior while some other officials said the police coordinator should not have criticised the police wholesale.

# MP Kamal Majumder

FROM PAGE 1

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Aparna said, "He [Kamal] behaved very aggressively and pushed me aside. He used such a dirty language that I cannot utter it."

Resentment has been among guardians, who alleged that the school authorities had been charging between Tk 20,000 and 26,500 for admission in class I-X. The government-fixed fee for admission in all private schools is Tk 5,000. Receiving complaints

from some guardians, the Rtv team went to the school to make a report on the matter. Osman Gani Babul, Rtv's

Mirpur correspondent who was present at the time, said security guards of the school tried to obstruct them from entering the school but they still managed to go inside to talk to the authorities about the allegation. School principal Farhad

Hossain drove them out as soon as they entered his room and asked about the additional fees, Osman alleged. He added that some employees of the school engaged in heated arguments with them and asked them to leave the premises. When Kamal came to the

school at around 11:30am, Aparna and her colleagues, who were waiting outside the gate, sought his comment on the high admission fee. At this, Kamal pushed Aparna and her cameraman aside.

elections if it believed in

indirectly they [BNP] will

prime minister said, "They

[BNP] might commit a polit-

ical mistake if they don't

The BNP and its allies say

they will boycott the next

general election if the care-

taker government system is

not reinstated. The system

was scrapped through a

constitutional amendment

Asked why her govern-

ment did not accept the

High Court suggestion that

two more national elections

could be held under care-

taker governments, Hasina

said, "The High Court did

not give any order; they just

ment system has been abol-

ished to execute the main

rule of the High Court, she

Back in 1990, Hasina said,

the three opposition parties

decided by consensus that

the next three general elec-

tions would be held under

caretaker governments, and

that has already been done.

the experience with the 2007

military-backed caretaker

administration had been

anything but pleasant.

Coming to power as an

interim government, the

caretakers clung to power

for two years, oppressed

political leaders and busi-

nessmen, put them in jail

and sought to implement a

tion leader has forgotten

how she suffered at the

hands of the caretaker gov-

ernment. Her sons were

made to leave the country

after giving undertaking;

cases filed against her by the

Anti-Corruption

Commission are still going

wants the caretaker system

reinstated. Who can guaran-

tee these incidents will not

be repeated under the care-

taker government in

the Election Commission

not her government, would

conduct the next election.

She claimed that all elec-

tions held under the AL-led

government had been free,

fair and credible. For exam-

ple, she said, the ruling

party-backed candidates

had been defeated in the

Narayanganj and

Chittagong city corporation

polls and in the Habiganj by-

BNP wants to forge a move-

ment for a caretaker govern-

ment. When we campaigned

for the caretaker govern-

ment system, they said there

"It amuses me when the

The prime minister said

"Still, she [Khaleda Zia]

on," Hasina said.

future?"

election.

"I wonder if the opposi-

"minus-two formula".

Besides, she continued,

The caretaker govern-

gave their opinions."

added.

on May 30 last year.

take part in the election."

participate," she added.

... Either directly or

In the radio interview, the

democracy.

Journalists of other media houses and another team of Rtv rushed to the spot on hearing the news. Kamal's men aggressively advanced toward them, witnesses said.

city

At one stage, Kamal entered the school premises. When he came out about an hour later, reporters asked him why he had misbehaved with Aparna.

At this, he and some men around him were heard screaming, "Shoot them...shoot them."

A number of reporters lay

down in front of Kamal's

Pajero vehicle when he tried

to leave the school without answering their questions, forcing him to retreat. QaziWazed Ali, officer-incharge of Mirpur Police Station, said Kamal was escorted out of the school at

around 2:45pm.

regretted the assault on Aparna, saying such behaviour is "totally unacceptable" from a lawmaker. "I'm sorry and saddened

Meanwhile, Education

Minister Nurul Islam Nahid

by the incident," he said at a press briefing. The education ministry

formed a three-member

committee to probe the

incident. At an instant press conference in the school, Kamal, however, refuted the allegation of having struck Aparna's wrist.

"I have just recovered

PM hopes BNP won't boycott

were no neutral persons in

Bangladesh except for luna-

tics and children. Now I

don't know if the opposition

leader has found any such

work to gain the trust of the

people who "have not yet

forgotten the terrorism,

corruption, misrule and

nepotism of the BNP-led

four-party alliance", she

dent she was about the oppo-

sition's participation in the

next national polls under the

incumbent government, she

said, "There will be a new

election commission. The

honourable president has

already taken an initiative to

that end; he is holding a

dialogue with the political

dialogue will be followed. We

want the main opposition

party to join the dialogue

and give its opinions. They

can say whom they want as

election commissioners and

what the selection process

On the war crimes trial,

the prime minister said the

government would not

tolerate any attempt to foil

the trial. "The trial of the war

criminals is a national

demand and proceedings

have been initiated in line

with that demand," she said.

criminals can be protected

by exploding bombs on the

streets, setting fire to buses

and burning people to

relations between the gov-

ernment and the opposition

were all right save for the

to make good on the pledges

she had made before the last

election. No retaliatory

attacks like the ones by the

BNP after the 2001 election

were made on the opposi-

tion parties after the 2008

election, and all parties were

carrying out their political

programmes independ-

Speaking about the state of

democracy in Bangladesh

and Pakistan, the prime

minister said a continuous

democratic process is

needed to develop a country.

"The people of Pakistan

have suffered from the lack

of a democratic system. But

now there is a democratic

government, elected gov-

ernment. We hope that in

future they will make prog-

Bangladesh we are doing our

work, in our own way. We

have targeted plans, we have

vision 2021 to build up

Bangladesh as middle

income country. So we will

On criticism of the stan-

dards on which the war

do that."

Hasina said, "But in

ress...no doubt about it."

Television Interview

ently.

She said she was working

issue of the war crimes trial.

Hasina claimed that

death...that won't work."

"If anyone thinks the war

"His instructions after the

Queried on how confi-

The BNP should rather

person."

added.

parties.

should be."

from illness and still cannot stand up. How can I sprain her hand?" he said.

Contacted by The Daily Star, he said, "I'm too sick to even lift a cell phone. How can I assault her in this physical condition?"

He, however, admitted that he had pushed Aparna aside. "As soon as I reached the school gate, she held out a microphone in front of my face and started filming me. I refused to talk at the moment and pushed her aside."

He accused the Rtv camera crew of filming him without his permission. On the matter of addi-

tional fees, he claimed that the education minister had given him the go-ahead considering the fact that other private institutions had also increased their fees "The fee was fixed in

consultation with the guardians," he claimed. Later in the evening, the

lawmaker at a talk show on Mohonaty, which he owns, criticised journalists for their "aggressive attitude and their conspiracy against him in the name of journalism". On the show titled "infor-

accused). But we did it."

claim that elections cannot

caretaker government

racy. The way in which elec-

tions are held, we will do that

and our election commis-

sion is working totally inde-

the polls, Hasina said, "Well

Will you go ahead with

pendently."

have to come."

mitment, he or she has to do mation terrorism: conspirso on own responsibility." acy of capitalist mass media," discussants, including the school principal and the assistant principal of the school, blasted the Rtv reporter for "conspiring to tarnish the image of the school". in reference to the power system master plan of the

or liquefied natural gas. crimes tribunal has been working, she said, "In this tribunal we have given many liberties to them (the accused). Even after the proven and probable judgment they can appeal to reserves of 20.61 tcf.

the higher court. But in this world many war trials, you know, have taken place. No other tribunal has allowed this liberty to them (the On the opposition party's be free and fair without a Hasina said, "We follow a gas." Westminster type of democ-

> "After 2021, our gas reserve could dry up. We have little potential too. Only non-technical people can say that the country is floating on gas."

the elections, if the opposi-Bangladesh now protion does not participate? duces 2,064mmcfd of gas The premier said, "I think at against the demand for over last they [BNP] have to 2,500mmcfd, according to come, they will join. If they believe in democracy, they At present, power plants About the opposition's

get a supply of 715 million cubic feet of gas a day firm stance on a boycott of against a demand for in politics they say many 920mmcfd. The gas shortage things. But at last, whatever causes 500 to 700 MW less happens either directly or power generation, accordindirectly, they will partici-

Slow work

doing."

The project also has a road network from Tongi Diversion to Rampura Bridge along Hatirjheel canal, which is comprised of a one-way express road with a two-way side road. A twolane expressway goes from Tongi Diversion via Gulshan

to Pragati Sarani. The north portion of the road under the project goes from Begunbari power house via Kunipara and Gulshan-1 to Merul Badda.

After the project work is

in Moghbazar, Madhubagh

Ulan, Mohanagar Daserpara, Rampura, Merul Badda, Gulshan, Tejgaon and Begunbari will improve, said the project director. Traffic can move to Gulshan or Pragati Sarani from Tongi Diversion Road directly through the express-

way, said another official of

the project. The locality

roads will be connected to

the two-lane side road. There will be some exits and entrances through which vehicles will be able to move from the side road to the expressway and vice versa.

The main objectives of the project are to improve the drainage system, connect the east with the west part of the city, build a proper sewerage, and construct walkways and roads around Hatirjheel and Begunbari canals to improve communication and reduce traffic jam.

## **Positions**

**FROM PAGE 1** 

three months as she has already directed the ministries concerned in this

regard, the premier said. Currently, only the inspector general of police and the police coordinator enjoy grade-I status, which

is equivalent to that of a

secretary. There are nine posts of additional IGPs in the department and the three most senior officials among them will rise to grade-I once the decision is implemented, sources said.

The prime minister also said initiatives were underway to ensure more participation of the police in UN peacekeeping missions, adds UNB. To reduce work pressure,

the government has decided to create 32,031 cadre and non-cadre posts in police force, she added. The prime minister on

the occasion presented Bangladesh Police Medals and President's Police Medals to 59 policemen.

Power plan

FROM PAGE 20

Monsur was talking to reporters at his office in the capital on the development of the gas sector in the last three years. He made the comments

8,850 MW of electricity by using domestic natural gas The country has consumed 10.74 trillion cubic feet of gas as of 2011 out of its

PDB to generate around

The Petrobangla chief said Bangladesh must explore alternative sources in coal, nuclear and renewable energies as the country's natural gas reserve is drying up fast. "We will need 22 to 23 tcf gas up to 2021, which means we will have to discover another 7 to 8 tcf of

### ing to PDB. pate. That's what they will be 2 Bangladeshis

**FROM PAGE 20** operations room of the Abu Dhabi Police. The investiga-

tion was on, reported Khaleej Times Online. Eyewitnesses said the two workers -- Gaziur Rahman, 32, and Alamgir, 22 -plunged to their death from the eighth floor of the building on Najda Street around 2:00pm on Monday. Their

details could not be known

until yesterday.

"They fell when the wooden plank of the scaffolding broke and crashed to the basement. It was a horrible scene as one of the workers got beheaded after falling finished, the traffic situation on sharp materials on the ground, while the other got his head chopped into two pieces vertically," said a coworker, also from Bangladesh.

The National, another

newspaper in Abu Dhabi,

and it collapsed and they

reported three men were standing on a platform on the seventh floor of the building, its highest level, inside the elevator shaft. But about 2:00pm, the load they were carrying overwhelmed the platform

plunged all the way to the fifth basement level, officials said. Two of the men died immediately, officials said. Another Bangladeshi

worker, identified by eyewitnesses as Ashraf, suffered severe injuries after being hit by the debris of the scaffolding and was taken to Shaikh Khalifa Medical City complex, the witnesses said. However, the police did not confirm this.