Bills to revamp EC

From Page 1 Col 4 term which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to Taka five thou-

sand, or with both." According to another provision of the proposed Bill, "no suit or other legal proceedings shall lie against any such officer or other person for damages in respect of any such act

or omission is aforesaid. "No court shall take cognizance of any offence punish able for breach of duty in connection with the preparation and other matters relating to electoral rolls unless there is a complaint made by order of, or under authority from the

commission. Initiating the discussion on the principles of the Representation of the People (amendment) Bill, 1994, the LGRD minister said 'If we can apply the principles of the proposed bill, the usual allegations of corrupt practices in the elections would go.

Justifying the proposed amendments, the minister told the House that these were necessary to remove the existing weakness of the EC - a constitutional body for holding elections independent of interference of the state's exe-

Akhtaruzzaman

From Page 1 Col 4

Talking about some specific problems of fish cultivation Akhtaruzzaman began describing the inconsistency of the different government policies in general which Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali deemed irrelevant

When the Speaker asked the retired soldier to explain the reasons behind his complaint, especially after a half an hour-long deliberation on the issue, Akhtaruzzaman retorted: You youself have inter vened at the beginning and then my friends sitting around me disturbed me during my speach.

The MP finally took his seat saying. "The truth is often very harsh and bitter, honourable Speaker.

However, none of the MPs present demanded expurga tion of any of the comments made by Akhtaruzzaman.

Last week Akhtaruzzaman served a show cause notice by the BNP standing committee for a press statement on the Opposition demand for a caretaker government that embarrassed the ruling party, was spared any disciplinary action by party chief Prime Minister Khaleda Zia. His party colleague Nurul Islam Moni pulled up on a similar charge. was not so lucky, having his primary party membership temporarily suspended.

Barricade

From Page 1 Col 5 and BNP government" and holding of elections under a neutral, non-partisan caretaker government.

He asked the people to make today's programme a success in order "to let the current struggle achieve its desired objective."

Earlier, on Sunday, the mainstream Opposition organised several padajatra or marches in the capital to back their demand for the next par liamentary polls to be held under a neutral, non-party caretaker government.

The Opposition has also called for a nation-wide 48hour hartal on December 7 and

Four other ruling party MPs including the Housing and Public Works Minister Rafigul Islam Miah. Forest and Environment Minister Akber Hossain. Abdur Rob Chowdhury and Maulana Ataur Rahman

spoke on the occasion. The works minister said that enactment of the laws seeking complete independence of the EC and providing the voters with identity cards would definitely contribute to institutionalising democracy.

Referring to the punitive measures for the violators of the Election rules, the minister said the bill contained 'true spirit of democracy.' He, however, identified black money. unauthorised arms and influence of the administration to be the main reasons behind the rigging of polls in the country.

The environment minister. describing introduction of the bill as a historic incident, said the provision of identity cards would help check the practice of false voting.

Referring to the Opposition demand for holding elections under a non-partisan caretaker administration, the minister said that such proposals were suicidal for the politicians both of the ruling party or the Opposition.

The sitting was presided over by L K Siddigi MP, one of the five-member panel of chairman elected on the opening day of the current session to take the chair in the absence of the Speaker or his

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali entered the house after the question-answer session.

The Speaker deferred consideration of the bill until today, He adjourned the sitting at 9:45. It resumes again at 6:00 this evening.

Mostafiz refutes press report

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman vesterday refuted a newspaper report that he does not know the number of Bangladeshi diplomatic missions abroad, reports UNB.

Clarifying his position, the Foreign Minister said during the question hour Sunday he could not give the figure read-

However, he said the number of Bangladeshi missions abroad is 46, of which one mission has been kept under suspension

2 hurt in clash From Page 1 Col 8

they alleged, were responsible for the death of Sanaullah.

Police said, they dispersed the demonstrators within an hour but no arrest was made.

Sanaullah was picked up by Mirpur police around midnight Saturday. He was shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) around 4 am Sunday, reportedly with pain in his chest. He died there after an hour

Local people alleged that Sanaullah was beaten to death by the police.

Meanwhile, a DMCH source said, the autopsy on the body of Sanaullah was done at the DMCH morgue yesterday. In the doctors' primary report it was said that Sanaullah died of a heart attack. However, the forensic experts are waiting for other pathological and viscera reports.

Markets for agri items

From Page 1 Col 3

private sector. These include the legal ban on private sector involvement in grain trade, storage, and credit con straints, and government intervention in grain price policy which minimised intertemporal price variation.

Other potential storage bottlenecks include inadequate cold storage facilities - for the domestic market current capacity is only used for potatoes, for sea freight exports there are no sea port cold stores, nor is there chilled sea freight capacity to Southeast Asian markets, and for air freight exports (where present capacity is inadequate and out dated for handling any in creased level of horticultural product or cut flower export activity).

At present, there are 173 cold storage units with a total capacity of 457,000 metric tons in the country. Over half of them are concentrated within a 60-mile radius around Dhaka. Utilisation of capacity has been running at about 75 per cent, with about 350,000 metric tons of potatoes in storage on average over the last few years.

Marketing channels for most foodstuffs in Bangladesh are highly fragmented, with little vertical integration between primary rural and urban distribution markets, the multilateral donor agency-sponsored study said and recom-

mended that a firm commitment by the government to use the private market for foodgrains trade would help improve overall market function. For many industrial crops

(sugarcane, jute, tobacco, and cotton), production and marketing are organised by parastatal or private agencies which process the raw materials into final form. The production of other commodities (sunflower, gherkins, straw mushrooms, cut flowers) may also be organ-

ised under contract growing

arrangements with various pripm when hundreds of people vate firms and NGOs. staged a demonstration de-Public investments in Dhaka manding declaration of port infrastructure, including Dohazari a district and at a facilities for waterway-based stage police obstructed their shipping container loadbid to hoist black flags on goving/unloading and trans-shipernment offices to press home ment between Dhaka and international port cities of their demand. Chittagong and Mongla, should be encouraged to facilitate international trade. At the inter-

able exports. Regarding market information systems, the Department of Agricultural Marketing (DAM) is responsible for collecting and disseminating wholesale and retail prices of almost all agricultural commodities. DAM offices, suggested the donor agency should be adequately staffed and provided with modern fa-

cilities both for transportation

and telecommunication.

teristics.

national airports, air freight

space constraints on existing

passenger flights limit perish-

Grading and standardization of agricultural commodities have not yet developed in Bangladesh, it observed. These are important if agriculture is to become more commercialized, particularly for export markets where certain standards may be legally enforced and consumers are demanding of certain quality charac-

JCD enough to tackle Opposition

From Page 1 Col 7

ter Abdus Salam Talukdar Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Energy Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharral Hossain, DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, and JCD leaders including Nazimuddin Alam. DUSCU general secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon and Abul Khair Bhuiyan.

Telecommunications Minister Tariqui Islam. Shipping Minister M K Anwar, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali were among those who sat with the Prime Minister on the raised dais.

The once regular, forceful orator, former information minister Nazmul Huda, was conspicuously sitting among the audience. But another BNP MP - Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman - who like Huda, em barrassed the party no end recently through a press statement, was, however, on the

The rally at the busy commercial centre dislocated traffic in the area for nearly three

Referring to the current political deadlock, the Prime Minister said, "We believe that only a dialogue can resolve the crisis. We are ready to do everything within the constitutional framework."

Citing her party's acceptance of Sir Ninian Stephen's formula for an interim government to conduct the next parliamentary polls, the BNP chief said. "We gave enough concessions. But must not be this misconstrued as a sign of the BNP's weakness."

"The BNP is still powerful and popular. It is in power, engaged in development and the politics of production. It also retains considerable hold on the streets," she affirmed.

Rejecting the Opposition proposal for a caretaker government, Begum Zia reiterated that a government not elected by the people could never be a substitute for one voted to power. "Those who prefer a non-elected government don't believe in people's power," she commented.

Repeating her call to the Opposition to return to Parliament, the Leader of the House said "We can solve all national problems through discussions on the floor of the sovereign Parliament, established by the people. She also called upon the opposition legislators to come forward with proposals, if they had any more, to resolve the political

She regretted that the Opposition was boycotting Parliament proceedings and said it was always non-cooperating with the treasury bench. "They can only call hartals and strikes and go for barricade programmes and have no constructive programmes."

Referring to the major opposition parties' simultaneous agitations on the streets to realise their demand for elections under a non-party caretaker government, the ruling party chief said their destructive activities were only discouraging foreign investors and hampering production and national development.

Demand for dist:

30 hurt as police,

mob clash

From Staff Correspondent

Police today fought a pitched

battle with a mob at Dohazari

under Chandanaish thana, 30

miles from here. Some 30

people including the OC of

Chandanaish PS were injured.

to the local health complex.

The injured were admitted

Police also opened fire in

the air to disperse the mob

locked in brick-bats during the

The trouble began at 12:15

Rajuk asked to

survey on

high-rise buildings

Minister Rafigul Islam Mia

yesterday asked the 'Rajuk' au-

thorities to make a survey on

the city's high-rise buildings

and submit a report within the

shortest possible time stating

the positions of the buildings

in respect of plan, design and

other conditions, reports BSS.

rective to the Rajuk authorities

while he was visiting the five

storey tilting building at city's

ties to demolish the unautho-

rised buildings and take legal

Rajuk, to immediately take de-

partmental action against the

officer who is responsible in

passing the plan for this unau-

action against the defaulters.

He asked the Rajuk authori-

Rafig asked the chairman of

Tajmahal Road.

thorised buildings.

The minister gave this di-

Housing and Public Works

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28:



Nazmul Huda among the audience at a big public meeting organised by the JCD, the student wing of the BNP, at the Shapla Square in the city's Motifheel area yesterday.

Without naming the main opposition party — the Awami League — Begum Zia said the party had shaken hands with the autocrats and the anti-liberation forces.

"They walked with the fallen autocrats on the city streets yesterday, the day Dr Milon was killed by the autocrats four years ago", Begum Zia pointed out.

Refuting the Opposition allegation of corruption by her government, the Prime Minister said such false charges were being made as part of an evil design to topple the BNP popular government and pave the way for illegal capture of

Replying to AL chief Sheikh Hasina's blame that she was hankering after power. Begum Zia said, "We don't do politics for power. Rather, she (Hasina) has become mad for power and joined hands with the autocrats to capture power."

In her 37-minute speech. Begum Zia also described her government's steps for boosting production and development in all spheres of national life. "What we have done in the last three and half years, was not done by any government since the liberation of the

Stating that the BNP government gave special emphasis on education, Begum Zia mentioned the Food for Education. free schooling for the girl students up to class eight, compulsory primary education, construction of new schools

From Page 1 Col 8

absence which in no event can

But the Opposition leaders

and MPs had not applied to

the Speaker for leave, he

cott, Asrarul Hossain said ev-

ery Member of Parliament has

a right to boycott proceedings

of Parliament in protest

against actions or in support

of action, which will be only

for the day, but the MPs can-

not boycott the Parliament

sessions continuously. The

Opposition MPs have been

ignoring the public interest

and not performing their

constitutional duties by boy-

cotting the sessions of Parlia-

Hossain further argued that

any citizen of Bangladesh has

the right and locus standi to

file a writ for establishing the

public interests, fundamental

rights, to get natural justice

and also to establish constitu-

tional provision as contem-

plated in the Constitution. On

this point Hossain cited the

that the Opposition MPs were

voted by the people in the

general elections held in 1991

and took oaths of office as MPs

to represent the people in

Parliament, to make laws in

Parliament and to perform

constitutional duties for five

years for the greater interest

But now, after three years,

the Opposition MPs are boy-

cotting Parliament and abstain-

ing themselves from their con-

drawing salaries and enjoying

financial benefits but they have

failed to perform their duties

for the public interest and as

such caused financial loss to

the public of Bangladesh," he

"The Opposition MPs are

of the people.

stitutional duties.

argued.

Asrarul Hossain also argued

instance of the Berubari case.

ment, he added.

On the question of a boy-

added.

be extended beyond 90 days.'

and libraries and urged the affluent section of the society to come to the aid of the poor and meritorious students.

- Star photo

She also mentioned that construction of 3,000 flats had been planned for the government employees and added the complicated pension system had been simplified.

The BNP government had created employment opportunities for the youths and was planning to create more, she said, adding the budget for the Youth Ministry had been increased to Taka 131 crore as against only 11 crore during the autocratic rule.

Mentioning the construction of bridges and culverts in the rural areas, a smiling Prime Minister said "they are now worried about their election symbol — boat — as it would be needless now. Boat is the election symbol of the Awami League.

The bus caught fire after the explosion and many of the passengers were injured while. trying to flee from the vehicle. Twenty people were hospitalised in critical condition. police said. Many of them had lost their limbs, Suri said.

The bus was carrying pilgrims from a Hindu shrine in nearby Vaishnodevi, he said.

More than 9,500 people have been killed in daily battles between Muslim separatists and government soldiers in the last four years. The guerillas say the federal government discriminates against Muslims in jobs and education.

He further argued that the

Supreme Court of Bangladesh

and the judges of the Supreme

Court are the guardians of the

Constitution and it is their

constitutional duty to protect

and preserve the Constitution

or law. In view of the said mat-

ter he cited the Supreme

Court judgement in the case

regarding the 8th Amendment

The hearing resumes today.

Asrarul Hossain, Moham-

mad Ali, Bar at-Law, Advocate

Abu Baker Siddique and Advo-

cate Humayun Kabir Bulbul ap-

Advocate Zakir Ahmed ap-

peared for the Opposition

peared for Jatiya Party leader

appeared for Jamaat leader

Moulana Matiur Rahman

Rajbari

From Page | Col 6

clash between the JCD and

Maitree activists at the college

ing train, bus and rickshaws

stayed off the streets, shops

and educational institutions

were closed during the hartal

hours. Final examinations of

several schools were sus-

sporadic processions in the

town and held a meeting in

front of Workers' Party office

LDF leaders blamed

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the

student wing of ruling BNP, for

mediate arrest and trial of the

the killing and demanded im-

Addressing the meeting the

The strikers brought out

All sorts of vehicles; includ-

Rafiqul Huq, Bar at-Law ap-

Abdur Razzaq, Bar at-Law.

Leader Sheikh Hasina Wazed.

K S Nabi, Bar at-Law and

peared for the petitioner.

of the Constitution.

Moudud Ahmed.

campus on Sunday.

Nizami.

pended.

in the afternoon.

killers of Panna.

announced

'Shankhanil Karagar' won the best film award while its scriptwriter Humayun Ahmed won the trophy for the best screenplay in the National Film Awards 1992 announced yesterday, reports BSS.

Dolly Zahur was adjudged the best actress for the year 1992 for her lead role in Shankhanil Karagar while Alamgir was voted the best ac tor for his lead role in 'Andha

'Shankhanil Karagar', based on the story of Bangladesh's leading fiction writer Humayun Ahmed, won four best awards including best sound recording a prize which went to M A

The national awards for 1993 were also announced simultaneously.

'Padma Nadir Majhi' was deemed the best movie of that year. It also bagged six other awards, including the best actress _ Gulshan Ara Champa; best actor - Raisul Islam Asad best side actor - Abul Khair: art direction -Mohiuddin Faroog: makeup man_ Mohammad Alauddin

Farida Parvin won laurels as the best playback singer of 1993 in the film 'Andha Prem' while Azad Rahman was named best male singer and best music director in 'Chandabaz'.

Selim Al-Din won the award for the best dialogue of 1993 in the film 'Ekattorer Jishu'

Sabina Yasmin was named the top singer for 1992 in the film Radha Krishna while Syed Abdul Hadi got the best male singer's trophy for the film 'Kshama'.

An official handout said that the government gave a special award for 1992 to the late Abdul Jabbar Khan, a pioneer of film-making in this land. A special award for the year

1993 also went to late Nazir Ahmed, also another movie pioneer and the first managing director of the Film Development Corporation. Anwara won trophies as

and '93 for her roles in Radha Krishna' and 'Banglar Badhu respectively. Baby Shimi was the best child artiste in 1992 'Uchit Shikkha' and Master

best side actress for both 1992

Anik in 1993 in 'Abujh Santan' The best award for side role for 1992 went to Mizu Ahmed in the film 'Traash' (Terror).

Baby Tania won a special award for 1992 for her role in 'Uchit Shikkha' while Poppy got it for 1993 in 'Tyag'.

Best cameraman (colour) for 1992 : Anwarul Islam Baby. A 13-member board of jurors headed by Saeed. Ahmed, playwright, film critic and a retired Secretary, adjudicated the awards.

> Hasina From Page 1 Col 3

drakes with people's voting rights, we must realise it." Bringing allegations of re-

pression on the Opposition, she said: "The BNP is living in fool's paradise if it thinks that people's struggle and their demand can be suppressed by using police and mastans."

The Awami League chief called on the people to "pull down the present fascist government" by observing Opposition programmes including road and rail blockade tomorrow and 48-hour countrywide hartal on December 7-8.

Recalling the fate of autocratic Ershad, she said: "The surge of the people's agitation would wash away the chair of the Prime Minister if she insists on clinging to it."

Hasina said the BNP government had bluffed the people and failed to fulfil its election commitment after assuming power.

She said that during the BNP rulé, some 5,000 mills and factories were closed down, thousands of workers sacked, misery of farmers have increased and prices of essentials shot up.

The Awami League chief reminded that the BNP had once' committed to the people that good days would come if the "sheaf of paddy" was voted to power. Although the BNP came to power, poor people were still living in darkness and despair, she said.

"Good days did not come for the commonman, but for the people in power, including the Prime Minister and her cabinet colleagues who have become owners of crores of Taka through illegal means." Hasina condemned the

November 11 incident when one Serajul Islam was killed in police firing for protesting the eviction of villagers in Yusufganj of Rupganj thana and asked the government not to evict the people for setting up the satellite town there.

Presided over by Rupganj Thana Awami League president Alhaj Abdul Motaleb, the meeting was also addressed by Tofael Ahmed, MP, Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, K M Jahangir, MP. Major General (Rtd) K M Shafiullah and Akhteruzzaman.

National film | Tine Midmight Bile

Arms embargo on Syria goes

BRUSSELS, Nov 28: The European Union (EU) lifted its eight-year arms embargo on Syria today following a thawing of relations. British foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd told reporters the decision had been nodded through at a meeting of EU foreign ministers, reports Reuter.

Turkish FM resigns

ANKARA, Nov 28: Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal announced his resignation today over a dispute with the prime minister on the appointment of his assistant. Soysal has been at odds with Prime Minister Tansu Ciller on a variety of issues, including the government's hard-line security tactics that have led to sharp denunciations in the West, reports AP.

Railway ticketing, reservation system computerised

Bangladesh Railway yesterday entered the computer world with computerisation of its ticketing and reservation system, reports UNB.

The service is provided by

the private sector on Build. Operate and Transfer (BOT) Inauguration the modern system at the city's Kamalapur railway station yesterday morn-

ing, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed said the introduction of the computer system was a leap forward in enhancing the efficiency of the rail-The computerisation pro-

ject, being implemented by a private sector computer firm Techno Heaven, will cover 33 stations of the East zone in two phases, said an official hand-

Siddiky re-elected Dhaka Club chief

Chowdhury Dabir Ahmed Siddiky has been re-elected the president of the Dhaka Club in the election held yesterday, reports BSS.

Results of the elections announced last night said Siddiky defeated his nearest rival Saiful Islam by more than one hundred votes. Mahbub Hossain Khan was also in the race for presidency. Siddiky has been elected for the third

Following members have been elected to the executive committee: Dr Rabiul Alam, Lutfe Najib Khan (Rumy), Mojibur Rahman Chowdhury (Majnu), Iqbal Mahmood, Rafiuddin (Babloo). Akbar Hossain. Manzurur Rahman(Ruskin) Reshadul Ameen (Bappa), Capt (Retd) Mansurul Aziz and Imrul Chowdhury.

Palestine Day today

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people will be observed in the country today as elsewhere to reaffirm support for the Palestinian people.

Every year on November 29, the Day is observed in keeping with a resolution adopted in the UN General Assembly in On this day in 1947, the

General Assembly passed a resolution which led to the establishment of a Jewish State in the lands from where millions of Palestinians were driven out.

Fire

From Page 1 Col 5 that broke out around 5:45 pm. "The room was locked. Some people saw belching smoke out of the window and phoned the Fire Service headquarters," he said.

The smouldering fire was brought under control within half an hour. No casualties were reported. A Fire Service source said,

the blaze was believed to have originated from a burning cigarette butt.

NC bows out of race to form govt

KATHMANDU. Nov 28: The ruling Nepali Congress (NC) bowed out of the race to form a government today and paved the way for Nepal's first communist government, reports After a two-hour meeting,

the NC central committee said it would hand over the baton to the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML), which was expected to form a new minority government later today. The communists emerged

as the single largest party in a hung Parliament on a promise to give land to the landless farmers. The Congress government fell following dissent in the party.

BMA Elections the betterment of the people, !

From Page 1 Col 4

will try to expand medical education programme for the people and for the doctors community." Dr Nurul Islam, a child

specialist, claimed, "I was disappointed with the activities of BMA leaders. Dr Islam said, if elected

president he would work for

the creation of five thousand

new posts for the young jobless doctors He said, regular appointments' should be given to the newcomers. Besides, 'students' stipend' for one year should be arranged for the period they

added Prof Islam said the students' stipend should be increased and deputation system also should be introduced immediately.

work on 'honorary basis', he

Dr Sirajul Islam, BMA presidential aspirant, is basically a professionals' body. It should uphold professionalism in all its activities, rising above personal and political inter-

ests, he added "We believe that if elected we shall be able to draw the attention of the members of the BMA by upholding their professional interests," said Dr

Islam, a child specialist. Dr Islam asserted that the health policy formulated by the BMA should be implemented at the earliest.

He said the movement of

the doctors is not for the benefit of doctors only. In fact the 21-point demand of the doctors has got much to do to improve the health condition of the people. "This is because the 21-point demand speaks of raising the health budget, a primary health care programme for the masses, availability of doctors at the union level health complexes and family welfare centres so that the people living even in the remotest corner of the country can get the service of the doc-

Dr Mujibul Haque, Principal of the Feni Medical College (private) said, "If elected, I want to involve the BMA in restoring people's confidence in the healthcare system by foiling all conspiracies."

tors," he added.

TOURISM MONTH -94

STICK PLAY EXHIBITION

Date & Time:

30 November '94 Wednesday 3-00 p.m.

Venue

Abahani Playground, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.



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All are cordially invited

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