

Trial of Roh resumes

Prosecutors seek 3-yr jail for Samsung chief

SEOUL, Jan 29: South Korean prosecutors today sought a three-year jail sentence for Samsung Chairman Lee Kun-Hee on charges of bribing former President Roh Tae-Woo. Yonhap news agency reported, say Reuters, AP.

Lee is on trial for corruption along with Roh and 13 others, including heads of seven South Korean business groups.

The South Korean news agency said prosecutors had also sought a four-year sentence for the heads of Daewoo, Hanbo and Dong A Groups during the third day of the trial that has been spaced out over several weeks.

They have not yet sought a sentence for Roh, who is accused of skimming millions of dollars from businessmen during his 1988-93 term in office.

Some of the businessmen, including Lee and Daewoo chairman Kim Woo-Chung, have admitted giving money to Roh but not in return for favours.

Samsung, which makes

everything from electronics to ships, is South Korea's biggest business group on terms of sales.

Meanwhile, the bribery trial of former President Roh Tae-Woo resumed today at a quick pace amid indications that defense lawyers would try to end the proceedings early.

Legal officials said that could enable the three-judge panel to hear closing arguments and ask prosecutors to seek sentences for Roh's 14 co-defendants by the end of the day.

The prosecution was likely to delay its demand for punishment for Roh until other charges against him — military insurrection and treason — are handled by another court, they said.

Only three defense witnesses testified during the morning session. They claimed the donations given by their companies to Roh were not bribes, just 'political funds,' given under a long-standing practice observed by past military-backed governments.

Hartal passes off

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auto-rickshaws at Mohakhali and at Moghbazar and damaged a truck at Shyamoli and a bus at Badda.

Leaders of the Awami League and Chhatra League at a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club during the hartal said that the planned visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to inaugurate the Book Fair at the Bangla Academy would be resisted.

"The BNP is now celebrating its unopposed victory. At 120 places, BNP nominees are contesting BNP activists. Such an election will never be accepted by the people," said AL leader Mozaffar Hossain Chowdhury. Maya adding, "We will fight them on the street."

"All polls campaign by the BNP would be resisted. Wherever Khaleda Zia goes, we will build resistance there," he said.

Another AL leader, Amir Hossain Anu, while addressing the rally urged the armed forces, now deployed for recovery of illegal arms at the initiative of the Election Commission, to go back to barracks to retain their image.

Amu also alleged that the Prime Minister was spending huge government resources for her party's election campaign.

The rally was also addressed by among others, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Shudhangshu Shekhar Haldar and Advocate Karul Islam.

The Jatiya Party and Jamaat also held separate rallies in the city during the hartal.

BSS adds from Khulna: A half-day hartal was observed peacefully in the port city today at the call of opposition Awami League, Jatiya, Jamaat-e-Islami.

JP office case
Ershad's petition to set aside court order rejected

A High Court division bench yesterday rejected former president J. Ershad's petition to set aside the order of September 10, 1995 passed by Special Judge, Dhaka, recalling three witnesses for re-examination in a case known as the 'Jatiya Party office case,' reports BSS.

Ershad filed a criminal application before High Court division bench against an order dated 10.9.95 passed by special judge and additional sessions judge, first court, Dhaka, in Special Case No. 50 of 1993 recalling three witnesses which will deprive the defence from the benefit.

On September 10, 1995 Special Judge Zinat Ara passed the order that to arrive at a just and proper decision on the charges, three witnesses — Isma Huque, Monirul Huq Chowdhury and MA Bares — should be re-examined and directed to issue summons upon them accordingly.

Election expenses

From Page 1
ent materials for the upcoming election would cost the EC a total of Tk 2 crore — the EC has already made an advance of Tk 60 lakh to the printing press.

The Chairman of the Telephone and Telegraph Board has asked for an advance of Tk 35 lakh for the telephone lines, of which the EC paid Tk 15 lakh yesterday.

"One of the biggest chunk of the money during the elections goes towards the payment for the polling officers. This year, as it is an 'abnormal' election we can get away with engaging about 300,000 polling officers," the official said. Each polling officer would receive Tk 100 a day during the polls. In 1991, the amount was Tk 70 a day.

"A regular election would involve the engagement of at least 500,000 polling officers and would involve more money," he said.

During the 1991 elections, the EC spent, from its revenue budget, a total of Tk 17 crore for security and Tk 7.5 crore for other expenses. In addition to the ID card Project, the EC projects un-

der the ADF includes strengthening of the Election Commission Secretariat for Tk 3.78 crore. This project modernised the EC's conference room, provided 83 motor cycles to district election officers, 70 fax machines, two micro-buses and four modern jeeps and about 10 computers. The project is nearly completed, an official said.

The Research and Development Cell Project worth Tk 28.33 lakh including holding — Dapunia model elections. The actual ID card project was first conceived by officials of the cell. An EC team was flown to Thailand in February 1995 for training on providing voter ID cards under this project. When the team returned, they found out that a separate ID card project was already created by the government and the trained personnel were never involved in the new project, another EC official pointed out.

The four-year long Electoral Training Institute project was started last year at a cost of Tk 1.99 crore. It covers training personnel involved in the electoral process and in voter awareness programmes.

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Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No. 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1206. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party at her Hare Road office yesterday.

Bangladeshi dies in Malda police custody

NEW DELHI, Jan 29: One Bangladeshi young man was killed in police custody on Saturday night in Malda, West Bengal, reports BSS.

The person was identified as Mollah Mohammad Masha of Baliahaghi, Rajshahi, said a report in Calcutta daily 'Aajkal,' today.

Earlier, he was reportedly picked up by the police from bordering village Kumarpur.

The cause of his death is under investigation as there are allegations of physical assaults by the police. The reports said that the matter has been brought to the knowledge of Bangladesh High Commission in Calcutta.

Nominations valid, but they are loan defaulters

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Jan 29: Two candidates in the parliamentary election, whose nomination papers were declared valid after scrutiny by the returning officer, have now been allegedly identified to be bank loan defaulters.

The candidates are — Mohammad Abdul Muhiit in Pabna Sadar constituency and Abdus Samad Molla in Sathia-Bera constituency.

A district Election Commission official told this correspondent that the two candidates were identified to be bank loan defaulters three days after the scrutiny was over and hence they had nothing to do.

BNP called hartal observed in Pabna

From Our Correspondent
PABNA, Jan 29: A dawn-to-dusk hartal, called by the local BNP and its front organisations, passed off by and large peacefully in the town today.

The hartal was called to protest the arrest of two JCD leaders on Sunday.

All modes of transports were off the roads while shops, educational institutions and business establishments remained closed during the hartal hours.

Pro-hartal activists ransacked about 15 shops at Paura Bazar area and damaged several vehicles at bus stand. Police arrested JCD activist Alim from the spot.

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BNP has destroyed democracy: Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that in last five years, the BNP government had destroyed the democratic institutions of the country, crippled the economy and become 'totally isolated' from people, reports UNB.

She was addressing the leaders and representatives of some teachers' organisations when they called on the Awami League chief at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office to exchange views on the present political situation.

"The government is not only conspiring to snatch the people's voting rights but also failed to show minimum respect to the teachers community," Hasina alleged. "Teachers are the most neglected in our country."

The Awami League chief called upon all to resist the "one-party farcical election" at any cost to pave the way for holding an impartial election under a caretaker government with the participation of all political parties.

"We cannot allow the gov-

ernment to play with the rights of the people," she said, accusing the ruling party of trying to cling to power by vote-rigging, media coup and forcing the public servants to be used in its favour through intimidation.

The teachers' representatives, expressing solidarity with the ongoing movement, have assured Sheikh Hasina that they would not cooperate with the government in the next general election. They also called for resisting the 'farcical' polls.

Principal Kamruzzaman, Principal M Shahjahan, Maj (ret'd) Asaduzzaman, Sufia Khatun, Abdus Sattar, Abdul Khaled, Badruddin Howlader, Chowdhury Khurshid Alam and Hena Das were, among others, present during the meeting.

Awami League leaders, including, Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Anu, Tofael Ahmed, Dr Mohammad Selim, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Syed Fazlul Haq and Matia Chowdhury were also present.

DV-97 US visa lottery

From Page 1
the photograph. The applicant must sign the entry form.

The information must be mailed in a standard letter or business-size envelope with the applicant's native country, full name, mailing address, and country of residence typed or clearly printed in English in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope. Postcards are not acceptable.

Entries from Asia, including Bangladesh, should be sent by regular mail or air mail to the following address: DV-97 Program/National Visa Center/Portsmouth, NH 00210, USA.

Only one entry for each applicant may be submitted during the one-month registration period. Duplicate or multiple entries will disqualify individuals from registration for this programme.

Entries received before or after the specified registration dates, regardless of when they are postmarked, and entries sent to the wrong address will also be disqualified.

All mail received during the registration period will be individually numbered and entries will be selected at random by computer regard-

less of time of receipt during the mail-in period. No outside services, such as that of an attorney or consultant, can improve an applicant's chances of being chosen or guarantee an entry will win.

Only successful registrants will be notified by mail at the address listed on their entry, no later than July 1, 1996, along with instructions on how to apply for an immigrant visa. The US embassy will not be able to provide a list of successful applicants.

Being selected a winner in the DV lottery does not automatically guarantee the issuance of a visa because the number of applicants selected is greater than the number of immigrant visas available. Those selected will therefore need to act on their visa applications quickly. Once the allocated number of visas has been issued, the DV Programme for fiscal year 1997 will end.

Moreover, there is a limit of seven per cent or 3,850 on the use of visas by natives of any one foreign country.

A visa lottery hotline has been set up to provide additional information on the DV-97 Programme. The 24-hour number is (202) 663-1600. Printed information will also be available by fax by dialling (202) 647-3000 (code 1103).



A touring Dutch couple in the city yesterday on way to Australia in a customised van.

Regional workshop on AIDS begins in Kathmandu Feb 6

Senior policy makers of South Asian nations will assemble in the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu for a four-day regional workshop from February 6 to address the aspects of AIDS in the sub-continent, reports UNB.

The World Bank, the single largest source of external funding for HIV/AIDS prevention and control in the developing world, will sponsor the workshop titled 'AIDS Policies in South Asia: The Role of Decision-Makers.'

The Bank's Economic Development Institute in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will arrange the workshop.

A WB press release issued in Dhaka yesterday said the Bank's HIV/AIDS specialists have warned, the pandemic's focus is shifting from Africa to Asia, the world's most populous continent.

In South Asia, the release said, the percentage of estimated AIDS cases has risen from one per cent in the global total in mid-1993 to six per cent in 1994.

By the end of the century, it is estimated that the majority of the new infections in the world will occur in South Asia, the release added.

The workshop will bring together senior South Asian policy makers of health, finance, planning, education, tourism and transport, World

Bank officials, and representatives of the private sector, NGOs and the media involved in HIV/AIDS related decision-making and advocacy.

"South Asian countries have the opportunity to take effective action now and avoid a crisis in the near future through effective investment and policies," Dr Michael Porter of the Bank's Asia Technical Department was quoted.

The aim of the workshop is to increase the participants' awareness of the social, economic, and financial consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on sustainable development and familiarize them with available policy and intervention options.

PM hosts iftar party

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party for the diplomats, judges, journalists, high civil and military officials, leading businessmen, university professors and other distinguished citizens at 30, Hare Road yesterday evening, reports BSS.

The prime minister exchanged greetings with a large number of guests and enquired about their welfare.

Chief Justice Abu Taher Mohammad Afzal, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Commerce and Information Minister M Shamsul Islam, and Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar were also present.

Lawyers hail PM for 'upholding Constitution'

A large number of lawyers, in a statement, here yesterday congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her "untiring efforts to uphold the continuity of Constitution," reports BSS.

In their joint statement, members of Dhaka Anjibi Samity and Supreme Court Anjibi Samity said Begum Khaleda Zia, after being appointed Prime Minister of the country, took oath to uphold the Constitution.

"She also launched various development programmes in the country as per her election promises," the lawyers said adding that the development programmes during her rule were unprecedented.

As many as 677 lawyers of both the samities signed the statement in which they said the opposition, seeing the wave of development, started floating irrational demands to stop the country's march to progress.

They also lent their unequivocal support to the parliamentary polls on February 15 and said the people were also in favour of this election.

The signatories to the statement included Justice TH Khan, Abdul Wadud Khandker, Mahtabuddin Ahmed, Lutfi Alam, Moqbil Hossain Fakir, Abdul Ahad Mia, Mohammad Sanaullah Mia, Mohammad Khorshed Alam, Zainul Abedin, Golam Arshad, Ashrafuddin Ahmad, Mohammad Aftab Rahman Khan, Mohammad Abdul Latif Talukder and Zakia Anarkali.

BTMC

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the interests — Tk 23.88 crore out of Tk 47.76 crore.

The rest, about Tk 160.78 crore, will be refinanced to the banks through bond financing which will be treated as equity to the BTMC.

"This will encourage the banks restart their financing the BTMC in its operations including import of cotton," said a BTMC official. "The mills will have a chance of being economically viable through this process."

The bank-wise figure of unpaid loans and interests is as follows: Rupali (Tk 3.33 crore), Janata (Tk 43.35 crore), Sonali (Tk 66.09 crore), Pubali (Tk 59.20 crore) and Uttara (Tk 7.06 crore).

The following is the Ministry's mill-wise estimate of required working capital: Olympia (Tk 7.23 crore), Lakshminarayana (Tk 4.72 crore), Monnu (Tk 5.37 crore), Meghna (Tk 4.95 crore), Satrang (Tk 2.94 crore), Carelin (Tk 1.68 crore), RR (Tk 7.17 crore), Rangamati (Tk 3.85 crore), Amin (Tk 1.03 crore), Chisti (Tk 3.27 crore), Kaderia (Tk 4.72 crore), Doste (Tk 3.12 crore), Magura (Tk 5.56 crore), Sylhet (Tk 6.29 crore), Chittaranjan (Tk 5.06 crore), Zinat (Tk 6.64 crore), Fine Cotton (Tk 1.67 crore), National Cotton (Tk 2.85 crore), Pylon Industries (Tk 2.89 crore), Dinaipur (Tk 5.06 crore), Orient (Tk 2.88 crore), Rajshahi (Tk 4.72 crore), Ahmad Bawani (Tk 7.81 crore), Kurigram (Tk 2.71 crore), Tangail Cotton (Tk 5.55 crore), Bengal (Tk 10.43 crore) and Kokil (Tk 3.52 crore).

The BTMC has now 30 units — 27 textile and yarn mills and three specialised mills — having 5,89,620 spindles and 2686 looms.

The total cumulative losses of the BTMC mills from 1972-73 to 1994-95 stood at Tk 477.33 crore, officials said.

The Midnight File

Chechens free five policemen

MOSCOW, Jan 29: Five of the 17 policemen being held by Chechen guerrillas have been freed, ORT state television reported today. ORT quoted its correspondent in Dagestan, the southern Russian republic neighbouring Chechnya where the Chechens took hundreds of hostages two and a half weeks ago. There were no further details, reports AFP.

Benazir sees me as a political threat: Imran

DUBAI, Jan 29: Pakistani cricket star Imran Khan said Sunday the Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government sees him as a political threat, reports UNB.

Khan is in the United Arab Emirates to raise funds for a 22 million US dollar Cancer Hospital built in Lahore in memory of his late mother.

He claimed Bhutto's government was deliberately trying to undermine the project by banning it from using the broadcast media to collect funds.

"I suppose the reason is that I'm a perceived political threat," said Khan. "It's an imagined threat."

But he told reporters that although he is not planning to enter politics in the near future, he was considering the formation of a group that would "prepare the groundwork for an entry." He did not elaborate.

Car import

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the value of a similar but new car.

Previously, the benefit was restricted upto 50 per cent for vehicles aged four. There was no extra benefit for vehicles above four years of use.

The new rules provided an additional five percentage point depreciation benefit to two-year-old vehicles. The provision will consequently benefit imports of three and four-year-old cars.

However, depreciation rate for one-year-old cars will remain unchanged at 20 per cent.

Importers and dealers, enraged by the government's decision to impose ban on import of reconditioned vehicles under PSI from December 12 last, abruptly stopped clearing their consignments of imported cars that led to logjam at the Chittagong Port. The ban came in the wake of rising suspicion over underinvoicing under the PSI system.

Stop polls

From Page 1
credibility, has now become a front organization of ruling BNP, Nasim said.

He added that if the BNP could succeed in holding the one-party election then it would kill parliamentary democracy and a new one-party 'fascist regime' would take over.

"The hard-earned democracy is at stake now and to save democracy all members of the public must come forward in aid of the political leadership and workers in the current movement," Nasim observed.

He said the meeting has once again urged the armed forces to go back to the barracks as the nation did not expect the armed force to be involved in the process of holding the one-party elections.

People of the country have become very anxious at the present situation prevailing in the country after the loss of life and clashes during the PM's recent campaign tours in Sylhet, Khulna and Bagerhat, Nasim pointed out.

The meeting cautioned the concerned persons not to discharge the duties of presiding and polling officers and said if anyone did so he or she would have to remain responsible for any consequences, noted Nasim.

The joint meeting urged all parties to further coordinate their activities in grassroots level to resist electioneering for the polls.

AL leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta, Mohammad Nasim and Mozaffar Hussain were also present.

JP leaders Moudud Ahmed and Anwar Hussain Manju and Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan Mohammad Miahid, Quamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Mollah attended the meeting.

DU Senate

From Page 1
Prof ATM Zahurul Haq, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, advocate Ozaer, Farook Sayed Alam, Ismat Kader Gama, Prof Mohabbat Khan and some others took part in the debate.

After an hour-long heated debate, the Vice Chancellor put these issues to vote. Fifty-five senators out of the 66 present at the meeting supported the proposals, meeting sources said.

But at that stage, a DUCSU representative in the Senate shouted that "It cannot be passed."

The VC then declared the session closed, saying "These proposals are not acceptable," the sources said.

The VC later told newsmen that the DU Senate was not a political platform.

Referring to the proposals, he said, "It is an attempt to destroy the peaceful atmosphere of the university."

AJM clash

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Lucky, 27, Ripon, 26, and Swapan, 28. They were rushed to hospitals in Dhaka in critical condition. The other injured were admitted to local clinics.

The situation was brought under control by police reinforcements and three platoons of the BDR. The law-enforcement agency personnel fired shots, lobbed teargas shells and resorted to lathi-charge to bring the situation under control, witnesses said.

According to the AJM authorities, the hostilities between the two rival groups erupted over alleged partiality in appointing *badli* *sramiks* or temporary labourers.

EC hears Saifur's petition today

By Staff Correspondent
Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, a candidate from the Maulvibazar-3 constituency, has submitted a review petition to the Election Commission (EC) to cancel the nomination paper of his sole rival for the seat, EC sources said.

The EC is scheduled to hear and dispose the petition today. It was learnt that Saifur Rahman complained to the EC that his rival, Mubaur Rahman, had violated the election law by not filling up the nomination paper correctly. He claimed that Mubaur Rahman had not signed his nomination paper.

The returning officer had rejected Mubaur's nomination paper against which he appealed to the EC and won.

Surprise visits

From Page 1
Star last night that the next election visits of the Prime Minister might be a sort of surprise ones, keeping in view the prevailing situation in the areas concerned, the Opposition's strength and their action programme to resist such visits to the areas.

"Asked on the issue, the BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar said last night that his party's election campaign by the PM and others would go ahead."

Replying to a question if his party would go for organizational or legal steps as regards the Opposition's obstruction to their electioneering, Talukdar said, "Our party has not yet taken any decision on the matter."

When his attention was drawn to press reports that the Khulna unit of the BNP had decided to resist Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's visit there, the BNP Secretary General said, "It's a decision of the local committee. So far we have not given any such instruction from the party's high command."

Rangunia

From Page 1
Nurul Alam, four vice-presidents — Ahmad Syed, Dr Nazrul Islam, Sultan Ahmad and Nowab Miah — thana unit JCD convenor Touhidul Islam Tipu, North district joint secretary and Fazlul Quader Talukdar, organising secretary of the thana BNP Fazlul Kabir Gias and joint secretary Abdul Quader Bachchu.

Nurul Alam and Fazlul Kader Talukdar, the general secretary were both expelled from the party on January 25 for "violation of party discipline."

After the announcement of BNP nomination for the coming parliamentary polls, a section of the Rangunia BNP and front organisations staged a demonstration, hunger strike and enforced dawn-to-dusk hartal in support of Nurul Alam against party nominee Adil Hossain in the Chittagong-7 constituency, Rangunia.