

## 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.

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 Ah 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-Choong, have admitted giving money to Roh but not in return for favours.

Samsung, which makes

## Hartal passes off

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auto-rickshaws at Mohakhali and at Moghazar 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 uncontested victory. At 12 places, BNP nominees are contesting BNP activists. Such an election will never be accepted by the people," said AL leader Mofazzal 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 Amu, 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

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

A High Court division bench yesterday rejected former president HM 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 session 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 — Isa Huque, Monirul Huq Chowdhury and MA Barek — should be re-examined and directed to issue summons upon them accordingly.

## Election expenses

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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-

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

— Star photo

## 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 Baliajachi, Rajshahi, said a report in a 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.

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.

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