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Federal Express

The World On Time

### Former Pak CJ discloses

## Formation of arbitration council in process

By Reaz Ahmad

Dr Nasim Hasan Shah

proposal, no more satisfactory

body could be created for the

purpose of choosing judges for

higher courts." The proposed

judicial council should com-

prise government nominee,

leader of the opposition, attor-

ney general, president of bar

council and also members of

suggestion yesterday while tak-

ing part in a working session of

the Fifth SAARC Law Confer-

council has been created under

the recent Nepali Constitution

which is working satisfactorily.

The Nepal precedence could be

usefully followed by the other

drawn to lengthy judicial pro-

cess and virtual denial of justice

to poor people, who can't afford

to bear the cost, the jurist said

there is scope for consolidated

efforts to expedite the judicial

process. Speed also depends on

the existence of an absolutely

independent judiciary in real

that left thousands of small in-

punishment of "corrupt" DSE

chairman and other members.

transparency in share trading.

monitoring by investors' repre-

sentatives and stabilisation of

It also criticised the Securi-

ties and Exchange Commission

and the Finance Minister for

"giving in to corrupt DSE bro-

strike" came at a meeting of the

forum in front of the Dhaka

Stock Exchange yesterday with

one Nasim Chowdhury in the

The forum urged fellow

traders in the kerb market to

actively participate in the agi-

tation in front of the DSE build-

Jatiya Press Club

biennial general

meet begins today

meeting of Jatiya Press Club

begins at its auditorium today

on Monday and continue till 5

pm with one-hour break from 1

programme in previous year.

A total of 51 devotees fell

sick after arriving at the

ljtema. They were given first

aid at the Tongi Modern Hospi-

tal. Four Dihorea patients were

admitted to the hospital, hospi-

Meanwhile the Dhaka

Metropolitan Police (DMP) has

rearranged traffic in the area

for December 28-30. Parking of

all kinds of vehicles on Dhaka-

Tongi highway along the litema

tees have been ordered to park

at Tongi College Field, in front

of Capri Cinema Hall adjacent

to Tongi Railway Station, fields

adjacent to Bastuhara Colony,

and premises of Open Univer-

for Mymensingh and Tangail

which do not carry devotees

have been ordered to follow

Mirpur-Gabtali, Savar-Nabina-

nani, Baridhara and Uttara

have been asked to use Progati

Showrani, Bishwa Road and

Tejgaon Industrial area roads.

gar road during the litema.

Vehicles from Dhaka bound

Residents of Gulshan, Ba-

All vehicles carrying devo-

venue has been banned.

sity at Board Bazar.

tal sources said.

at 10 am, reports UNB.

The 11th biennial general

Voting will begin at 9.30 am

The decision for "continuous

The forum said it wanted

When his attention was

SAARC countries.

terms, he remarked.

vestors pauper.

Listed cos to form assoc

chair.

Biswa Ijtema begins

Justice Bhagwati made the

Dr Nasim noted "Similar

higher courts.

Formation of an interna tional arbitration council for SAARC region is now in pro-cess, disclosed the visiting former chief justice of Pakistan Dr Nasim Hasan Shah.

Dr Nasim, is now in the city in connection with the three-day Fifth SAAR-CLAW Conference. He chaired one of the working sessions on the second day of the conference vesterday.

In an interview with The Daily Star at his hotel suite yesterday evening. Dr Nasim said SAARCLAW has on its agenda the formation of a body of arbitrators.

"At present international arbitrations are being carried out in Paris and London. This is a very expensive procedure, involving heavy cost for hiring foreign lawyers and going to distant places for resolution of conflicts," he said

The jurist added, "We feel that there is enough talent in our region to choose arbitrators of great learning and integrity. Commercial disputes between citizens of the SAARC region can be very well handled by a body of arbitrators within the region.

Arbitration means settling of a dispute by a person or people chosen by both sides in the

Turning to the question of independence of the judiciary Dr Nasim observed that in general terms all are in favour of separation of the judiciary from the executive. Pakistan's Constitution has promised it and similar is the case in other countries of the SAARC region. "But, the only difficulty lies in the implementation of this laudable principle," he noted.

Referring to former chief justice of India P N Bhagwati's suggestion for forming national judicial council in each country to recommend appointment of chief justice and higher court judges, Dr Hasan said, "Good

From Page

cerns and difficulties faced by

the listed companies, a press re-

memorandum and articles of

association of the proposed as-

sociation was formed with

Salman F Rahman of Beximco

group as convenor. Other mem-

bers of the committee are

Noorul Quader Khan of Desh

Garments, Mubarak Ali of

Olympic Industries and Aminul

meeting of the association of

listed companies (proposed)

will be held on January 7, by

which time the draft memoran-

dum and articles of association

will have been circulated to all

Kerb market

market traders, jittery over

persistent fall in share prices. has threatened to disrupt trad-

ing on the floor of the Dhaka

Stock Exchange (DSE) from to-

day to press the authorities for

action against irregularities in

Small Investors Forum, in a

press release said yesterday

they were forced to go for "con-

tinuous strike" from today to

protest what they alleged ma-

nipulations by DSE members

From Page 1

greeted the devotees.

devotees.

ities have been arranged.

of the Opposition in the Jatiya

Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia in

message yesterday also

Adequate medicare, lighting

Several special camps na-

sanitary and water supply facil-

med India, Pakistan, Malaysia

English and Arabia have been

set up on the northern side of

the very large pandal erected for

accommodating the foreign

160 acres of land as more devo-

tees are expected this year. A

huge canopy made of jute and

bamboo has been erected to ac-

from home and abroad

commodate devotees coming

been made on the west bank of

river Turag for the female

duty to maintain law and order

and control traffic in the area

told this correspondent that

they were facing the same pres-

sure on the first day of this

ljtema yesterday which they

usually faced at the end of the

devotees attending the litema.

Separate arrangement has

Police officials who were on

Pandals have been set up on

The group, Bangladesh

.UNB adds: A group of kerb

It was decided that the next

Islam of IDLC

listed companies.

the capital market.

A committee for drafting the



COMILLA, Dec 28: The sec-Justices of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) countries was held this morning at Comilla BARD, reports BSS.

Chief Justice of Bangladesh ATM Afzal presided over the meeting. Chief Justice of India AM Ahmadi. Chief Justice of Pakistan Sajjad Ali Shah, Representative of the Chief Justice of Nepal Priloko Pratap Rana were present in the twohour long closed door confer-

The subject matter of the conference was judicial training for judges, present experi-ence and proposal for future co-

Earlier, Director General (DG) of Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) Akhter Hossain Khan received the Chief Justices and showed them a documentary film on the activities of the BARD.

After conference, the justices visited Comilla Maina Mati Museum, Shalbon Bihar and

### Myanmar border forces kidnap 32 Bangladeshis

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 28: The Myanmar Border security Nasaka force kidnapped 32 boatmen along with six fishing boats from St Martin's Island area of Bangladesh during the last one week, reports UNB.

The 39 battalion of Bangladesh Rifles in Teknaf sent letters to Nasaka forces protesting the incident twice on Friday and Thursday. BDR also requested to free the kidnapped Bangladeshi fishermen and fishing boats. But no response was received till Friday

The six owners of the hijacked boats are the inhabitants of Shahpuri island of Teknaf. They informed that the fishermen took their boat for in Bangladesh nautical line.

fishermen of Teknaf areas have almost stopped catching fish, it

## Jafrul Islam

ourselves on Friday and as per

the decision of the local people, made it clear to BR officials

Saturday that we would not al-

low closure of the link road." he

He said people of the locali-ties would not accept any alter-

native road and the only proba-

ble solution to the problem

would be construction of an un-

derpass or a flyover. "We will

continue our movement. " he

this correspondent that the au-

thorities were ready to con-

700 feet from the existing road

and would also consider con-

struction of a foot overbridge

near the proposed alternative

security measures for resump-

tion of work today, a BR official

said, 'contractors can always

seek help from law enforcing

agencies. Besides. BR will also

take necessary precautionary

Asked about precautionary

struct an alternative road, some

BR sources, however, told

CHITTAGONG, Dec 28: Jafrul Islam Chowdhury MP and Matiur Rahman were unanimously elected president and senior vice-president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) for the year 1997 at an emergency meeting of the board of directors held

### Sub-committee on nat'l film policy

The government has formed tee headed by Dr Rajib Hu

Kazi Akhter Uddin Ahmed Secretary of Bangladesh Film Censor Board, will act as mem-

## CCCI President

Proprietor of the Alif Com-

an eight-member sub-commit mayun as convenor to recommend on film censorship and national film policy, reports

Other members of the committee are: Journalist Baby Maudud, President of Producers Samity Nasiruddin Dilu President of Directors' samity Sayeedur Rahman Sayeed President of Short Film Forum Tanvir Mokammel, representative from Producers' Samity Akond Sanwar Murshed and representative from Directors

here today, reports BSS.

modities House Kamaluddin Ahmed was elected vice-president of CCCL

Samity Shibly Sadik.

ber-secretary of the committee



A group of unruly youths ransacked some rooms of the Bangla Academy yesterday. -Star photo

### Ship sinks

From Page 1 The crew, were on board a Belize flag carrying vessel, loaded with 12,000 tons of sugar. The ship reportedly sank in the Atlantic ocean at 10 am Friday, shipping sources said. According to reports, the South African government in cooperation with international maritime agencies has begun a search operation with the help

of two C-130 Hercules planes. Another sea vessel has also started a rescue operation in the Atlantic.

### Rape victims From Page 1

nel this morning to trace the victims and their father, an engineer. But despite door to door queries police failed to detect them as the reported rape of two college girls early this month was kept a guarded secret.

Police said no complaint was lodged with them in this regard.

They, however, added that efforts to unearth the incident would continue.

It is reported that two daughters of an engineer working with a government organisation were raped at gunpoint by some local mastans who stormed into their house at Nandankanon, Worried about the future of the two girls, their father did not dare to complain with police but kept it a secret, the report said.

The matter also came to the knowledge of city mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury and he asked police to take action.

When asked, the mayor declined to give details.

## Youths ransack rooms

### From Page 1

A security man at the Academy told The Daily Star that during the incident the youths allegedly hurled abuses at the Academy's Chairman poet Shamsur Rahman, and member, Aminul Islam Bedu. news editor of BSS news agency. According to Academy

sources Aminul Islam Bedu stirred a 'near pandemonium' at the annual general meeting of the Academy on Friday with a remark about late president Ziaur Rahman, shortly after State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed expressed his annovance over the delay in publication of the life sketch of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman by the Academy. At one stage, director of the Academy Azharul Islam told the members that the Academy was working on the life sketches of five national lead-

After persuasion from members he disclosed that the five leaders were Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq. Hussain Shahid Suhrawardy, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Ziaur Rahman.

Aminul Islam Bedu reportedly protested the plan to compile the life sketch of Ziaur Rahman His reported abusive re-

marks about the late president provoked a number of members who rose on their feet in protest, demanding that Bedu apologise and the comment be expunged from the proceedings. Poet Shamsur Rahman ad-

journed the meeting. When it resumed, Bedu tendered a written apology and his remarks were expunged from the pro-

ceedings UNB adds: The attackers came in several rickshaws and went on a five-minute rampage. An employee of the academy, Mujibur Rahman, was reportedly injured.

identified the attackers as activists of BNP's student front. Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal. Witnesses said about 25 attackers, divided into three

Bangla Academy officials

groups ransacked at least 25 rooms They also damaged the press and arts sections of the

academy. A board containing history of Bangla letters and portraits of some leading personalities were also damaged. Meanwhile, fifteen officials and employees of the Academy

in a statement yesterday condemned the "acts of vandalism" by the group of 20/25 "terrorists", whom they accused of deliberately trying to trample the image of the Academy, bearing the legacy of the Language Movement.

They also regretted that such attack not only undermines the cultural heritage of the nation but also reflects that terrorists kept the Academy hostage at their hands through their ill-mannered behaviour and threats. "We earnestly appeal to all, irrespective of parties, to keep the honour of the Academy high," the statement

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**PHILIPS** 



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Thakurgaon relay station of Bangladesh Television yesterday. -PID photo

### Police raid From Page 1

don, the two elder Siddiky Latif and Qader — rushed home and engaged in altercations with the police officials present there.

Police in the early hours broke open the door of the house and found Azad Siddiky wanted for his alleged involvement in the prolonged intra-party conflict of Chhatra League in the town.

But the ruling party MPs refused to allow police to arrest Azad and instead accompanied him to appear before Tangail Cognizance Court, Zone A. The Magistrate sent the accused to jail hajat in all, 350 policemen, in

cluding two additional SPs. and OCs of 11 thanas of the district, were engaged in opera tions in the three houses. Two magistrates were with the police

Protesting the police opera tion, district transport owners association enforced a halt to traffic movement on Dhaka Tangail highway till 12 noon and demanded release of Azad Siddiky. Otherwise, they threatened to go for indefinite transport strike from January 5, they said. Deputy Commissioner and

Police Super of Tangail, at a press conference in the evening said that the operation was directed by higher authorities in order to curb terrorism in the

### Mannan Bhuiyan protests removal of Ahmed Humayun

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday protested and condemned the removal of Ahmed Humayun from the post of the Editor of Dainik Bangla, reports UNB.

In a statement, he accused the government of starting a conspiracy to tarnish the image of a noble profession like journalism by removing senior journalist and noted writer Ahmed Humayun in a humiliating manner.

The BNP leader also alleged that after assuming power, the present government has started repression on journalists and was trying to destroy the existing press freedom.

### Transparency

From Page 1 order and establishment of rule of law were pre-requisites for taking justice to the doorsteps of people, who really need it.

Justice Nayeemuddin said that in Bangladesh the Constitution guarantees independence of judiciary but there exists some constitutional obstacles.

He said, judges exercise sovereign power and they should not be treated as civil servants. "There should be no control of executives on functioning of judiciary". He recalled that in the past a number of Supreme Court judges were appointed without consulting the then chief justice.

Justice Bhagwati said in India judges of lower courts are appointed by panels of High Court judges. In nearly 50 years, hardly two or three judges were appointed in higher court in disagreement with chief justice.

Syed Shabbar Rizvi described the long process of judiciary's independence in Pakistan. Though the 1973 constitution had provided for independence of the judiciary within three years, the time limit was extended by five years in 1976. Then, Pakistan Supreme Court gave a verdict fixing a fresh time limit, March 23, 1994. The time was again extended by two more years and the judiciary finally succeed in getting the much-awaited independence recently, Rizvi said. The Fifth SAARCLAW Con-

ference will end today with presentation of the Conference Report this morning by SAAR-CLAW President KK Venugopal.

There were eight other sessions yesterday. Those were on Legal Education and the Role of Bar Council, Environmental Laws and the Investment Laws. An Integrated Approach to Alternative Dispute Resolution. Rule of Law and Distributive Justice, Corruption and Bribery, Protection and Promotion of Human Rights and Abuse of Women and Children: The Legal Response.

### PM opens Thakurgaon TV relay station Govt won't use mass

media for propaganda THAKURGAON, Dec 28 Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the government would not use the mass media as its propaganda machine, it would rather engage the hookup for the betterment of the people, for

ports UNB. We believe in transparency and objectivity of broadcast media and we will use the media for the people," she said while inaugurating the 12th relay centre of Bangladesh Television

projecting their feelings, re-

(BTV) at Salanda here today. "We need to work hard to make our TV network popular over the world by boosting its capacity and modernising it,' Sheikh Hasina asserted. She said BTV should become a com-

petitive TV network globally. She observed Bangladesh, being a member of the international communications network, had been working closely with other countries for their mutual trading and economic development.

Hasina, however, referred to rapid development of the modern communications systems that has transformed the entire world into a village, global vil-

The Prime Minister hoped that the latest extension of BTV to Thakurgaon would make it more dynamic, and lauded the experts and officials of BTV for their hard work in setting up the new centre. She expressed gratitude to the French government for its grants for supply of necessary equipment.

### Imran Khan vows

From Page 1

had been given 90 days to dig out cases of corruption and initiate proceedings against the former government, was making "lame excuses" that there was not enough time to complete the task.

The cricketer-turned-politician told a public meeting in the central Pakistani city of Multan late Friday that if elected in February his Movement for Justice (Tehreek-i-Insaaf) will "publicly hang all the corrupt elements to teach a lesson to

others. Imran said his party would neither enter into an electoral alliance with any political party nor join any coalition government after the elections set for February 3.

Imran who is standing against Sharif in Lahore and Bhutto's interior minister Naseerullah Babar in Karachi, claimed that both the major parties were in the clutches of a corruption mafia.

The election will be a futile exercise if the old faces, declared corrupt, are returned to the assemblies, he said.

She recalled the contributions of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in modernising TV network and mentioned Mujib's initiative for shifting the then TV transmission unit from DIT Building to Rampura in 1975 and establishment of first earth satellite at Betbunia in the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Hasina spoke highly of the cultural heritage of Thakurgaon, Charjapada in particular, and dedications of the freedom fighters during the liberation war in 1971

She also paid deep respect to departed soul of former Member of Parliament Khademul Islam of Thakurgaon in setting up of the TV relay station here.

### PM's call

From Page 1

Referring to various demands of BNP in favour of their parliament boycott, the Prime Minister said, "We shall arrange full television coverage o Jatiya Sangsad proceedings. have already instructed to open the second channel of the BTV" Besides, she said, "We shall allow the private parties to hire TV special channel where everyone can put on air pro-

grammes as per his choice. "Come back to Parliament and discuss the issues inside the House for a peaceful solution,

The Prime Minister paid rich tributes to the late Islam and recalled his contribution to the Liberation War and all

democratic movements in the Responding to the demands of the people of Thakurgaon, she said the government opened the new relay station for the convenience of the TV viewers of this region and would upgrade the local hospital, introduce digital telephone system,

The PM also donated Tk 3 lakh for the local diabetic asso-

and reconstruct the roads in the

Speaking on the occasion, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said the BNP was trying to make parliament inactive while they raised a hue and cry when steps were being taken to punish the corrupt elements who plundered national resources. "It is not the Prime Minister but the Anti-Corruption Bureau which is lodging cases against the corruption of the previous government". Mohammad Nasim said. Despite agitation and protest, the corrupt elements would be tried and punished in the soil of Bangladesh, he asserted.

### Stem this shameful slide

From Page 1

other nations and thereby lead the country forward. When will we learn to look at the future like most of the countries in this region are doing? Why can't we praise our own heroes to our hearts' content and leave it at that? Why do we think that to bring glory to our leader, we

have to insult that of the oth-

We must bring this mindless slide in quality of political rhetoric to an immediate halt unless we want to see a free for all vulgarity in which no leader, however great and exceptional, will be spared. Once the sense of restraint disappears from politics, and exchanges between leading parties go to the level of street urchins then all of us · including the leaders in whose name, and for whose 'honour' we are supposedly doing all this - will be put

to shame. Our two leading political parties should immediately establish a code of language, especially in referring to their respective leaders. Even though very unkind things have already been said about each others leaders, yet before Friday last, it had never gone down to the level that it did. So there is still time. Insults and abuse create only disgust among the

lic behaviour. However uninformed the political parties may consider the public to be. they are quite well informed about who did what and when People are the ultimate judge, and they will pass their judgement — in time, and to history Exaggerated claims only help convince us that truth lies somewhere else. Modesty and sobriety are far more powerful weapons of political persuasion than aggressive and forcible acceptance of any one point of Before we suffer collective

people. We want decency in pub-

public humiliation by a wholesale lowering of quality of our politics, and before we start being considered less than civilised by the outside world because of the way we treat our dead leaders, let us step back and think for a while as to where all this will lead us? Who will be benefited by a mutual exchange of vulgarity. Can there be any honour at all in al this. What has happened to our own sense of self respect?

Awami League's future and Bangabandhu's honour cannot be served by insulting Ziaur Rahman Similarly BNP's prestige cannot go up by vandalizing our beloved Bangla Academy. There is still time to reign in this slide and restore some dignity.

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## Chief Justices held in Comilla

operation

# Commonwealth War Cemetery.

evening.

fishing near St Martin's Island With the increasing disturbance of the Nasaka forces, the

The Baily Star=

Talks end inconclusively

BR orders resumption of

ICD expansion work

Star Report

Bangladesh Railway (BR) or-

dered resumption of work for

the expansion of Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Kamalapur

station in the city after a

meeting between representa-tives of BR and local people re-

sisting it ended inconclusively

BR sources said the expan-

sion work that remained sus

pended since Tuesday last

Residents of Mugda, Sabu-

jbagh and some other adjacent

localities had earlier forced

labourers to stop work, protest-ing planned closure of the link

road through the station for the sake of ICD expansion.

for resistance to closure of

Mugda -Kamalapur road Advo-cate Shahajuddin Sarker, who

attended the meeting with Di-

visional Railway Manager

Saleh Ahmed yesterday, told

The Daily Star that BR authori-

ties would have to resume work

We had a meeting among

Free distribution

of books among

pry students

from Jan 1

The government has com-

pleted the printing of

6.17.73.000 new books for dis-

tribution free of cost among the

students of primary schools for

1997 academic year, a press re-

lease said yesterday, reports

Taka 58.70 crore will be

spent for the distribution and

printing of the new books, it

The distribution of new

books will begin on first Jan-

uary in all primary schools of

**Education Minister ASHK** 

Sadek will inaugurate the book

distribution. A primary school

will be selected from under Lal-

been sent to all districts of the

country under the supervision

of the Primary Education Di-

The authorities have di-

rected the district and thana

education committees for

proper distribution of the books

among about one crore seventy

lakh students of 58,000 gov-

ernment and non-government

Books will be distributed

Meanwhile, new books have

each district and thana

bagh thana in Dhaka

rectorate.

on time.

registered schools.

at their own risk.

Convenor of the Committee

yesterday evening.

would resume today.