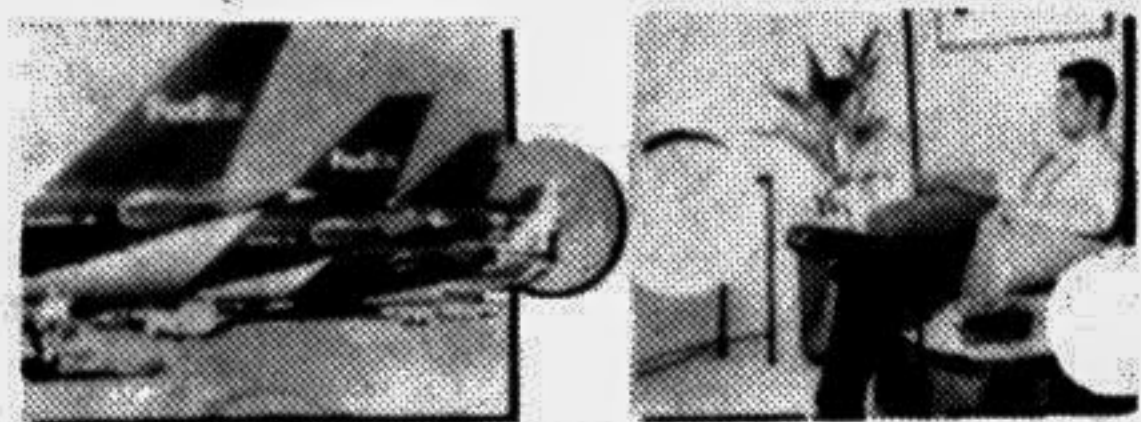


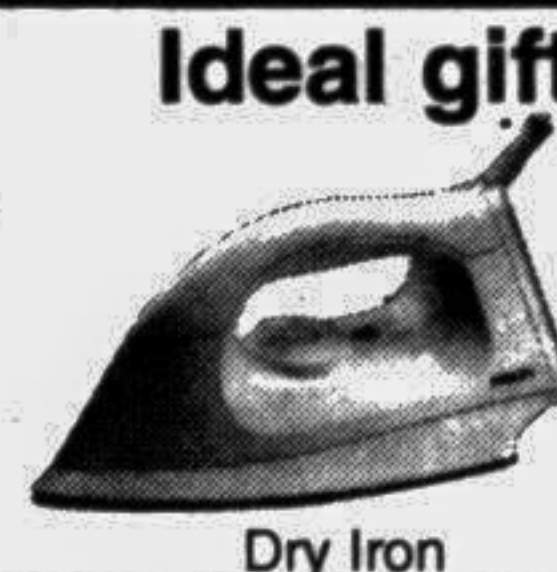
We do our Piece so you can have your peace


**FedEx**  
The World On Time

**Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.**  
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

 For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114,  
9883927, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEPZ 938931  
Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108  
Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336


Rice Cooker



Dry Iron

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 5,000

**Transcom Electronics Limited**  
Official license of Philips Electronics NV for selling products, radio and TV sets

 Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578  
Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better

**PHILIPS**  
Backed by Guarantee

PM tells BCS (Judiciary) confce

## Ensure justice, maintain neutrality without fear

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked the judges to ensure justice maintaining utmost neutrality and earn people's trust casting off avarice, emotion, fear or favour, reports UNB.

"Dispensation of justice is not a profession, it's a mission... It's the nation's expectation that you play a strong role without caring any influence or power in delivery of justice," she told a conference of judicial officers yesterday.

Speaking at the annual conference of BCS (Judiciary) Association at Osmani Auditorium in the morning, Hasina said judges who are elevated to a special stature among mankind are the last resort of the people to have their rights established.

"Mind you, a patriot and a good judge is to secure 100 out of 100. Even 99.99 marks are considered a failure."

The prime minister said, "We want to build an independent, strong and neutral judiciary in the country. Please ensure that justice does not cry in the wilderness."

She urged the judges to dispose of the cases quickly for alleviating people's plight and deliver their judgement in Bengal.

Presided over by the association president Kazi Golam Rasul, Dhaka District and Sessions Judge, the opening session was also addressed by Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Law Secretary Amin Ullah.

Hasina said people would show their great respect and honour if justice is done and it is the duty of a judge to make sure that the aggrieved got the shelter of law and justice.

She deplored that the self-confessed killers of Father of the Nation and four national leaders were given protection under the infamous Indemnity Ordinance.

"You know all who had done it and why," Hasina said, adding that despite an agreement with the past BNP regime on August 11, 1991, the Indemnity Ordinance was not repealed, rather the killers were encouraged many ways, with their jobs in diplomatic missions uninterrupted.

The prime minister said her

government has scrapped the Indemnity Ordinance, clearing way for bringing the killers to book.

The premier said security at offices and residences of the district judges would be provided while the question of status of district judges or separate pay scale would be considered.

Listing various steps taken for the judges, Hasina said 30 flats for them had been constructed at Azimpur and another 30 would be built. Telephone facilities were given to offices of senior assistant judges and homes of sub-judges.

The government has a plan to build separate residence for judges in each district in phases while a house has already been allocated in the capital for the office of the BCS (Judiciary) Association.

Besides, construction work of Supreme Court Complex at a cost of Tk 38 crore is on to expand the SC building. Another

### Crackdown on criminals in city soon

As crimes like murder and mugging have been on the rise, the police administration has decided to swoop on criminals in the city, a source said, reports UNB.

"We have already launched special drives in some divisions of the country and will start a combing operation in the capital soon," the source said requesting anonymity.

### 101-member BNP body to celebrate Victory Day

BNP has formed a 101-member national committee to celebrate the Victory Day, reports APB.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Redwan Ahmed have been made convenor and member-secretary respectively of the committee, said a party press release yesterday.

plan has been undertaken to set up a "Law Complex" housing all law offices of the capital in the same compound.

The prime minister said metropolitan sessions court in Dhaka and Chittagong would start functioning next month. There is a plan to set up more courts, in addition to existing 10, to deal with women and children repression cases.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru urged the district judges to supervise their subordinate courts.

He told the conference that a bill on independent human rights commission would be introduced in parliament in its next session while an Ombudsman would be appointed soon through discussion in Parliament.

Kazi Golam Rasul said judges should have more freedom in the interest of fair trial since the letter of the law does not always determine the jurisdiction of justice. Because, he said, a lack of up-to-date law sometimes creates difficulty in the dispensation of justice.

### CEC unhappy

From Page 1  
janagar, I have already sent an EC official, who is a district judge, to probe into the BNP allegation. He would give me a report tomorrow (Monday). If any lapses are found, I would definitely consider actions against the DC and SP concerned."

A BNP delegation led by the party's secretary general met the CEC yesterday to accuse the DC and SP of the district of political bias for the ruling AL.

Replying to a query, the CEC said that 30 out of 81 polling centres were "extremely vulnerable", while 28 were "vulnerable" to trouble.

But the CEC seemed happy with the preparation which, according to him, would ensure a free and fair polling in the by-elections.

"Some 3,500 personnel from the army, BDR, police and Ansars and VDP and some 130 magistrates will be there to ensure order in the constituency on the election day," Abu Hena said.

"Eighty one magistrates will be deployed in all the 81 polling centres of the constituency, spreading over 15 unions of the thanas -- Bera and Sujaganar. Besides, 81 presiding officers -- all of them Class I government officials, 402 assistant presiding officers and 804 polling officers will be there to ensure fair polling."

According to the CEC, 30 policemen, 20 of them equipped with fire arms, would be deployed at every "extremely vulnerable" centres and 28 policemen, 18 of them armed, would be stationed at every "less vulnerable" centre on the election day. Besides, 40 mobile units of BDR and police would be on duty, while two companies of armed forces under two lieutenants colonels would be stationed at the two thana headquarters of the constituency.

"Aware of even post electoral violence, we have banned victory processions by the winning party," Abu Hena said.

His final hope, however, rests with the political parties concerned. "If they behave, the polls would take place peacefully, while neutrality of the presiding officers would be most important for ensuring a fair elections."

The CEC sought sincere co-operation of all concerned.



BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting attack on its leaders and workers allegedly by AL activists during election campaign in Pabna-2 constituency on Saturday.

## BNP: Withdraw DC, DIG

From Page 1

party.  
Fazlur Rahman alleged that the DC and the PS of the district, Thana Nirbahi Officers of Sujaganar and Bera, officers-in-charge of Sujaganar and Bera thanas were frequently violating electoral rules. The BNP leader demanded immediate withdrawal of these officials for the sake of free and fair elections.

Ashraf Hossain demanded immediate arrest of all the Awami League 'mastans' within 24 hours, failing which, he warned BNP would be compelled to re-think over contesting the by-polls.

He said BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda was refused accommodation in the district Dak Bungalow. A house in Kashinathpur, Santhia, booked for her stay on December 7-8

### Ershad, Khaleda hatching conspiracy against govt: Tofail

BHOLA, Dec 6: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed today branded BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda and Jatiya Party President HM Ershad as vote thieves and cautioned the people against their conspiracy, reports UNB.

"Begum Zia and Gen Ershad, jointly engaged in a conspiracy, are now talking in the same language", said the minister while addressing a public meeting at Doulatkhan.

Tofail called upon people to remain alert against the conspiracy hatched by Khaleda and Ershad.

The minister said the government is determined to hold all elections, including upazila, in a free, fair and impartial manner.

### Khaleda

From Page 1

About Pabna-2 by-election, Begum Zia said "DC and SP of Pabna should be removed, if the government wants to hold free and fair polls".

She asked the Election Commission to take legal action against those government officials who have lost neutrality in conducting the upcoming by-election. "Otherwise, fair polls will not be ensured."

The opposition leader warned that her party would be forced to launch oust-government movement if the by-election is rigged.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Haris Chowdhury, Sadek Hossain Khoka, outgoing JCD president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie and new general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu spoke on the occasion.

was forcibly occupied by the ruling party 'terrorists' yesterday.

The public meetings of Begum Zia scheduled for December 7-8 at Dhopakholah Corona High School ground, Dulai High School ground and Nazirganj High School ground are now uncertain, he added.

Mizanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation, said that while he and 12 other central leaders including at least half-a-dozen ex-ministers and MPs were holding meeting at the residence of Abdul Latif Master, President of Sujaganar Thana BNP Saturday night, they were attacked by 'Awami goons'. He alleged that they contacted the SP over phone at Sujaganar thana sought his help but the SP did not turn up.

UNB quoting an official said: Deputy Commissioner Mahbubur Rahman who is the Returning Officer may be replaced with ADM or one of the ADCs.

Requesting anonymity he told the agency that the Chief Election Commissioner had made several telephone calls to the DC and discussed the situation in view of the allegation of the administration's failure to provide security to the BNP MPs on Sunday who came under at-

tack 300 yards from Sujaganar thana.

Following telephonic discussion, the DC invited Barrister Aminul Haq MP of BNP to his office and had lengthy talks with him. It is believed that the DC extended all cooperation of the administration in maintaining peace and making the by-election free and fair.

BNP sources said Barrister Haq stuck to the complaints of violation of election code by the DC, SP and most senior officials of the district and of playing a partisan role in support of the ruling party candidate. Alamgir Kabir, another MP of BNP was also present at the meeting that lasted more than 90 minutes till 9 last night.

The CEC had also telephonic talks with Barrister Aminul Haq, sources said.

Meanwhile, two platoons (240) of BDR were deployed in Bera and Sujaganar thanas yesterday afternoon, two days ahead of the schedule, in view of the deteriorating law and order situation.

Two more platoons of the Army will be deployed in the two thanas tomorrow. The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

### Pabna-2 records at a glance

First parliamentary election-1973	
Ahmed Tafjuddin (AL-61,128)	Number of total voters - 1,05,630
Amirul Islam (JSD -3,516)	
Second parliamentary election-1979	
Mirza Abbas Rashid (BNP-25,447)	(Number of total voters - 1,13,068)
Ahmed Tafjuddin (AL-23,733)	
Third parliamentary election-1986	
Mokbul Hossain (JP-49,135)	Number of total voters - Not available
Osman Gani Khan (Jatiya Janata Party-26,421)	
Ahmed Tafjuddin (AL-24,385)	
* Many parties including BNP did not contest in the election	
Fourth parliamentary election-1988	
Mokbul Hossain (JP-Elected)	Number of total voters - Not available
* Many parties including BNP, Awami League did not contest in the election	
Fifth parliamentary election-1991	
Osman Gani Khan (BNP-67,431)	Number of total voters - Not available
Ahmed Tafjuddin (AL-48,086)	
Sixth parliamentary election-1996	
AKM Selim Reza Habib (BNP-Elected)	Number of total voters - Not available
* Many parties including Awami League, Jatiya Party did not contest in the election	
Seventh parliamentary election-1996	
Ahmed Tafjuddin (AL-67,250)	Number of total voters - 1,69,436
AKM Selim Reza Habib (BNP-65,745)	

### Zahid, Prodhan granted bail

The High Court yesterday granted ad-interim bail to BNP leader Anwar Zahid and Jaga leader Shafiqul Alam Prodhan who were detained under the Special Powers Act since October 21, reports UNB.

A division bench comprising Justice Sirajul Islam and Justice Bijon Kumar Das granted the bail for three months.

### Asian Rice

From Page 1

and the private sectors to "join hands in a big way to face the challenge of ever diminishing funds for rice research".

ARF is a new continental venture, that came into being last year against the backdrop of decreasing funds for rice research. Over the last couple of years, IRRI had to slash down its manpower to 800 from 2500 as the traditional Western donors shifted their focus and priorities. They argued that many Asian countries, that achieved high growth rates over the last one decade, are capable of funding rice research programmes. Ninety per cent of world's rice output comes from Asia.

Talking to The Daily Star on the sidelines of the conference on Saturday, Director General of IRRI Dr Ronald P. Cantrell said, he hoped that both the ARF and the ARMAN would be able to go a long way together in promoting the causes of rice research and sensitizing the issues concerning rice, a staple food of most Asians.

Kwanchai A Gomez, the lady behind the show, who is currently running the affairs of ARF as its chief executive, told this correspondent that Asian countries have much responsibilities to take in days to come.

The 'Bangkok Declaration', signed by all the participants, said, "ARMAN is aimed at fostering a more cordial professional relationship among all participants and promoting co-operation among media professionals on a more permanent basis to support rice development".

Two more platoons of the Army will be deployed in the two thanas tomorrow. The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

The Army and the para-military force will guard all the 81 centres during the polling on December 10.

### Election Tribunal case stayed

The High Court yesterday ordered stay of the proceedings of Election Tribunal Case No-21 of 1997, now pending before the Divisional Election Tribunal, Chittagong, for 10 weeks.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed had filed the case challenging election of Harun-ur-Rashid to the Parliament in the by-election in Laximpur-2 constituency which fell vacant following surrender of the seat by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hossain yesterday also issued a rule on the Law Secretary, the Chief Election Commissioner and others.

The rule was issued following a writ petition filed by Moudud Ahmed.

### Contempt

From Page 1

Court Division dealt with only 155 bail petitions and enlarged only 367 accused persons on bail in two days, that is on 26th and 27th August, 1998," the letter to the Chief Justice asserted.

The Dainik Janakantha on October 12 published a report with the headline 'The Supreme Judicial Council may be activated' with reference to proceedings of a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

That report said the Committee has recommended activating the Supreme Judicial Council because a Division Bench had granted bail to more than thousand accused persons in two days.

A similar news item was published in the Sangbad on the same day.

But Chairman of the Committee Suranjit Sengupta and Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, asserted that no such decision was taken at the meeting.

The Pratham Alo, November 4, published a report saying that the Criminal benches are busy in granting bail to the persons who are accused in murder and terrorism cases.

## Are they licensed?

From Page 1

tion (BMA) will raise a hue and cry if any of its members is punished. And this is very true if one asks how many doctors were punished in the past as per probe body recommendations," said one official.

But Asma's mother, Zahura Begum, want to see the "culprits" punished.

"I want justice. I want compensation from those who have caused a permanent injury to my daughter. They have made my daughter's life miserable," she told this correspondent last week, calling for help.

"May be they cannot give back her kidney but they certainly can help her regain her normal health. Unfortunately, none of the accused came to help my daughter. Instead, Professor Mahmuda Khatun sent her musclemen to threaten us asking us to withdraw the writ petition."

Prof Khatun was the one who removed the kidney.

Khatun, talking The Daily Star early September, said, "Initially we had decided to remove Asma's ovarian tumour but after opening of her abdomen we found a four kilo-gram tumour. The 'diseased' kidney had to be removed for her safety."

During the operation, Asma's pregnancy was terminated by removing the five-month-old foetus.

Prior to Asma's operation on August 11, an abdominal ul-

tra-sonogram confirmed that she had developed a 'pelvic mass' and the doctors subsequently concluded that Asma had a tumour on her ovary. However, the doctors during the operation removed the 'diseased' kidney without consulting the urologists who deal with removal of kidneys.

Dr Nazma Nasrin, who cut open Asma's abdomen for the operation, said, "I noticed the pelvic mass but became very confused seeing the mass. I soon called for Prof Mahmuda's help."

Meanwhile, a human rights group, Odhikar, filed a writ petition on behalf of Asma Begum seeking prosecution of the doctors responsible and compensation for Asma.

The accused in the writ petition are the health secretary, the principal of Dhaka Medical College, the director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Prof Mahmuda Khatun, Dr Golam Mostafa and Dr Fatema of DMCH.

As Asma suffers the pain and uncertainty, attempts to salvage her are going at a snail's pace.

"Why did they do this to me? What would they gain out of removing my kidney?" Asma asks, helplessly.

She has lost over five kilograms of weight ever since she was admitted to the hospital. The government pays for her costly haemodialysis at Bangabandhu Medical University Hospital.

## Marubeni favoured

From Page 1  
original proposal. AES then argued that it had proposed use of "ABB machinery or equivalent". The negotiations were deadlocked when PDB said that there cannot be an equivalent of ABB machinery and therefore AES must make it clear what machinery it will use.

PDB also insisted AES to guarantee a 10-month initial operation period during which the US company had proposed to provide free electricity. AES was not very willing to guarantee this in writing.

These differences were sorted out in June last when the Purchase Committee waived the condition for using ABB machinery while AES was to guarantee free electricity for 10 months.

In early September, PDB signed a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with AES for another power unit—the 360 MW Haripur power plant. At that time, the PDB Chairman told newsmen that since PDB signed a PPA with AES, it would not take long for the government to sign another PPA with AES for the Meghnaghat plant.

But till now, there has been no progress in the negotiations between AES and PDB over the Meghnaghat plant, the biggest private sector power plant proposed in the country.

An influential lobby is reportedly trying for long to bash out AES from the top of the list and put in Marubeni, the sources said.

"But Marubeni really made its breakthrough by proposing to the government that it could set up the second phase of Meghnaghat in the same price structure, terms and condition given by AES," said an official.

The basic work under the first phase which includes land development by the PDB is still far from completion. PDB will hold 10 per cent of the Meghnaghat plant by contributing and developing the land.

Besides, the authorities are yet to finalise any plan for supplying gas for the plant and setting up the pipeline. The Meghnaghat plant would need around 60 to 80 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) initially. The total gas consumption in the country is 800 mmcf a day now.

**TURNT GOLD**

**BENSON & HEDGES**

সংবিধিত সত্যকথন : ধূমপান স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য ক্ষতিকর

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News &amp; Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771.

Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net