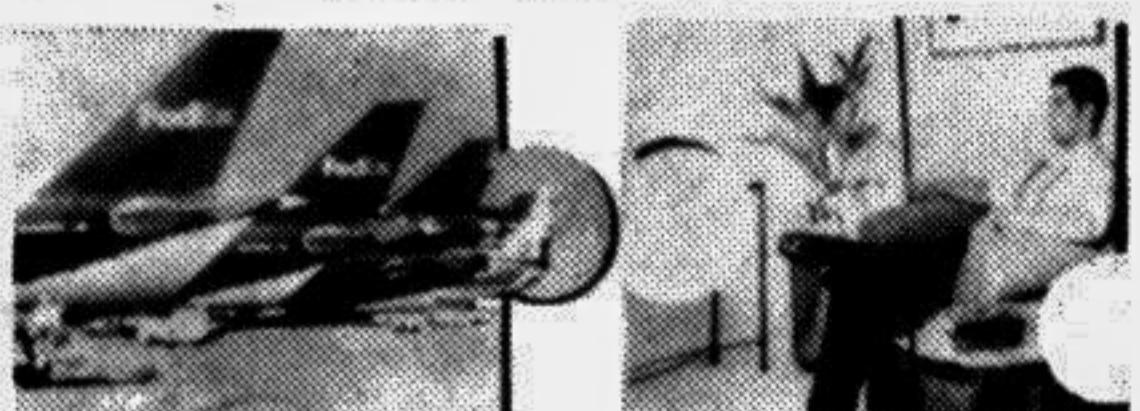


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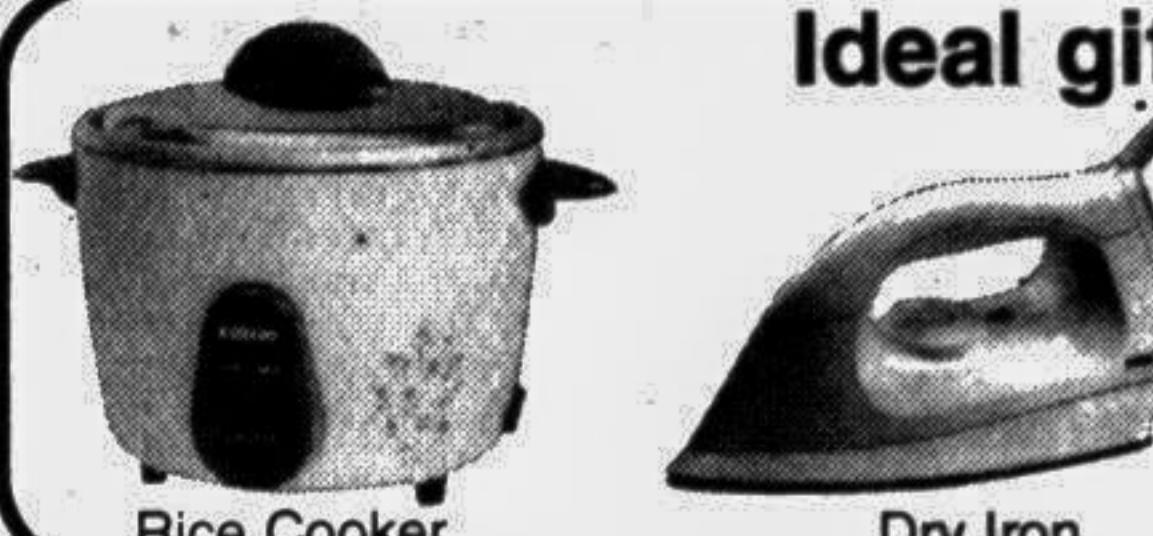


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PM tells BCS (Judiciary) confce

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 status 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said, adding that despite an agreement with the past BNP regime on August 11, 1991, the Indemnity Ordinance was not repealed, rather the killers were encouraged many ways, with their jobs in diplomatic missions uninterrupted.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 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.

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

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 started special drives in some divisions of the country and will start a combing operation in the capital soon," the source said repecting 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 convener and member-secretary respectively of the committee, said a party press release yesterday.

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 (mmcfd) initially. The total gas consumption in the country is 800 mmcf a day now.

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 election,"

The CEC sought sincere co-operation of all concerned.

From Page 1

Fazlur Rahman alleged that the DC and the PS of the district, Thana Nirbahi Officers of Sujanagar and Bera, officers-in-charge of Sujanagar 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 'mavans' 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, Sathia, booked for her stay on December 7-8

Ershad, Khaleda hatching conspiracy against govt: Tofail

Ershad, Khaleda hatching conspiracy against govt: Tof