- Star photo

manner. "We're well aware of

our sacred duties and performed

the same with total neutrality."

of the EC in the affairs of elec-

tion as that of a referee in a

playground. "If the players

don't play as per rules and regu-

lations, what can the referee

do? In fact, the crisis in holding

a fair poll still lies in the ab-

out, democratic values were yet

to develop in the country for

various reasons. Nevertheless,

he saw a qualitative change in

for introduction of ID cards for

voters, he said laws had made

the use of such cards mandatory

tions, not in the case of any lo-

cal government election. "If we

want ID cards be used in the

forthcoming pourashava and

the city corporation polls, we

must amend relevant laws. And

only for parliamentary elec-

On the opposition demand

such values. "I'm optimistic."

Unfortunately, he pointed

sence of democratic values."

Abu Hena described the role

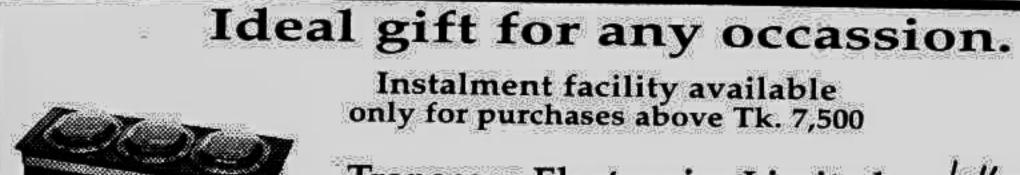
DEP7 9338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108

Khulna, Tel : (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel : 9714336



Fed氫x.

The World on Time



Hostess Side Server

Instalment facility available only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets. Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg.: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

Let's make things better.

Backed by Guarantee

PHILIPS

Sexual harassment DU students stage sit-in in front of VC's office

By DU Correspondent The students of the Dhaka University protesting alleged sexual harassment of some female students staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the Vice Chancellor's office yesterday to realise their six-point demand.

The students under the banner of "Students Protesting Sexual Harassment" (SPSH) also brought out a procession on the campus and held a rally in front of Aparajeo Bangla to press home their demands. Later, the SPSH marched

toward the VC office and held another rally there which was addressed by Ehsani Khanom, Farzana Rupa, Sultana Rahman, Taslima Akhter and Monirul Alam.

A delegation of SPSH also met the VC Prof A K Azad Chowdlury and urged him to accept their demands for an immediate solution to the cri-

Arsenic From Page 1

lower than the permissible The experts also ruled out

the possibility of traces of high level of arsenic. "Aquifers from where the deep tubewells draw water is not

likely to show presence of high level of arsenic," an expert said An English daily recently published a report that high level of arsenic traces was de-

tected in water from DTWs of Dhaka WASA creating panic. The DTWs, the report said, were located in Uttara, Banani Gulshan, Dhanmandi and Mo-

hammadpur.

Some scientists, however, expressed doubts about the devices used to detect presence of arsenic in water. The device using electro-chemical method that is not accepted as a standard method, said Bilquis Amin Haque, head of environmental health programme, ICDDR, B. The device, used by ICDDR, B

earlier, is still in its developing stage and is yet to be recognised for use internationally, she said.

Gasfield From Page 1.

currency. On successful completion of drilling of the wells. about 90 mincfd gas and 72 barrels of motor spirit and condensate will be produced every day. After processing, the gas will be supplied to the National Grid, the officials said. To process this gas, 2 silica

gel plants of 45 mmcfd capacity each will be installed at a nearby location under the "GIDP-Surface Facilities Component" of the same World Bank/IDA credit programme. Measures have been taken to make the processing plants ready simultaneously with the completion of drilling of the wells. These would cost Tk 117 crore, they added.

Four gas wells - well no 1, 2, 3 and 4 - at Rashidpur gasfield have been producing about 77 to 85 mmcfd gas every day. Rashidpur gas field located in the hilly area of Bahubal thana in Habiganj district is one of the six gasfields owned by the Sylhet Gasfields Company



BNP chairperson and Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia addresses a press conference at her official residence yesterday. -Star photo

One-month ultimatum

From Page 1

marked by acts of terrorism, rigging and intimidation and the ruling party tried to ensure its victory by abusing the state mechanism.

"As a result, people's will was not truly reflected (in those elections)," the declaration said and charged the Election Commission with playing a partisan role to protect the ruling party interests. "The Election Commission had miserably failed to play its constitutional role." The opposition parties felt

that the forthcoming pourashava and city corporation polls would not be fair if the voters of those areas were not issued with ID cards. Besides, the joint declara-

tion alleged that there was an increased rate of repression on opposition activists, resulting in a marked deterioration of the political climate in the country. "Democracy is now threatened. Election is the precondition of democracy. But the country lacks an atmosphere conducive to holding free and fair vote." Replying to a question,

Khaleda Zia admitted that hartal seriously hampered the national economy but said the government forced the opposition to call hartal. "We only enforced some 12 hartals during the last two and a half years of the present government and all these strikes were reasonable and to protect the interest of the country and its people.

She announced her party would not go for hartal "provided the government allows the opposition to exercise democratic rights in and outside the parliament".

"We will not call any hartal if the government does not obstruct in our activities in and outside the parliament."

The BNP Chairperson recalled that she vehemently opposed hartal when she was in power and still opposed it. "I am never in favour of hartal ... I do not want to call hartal at all," she claimed "I am making my commit-

ment afresh that I will not call any hartal unnecessarily." She said her party had already exempted the garment

factories from half-day hartals and that the then opposition party had not paid heed to the appeal of the BGMEA and the BNP leaders AQM Badrud-

doza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, MK Anwar, DL president Oli Ahad, Jagpa president Shafiul Alam Prodhan, PNP president Shaikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, NDA chief Nurul Haq Majumder and others were present at the news conference.

Ershad From Page 1

and the contents of the threeparty declaration, the JP chairman said: "Well, I believe that the upcoming opposition movement would eventually come up with the demands we have already raised. My position is therefore complementary, rather than contradictory to the joint declaration." Ershad was flanked by Kazi

Zafar Ahmed and Naziur Rahman at the press conference while party senior vice chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was absent.

Arrest of JCD leader sparks violence in Mirpur

Angry activists of JCD and BNP went on a rampage in the city's Mirpur area yesterday evening damaging a number of vehicles following arrest of JCD central leader Saidur Rahman Newton, reports UNB.

A group of JCD activists brought out a procession in the area after police arrested Newton from Mirpur Section Num-

Police and local people said the agitated people damaged at least five vehicles

In a statement, JCD acting president Manjur-e-Elahi and general secretary Munshi Bazlul Basit Anzu have condemned the arrest of Newton and demanded his immediate

Jatiya Party UNB adds: Ershad at the JP

press conference hoped the joint declaration would be considered as a magna carta of country's history. "The declaration is a good

start of greater national unity and a united movement." he said before secretary general Naziur Rahman Manzur read out the declaration. The former president also

hoped that a simultaneous movement by the nationalist and Islamic forces on the basis of the declaration with 30 days ultimatum would compel the government to accept the opposition demands. After Manzur read out the

declaration, Ershad accompanied by party leaders including Kazi Zafar Ahmed, who recently returned to JP, hurriedly left the venue without responding to queries of the newsmen. "I've to attend an Iftar party. I'll answer to all of your questions later," he said.

Ershad in his written statement said his call not to take part in any election, except UP polls, under this government is going to be justified.

"Almost all the opposition parties have now come to the conclusion that no election under this government would be free and fair." he said. "In fact, there is no atmosphere of a fair and impartial voting in municipal and city corporation elections under this government." "The Chief Election Com-

missioner himself and the entire Election Commission are working as an agent of the government to protect its (government's) interest. The administration has been made to carry orders of the government," he added The JP chief said all possi-

bilities of reflection of people's verdict through ballot have been removed by exerting influence of the government and ruling party in every strata of the administration. "In this backdrop, we (JP),

BNP, Jamaat and IOJ through consultations have taken a united stand of launching simultaneous movement," said Ershad. He said JP would continue

movement with eight-point demands of the party as well as minimum acceptable programme with all the opposition

Jatiya Party chief Ershad flanked by Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Naziur Rahman Manju at a press conference at the party central office in the city yesterday. AL hurt Islamic values: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent BNP chief Khaleda Zia at a press conference in the city yesterday backed up her allegations that the Awami League government had hurt the Islamic values. In reply to a question, the

former prime minister cited several incidents to prove the allegation. These are as follows: Nasiruddin Pintu, secretary general of JCD, was arrested from an iftar party which also came under police attack.

The government had banned public assembly around Baitul Mukarram mosque. In Feni, Khaleda's home dis-

trict, the residence of local BNP leader VP Joinal was attacked just before the azan for fazr prayers. In the same district, a Jubo Dal leader was shot at while he was coming out of a mosque.

IOJ has no link with 3 opposition parties, says Char Monai Pir The Islami Oikya Jote yes-

terday denied the reports of its solidarity with the joint declaration announced by the three opposition political parties saying no such decision was taken by the "Mojlish-e-Shura" of the party, reports BSS. "Even the question of Islami

Oikya Jote's participation in the reported joint movement does not have any specific Islamic goals," Jote's Vice Chairman Maulana Syed Mohammad Fazlul Karim, known as the Pir Shaheb of Char Monai, said in a statement here. He termed the four-point

demand of BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami as issue vindicating the "interests of some political parties," which does not have any link with the "interest of Islam. He said the reports of the

Jote's agreement with the reported campaign is "totally baseless and motivated."

BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday announced the four-point declaration centring the coming city corporation and municipal elections.

tive by-elections and the Union "Despite having my personal Parishad polls in a complete neutral and non-partisan

and family problems, I had to accept the position at a crucial moment of the nation and (that too) following a consensus by all the major parties."

demanding my resignation. forced me to yield to their pressure as I had been appointed by the President when a non-party caretaker government was in charge. I accepted the position in the greater national inter-

the matter to the conscience of the people." The CEC claimed the threemember Election Commission

BGMEA to cancel membership of 72 units

the process of cancelling the membership of 72 apparel industries for "false registration" with the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), reports UNB.

"false" documents to get registered. The EPB has already cancelled their registrations. Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), the apex body

of apparel industry, has also its 1999 election.

image of the RMG sector in the

check any sort of forgery in the export-oriented garment industry and committed to extend allout support to EPB to strengthen its monitoring sys-

"Most of those, who are now

Regretting frequent shifts in

those parties' stances since he took over before the June 1996 general elections, the CEC said. 'I would just tell them: ask your (political parties) conscience." "What has really happened

he is heading had tried their level best to conduct the 1996 general elections, the consecu-False Registration

The BGMEA has initiated

These are among the 319 industrial units that submitted

decided to exclude the accused

72 units from the voters list for In a statement yesterday, BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Quddus said these apparel industries have tarnished the

global market and affected the genuine exporters and manulacturers as well. The BGMEA is determined to

CEC not hesitant

that they are changing their stance time and again. I leave

it is quiet impossible to do the job before the coming local polls. So the demand is either", he noted.

the next general elections. In fact, practical works of the project had begun only in November last and soon after the month of Ramadan came." In February, he said, the project work was expected to go full

swing. "We hope to complete the task by June this year. We're trying our best and cooperation of all concerned is needed for the purpose. It's indeed a difficult task. Also there are many practical problems in the process as the voters are not that responsive to our efforts."

From Page 1

than remove him from office. The likelihood of a longer trial meanwhile, grew - with some senators predicting it could last well into next month. "I am not at all worried

cess that could take us into mid-February," said Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho, a member of the The uncertainty persisted as

Robert C Byrd of West Virginia issued the first indication that any of the Senate's 45 Democrats could vote to remove Clinton from office. On the final vote on the articles of impeachment, "I could go

dence as I've seen it or heard it. And I've followed it pretty closely," he said in an interview on the C-Span cable TV net-

AL faction, police clash: 50 hurt

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Jan 6: Seven per-sons, including the president of Sylhet district unit of Juba League were arrested after a clash between the police and a faction of the ruling party ac-tivists at Jagannathpur thana headquarters under Sunamganj district today.

As many as 50, including a police constable were injured during the clash. The two factions of the rul-

ing party clashed yesterday at Daorai bazar. The clash was sequel to a previous enmity between the two factions.

Protesting the yesterday's incident, a faction held a meeting at thana AL office today and later brought out a procession. At one stage, the processionists tried to proceed towards the police station. When police intercepted them, they became furious and locked in clash with the police. Several rounds of gunshots were fired during the clash, local sources said.

Of the injured, most were Police arrested Sylhet District Juba League president Syed Nazrul Islam and BCL leader

Selim. The others arrested persons include, local AL leader Siraj Miah, Sylhet district BCL leader Ashraf, Najrul and 3 others. Police seized a microbus (Sylhet Cha-11-0126) and recovered some arms and ammu-

CAAB on Saturday.

Mosharraf also expressed his dissatisfaction at the security arrangement at the airport. Since Saturday's incident security in and around the airport had been tightened further. Security personnel detained 15 people on Monday on charges of illegally entering the airport, CAAB sources said. They were handed over to police, they said. But police said they arrested six people, who were mowing grass inside the airport.

CAAB sources said almost every day some people are de-tained and handed over to police for illegally entering the airport. But most of them are let off for reasons best known to police, a senior CAAB official

Clinton -From Page 1

sion if he was impeached and convicted," said Akhil Reed Amar, a constitutional scholar at Yale University Law School. Punishment could stop with

the pension loss, but the senators who would be Clinton's jury in an impeachment trial could also take other steps. The Constitution spells out some possible consequences of a Senate conviction. Others could be negotiated by the White House, senators and Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr.

Senators, if they chose, could disqualify Clinton from seeking federal office again. "I think that's unlikely, and

it's piling on, but the Senate could do it," said Dennis W Johnson, a George Washington University political science professor. Clinton could also face criminal prosecution for perjury or

other charges related to his relationship with a former White House intern. Several impeached federal judges were criminally prosecuted in addition to being thrown out of office by the Senate. "Criminal prosecution depends on a bunch of things, in-

cluding whether Starr believes impeachment is enough," said Mark Klugheit, a former Senate special counsel Criminal prosecution is probably the heaviest sword

over Clinton's head, since it carries the potential for a felony conviction, jail time and loss of voting rights and other privileges.

000000000000 Oxford International School TEACHERS WANTED

teachers for English, Maths, Geography, Library Science, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computing Studies.

Persons who have applied before need not apply further.

House 36, Road 27 (old), Dhanmondi R/A; Dhaka. School Authority

00000000000

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & 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

Innocent acts can be illegal if taken together: Prosecution portive documents". ward," Zahir quoted the letter could he say 'Bangali hujuke real people behind the scene. 1994 which was raised after two These illegal acts are only a mate' (Bangalis pay heed to ruvears."

ramic factories," he said. Zahir pointed out that the defence had said "rights (shares) were not illegal ... charging high premiums were not illegal.

advantage of the situation, it is Zahir disagreed with defence lawyers that there were no names in the complaint petitions, pointing to copies of the petitions.

They (defence lawyers) said

that the two accused are chair-

"But I say if someone takes

man and vice-chairman but in the petition they were mentioned as directors and that they only chaired meetings. When the advertisement about cement company was published in the press, the decision must have come from meetings of the board of directors in the company which were

chaired either by the chairman or the vice-chairman, Zahir continued. "I thank defence lawyer Rafiqul Huq for saying they merely chaired the meetings. If we take the defence arguments. it means that they (chairman and vice-chairman) must have known as they were part of the

meetings. He pointed out that the probe committee in its report said some employees of the associate group of companies' sales department employees were engaged in selling Shinepukur Zahir referred to earlier de-

fence arguments: "They are paid employees and my clients are the ones who chair meetings. They are not responsible for day to day affairs of the company." But, he added, we have to see who the employers are. "My friends in the defence are trying to establish that the

employees were out of office and

were engaged in share trading

without informing the office,"

Zahir argued.

The people who are sponsors and directors of the associate companies. You will find the same group of people. You may not find a link if you do not remove the curtains. But once you do that you will find common faces and names."

The 'common faces', he said,

schemed to manipulate the market. All their activities collectively aimed at one objective -- manipulation. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court went through the report and found

prima facie evidence, Zahir ar-

He then tried to produce a letter to the judge but the defence lawyers objected saying they had not been allowed to do the same the previous day. But the judge overruled the defence objection when prose-

cution lawyers argued that the

reference of the letter was there

in the probe committee report. "The connection papers can be shown," the judge said. Zahir read out a letter by Salman Rahman who had given . a reply to SEC queries as director of Beximco Investment Company Ltd (BICL) on behalf

of Shinepukur.

Drawing attention of the court to the content of the letter, Zahir read out a part of the letter stating that he (MD) does not know. So I am responding." "Wasn't there an MD of Shinepukur to reply? Why Salman as director of BICL. But his lawyers are saying he only chairs meetings and knows nothing. And the company's day-to-day affairs are run by

this case?," he asked. Zahir then pointed to the probe committee report saying this itself is a prima facie evidence ... and it's not a false report as I have produced the sup-

the management. Where was the

management of the company in

"pointer" to what happened in the UK and Australia, he said. "It's a classic example of manipulation." The list of witnesses is there and would be produced when required, he Zahir then read out a section of the probe committee report

stating "the committee interviewed a good number of people directly or indirectly related to share market operations. Almost all expressed their opinion that at the peak time some major shareholders, some associates having large shares and some sales department employees of the group and few brokers operated directly and indirectly in a big way in the sale of Shinepukur shares and some other shares of the group namely Beximco Pharma, Beximco Ltd, Beximco Fisheries, Padma Textiles etc etc."

"The ingredients of offence are very much there. And by saying 'we (the accused) are not the employees of the company'. liabilities cannot be avoided." Zahir then replied to defence arguments regarding Singer and BD Lamps prices which had also gone high. "Should they be

charged? They did not give pub-

lic disclosures to manipulate

the price from Tk 73 to 754."

Singer price was just doubled but the Shinepukur share price rose manifold ... Singer gave 85 per cent dividends ... BD Lamps also gave high dividends ... how much did you give?" He said an application was filed with the SEC to set up Shinepukur Ceramic Ltd. On

May 22 1997, through a letter

they withdrew their earlier ap-

plication seeking consent.

intend to continue with the sub-

ject application any longer and

therefore, you are requested to

treat our application as with-

drawn from this moment on-

Please be informed we do not

as telling the SEC. He said that they withdrew the letter because the market crashed. He also read out another SEC letter to a director of Beximco

Group dated November 11, 1997 which said that "as you have not complied with the Commission's requirements, nor communicated with the Commission since March 6, 1997, we regret to inform you that the Commission has to reject your application of 15.01.1997 ... The file has therefore been closed at our end." Zahir presented the contents of the letter in response to defence claim that the authorities had refused permission to set up the cement factory.

"The ceramic industry and the cement idea was already spread out in the market as mentioned in the committee report and the applications were filed to justify those rumours. These were withdrawn because the market had crashed and the purpose had already been served. It was therefore no use to continue with these things as the man who came to buy share has come after taking "ganja" and had already bought shares," Zahir said, referring to Rafigul Hug's statement the previous day.

Zahir then said that a visitor came to him yesterday morning. The visitor, he said, showed a newspaper to say: "Sir, I am the man who took "ganja" and bought shares. If buying Beximco means taking ganja, yes, I had ganja. Please tell this to court." At this stage, Zahir con-

cluded his arguments, pleading

to allow prosecution of the ac-

Syed Rezaur Rahman said it

was a matter of regret that a

person like Serajul Huq

(defence lawyer) made indecent

remarks about Bengalis. "How

Special Public Prosecutor

mours)? Similar statements were made in 1971 when Bengalis were fighting for freedom." "I was astonished to hear such a remark from such a person who fought the War of Liberation in 1971. In 1971, (some)

people said such things but we won our Independence. Such innocent acts of the general public should not be described in such a manner." Rahman He also said that the defence lawyers were trying to pass the blame on to the SEC, the government and the finance minister. "What does the probe com-

He also said there was no such precedence of such a lengthy hearing on charge framing. "And I thank the court for sparing so much time." The court was adjourned at this stage.

mittee report say?" he asked.

Earlier, defence lawyer Rafiqul Huq began his arguments on the case of Beximco Pharmaceuticals and said the first two charges against the

Salman F Rahman and managing director DH Khan. In this case also, the chairman and the vice-chairman are accused, he said, repeating his argument that "they only chair meetings and are not responsible for day-to-day affairs of the

report on trading of 60 per cent Hearing on charge framing of Beximco begins

Beximco were similar to Shinepukur's, which had been discussed. It neither falls under section 17 nor under section 24 fence lawyers opened arguof the Securities and Exchange ments before the prosecution. Ordinance 1969, he said. "Anyway, it was good for me as I He said that the accused in know what they have in mind. this case were chairman Sohel F Rahman, vice-chairman

company" The rights share issue in this case was also a matter of

Beximco Pharma case. case on the previous day.

Dr Zahir said the defence had already talked about the

Regarding high premiums. he said, In 1994, the SEC gave permission for charging premium "and in 1996 they are saying the premium should have been Tk 800 not Tk 1100".

charging such premiums. "So where is the criminal motive?" Regarding share split (Tk 100 into Tk 10s), he said, everything was done with the consent of SEC and shares were split as demanded by the shareholders in an extra-ordinary general meeting (EGM).

attention of the court to. docu-

ments relating to approval of

Even now, the defence lawyer said, many companies are splitting their shares for the benefit of the shareholders. "The law also permits so. Where is the offence in splitting Regarding probe committee

of the company shares by certain brokers, Rafiqul Huq said, "It is the brokers who traded the company shares ... why should my clients be charged?. My clients have not committed any offence that attracts section 17 or 24, yet they are accused. As Rafiqul Huq concluded, Dr Zahir stood to argue that it was unprecedented that the de-

It has put me in an advantageous position." The judge at this stage said it was the request from the prosecution side asking permission to allow the defence to open the

Zahir then started his arguments on Shinepukur.

"unrealistic" and not "practical "We're working on the ID card project keeping in mind

Impeachment

censure the president rather

about a two-to-three week pro-Republican leadership. the Senate's senior Democrat

either way based on the evi-He also produced, and drew

Oxford International School is going to recruit

Persons having good command on the subject and on both spoken and written english can contact in person with a CV, all supporting papers and 2 copies of passport size photograph on Monday the 11th of January 1999 from 10 am to 3 pm.

VENUE FOR PRIMARY INTERVIEW

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail,