

# FedEx

Federal Express

The World On Time

SIGNED, SEALED &amp; DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 212 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 590 planes, 38,500 vehicles and 1,37,000 people, promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments; thanks to our unique computerised global tracking system. So the next time you have got to send a package, relax - call your FedEx agent BANEX to deliver your package hassle-free - on time - to your satisfaction.

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, 808803, 9345261 DEPT 9339931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPT (031) 740108, Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Gari, Tel: 9714336



Let's make things better



PHILIPS

Ideal gift for any occasion.

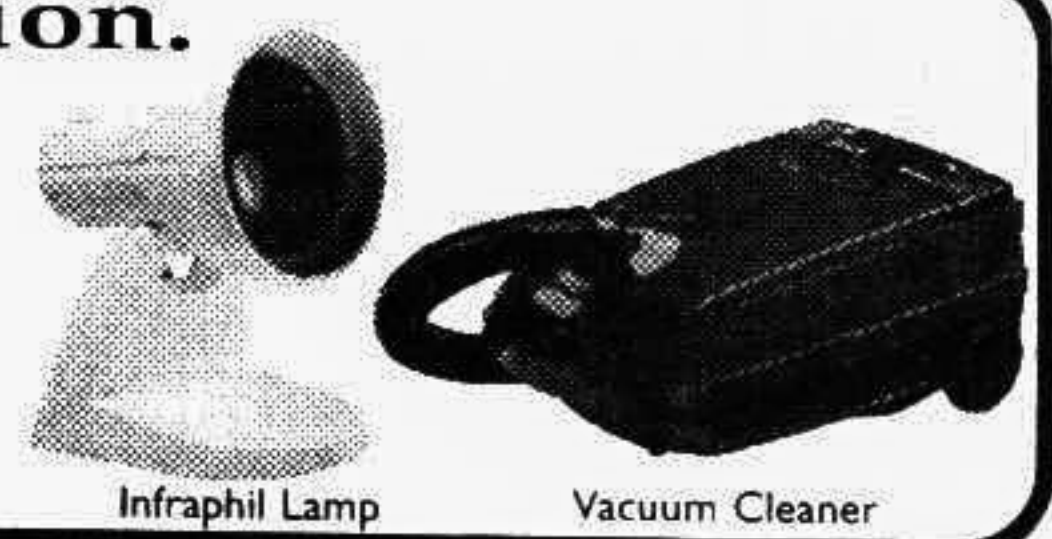
Instalment facility available  
only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

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



Infrafil Lamp

Vacuum Cleaner

## 860 raped, 80 murdered for dowry in '98

By Staff Correspondent

More than 860 women were raped, 16 of them by police and BDR personnel, and over 80 women were murdered for dowry in the country in 1998.

Besides, some 101 people were permanently disabled due to acid throwing and 78 were killed in political violence in the year, according to a survey by Odhikar, a human rights coalition.

Of the cases of rape, 417 were 'individual rapes'. Forty-three of the 'individual rape victims' were aged 1-5, 144 aged 6-11, 46 aged 16-20, 21 aged 21-25 and seven were aged 26 to 30. Twenty-one of the victims were

murdered following rape while one committed suicide. A total of 447 were gang-raped. They were aged 5-30. Thirty-nine of them were murdered following the assault, statistics compiled by Odhikar showed.

Eighty-three housewives were murdered due to their parents' failure to meet dowry demand. In most of the cases, husbands were accused of the murders while families of the husband were involved in a number of cases. The victims were aged between 14 to 70.

Twelve girls suffered acid burns because they turned down marriage proposals. 22 housewives because of feuds between families of the bride and the groom and 10 fell victim to wrath of frustrated lovers, Odhikar said.

Acid was thrown on one person as he refused to be witness in a case, a father threw acid on his five year old daughter because he did not want a girl child. Another person fell victim as he refused to pay illegal toll.

Sixteen women were raped while in the custody of police or BDR. In one incident, the survey report said, three BDR men raped a 14-year-old girl in Chittagong. In another incident, five police constables raped a 28-year woman in Daudkandi, Comilla.

Police rescued twelve girls Sunday night after two girls escaped from the restaurant and informed Thai embassy officials that they were forced into prostitution by the South Korean owner of the restaurant.

Police arrested Gay Hoo Young, the owner of the restaurant at Uttara Sector No. 9 the same night. He was produced before the CMM's court yesterday. The court placed him on two days' remand.

Police said the fourteen girls, aged between 20 and 26, were brought to Bangladesh in the name of giving jobs about one and a half months ago.

First, they were kept at the restaurant as waitresses and then forced into sex trade. The Thai Embassy reported the incident to the authorities concerned, police said.

Special Branch (SB) of police along with the Uttara police raided the restaurant, rescued the rest twelve and sent them to the Thai embassy.

## Suranjit

From Page 1

committee meetings would be affected. May be, it will inspire many of us to play to the gallery, rather than concentrate on the issues to be discussed at the meeting.

He however told the meeting that journalists could be invited to attend some 'selective' meetings, not all.

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, a BNP member on the committee, believes that the meetings of the JS bodies, especially the one dealing with the judiciary, should be open for all. On the question of the restriction as stated by the minister, Sircar said, "The rules are not mandatory. Those are rather directory."

However, the issue remained unresolved. A senior ruling party member on the committee, Advocate Rahmat Ali, suggested that the Speaker be consulted on the controversial issue.

Meanwhile, the committee members present at the meeting reached a consensus that senior lawyers having good reputation could be appointed High Court judges on temporary basis.

"It will help fight the backlog of cases pending trial in the High Court," the Law Minister told The Daily Star yesterday evening. "However, the appointments will be made if the Chief Justice agrees to the proposition. Besides, we will seek opinion of other experts."

## Ticket touts active

From Page 1

14 to 18 had been sold yesterday but that they were available at the black market.

The display board however showed that tickets were available at the counters.

Station Manager Zahurul Alam said the manual display board cannot show the real position. "We need computerised display board to show real time and actual status of ticket availability," he said.

Touts were also found waiting at different corners of the station to catch desperate passengers.

"You can have your ticket of any destination even before the Eid day if you agree to pay some extra money," one of the touts said, talking to this correspondent.

Zahurul Alam said some 70 per cent of tickets had already been sold till yesterday.

"We had started selling tickets a month before to avoid huge rush, but the homebound passengers failed to avail of the chance," he said.

"They could easily collect tickets not only from the Kamalapur station but also from Air-

port station and City Ticket Centre at Nimtoli," the station manager added.

Sale of tickets rose by Tk 1.5 lakh a day ahead of Eid while the regular sale ranged between Tk 7 and 8 lakh, he said.

It is learnt that black marketers are treated favourably when they return unsold tickets.

Even after departure of a train, the counter staff accepts the unsold tickets showing that those had been returned 24 hours before the train left. "This happens pretty often while many poor passengers cannot travel due to non-availability of tickets," one source said.

The station manager said additional security personnel along with Railway police have been deployed to "drive away the touts and maintain law and order in the railway stations."

The BR will also run special trains for Noakhali, Jamalpur and Brahmanbaria on January 16, 17 and 18.

The official said extra coaches would be arranged to accommodate more passengers.

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 & 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 address: dstar@bangla.net



Jatiya Party chief HM Ershad speaks prior to an iftar party he hosted for journalists at a city hotel yesterday.

## All JP MPs are with me, says Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, who has expressed solidarity with the opposition movement yesterday claimed that all the party MPs were with him, reports UNB.

"All the party MPs are with me," he said replying to a query at an iftar party hosted by JP for journalists at a city restaurant.

When his attention was drawn to widespread rumour that majority of the JP MPs are supporting communication minister Anwar Hossain Manju who has been sacked from the party, Ershad said he (Manju) will gain even if he can muster support of five MPs.

Five out of 39 Jatiya Party MPs, including Rawshan Ershad, NK Alam Chowdhury, Nasiruddin, Sabita Begum and Asadur Rahman were present at the iftar party.

## Sohel murder

From Page 1

DB sources said Aziz named, some persons who could give police more information about the killing.

Besides, he told the detectives that "I was out of the country during the killing. If I really had hired anyone to kill Soheli, why do not police arrest the culprit," said a DB official preferring anonymity.

Meanwhile, CID is planning to interrogate Bunty Islam, another suspect in the Soheli murder case further, sources said. Earlier, court granted CID to take Bunty on a five-day remand in the case filed by the Department of Narcotics Control.

Bunty has been detained at the Dhaka Central Jail. Police so far arrested five persons in connection with the Soheli killing case.

## US jet fires missile at Iraqi radar site

WASHINGTON, Jan 12: A US F-16CJ fighter fired a missile at an Iraqi radar site in the northern no-fly zone early today, a Pentagon official said, reports AP.

The US aircraft returned safely to its base in Incirlik, Turkey. The incident occurred at 0800 GMT (11 am Iraqi time), according to Pentagon spokesman Col. Richard Bridges.

It wasn't immediately clear why the pilot fired the high-speed anti-radiation missile at the radar site, but Bridges said the radar posed a threat to coalition forces.

He said he had no further information, but it is possible the radar had taken aim at the aircraft, as has occurred in several previous incidents over the past few weeks.

US Defence Secretary William Cohen vowed today to strike back at Iraqi challenges to US warplanes, saying Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had grown "more frantic" since US-British air strikes last month.

"We intend to protect our forces. If Saddam continues to illuminate them (with radar) or attack them then he is going to be attacked in return," Cohen said.

Another report says, the Security Council is expected to meet this week on Iraq, resuming discussions that started last month after US and British airstrikes ended UN weapons inspections and deepened the divide among council members on how to deal with Baghdad.

In Washington, Chief UN weapons inspector Richard Butler is promising his agency will return to work in Iraq, possibly with a less intrusive monitoring mission to keep close watch on President Saddam Hussein.

"UNSCOM is not dead," Butler said of the UN Special Com-

mission set up to eliminate Iraq's weapons on mass destruction.

Instead, UN weapons inspectors are designing an expansive monitoring programme to ensure the Iraqi president doesn't rebuild weapons destroyed as required by the 1991 Gulf War cease-fire, he said Monday.

"We've had one (monitoring system) there since 1994, but clearly in the future it will have to be bigger in scope, range, staffing," Butler said in remarks to a non-proliferation conference sponsored by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"We'll be back under this new dispensation," said Butler, who noted that it could take months for the UN Security Council and member states to approve such a plan and that the resolution is not yet assured.

## Jail Killing Case

From Page 1

Defence counsels moved bail petitions for the respective accused, which were subsequently rejected by Judge Sheikh Rezaul Alam. Newly-appointed public prosecutor of the Metropolitan Sessions Court Qamrul Islam opposed the bail prayers.

The judge, however, directed the authorities concerned to allow relatives of the accused to meet them in jail upon prayers of the accused.

A total of 21 people, including four former state ministers, were charged with killing former acting president Syed Nazrul Islam, former prime ministers Tajuddin Ahmed and M. Mansur Ali, and former minister A H M Quamruzzaman — the top aides of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — inside the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

## LP gas crisis Price high, consumers cheated in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 12: As price of LP gas cylinder has soared up to Tk 750 from Tk 252, dealers here have resorted to yet another unscrupulous way of earning more profit by cheating consumers.

A section of dealers are now re-packing the re-filled cylinders giving less gas.

A cylinder thus re-packed contains 15 kg of liquefied gas although it is supposed to contain 18 kg. LP Gas Users Association here alleged in a press release recently.

When contacted, local authorities of Meghna, Padma and Jamuna oil companies said they cannot check the re-packing as dealers are not accountable to them.

Sources said over one lakh re-filled gas cylinders are required monthly to meet consumers' demand in the city.

But only 40 to 45 thousand cylinders are supplied.

An official of one of the oil marketing companies admitted that approved dealers purchase gas cylinders at the rate of Tk 237.60 per piece from oil companies.

## Garment workers demonstrate in city demanding arrears, bonus

By Staff Correspondent

Garment workers yesterday staged a demonstration in the city demanding immediate payment of their outstanding salaries and festival bonus.

Bangladesh Garments Workers Union Council organised the demonstration and held a rally at Mukhtang in the city in the morning.

Presided over by Amirul Haq Amin, it was addressed, among others, by Salahuddin Swapan, Kurshid Alam, Abul Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Joyal Abedin, Selina Akhter and Shabana Rahman.

Addressing the rally, the leaders said workers and employees in both public and private sector get festival bonus in two Eids. But the garment workers are being deprived of their just wages. Eid bonus is a dream to them.

They said though the garment sector earned 74 per cent of the total export of the country, its workers do not get their salaries regularly.

The garment leaders urged the owners to immediately pay all outstanding salaries with festival bonus.

They expressed deep anguish over some recent incidents in which garment workers, who have been demanding their dues, came under attack from the hired goons of the owners.

The leaders also criticised the government for not taking action against the attackers and said the role of BGMEA is also mysterious.

## BNP spreading lies against AL: Hasina

NATORE, Jan 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said opposition BNP and its allies were repeating threats of movement only to create scope for rigging the upcoming local elections, reports UNB.

"They are looking for ways to steal vote through conspiracy, and issuing repeated threats," she told a huge public meeting at the newly-built Shankar Gobinda Chowdhury Stadium here this afternoon.

The prime minister opened the new stadium named after late Chowdhury, a valiant freedom fighter, who was also an Awami League leader and member of parliament.

Referring to opposition demands, Hasina said the BNP was solely designed to gain petty political interests and those have nothing to do with people's welfare.

She said her party restored the voting rights of the people, which were snatched by the

previous governments. "For stealing vote in the February 15, 1996 election, the BNP was ousted from power in a mass movement."

And being rejected by the people in the subsequent June 12 polls that year, "BNP went mad and started desperate activities," she told the rally.

The prime minister said that BNP minted money during its rule and was now out spreading lies against the Awami League.

"The BNP leader said that sound of Azan would not be heard from mosques if Awami League could go to power, but that proved to be a blatant lie."

Their politics, said Hasina, is to "cheat people by telling lies, speaking ill of Awami League, but the politics of Awami League is only to do welfare of the people."

Mentioning the Asrayan project, old-age allowance, employment bank and other welfare programmes, she said Awami League is a party of the people and works only for the people.

Referring to local demands, the prime minister announced that Nature Poursava would be upgraded to A-category and other facilities for the townsmen also be increased.

Some new honours courses will be introduced in the local government college and other educational institutions will also be taken care of, she said.

A bypass road will be constructed soon and total communications network of the area developed, the prime minister assured them.

Presiding over district AL president Advocate Shahjahan Rahman Khan, the meeting was also addressed by LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Zillur Rahman, AL Presidium Member Abdul Jalil, Publicity Secretary Abdul Mannan and local leader Montaz Uddin.

## Shazneen

From Page 1

Latifur Rahman, however, could not take place as the case was transferred to the newly set up Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court from the court of Additional District and Session Judge Amar Kumar Roy where the proceeding of the case started on November 22 last year.

All the seven accused were brought to court custody from Dhaka Central Jail at about 9:30 am on Monday. Humayun felt pain in his chest at around 10 am. He was rushed to Mitfort Hospital where he died soon after admission.

The body was sent to Mitfort Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday. An unnatural death case was lodged with Kotwali thana in this connection on Monday.

## DSE: Dirty tricks

From Page 1

Market sources said that the whole market was short of Gulf Food shares as few brokers had purchased all the floating shares. Those who had sold the shares with the intention of buying them back had become short sellers and were defaulting in depositing the shares on the stipulated day (T+3).

As many as 2.16 lakh shares were traded against 1.90 lakh issued shares of Gulf Foods Ltd last week, DSE sources said.

In an emergency meeting, the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Council yesterday told the management to continue suspension on trading of the Gulf Foods Ltd until the matter resolved. The trading in the stock had been suspended for yesterday after around eight brokers had defaulted depositing over 60,000 shares to the DSE clearing house.

The DSE council also decided to forward the SPM case to the SEC as the firm obtained the court order on the DSE decision to impose a Tk 20 lakh fine and suspend its trading for a month.

Asked, the defaulting councillor said that he was being "victimised" as he spoke strongly for the punitive action against the SPM Ltd. "These people who were opposed to the move are engaged in such dirty tricks to frame me."

"On my behalf the DSE is now buying those shares in auction at higher price. The same group of people who dined the market is selling to the DSE at a much higher price. I have to pay huge money to DSE," he said.

The councillor also said his office is run by his staff as he remains busy in policy making. "However, I failed on T+3 but I managed to settle on T+4."

Another council member said that such incidents were happening everyday and that the DSE could not take any action against the offenders.

"They (DSE executives) cannot even work independently. There has been unavoidable pressure from a few influential members. They interfere in day-to-day affairs of the DSE management."

"There are many loopholes in the DSE articles and settlement rules. After automation, the DSE rules should have been changed and brought in line



Bangladesh Garments Sramik Oikya Parishad brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding payment of arrears wages and Eid bonus before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

## Stage set for impeachment trial

From Page 1

— and the Congress since then.

For instance, the White House said the President "denies that he encouraged Monica Lewinsky to execute a false affidavit in the Jones case" that denied a sexual relationship. The defense cited Ms Lewinsky's statement that "no one ever asked me to lie."

The House countered that when Clinton suggested to Ms Lewinsky that she could submit an affidavit in the Jones sexual harassment case against Clinton to possibly avoid testifying, "Both parties knew that the affidavit would need to be false and misleading to accomplish the desired result."

In another example, the White House contended that Clinton denied trying to conceal from the Jones lawyers the gifts he and Ms Lewinsky exchanged.

"The president states that,

sometime in December (1997), Ms Lewinsky inquired as to what to do if she were asked in the Jones case about the gifts he had given her, to which the president responded that she would have to turn over whatever she had," the White House brief said. Nor, Clinton said, did he ask his secretary, Betty Currie, to retrieve the gifts from Ms Lewinsky.

But the House rebuttal said the President's conversation with Ms Lewinsky on Dec 28, 1997, and Mrs Currie's retrieval of the items that same day were "one of the most blatant efforts to obstruct justice and conceal evidence."

The House pointed to testimony from Ms Lewinsky, who recalled Mrs Currie calling to say: "I understand you have something to give me" or "the president said you have something to give me."

While Mrs Currie's memory

of the incident was fuzzy, the House said the secretary's cellular phone records back up Ms Lewinsky's recollection of receiving the call.

Meanwhile, a strange side-show unfolded as Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt appeared on the CNBC cable network and held a news conference Monday night to allege hypocrisy in the past personal conduct of Rep. Bob Barr, a Republican and one of the 13 House managers presenting the impeachment case in the Senate.

In a statement, Barr denied Flynt's allegations and said he was "deeply saddened" by them. He added, "I have steadfastly worked throughout the impeachment debate to focus attention on substantive issues like perjury and obstruction of justice, and away from lurid personal allegations."

## AL summons

From Page 1

pal, city corporation and Upazila elections as a group. Besides, BNP and Jamaat had already chosen their candidates for mayoral polls in Dhaka.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone late last night, two members of the AL presidium said that the party was carefully watching the new developments in the opposition camp and expecting to reach a "strategy-decision" after the January 22-23 NEC meetings.

Besides, central AL leaders would launch a "mass-contact" programme immediately after the Eid-ul-Fitr, trying to mobilise public opinion against opposition demands.

All but one presidium member was present at last night's meeting, followed by a dinner hosted by Sheikh Hasina.

Syeda Zohra Tajuddin was absent because she is away from the country for a medical health check-up.

## Jemima

From Page 1

"The tiles are 300-to-400-year-old and are similar to those stolen from different archaeological sites of the country," an official of the archaeological department told The Associated Press, on condition he not be identified.

It is illegal in Pakistan to export antiques.

Jemima, who is currently in Britain, can face a six-month jail sentence and 5,000 rupees (dhs 108) fine if found guilty.

"The cases is fake... I will file a defamation case against the Custom Department which has become a tool in the hands of the government in victimising political opponents," Imran Khan told The Associated Press.

He said the tiles were purchased from a shop in the federal capital Islamabad.

"The shop has given us a certificate that the tiles are not antiques," he said.

The archaeological department stood its ground.

"The tiles are antiques and are priceless," said the official. Customs Inspector Mohammed Raiz Rana said Jemima had under-valued the tiles.

But her husband said the government was trying to malign his wife with a false case because he criticised the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Khan, whose newly formed Tehrik-e-Insaf, or Movement for Justice failed to win a single seat in the last elections, has publicly accused Sharif of massive corruption, tax evasion and loan defaults.

Sharif denies the charges.