i News i

government and future caretaker

administration. "Common sense

dictates that such demands cannot

be met by foreign diplomats and it

can therefore never be placed with

He made it clear that the princi-

pal purpose of the meeting was "to

expose the nefarious design of the

Awami League to win election with

the help of the draconian Public

Safety Act 2000 and various unlaw-

upon the international community

represented in the country to exer-

cise vigil and observe developments

leading to the next general election,

mats which had, in fact, been initi-

ated in the first place by the Awami

League itself when it was in the

opposition, he said.

Khaleda's comment was to urge

them," the BNP advisor said

ful devices."

Karim said.

Tofail urges Japanese investors Set up industrial park in Bangladesh

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed called upon the visiting Japanese investors yesterday to set up an exclusive Japanese industrial park in Bangladesh to cash in on business

prospects, reports UNB. "We will provide you all-out support to this effort and it will be a win-win investment deal as Bangladesh is enjoying preferential market access to developed countries," he told the Japanese observation mission on investment environment.

The team, led by Japan-Bangladesh Committee for Commerce and Economic Cooperation (IBCCEC) chairman Koji Nojima called on the minister at his official residence.

Tofail said that Japan is the biggest development partner of the

country, and has been receiving generous support to the develop ment initiatives since independ

Welcoming the Japanese investors in the joint venture, he said Bangladesh wants to diversify the relationship by getting Japanese investment here. He particularly referred to Chittagong Steel Mills for joint-venture investment. The government took the initia-

ence.

tive to resolve the outstanding issues relating to KAFCO and we with the support of all parties, including Japanese government, have resolved most of the issues.

He assured the Japanese delegation that the remaining issues will also be resolved by this month.

Tofail also sought Japanese supports for the development of IT

sector in Bangladesh Appreciating the development efforts of the government, Koji Nojima said Japan is very sincere to strengthen its bilateral relations with Bangladesh.

"Strategically Bangladeshis very important in continuation of development of Asian countries," he was quoted to have said, adding that in near future Bangladesh will have to play a vital role in coordinating Asian Development.

Besides, he observed, Bangladesh will develop on its own as it has got huge natural resources.

He said Japanese investors will come up with new investments as their target is to strengthen investment relation with the country, said an official handout.

latest opinion poll, by Gallup in the

daily Maariv, showed right-wing

opposition leader Ariel Sharon

leading Barak by 17 points ahead of

Like previous polls it suggested

Barak's office has denied that he

that Peres, who is not a candidate,

might stand down in favour of Peres

ahead of the elections, while Peres

has told his supporters to working

on his candidacy, saying "This is not

Barak was further undermined

Sunday with Health Minister Roni

Milo resigning in protest at the

prime minister's acceptance of

peace proposals put forward by US

In another move, the Israeli

Supreme Court decided to hear a

case aimed at halting the Israeli

policy of killing Palestinian leaders

suspected of conducting attacks

against Israel, the lawyer for a slain

The court had ordered Barak's

office to submit a brief explaining

the policy by January 30, lawyer

An Israeli official said Barak's

office would answer the court, but

defended Israel's tactics against the

Palestinians. "Everyone whom we

have shot was someone carrying out

an active attack or preparing one,"

HC judges

From page 1

Palestinian official's widow said.

President Bill Clinton.

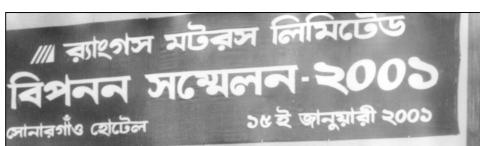
Naila Atiah said.

the official said

elections on February 6.

the time.'

would narrowly beat Sharon.





Rangs Motors Ltd held its Marketing Conference 2001 at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday evening. Picture shows Managing Director of the company Abdur Rouf Chowdhury addressing the meet. -- Star photo

tricity worth 5.7 million dollars at

the 26th year costing around 25

Marketing confce of Rangs Motors held

the end of 22 years. After the end of **Star Business Report** the 22-year contract period, it would Rangs Motors held a marketing conference-2001 at Sonargaon give the plant to PDB as a gift. The Hotel in the city yesterday. power plant after 22 years of service Presided over by A Rouf should be worth 31.4 million dollars

Chowdhury, Chairman, Rangs Group, the conference was attended by Sujit Kumar Dey, President of Hindustan Motors Export Limited as special guest.

Speaking at the function, Rouf Chowdhury said Rangs Motors is assembling buses and trucks of the world famous Mitsubishi and Hindustan brands.

Rangs Motors presented crest, gold medal to its five dealers for their good performance.

Around 200 dealers and customers participated in the conference. The conference was followed by dinner and a cultural function.

IOJ. Rangs Limited, Rangs Workshop Limited, Rangs Industries Limited, rule of Awami League, Khaleda said Rangs Properties Ltd, Ranjas Limited, Shield Security Services Limited, Yellow Lines Limited and Gulf Oil Bangladesh Limited are other sister concerns of Rangs Group.

Kibria's statement distortion of fact: BNP

Opposition BNP protested the remark of Finance Minister SAMS Kibria on Khaleda Zia's meeting with diplomats, saying that it was misconceived and based on gross distortion of facts, reports UNB.

"It was most unfortunate that Mr Kibria would make such comments...," said M M Rezaul Karim, member of the BNP Council of Advisers, in a rebuttal yesterday.

The Finance Minister termed Khaleda's presentation of certain demands relating to next general elections, before the foreign diplomats as a matter of shame for the nation

"How could Begum Zia holding a responsible office of the Leader of the Opposition place her demand in an official manner to foreigners. Kibria said in a reaction.

He said Khaleda also called upon the Heads of Mission, individually Protesting the statement of the and collectively, to send many more minister, also chief election coordiobservers well ahead of the election nator of the ruling Awami League. date in order to make an objective Rezaul Karim observed the statement constituted not only a travesty assessment of the situation and be of truth but represented a sinister more effective in fulfilling their task. attempt to malign the leader of the The meeting was part of a periopposition and her political party. odic exchange of views with diplo-

The fact was that the BNP chairperson, in reply to a question. informed the diplomats present of various impediments to the holding of a free, fair and impartial election.

From page 1

Nizami and IOJ chairman Shaikhul

Hadith Azizul Huq addressed the

meeting organised by All-Party

Action Council of Comilla south

Jamaat and A R M Abdul Matin of

Recalling the post-independence

unit.

There was no question at all of She clearly stated that the encouraging foreigners to interfere demand for removing these impediments was directed to the Banglain the domestic affair of the country, desh authorities concerned, present the BNP advisor added.

Khaleda sets Jan 18

by abusing the Public Safety Act. Khaleda said Awami League wants to cling on to power by applying PSA against its opponents. But their dream will not be fulfilled as people are united against this repressive law.

She was critical of the government for politicising vital institutions. She said no rules and regulations are followed in promoting their henchmen.

Controversial persons are procontinues, she added.

Cross-examination

Nazmul Huda as saying that he **By Court Correspondent** (judge) had very close links with the then seven-party alliance led by his

tion witness in the Shamim Reza Rubel Murder Case was crossexamined in the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court. Dhaka vesterday.

same village fell sick after drinking Tang' which was bought from adjourned the proceedings of the Atlapur bazar today, police said. case till 2.30 pm today. Shawkat will Rustam, 28, and his wife Saleha, 20, also fell sick after drinking 'Tang'. Shawkat in his statement said

Nazmul and Imran died on the way to hospital. Rustam and Saleha were admitted to Rupganj thana health complex in a critical condition sain and Mukuli Beg

Peace talks postponed On the Israeli political front the

From page 12 Israeli military sources said

According to preliminary investigations, he was kidnapped Sunday by three or four Palestinians who stole his car and killed him inside the vehicle before disposing of the

His car was later abandoned and set alight by masked men, Palestinian sources said.

The Israeli official said the Islamic resistance movement Hamas was suspected.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak called the murder "a blow against the peace process" in a statement released by his office.

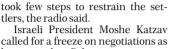
"The prime minister calls for . Arafat to put an end to the acts of violence, because they do not serve any of the parties. Israel will not give way to violence," the statement said.

After Tzalah's body was found the Israeli army reimposed tight restrictions on the Gaza Strip, including the closure of roads, the Palestinian airport and crossing points into Israel

The restrictions had been eased following marathon talks between security officials and peace negotiators of both sides overnight Wednesdav.

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers struck back, fighting Palestinians and setting fire to their fields, fruit trees and greenhouses by Gush Katif, Israeli radio reported.

The Israeli army designated the area a closed "military zone" and



long as the Palestinians pursue attacks on Israelis. "We cannot negotiate while our

civilians are assassinated, and without Arafat publicly condemning these barbarous acts in an address to his people," said Katzav, who belongs to the hardline Likud party.

In the West Bank an Israeli soldier was slightly hurt in a shootout with Palestinians near the northern West Bank town of Nablus and the Arab village of Salim, wit-

nesses and Israeli radio reported. Also near Nablus the body of a Palestinian whom locals described as having been known for collaborating with Israel was found

dumped on his doorstep, witnesses said Residents of the Arab village of Burqin said Mohammed Musa Abdel Rahman, 38, was shot four times in the body Two Palestinians were executed

separately in Nablus and Gaza City Saturday by the Palestinian Authority for having collaborated with Israel. Two more were sentenced to death for collaborating and two

received life sentences from a security court in Bethlehem. The settler's killing brought the death toll to 378 since the beginning of the intifada, or Palestinian upris-

ing, on September 28, including 320 Palestinians, 13 Arab Israelis, 44 other Israelis and a German.

Hawkers' rehab Three judges retired from the Supreme Court (SC) recently. To fill the recent drive. He, however, failed up the vacancies, three judges of the to say the number. Genuine hawk-

nated places are not suitable for the said. An attempt to rehabilitate hawk-A number of leaders of hawker ers at the place near the Motijheel associations alleged that they used Ideal School about two and half to pay toll to police and some DCC years back was foiled due to a clash men

lack of adequate police force.

"But this time we are getting good support from DMP and we are

adamant to keep the pavements and

parts of roads hawker-free", said

DCC's Chief Estate Officer Fazle

documents of my colleagues will be

released sooner than later." Bhat

"There is no alternative left. If the

The Hurrivat mission was aimed

at building on India's ceasefire

initiative in Kashmir, which has

seen counter-insurgency operations

Bhat named his five-man delega-

national importance and as such it

is viewed that this Rule should be

heard and disposed of expeditiously,

as it bears urgency and accordingly

this Rule is fixed for hearing on

30.1.2001 at the top of the list

subject to part heard and consider-

ing the facts and circumstances of

the connected criminal case being

Kulshi P.S. case No.15 dated

26.12.2000. It is ordered that the

petitioners shall not be arrested ord

disturbed by the police till disposal

of the Rule. Since the learned

Additional Attorney General along

with some Deputy Attorney general

and also the learned Assistant

Attorney general have already

appeared for the respondents, the

service of notice upon the respon-

continue.'

peace process is to be taken forward

Delhi will have to issue passports."

occupy the pavements.

High Court (HC) were elevated to ers in the city are being counted, he the SC.

Besides, two HC judges resigned and two others retired recently, creating a shortage of judges there. The new appointments would ease

phase-2 in late October. The Japanese company is offering free elecnext 22 years. Law minister demands

PDB, Marubeni

From page 1

Meghnaghat phase-2 power plant

as per terms and conditions of the

Meghnaghat phase-1 plant that is

now being developed by the US

AES, which would be available from

next year, would tremendously help

PDB financially. But how can we

compare that benefit with a package

that is applicable after 22 years?

What would be its worth to PDB

then. Besides, Marubeni is grossly

violating its original understanding

and actually offering a potentially

loss incurring package," com-

"Till late 1999, Marubeni was

very eager to pursue the

Meghnaghat 2 and would do any-

thing to get the project. But from

early last year, it started using differ-

ent pretexts including the KAFCO

issue to delay the Meghnaghat 2

negotiations for the Meghnaghat

Marubeni began unsolicited

negotiations," he added.

"The free electricity option of

company AES.

mented a source

From page 1 the House, PM's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta and Jatiya Party Whip Fazle Rabbi also strongly condemned the January 11 incident. Home Minister Mohammad Nasim also spoke on the matter during question-ĥour. They said found that the two judges were appointed as per consti-

tutional provisions and the convention. Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid

tional steps.

who was in the chair termed the "verv unfortunate and incident condemnable" He said, "The appointments (of

Referring to the debate on senior-

ity of judges, the minister said

seniority is not the only factor con-

sidered in appointing SC judges. "Had it been so, there should not

have been constitutional provisions

for consultation before appointment of judges", he said. "Competence,

wisdom and commitment to rule of

The minister showed a list of

judges who were elevated to the

Supreme Court from the High

Court (HC) superseding their seniors at different times. "It is

san attitude in appointment of the

Dismissing allegations of parti-

law are also considered".

judges) were made as per provisions of the Constitution. We must follow the Constitution despite attempts to

two judges, the law minister said one of the two, Ruhul Amin, was appointed despite the fact that he acquitted five of the accused in the

Bangabandhu murder case. About the other judge, Golam Rabbani, he quoted BNP leader

Chief Justice

From page 1 Justice Ruhul Amin, one of the

two judges of the Death Reference senior lawyers for working on a Bench, in his 355-page judgement compromise formula. Suranjit acquitted five of the 15 accused. The other judge, Justice Khairul confirmed the death sen-

advised them not to take responsibility of violation of the Constitution. Suranjit termed the "rowdy rotest" at the SC as "disgraceful" for the entire judiciary and wondered why no contempt proceedings were drawn against those lawyers. Mohammad Nasim told the House the government has the right to take legal action against the pro-BNP lawyers for resorting to "un-precedented vandalism" at the ipreme Court. He alleged that the BNP lawyers led by Nazmul Huda MP kicked the doors of the Chief Justice's chamber and used abusive words against the judges including the Chief Justice. He said it was BNP that politicised the judiciary by appointing a district committee leader of the party as a judge of the High Court. Fazle Rabbi said the January 11 incident at the Supreme Court was "heinous, sad and frustrating". He demanded a statement from the law minister on the issue. On the consensus formula, he "The Constitution does not said, provide for a formula for appointment of judges in consultation with lawyers'

Presided over by Col (retd) Akber Hossain, the meeting was also addressed by convener of local APAC, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, JP secretary general Naziur Rahman Manjur, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujaheed of

moted superceding seniors, she said n a veiled reference to promotion of judges in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court. They did not even spare the Army. People will be deprived of justice if such situation

Two boys die

after drinking

'Tang' in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

poys died and two others fell sick-

after taking 'Tang,' a soft drink, at

village Birebo under Rupganj thana

this morning. Nazmul, 10, son of Rahimuddin

and Imran, 6, son of Taleb Ali of the

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 15: Two

it could not remain in power by introducing one party rule. Now they want to return to power again Rubel murder

of ex-ASP Shawkat continues

A B M Shawkat Ali, the then ASP of CID as well as the 27th prosecu-

(Huda) party. Suranjit Sengupta said that the president appointed the two judges on advice of the Chief Justice and in consultation with the Prime Minister as per provision of the Constitu-

Judge, Mollah Mostafa Kamal tion. "The President shall act as per and not at the dictate of the lawyers," he said. be cross-examined again today. He also criticised the group of five

hat he had been in Dhaka since 1998 as an assistant police super of the CID. After taking over the charge he examined the handwritings of the two accused AC Akram

expert on handwriting, Shawkat added.

He also told the court that he

examined the handwritings of the

letters, exchanged between Akram

and Mukuli regarding the punish-

ment of Rubel and submitted his

opinion report before the court on September 9, 1998.

between the two accused were proved, Shawkat added.

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA

student of the Independent Univer-

sity was picked up by DB police from

his Siddeswari residence on July 23,

1998 and was tortured to death in

All the accused including AC Akram and Mukuli Begum, a local

Awami League leader, were present

in the court during the proceedings.

The handwritings of the letters

Huq,

million dollars. But the value of the plant would still be 31.4 million dollars even after the overhaul cost. Marubeni added that unlike the 70-acre land required for the first phase AES Meghnaghat plant, it would only need 35 acres. This

would save PDB another 1.9 million dollars AES had signed a contract with

the government to provide electricity for a levelised 2.79 cents for the

according to Marubeni. Providing very weak technical papers, it argued that the plant would have such high value even after 22 years because it has a 35year life span. However, it noted that the plant would need an overhaul on

between two groups, sources in DCC said.

From page 12 Nurul Hossain Morol said the desig-

business they do.

When asked about so many factions of hawker associations, Morol claimed that his organisation was the largest one and that vested quarters formed different hawkers' associations with ill motives.

Recalling previous experiences, a number of DCC officials said existence of so many organisations of hawkers will be another obstacle in their rehabilitation.

According to Morol, around 1.5 lakh hawkers were evicted during

of Pak mission

SRINAGAR, India, Jan 15 : The chairman of Kashmir's main sepa-ratist alliance said Monday he was still "optimistic" of sending a delegation to Pakistan, despite delays in India issuing travel documents, "We don't believe in days and

dates," said Abdul Gani Bhat, chairman of the All Party Hurryat (Freedom) Conference.

against Mulsim militant groups in The Hurriyat had originally the region suspended since Novemplanned to send the delegation on Monday for talks with Pakistanber 27 based militant groups, but only two tion on Thursday and urged the of the five-member mission have Indian government to respond valid passports

"I am still optimistic that travel swiftly.

From page 1

by Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr

Kamal Hossain, M A Malek, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed,

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and

AAG Mahbub-e-Alam was

In the case filed against the

lawmaker and his son, they were

accused of ransacking a sweetmeat

shop in Chittagong and looting Tk

45.000 from it on December 26 last.

Though the shop owner had filed

the case under penal code, police

had allegedly tampered with the FIR

and turned it into a case under PSA,

In a brief order, Justice Abu

Saeed Ahemd and Justice

Choudhury said, "Since this Rule

has been issued to consider the

views of a particular piece of law,

namely, Public Safety Act, it involves

constitutional questions inviting

their counsels told the court.

assisted by deputy attorney generals

M Faruq, Bazlur Rahman Chhana,

Shamsuddin Manik and others.

some others.

The petitioners were represented

Kashmir rebels hopeful

HC hearing on **PSA**

Elahi.

said.

The thanas concerned used to the situation to some extent, the appoint 'lineman' to collect toll in exchange of allowing them to sources noted

Over one lakh cases are now pending with the SC. The number of The understaffed Estate Departjudges compared to the number of ment took several attempts earlier pending cases is inadequate, court to evict hawkers, but failed due to sources mentioned.

There was also a lack of office space in the SC for new judges. With the inauguration of the SC Annexe last week, 40 more judges can now be accommodated.

The reported appointment of six new judges in the HC was a matter of discussion among lawyers at the

HC vesterday. Some of them alleged that one of the six is 'getting preference' because of his close link with an influential minister.

Esale Sowab mahfil tomorrow

at Dariapur The 67th annual Esale Sowab and waz mahfil, founded by Ala Hazrat Qutbul Alam Alhaj Moulana

Shah Sufi Toazuddin Ahmad Rahmatullahi Alaihi, will be held tomorrow at Darbar-e Dariapur Sharif of Sreepur thana under Magura district, says a press release. In this holy mahfil, including Pir

Sahebans of Farfura Sharif and Huzur Keblas of Dariapur Sharif, religious scholars from home and

abroad, will deliver speeches. Khatme Quran, zikr mahfil, Huzur Kebla's majar sharif jiarat and concluding 'doa' (Sowab Risani) will be held in the mahfil.

The Pir of Dariapur Sharif, Hazrat Moulana Shaha Sufi Alhaj Abul Hasan Muhammad Abdul Quayyum, will conduct the day-long mahfil.

Obituary

Maulana Abdur Rob of Kanudaskathi of Rajapur thana of Jhalokathi in Barisal died of old-age complication at his residence yesterday, says a press release.

He left behind seven sons, three daughters and a number of admirers to mourn his death.

His namaj-e-janaza will be held dents is dispensed with and the Rule today after Zohr prayers at Islamic complex maidan and he will be shall be treated as ready. However, buried at family graveyard beside the investigation of the case may the complex.

tence of all the 15. create controversy over constitu-Four of them are in the death row

at the Dhaka Central Jail. They are Khasru said, "Nobody has seen Lt. Col. (dismissed) Syed Faruqur such an uncivilised incident in the Rahman, Lt. Col. (Řtd) Sultan Shahrier Rashid Khan, Maj. (Rtd) Bazlul Huda and Lt. Col. (Rtd) 200-year history of the Supreme Court. The protest was also aimed at protecting the killers of Bangabandhu". Mohiuddin. Mohiuddin is among the five who was acquitted.

The law minister observed that The others are absconding. Most Bar members were not trade unionof them are believed to be out of the ists. "Their language of protest should be dignified, lawful and country. The 15 were sentenced to death constitutional. The Supreme Court by a trial court on November 8, 1998 is not a mere brick-made structure but a symbol of dignity and justice."

for murdering Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of the members of his family on August 15, 1975.

Senior jurists

From page 1 two High Court (HC) judges superceded by the two new SC judges, elevated from the HC, should also be promoted.

The proposal carrying signatures of lawyers of all the sides was handed over to the Law Minister and he assured that he would take up the matter with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the sources said.

United Nations Association of Bangladesh accorded a reception to the visiting team of United Nations

Association of China at Hotel Purbani International in the city yesterday.

One bill passed From page 12 it. But the objection was rejected by

he custody the same day.

voice vote. Both the bills were soon referred to the standing committee for scrutiny.

Another bill, the Standards of Weights and Measures (Amend-ment) Bill 2001 was introduced in the House by Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed.

D-8 Commission

From page 12 In reply to a question Dr Ali said it is too early to think about free trade among the D-8 states. It would solely depend on how businessmen take interest in doing trade.

establishment of an international marketing and trading company for promotion of trade among the member countries. Islamic Development Bank has agreed to finance the feasibility study. Bangladesh proposed a business forum with shipping lines from all the D-8

Textbook trouble

notebooks and supplied those for distribution. Taking advantage of non-availability of textbooks, dishonest traders are also charging higher prices for the notebooks.

The NCTB is yet to respond to the

Pakistan, Turkey to intensify contacts

ISLAMABAD, Jan 15 : Pakistan and Turkey have agreed to formalise regular bilateral contacts to promote closer political and economic cooper-Pakistani Foreign Minister ation, Abdul Sattar said Monday, reports AFP. Speaking after a "comprehen-sive exchange of views" with Turkish Foreign Minister Ismail Cem, Sattar said both sides had decided to hold

consultations on a "regular and continued basis." "We are intensifying our contacts on contemporary international issues, both political and economic," he told a joint press conference.

Alleged mugger succumbs to injuries at DMCH **By Staff Correspondent**

An alleged mugger, who was beaten up by a mob in the city's Hatkhola area on Tuesday, died at the Dhaka Medical Hospital on Sunday night

The identity of the man aged about 25 could not be known till filing of this report last night. His body was sent to

DMCH for autopsy. A case was filed with Ramna thana in this regard.

In another incident, Badda police recovered the body of a new born boy from DIT project area yesterday

Police recovered the body at about 10 am and sent it to DMCH morgue

in this connection.

attended the the meeting among others.

Star photo

From page 1

"It is unprecedented that notebooks are available before publication of textbooks," a leader of the printing and publication industry said

proposal from the industry to help solve the problem, he added.

From page 12 next meeting, sources said. On procurement of four gantries for the Chittagong port, the meeting suggested that the CPA send all necessary documents to the ministry with two weeks for an early approval. Three international companies were considered for the procurement bid.State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Debnath Shambhu, Shawkhaot Ali Daru, Mahmuda Shawgat, Golam Faruk

He said Egypt has proposed the morning

for autopsy. A case was filed with Badda police

JS body

Ovee and Zafrul Islam Chowdhury, all members of the committee,

nothing new."