

Focus on election- '91

Simmering discontent in Chittagong Hill Tracts

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Political parties have aggravated the situation.
The local leaders of the council said, the dissolution of the councils would jeopardise the process of countering the secessionist movement in a political way.

as enactment of by-laws is done.
The council has established domination of the tribals over the non-tribals (only the tribals could be elected as chairman of the council). The first election to the district council was held on January 25, 1989, which was highly appreciated both at home and abroad.

without any obstacle. The CIIT professional council also supported the above demands.
Hill Tracts administrative source said that these demands were modified forms of the Shantibahini memorandum, which was submitted to the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission comprising the representatives of eight foreign organisations who visited the CIIT last December.

On December 30 Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at a meeting in Rangamati with the local tribal leaders and leaders of Local Government Council categorically said that the three councils would not be dissolved as those were elected through free and fair polls. He also said that the rights of the people in the Hill Tracts region would be protected on the basis of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regulation 1900 which was replaced by the local government bill.

struggle vice trying to foil the peaceful solution.
He also confessed that the Shantibahini did not recognise their alternative leadership in the hill areas. If any one wants to come to the peaceful life he must recognise the present leadership in the region, he said. However, he hoped that with the installation of democratic government the tribals would achieve more.

Certain quarters violating code of conduct : Abbas

By Staff Correspondent
Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan has called upon the people to vote for Jamaat nominees to ensure fulfillment of the basic needs.

He was addressing a meeting at Savar bus stand on Thursday.
Abbas Ali Khan said the lot of the people has not been improved as the country was being ruled by dishonest persons. He said those people were again trying to get elected by buying votes.

The Jamaat leader alleged that some quarters were violating the Electoral Code of Conduct. He said those who attacked the workers of opponent parties were fascist forces. He cautioned the people to remain alert about the enemies of democracy.

Students pledge

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Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Syndicate members and Provisors of Dhaka University, leader of All Party Students Unity and Dhaka University Central Students Union and senior police officials.
During the meeting Prof. Moniruzzaman Mia said, the students community regarded that the interim government being a government of national consensus was completely neutral.

The Midnight File

US' slanderous interference
BEIJING, Feb 7: China said today that a US State Department report condemning it for human rights violations was slanderous interference in its internal affairs.

Sharif announces economic reform.
ISLAMABAD, Feb 7: Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif today announced a major economic reform package to open Pakistan up to foreign investment. He told a news conference that virtually all controls on the movement of foreign exchange into Pakistan and repatriation of private and corporate profits and capital had been lifted, reports Reuters.

Mitterrand talks to Rafsanjani
PARIS, Feb 7: French President Francois Mitterrand held telephone talks today with Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, announced an official French government spokesman, but no details were available. Iran recently launched a peace initiative to end the war, which led to an official visit to Teheran by French Foreign Ministry Secretary General Francois Scheer to discuss the issue, reports Xinhua.

French commander in Gulf sick
PARIS, Feb 7: Brigadier-General Jean-Charles Mouscardes, commander of French ground forces in Saudi Arabia, has fallen ill and will be replaced, Defence Minister Pierre Joxe said today. Joxe told reporters Mouscardes, 56, would return to France on Friday. He will be replaced by Brigadier-General Bernard Janvier, 52, reports Reuters.

Salyut-7 crashes into Andes
LONDON, Feb 7: The abandoned Soviet space station Salyut-7, which crashed into the Andes Mountains today, was only one of more than 3-1/2 million pieces of space junk circling the earth. But aeronautical experts say people on the ground face only a tiny risk from the fragments of the more than 3,600 satellites and other spacecraft placed in orbit since the launch of the Soviet Union's Sputnik in 1957, reports Reuters.

Genetics pioneer died
LEXINGTON (Massachusetts), Feb 7: Dr. Salvador Luria, a pioneer in the development of modern genetics who won the Nobel Prize, died Wednesday at age 78 at his Lexington home of a heart attack, according to a university spokesman. Luria shared the Nobel Prize for medicine or physiology in 1959 with Max Delbrück of the California Institute of Technology and Alfred Hershey of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, reports AP.

Spill closes US highway
ENON (Ohio), Feb 7: Authorities closed off a portion of Interstate 70 in western Ohio on Wednesday after a truck carrying a hazardous chemical spilled part of its load. Between 150 pounds (68 kilograms) and 170 pounds (77 kilograms) of phosphorus pentasulfide spilled onto the highway, said Battalion Chief Pete Nowlan, hazardous materials coordinator. If the chemical comes in contact with water, it can produce a poisonous gas, hydrogen sulfide, reports AP.

Clash in garments factory : 10 hurt

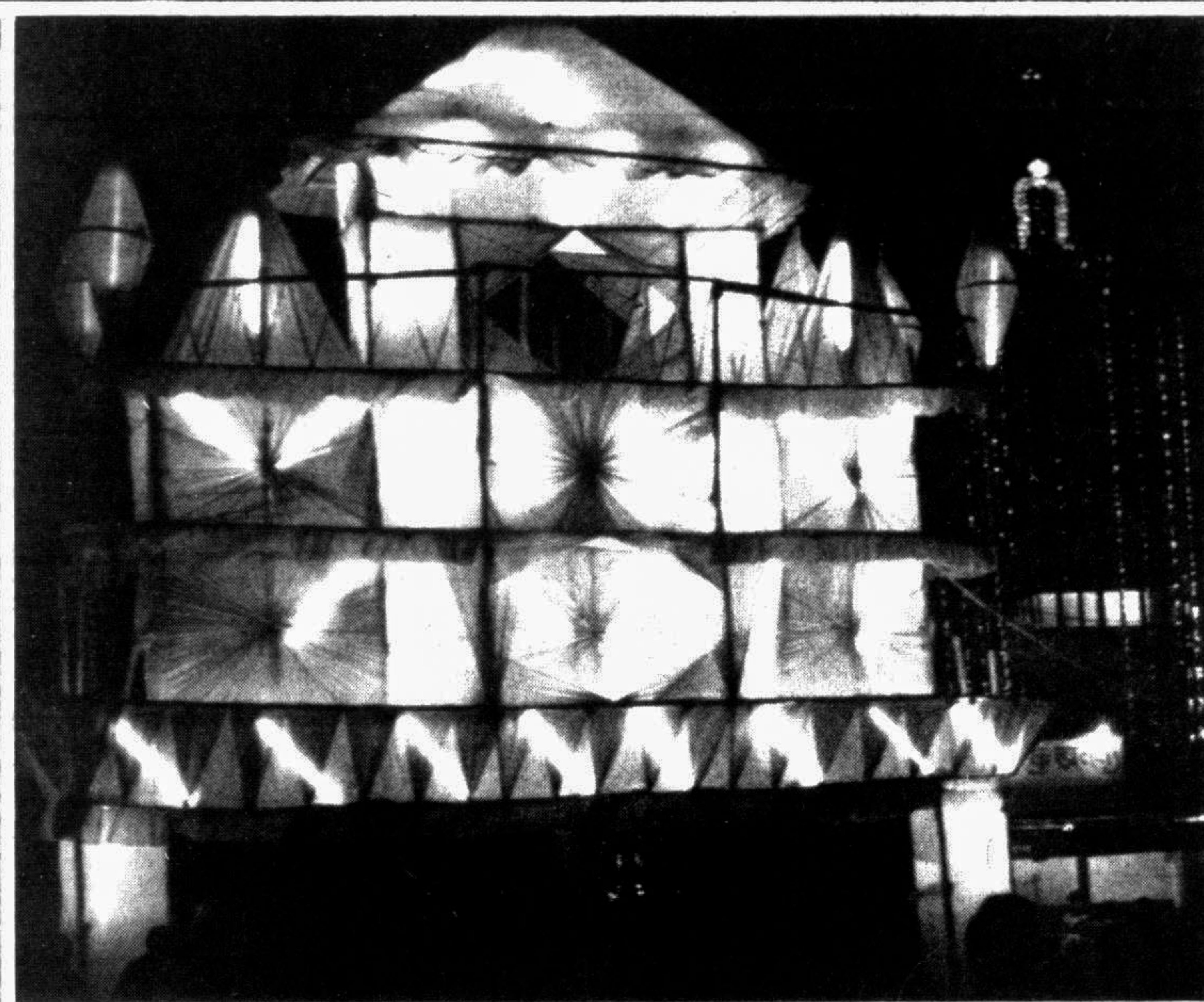
By Staff Correspondent
About 500 garments workers on Thursday ransacked a garments factory at Maghbazar on Thursday.
Police said, a procession led by Garments Sramik Federation arrived at Maghbazar at noon chanting different slogans for their demand. At one stage the processionists got violent and attacked Rose Garments. They damaged property worth Taka two lakh. Police upon receiving the information reached the spot and lathi charged the mob.

The workers stoned the police. About ten policemen and several demonstrators were injured in the clashes.
After several hours police brought the situation under control. Police also arrested four garments workers from the spot.

Gorbachev

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gether and to urge full participation in the Kremlin's referendum on the union.
"All my convictions are based on preservation of the union," the Soviet President said Wednesday night.

"The Soviet Union is a super power," he said. "Huge efforts were made to make it so powerful, and we could lose it very quickly".
Hearing on Moudud's writ petition on
The hearing of the writ petition filed by Mr. Moudud Ahmed, a former Vice-President of Bangladesh, challenging his detention continued Thursday before a division bench of the High Court consisting of Mr. Justice Mohammad Ismailuddin Sarkar and Mr. Justice Badruzzaman.



FLOUTING AUSTERITY: Floods of light added to decoration of a house celebrating a wedding in Dhaka despite order for power conservation in the wake of the Gulf war. —Star photo

Hearing on Moudud's writ petition on

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Mr. Aminul Haq, the attorney general of Bangladesh was still arguing in support of the detention when the court rose for the day.
Mr. Moudud Ahmed, was arrested on December 20 under the special power's act-1974 on the charge of prejudicial activities.
Hearing resumes on Sunday.

Oilfields set ablaze

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force also struck Iraqi positions Thursday.
Iraqi officials said the overnight raids on Baghdad killed 22 civilians and injured many others.
Iraq said Allied planes carried out 33 raids against it during the night and Baghdad retaliated with a missile attack on Haifa in Israel.
But unlike almost all previous statements, Baghdad radio reported no Allied planes were shot down in the latest raids.
Israel has reported no missile strike since Sunday, when

two Scuds fell harmlessly in the Jewish state. A third crashed into Saudi Arabia, slightly injuring 29 people.
Iraq says Allied bombings have killed hundreds of civilians since the war's outbreak, but U.S. military sources suggested today that Iraq is deliberately putting non-combatants in harm's way — by moving anti-aircraft guns into civilian neighborhoods in Baghdad and Kuwait City.
A U.S. military official speaking under condition of anonymity said none of the Iraqi gun positions in civilian neighborhoods had been under attack, but said the matter was under review.

The US battleship Wisconsin fired its huge guns in action for the first time since the Korean War on Thursday, adding its firepower to the Allied bombardment of Iraqi positions in Kuwait, a US military officer said.
The Wisconsin, which tar-

geted Iraqi artillery guns, was the second World War Two battleship to start shelling Iraqi positions. Its sister ship, the Missouri, turned its 16 inch guns in the Iraqis on Monday.
The US S. Wisconsin conducted its first naval gunfire support mission since the Korean War, engaging and probably destroying an Iraqi artillery battery in southern Kuwait, the officer said.
The officer also said that US planes destroyed four Iraqi planes trying to fly to Iran this week rather than just two as earlier reported.
A U.S. military spokesman said on Wednesday that U.S. planes attacked and destroyed two SU-25 Iraqi planes and probably two Iraqi Migs as well.
The US officers said navy A-6 attack aircraft struck and heavily damaged an Iraqi patrol boat in the northern Gulf overnight.

Khaleda

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Ershad to jail, Begum Zia said he must be tried and sent to jail because he had killed many people during his nine years of autocratic rule.
Begum Zia said Ershad had to go to jail as the people of this country would not forgive him.
The BNP chief wondered why Ershad was afraid of death. She said he should not be afraid of death if he was a true Muslim as he claims, Begum Zia said Ershad was afraid because he was a hypocrite and betrayer and grabbed power from an elected government in 1982 in the darkness of night.
She pointed out to the caretaker government that the associates of Ershad was planning to jeopardise the elections by using their illegally earned money and unauthorised arms.
Begum Zia said all assets of the associates of Ershad should be attached as those belonged to the people. She said the party which ruled the country in 1972-75 was abolished with the introduction of BAKSAL, the one-party system. She said it was President Ziaur Rahman who had introduced the multi-party system in the country and this had given the abolished party the opportunity to emerge in the political scene again.
Begum Zia said there is another party which is misleading the people by seeking votes in the name of Allah. And just because of this, the party which had ruined the country during its regime would go to power and eliminate the name of Allah from the Constitution.
The BNP chief apprehended that if his party goes to power it will make the country a bottomless basket again.
Begum Zia said the sheaf of paddy was absent during the last nine years and because of this the curse of Allah was on the people. The flood of 1988 was a proof.

Essentials

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Retailers said that their sales declined by 30 to 40 per cent after the outbreak of the Gulf war. Md. Abu Taher, a grocer at Fadirapool, said that there was no panic-buying because of the war. Golam Mowla, another grocer at Shantinagar, told this correspondent that stocks were adequate in the wholesale markets but prices were rising due to hoarding by a section of dishonest traders.

Mortar attack

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Police said there had been an explosion in Whitehall, where most British ministries have their main offices, but did not confirm that mortars were involved.
A white Ford transit van was ablaze in the street near the Ministry of Defence. They reported hearing several explosions.
The sky reported quoted journalists and television technicians who had been near Number 10 Downing Street as saying they had heard several explosions.
One said he heard three explosions and then saw the van with its roof ripped off and ablaze.
A Labour Member of Parliament, Paul Flynn, was in his office overlooking Whitehall when the attack was carried out. He said on Sky he heard one long blast that could have been a series of explosions.
The word that it is a mortar has gone round very quickly and the first conclusion is that this is the work of Saddam Hussein," he said, referring to threats by the Iraqi leader to unleash terrorist attacks because of the Gulf war.
This is very much out of character with previous Irish Republican Army attacks on the Mainland," he added.
Irish guerrillas were responsible for a mortar attack today on the residence of Prime Minister Major, according to

sources at Scotland Yard police headquarters quoted by Britain's Press Association national news agency.
No one has so far claimed responsibility for the attack and Scotland Yard spokesmen would not immediately say whether the police were blaming the Irish Republican Army (IRA) for the action.
Outsiders blast bombs at DU Moitri hall
By Staff Correspondent
Some unidentified youths created panic at the Kuwait-Bangladesh Moitri Hall of the Dhaka University by exploding a number of cocktails and breaking some furniture on Wednesday night. None was, however, injured.
Hall sources said, argument between the female students of the hall and the outsiders led to the incidents. The youths sneaked into the compound when leaders of different hall unions of the university were coming to attend the installation ceremony of the Moitri Hall.
The installation ceremony, attended by the university Vice-Chancellor Prof. Moniruzzaman Mia, had to be cut short because of the untoward incidents.

Hasina

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any new one, she commented.
Speaking on various problems of Tongi the AL president, who is also the leader of the Eight Party Alliance said the AL government rehabilitated the homeless people of the area. But the post 75 governments acquired the lands for which prices were not paid, she alleged. AL, if voted to power will pay their just prices, she assured.
Sheikh Hasina urged people to vote for her party to restore people's basic rights and institutionalise democracy.

Menon

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politics of these party governments, he said while addressing a public meeting at Barisal under auzilla of Barisal district a party press release said in Dhaka.
Mr. Menon said future of democracy in the country could not be ensured unless the mistakes and wrongs of the past by the two parties were acknowledged and pledges to prevent recurrences were made.