

Dateline Chittagong

Repolling held peacefully

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Re-election in all the eleven centres under two constituencies - Chittagong-6 (Rauzan) and Chittagong-12 (Anwara) were held peacefully today Election Commission sources said.

Peaceful polling was also reported from all seven centres under Rauzan constituency. There was a little commotion at Purbo Guzara Primary School centre. Law enforcing agencies brought the situation under control with mild lathicharge when some unruly elements tried to disturb the voters. The law enforcing agencies and the local administration were always vigilant.

Two women allegedly committed suicide here late Thursday, night police said Friday. Swapan Dey (22), married to one Alamgir Hussain reportedly committed suicide by hanging herself from the ceiling of her residence at M-shipukur lane under Double Mooring Police Station. Dilu Akhtar (18), a maid servant was reported to have committed suicide inside a bath room of her employer's house at Chandgaon residential area. Her body was found hanging from the ceiling. Her employer Mrs Mahbuba Chowdhury, a widow, informed police when the maid did not come out of the bath room.



Prof. M. H. Khan, Vice-Chancellor, BUET, addressing a seminar on "Higher Education in Bangladesh: Its Problems and Solutions" organised by World University Service (WUS) on Thursday at BUET Seminar Room.

'Polls freest in 20-year history'

US considering to write off \$1.3b food debt

By Staff Correspondent

The US State Department has praised the democratic transition of Bangladesh and pointed to the unique challenges that Bangladesh may face in forming a Parliament and then holding a presidential election or changing the Constitution to allow a Parliamentary democracy as preferred by some parties.

democratic evolution in Bangladesh that compares favourably with last year's democratic change in the Eastern Europe. The elections, Mrs. Schaffer said, have been viewed by international observers, the press, the students and the diplomatic community as "the most free, fair and non-violent in the 20 year history of Bangladesh".

then holding presidential elections or changing the Constitution to allow for a parliamentary democracy as preferred by some parties. We look forward to working with the new government. She said US had actively promoted democracy in Bangladesh for many years. USAID-funded programmes have contributed to the process through voter education programmes and training of poll watchers and indigenous election observers.

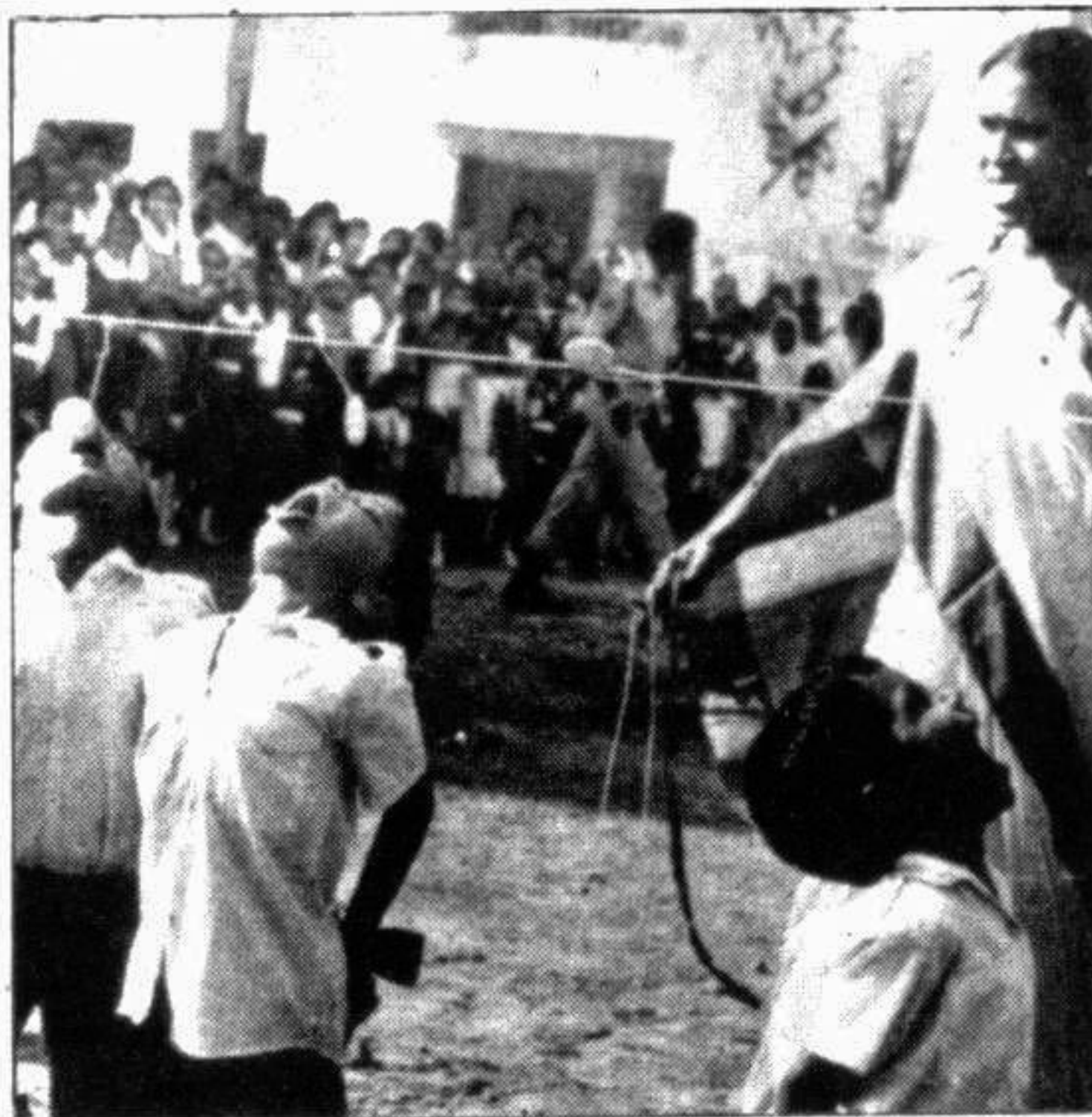
gladesh enjoys one of the largest US development assistance and PL 480 food and commodity assistance programmes totalling over 130 million dollars annually. She noted that because of Bangladesh's commitment to continue economic reforms and its efforts toward strengthening democratic pluralism, the administration has announced relief for Bangladesh's outstanding development assistance debt of 292 million US dollars during the current fiscal year.

The State Department said this at a hearing of the US House Sub-Committee on Asian-Pacific Affairs on March 7 in Washington. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Mrs. Teresita C. Schaffer in her testimony before the Sub-Committee compared the peaceful democratic evolution in Bangladesh with the democratic change in Eastern Europe.

The Deputy Assistant Secretary told the Sub-committee: "we consider this election to be only the beginning of Bangladesh's progress toward stronger democratic institutions, the next months will present the unique challenges of forming a parliament and

Mrs. Schaffer said that the United States had contributed over 3 billion US dollars to Bangladesh's development since its independence in 1971 and continues to be interested in its economic development. She said Bangladesh

She said US was satisfied with the government of Bangladesh's efforts to continue economic reform. She reported that last year's sharply falling foreign reserve had stabilized and that Bangladesh was again sticking to its IMF Enhanced Structural Adjustment Programme negotiated in August, 1990, in spite of the impact of higher oil prices last Fall, and lost remittances from workers in Kuwait and Iraq.



Biscuit race at the annual sports of Faridabad Bangladesh Bank Colony High School in city on Friday - Star photo

It was disclosed at the hearing that the US government is actively considering to waive \$1.3 billion dollar food debt of Bangladesh. The following is the transcript of the proceedings:- In his opening statement, the chairman of the Sub-Committee, Congressman Stephen J. Solarz noted that the people of Bangladesh participated "in what many reports to have been the freest and fairest elections in the country's 20 year history".

In his opening statement, the chairman of the Sub-Committee, Congressman Stephen J. Solarz noted that the people of Bangladesh participated "in what many reports to have been the freest and fairest elections in the country's 20 year history". He congratulated the people of Bangladesh for their efforts "on behalf of this remarkable political transition", and expressed the hope that the cooperation between political parties that brought about the tremendous changes would be continued in the weeks and months to come.

Congressman Solarz said that Bangladesh efforts to stick to difficult economic adjustment policies, combined with its commitment to a democratic transition, justify prompt debt relief. In reply to a question by the Congressman if USAID had given any consideration to forgiving PL 480 Title III food debt, which amounted to 1.3 billion US dollars, Assistant Administrator of USAID said that they were in favour of such forgiveness, but said it was up to USDA and the Treasury Department to take decision in this matter.

Congressman Solarz requested the Assistant Administrator to hold consultations with the two Departments and report back to the Sub-committee.

The members of the committee include, Dr M A Majid, Prof. M. A. Haq, Prof. Habibuzaman and Hussainuzaman Chowdhury. The meeting was presided over by Prof. S. F. Huq.

Cancer Society executives

The Annual General Meeting of the Bangladesh Cancer Society on Friday formed a 22-member Executive Committee for 1991-92 with Prof. Sayyid Fazlul Huq and Dr Samir Kumar Sarma as President, and General Secretary respectively, reports BSS.

Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam and Dr A. M. M. Khan were elected Vice-Presidents and Dr A. M. M. Sariful Alam was elected treasurer.

The members of the committee include, Dr M A Majid, Prof. M. A. Haq, Prof. Habibuzaman and Hussainuzaman Chowdhury.

The meeting was presided over by Prof. S. F. Huq.

Isale Sawab

"Isale Sawab" of Peer Kebla Shah Sufi al-fakim Hazrat Moulana Mohammad Nazmus Saqib Siddiqui Al-Quraishi of Fur Fura will be held on March 14 and 15 at Bejardanga, Khulna, reports BSS.

All disciples and followers of huzur kebla of Fur Fura have been requested to attend the Isale Sawab.

Perez lauds Dhaka's role in Gulf truce

The United Nations has highly lauded Bangladesh's contribution in supervising the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran that marked the end of an eight-year war between the two fraternal countries in 1988, reports UNB.

In a message sent to Adviser on Foreign Affairs Fakhruddin Ahmed recently, the UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar appreciated the "remarkable contribution by Bangladesh military personnel in maintaining the truce under the UNIMOG". He particularly mentioned the name of "Brigadier-General S Anam Khan who exercised command as Acting Military Observer during the last months of the operation".

He further praised the dedication and professionalism he has widely and deservedly praised. Cuellar said. Greeting Bangladesh's troops for displaying efficiency in discharging their tasks, the UN Secretary General said "they have earned the lasting gratitude of the international community and of all of us at the United Nations."

Mustafiz alleges AL hooliganism

BNP Standing Committee member and MP-elect ASM Mustafizur Rahman Saturday protested what he said the hooliganism of Awami League activists in Bagerhat district, reports UNB.

In a statement, he alleged the Awami hoodlums were carrying out armed attacks on BNP workers and supporters in different areas of Mollahat, Fakirhat and Chitalmari in the district. Mustafiz said the "armed" elements had also raided the houses of BNP men and beat them. The house of a former MP, Syed Muzahidur Rahman, was attacked.

He further blamed Awami League for issuing "misleading statements in newspapers and filing false cases against the BNP workers to hide their own misdeeds".

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THE DAILY STAR

GOVT. OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER LOCAL GOVT. ENGINEERING BUREAU, BARISAL TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from prequalified contractor/firm of Flood Rehabilitation Project under LGEB in Bangladesh form No.2911 for execution of the following works. Tenders will be received upto 12.00 hours on 19.3.91/Chaitra 4, 1397 in the Tender Box kept at the office of the undersigned, Project Director, Flood Rehabilitation Project, 4/5 Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207, Executive Engineer, LGEB, in the district of Jhalokathi/Perojpur/Patuaekhali and Bhola. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:15 hours in presence of tenderers or their authorised representatives (if any present).

Table with 5 columns: Sl.No., Name of work, Estimated cost, Earnest money, Price of Tender Schedule, Time Allowed. It lists two items: 1. Development of H.B.B. work on Kalijira-Chandipur Road from Kalijira Bridge under Barisal Sadar Upazilla, (Group No. 1) and 2. Do - Do - (Group No.2).

Tender schedule may be purchased on payment of the quoted amount (non-refundable) during office hours at the office of the undersigned, Project Director, Flood Rehabilitation Project, 4/5 Lalmatia, Block-B, Dhaka-1207, Executive Engineer, LGEB, Bhola, Jhalokathi, Patuaekhali & Perojpur district.

No tender document will be sold on the date of its opening. All other terms & conditions may be obtained everyday during office hours at the office of the undersigned before the opening date.

(Md. Makbul Hossain) Executive Engineer Local Govt. Engineering Bureau, Barisal.

DFF (G) 2667-7/3 G-05

Dateline Khulna

Post-election terrorism alleged

From Syed Isa

KHULNA, Mar 9: Khulna District and City Units of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the local unit of the All Party Students Unity (APSU) in separate meetings held here recently strongly condemned post-election terrorism at different places of the city.

In an extended meeting of the City Unit the BNP leaders mentioned that identified terrorists nourished under Ershad regime were indulging themselves in anti-social activities like physical assault on BNP workers and extorting money from traders. Presided over by M. Nurul Islam, President of City BNP, the speakers condemned such heinous activities and called upon the law enforcing agencies to bring the culprits to book.

APSU

The local leaders of the All Party Students Unity (APSU) in a meeting held at Jatiya Chhatra League Office observed that the hoodlums of the city who were given political shelter in the past regime were again active in different areas of the city. Presided over by Shamim

Reza, President of the City Unit of the Jatiya Chhatra League the meeting was addressed, among others, by Ruhul Azim Rumi, Rafiqur Rahman Ripon, Jamaluddin Baccu, Golam Mostafa, Binoy Kumar Kundu, Ismail Hossain and Sarwar Ahmed Kazal. The student leaders called upon the concerned authorities to take immediate action against anti-social elements.

AL allegation resented

Khulna District and City BNP leaders have resented the Awami League allegation against BNP for creating terror in the city in the post-election days. The Awami League leaders earlier in a press conference held in their office premises on March 5 alleged that the BNP activists were creating panic among the peace loving people of the city by resorting to assault and burning of the offices and election symbols of the party and looted away the property of Awami League supporters at many places mainly of the minority community.

The BNP leaders in the statement on Wednesday refuted the allegation as baseless.

malicious and contrary to real happenings.

The BNP leaders said that the Awami League activists resorted to terrorism and hurled bombs on the BNP voters at many city election centres on Feb 27 which were brought to the notice of the local police but to no effect.

The BNP leaders urged upon the Awami League leaders not to disturb social peace by issuing such mala fide statements.

Shibir protests bomb attack

A protest rally was held here on Wednesday in the Islamic Chhatra Shibir Office to protest the bomb attack on their office by a group of miscreants on Tuesday night. The rally was presided by City Unit President of the organisation Shakh Quamrul Alam.

The speakers condemned the attack and held that political party responsible who could not swallow the overwhelming victory of the nationalistic forces in the recent election. Later a protest procession was brought out which paraded the main city streets.

Plea to help transfer power to BNP

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Gonotantrik Peshajibi Forum (GPF) here today called upon all political parties and other organisations to extend their whole-hearted cooperation to the caretaker government for speedy transfer of power to the political party which has won majority seats in the elections, a GPF press release said, reports BSS.

A meeting of the GPF executive committee held at its temporary office at Bar Association Building here with Senior Vice President Dr. Muhammad Mahbubullah in the chair observed that some vested group was active to negate the verdict of the people through conspiracy. The delay in transferring power to the party having majority seats has been a matter of concern of the people, it said.

Iranian, ROK envoys meet Khaleda

Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Ganji Doost and South Korean Ambassador in Bangladesh Jaichun Lee on Saturday called on BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her Cantonment residence, reports UNB.

During the separate meetings, party sources said, they congratulated Begum Zia on her party's victory in the fifth parliamentary election. They discussed matters of mutual interests and different international issues.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by GPF Secretary General Advocate Abdus Salam Mamun, Prof Yusuf Shari Ahmed Khan, Advocate Nusratuddin and Mr. M.A. Hasan Baki.

Two lawyers join BNP

Two senior lawyers of the Supreme Court Thursday joined BNP, expressing their solidarity with its ideals and policies, party sources said, reports UNB. The newcomers are Advocate Musharrif Hossain Khan and Monzem Hossain.

No scope for controversy over form of govt

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Former Jatiya Sangsad member and Ambassador, Barrister Mahbubul Kabir Chowdhury on Saturday said that there was no scope for raising controversy over the form of government as none of the winning political parties had got absolute majority in the February 27 elections, reports BSS.

In a statement here, he pointed out that it was the responsibility of the future parliament to decide upon the issue. He said that he task of the caretaker government was now to handover power to the party which has got majority seats in the election.

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