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VOL. 1 NO. 55 REGD. NO. DA 781

FALGUN 27, 1397 BS,

DHAKA TUESDAY MARCH 12, 1991

SHABAN 24, 1411 HIJRI

10 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 3.00

Inside today

Feature

Development



During his visit to Dhaka last week SAMS Kibria, the Executive Secretary of ESCAP, was interviewed by The Daily Star. Details on Page 6 and Editorial Page 4

International

Kurdish guerillas said Saddam's regime is crumbling as thousands of Iraqi soldiers join rebel forces which are threatening to storm the capital of oil-rich Kirkuk province Page 5

Article

A Setback for Thai Democracy

The Third View by Mahfuz Anam Page 4

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day By Day



"Through the eyes alone you can express the totality of life," says dancer Seena Mahapatra as she talks about the performance by Fayza Haq

Counterfeit currency

Forged 500-taka notes have been produced so neatly that people can easily be deceived. Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Ozal-Gorbachev hold talks

MOSCOW, Mar 11: Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the first Turkish head of state to visit the Soviet Union in 22 years, was greeted Monday in the Kremlin's formal Catherine Hall by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and his wife, Raisa.

OPEC ministers meet

GENEVA, Mar 11: Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) sat down today without their Iraqi colleague for what looked like difficult talks on post Gulf war crude oil prices and production levels, reports AFP.

Kerekov trailing

CÔT'D'IVOIRE (Benin), Mar 11: Benin's President Mathieu Kerekov, a dictator who could be the first African President unseated at the polls trailed by 10 percentage points Monday in partial election results but appeared headed for a runoff.

Iraqi denial

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 11: Iraq's UN mission circulated a press statement today denying allegations that its government had used or intended using chemical weapons on its own territory, reports Reuters.

CEC to conduct oath to MPs March 17, 18, 19

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf will administer oath to the newly elected members of parliament on March 17, 18 and 19, according to an official announcement on Monday.

He has been designated by Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury to conduct the ceremony.

The major political parties refused to take oath from the outgoing Speaker.

According to Rules of Procedure, if the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker are unable to administer oath, the Speaker can designate a person to perform the duty on his behalf.

The selection of a person by the Speaker delayed the oath-taking for a few days. He first designated the Acting Chief Justice who expressed his in-

ability to administer the swearing-in ceremony due to his pre-occupation in the Supreme Court.

The Chief Election Commissioner was approached on Monday and he agreed to administer oath.

BSS adds: The Chief Election Commissioner will administer the oath at Committee Room No 1 in east block of Sangsad Bhaban at Sher-e-Banglanagar.

Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury has designated the Chief Election Commissioner under Rule (2) of Article 148 of the Constitution to administer the oath.

Duplicate invitation letters for oath taking have been sent to the addresses of the newly elected Sangsad (Parliament) members. However, the origi-

nal invitation letters will be kept at the reception and the security room in the Sangsad Bhaban due to shortage of time and for ensuring its receipt.

Sangsad members have been requested to collect the invitation letters for taking oath and attend the oath-taking function at the specified time. For collecting invitation letter every Sangsad member has to bring an identity letter from the concerned returning officer or from his party leader.

Attention of all those members who have been elected from more than one constituency has been drawn to Article 71 of the Constitution. Under this article a Sangsad member elected from more than one constituency will See Page 10 Col 1



Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and leader of Jamaat PP Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami called on Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed at President's Secretariat on Monday. —PID

Jamaat lends support to BNP to form government

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami has lent total support to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to form what it called a stable government.

The Jamaat support has given the BNP a comfortable lead in parliament as it adds 18 votes to the BNP's 138 out of 180.

The decision was conveyed to the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday in a letter of the Acting Amier of the Jamaat Abbas Ali Khan, Maulana Mottur Rahman Nizami, leader of the Jamaat Parliamentary Party, handed over the letter to the Acting President. BNP leaders Saifur Rahman and Abdul Matin Chowdhury and the Jamaat

leader Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mujahid were present during Nizami's meeting with the Acting President. A copy of another letter addressed to the Secretary General of the BNP extending the support was also handed over to the Acting President.

In his letter to the Acting President the Jamaat Acting Amier said his party 'in parliament would fully cooperate with and support the BNP Parliamentary Party in the formation of a stable government.'

The Jamaat support came in the wake of the Awami League and Jatiya Party threats against transferring power to the BNP, the majority party in

Parliament. Awami League won 88 seats followed by Jatiya party 35 in February 27 parliamentary polls.

CPB and BKSAL won five each, Ganatantri Party, Islami Oikya Jote and NDP got one each and Independents-three.

Reciprocating the Jamaat gesture the Acting President, BSS said, reminded him and others present that the first phase of the struggle for democracy was over. But, he said, there are something more to complete the victory.

The Acting President expressed the hope that all MPs elect would work towards that direction.

Awami League leaders and See Page 10 Col 8

Hasina's new demand surprises proponents

By Moinuddin Naser

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's insistence on repealing the 4th to 10th Amendments to the Constitution has surprised the supporters of a parliamentary form of government.

The proponents of a parliamentary form of government strongly feel that Sheikh Hasina's demand is a new element in the Joint Declaration by the three alliances.

Leaders of various political parties told the Daily Star that the demand for a parliamentary form of government must not be tagged to any other de-

See Page 10 Col 2

Hidden treasure of Raushan Ershad

Star Report

Some bank lockers maintained by Raushan Ershad, wife of the deposed President, are yet to be detected. Valuable documents and ornaments are believed to have been kept in the lockers.

One such locker has been detected in the Sheraton Hotel branch of Agrani Bank. Raushan has been maintaining it since 1982 and is believed to have deposited many ornaments and documents. She has not paid any rent for the locker since then.

Banking circles say no instructions have been given to the banks to freeze Ershad's accounts and to seize the lockers maintained by Raushan Ershad.

The source said the discovery of other lockers and accounts maintained by the deposed President and his wife in other banks could lead to important clues to the corruption cases against them.

Ershad and his wife are now interned in a posh house at Gulshan.

Nomination rejected

A proposal for nominating Begum Raushan Ershad in the by-election in one of the seats of Rangpur to be vacated by Ershad was turned down at a meeting of Jatiya Party Parliamentary Party Friday.

According to party insiders, the proposal was made See Page 10 Col 1



Language Movement hero dead

By Staff Correspondent

Principal Abul Quasem, a hero of the great Language Movement, died on Monday morning.

His dead body will be kept at the Bangla Academy premises today (Tuesday) from 9 am to 12 am to enable people to show last respects.

Principal Quasem was born on June 20, 1920 in village Sebundi Barama under Chandernagore upazila in Chittagong.

He did his M.Sc. in Physics from Dhaka University in 1945 and got a First Class first in 1946, he was appointed lecturer in Physics in Dhaka University.

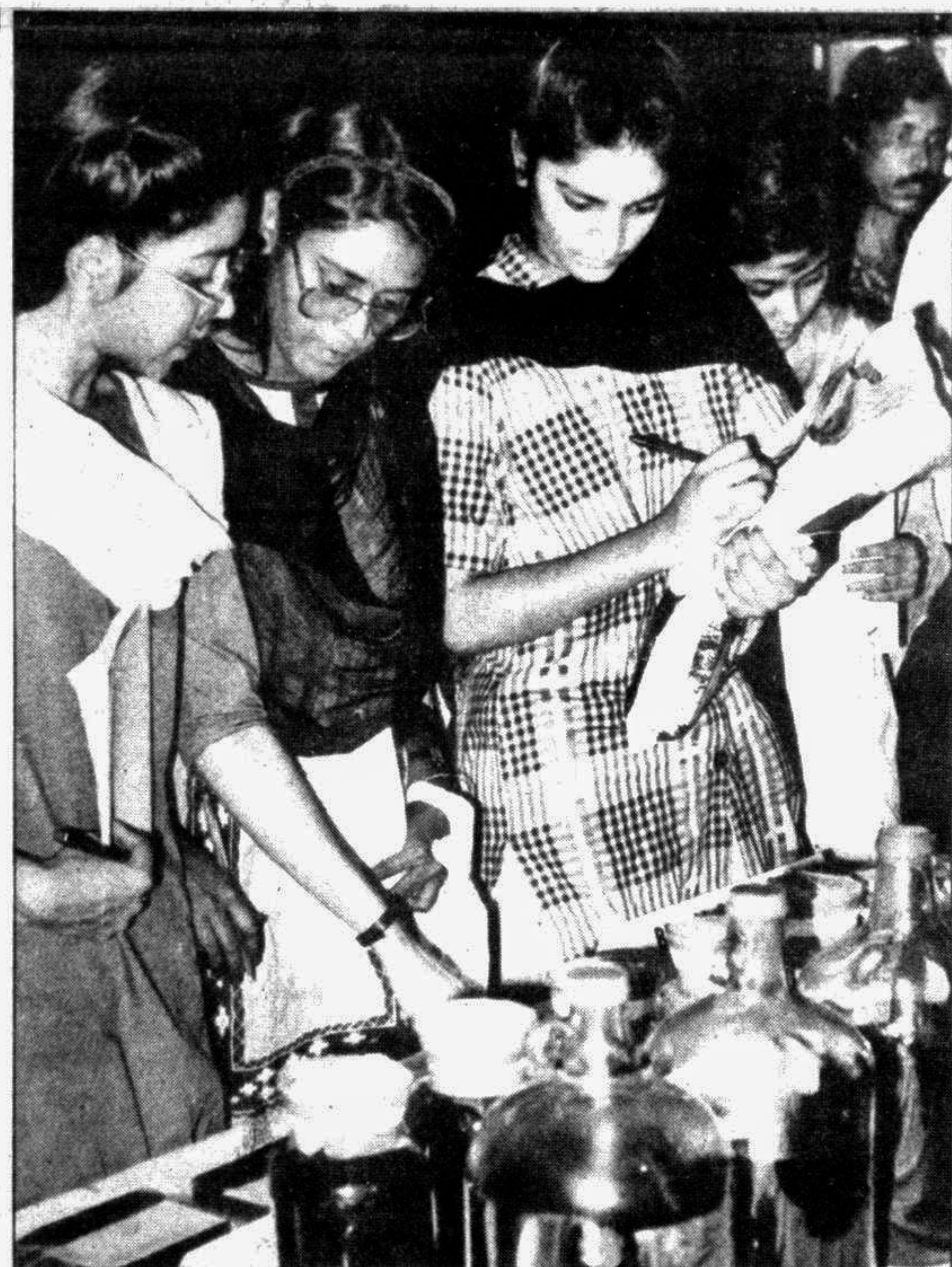
See Page 10 Col 7

Syed Abdus Sultan dies

Literateur Syed Abdus Sultan, who was the first High Commissioner of Bangladesh in London, died of old age ailments in the city Monday morning. He was 74, reports BSS.

A senior advocate, Syed Abdus Sultan was elected to the former National Assembly of Pakistan from greater Mymensingh district as an Awami League candidate.

See Page 10 Col 1



Visitors at an indigenous chemical products exhibition organised by BSCIC in the city Monday. Report on Business Page. —Star photo

Women MPs to be elected by secret ballot

The Acting President by an ordinance recently has amended the Representation of the People (Seats for Women Members) Order, 1973 restoring earlier provision that would prevent the package-election of 30 members in the Jatiya Sangsad reserved seats for women, reports BSS.

As the Sangsad now stands dissolved the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed by exercising his ordinance making power promulgated the Representation of the People (Seats for Women Members) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1991, according to a Gazette published on February 25.

Former President H. M. Ershad in an ordinance (July 3, 1986) had amended the 1973 presidential order providing for package election of 30 women members in the reserved seats without any physical election. Under the previous See Page 10 Col 5

NAP call for transfer of power

The National Awami Party Monday urged all parties to establish a sovereign parliament and hasten the process of transfer of power, reports BSS.

Professor Muzaffar Ahmed and Mr Pankaj Bhattacharya, President and General Secretary respectively, in a statement said they were watching with concern the current political scenario after elections.

They urged the three alliances to work for establishment of an answerable parliament and institutionalise democracy.

AL has roots deep in people's minds: Hasina

TUNGIBARI (MUNSHIGANJ), Mar 11: The chief of Awami League and leader of the Eight-Party Alliance Sheikh Hasina today said she wanted to establish Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib's dream of an exploitation-free society in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing a huge public meeting at the upazila maidsan here this evening she said undisputed Bengali leader waged relentless struggle throughout his life for the cause of commonman.

She said Bangladesh suffered a long imprisonment for bringing smiles on faces of the teeming millions and spilled blood for the establishment of their rights.

Presided over by a former MP and Munshiganj district Awami League President Abdul Karim Bepari, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the Agriculture Secretary of Awami League Begum Matia Chowdhury, the Awami League nominee for the Munshiganj-3 constituency Advocate M. A. Muktadir, Mohiuddin Ahmed who contested February 27 polls AL ticket from Munshiganj-4 seat, the organising secretary of Munshiganj district Awami League Lutfor Rahman and Sabbir Hossain Sagar, a Chhatra League leader. The president of the United States Branch of Awami League, Nurul Islam Anu and See Page 10 Col 6

Dhaka left out of regional groupings

Star Special

The Executive Secretary of ESCAP has alerted Bangladesh and other South Asian countries of the adverse consequences on their economies for being 'left out' of new regional groupings now planned under two different initiatives of Australia and Malaysia.

During an exclusive interview last week to The Daily Star, the UN official, the Bangladesh-born S. A. M. S. Kibria revealed that he has expressed his concern to officials in China, India and Bangladesh and has talked to the Australian Foreign Minister, Senator Gareth Evans on Canberra's initiative.

They urged the three alliances to work for establishment of an answerable parliament and institutionalise democracy.

they are being simply bypassed, ignored and left out," he said.

Asked what the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) could do to help South Asia in this regard, Kibria disclosed that a proposal would be coming up before the Commission's annual meeting in Seoul next month to set a Standing Committee for Regional Co-operation, with sharply defined focus on trade, investment and transfer of technology. This new mechanism would pay special attention to the needs of South Asia, especially of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and of the disadvantaged Pacific island states, he

See Page 10 Col 7

Rebels' move for democratic federal Iraq

NICOSIA, Mar 11: Iraq's Shi'ite rebels reported fierce fighting in the holy city of Karbala on Monday and said 500 people have been killed or wounded in shelling by Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard tanks, reports Agencies.

Official sources in Baghdad said Saddam's Republican Guard troops reestablished control of Karbala on Monday. Kurdish guerillas battling

in the mountainous north claimed that the oil center of Kirkuk will soon fall and reported they have seized more territory after 10 days of fighting.

Meanwhile, the opposition was coordinating efforts at a meeting in Lebanon. Delegates said a democratic, federal Iraq was the common goal of communists, Arab nationalists, Shi'ite fundamentalists and

liberals united in opposition to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Opposition sources said that near the capital of Baghdad some 8,000 pro-Saddam troops and ruling Baath Party militants have sealed off large sections of suburban Saddam City held by rebels.

Travellers fleeing Iraq said in telephone interviews that the troops, including Repub-

lican Guard units, were shelling a Baghdad neighborhood and helicopter gunships were strafing the streets and buildings.

The travelers said the Al-Thawra neighborhood and other predominantly Shi'ite quarters have been under a curfew since anti-Saddam protests broke out last week, after Iraq lost the six-week Gulf war and withdrew from

Kuwait.

Shi'ite and Kurdish sources also reported widespread defections by Saddam's forces in both battle zones.

There was no independent confirmation of the opposition reports. Foreign journalists were expelled from Iraq on Friday and Saturday.

The violence flared when the bodies of hundreds of soldiers, killed in the war against

a US-led coalition, returned to their families for burial. The state-run media had proclaimed that Iraq had won the war.

Opposition sources contend that thousands of people have been killed since the insurrection began March 1 in the port city of Basra. It is the most serious challenge to Saddam's rule since he took power in See Page 10 Col 3

12 Foreign Ministry officers promoted

By Staff Correspondent

The government has promoted 12 high ranking officers of Foreign Ministry. Of them two additional Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman and Bangladesh Ambassador to Moscow Mustafizur Rahman were promoted to the rank of secretary.

See Page 10 Col 4