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Specialisation Adds a

Lot More to Journalism

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NEWS BRIEFS

20 hurt as bus,

truck collide

least 20 people were injured

several critically, when a bus

and a truck collided head-on

near village Kamaura on the

Dhaka-Sylhet highway today

Police and doctors said two of

the injured were shifted to

Dhaka in critical condition

from the Sadar Hospital. The

rest of the injured, including

the driver, were rushed to the

Sadar Hospital after the acci

dent this morning, reports

Ashuganj police.

A case was filed with

BCS promotion

exam Feb 24, 25

of Bangladesh Ctvil Service (BCS) officials to senior scale

will be held February 24 and 25 in Dhaka Chittagong,

Rajshahi and Khulna Time

table of the examination and

seat arrangements will be pub

lished soon in newspapers Admit cards for the examinees

will be mailed to their respec-

Policeman stabbed

to death in Magura

man was stabbed to death an

miscreants riding a rickshaw

van, reports UNB.

MAGURA, Feb 4. A police

tive addresses, reports UNB

Examination for promotion

BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 4: At

VOL. III NO. 23 REGD. NO. DA 781

MAGH 23, 1399 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1993

Treasury bench rejects Opposition claim of manipulation

AL walks out over Mirpur poll results

a Rejoinder Column: Window on Asia

by Shahed Latif The Awami League members vesterday staged a brief Page 4 walkout, following a prolonged unscheduled debate, from the International Jatiya Sangsad protesting,

what they termed as, the "ruling party manipulation" of the Mirpur by-election results. The AL members also demanded re-polling in a number of centres in which, they alleged, their polling agents

> During the unscheduled debate on Private Members Day, which lasted for well over an hour, the opposition members charged the ruling BNP of interfering with the work of the Election Commission (EC) to manipulate the by-election

ficial copies of the tabulating

results. However, Treasury bench members refuted the charges saying that none of the AL leaders present or their polling agents voiced "any objections whatsoever" during the tabulation of the results at the Election Control Room in

Mirpur on polling night. Throughout the lengthy discussions on the subject, Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali was reluctant to allow the debate to continue. "The Election Commission is a constitutional

By Staff Correspondent

body which will look into the allegations, so is there any use in going for an unscheduled

Demanding the re-polling and to register a "strong protest", Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina announced the walkout for "five minutes" at 8.45 pm. Ganotantri Party member Suranjit Sengupta also

Alleging government "inter-

Hasina wondered why the poll results were stopped from being sent to the EC after tabulations of 78 centres were completed. "We do not have any complaint about these 78

sition claimed that the result tampering was proven by the fact that "five different types" of results were released. "It was nothing but a media.

coup or else how could they announce the results, after counting in only 78 centres were completed, through a private organisation quoting Sugandha."

city tomorrow, countrywide Wednesday

. AL calls hartal in

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League has called hartal on Saturday and Wednesday next to protest alleged manipulation of election results and police harassment during Wednesday's Jatiya Sangsad by-election in Mirpur.

The six-hour hartal would be observed in Dhaka from 6 am Saturday while eight-hour nationwide hartal until 2 pm will be enforced on Wednesday, AL Chief Whip in the Parliament Mohammad Nasim announced Thursday at a press briefing.

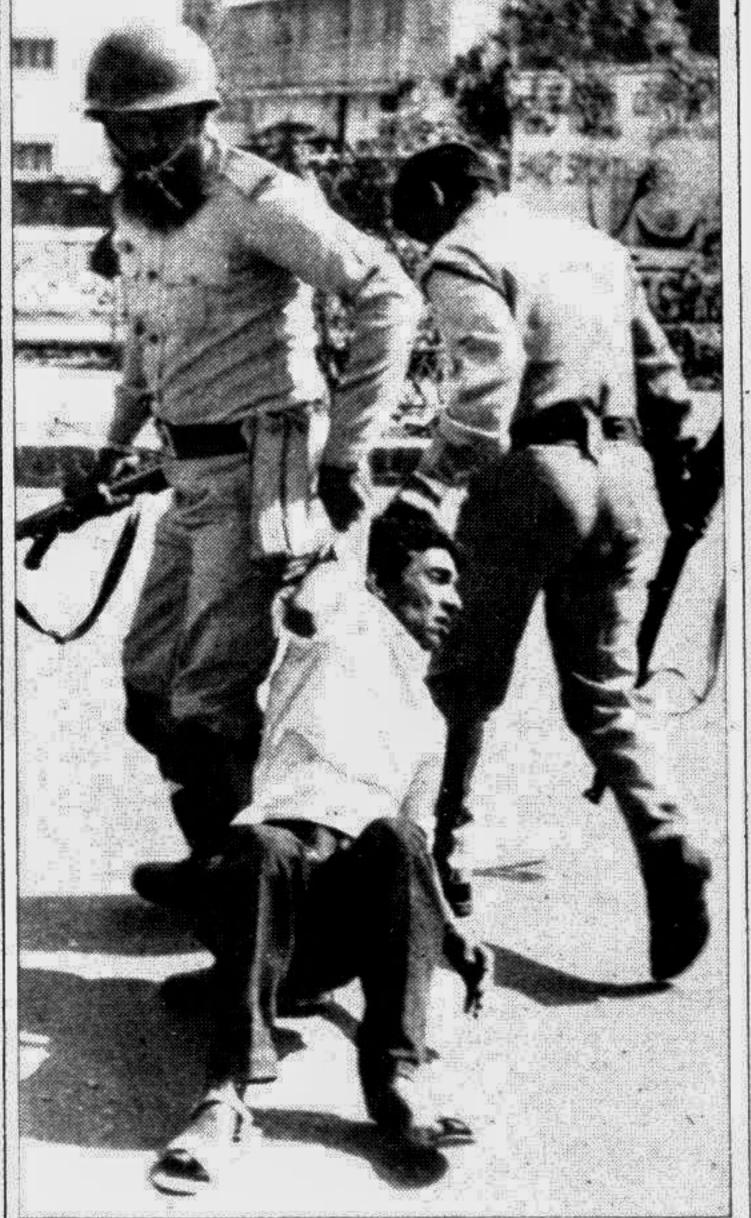
The Mirpur chapter of the AL has, however, called a Sec Page 12 Col 6

AL submits 17-point complaint with EC

by Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Thursday filed a formal complaint with the Election Commission alleging a number of "trregularities" during the Mirpur (Dhaka-11) by-election on Wednesday.

KM Jahangir, the chief election agent of the AL candidate Kamal Majumder submitted a 17-point complaint to the office of the Chief Election Commissioner in the afternoon immediately after the announcement of the result by See Page 12 Col 8



SHABAN 12, 1413 HIJRI

Police dragging away a protester in Mirpur yesterday.

Clashes reign Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent The Mirpur Awami League

Sporadic clashes between the Awami League (AL) and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) supporters and between Al workers and police yesterday kept the city's Mirpur area tense and left a number of people injured.

The clashes began in the wake of an AL hartal in Mirpur to protest what it said rigging in by-election in the constituency a day earlier when score others were also injured in post-poll violence.

AL candidate in the Mirpur by-election Kamal Ahmed Majumdar at a press briefing vesterday evening claimed that at least 100 people were injured in fresh clashes. Police also arrested 40 AL activists. he added.

has also called a series of halfday hartals from Saturday through Thursday excepting the Shab-e-Barat day.

Yesterday, first clash took place as early as 7 am as transport workers tried to bring out their vehicles in the face of AL resistance.

Another clash followed at 8 am in Pallabi area between the BNP and AL supporters. One person was injured in bomb blast here. Witnesses also reported hearing gunshots during the clash.

Police lathicharged the picketeers who put up barricade on the main road in Section 11 at 9 am and rounded up 20.

.JCD activist shot dead in Mirpur

By Staff Correspondent

Mohammad Asad (22), a JCD activist of Mirpur Bangla College was allegedly murdered by unidentified gunmen Thursday.

According to the deceased's family source, he was murdered by gunmen around 9-30 am vesterday at Section No 6 in Mirpur. (He received bullet wounds in his abdomen, wit nesses said.

Asad was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

While contacted, Mirpur police failed to give details of the incident

Shantibahini kidnaps 4

CHITTAGONG, Feb 4: The outlawed Shantibahini terror ists kidnapped four Bangalis from Nayapara, Kaptai, under Rangamati Hill District last night, reports BSS

Huda hails AL for 'better performance'

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda yesterday reiterated government's sincerity for giving democracy an institutional shape, reports

Participating in an unscheduled debate on Wednesday's announcement of unofficial results of Mirpur-byelections, the information Minister congratulated the opposition Awami League for their better performance in the by-election belying his firm belief that Awami League would be defeated by 25,000 votes.

Barrister Huda also congratulated the people of Mirpur for supporting BNP candidate in the election for carrying forward the positive politics of BNP.

Referring to the allegation of the opposition about the results announced by radio and TV. the Information Minister said that he himself and also the government had never tried to interfere with the me-

CID takes over case

Rahman on remand again

By Court Correspondent A Deputy Director of Geological Survey Department, Khandker SM Habibur Rahman and a businessman Nuruzzaman Munna arrested in connection with smuggling state documents to a neighbouring country were taken on two-day police remand Thursday for further question-

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday rejected the bail petitions on behalf of the accused persons and granted the police remand.

The case was handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) from the Special Branch (SB) of police yesterday.

Both the arrested persons were charged under the Official Secret Act, 1993. The case was lodged with Ramna Police Station.

Advocate Shamsul Islam and Advocate Noor Mohammad appeared on behalf of the accused persons yesterday.

Pak NA pledges continued support to Kashmiris ISLAMABAD, Feb 4: Pak-

istan's National Assembly pledged continued support to the Kashmiri "self-determination" struggle, in a resolution adopted unanimously here today, reports AFP. The resolution, moved by

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Amir Hussain, condemned what it called indian "brutalities" on Kashmiris appealing to the civilized world to side with the "oppressed" people.

An influential fundamentalist party, the Jamaat-e-Islami, has called for the observance of a nationwide day of solidarity Friday with the three-year old Muslim revolt in Indian-

controlled Kashmir. More than 9,000 people have died during the ongoing insurgency blamed by India on Pakistan, which says it only extends moral support to a "legitimate" struggle for "self-

Arjun Singh quits cabinet body on Babri Mosque

determination.

NEW DELHI, Feb 4: A top Indian minister has quit a cabinet committee probing the razing of the Babri Mosque, amid mounting dissidence in the ruling party against Premier PV Narasimha Rao, an aide said today.

Human Resource Development Minister Arjun Singh, long seen as an aspirant for the Prime Minister's office. stepped down on Tuesday during a meeting here, stunning two other ministers and offi-

cials, one of his aides said. Ariun Singh resigned after another minister disagreed with his criticism of Rao's role ahead of the December 6 demolition of the ancient mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu zealots,

the aide said. The minister has told the PM that he cannot continue

with the committee," the officials added

IFC chief due today

By Staff Correspondent Sir William Ryrie, Chief Executive of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), ar-

rives in Dhaka, Friday on a five-

day visit to Bangladesh. During stay, the IPC Chief is scheduled to call on the Prime Minister, Energy and Telecommunication Ministers, meet top business leaders and high

government officials. He is also expected to visit the Chittagong Export Processing Zone, the Bata Shoc Factory and three textile

Sir Ryrie's visit is focused

on IFC's willingness to pursue investment opportunities in Bangladesh. IFC's Asia Department

Director Varel Freeman, acting Chief of IFC's South Asia Regional Mission Antonio David and IFC-Asia Investment Officer Deepak Khanna will accompany the IFC Chief.

IFC is a member of the World Bank group and is mandated to stimulate the growth of emerging economies through financing of private business in developing coun-

joined in the walkout. were not provided with the of-

ference and infringement on the authority of the EC, Hasina alleged that the results of some centres were "tampered" with.

The Leader of the Oppo-

She went on to ask, "Why were the results given first to

outsiders, the intelligence agents, before being sent to the EC?" She also alleged that Dhaka

Metropolitan Police Commissioner Raqibul Huda, whom he termed as "infamous," entered the Election Control Room and spent sometime with the assistant returning officer behind closed doors. "Under whose authority did

he (Huda) enter the Control Room? What did they discuss behind closed doors? What if we say that extra ballots were placed during that time?"

Terming it a "horrendous" incident, Hasina charged that it a "pre- conceived" plan to tamper with the by-poll results. Lamenting that the ruling party did not really have to resort to such "misuse of power," Hasina said "BNP would not have lost power if they had lost this seat nor would any other party have come to power by winning it."

Majid- ul- Hoque, the Irrigation Minister and Acting Deputy Leader of the House, while commenting on the opposition claim that the Mirpur by- election was not a fair one, said that the opposition was virtually trying to tarnish the neutral image of the Election

Sec Page 12 Col 3



War of words: Leaders of the ruling and the opposition parties at the Returning Officer's room yesterday.

EC tally: BNP 80127, AL 77535

Mohsin elected officially

Syed Mohammad Mohsin of the ruling BNP was yesterday declared officially elected in Wednesday's by election to the Dhaka-11 (Mirpur) vacant seat

of Parliament Announcing the official results at his temporary office in the Dhaka Court Building, the Returning Officer Badiur Rahman said Mohsin won the byelection securing 80,127 votes against 77,535 ballots polled by his nearest rival Kamal Ahmed Majumder of Awami

According to an earlier unofficial results given by the Election Commission, Mohsin bagged 93,797 votes while Kamal secured 90.684

When asked about the difference. Badtur Rahman who is also the Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka informed the newsmen that the number of ballots polled by both the leading candidates was higher in the primary counting as one

By Staff Correspondent result sheet was mistakenly counted twice.

During the announcement of the official results in the af ternoon, the Assistant Returning Officer Abu Solaiman Chowdhury (The Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka), MPs of the ruling party, high officials of the Election Commission and journalists representing various newspapers and news agencies were present. Some MPs and leaders of AL who also attended the occasion later boycotted it after their heated debate with the BNP MPs and the Election Commission offi cials over the submission of a complaint on, what they said,

manipulation of the election A noisy scene occurred when the Returning Officer declined to receive the petition from KM Jagangir MP, Chief Election Agent of the Al. candidate before announcement of the results. At one stage. Jahangir and Mirza Abbas were heard exchanging

Jahangir and his party colleagues left the complaint on the table before the Returning Officer and walked out. Jahangir was followed by

Mohammad Selim On the other side to receive

(Retd) Kamrul Islam, MP. Replying to a question the Returning Officer Badiur Rahman denied supplying the total results to the news agency as quoted by the Bangladesh Television (BTV) in

several other Awami League leaders, including Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, KS Nabi and Dr

the official results of the much-talked-about by-election were among others Mohsin's Chief Election Agent Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation Mirza Abbas, MP and Major

iis 10 O'clock news bulletin Sec Page 12 Col 7

Five different results Star Report

- Star photo

Five different results of the Mirpur by poll were available so far including the one announced by the Returning Officer Thursday.

According to the Returning Officer, the BNP candidate Syed Mohammad Mohsin bagged 80,127 votes while his closest competitor AL candidate Kamal Ahmed Majumder got 77.535 votes. The first result was an

nounced by the private UNB news agency Wednesday at 9.17 pm that said that the BNP man secured 79,695 votes as against 75,892 of the AL can-

A BSS story creeded half an hour later gave the same re

Th Election Commission Public Relation Officer Wed nesday midnight phoned a number of newspapers to say that the BNP nominee got 93,797 votes and AL Candidate bagged 90,684 votes. But it was not announced by the commission officially See Page 12 Col 8

5 countries to evacuate diplomats from Kabul as fighting on now contemplating a total the street in front of the NEW DELHI, Feb 4: China ing made to try to evacuate the

India, Indonesia, Pakistan and Turkey have decided to evacu ate their diplomats from Kabul because of fighting between government and rebel forces, an Indian spokesman said here today reports AFP.

Commission (embassy) as tem

porary, saying plans were be-

mission chief and his 17member staff The heads of the five mis

sions met earlier today and decided to close down tem porarily, the spokesman said In the Alghan capital

diplomats said today that rep resentatives from the nine remaining foreign missions in the beleaguered city met daily to assess the uncertain security situation.

daily rocket bombardment which has not let up since early January, all embassies have already cut back on nonessential staff, and most are pullout, the sources said before the Indian announcement "We are virtually confined

within the perceived security of our embassy compounds. said one Asian diplomat Within the last week, the

Pakistan, Indian, Chinesc, Tur Wednesday The other missi Liberation Organisation. One juntor indian staffer

was killed Tuesday, the same

day another rocket landed in

Pakistan embassy, and blew in most of the facing windows. Pakistan said Wednesday

that around a dozen non es sential diplomatic personnel were being evacuated from its mission in Kabul, but added that a skeleton staff would stay Some commercial flights are still functioning out of

be taken via Tashkent, the Indian spokesman said. He did not disclose details of the evacuation plans of the missions named. Some of the resident expatriates still have families in strife-torn Kabul.

Kabu! while a land route could

Rohingya repatriation

US refugee body hails govt decision Star Report

A powerful US lobby group

for refugees has lauded the government decision to allow UNHCR to interview the re turning Rohingya refugees in the recently resumed repatria tion process. In a letter addressed to

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, on February 3. the US Committee for Refugees (USCR) said: "We welcome your government's decision to allow UNHCR to interview all heads of families. and to continue to provide asy lum to those who did not wish to repatriate".

The latter noted the January 31 repatriation of 204

Rohingya families to Myanmar and that representatives of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees were allowed to interview the heads of those families, and of 73 other families who chose not to repatriate" However, the USCR expressed concern about the

refugees "because of the absence of international monitoring in their home areas". But went to "respect and See Page 12 Col 1

well-being of the returning

other injured critically by mis kish and Iranian missions have The decision was taken folcreants near village Satkuria. 8 suffered direct rocket hits and kilometres off Shalika thana lowing heavy rocketing of the some Iranians were evacuated Alghan capital by forces of while they were going to arrest renegade Mujahideen leader wanted criminals Wednesday ons still operating in the night. Police said constable Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the officapital are from Saudi Arabia, Abdul Mattd and Sub-Inspector cial said Due to danger from the North Korea and The Palestine Siddigur Rahman of Shalika The External Affairs thana were attacked by the Ministry spokesman described gang when they challenged the the closure of the indian High