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Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day

NEWS BRIEFS
ALWC meets tomorrow
 An emergency meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee will be held at the party central office tomorrow at 11 am. Party President Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, a press release said, reports UNB.

President assents to two bills
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday gave his assent to two bills passed by the Jatiya Sangsad on February 25. The bills are: The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 1993 and the Motor Vehicles Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1993, reports BSS.

PM hosts iftar party for Alems
 The Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday hosted an iftar party in honour of the 'alems' at her Suganda office. She talked to them freely and enquired about their well-being. State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof Abdul Mannan was among others who attended the iftar, reports BSS.

Top Sikh leader killed
 CHANDIGARH, Feb 28: Police on Sunday shot and killed the most wanted Sikh guerrilla, dealing a virtual death blow to the 10-year-old separatist rebellion in the northern state of Punjab. "Now I can say that we have decimated militancy in Punjab," state police chief KPS Gill declared.
 Gurbachan Singh Manochahal, who had escaped from a police dragnet on Saturday, was cornered Sunday evening reports AP.

Shri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Mar	Shri	Iftar
6	1	—	6.07 pm
7	2	4.58 am	6.07 pm

100 injured in AL-BNP clash at Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Feb 28: Some 100 people were injured and several houses ransacked in fierce clashes between the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League supporters in the town since Saturday night, reports UNB.

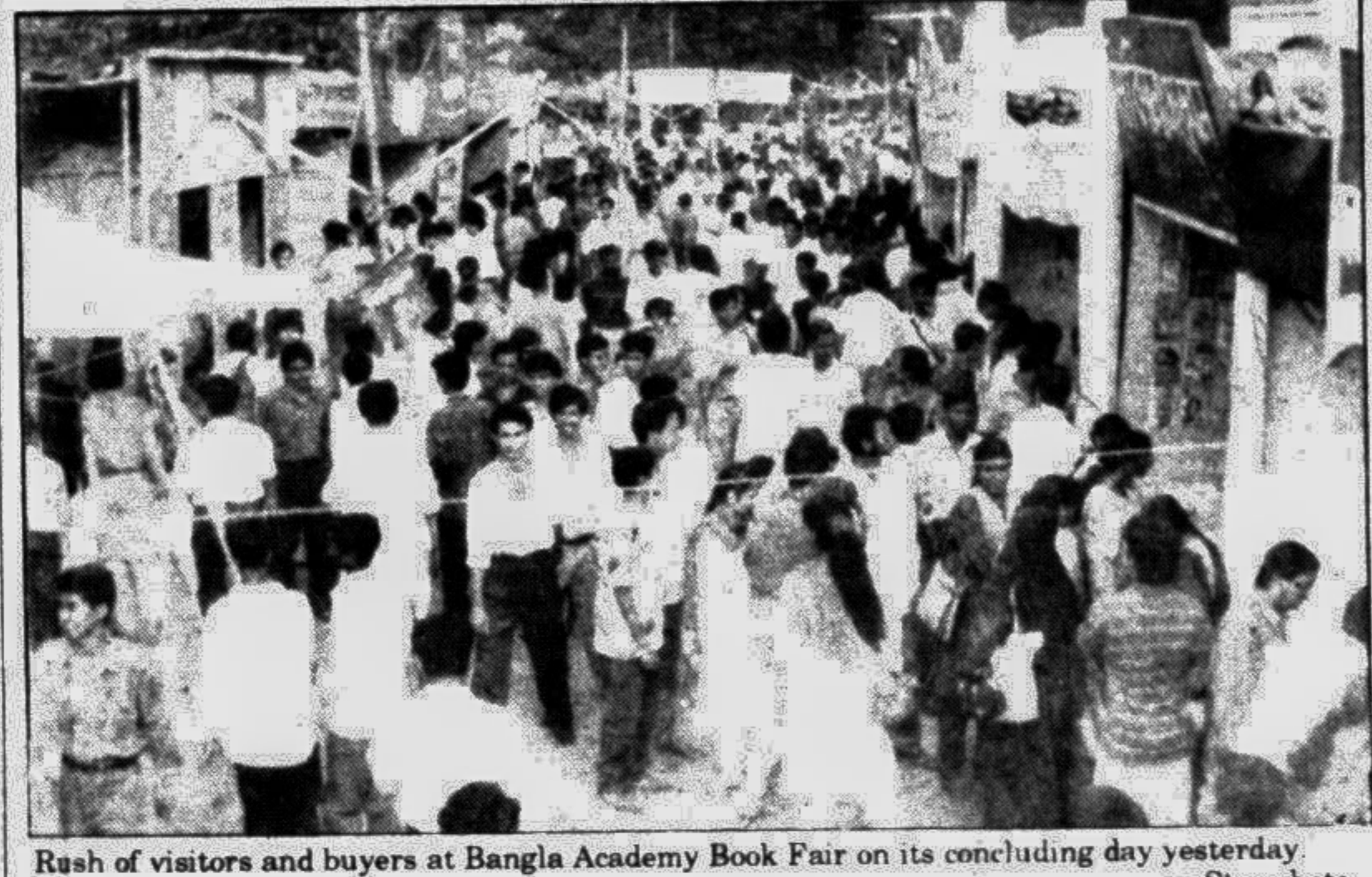
A militant group swooped on a former leader of the pro-AL Chhatra League while asleep at his residence at dead of night and cut the tendon of his left leg, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The condition of 10 of the injured, including UNB correspondent Akhtaruzzaman Babu, was stated to be serious. Babu got his left leg fractured while covering today's fighting on the Mujib Sarak near Victoria Quarters. All the seriously injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and different clinics.

The two groups resumed their feud at 11 this morning in a backlash to Saturday's day-night clashes that occurred over tender submission.

Last night, two JCD workers named Sabuj and Swift were allegedly attacked by AL activists near Victoria Quarters while returning from the house of district BNP Secretary Humayun Islam Khan at around 11 pm.

They were beaten up in se-



Rash of visitors and buyers at Bangla Academy Book Fair on its concluding day yesterday. — Star photo

quel to Saturday's clash over tender dropping at the Local Government Engineering Bureau in which Kamal Hossain Manju, a local AL Leader, was seriously injured allegedly by BNP activists.

In retaliation, sources said, the Khalifa Patti house of Nurunabi, a former Chhatra League, was stormed and his left leg's tendon slit Saturday night. He was admitted to the Poly Clinic in the town.

Both sides blamed each other for looting and ransacking several houses during today's trouble.

Awami League complained to the police that BNP activists

ransacked the houses of AL district committee's Senior Vice President Shahidul Islam Talukder and leaders Azhar Ali Khan and Jahander Ali.

BNP rebuffed saying that AL activists attacked and ransacked the house of its district Secretary Humayun Islam Khan.

Both sides used lethal weapons like iron rods, hockey sticks and ram-dao and exploded 20 crackers during today's clash, creating panic in the town.

A magistrate along with police rushed to the spot to contain the trouble.

BJRI products stay underused

By Sharier Khan

The Bangladesh Jute Research Institute (BJRI), since its installation in 1951, has given the country only seven types of jute seeds while a good number of jute products it developed stayed either unused or underutilised.

According to sources in the BJRI, the poor achievement of the institution was mainly because of a lack of incentives to the scientists, low funds and absence of a government mechanism to utilise what the BJRI had already developed.

The BJRI, located on a 17-acre plot of land at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, and having about 1000 staff including 300 scientists was allocated only Tk 10 crore in the period 1990 to '95 as its fund. This, the BJRI sources say, "was insufficient for any good research work as almost all of it was spent on salaries of the staff and the maintenance of the establishment."

Low morale is also noticed among the scientists of the country's oldest research institution that also boasts of having the world's largest jute gene bank with over 5000 varieties.

"We are demoralised as chances of promotion are very slim in this organisation," a number of scientists told The Daily Star.

In June last year, 70 scientists were recommended for promotion by a selection committee, but no such promotion has so far been implemented.

Meanwhile, a number of jute products developed in the BJRI's technological research division have remained nearly unnoticed by the public due to lack of initiative in marketing

Banglabazar issue

Steps taken to nab culprits, says Matin

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Abdul Matin Choudhury Sunday assured the House that steps have been taken to nab the culprits, involved in the recent attack on the Banglabazar Patrika, as soon as possible and that they would be duly punished.

Responding to a Call Attention Notice on a matter of public importance raised by Awami League member Tofael Ahmed, the Minister said that the case had been handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police while investigations into the earlier bombing incident at the office of the same newspaper would also be conducted by the same department.

Making a supplementary question, the AL member noted that if the perpetrators of the bombing incident had been apprehended, the second incident might not have occurred at all.

Ahmed went on to express doubt whether the Minister

US airdrop in eastern Bosnia begins

SARAJEVO, Feb 28: Two US cargo planes began the American airdrop over eastern Bosnia, but some of the leaflets they dropped to announce the aid missed the intended villages, Sunday reports said, according to AP.

One million leaflets were dropped Saturday night to tell residents of besieged villages that the US airdrop of food and medicine would follow.

However, officials in some of the villages said Sunday that no leaflets had been found.

Hadzo Efendic, mayor of the eastern town of Gorazde, told a Ham radio operator in Zagreb, Croatia, that no leaflets landed in his town.

He said some of them fell in the no man's land between the frontlines, about 15 kilometres (10 miles) to the south, according to Nenad Unukic, who conducted the interview.

Newspeople reached in two other eastern enclaves, Zepa and Srebrenica, also could not find the leaflets, Unukic said.

The airdrops aim to help most Muslims in cold and hunger enclaves cut off from other forms of relief. Some of the drops are also intended for Serbs and Croats.

US military officials said the drops will probably begin in one to two days. They refused to be specific for fear that the planes might be fired on.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday that the airdrops "may last longer than a few days if we see that it's necessary."

Speaking on NBC television's "Meet the Press" programme he stressed that the Pentagon believes that risks from the operation are minimal, and said that the high-flying planes would be safer than the relief flights that land in Sarajevo.

Giant C-130 Hercules turbo-prop airplanes flew more than 10,000 feet (3,300 metres) above the Bosnian countryside under cover of darkness to minimize the risk posed by Serb anti-aircraft guns and shoulder-fired missiles.

If the leaflets have missed their targets, that would illustrate the difficulty of making accurate drops from such high altitudes.

US authorities flew representatives of the three warring Muslims, Croats and Serbs—to Rein-Main Air Base outside Frankfurt, Germany, to inspect the aircraft and their cargo before the drop. This was done to ensure all parties that there were no arms in the shipments.

The cargo planes took off Saturday evening, dropped leaflets at four points and returned to base early Sunday.

On Saturday, radio broadcasts urged people in eastern Bosnia to share the relief equally. Ham radio reports also told of increasingly desperate conditions in the enclaves.

More than 100,000 people have died or are missing since Bosnia's Muslims and Croats voted last year to leave Yugoslavia. Bosnian Serbs revolted and have captured nearly 70 per cent of Bosnia.

About 5,000 people have died of hunger and cold this winter in six enclaves in northern and eastern Bosnia, according to unconfirmed reports.

Crew members on the US aircraft saw ground fire as they passed over Sarajevo en route to eastern Bosnia.

The lead aircraft's pilot, Capt. Jim Smith, said, "I think it was some rocket fire and some artillery. Nothing at all being shot at us."

Capt. Pepe Gallegos, of the UN peacekeeping force in Sarajevo, said the capital and most other areas of Bosnia were relatively quiet, except for continued fighting around northwestern Bihać. However, there was an upsurge of shelling and small arms fire in Sarajevo Sunday morning.

As the planes approached the first drop-off point, the aircraft cut its outside lights and switched to infrared inside to avoid detection.

National confce in May CPB central body okays reforms

By Staff Correspondent

The proposal for major reforms in the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) was passed by an overwhelming majority at the concluding session of the party's three-day Central Committee meeting Sunday.

The proposal was passed with 40 votes in favour and 13 against, while five of the present 58 members abstained during the voting, party Secretary Nurul Islam Nahid said.

The CPB has 75 members in its Central Committee.

The proposal would be placed before the 750 dele-

Election results of Khagrachhari JS seat annulled

CHITTAGONG, Feb 28: The first Additional Sessions Judge and Election Tribunal Judge Muhammad Ismail Meah declared null and void the election results of Jatiya Sangsad Seat-298 (Khagrachhari) in a judgement in Election Tribunal Case no 6/92 here today, reports BSS.

The Judge pronounced the judgement upon an allegation brought by Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, a BNP candidate, to the effect that the members of the so called Shanti Bahini directly and indirectly influenced the election results of the said Jatiya Sangsad seat in favour of one Kalpa Ranjan Chakma of Awami League in utter violation of election rules. Ballot papers of 12 centres were not found during recounting by the tribunal.

The Judge examined eleven witnesses from both sides and then declared the results of the election of the Jatiya Sangsad seat null and void.

Advocate Abul Kashem Chowdhury appeared on behalf of Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan while advocate Shafiqul Islam defended Kalpa Ranjan Chakma.

Water crisis raises city dwellers' plight

By Asiuzzaman

Water crisis has aggravated in the city with the beginning of Ramadan as seohi-hour consumption puts extra-pressure on the limited supply, according to Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) sources.

The WASA was supplying 66 crore 62 lakh and 50 thousand litres of water a day, only half the total demand of more than seven million people of Dhaka and Narayanganj, one official said.

To improve the situation, the WASA has planned to put five more deep tubewells into operation on an urgent basis in a couple of weeks to raise supply in the areas of Motijheel, Mogbazar, Rampura, Mirpur Section-11 and Mirpur Section-12.

The five new tubewells are a part of the WASA's third project under which more than hundred tubewells are to be installed.

WASA has already increased the frequency of supplying water by its 20 water-carrier.

Currently WASA is operating 160 tubewells and two water works — one in Dhaka and another in Narayanganj.

According to official figures, there are 116,879 consumers in Dhaka and 4,803 in Narayanganj, but a huge amount of water is wasted due to

Talk on Azam subjudice Speaker rules

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali Sunday ruled that Jamaat-e-Islami leader Golam Azam can be described as a citizen as long as the court decision is not given but urged members not to discuss the issue as the matter is subjudice.

The issue came up when Jamaat member Nasiruddin, while taking part in the discussion on the vote of thanks on the President's speech, called for the immediate release of Golam Azam as, he added, he (Azam) was a citizen of Bangladesh.

Taking the floor on a point of order, Awami League member A S M Firoz sought the expunction of the Jamaat member's claim that Azam was a citizen of Bangladesh. He pointed out that the Jamaat leader was arrested under the Foreigners Act.

Saying the issue of Azam's citizenship is "still not decided," the Speaker declined to expunge the matter while noting that the issue was sub-

Health policy to take care of commoners: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for paying more attention to the needs of the vast majority of the country's rural people and cater to them medical facilities with a missionary zeal, reports BSS.

Addressing a function in observance of "Diabetic Awareness Day", organised by Diabetic Association of Bangladesh at the Ibrahim Memorial Centre here, Begum Zia said the success of our mission to reach the goal of health care to the people depends on our attention to the health sector.

The Prime Minister reiterated the government objective of achieving "health for all" by the year 2000 and said it has been formulating a pro-people health policy to reach medicare facilities to the door step of the common people.

Emphasising the need for creating awareness about diseases, the Prime Minister said the awareness depends on the level of education among women folk. She said with this aim in view the government has introduced compulsory primary education with special emphasis on female education.

She said a mother can play the role of an efficient health worker in the society.

Begum Zia called upon the media to play a pioneering role in educating the people about healthcare.

Presided over by the association President Alamgir M A Kabir, the function was also addressed by Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Social Welfare and Women Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam and Association Secretary General Professor Wahiduddin Ahmed.

Begum Zia said the health infrastructure of the country has been expanded up to union level as the government attached importance to primary health care. She said modern medical service has been made available through introduction of ultra modern technology in the medical field.

The Prime Minister praised the role of Diabetic Association in creating awareness against diabetic disease. She paid tributes to National Professor Dr Mohammad Ibrahim, founder of the association.

In this context, Begum Zia expressed the hope that indi-

Place Ershad's letter in House, urges Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Party (JP) leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury yesterday demanded that the much talked about letter of Ershad, recovered from the possession of one of his party colleague while going to Saudi Arabia last month, be placed in the House.

Rising to give a personal clarification Chowdhury told Parliament that misbehaviour of the government officials

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