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Impasse over appointment of judges may end today

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in consultation with the Chief Justice, is likely to sign a revised order today appointing new judges in the High Court division of the Supreme Court, according to well-placed sources yesterday.

The move is expected to resolve the impasse over the appointment of nine High Court judges, against which the Supreme Court Bar Association Saturday passed a resolution urging the Chief Justice not to conduct their oaths since the appointments were made without consultation with the Supreme Court.

The sources added that Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, yesterday sought an audience with the President and is expected to meet him this afternoon.

Meanwhile, hectic parleys continued throughout the day yesterday as the government intensified its efforts to find an amicable solution to the issue.

A 14-member delegation of the SC Bar Association called on the President yesterday and presented a memorandum containing the resolutions against the appointments.

Led by Dr Kamal Hossain, vice-chairman of the Bar Council, members of the delegation included Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, S R Pal, Kazi Golam Mahboob, President of the SC Bar, Barrister KS Nabi and Sudhansu Shekhar Halder.

The meeting was held in a very frank and cordial atmosphere and the delegation requested the President to use his good offices to resolve the impasse, said Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed. We came back with the feeling that the President would use his good offices to resolve the issue.

The lawyers delegation also met the judges at the Supreme Court and apprised them about the resolutions of both the association and the Bar Council regarding the appointments.

Meanwhile, a Full Court meeting was held yesterday, presided by the Chief Justice to discuss the issue.

The delegation also called on Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali. We conveyed our views and (the Speaker) assured us of his personal initiative regarding the issue, Barrister Ahmed added.

The bar association also sought a meeting with Prime Minister Hasina.

SAARC chamber meet begins today

The inaugural ceremony of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, an association of apex chambers of seven SAARC countries, organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will be held today at 9:30 am at the Sonargaon Hotel, reports BSS.

SAARC Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the function as the chief guest.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, SAARC Secretary General Yadav Kant Silwal and President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) S M Inam will also address the inaugural session.

FBCCI President Mahubur Rahman, who is also a Vice President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman of the



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Chittagong, addressing the first convocation of the University yesterday. — PID photo

Six expelled Mir Nasiruddin convener of BNP Ctg city unit

Mir Nasiruddin Ahmed has been made convener of Chittagong Metropolitan Committee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), a party press release said here last night, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the National Standing Committee of the BNP held here Saturday. As per an earlier decision of the Standing Committee, the Chittagong Metropolitan Committee of the BNP was dissolved.

In another resolution, the press release said, the Standing Committee expelled Advocate Badrul Anwar, Ekramul Karim, Mohammad Nazim Uddin, Rafiqul Islam Khokon, A H Baker Hashem and Jasim Uddin (Madarbari) from the party.

Their party memberships have also been cancelled.

Lack of logistic support slows down Rohingya repatriation

By Soheli Manzur

The process of repatriation of the Rohingya refugees, has slowed down during the last few months because of inadequate logistic support and lack of coordination among the agencies concerned, according to sources.

About 10,000 refugees out of 1,98,335 staying at the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar are now waiting to return to their homeland.

But the number of refugees going home from time to time is very insignificant and if the slow pace of repatriates continues, the condition of the refugees will worsen further.

According to sources, the last batch of only 107 refugees returned to Myanmar on January 31 this year while the group repatriated in late December comprised only 20 refugees.

An official of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said, the commission has been trying to develop a mechanism for quick repatriation of the Rohingya refugees and their reintegration in their homeland.

He said, the major constraints hindering the repatriation of the refugees had been removed with the signing of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Myanmar government in November last year. The reasons delaying the repatriation are inadequate logistic support for the returnees, lack of coordination among the UNHCR, Myanmar and Bangladesh and in some cases, the refusal of the refugees to return to their homeland.

The UNHCR official said, a number of things needed to be coordinated while organising the repatriation of refugees.

First, the refugees themselves are to decide that they would return. Then the Bangladesh officials send the

\$38m needed for resettlement

YANGON, Feb 6: A voluntary repatriation programme for more than 250,000 Myanmar Muslims is "likely to become a reality," but needs an estimated 38 million US dollars to get off the ground, a UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official said Saturday.

But Werner Blatter, UNHCR Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific, told AFP the funds to resettle Muslims who fled to Bangladesh in late 1991 would only cover returning the refugees.

An additional 16.2 million dollars would be needed to cover the care and maintenance costs of the refugees while in Bangladesh.

More than 50,000 Myanmar Muslims, known as Rohingyas, were repatriated to the end of

PM tells CU convocation Evolve education system suiting needs of nation

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said the country today needs an education system suiting the needs of an independent nation, reports UNB.

The existing system should be freed from the influence of colonialism, she said.

She was addressing the first-ever convocation in 27 years of history of the Chittagong University today conferring graduate, post-graduate and doctorate degrees on more than 72,865 students.

Chancellor of universities Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, attired in a blue gown, led the Chancellor procession on the campus marking the

DCC repolling: No enthusiasm among voters

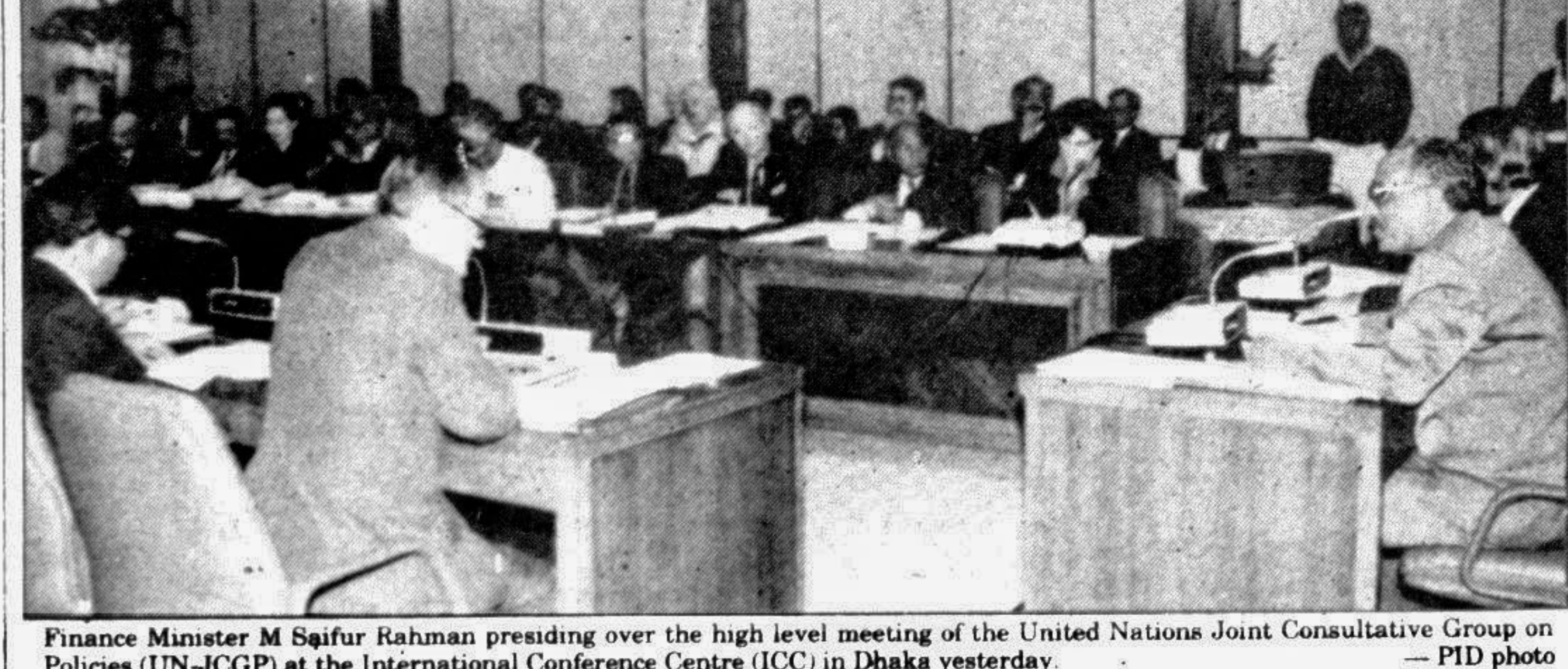
By Staff Correspondent

Repolling in 28 centres of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) elections is apparently failing to create enthusiasm among the voters of the respective areas.

Apart from the Awami League, no other party or individual seem to be serious in canvassing in the city areas, where repolling would be held on February 9.

The Election Commission had postponed voting in 25 centres and cancelled the results of three other centres under 10 wards following acts of violence in those polling centres during the January 30 DCC elections.

Since Saturday, the AL leaders and workers had been



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presiding over the high level meeting of the United Nations Joint Consultative Group on Policies (UN-JCGP) at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in Dhaka yesterday. — PID photo

UN-JCGP meet highlights priorities of economic uplift

Achievements, priorities and perspectives of the economic development of the country were highlighted yesterday at a presentation on the 'Development Issues of Bangladesh' in connection with the high-level meeting of the UN-Joint Consultative Group on Policies (UN-JCGP) now being held here, reports BSS.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presided over the session attended by the heads of the UN-JCGP group — Administrator of UNDP James G Speth, Executive Director of UNICEF James P Grant, Executive Director of UNFPA Dr Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of WFP Ms Catherine Bertini and President of IFAD Fawzi H al-Sultan.

Members of Parliament, political leaders, senior officials, economists, researchers, editors of the national dailies and weeklies, representatives of NGOs and business leaders also attended the session, held at the International Conference Centre auditorium.

State Minister for Planning Dr A Moeen Khan addressed the session as the co-chairman.

Four presentations of leading development issues were made at the session by Planning Secretary Dr Harun ur-Rashid, member of the Planning Commission M Mokammel Huq, ERD Secretary Mohammad Lutfullah Majid and Secretary to the Prime Minister Dr Kamaluddin Siddique.

Dr Harun ur-Rashid made a presentation on 'An overview of and priorities in economic and social development including poverty reduction and employment.'

Mokammel Huq made a presentation on 'An overview of an priorities in sustainable human development. Children, women, population, health, education and environment.'

Lutfullah Majid's presentation was on 'Lessons of evolving relationship with aid donors' while Dr Kamaluddin Siddique made a presentation on 'Disaster mitigation and management.'

In his opening statement, Saifur Rahman welcomed the

Gunmen snatch Tk 10 lakh in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 6: Three gunmen in a 'film-style' robbery this morning snatched Tk 10,80,000 after intercepting a running car in front of the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The driver of the car and another inmate were injured following gunshots made by the snatchers to stop the vehicle which was carrying the money from a business house for depositing with a nearby bank, police and witnesses said.

The injured were immediately admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

According to police the gunman after snatching the money fled by a motor cycle.

Police rushed to the spot but none has been arrested so far. A case was filed with Panchlailsh thana.

Police seize goods from Aziz's shop

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday raided the shop owned by the main suspect of the post-poll carnage at Lalbagh in the city and confiscated the property.

At around 2:30 yesterday, the police carried out the raid at Begumbazar and seized a huge number of polythene bags worth Tk 75,000, chocolates and telephone sets. The shop reportedly belonged to Abdul Aziz, a defeated commissioner candidate who is alleged to have led the armed attack that resulted in the death of six persons on January 31.

Earlier, police confiscated the property of 16 other accused following the order of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka. The main accused Abdul Aziz is still at large.

Meanwhile, police arrested See Page 12 Col 8

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়: সরকারী, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত এবং অর্ধ-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীপদ কর্তৃক আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল প্রসংগে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের পরিপত্র নং-২ (৮) ৮৯/আইটি (৮)/৭৩ তারিখ- ১৫/১/৭৪ইং এর সহিত পঠিত পরিপত্র নং-৫ (আয়কর)/৯০ তারিখ- ২০-৯-৯৩ইং অনুযায়ী সরকারী কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের বেতনের আয়ের উপর প্রদেয় আয়কর সরকারী কর্তৃক পরিশোধিত বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে। ইহা ছাড়া বিভিন্ন স্বায়ত্তশাসিত এবং অর্ধ-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী বেতনের উপর প্রদেয় আয়কর নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃক পরিশোধিত হইয়া থাকে। কিন্তু ইহার অর্থ এই নহে যে, সরকারী/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/অর্ধ-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের বেতনের আয় করমুক্ত অথবা তাহাদিগকে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করিতে হইবে না। অথচ লক্ষ্য করা গিয়াছে যে, অনেক সরকারী, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত এবং অর্ধ-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী তাহাদের বেতনের আয় করযোগ্য সীমার উপরে থাকে। সত্বেও আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করেন না বা স্পষ্টই আয়কর আইনের পরিপন্থী। প্রকৃতপক্ষে সরকারী/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/অর্ধ-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানের যে স্বকল কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীর মোট আয় করযোগ্য সীমার উপরে হইবে। বর্তমান কর বর্ষের জন্য এই সীমা টাঃ ৫০,০০০/-। আয়কর আইন অনুযায়ী আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করা তাহাদের সকলের জন্য বাধ্যতামূলক। অনুরূপ কোন কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারী যদি আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করিতে ব্যর্থ হন তাহা হইলে আয়কর আইন অনুযায়ী তাহার উপর জরিমানা আরোপের বিধানও প্রযোজ্য হইবে।

এমতাবস্থায়, সরকারী/স্বায়ত্তশাসিত/অর্ধ-স্বায়ত্তশাসিত সংস্থার কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীকে এই মর্মে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে যে, তাহাদের মোট আয় যদি করযোগ্য সীমার উপরে হইবে তাহা হইলে তাহারা যেন যথাসময়ে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করেন।

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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
ঢাকা

Experts identify roots of tension in S Asia

By Staff Correspondent

More than 50 political scientists, researchers and politicians from South Asia began deliberations in Dhaka yesterday to identify new areas of co-operation and also the potential conflicts that often heighten tensions in the region.

At the opening session of an international seminar on 'South Asia at the Crossroads of Conflict and Cooperation,' the participants identified Kashmir, communal riots in India, the separatist movement in the Punjab, the Muhajir issue in Pakistan, the ethnic conflicts in Sri Lanka, the water-sharing issues, violation of human rights and the arms build-up by India and Pakistan as the causes of heightening tension in South Asia.

'It is a conflict of civilisations and cultures deeply rooted in the region,' Prof Shelton J. Kodikara, Director, Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (Colombo), told the seminar.

The participants called for steps to eradicate hunger, poverty and illiteracy from the region, by resolving conflicts and tensions.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman inaugurated the seminar with a call to strengthen cooperation at both bilateral and regional levels for better and effective inter-state relations.

'I have no doubt the SAARC can function as a catalyst in sustainable development in South Asia and create confidence among the nations in this region,' Mostafiz said.

He said there was enormous scope of mutual benefit from the exchange of ideas and experiences of reforms particularly economic reforms, being experimented by the countries of the region.

But he said tensions in inter-state relations continue to