

Inside Today

Article

Interview with James P Grant



UN System's Moving Spirit

by Mahfuz Anam
Page 4

International

Pakistan to introduce death penalty for drug trafficking

Indian Muslim League on the verge of split
Page 5

Business

Global job crisis worsening : ILO
Abu Dhabi court rejects pleas for BCCI officials' release
Pages 6, 7

Feature

Environment
Natural balance and pollution of environment; How Europe dumps its plastic across the world; The Asian connection; and Green soap operas

Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Medical Advance with Few Parallels
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

ALPP meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party will be held in the Sangsab Bhaban today at 3 pm. Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting. reports UNB.

Indian Cultural Secy in city

Cultural Secretary of India Sitakant Mahapatra arrived here yesterday on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh. Cultural Secretary Islam Uddin Malik received the Indian Secretary at the Zia International Airport. During his stay in Bangladesh, Mahapatra will lead his country at a bilateral talks between the two countries. He will also visit some historic places and witness the cultural activities in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

AIDS specialists meet Badruddoza

AIDS specialists of Switzerland Dr Raphael Baltes and Dr Somaiani-Bartino, called on the Deputy Leader of Parliament and the chairman of National AIDS Committee of Bangladesh Professor A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury at latter's office here yesterday, reports BSS.

Special train for pilgrims

CALCUTTA, Feb 7: The Eastern Railway will run a special train to carry 1555 pilgrims from Bangladesh to West Bengal's Midnapore district on February 15 in connection with Urs festival, according to railway sources here. The train will arrive at Gede in West Bengal border with Bangladesh at 1230 hours (BST) and leave for Ranaghat the same day on way to Midnapore via Howrah, reports PTT.

SAARC Chamber inaugurated

South Asia can become a strong economic bloc : PM

By Staff Correspondent

"We are striving hard to build a framework for a market economy, in conformity with the global economic trend. Our aim is to achieve economic growth and generate employment opportunities through private initiative and creative talent," the Prime Minister

SAARC Chamber president's interview on back page

said. The policy requires some sacrifices in the short run, but will certainly benefit the commonmen in the long run, she added.

Begum Zia said the creation of an infrastructure for trade and industrial cooperation is primarily a responsibility of entrepreneurs and business

community of the region. The SAARC fraternity would be cemented further if practical steps are taken towards that end, she added.

"It would then be easier for us to face the developed world confidently in the global trade scenario. The role of our political leadership has to be supportive in this regard," she pointed out.

The Prime Minister also said a permanent basis for co-operation among the SAARC countries can emerge by increasing the volume of trade among themselves. Each country can produce goods and services according to its own resource endowments and

See Page 12 Col 1

Stormy session of BNPPP

Fresh demand to drop 4 cabinet ministers

The performances of some members of the cabinet came under severe criticism at the BNP parliamentary party meeting in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Some angry BNP Parliament members even suggested certain ministers who were held responsible by them for the party's debacle in the city corporation polls and the present crisis over the appointment of nine judges to the High Court be dropped.

Hinging at immediate reshuffle in the cabinet, sources close to the meeting said that the final decision in this regard was left with the party chairperson.

The ministers who particularly came under criticism included Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Home Minister Matin Chowdhury and Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda.

Deputy Leader Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury initiated the discussion on the business of the current session of Parliament, the party's performance in city corporation elections and organisational matters.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, party's Secretary General LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, Mirza Abbass, Major (Rtd) Qamrul Islam and Major (Rtd) Akhtarruzzaman took part in the deliberations.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: After the debacle in the city corporation polls, the ruling party has changed its strategy and decided to break the status quo to restructure the frontlines of various tiers of party leadership, party insiders said.

The campus police, according to witnesses, remained indifferent during the incidents.

The fact that moved into the campus yesterday was ear-

JCD factions clash at JU

By JU Correspondent

The ousted faction of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) unit of the Jahangirnagar University yesterday afternoon stormed one of the dormitories to regain their hold over the campus.

Some 15 armed members of the JCD, led by former general secretary of the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union Shamsul Tabriz Mithu, forced into the Al-Beruni Hall and drove away the inmates. The armed gang then took possession of the dormitory entrance and the roof top and made their presence felt by firing into the air intermittently.

Totally taken aback by the abrupt attack, the rival faction, reportedly belonging to the local faction of the JCD, went to the Mir Mosharrif Hossain Hall at the other end of the campus. They also gave vent to their anger by laying a siege to the Dhaka-Aricha Highway for at least three hours. Hundreds of inter-city vehicles were stranded during the siege, witnesses said.

The campus police, according to witnesses, remained indifferent during the incidents.

The fact that moved into the campus yesterday was ear-

See Page 12 Col 6

The speakers pointed out

Mahbub defends his role, blames Additional AG

By Staff Correspondent

Supreme Court Bar Association president Kazi Golam Mahbub yesterday slated a reported meeting of the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Ajnabi Forum which criticised his role in the ongoing furore over the appointment of nine High Court judges.

In an impromptu press briefing at his Supreme Court premises chamber, Advocate Mahbub, who is also a vice-chairman of the ruling BNP, criticised the role of Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker while defending his own role in the present crisis over the appointment of judges.

The crisis deepened when the Supreme Court Bar Association passed a resolution February 5 urging the Chief Justice not to administer oaths to the newly-appointed judges to the newly-appointed judges and threatened to boycott their courts if they were sworn in.

Mahbub was responding to a reported extended meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Ajnabi Forum which criticised his role against the spirit of the nationalist party and the forum.

Held on Sunday the forum meeting also demanded re-

See Page 12 Col 8

Barapukuria coal extraction accord signed with China

Chinese Ambassador Zhang Xu Jiang, Secretary of the Energy Ministry M Faizur Razzak, Chairman of Petrobangla CKM Abdullah and high officials of ministry concerned were present on the occasion.

Of the total expenses, the CMC will provide Tk 775 crore, equivalent to 12.48 crore US dollars, under suppliers credit and the rest will be contributed by Bangladesh government.

About 10 lakh tons of coal will be extracted from the mine per annum over a period of 64 years.

The mine development project will be implemented within 5 years of commencing the work. However, partial extraction of coal from the mine will start in 3 years.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain.

will be set up for electricity generation by using the Barapukuria coal. About 83 per cent of the coal will be used for power generation and the rest 17 per cent will be used at brickfields and for domestic purposes.

Nearly 3,000 people will be directly involved with the project and another 10,000 be benefited from the mining.

The Bangladesh Geological Survey Bureau (GSB) discovered the coal mine in 1985 only 117 to 506 metre underneath Barapukuria. Later, the consultant firm, Messrs Wardell Armstrong of UK, conducted the eco-technical feasibility study.

The study detected a reserve of 303 million tons of high quality bituminous coal in 52 square km area in six layers.

A 300-mgw power station

Campaigning for repolling in 28 centres ends

By Staff Correspondent

Campaigning for repolling in 28 centres of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) elections ended at mid-night last night.

Repolling in 10 Wards will take place from 7 am to 3 pm tomorrow.

The EC in a statement last night reminded the people of the ban on campaigning 48 hours before the completion of the repolling. Anybody found engaged in campaigning after the deadline is liable to punishment of two to seven years imprisonment, the EC warned.

The EC is not the forum to raise such issues, said Ashok Sajjanhar, Counsellor at the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

"India has its own water management policy within its territory," he said while talking part in the discussion at a seminar at BISS yesterday.

Sajjanhar was protesting the remarks of BISS Research Fellow Nahid Islam who presented a paper, "Regime of International Watercourse and Transboundary Management of the Ganges River Basin," at the seminar.

Giving a broad overview of the South Asian security picture, Prof Lawrence Ziring of the Western Michigan University USA, noted that a

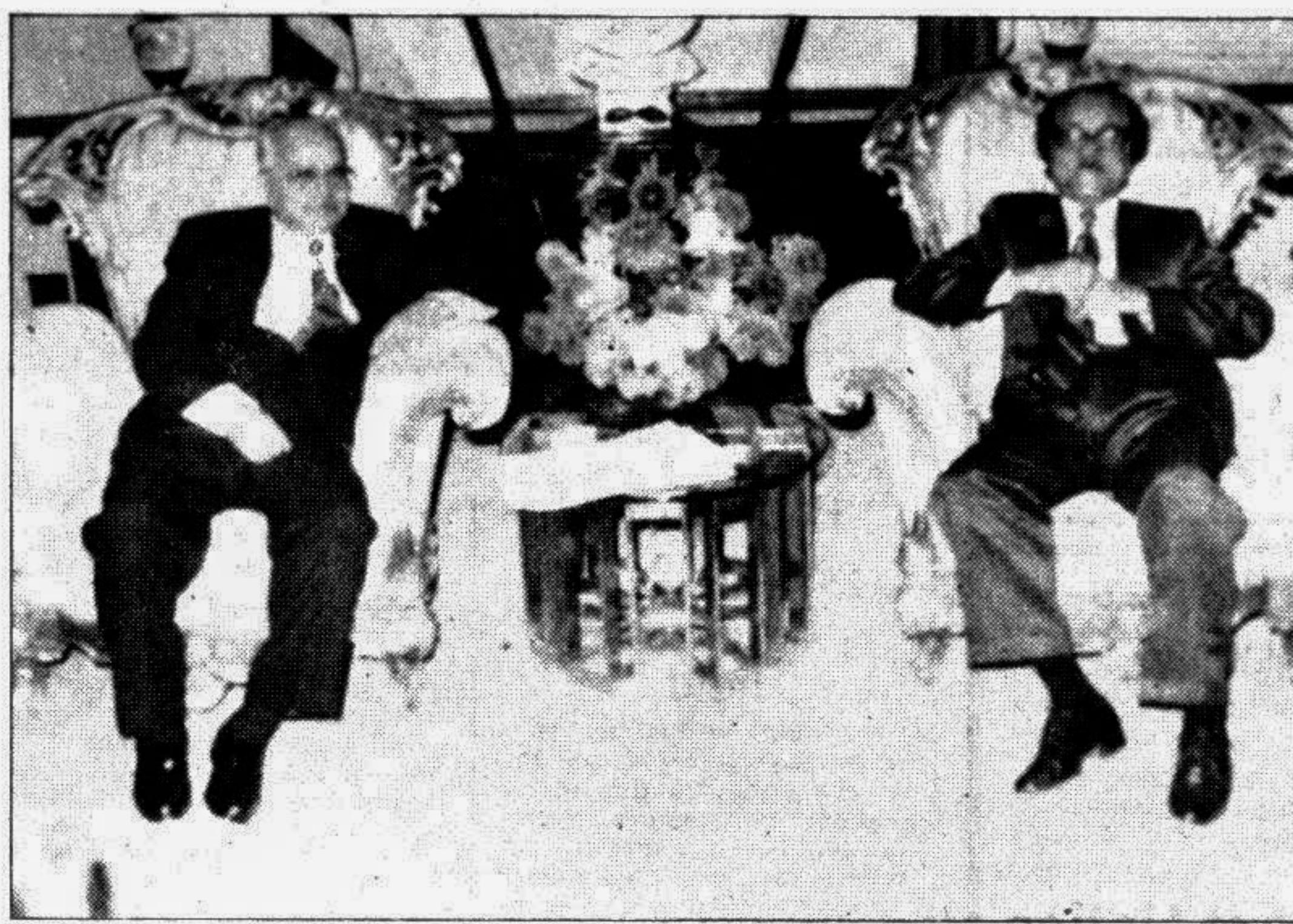
See Page 12 Col 4

An international seminar on South Asian security yesterday suggested that the member nations should immediately evolve a mechanism to resolve disputes and build up confidence.

In the backdrop of the changed global order, the security scenario in South Asia has grown more complex and threats have been posed from within the region against feeble peace efforts, speakers at the seminar at the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in the second session.

Discussion on the second day of the seminar titled South Asia at the Crossroads: Conflicts and Cooperation largely revolved round the nuclear capabilities of India and Pakistan and their options.

See Page 12 Col 4



Chief Justice of the Supreme Court Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed (R) made a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

— PID photo

Cabinet amends Seed Ordn '77, SEC Act '93

The cabinet has approved the amendment to the Seed Ordinance-1977, proposed by the Ministry of Agriculture, reports BSS.

The approval was given yesterday at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The cabinet also approved the proposal of the Ministry of Finance to amend the Securities and Exchange Commission Act-1993.

Ministers, State Ministers-in-Charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

Hasina returns from US

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday after a week-long visit to the United States and UK, reports UNB.

Hasina left Dhaka for Washington on February 1 to attend the National Breakfast Prayer at the invitation of US Congressional Committee.

At the Breakfast Prayer on February 3, the Opposition leader met US President Bill Clinton, First Lady Hillary Clinton, Vice-President Al Gore, Mrs. Al Gore, members of the US Congress and leaders of different countries.

See Page 12 Col 3

Scrutinised list of Chakmas handed over

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 7: A four-member Bangladesh team led by the Deputy Commissioner of Khagrachari district left for Tripura, India this morning to hand over the scrutinised list of Chakma refugees.

A series of high-level meetings were held on the day. Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas while a delegation of the Supreme Court Bar Association called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and also on the Chief Justice.

Under the compromise formula worked out, Ruhul Amin, a District and Sessions Judge, has been included in the revised list of appointees. He replaces Barrister Abdul Halim Chaklader, whose inclusion in an earlier revised list Saturday was objected to by the Chief Justice.

As things stand now, two district judges — the other being Hamidul Huq of Barisal — have been substituted in place

The Chief Justice called on the President yesterday afternoon. Earlier, a delegation from the Bar Association also called on the Chief Justice to discuss the latest developments.

The team conveyed to the See Page 12 Col 1

Stepped up vigil in 28 centres for re-polling

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Election Commission (EC) has stepped up additional security measures with a view to holding re-elections in 28 centres under 10 wards of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) tomorrow peacefully.

The Election Commission (EC) had postponed voting in 25 centres and cancelled the results of three others following acts of violence and irregularities during voting on January 30. In these centres 69,964 voters are expected to cast their votes in 130 booths.

The EC in a statement last night reminded the people of the ban on campaigning 48 hours before the completion of the repolling. Anybody found engaged in campaigning after the deadline is liable to punishment of two to seven years imprisonment than that of January 30.

In its efforts to check fresh acts of violence in the troubled centres, the EC would also deploy one First Class magistrate in each centre for summary trial of the offenders while on January 30 such magistrates were on mobile

See Page 12 Col 7

My turn to fulfil pledges : Hanif

By DU Correspondent

The mayor-elect of the Dhaka City Corporation, Md Hanif, yesterday underlined the need for united efforts of the ruling BNP and other political parties to build up the country.

He was addressing a campaign meeting on the Dh