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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Gujral, Bhabani meet Hasina

Former Indian Foreign  
 Minister I K Gujral and noted  
 columnist Bhabani Sengupta  
 yesterday met Awami League  
 president and Leader of the  
 Opposition in Parliament  
 Sheikh Hasina at her 29 Minto  
 Road residence. Deputy Opposi-  
 tion Leader Abdus Samad  
 Azad and the party's Interna-  
 tional Affairs Secretary Abul  
 Hassan Chowdhury, MP were  
 present, reports UNB.

### Arnold smith dead

LONDON, Feb 8: Arnold  
 Smith, a former Canadian diplo-  
 mat who was the Common-  
 wealth's first Secretary-  
 General, has died at his home  
 in Toronto after a long illness,  
 the Commonwealth said today.  
 He was 79. Smith was ap-  
 pointed in 1965 when the  
 organisation of Britain and its  
 former colonies and territories  
 established its headquarters in  
 London, reports Reuters.

### Govt to send 14000 Hajj pilgrims

Religious Affairs Minister  
 Mohammad Keramat Ali yester-  
 day told the Jatiya Sangsad  
 that the government had taken  
 a decision to send 14,000 pil-  
 grims to Saudi Arabia to per-  
 form the holy Hajj this year un-  
 der government management,  
 reports BSS.

### BUET classes begin

The Degree classes of the  
 Bangladesh University of  
 Engineering and Technology  
 (BUET) began yesterday fol-  
 lowing fruitful discussions be-  
 tween the BUET authorities  
 and the student leaders. The  
 discussions took place  
 Monday, reports BSS.

## Repolling in 25 DCC centres today

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission is holding re-elections today in 25 out of 28 centres of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) where the polls on January 30 last were postponed.

Re-polling in three other centres — two at the University Laboratory School and College and one at the Science Annex Building on the Dhaka University campus under Ward No. 57 — were again postponed yesterday following a High Court order. EC sources told The Daily Star last night.

The EC had earlier postponed polling in 25 centres and cancelled the results of the three DU centres because of acts of violence and irregularities during the January 30 city elections.

Re-polling at the 25 centres will start at 7 in the morning and continue until 3 in the

evening without any break. To maintain law and order, a large number of police and BDR personnel, along with Ansars, will guard the polling centres. Besides, first class magistrates, one for each centre, have been deputed for on-the-spot trials of the violators of election rules.

Repolling will be held at the following centres: Centre 216 at Haji Ainunnessa Hafizia Islamia Madrassah, Meradia and centres 217 and 218 at the Meradia, Government Primary School in Ward 26 under Sabujbagh thana; centre 387 at the Jamia Mohammadia Arabia Mohammadia Housing and centre 388 at the Borabo Government Primary School, Satmasjid Road of Ward 46 under Mohammadpur Thana; centre 399 at Gajmahal Government Primary School of

Ward 48 under Dhanmondi thana; centres 509 and 510 at the Lalbagh Community Centre, Jagannath Saha Road, centres 513 and 514 at the Alhaj Anwar Hossain Government Primary School, centres 515 and 516 at the Lalbagh Government Primary School, Jagannath Saha Road of Ward 60, centres 524 and 525 at the Azampur Girls' High School, centre 528 at Little Angels, Azampur of Ward 62; centres 546 and 547 at the Haji Ibrahim All Government Primary School, Islambagh of Ward 65; centres 584 and 585 at the Siddiq Bazar Community Centre, Kazi Alauddin Road, centre 586 at Siddiq Bazar Primary School of Ward 70 under Kotwali thana; centre 641 at the Rokonpur Girls' Primary School of Ward 78 under

See Page 12 Col 5

## 4 tribunals to dispose of city polls cases

The Election Commission has set up four tribunals for hearing and disposal of cases relating to elections held in the four city corporations recently, reports BSS.

The tribunals comprise the Sub-Judge of the Rajshahi Sub-Judge's Court for the Rajshahi City Corporation, Sub-Judge of the First Sub-Judge's Court for the Khulna City Corporation, Sub-Judge of First Sub-Judge's Court for the Dhaka City Corporation and Sub-Judge of the First Sub-Judge's Court for the Chittagong City Corporation.

Cases will have to be filed before the tribunals within 30 days of the publication of names of the elected candidates in the official gazette. The candidate himself or his nominated person may file case before the tribunal.

Each case will have to be filed along with Taka one thousand toward the expense of the case.

## Govt-opposition debate in JS over judges' appointment

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday witnessed a short unscheduled debate between the Treasury and the Opposition bench members on the impasse arising out of the appointment of nine High Court judges.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad Nasim, while demanding a discussion on the issue, alleged that the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had started interfering with the country's judiciary, especially after its defeat in the city corporation polls.

Referring to the Information Minister's statement in the House on Saturday that Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed had made political comments on the independence of the judiciary, the Opposition Chief Whip accused

Barrister Nazmul Huda of making 'irresponsible' observations.

A few days ago, the Chief Justice had told a lawyers' conference in Dhaka that the separation of the judiciary from the executive was now a remote possibility and he felt defeated because he was falling in his efforts to make the judiciary neutral and independent.

But Major (Retd) Akhtaruzzaman of the Treasury bench took the floor at this point to defend the Information Minister saying Parliament a sovereign body, had every right to discuss the statement of any citizen including the Chief Justice.

However, Rule 270 (3) of the JS Rules of Procedure forbids the MPs from making any See Page 12 Col 7

## ALPP chalks out strategy

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League (AL) legislators, while taking part in the discussion on the Presidential address in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), will highlight the government's alleged failure in various socio-economic sectors.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party's parliamentary wing held yesterday afternoon with the AL chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

According to meeting sources, the AL MPs would try to point out the government's failure to improve law and order, contain corruption in the administration and honour the accords reached with the Opposition both in and outside Parliament.

The government's alleged partisan approach towards national issues would also come under fire during the discussion, the sources said.

"We cannot speak well of the President's address because he had only defended the government programmes," See Page 12 Col 7

## Tension prevails in JU

By JU Correspondent

Intermittent gunshots and explosions by two feuding factions of the Jatiyatbadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) crippled the Jahangirnagar University campus yesterday.

The Honours Examinations of Statistics and Government and Politics Departments scheduled for yesterday, were cancelled and no classes were held.

The situation deteriorated when ousted JCD leader Masud Hasan Talukder, along with 14 other partymen, Monday stormed the Al-Beruni Hall to regain hold on the campus. The rival 'local' faction of the JCD took up position in the Mir Mosharraf Hossain Hall and went on a rampage in the central cafeteria at 10 in the morning, firing gunshots while returning to their base.

The Gonotantrik Chhatra See Page 12 Col 3

## Tarek's wedding reception held

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia entertained several thousand guests with a simple menu at her son's wedding reception at the Shenakunja.

Plain rice, dal, bhaji, mutton curry and curd were served in the feast attended by the invitees from all walks of life.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina also attended the reception along with her party colleagues.

An invitee said that some of the BNP workers also attended the ceremony uninvited.

Begum Zia's eldest son Tarek Rahman married the daughter of the former Navy Chief late Rear Admiral Mahubul Ali Khan on February 3.



James P Grant, Executive Director of the UNICEF making a point at a press conference at the Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## UN bodies to help face development problems

By Staff Correspondent

Five UN organisations yesterday promised to redouble their support to Bangladesh in combating development problems like poverty alleviation, population and sustainable growth.

The sectors which would receive increased UN assistance are public administration, human resources development, poverty alleviation, women's development, mother and child care, primary education, environmental protection and NGO activities.

At a press conference after a four-day UN Joint Consultative Group on Policy (UN-JCGP) meeting in Dhaka, the heads of the UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, IFAD and the UNFPA expressed their determination to continue to support Bangladesh's development initiatives and broaden cooperation with the government.

"The JCGP organisations, like the rest of the international community, must give special priority to Bangladesh in light of the particular challenges and opportunities it faces," suggested a joint declaration made after the high-level meeting of the five UN bodies.

The meeting began on

Saturday in the capital, the first of its kind outside the usual UN headquarters locations.

Giving the reasons for holding the UN-JCGP meeting in Bangladesh, the chairman of the body and UNICEF Executive Director James P Grant observed that such an exercise reflected the high importance the UN organisations attached to Bangladesh.

UNDP Administrator James Gustav Speth, UNFPA Executive Director Dr Nafis Siddik, WFP Executive Director Catherine Bartini and IFAD President Fawzi H Al-Sultan also spoke at the press conference.

Terming Bangladesh a "most difficult development case," JCGP Chairman Grant lauded the country's success in combating child deaths, reduction of fertility rate and increase in agricultural production.

The WFP Executive Director outlined the success achieved in the Food for Work Programme and Vulnerable Programme as tools for poverty alleviation and rural employment, and said that four and half million women of the

See page 12 Col 2

## Regional seminar ends in city

By Staff Correspondent

An international seminar on South Asia concluded in the city yesterday with speakers agreeing that solution of conflicts and problems through dialogue will boost regional co-operation.

The three-day seminar on "South Asia at the Crossroads: Conflict and Cooperation", was organised by the Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS).

The last two sessions of the seminar yesterday expressed optimism about a better regional future given a changed outlook towards solving the problems and conflicts that tend to impede cooperation in the region.

Yesterday's notable participants included former Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral, ex-Indian Foreign Secretary Rajgotta, ex-SAARC Secretary General KK Bhargava, well-known Indian columnist Bhabani Sengupta, Prof Abdul Quayyum of the Pakistan Institute of Regional Studies, Shirin Mazhari of the Pakistan National Defence College, former SAARC Secy, Gen and currently Tourism Minister of the Maldives Ibrahim Hossain Zaki, Prof Rehman Sobhan of the BISS and Chairman of the BISS Barrister AKH Morshed.

## Myanmar keen on joint ventures

Myanmar is willing to go for joint venture projects with Bangladesh in industrial sector on production sharing basis, reports BSS.

The offer was given yesterday by the visiting Railway Transportation Minister of Myanmar, Wing Sein, when he called on Communications Minister Oli Ahmad at his office, an official handout said.

The Myanmar Minister also expressed that the possibilities could be explored by his country to supply boulders to Bangladesh. The Bangladesh minister said it could be either done on credit basis or through bidding international tenders.

Welcoming the Myanmar proposal regarding joint venture projects, the Communications Minister said Bangladesh and Myanmar enjoyed the best of relationships as neighbours.

Ahmad said Bangladesh had traditional links with Myanmar. "We should supplement each others economy standing on the base of our age-old friendship," he added.

Later, the Myanmar Rail, Transportation Minister attended a briefing-session on Bangladesh Railway where he was apprised of the functioning, organisational set-up and other important matters of the railway.

## Ershad's trial deferred

The trial of former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad in three cases, scheduled for yesterday, were deferred as a result of an order from the High Court upon a defence prayer, reports BSS.

As the sessions and Special Judge Anwaruddin Sikder was about to take up the Special Case No 19 of 1993, Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Ershad's counsel, sought the chair's permission to dwell on a petition submitted to the court.

The presiding judge granted the defence's prayer for an adjournment on the hearing of the case and fixed February 24 as the next date in consultation with Ashrafuddin Ahmed, the special public prosecutor.

The hearing of the other two cases were also shifted to February 24. Both the cases relate to corruption charges.

## SC Bar asks Ainjibi Forum leaders to show cause

By Staff Correspondent

The Supreme Court Bar Association yesterday adopted a unanimous resolution to issue show cause notices on Justice TH Khan, the convener of the pro-BNP Jatiyatbadi Ainjibi Forum, and Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker as to why their memberships should not be cancelled and they should not be expelled from the association.

Adopted in an emergency meeting of the nearly 1600-member association, the strongly worded resolutions also demanded the resignation of the Information Minister for his reported remarks about the Chief Justice in Parliament.

Presided over by the associ-

ation's president Kazi Golam Mahubub the meeting was held at the south hall of its Supreme Court offices. The meeting was called to review the latest situation regarding the furor over the appointment of nine High Court judges without any consultation with the Chief Justice.

Earlier on February 5, the SC Bar Association had adopted another resolution rejecting the judges' appointments and demanding their immediate withdrawal. The resolution also urged the Chief Justice not to administer oaths to the newly appointed judges.

Conducted by the secretary of the association Mahububey Alam, yesterday's emergency See Page 12 Col 3

## SAARC Chamber for 5-year action plan

By Staff Correspondent

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) has decided to prepare a five-year action plan to expedite economic cooperation among the member countries.

It has also decided to set up five subject committees on trade and services, industry, transport and communications, science and technology and human resources. They are to recommend steps for developing these sectors.

President of the SCCI SM Inam announced these decisions at a press briefing at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Vice-Presidents of the SCCI Mahubub Rahman of Bangladesh and Binod K Chowdhury of Nepal were also present.

The Executive Committee of the Chamber at its meeting in the city on Monday had also decided to set up councils for major products of interest to each SAARC member-country with a view to promoting collaboration among themselves.

The product councils to be set up for leather, timber, computer software, marine products, tourism, engineering goods and tea, would be headed by the representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan,

India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka respectively.

Expressing his confidence in increased trade and commerce among the SAARC countries, SM Inam said the decisions of the meeting would go a long way in accelerating economic cooperation in the region.

In reply to a question on what would be the impact of various political irritants and disputes on the efforts to promote economic cooperation, the SAARC Chamber President said, foreign policies were now being formulated on the basis of economic factors, not political issues. So the political fac-

See Page 12 Col 8

## Shippers of 4 regional states for reasonable freight rates

By Staff Correspondent

The shippers of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka yesterday expressed their concern over the rising freight rates of the shipping lines worldwide and vowed to work unitedly to keep the rates at reasonable level in the interest of imports and exports.

They spoke of the need for closer cooperation among the shippers of South Asia at the eleventh annual meeting of the Association of the Shippers Councils of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka held at a local hotel in the city Tuesday.

Muhammad Shams-ul-Haque, chairman of the ASCOBIPS, addressing the inaugural session, said, "The global freight market which was favourable to the shippers

during the last few years due to competition among the shipping lines is showing signs of firming up."

But efforts are now underway to eliminate this competition by forming grouping among them in the name of consortium and rate stabilisation agreement, he observed.

"They have already started raising freight rates in the name of rate restoration and are imposing various surcharges without any justification or consultation with the shippers," Haque said.

"The ASCOBIPS will, therefore, have to further close its ranks in order to counter this trend and to promote the interest of the shippers in the region," he maintained. The chief guest of the ses-

sion, Shipping Minister M K Anwar, said the ASCOBIPS has a dynamic role to play in familiarising the shippers with the requirements of modern trade, transport and shipping to promote their exports against the backdrop of the emerging new technologies in cargo carriage.

"Close cooperation among the member-councils of the ASCOBIPS in experience sharing, exchange of ideas and joint action in resolving common problems will benefit all the member countries," the minister said.

Anwar welcomed the move of the ASCOBIPS to invite the shippers organisations of the remaining three SAARC member countries to join this as-

See Page 12 Col 8

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Jute growers rally  
 scheduled to be held on  
 February 10, 1994 at 12-30  
 pm at Kapasia Pilot High  
 School ground Gazipur will  
 now be held at 12:00 Noon  
 on the same date.

Guests are requested to  
 take their seats by 11:30  
 am instead of 12:00 Noon.  
 Inconvenience thus  
 caused is regretted.

**Mohammad Abu Hena**  
 Secretary  
 Ministry of Jute

DFP(G) 2590-8/2  
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