Manipur rebels set TV station afire

NEW DELHI, Feb 19: Six people were killed and Maoist guerillas set a television station quoting news reports.

Despite the violence and a call by the outlawed People's Liberation Army (PLA) for a boycott of the polls, about 70 per cent of 758,000 eligible voters turned out to cast their ballots, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said.

the second of six states to vote in provincial elections crucial for Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao.

Thirty-nine seats in the state assembly were up for grabs in today's polling after voting for 20 seats was held Thursday. Balloting for one seat has been postponed after the killing of an opposition candidate by unknown gun-

PLA guerillas set ablaze a state-run television station as voting got underway in the Manipur capital of Imphal, damaging transmission equipment and disrupting broadcasts, PTI said.

The attack came after two people were killed in an overnight bomb blast in the Manipur district of Thoubal. the news agency said.

premises of a school converted

into a voting centre in Imphal. and a second militant died in a gunbattle with security forces in Thoubal, it said.

PLA activists distributed pamphlets in Imphal ordering voters to boycott the polling. but did not appear to have an effect on today's turnout, which decided the fate of 221

223 killed in campus violence since '73

By Staff Correspondent

At least 223 persons have been killed in thousands of clashes at different universities, colleges and other educational institutions of the country since 1973, according to a report compiled by the Gano Forum released at a press conference yesterday.

Of the killings, 116 murders took place between 1991 and 1994. In the last 22 years, at least 54 murders were committed on the Dhaka University campus alone.

in the last four years, different educational institutions were closed for 207 times. The number of clash occurred in those institutions is 844 in which at least 8398 students and others were hurt.

The statistics were compiled on the basis of newspaper reports.

Ekushey Award, 1994 for dis-

tinguished contributions in

Khaleda Zia will give away the

honours this morning at a cer-

emony in the Osmany Memo-

sion and Radio Bangladesh will

put up special programmes

while the newspapers will

bring out special supplements.

Academy will organise a dis-

cussion meeting and cultural

function tomorrow at its audi-

serve the day by hoisting black

flags at its office and at the

Bangabandhu Bhaban. The

party flags will remain at half-

will gather at the New Market

gate opposite to Azimpur

colony at 6:00 am tomorrow

and walk bare-foot to the

Azimpur graveyard to pay

homage to the martyrs buried

there. They will also place

wreaths at the Central Sha-

planned similar programmes.

Other political parties have

heed Minar.

Party leaders and workers

The Awami League will ob-

The Bangladesh Shilpakala

Prime Minister Begum

As usual, Bangladesh Televi-

their respective fields.

rial Hall.

Six killed, 45 injured in clash, accidents By Staff Correspondent

Police taking away some unauthorised rickshaws, along

with the pullers, from the New Market area in the city

At least six people were killed and 45 injured in clash and accidents around the country yesterday.

vesterday.

The incidents took place in Sylhet, Barisal, Savar and Jhenidah districts.

Our Staff Correspondent in Sylhet says, two brothers were killed and at least 20 jujured in a clash between rival groups of villagers at the village Noagaon of Mogalgaon union under Sylhet sadar thana yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Altaf Ali. 50, and his elder brother Alkas Ali, 55.

Witnesses said, two youngmen of the village had an exchange of hot words over some trivial matters, which resulted in a fierce fighting between the relatives of the both.

After somewhile, when a group of local leaders went to the house of one Taimus Ali to resolve the dispute, both sides attacked each other with lethal weapons.

Altaf died on the spot while

his brother died on way to the Osmany Medical Colica 'Hospital. All the injured were also admitted to the same hospital. Of them, condition of 10 were stated to be critical.

- Star photo

Our Staff Correspondent in Barisal says, one Rafigul Ahsan Rohan, 30, died in a road accident here yesterday morning.

A Barguna-bound coach of the Sugandha Paribahan from Dhaka hit from back the rickshaw Rafiq was riding near Hatem Ali College on the AB Road. He was rushed to the Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries.

UNB adds: In Savar two people were killed and five injured in two road accidents on the Dhaka-Aricha highway.

Police said a truck helper was killed and five others were injured when an Aricha-bound truck skidded off the road after its driver had lost control at the Savar thana bus stand at about 2 pm.

be identified, succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital in Dhaka.

. In another incident, Jasim, 25, was run over by a truck near the Savar Bus Station at about 1 pm. He died on the

The driver managed to flee along with his vehicle. In Jhenidah, a young man

was killed and at least 20 people were injured in road accidents. Police said about 20 people

were injured, five seriously when a Jhenidah-bound bus fell into a road side ditch after the driver had lost control at about 2 pm at Gopinathpur on the Jhenidah-Kushtia road.

In another accident Hafizur Rahman, 25, a tempo driver was run over by a truck at Batoi Bazar in Shailakupa thana on the Jhenidah-Kushtia road early yesterday. He succumbed to injuries on his way to Sadar Hospital.

The driver along with his

The helper, who could not truck fled.

. The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) is taking steps for automation of the share trading and settlement operation system by the end this year, ac-

, The DSE authorities have decided to introduce both on and off screen computerised trading system and central depository system (CDS) by using multi-user and multi-tasking server computers. Tenders for procuring those have already been floated.

About Tk two crore would be required to implement the automation programme. After receiving the financial and technical offers from the bidders, the authorities would look for donors to fund the modernisation project, the

Traders staying outside Dhaka and even in other countries can participate in share trading directly after the introduction of on-screen trading system.

Automation of the clearing house and introduction of the central depository system would help ensure quick transactions of money and transfer of share certificates. they said.

From Page One

Watanabe, ADAB Chairperson

Khushi Kabir, Dr Mohammad

Haroonur Rashid, Convener,

Drafting Committee of the

National Report on the WSSD,

Bangladesh, and Zahin Ahmed,

Convener of the WSSD NGO

the UNDP representative said

the Summit would try to cre-

ate a social development

movement for eliminating the

existing inequalities in the so-

total world income goes to the

top 20 per cent of the rich

while the bottom 20 per cent

enjoys only 1.5 per cent of the

world's resources is also en-

joyed by the handfuls while the

rest live on minimums, she

that pro-active programmes

are, planned by the govern-

ments of the developing coun-

Watanabe said, it was time

The big chunk of the

She said, 83 per cent of the

Speaking on the occasion.

Preparatory Group.

cial sector.

income.

said.

Speaker's counsel says

the country even told the press on January 15 that he would give his decision on the matter within a couple of days and clarified that it would not take more

that just when the Speaker was about to give his decision, the court had issued a rule upon the Speaker not to give any opinion regarding the resignations till the disposal of the writ. Accordingly, he added, the Speaker had not pronounced his decision on the matter.

Barrister Hossain described the matter of resignation of the Parliament members as an internal affair relating to the procedure, conduct of business and maintenance of order in Parliament, and submitted that the court had no jurisdiction in this matter under Article 78(2) of the Constitution dealing with privileges and immunities of Parliament and its

Earlier, pleading on behalf ated a serious political crisis in

He said that the Speaker had undermined the constitu-

tional provisions by not acting as per the relevant provisions of the Constitution and ROP of Parliament in dealing with the resignations. Regarding time limit for

disposing of the resignations. Advocate Islam submitted that there was no scope for the Speaker to take time because he was only to inform the Parliament secretariat about such resignation for gazette notification and communication of the same to the Election Commission for holding by-elections to the vacant seats.

Advocate Islam said since the Speaker was not the appointing authority of no power to investigate any matter of the members. Once someone resigned, it is always a resignation since there was no scope for the members to withdraw the resignations or to compromise.

The larger bench of the High Court division comprising Justice A M Mahbudur Rahman, Justice Kazi Ebadul Hug and Justice M A Karim will resume the hearing this morning.

Parliament members, he has

Bangladesh has already spearheaded an intense NGO campaign, along with other NGOs in South Asia, to emphasise on the uniqueness of the

Declaration on WSSD, known as the Koitta Declaration, called upon the world community to adopt a "people-centered" development approach for establishing a society based on an equitable sharing and

control of resources. The platform of about 56 NGOs of the region will work together so that the final document of the WSSD reflects the perspective of the poor

Several groups have been

nearing a compromise copying of CDs, software and

Trade talks: US, China

BEIJING Feb 19: Progress

has been made in talks on

curbing piracy of movies, mu-

sic and computer software in

China and averting a trade war

the US and Chinese negotia-

mained to be settled. US Assis

tant Trade Representative Lee

Sands told reporters. He de-

clined to say what obstacles

Agency also quoted a Ministry

of Foreign Trade and Eco-

nomic Cooperation official as

saying progress was made, but

US officials however, indi-

The talks on now China can

China has invited Deputy US

Trade Representative Charlene

Barshefsky to hold talks with

Trade Minister W U Yi and

other senior Chinese leaders,

Sands said. Barshefsky will ar-

deadline for settling the dis-

pute over how China can step

up its attack on rampant illegal

Sands said there was no

rive tomorrow, he said.

cated that negotiators were

protect copyrights, patents

and trademarks will continue

on Wednesday with higher-

ranking officials. Sands said.

nearing a compromise.

The official Xinhua News

remained

gave no details.

But important issues re-

tors said today, reports AP.

other products. ' The only US deadline had been Feb 4. he said. On that day the United States announced it would impose 100 per cent tariffs on about dirs 1 billion of Chinese imports on Feb 26 unless a settlement was reached. China has said it would retaliate with its own

SAARC summit

From Page One

inputs that regional coopera-

tion can provide," he stated. "I trust that our New Delhi meeting, and our future meetings, will be able to purpose fully and effectively address

these common problems." He said that during the last ten years the organisation had maintained a "steady, progressive course and can take satisfaction from many recorded achievements. "He said the summit would be an opportunity to review our policies and achievements to consolidate gains and formulate programmes for further progress.

The summit, originally a heduled to be held last year New Delhi, was postponed more than once due to "inability" expressed by memper countries

Of the seven previous summits since the launching of the forum in December, 1985, two - the first and the last - were held in Dhaka. Only Bhutan has yet to play host to the leaders of Bangladesh, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri

Jute workers protest Hannan's statement

Convenor of Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad Abul Bashar has protested the Saturday's statement of the Jute Minister on the jute workers' strike and blockade programmes and urged the government to concede to their demands, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday the Sangram Parishad convenor demanded a unilateral announcement from the government fulfilling the workers demands before Eid-ul-Fitr.

Abul Bashar, in his statement, said the jute workers had announced "strike and blockade programmes" four times during the tenure of the present government that ended in agreements with the authorities.

The jute minister and some other ministers, and even the Prime Minister herself were present during the signing of those agreements, he said, observing that their presence proved the legality of their agitations like "strikes-block

Bashar observed that a wide gap between the workers of public and private sector jute and textile mills has arisen after the private owners refrained from implementing the Wages Commission Awards.

The price-spiral of essentials, including rice, forced the workers to wage a movement for implementing the Wages Commission Awards and abrogating the accord with the World Bank, he said.

Indian envoy

From Page One served as Consul General of India in San Francisco and High Commissioner to Nigeria. At present he is Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

New Pak envoy

Pakistan's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh Karam Elahi is scheduled to take up his new assignment in Dhaka on February 23. Elahi was his country's Additional Foreign Secretary before his current assignment. He joined the Pakistan foreign service in

Trade ordn From Page One

development and anti-people activities. "If democratic system con-

tinues, production and development of the country can be ensured," she said. The BCI team apprised the

Prime Minister of various problems faced by the industrialists and requested her to take necessary action in resolving them. . Begum Zia said problems of

all sectors could be resolved if democracy prevailed and assured them of looking into their problems. The Prime Minister said

that an international trade centre would be set up in the country and international trade fair organised regularly for the promotion of local industries and export. Present in the meeting

were, among others, Industries' Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan, BCI Vice-President Nurul Islam, BCI Directors Obayedur Rahman, Saiful Islam Khan, Sharif M Afzal Hossain, Neaz Rahim and P R Shaha.

The Midnight File

UN peace plan for Afghanistan plunged into uncertainty

KABUL. Feb 19: The United Nations peace plan for Alghanistan was plunged into uncertainty today after Taliban Islamic militants, who captured another province, were reported to have set stiff conditions for a transfer of power. Clashes were also reported overnight in Kabul between Shi'ite Muslims and forces of President Burhanuddin Rabbani, re-

Russia won't extend truce

MOZDOK. Russia. Feb 19: Russia's military commander in Chechnya today effectively dealt a death blow to talks with secessionist rebels, saying he would not extend a ceasefire which expired at 6 pm local time (1500 GMT). General Anatoly Kulikov released a statement at military headquarters in the town of Mozkod saying it was pointless holding further cers fire talks after rebels had attacked Russian troops on Saturday, reports Reuter.

People want removal of govt, claims Menon

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL: Feb 19: Workers Party General Secretary Rashed Khan Menon has urged the democratic forces to unite to realise the demand for elections under a neutral caretaker government.

He was addressing a public meeting organised by the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in front of the Aswine Kumar Hall here this morning

Menon claimed that people want removal of the present autour Hic rulers.

He editicised the government for the price-hike of essentials including writing paper. A vested quarter was making fortunes by raising the price of writing paper, he al-

AL: JS seats From Page One

two districts, intact in the fresh list would cause further -administrative problems in the areas, it added.

EC's negligence to its constitutional duties and proves that it had only done the routine job in this regard," the committee said.

The AL election body also said the authorities did not consult the political parties on an issue that might create confusion in public mind. UNB adds: The Awami

League vesterday criticised the government for conducting relief and development works by the ruling party MPs in the constituencies of opposition MPs whose seats are yet to be declared vacant.

They demand velopmental works should be supervised by the elected

Kamal From Page One political parties should go for a

dialogue immediately. The December 29 proposal of the government was essentially similar to the Opposition demand for a caretaker government. It was rejected because the offer was made one day after the resignation of the Opposition MPs. So there is some sort of a common formula on which all the political parties can hold talks. he noted.

We all want free and fair elections. We want not only a caretaker government for that purpose, but also laws to free

"This simply reflects the

Chairmen

elections from black money. muscle power and terrorism. We also want a code of conduct and identity cards and removal of the present Chief Election Commissioner who has lost his credibility after the Magura byelections. Dr Kamal said. Hillary Clinton

- From Page One

tiate a Grameen Bank project, 'Good Hope Fund' in Little Rock. Later, several other similar projects were taken up in the US. Canada and other countries.

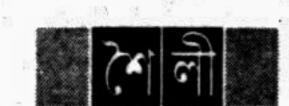
Earlier last year. Prof Yunus had been invited to a private audience with President Clinton while recently he met with Hillary Clinton at the White House and extended a personal invitation to the First Lady to visit Bangladesh.

Hillary Clinton is also expected to call on the Prime Minister and high government

officials. The details of the programme are expected to be finalised by the government in cooperation with the local US

Besides Bangladesh Hillary will also visit a least two other South Asian countries, sources

embassy.

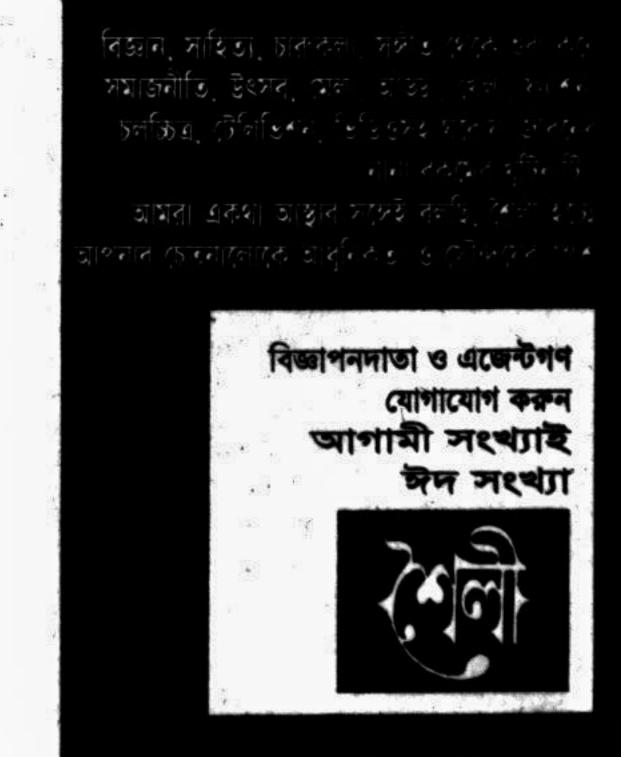


আধুনিক পাঠকের নান্দনিক পত্রিকা

প্রশুটি যদি ওঠে সাহিত্য নিয়ে তাহলে আমরা বলবো টলস্টর, রবীন্দ্রনাথ, ফ্রানৎস কাফকা, সৈয়দ মুজতবা আলী, কমলকুমার মজুমদারের কথা

আর চলচ্চিত্রের বেলায় গদার, কুরোশোয়া, সত্যজিৎ রায় বা স্টিফেন স্পিলবার্গের নাম এসেই পড়ে আর এখন থেকে বিশেষভাবে মনে রাখতে অনুরোধ করি পত্রিকা জগতে একটি নতুন নাম – শৈলী

এজন্যই শৈলীর আয়োজনের মধ্যে থাকছে



বেক্সিমকো মিডিয়া লিমিটেডের পাক্ষিক প্রকাশনা রহমান ম্যানশন, ৪র্থ তলা, ১৬১, মন্তিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০ त्यान १ ৮५० १५५, ४५० १५२, २८४५०७

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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on fire as violence marred the final phase of state elections today in Manipur. AFP says

Manipur. a tiny state of 1.8 million bordering Myanmar, is

A PLA guerilla was killed today when a bomb he was carrying exploded in the

Amar Ekushey tomorrow From Page One

student bodies and socio-cultural organisations have drawn un befitting programmes to observe the day. These include discussions, seminars, milad mahfil, blood donation campaign and placing of wreaths at the Shaheed Minar.

The government, in a hand-

out issued yesterday, directed

all the mosques to organise guran khwani and milad mahfil and offer special prayers for the salvation of the departed souls of the martyrs. The day's programmes begin with the placing of wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar at two minutes past midnight

strains of the famous song, "Amar bhawer roktey rangano Ekushey February, amiki bhulitey pari." At a press conference yesterday. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum explained some of the

by the Prime Minister to the

ministry and its affiliated or-She said noted litterateurs, journalists, educationists and

artistes would receive the

programmes taken up by her

Securities market From Page One Bangladesh Bank earlier this month to relax restrictions on extending bank loans against

shares listed with the DSE is

expected to ease the liquidity

shortage problem. Share investors henceforth would be allowed to take bank loans against 80 per cent of the face value or 40 per cent of the market value of their shares and debentures upto a maximum of Tk five lakh. The banks would treat blank share transfer certificates as collaterai. Earlier, loans against

market value, whichever was The objective of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) guidelines for issuing IPOs is to protect the interest of the investors' and analysts welcomed it as a good move to build market

share transfer certificates

stood at 80 per cent of face or

confidence. It stipulated that the minimum lot of IPO share would be securities worth Tk 5000 with 50 per cent of the net IPO reserved for the applicants in the minimum lot. Of the balance 50 per cent, 10 per cent each would be reserved for the Tk 50,000 lot, Tk one lakh and the Tk five lakh lots. While the remaining 20 per cent of the net IPO would be reserved for the financial institutions, Insurance companies and market intermediaries for a mini-

Market players pointed out that the above steps would encourage the small investors by increasing the availability of shares for them. The small percentage of shares allocated for the small investors had earlier led to the oversubscription of shares of majority of the record 17 or so primary issues last year.

lines for issuing right shares, the SEC said, was to bring about greater transparency and strict monitoring.

mum lot of Tk five lakh.

The objective of the guide-MANIKGANJ, Feb 19: More

Detailing strict procedural formalities in issuing right shares, it also imposed a restriction on foreign investors' ownership to one-third of the right shares but not exceeding

the total foreign exchange requirement for import of plant machinery for the proposed project. It also imposed a one year lock-in period for foreign investments but allowed foreign investors to underwrite for the same amount of right

shares they are authorised to The formation of a second bourse, the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE), in the country is being seen as a major step towards expanding the capital market base, although a majority of the DSE members have opposed the move as being an unnecessary duplication

in the present state of the market. The CSE is expected to at; tract the large amount of liquid assets available in the port city, recently termed as the commercial capital of the country. It would also encourage the existing industries in Chittagong

to go public.

Already a good number of companies listed with the DSE are from the Chittagong area while some 25 per cent of the funds under the investors account scheme of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh is from the south eastern city. Analysts pointed out that

the above changes would definitely contribute positively towards consolidating the market gains of recent years. But they added that more needs to be done to streamline auditing procedures, increasing disclosure requirements and .to strongly deal with non-payment of dividends by the listed companies.

5000 passengers stranded at Aricha for two hours

than 5,000 passengers of about one hundred night coaches of 17 northern and western districts were stranded at the Aricha ferry ghat today following a clash between the transport workers and some local youths, reports UNB.

DSE takes steps

for automation Star Report

cording to DSE sources.

sources said.

From Page One

than a week. Barrister Hossain submitted

members. of the petitioner, advocate A B M Nurul Islam reiterated that all actions by the Speaker on the resignation letters were malafide and politically motivated which, he said, had cre-

Copenhagen Summit March 6 tries and mentioned that, regionally, only the SAARC has brought the poverty alleviation issue into its political agenda. The UNDP representative. however, cautioned against any slip that might lead to the ex-

> She said, the NGOs should play their due roles in setting the perspective of the poor in social development as well as linking poverty with human rights issues. Dr M Haroonur Rashid, in his speech, explained the

highlights of the Bangladesh

position paper which will be

presented at the Social Su-

isting debates being distracted

towards the issue of mobilising

additional resources.

Possibilities of excellent government-NGO cooperation are there as the Summit focus on the issues that are dealt by both the public and the private sectors, he pointed out. Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia is expected to at-

tend the World Summit.

shared societal and cultural plurality of the region. The South Asian NGO

and the kind of the sense of direction they expected.

formed to work out the NGO position paper of Bangladesh for the Social Summit reflecting the people's views on the problems of poverty, employment and social integration.