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A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS
AND ARTICLES ON THE CUR-RENT POLITICAL CRISIS



gue leader Suranjit Sengupta beieves that he current political crsis is deeprooted and resolution of the rudimentary

Awami Lea-

crux is only possible in the streets. The issue must be left to the people who are source of all power in a democracy, he views. He blames the ruling party

for closing all established means of settlement by demonstrating its undemocratic deeds and stubborn attitude. But yet, a solution can be found out if the government accepts the Opposition formula of a caretaker administration, the AL leader said.

Tomorrow: Interview with Jatiya party acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

- Inside Today -

Article An Issue of Human Rights

> by Ashok Mitra Page 4

International

Rabbani may not resign

teday.

Opposition wins Finnish polls Page 5

Business

Setting up of country's 3rd EPZ being delayed Page 9

STOCK MARKET

801.03 (+0.146%) Market capitalisation Tk 44.24 billion Turnover in volume 22.58 million

NEWS BRIEFS

Prof Rashid returns to JU

By JU Correspondent Prof Harun Ur-Rashid returns to the English Department of the Jahangirnagar University [JU] yesterday after completing his four-year assignment as the Director General of the Bangla Academy. Dr Rashid who is a professor of the English Department of the JU, was appointed the DG of the academy on deputation in

Schoolgirl killed in road accident

CHITTAGONG, Mar 20: Sumi Akhter, 6, a schoolgirl was killed when a speeding bus ran over her at Badurtala here today. According to Panchalaish police the tragic accident occurred when Sumi was on her way to residence from school. A Kalurghatbound town service bus ran over her while she was crossing the road. She died instantaneously, reports BSS.

Clinton to attend WWII anniversary

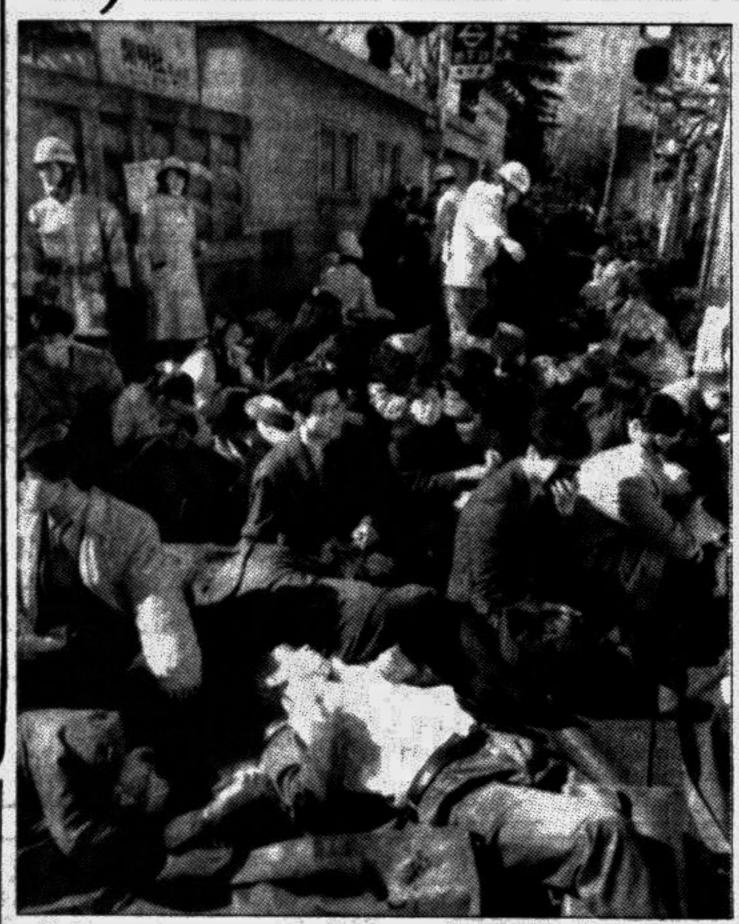
WASHINGTON, Mar 20; President Bill Clinton has decided to attend 50th anniver sary ceremonies of the end of World War Two in Russia on May 9, a US official said today. he said the official announcesment was expected to be made later-today, reports Reuter.

4 houses gutted in Tongi slum

Four houses were gutted in a fire that broke out at 'Kalumia Slum' in Tongi Sunday night. Fire Service sources said property worth about Tk 1 lakh was destroyed in the fire which originated from an electric short-circuit, reports

Tokyo subway turns into deathtrap

Gordian Knot Our Politics Nerve gas attack kills 6, sickens thousands



Subway passengers wait to receive medical attention yesterday after inhaling a lethal nerve gas which was allegedly unleashed by unknown attackers in the Tokyo subway system - AFP/UNB photo

50 injured during clash

Partyman snatched

Janata Party candidate

shot dead in Bihar

TOKYO, Mar 20; One of the world's busiest subway systems turned into a deathtrap today when nerve gas spewed through cars during the morning rush hour, killing six people and sickening thousands. Authorities were treating it as a terrorist attack, reports AP.

All over central Tokyo, passengers on crowded trains and platforms fainted, vomited or went into convulsions as the fumes spread. Some of those stricken foamed at the mouth and bled from the nose, wit-

nesses said. More than 1,300 people were admitted to hospitals for treatment or observation, and hundreds if not thousands of others suffered lesser symptoms including nausea and coughing, officials said.

Police said the toxic agent was sarin, a nerve gas that can be fatal even in very small doses. Japanese news reports cited authorities as saving the substance was planted in wrapped containers in at least five subway cars on three train

Sarin was blamed for seven deaths in June at houses in the central Japanese town of Matsumoto. The source was never identified, and there were no attests.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, or indication of motive in today's at-See Page 12 Col 2

AL rally in city

protests police

action

Draft of JMB Land Acquisition Act okayed

The Cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (Land Acquisition) Act 1995 aimed at expediting acquirement of land for timely implementation of the multimillion-dollar project, reports UNB.

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

It also endorsed the Wheat Procurement Policy of the current year under which more than 50,000 metric tons of wheat will be procured. The government procurement price has been fixed at Tk seven per kilogram.

Besides, the Cabinet approved Nuclear Safety Convention, said an official handout.

JFF resumes production

By Staff Correspondent Jamuna Fertiliser Factory resumed production from yesterday while production in

Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory was scheduled to be resumed by yesterday evening. Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) announced yesterday. BCIC authorities expressed

the hope that with the resumption of production in these factories, delivery of fertiliser as programmed for different districts would contin-

> Production of urea at the See Page 12 Col 4

Not much progress yet on electoral database

By Krishna P Roy

The Election Commission (EC) has not been able to make much progress in its work on the introduction of an electoral database management system.

The planned electoral database management system is required to issue identity (ID) cards to nearly 60 million voters of the country before the next general elections, due early 1996.

"We have already begun our work, but there could not be any significant progress since the government is yet to provide adequate manpower for the purpose," said an EC offi-

The official, who did not want to be named, said yesterday that some 60 officers were named to the Thana Election

2 ships with EU wheat start unloading

By Staff Correspondent

Two ships carrying 70,000 tonnes of wheat as food aid from the European Union which arrived at Chittagong port on March 15 and 16 have begun unloading the grains.

Two more ships carrying a further 65,000 tonnes of wheat will arrive during the first week of April, said a news release of the Delegation of the European Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

These consignments are part of the European Union's See Page 12 Col, 4

Offices (TEOs) initially, but no new appointment has yet been

The TEOs have been created following the passage of the Election Commission Bill by the Jatiya Sangsad during its 17th session last October.

Every TEO would have three permanent staff under whom temporary data enumerators and supervisors would work. The enumerators and their supervisors would be appointed from among the local

Meanwhile, the EC has extended the enlistment date for computer companies and traders of software from March 15 to 22.

The enlisted firms would have to set up a computer network, prepare customised voters' database, collect photographs and prepare the ID

Some 227 schedules for qualification were obtained from the commission by different computer firms till Sunday, said a EC source

The EC has reached an understanding with the Bangladesh Government Press for the printing of forms to collect data of individual voters

The paper mills under the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), including the Karnaphuli Paper Mills, are supposed to supply the paper. The EC official said that the

commission had already prepared the format of the forms, but the printing is yet to start.

- Star photo



Looking Back at

March towards Independence

On this day in 1971, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed a large gathering in front of his residence at Dhanmondi, and boldly urged the people to continue the struggle until their demands were fulfilled. Sheikh Mujib added that the "awakened nation" could not be kept under subjugation any longer. He said "We will not allow to keep Bangladesh as a colony and a market any more". A large number of processions proceeded towards the residence of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and

dence. More on page 4.

raised slogans in favour of a

non-stop struggle for indepen-

Latif, Shams will confess, CID hope

By Staff Correspondent

CID investigators probing the murder of Major General Abul Manzur in 1981 continued their interrogation of Maj Gen (retd) Abdul Latif and Lt Col Shamsur Rahman at the CID headquarters in the city vesterday.

The two, who were brought on a fresh five-day remand on March 18, were not allowed to meet any of their family members even yesterday.

Sources close to the investigating team said last night that the two former officers who served in the Chittagong cantonment in May-June 1981 when first, President Ziaur Rahman was assassinated in an abortive coup and then, the alleged leader of the failed attempt, Gen Manzur, was "executed" in unexplained circumstances two days later have been making confusing. even conflicting statements.

However, their interrogators hoped that the two, who have in the meantime divulged many valuable details, would

See Page 12 Col 2

from police custody From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ. Mar 20: At least 50 people including policemen were injured, some of them bullet-hit, in a clash when police opened fire, lobbed teargas shells and resorted to baton charge on Awami League and Jativa Party workers snatching an arrested JP leader from a police mi-

crobus here this evening. Some 20 policemen including the OC of Narayangani Police Station. Golam Sabbir,

were injured in the clash. Of the injured. Shamim Osman, general secretary of

Narayangani Town Awami Lea-

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: Gun-

men shot dead a centrist can-

didate in the eastern Indian

state of Bihar in the run-up to

the next phase of troubled

state assembly elections, press

reports said today, reports

the Janata Party was the third

candidate to be assassinated in

Bihar, which has a reputation

as India's most lawless state

his constituency of Hilsa when

he was shot to death late Sat-

urday, the Hindu and other

Twelve people were ar-

rested in connection with the

armed forces began an opera-

tion against many PKK

(Kurdistan Workers' Party)

camps in areas adjacent to our

country." Anatolian news

agency quoted Prime Minister

The Turkish forces plan to

push 40 km into Iraq along a

220-km front, a military

spokesman told a news con-

PKK guerillas are believed to

be in camps on the lraqi side

The PKK has been fighting

Between 2,500 and 2,800

Tansu Cillar as saying.....

ference in Ankara.

of the border, he said.

newspapers reported.

Prasad was campaigning in

and a history of poll violence.

Chandrashekhar Prasad of

gue; Badal, vice president of Tolaram College Students Union; Kamrul, president of Narayanganj District Chhatra League; Farooq, Selim, Tuhin, Shafiq - all Chhatra League workers - and OC Sabbir and Naik Mahbub Alam were stated to be critical. They were admitted to Narayanganj General Hospital and other local clin-

Witnesses said, a contingent of police went to north Chashara residence of Nasim Osman, a former member of Parliament and president of See Page 12 Col 1

cluding four extremists, a term

used to describe Maoist

The federal election com-

mission immediately cancelled

the election in Hilsa, one of 60

state assembly seats up for

grabs Tuesday in the third

phase of the state assembly

The first phase of the polls

was held on March 11 and the

second on March 15. The polls

will be completed on Tuesday

of paramilitary forces, or

50,000 men, have been de-

ployed to ensure peace in the

59 constituencies that are to

vote tomorrow across 12 Bihar

More than 550 companies

guerillas active in Bihar.

vote split over four days.

and Saturday

By Staff Correspondent Awami League leaders at a rally in the city yesterday

asked the government of Beguin Khaleda Zia to quit as, "It has failed to protect the people's interests and was governing the country in an autocratic manner."

Otherwise, they warned, the people would topple this government as they did the Ershad regime in 1990.

AL leaders also called upon the people to join the Opposition's planned road-rail barricade on March 23 and the Dhaka Siege on March 28 to remove the 'corrupt', 'inefficient' and 'vote-dacoit' BNP government.

See Page 12 Col 3

Plunge in DSE index halted

By Staff Correspondent

The sudden plunge in the All Share Price Index at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) was halted yesterday as trading was brisk with a higher turnover in value.

The DSE index at the end of the day's trading stood at 801.03 as against Sunday's . 799.87, which was 23.93 points lower than that of the previous day.

The DSE, however, issued a brief statement yesterday attributing the fall in the index to an as yet undetected error. without providing any further explanations. The daily statement on the trading activities was also delayed by several hours, way past the deadline for publishing in today's busi-

fire victim

By Staff Correspondent

gum, 10, the body of the minor girl was found in a nearby

Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali and State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al-See Page 12 Col 3

Water Day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Sanitation, apex body of 494 NGOs working in the water supply and sanitation sectors. yesterday held a meeting to exchange views with the journalists on the existing water supply situation of the country, ahead of the World Water Day tomorrow (Wednesday). About 36 districts of the

Bangladesh to get \$87m from Japan

terday signed an agreement on "Japanese Grant Aid for Debt Relief" amounting to 87 million US dollars, reports UNB.

ernments, said a press release. Under the exchange of notes, Japan will provide Bangladesh with the grant assistance as the second portion of its two instalments for

murder, the reports said, in-See Page 12 Col 4 ness pages. Turkish tanks roll into Iraq to attack Kurd bases for an independent homeland forces, including the move-ANKARA Mar 20: Up to inside Turkey since 1984. ment of heavy tanks along the 35,000 Turkish troops, backed More than 15,000 people have by tanks and artillery units. main highway. Earlier the Patriotic Union died in the conflict. crossed five km into northern of Kurdistan (PUK) said on Iraq today to attack Kurdish No other details were im mediately available, but similar Sunday Kurdish fighters had guerilla bases, military officials gained ground in fighting with incursions in the past have said, reports Reuter. the Iraqi army

been aimed at attacking bases "From the early hours of March 20, under orders from ANKARA, Mar 20: Turkish the government, the Turkish

planes bombed and destroyed targets in northern Iraq in a huge military operation against **Kurdish** guerillas. Turkish general staff spokesman Colonel Dogu Silahcioglu said 14 planes dropped 76 bombs on 'physical points' and that the targets were completely destroyed, reports Reuter.

Party (PKK); which is battling for a Kurdish homeland inside Turkey. A Reuters correspondent who recently visited the bor-

der area reported stepped-up

military activity by Turkish

of the Kurdistan Workers'

the iragi army. Baghdad has constantly denied any movement of its troops towards the rebel Kurdish zones saying only there had been clashes 'provoked by

PUK agents."

In a statement sent to Ni-

cosia, the PUK said there had

been fighting overnight in

Chemchamal, Qara-Hanjir, Sh-

wan and Jabari about 12 kilo-

metres (seven miles) from the

town of Kirkuk controlled by

But the PUK said on Sunday iragi forces had suffered "heavy casualties including two officers" who were killed. Two Kurdish fighters had also been killed and 15 wounded.

Slum dwellers trying to retrieve yesterday whatever was left of their belongings after a devastating fire Sunday razed their shanties in Islambagh in the city. Body of Islambagh

recovered Body of a victim of Sunday's devastating fire at Islambagh in the city was recovered vester-

day morning. Identified as Maksuda Be-

Meanwhile, BSS adds:

The NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and

See Page 12 Col 2

Bangladesh and Japan yes-

Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division of Finance Ministry, Dr Saadat Husain and Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Japan in Bangladesh Yoshihisa Kuroda signed the agreement on behalf of their respective gov-

