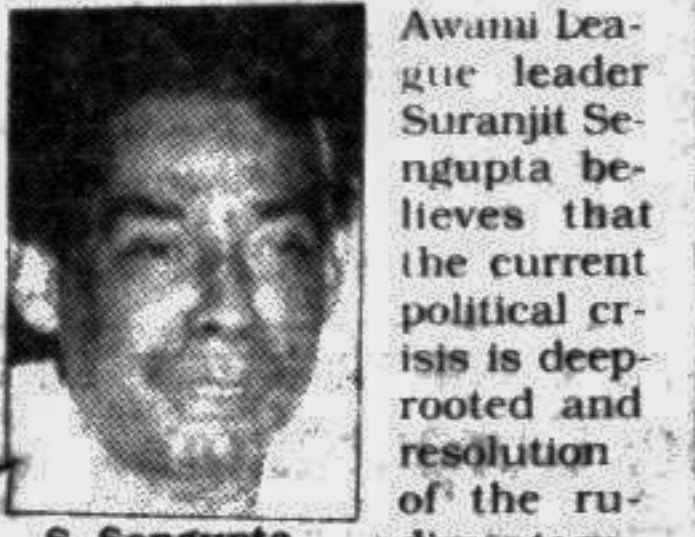


Untying the Gordian Knot of Our Politics

A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS



S. Sengupta
 Awami League leader Suranjit Sengupta believes that the current political crisis is deep-rooted and resolution of the rudimentary 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

Rabhani may not resign today.

Opposition wins Finnish polls

Page 5

Business

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

STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	801.03 (+0.140%)
Market capitalization Tk	44.24 billion
Turnover in volume	11981
Turnover in value Tk	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 1991.

Schoolgirl killed in road accident

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

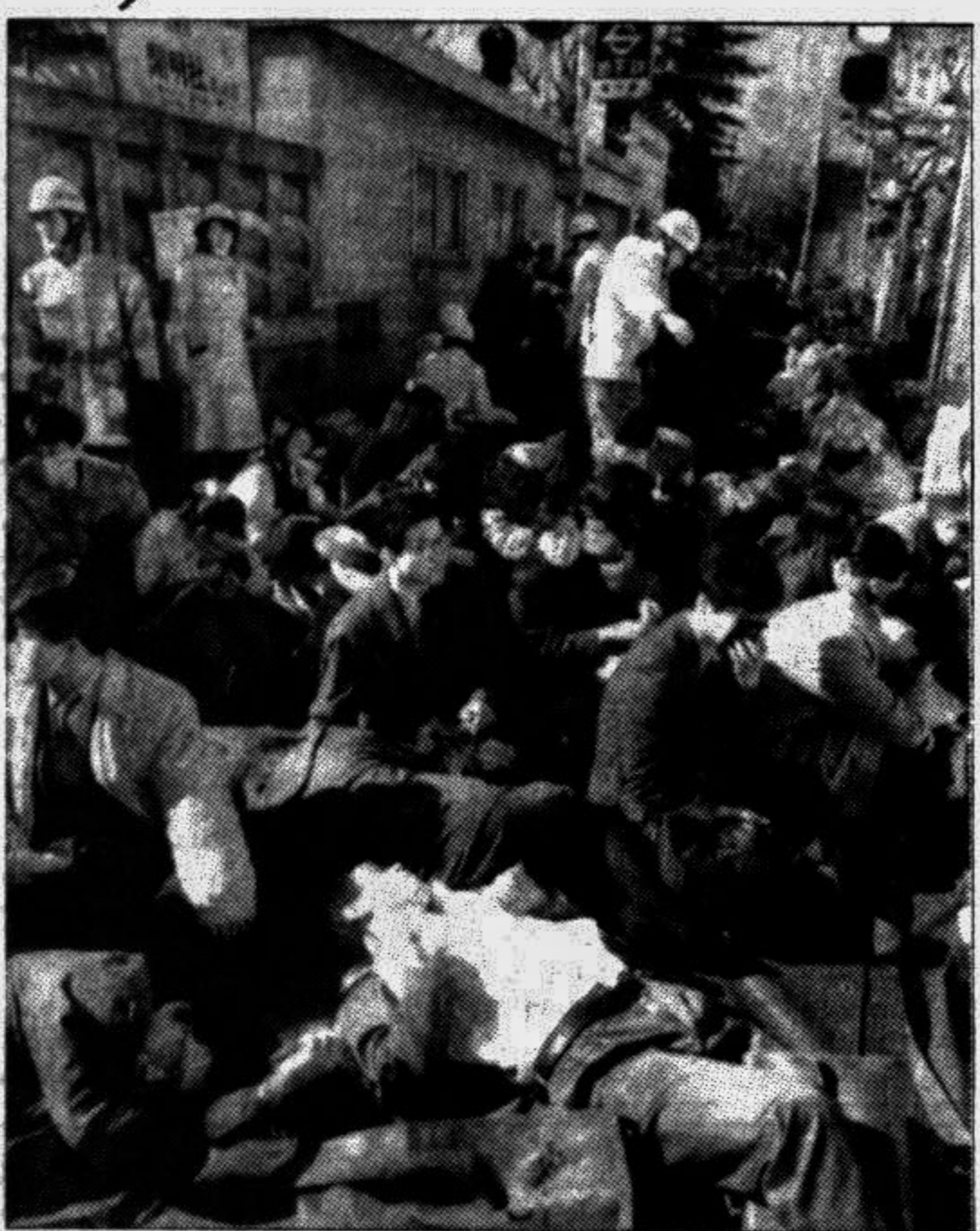
Clinton to attend WWII anniversary

WASHINGTON, Mar 20: President Bill Clinton has decided to attend 50th anniversary ceremonies of the end of World War Two in Russia on May 9, a US official said today. He said the official announcement 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 'Kafumia Slum' in Tongi Sunday night. Fire Service sources said property worth about Tk 1 lakh was destroyed in the fire which originated from an electrical short-circuit, reports UNB.

Tokyo subway turns into deathtrap
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

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, witnesses 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 saying the substance was planted in wrapped containers in at least five subway cars on three train lines.

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 attacks.

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

50 injured during clash Partyman snatched 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 Jatiya Party workers snatching an arrested JP leader from a police microbus here this evening.

Janata Party candidate shot dead in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Mar 20: Gunmen shot dead a centrist candidate 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 AFP.

Turkish tanks roll into Iraq to attack Kurd bases

ANKARA, Mar 20: Up to 35,000 Turkish troops, backed by tanks and artillery units, crossed five km into northern Iraq today to attack Kurdish guerrilla bases, military officials said, reports Reuter.

AL rally in city protests police action

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League leaders at a rally in the city yesterday asked the government of Begum Khaleda Zia to quit as, "It has failed to protect the people's interests and was governing the country in an autocratic manner."

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.

Body of Islambagh fire victim recovered

By Staff Correspondent
 Body of a victim of Sunday's devastating fire at Islambagh in the city was recovered yesterday morning.

Water Day tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
 The NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and 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).

Bangladesh to get \$87m from Japan

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

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 acquisition of land for timely implementation of the multimillion-dollar project, reports UNB.

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.

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.

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.

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 raised slogans in favour of a non-stop struggle for independence.

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 (ret'd) Abdul Latif and Lt Col Shamsur Rahman at the CID headquarters in the city yesterday.



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. — Star photo

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More on page 4

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 (ret'd) Abdul Latif and Lt Col Shamsur Rahman at the CID headquarters in the city yesterday.

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

