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**Notice**

Due to non-availability of imported newsprint we are constrained to use local newsprint today. This situation may continue for some more days. We urge our valued readers and patrons to bear with us. The inconvenience is regretted.

—Management

**Inside Today**

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**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**

## Day-long clashes over 'vote rigging' Police firing kills one in Nilphamari

A journalist was killed and five persons were injured when police opened fire on a militant procession in Nilphamari town yesterday, protesting alleged vote rigging and fictitious results, according to reports received in Dhaka.

Md Kamruzzaman, a cab reporter of the local Weekly Nil-sagar, was shot dead during day-long clashes between mob and police.

A UNB report, however, said that another unidentified person was killed.

The district administration had clamped Section 144 in the town for an indefinite period, banning all processions and gatherings. It has deployed

BDR to check further violence. Witnesses said that the mob attacked the residences of the Deputy Commissioner and other officials of the district administration and police.

The DC, Faiz Ahmed, told The Daily Star over telephone that clashes erupted following a report telecast Sunday night on the election victory of Dewan Nurunnabi, BNP candidate from Nilphamari-2 constituency.

The DC said the Election Commission had ordered repolling in the constituency.

The DC further said that after the news was telecast, scattered processions were brought out late Sunday night protesting what the organisers

termed 'vote rigging and fictitious results.'

One of the processions, allegedly led by independent candidate Ahsan Ahmed Hasan, entered the residence of the DC and ransacked furniture.

Police officials there said the candidate was later arrested from his residence.

When the news of his arrest spread in the town yesterday morning, a militant procession started from the local Paurasabha ground at about 10:30 am. It was halted by police near Khairat Hossain Market.

The procession broke the police cordon and started pelting stones at police and ex-

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## Tributes to be paid to Ekushey martyrs

**By Staff Correspondent**

The nation observes the Amar Ekushey tomorrow to pay tributes to the memory of the martyrs of the Language Movement. The day is a public holiday.

Like previous years, tomorrow also, thousands of people will gather at the footsteps of the Central Shaheed Minar in Dhaka to pay their respect.

In the capital, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to visit the Central Shaheed Minar to pay her respects at midnight heralding the beginning of the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the occasion stressed the need for the strong unity of all to remove the sufferings of the masses through consolidating democracy and independence.

Prime Minister Begum Zia urged the people to work unitedly.

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## Eid and Ekushey tomorrow

**Star Report**

Eid-ul-Fitr, the greatest festival of Muslims, will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the Muslim world tomorrow.

The Eid comes after a month-long *Salam* (fasting during day time) in the month of Ramadan.

This year, the Eid Day falls on the Ekushey, the 21st February, which is also traditionally observed with due solemnity in Bangladesh to pay tributes to the memory of sha-hedees who had made supreme

sacrifices for upholding the dignity of the mother tongue.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages extended Eid greetings to the people and prayed to the Almighty for continued peace and prosperity of the country. The President and the Prime Minister will hold separate receptions on the Eid Day.

Awami League chief and former leader of the opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina also extended greetings on the occasion to the people and sought blessings of the Almighty for the peace and prosperity of the people.

Meanwhile, in a joint message of felicitation, Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad president K B Roy Chowdhury and general secretary Swapan Kumar Saha conveyed Eid greetings to their Muslim brethren of the country. Expressing their total solidarity with the Muslim brethren on this auspicious day, they said:

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## Post-poll violence One killed in Rangpur

Post-election violence across the country left one person killed and 42 more injured on Sunday night and yesterday.

UNB reports: An Awami League activist was killed and five people were injured in post-election violence at Syedpur Bazar in Pargachha thana of Rangpur district on Sunday night.

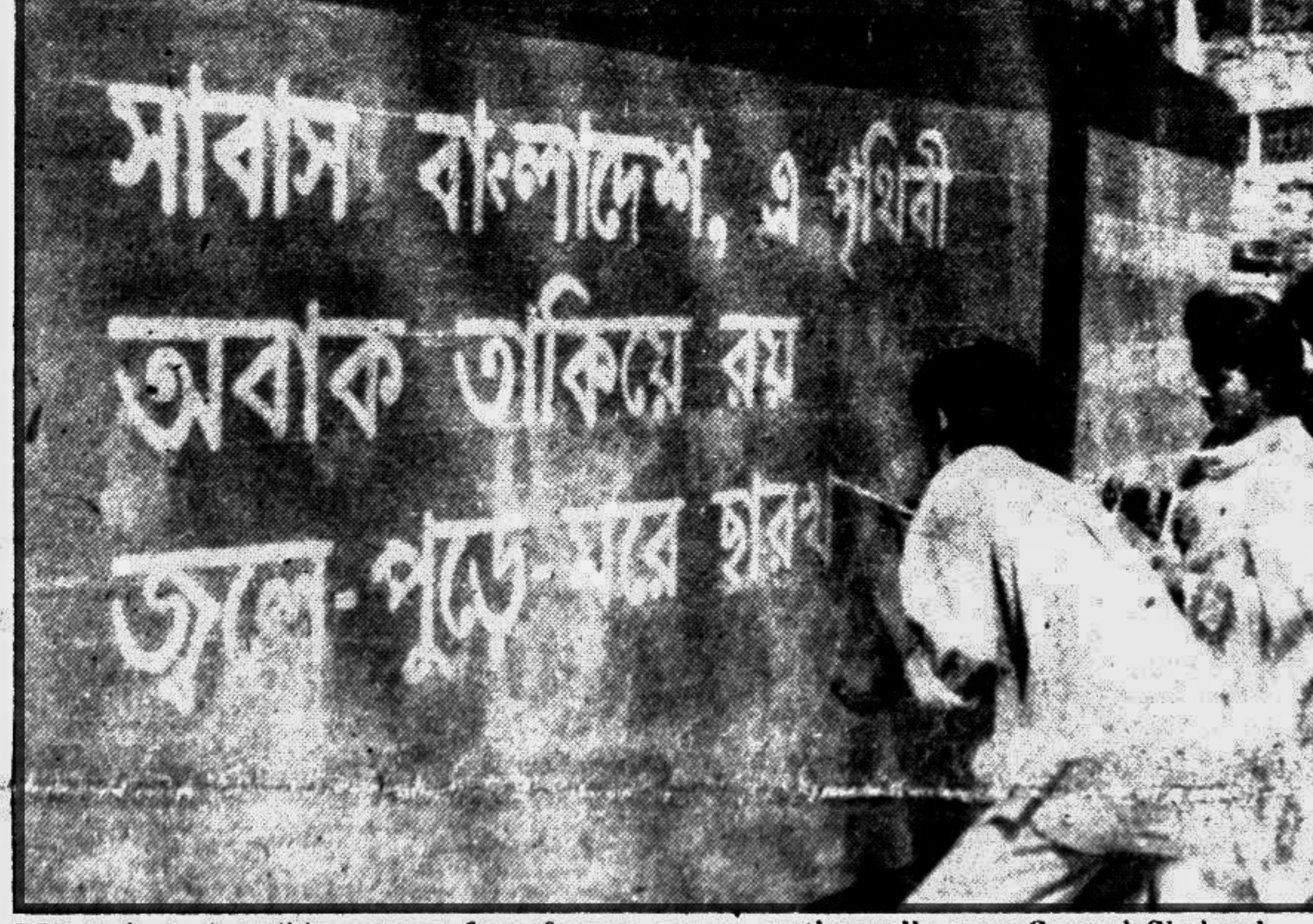
The victim, Aftab, 27, was claimed by the local Awami League as their worker.

Aftab, who was rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital in a critical condition, succumbed to his injuries in the early hours yesterday.

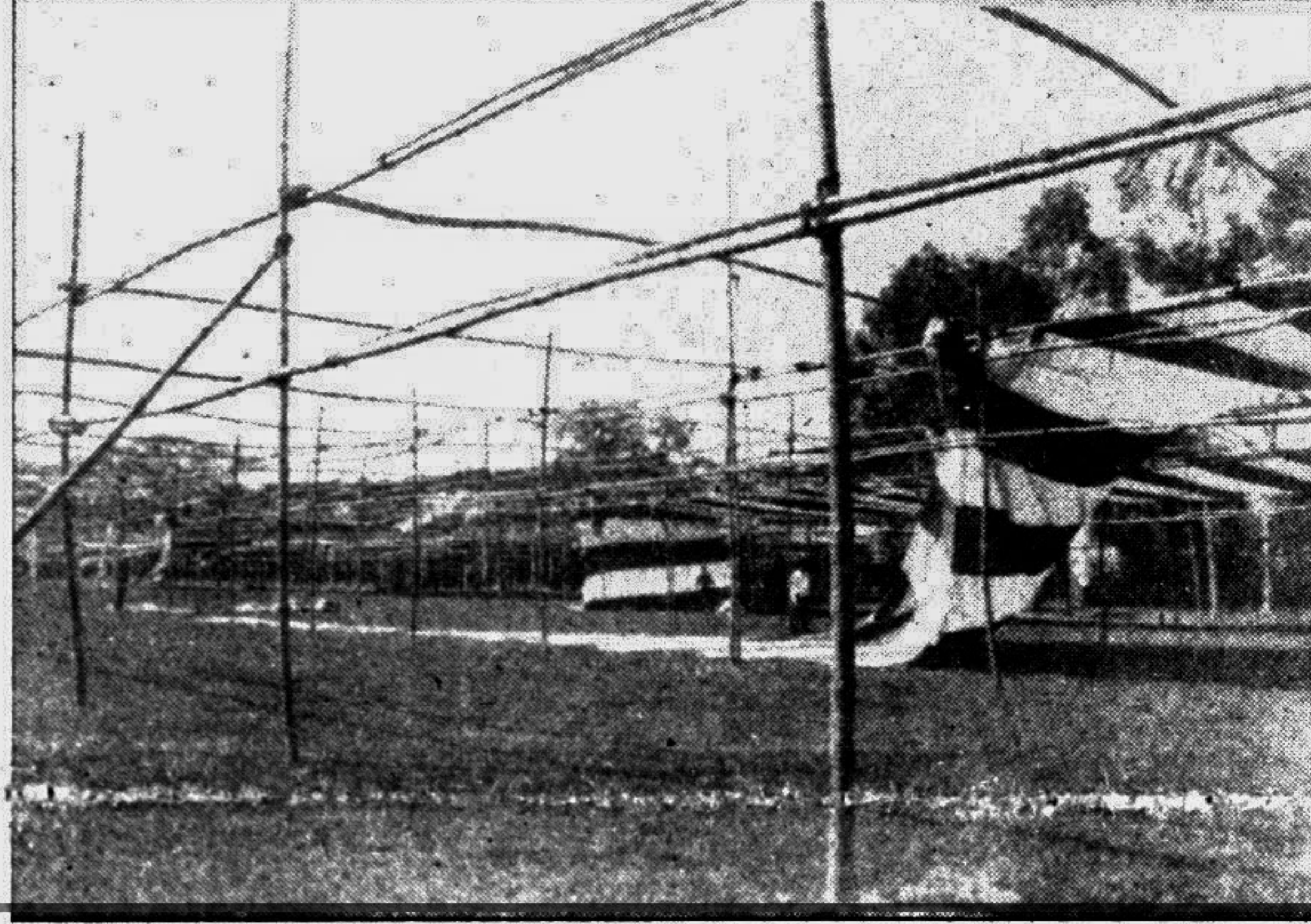
Witnesses said, the BNP supporters brought out a procession at Syedpur Bazar at about 8:30 on Sunday night after BTV news bulletin announced that BNP candidate Rahimuddin Bharasa was elected from the Pargachha constituency.

Soon the processionists and the opposition activists were locked in a clash in

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DU students inscribing verses from famous poems on the walls near Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday on the occasion of Ekushey February. — Star photo



Jatiya Eidgah Maidan in the city being decorated for holding prayers on Eid day. — Star photo

## German minister tells press confce Political crisis must end for economic development

**By Staff Correspondent**

The visiting German minister for economic cooperation and development, Carl-Dieter Spranger, has said the present political crisis should be solved immediately for the sake of economic development.

"It is necessary to reach a solution to the political crisis for continuing impact of economic assistance," said the minister at a press conference at the NEC auditorium yesterday.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman was also present in the press conference.

During his stay here, the minister met President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, State Minister for Planning Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan in addition to holding official talks with Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

He also met Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

"During my discussion with the leaders, I repeatedly said solution to the political impasse must be found within the Constitution. The present situation impedes investment and

deters a positive climate for foreign investment," said the minister.

Asked what was his impression about the attitude of the political leaders towards the political crisis, he said everyone is aware about the impact of the situation.

He said the level of German assistance to any country depends on five conditions— respect for human rights, participation of people in decision making, existence of rule of law, market-oriented economy and social order.

"If they were not being met in their entirety, then there would be no co-operation in Bangladesh," the minister said.

He, however, refused to point out at what level Bangladesh was regarding the fulfillment of these conditions.

Spranger said the local areas of cooperation in Bangladesh, the eighth largest recipient of German aid, are in the fields of basic health, primary education, promotion of small and medium industries, power, environment, flood protection and cyclone shelter.

Bangladesh has so far received 3.3 billion US dollars in grants from Germany.

The visiting team had visited a number of German-assisted projects and talked with the proponents and opponents of the Flood Action Plan (FAP).

"I was impressed with the performance of these projects, specially the self-reliance result of our co-operation," said the minister.

BSS adds: The official talks on bilateral economic cooperation between Bangladesh and Germany was held yesterday at the National Economic Council Bhaban.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman led the Bangladesh side while the visiting German minister for economic cooperation and development affairs, Carl-Dieter Spranger, led the German side.

Both sides reviewed the existing relations between the two countries in the field of economic cooperation and hoped that such cooperation would increase in future for the development of Bangladesh particularly in the field of

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## Boycott this illegal govt, urges Hasina

**Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the business community not to recognise this illegal government and to boycott it in every sphere, reports UNB.**

Exchanging views with the leaders of different chambers, she blamed the government for destroying the country's economy and said the business community should raise their voice against the 'illegal, farcical election'.

Hasina said the President will have to take the initiative and dissolve the cabinet and arrange fresh polls under a neutral caretaker government within 90 days.

The Awami League chief criticised the Prime Minister for 'hiding truths' about the election. "How can this election be legal when the Prime Minister herself admitted it has been rigged?" she asked.

She observed that the people have expressed their 'no confidence in the government by rejecting the polls.'

Hasina called upon the business community to make the opposition's three-day non-cooperation programme from Feb 24 a success.

According to an Awami League press release, the business community leaders said 'keeping this Prime Minister in power, none will survive.'

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## South Africans take on Kiwis today

**Sports Reporter**

Title aspirants South Africa, fresh from a useful batting practice against the United Arab Emirates, take on a resurgent New Zealand outfit in an important World Cup encounter at Faisalabad, Pakistan today.

The match is expected to be the first real thriller of the cup following a number of unevenly balanced outings. The South Africans have come into the tourney as joint favourites while the Kiwis are leading Group B with successive victories over England and minnows Holland.

Surprisingly enough, only three hundred odd tickets have been sold for the match.

South Africa will be hoping for a repeat performance from opener Gary Kirsten who scored a World Cup record 188 not out against lowly UAE and the expected inclusion of young left-arm wrist spinner Paul Adams will definitely add some variation to their world-class pace attack.

The Kiwis, on the other

hand, will rely on opener Nathan Astle — a centurion against England — the stylish Stephen Fleming and hard-hitting Chris Cairns to counter their opponents' bowling supremacy while pacers Danny Morrison and Dion Nash will be hungry for wickets.

The match will be telecast live both by Bangladesh Television and the sports channel of Star TV commencing at 10 am (BST).

Tomorrow India take on the mighty West Indies at Gwalior while Sri Lanka face Zimbabwe at Colombo.

West Indies will be looking for a much-needed victory to enhance their chances for a favourable quarterfinal fixture as will the Indians.

The match may trickle down to a duel between two of the greatest batsmen in the world today — Brian Lara and Sachin Tendulkar.

Sri Lanka, who already have four points to their credit due to Australia and West Indies' forfeiture, will look to keep up their hopes of finishing atop Group A by defeating the weaker Zimbabweans.

The India-Windies game is scheduled to be covered live by

See Page 12 Col 1.

## Brahmanbaria—3 Repolling in 118 centres held

**From Our Correspondent**

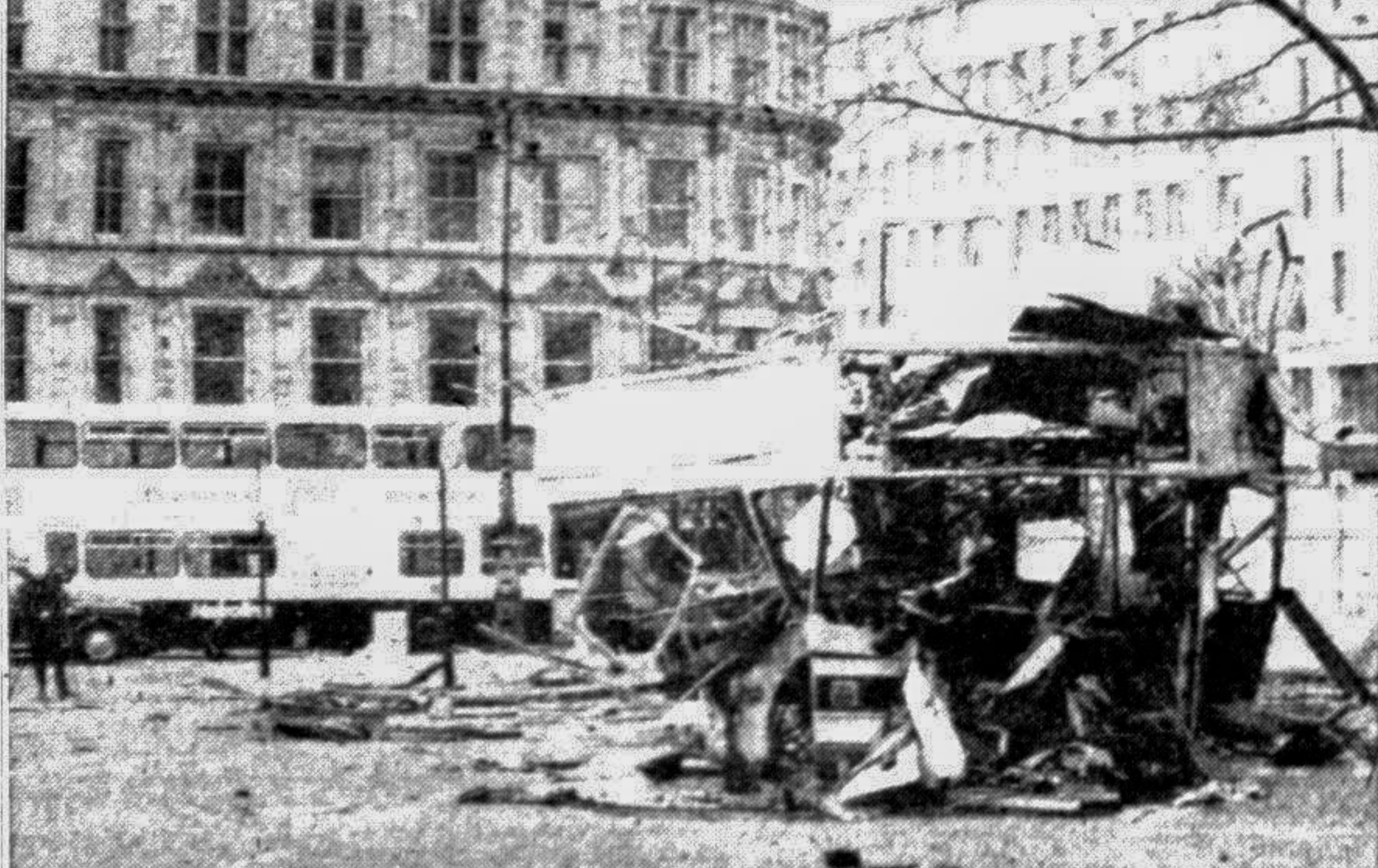
**BRAHMANBARIA, Feb 19:** Repolling in 118 out of a total 119 voting centres in Brahmanbaria-3 constituency was held today.

Due to the absence of the presiding officers election could not be held in those 118 polling centres on February 15. Presiding officers at that time refrained from discharging duties following a bomb attack on an election official allegedly by anti-election activists on February 14.

To ensure a peaceful repolling the authorities today ensured tight security by deploying about 700 policemen and 10 platoons of BDR.

Returning Officer Md Golam Kibria told this correspondent that due to unwillingness of the election officers to dis-

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The remains of the London bus litter the street yesterday after an explosion in the heart of London's Theatreland. — AFP/UNB photo

## IRA bus bomb kills one at London's Theatreland

**LONDON, Feb 19:** An explosion tore through a double-decker bus in London's Theatre district Sunday night, leaving one person killed and nine other people bleeding in the street, report AP, Reuter.

The Irish Republican Army today claimed responsibility for the bus bomb. The IRA made the claim in a phone call to BBC radio Ulster in Belfast.

Witnesses described seeing injured people lying in pools of blood and twisted chunks of metal and shattered glass from the red double-decker bus littering the street. Nearby buildings had their windows blown out.

The blast followed an Irish Republican Army blast 10 days ago in London's Docklands commercial area. Police also defused a bomb found in the capital's Theatreland last Thursday.

The IRA has declared its 17-month-old ceasefire over, accusing Britain of undermin-

ing the Northern Ireland peace process by stalling the start of all-party political talks.

Police said they received no warning before Sunday's bus explosion at 22:38 GMT on Wellington Street near The Strand.

Scotland Yard confirmed nine people injured, four seriously, and a number of 'walking wounded.'

Witness Anthony Yates, 26, said he believed at least three people were dead, but this could not be confirmed; 'I was walking down the road and I saw a big white flash in the sky.'

When the bomb went off, a taxi drove into the bus, and there's a guy lying outside the bus saying 'my legs, my legs.'

he said.

BBC radio reporter Paul Rowan said: 'There was metal and glass for around 50 yards all over the place.'

'I saw one woman who looked in a very bad way, she was face down on the road with bad-looking head injuries.'

American tourist Scott Grover, 32, from Boston, said: 'We were walking along when we suddenly heard this almighty bang.'

'The front of the bus was completely blown away but there didn't seem to be many people in it... There was debris everywhere.'

Johnson, who lives in Toronto, said he saw one woman who looked severely injured lying in a pool of her own blood.'

Anti-terrorist branch officers searching the remains of the bus discovered a body early today, but wouldn't say

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## Arms recovered, 41 arrested in Cox's Bazar

**From Our Correspondent**

**COX'S BAZAR, Feb 19:** A combined force of army and police nabbed 41 armed members of an alleged international terrorist gang from deep forest of Thainkhali in Ukhta thana here today.

District police sources said, seven fire arms, two grenades, 200 rounds of bullets and explosives, were recovered from them.

In a four-hour joint operation beginning at 3 this afternoon, the army personnel and police cordoned four training camps, run allegedly by the group. Some 60 other terrorists, however, managed to escape, police said.

## One shot dead in Ctg

**CHITTAGONG, Feb 19:** Unknown assailants shot dead a middle-aged man at Kalibari Gosairdanga in Doublemooring thana of the port city this morning, police said. Ramadhir Dhar, 50, died on the spot when armed miscreants, numbering 4-5, stormed into his house and opened fire indiscriminately at about 8.30 am, reports UNB.

**Shri. Iftar timings**

| Ram | Feb | Shri | Iftar |
|-----|-----|------|-------|
| 30  | 20  | -    | 6:00  |