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NEWS BRIEFS

Mohiuddin arrives Ctg today

By Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 11: Chittagong City Corporation Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, released from Dhaka Central Jail yesterday, is scheduled to arrive in Chittagong tomorrow, party and family sources said. He is expected to address a public meeting to be held at 3 pm tomorrow at Lalidighi Maidan, they said. Mohiuddin will reach here by road.

JCD worker killing; 3 held in Khulna

From Our Correspondent
KHULNA, Mar 11: Three persons were arrested here on Sunday night in connection with the killing of Anwar Hossain Anu, a JCD activist, police said. The arrested are Rakib, Ismail and Asgar.

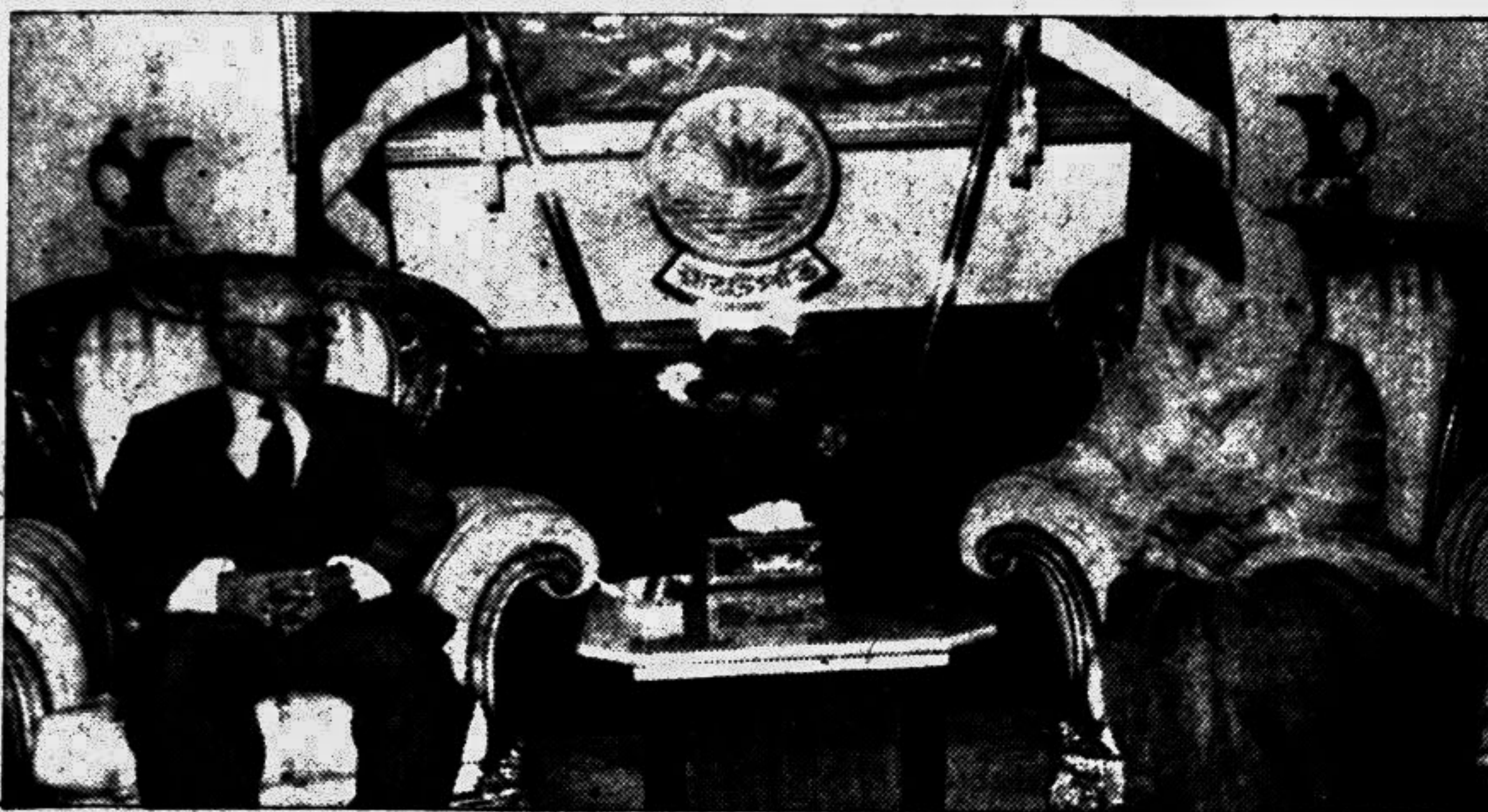
UP chairman stabbed to death

COMILLA, Mar 11: A union parishad chairman was stabbed to death by unidentified miscreants at Luribagh village in Burchang thana on Sunday night. Police said the miscreants attacked A K M Abdul Halim, 50, the chairman of Rajapur Union Parishad, when he was returning home at about 9 pm. He was rushed to Burchang Health Complex where the doctors declared him dead, reports UNB.

Sec 144 at Barguna

BARISAL, Mar 11: Local administration today imposed Section 144 in Betagi thana headquarters of Barguna district to avert possible clash between the BNP and opposition activists. The authorities took the precautionary measure in the wake of mounting tension between the two rival sides after they announced public meetings at the same venue and time today, reports UNB.

Cancellation of Feb 15 election ruled out BNP's 'yes' to polls by May



Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia met President Abdur Rahman Biswas at his invitation at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

President may seek proposals outlining caretaker govt

By Nazmul Ashraf

President Abdur Rahman Biswas is expected to send letters to political parties in a day or two seeking their proposals on the proposed non-party caretaker government, sources at Bangabhaban said last night.

"On receiving the proposals, the President may convene a round-table discussion of all the major parties in a bid to reach a consensus formula on the non-party caretaker government to supervise future general elections," the sources added.

The President received verbal suggestions on the caretaker government issue from the political parties he met

separately in the last two days. BNP joint Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the regular press briefing at his Baily Road residence also said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her meeting with the President also suggested that the President ask all the parties to send their proposals on the non-party caretaker government.

"We want to pass a bill (on the non-party government) in this 6th parliament soon after a consensus formula on the issue is available," Bhuiyan, also the Food and Agriculture Minister said.

The BNP spokesman made it clear that his party had nothing more to do as regards the Opposition demands after accepting their major demands for a caretaker government and an early general election.

Replying to a question, Mannan Bhuiyan said that his party was yet to decide when to summon the 6th parliament.

However, competent sources said, the party leadership had differing opinions on summoning of the parliament before elections to all 300 constituencies were completed.

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, after her meeting with President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban yesterday said that her party had accepted the Opposition demand for holding the next general elections in May next.

But she ruled out the possibility of her party's accepting the Opposition demand for scrapping the February 15 polls, the most contentious issue in the present political crisis.

"How is it possible? It's not possible. If the polls are cancelled, the new parliament would not exist. Then how the bill on the non-party government would be passed?"

Begum Zia said that she had already announced that BNP would place and pass "non-party government bill" in the first-session of the 6th parliament.

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'Illegal JS can't give legitimacy to caretaker govt'

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia of creating impediment to the solution of the present crisis by planning to summon the parliament elected by 'illegal' polls of February 15, reports UNB.

"She (Begum Zia) has set preconditions, trying to summon the so-called Parliament of the February 15 illegal election and thereby give legitimacy to vote-stealing, which has created obstacle to the resolution of the crisis," Hasina said.

In a statement, the Awami League chief said Khaleda Zia knows it well that it will not get legitimacy if the neutral non-party caretaker government bill is passed by the

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Businessmen threaten 'direct action'

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday called on the political leaders to resolve the current political stalemate within 48 hours.

"If the problem is not solved within this period the business community will be compelled to take to the streets and go for direct action," said Salman F Rahman, President of the FBCCI, while declaring the decisions of an emergency meeting of the Federation at the FBCCI auditorium.

Besides, the members of the executive committee of the federation, a large number of leading businessmen, industrialists and leaders of different business associations attended the meeting. It was convened by FBCCI to place some specific proposals with the political leaders for saving the economy of the country from total ruin due to long political deadlock.

Salman Rahman said that the business community can not remain silent spectators in this bad state of affairs.

Warning the political leadership of the country about the result of long drawn political crisis, the FBCCI president said the country is heading towards a famine as the food distribution system was collapsing due to serious communication disruption.

The meeting was also addressed, among others, by president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry Ali Hossain, BGMEA leader Capt. (ret'd) Anisur Rahman Sinha, President of Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Power Loom Industries Association Ltd Col (ret'd) Quazi Salimuddin, Gazipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry Vice President Sarder Abdur Rahman, Madaripur Chamber President Lutfur Rahman, Match Factory Owners Association president Moksed Ali, Ship Owners Association president Abdul Awal Minto, Chamber of

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Gunshots on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

About 30 rounds of gunshots were fired on the Dhaka University campus yesterday evening. Sources said that the "armed youths" of S M Hall first opened fire following a conflict between them and some youths of Palashi area adjacent to the hall.

Apprehending that the attack was made on Zahurul Haq hall, the "armed youths" of the hall, also started firing as counter-attack, sources added. The firing continued for about 20 minutes.

Fierce clashes at Mirpur again 3 killed, 100 hurt on third day of non-cooperation

By Staff Correspondent

At least three people were killed and more than 100 were injured, including 17 policemen, in sporadic incidents of violence in different places of the country during the third day of the Opposition called non-cooperation movement.

A rickshawpuller, Dulal, 25, was killed when a stray bullet hit him during a gunfight between Opposition and BNP activists at Borhanpur of Hazaribag at 5:30 pm.

The clash ensued when two processions brought out by the Opposition and BNP activists came face to face at the spot. Both the sides used firearms and crackers for about half an hour during which Dulal was caught in the cross fire, witnesses said.

In Jatrabari, a minibus trying to escape opposition pick-

ets ran over a rickshaw killing the rickshawpuller, Sheikh Javed, 25, on the spot at around 8:30 am, according to witnesses and police.

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal worker, Mohammad Iqbal Hossain Milton, 20, was killed in Chandpur in a clash between opposition and BNP activists.

Fierce clashes between police and opposition activists in Mirpur Section-1 left at least 50 injured, including 17 policemen injured. A BNP local unit office was also torched in the area.

Angry riot policemen who came under heavy attack of a mob, later reportedly ransacked the Mirpur police station and beat up two police officials.

Situation in the Mirpur

Section-1 area became volatile from the morning as opposition activists brought out a huge militant procession.

When the processionists approached the BNP office near the Cooperative market at around 10 am, a clash ensued with BNP activists gathered there. At one stage, the office of the local BNP unit was torched, witnesses said.

Riot police fired rubber bullets and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

The clash lasted for about two hours during which the opposition activists reportedly hurled a number of cocktails on the police in which 17 policemen were injured. About 30 activists were also injured in the police action. Riot po-

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Legitimacy of sixth JS: Opposition for SC ref

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the opposition political parties think the question of legitimacy of the sixth parliament can be solved if the President seeks a reference from the Supreme Court on the issue.

Zillur Rahman, general secretary of the Awami League, told The Daily Star last night that there was "no scope to accept the legitimacy of the sixth parliament formed through a rigged polls." He, however, felt that once a political consensus on disputed issues was reached between the parties concerned, legal complications could easily be overcome.

"We told the President Sunday that he, by virtue of his powers, could take steps including seeking a reference

from the Supreme Court about the controversial February 15 elections," Zillur said.

"How can one expect getting a caretaker bill passed from such a parliament," questioned Anwar Hossain Manju, secretary general of the Jatiya Party. "The February 15 elections have been termed farcical nationally and internationally," he added.

The elections have not yet been completed. Taking of oath by the Prime Minister before completion of elections in her constituencies has already sparked a legal controversy, said Manju.

Abdul Quader Mollah of Jamaat also said that the parliament elected through a

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Another US warship heads for Taiwan

BEIJING, Mar 11: China told Taiwan today to abandon dreams of independence if it wanted to ease the tension that has prompted the United States to send warships to monitor the worst crisis in the Taiwan Strait for decades, reports Reuters.

Washington ordered a second aircraft carrier — the nuclear-powered Nimitz — and five or six support ships to join the carrier Independence and its battle fleet deployed near Taiwan, the Washington Post today quoted US officials as saying.

In Taiwan, President Lee Teng-hui responded to China's strong-arm moves to intimidate the island ahead of its first direct presidential elections on March 23, saying Beijing was testing the nerves of its 21 million people.

"Let me tell you all, the government already has made complete preparations," added Lee.

Lee does not advocate independence but his bid to raise Taiwan's diplomatic profile to complement its economic dynamism has stung the communist leadership on the mainland.

Asian stock markets nosedived, in part taking their cue from an related plunge on Wall Street but influenced by tension in the 220-km (137-mile) wide Taiwan Strait.

(Details on Page 8)

One killed as BNP, AL clash in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, Mar 11: A young man was killed and several people were injured in a gun battle between the supporters of ruling BNP and opposition Awami League in two villages of Bhairab thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the fight between the rival groups of two adjoining villages — Jagannathpur and Kalikaprassad — began in the evening. Both sides exchanged several dozen gunshots.

The dead was identified as Ripon, 18, said to be an Awami League activist.

Seriously injured Ratan, 25, Asad, 35, Kala Miah, 35, and Khokon, 27, were admitted to Bhagalpur Hospital.

Paramilitary BDR personnel were deployed in the area.

'EC failed to take action despite reports of rigging'

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission failed to take any action although most of the returning officers had informed the Election Commission (EC) about widespread rigging, violence and consequent closure of a good number of polling centres on the election day on February 15, according to sources in the EC.

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) recently said that only one returning officer from Gopalganj out of the 64 had informed him about rigging and that he promptly took action and ordered arrest of the candidate involved in alleged rigging. District commissioners were assigned as returning officers.

"Had I been informed about riggings and other allegations, I could have clamped down on them immediately. But I had

no idea although I, together with Justice Jallil, spent the night of the election day in my office," the CEC had said on Sunday.

But, sources at the EC said that 19 officers of the EC secretariat were assigned on the election day to compile 'situation reports' coming from all the constituencies in the country. They also kept official records of the communications.

This correspondent saw the reports sent by returning officers to the EC.

"The returning officers from various districts kept sending results as well as latest situation reports to these officers who either withheld those from the Commission or the Commission overlooked the matter," an official source said.

The CEC had earlier alleged that he did not get all support from inside his office.

When contacted, a good number of District Commissioners who had acted as returning officers said that they had given report of every instance of rigging, violence and closure of polling centres due to various reasons to the control room of the EC on the very night of the election day.


"I had instructions from the EC to do so and I informed them several times of the situation in my district," said the DC of a Northern district requesting anonymity.

Sources at the EC also said that there was a 'serious lack of understanding and coordination' between the Commission and the officials of the EC secretariate.

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ONE-MAN DEMOLITION SQUAD: Brian Lara executes an improvised sweep shot during his match-winning 111 against South Africa. (Details on page 10). — AFP/UNB photo



বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

বি.টি.এম. সি. ভবন
৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

পোশাক শিল্প মালিকবৃন্দের জরুরী সমাবেশ

উদ্ভূত রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতির কারণে সংকটাপন্ন রপ্তানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্পের অতিবৃদ্ধ রক্ষার্থে পোশাক শিল্প মালিকবৃন্দের জরুরী সমাবেশঃ

স্থান : বলরুম, সোনার পা হোটেল, ঢাকা
তারিখ : ১২ই মার্চ, ১৯৯৬
সময় : মঙ্গলবার বিকাল ৩-৩০ ঘটিকা

রপ্তানীমুখী পোশাক শিল্প মালিকবৃন্দকে উক্ত জরুরী সমাবেশে যোগদান করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে।

সচিব
বিজিএমইএ