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Humiliating defeat

From Page 1
The result "expressed the wishes of the Pakistani electorate and the process of voting was transparent in spite of some shortcomings," the observers said in a statement.
Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who led a team of Commonwealth poll monitors, also said the elections were largely free and peaceful.
Political observers had predicted a Sharif win but were surprised by the scale of his victory which saw Benazir's party plunge to its worst defeat.
Sharif, an industrialist, said his top priority would be to create a climate to attract foreign investment.
"The first thing to do is to create an investment climate."

attract foreign investment, get rid of debts and debt-servicing," he said.
In the previous House, Benazir's party had 86 seats and Sharif's 68. The elections were triggered by the dismissal of Benazir's government on the order of President Farooq Leghari three months ago on charges of corruption and misrule.
Sharif's victorious party also secured an absolute majority in the Punjab provincial assembly and was also leading in the North West Frontier Province.
Benazir retained her parliamentary seat for her hometown of Larkana in a day of disaster for her party.
She defeated Farooq Bhutto — the nominee of Ghinva Bhutto, widow of Benazir's slain brother Murtaza, who heads a rival Pakistan People's Party faction.
Benazir also won a second seat in the Hyderabad constituency, beating another Ghinva Bhutto candidate, close rival Allah Bakhsh Khan Migsi.
There was also disaster for former cricket hero turned politician Imran Khan who admitted his fledgling Movement for Justice attracted only 'meagre votes' but said it had laid down 'roots among the masses.'
There was a record low turnout for Monday's election, with fewer than 30 per cent of the 56 million electorate voting.
The ethnic-based Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) which has so far won 12 seats, said the polls were rigged, and attacked other parties they accused of trying to split support in their Karachi stronghold.
Some 250,000 troops and police were deployed in a massive security operation but nine people died in election violence in this volatile country.
The election result boosted Pakistan's main bourse, Karachi Stock Exchange (KSE), where share prices rose 3.32 per cent today.



A R Mallick dead

Noted educationist and former minister Dr Azizur Rahman Mallick died of cardiac arrest at the National Heart Institute in the city early yesterday. He was 79, reports UNB.
He is survived by his wife, two sons, three daughters and grand children.
His *namaj-e-janaza* was held at the Gulshan central mosque after Zohr prayers yesterday. Later, he was buried at the Mirpur Muktiyoddha graveyard.
Qulkhani for late Dr A R Mallick will be held at his Gulshan residence (House 7, Road 138, Gulshan-1) at 3 pm on Friday.
President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages, have condoled the death of Dr A R Mallick and expressed their deep shock and sorrow.
In his long career, Dr Mallick served in various capacities at home and abroad.
He was also the Finance Minister in the cabinet of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

Lailatul Qadr

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In a message, the President hoped that Lailatul Qadr and the fasting in the holy month of Ramadan would inspire all to follow the path of justice and welfare.
He expressed the hope that the holy night would bring in the message of peace and happiness for all.
BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia in a message yesterday called for a fresh vow at holy Lailatul Qadr, the best night for self-purification, to adhere to the path of truth and justice.

Double murder

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phone number from the pocket of one of the victims. But after verification it was found that the address and the phone number were not of any of the victims, said a police officer of Sutrapur thana.
Two bullet shells and a blood stained dagger were also found beside the dead bodies.
Police said that a woman came to Sutrapur thana at about 3:30 pm and informed the police about the incident. A police team rushed to the spot, took the bodies and sent those to the Mitford Hospital for autopsy.
Police could not say whether the youths were killed at the spot or the bodies were left there after the killings somewhere else in the city.
Police suspected that a gang of organised criminals murdered the young men after kidnapping them.

Bangalees

From Page 1
Shawkat Ali, in his works, portrayed the real picture of the people of this country, he said.
On the fifth day of the lecture series today, Dr Razia Khan will be the key-note speaker while Dr Atiur Rahman and Prof Pritikumar Mitra will take part in the discussion.

Mad rush

From Page 1
New Market, with its open and airy set up, seemed to be an ideal place of shopping for a crowd belonging to a little higher income group. The saree shops attracted most of the crowd — mostly female with their men companions carrying the polythene bags looking elsewhere. Across the road on the western side, Chandni Chowk looked like a sea of people in front of a stone-solid traffic jam. One had to struggle through the crowd and the illegally set up stalls to get into a shop.
Things looked much easier at the city's posh shopping centers. Arong and Eastern Plaza, although crowded, appeared to be a sigh of relief. "If you can take the pain of the traffic and come here, shopping becomes easier, although things are quite dear here," said a shopper at the Arong.
Apart from the established shopping centres of the city, one cannot fail noticing the makeshift shops on the city streets. Most were selling pajama, panjabi, tupi, waist coats and so on. The shops will vanish as soon as the peak season is over. Several local organisations have rented up community centres, playgrounds and other places to open temporary shopping centres in the city.

Yasmin murder case

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Dinajpur from where Yasmin was picked up by police. Abdur Rahim, a hotel manager at Dosh Mile, Darul Islam, an assistant teacher, and Hafizul Islam, a tea-stall owner at Dosh Mile.
They were cross-examined by the defence counsel.
During the cross-examination Yasmin's co-passenger Jayanta Kumar Chakravarty told the court that he had boarded a night coach at Gabtoli, Dhaka on way to Dinajpur at 3 pm on August 23. Yasmin also boarded the same night coach. When the bus stopped at Dosh Mile, the supervisor of the bus took Yasmin to Jaded Ali, a betel leaf shop owner and requested him to send her to her residence at Dinajpur in the next available bus. She had unknowingly boarded the Panchagarh-bound night coach Hasna Enterprise, and so she had to get down at Dosh Mile, he said in the court.
Jaded Ali, while replying to interrogations by the defence counsel, said that a police patrol van halted at the spot after a few minutes Yasmin had got down from the bus at Dosh Mile at about 3-4 am. Finding her alone the policemen 'forcibly' picked her up in the patrol van

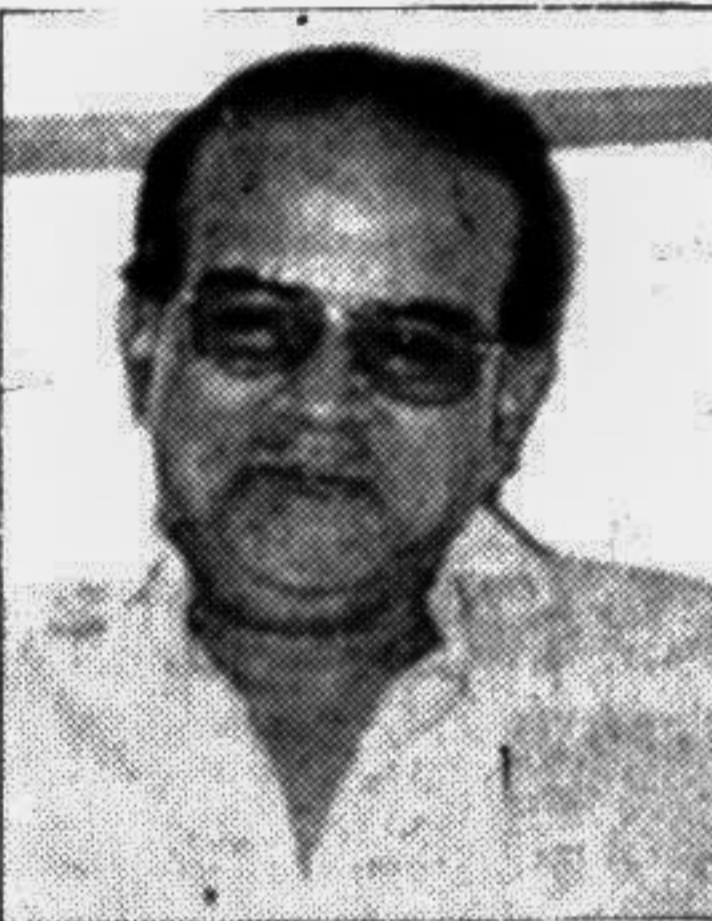
ensuring the local people that they will give her a safe lift to her residence at Dinajpur. But at around 5-30 am, it was spread in locality that a body of a young girl was lying beside the Dinajpur highway. Later he went there and saw that it was Yasmin's body, he told the court. In the court, he also identified the police personnel who had picked up Yasmin on the patrol van.
Upon a joint prayer by the prosecution and the defence, the judge adjourned the hearing and fixed February 19 for the next hearing.

Clinton

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poverty alleviation and eradication of illiteracy are the top objectives of her government. She said her government wants to establish a society free from poverty and hunger.
The Prime Minister said her government gave special emphasis on the creation of employment among the rural masses, particularly the women.
Elaborating on Hasina's discussion with the US President, the spokesman said the Prime Minister had referred to the prolonged democratic struggle which was undertaken to establish people's franchise and bring economic emancipation for them.
The US First Lady, Hillary Clinton, was also present at the meeting for a brief period. She lauded the initiative of Sheikh Hasina in the development activities undertaken by her government.

HC order
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The project is financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
It has been warned that if the project is not completed by this fiscal year the bank will take back its money.
Attorney General Barrister KS Nabi, assisted by Deputy Attorney General Khademul Islam Chowdhury moved for Dhaka-WASA, while Senior Advocate Maksudur Rahman represented the Plaintiff.

Declaration
From Page 1
tional capacity to reach poor people in industrialised nations and in the economies in transition by strengthening existing microcredit, savings and business development institutions through networking and exchange of experience, preparing new practitioners through programme of training for social entrepreneurs and micro-credit managers and a promoting appropriate policy, legal and regulatory changes.
The Declaration suggested development announcement, implementation and updating an institutional plan of action outlining how our institutions will contribute to the fulfillment of institutional action plans, the microcredit summit's goal. It also called for enlisting others in the campaign to meet the summit's goal, promote a learning agenda and the exchange of best practices, and encourage the development and fulfillment of institutional action plans.



Rabi Ghosh dead

CALCUTTA, Feb 4: The uncrowned king of Bengali comedy, stage and cine actor, Rabi Ghosh, died after a massive heart attack during the shooting of a film at a Tollygunje studio in the city this afternoon, reports PTI.
He was 65 and is survived by his wife.
Ghosh fell unconscious in the studio and was rushed to the nearby Bangur Hospital where he was declared dead, his family sources said.
Hailing from an illustrious and cultured family of Gava in Barisal district, now in Bangladesh, Ghosh took to the stage while still a college student under the tutelage of renowned thespian Utpal Dutta.
Recipient of many best actor awards for his virtuoso performances in scores of theater and films, Ghosh stole the hearts of both young and old for his excellent performance as the drummer 'Bagha' in Satyajit Ray's 'Goopi Gyne Bagha Byne'.
He won accolades for his roles also in other Ray movies and those made by a host of front ranking directors like Tapan Sinha and Utpal Dutta.

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Kibria: Garments sector

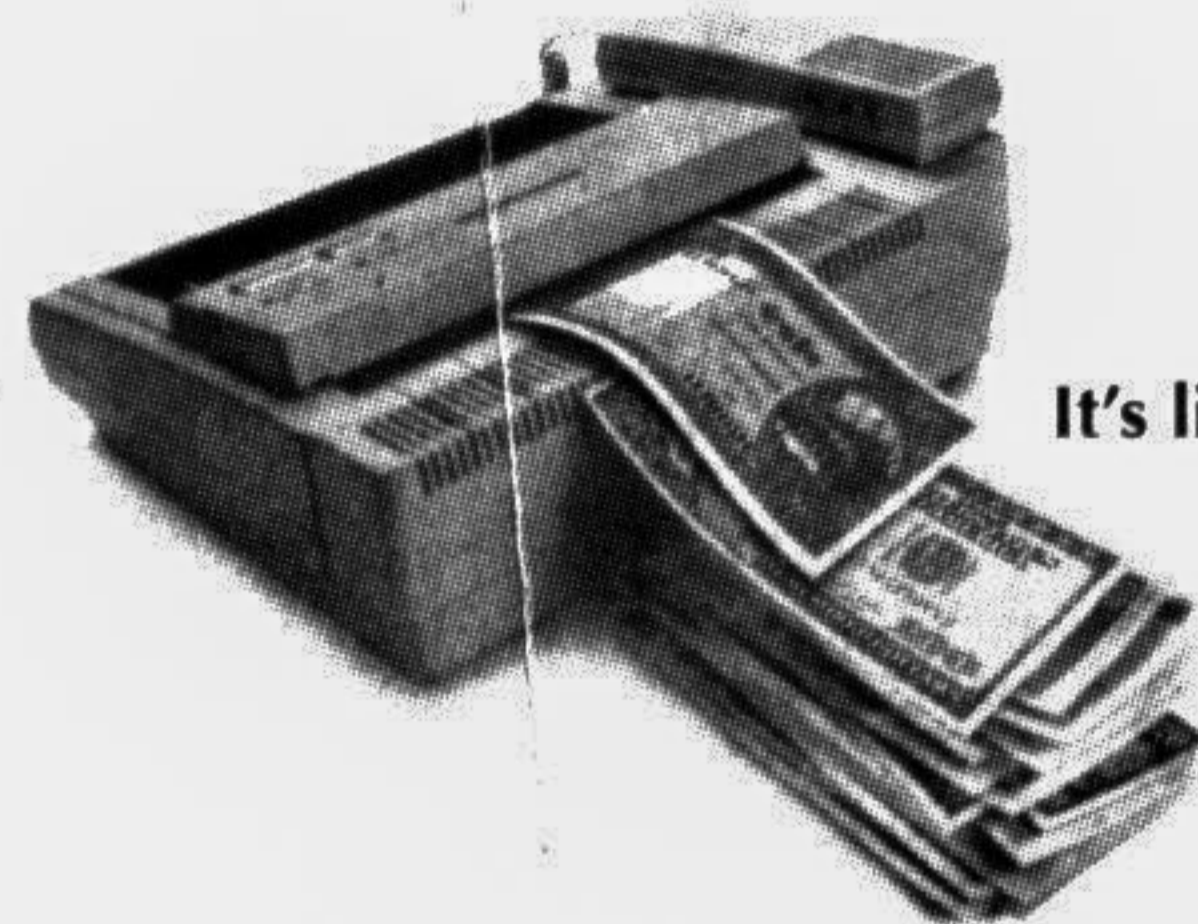
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ward-linkage industries, including composite textile and spinning mills.
He also informed the manufacturers that the Customs, henceforth, would complete the assessment of imports of raw materials of garments on the basis of documents for their rapid release from the ports.

In his lengthy address, split in two sessions, the Commerce Minister apprised the meeting of his recent visit to Brussels where he discussed the problems relating to rules of origin

and the future of the GSP with the EU officials.
He said the EU had agreed to allow two-stage transformation — yarn to fabric and fabric to garment — for the knitwear items which for another three years and up to year 2005 for pullovers and sweaters would remove the present complexities enabling the exporters here to get the GSP facility.
An announcement in this regard is expected within a couple of months, he said, adding the problems of those who have already shipped their products or opened LCs would be looked

into duly.
President of BGMEA Anisur Rahman Sinha, who accompanied Tojuel in the Brussels trip lauded the minister's role in negotiating the GSP issues and thanked him for taking rapid measures to tackle the problem.
President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Monzurul Haque and BGMEA vice-president Benazir Ahmed also addressed the function at a local hotel.

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