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Bangabandhu killing
Team seeking extradition of accused visits 5 African states

Star Report

A high-level delegation comprising senior officials of the Foreign Ministry which visited five African countries seeking extradition of the absconders accused in the Bangabandhu murder case, returned home on Monday last, according to sources concerned.

The delegation visited Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and South Africa and held talks with officials regarding the extradition, the sources said but declined to elaborate. The delegation had left Dhaka on January 17.

The delegation carried copies of the Indemnity (Repeal) Bill 1996 and an English version of the chargesheet filed by the CID on the Bangabandhu murder case, the sources said.

In South Africa, the delegation also met President Nelson Mandela who said that he held Bangabandhu in high esteem. Mandela also praised the initiative of the Bangladesh government in settling the country's outstanding issues with its neighbours through dialogue, the sources said.

The CID had submitted the chargesheet with the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) on January 15. The CMM, on Monday last, notified through two Bengali dailies the names of 14 absconders, giving

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina talking with Benjamin Gilman, Chairman of International Relations Committee of the US Congress, at Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday. — PID photo

Nepal to develop ties with emerging economic powers of Southeast Asia

KATHMANDU, Feb 5: Nepal is making efforts to develop closer relations with the Southeast Asian region, particularly with those countries emerging as economic powers, the local press said today, reports Xinhua.

Foreign Ministry officials were quoted by newspapers as saying that efforts will be made to establish high-level contacts with these Southeast Asian countries as early as possible.

Alleged woman trafficker held

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Feb 5: Police arrested an alleged woman trafficker and rescued a young woman from Nayamati village of Siddhirganj thana last night. The alleged trafficker, Nurul Islam, was being interrogated. Two passports were recovered from his possession.

According to police, Nazma Begum, 24, wife of one Mohammad Ali of Dakkhinpara village under Siddhirganj thana was rescued when she was about to be taken to India. The police raided Nayamati village when Mohammad Ali lodged a complaint with the police that his wife was missing and he suspected that Nurul Islam had kidnapped her.

Nazma, along with her child had earlier gone to India with Nurul Islam and returned home two months ago. The police said, Nazma returned without her child.

Clinton greets Hasina

President Bill Clinton has greeted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of holy Eid-ul-Fitr, reports BSS.

In a message he said: "On behalf of the American people, I extend to you my warmest wishes on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. May this holy time find you and your fellow citizens in good health and happiness. May our nations continue their fruitful cooperation in promoting global peace and economic development."

SAARC observers

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Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka visited over 400 polling centres in 64 constituencies covering all four provinces and Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

After the election, the SAARC observer group members assembled in Lahore and released its primary statement.

The statement said the turnout of women voters was much less than that of male in almost all polling centres visited by the observer group. "In tribal areas, participation by women in voting was still a rare occurrence."

About coverage on the state-controlled media, the observer report said all political parties were given equal time to address the nation on the party programme.

The candidates of political parties were permitted to place advertisements on radio and television. The coverage of the elections in the print media was generally informed, robust and fair and no political party has claimed that it was unfairly denied access to the media, the report said.

The SAARC observer group said it was a great concern about the presence of military personnel inside polling stations and near the polling booths. But, they acted in a non-partisan manner, it observed.

It, however, suggested that "the farther the military is kept away from the electoral process the better it is for the health of democratic system of government."

Said the team: "We found that micromanagement of the polling marked deterioration over the 1993 elections. There were problems and complaints with regard to the electoral rolls - a matter related to the absence of proper census since 1981."

The facilities in the polling stations including those related to secrecy of voting were not uniformly available. At several polling centres, polling officials did not know the procedures and were not sufficiently in control of the polling centres, it observed.

This is for the fourth time the SAARC non-government observer group monitored the elections in Pakistan.

3-yr cultural accord with DPRK signed

A three-year cultural exchange agreement between the governments of Bangladesh and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was signed in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs Syed Yusuf Hossain and visiting DPRK Vice-Minister for Cultural Affairs Ms Chon Yon Ok signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

According to the agreement, exchange of cultural delegations will take place between the two countries and both sides will invite each other to international film festivals and fine arts, book, photograph and handicraft exhibitions to be held in their respective countries and arrange film shows on the occasion of national days.

Review body for survey of sick industries

A review committee meeting on rehabilitation of the sick industries yesterday emphasised the need for conducting a survey on the country's sick industries, reports UNB.

The meeting asked various banks, financial institutions and chamber bodies to send lists of their sick industries to the committee so that it can take effective steps in this regard.

It also decided to constitute bank based sub-committees with representatives from the bank concerned, industries ministry and chamber bodies to expedite the rehabilitation process, said an official handout.

It said the present government soon after assuming power formed the committee to rehabilitate the sick industries.

Zobaida

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Metropolitan Magistrate.

At this stage, representing the state, Deputy Attorney General Mansurul Haq Chowdhury said division one had already been given to her.

He further said relevant records would be supplied to the petitioner by February 26 after application fresh to the court where the papers are lying.

Mahbubur Rahman also submitted for retraction of the confessional statement of Zobaida Rashid under Section 164 of CrPC as she has right to retract it at any stage of the trial.

The bench observed the submission but kept the matter pending and fixed February 27 for passing further necessary order in this regard.

Abbas, Gayeswar

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Habibur Rahman Habib got bail in one case and Gayeswar Chandra Roy, Mirza Khokan, Abu Sayeed Khokan and Shahnewaj Shaheen, each in four cases.

The HC ordered another case to remain 'stand over' till February 20 and asked the police not to arrest the accused during this period.

It was said in the court that all five cases were filed following the protest rally.

Senior Advocate Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed along with Barrister Maudud Ahmed assisted by Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokan moved for the petitioners.

Sub-regional

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the SAARC Charter where it is mentioned that the SAARC Standing Committee may set up Action Committees of member countries, concerning implementation of projects involving more than two countries but not all the states of the SAARC regional organisation.

Ties with Dhaka

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his tour of the region, which, he said, had been given priority by the Clinton administration when it created the South Asia Bureau in 1992.

He reiterated US support to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). "We support economic and regional cooperation between the South Asian nations. We support cooperation on issues like water sharing."

He said this when asked to comment on the proposed sub-regional grouping among Bangladesh, India, Bhutan and Nepal.

On human rights, the official said the US is concerned about human rights issues in Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. "We monitor them very closely," he noted.

On the recently signed 30-year Ganges water sharing treaty between Bangladesh and India, he said duration of a treaty depends on relations between the contracting parties. On US aid for water resources development in the region, he said he was not aware of any development in this regard.

On child labour, he said that Washington would like to work with Bangladesh in this regard.

Kibria

From Page 1

play a vital role in identifying and quickly resolving any problem in the implementation of budgetary programme and ADP. Simple procedures should be adopted to expedite inter-ministerial decision, he suggested.

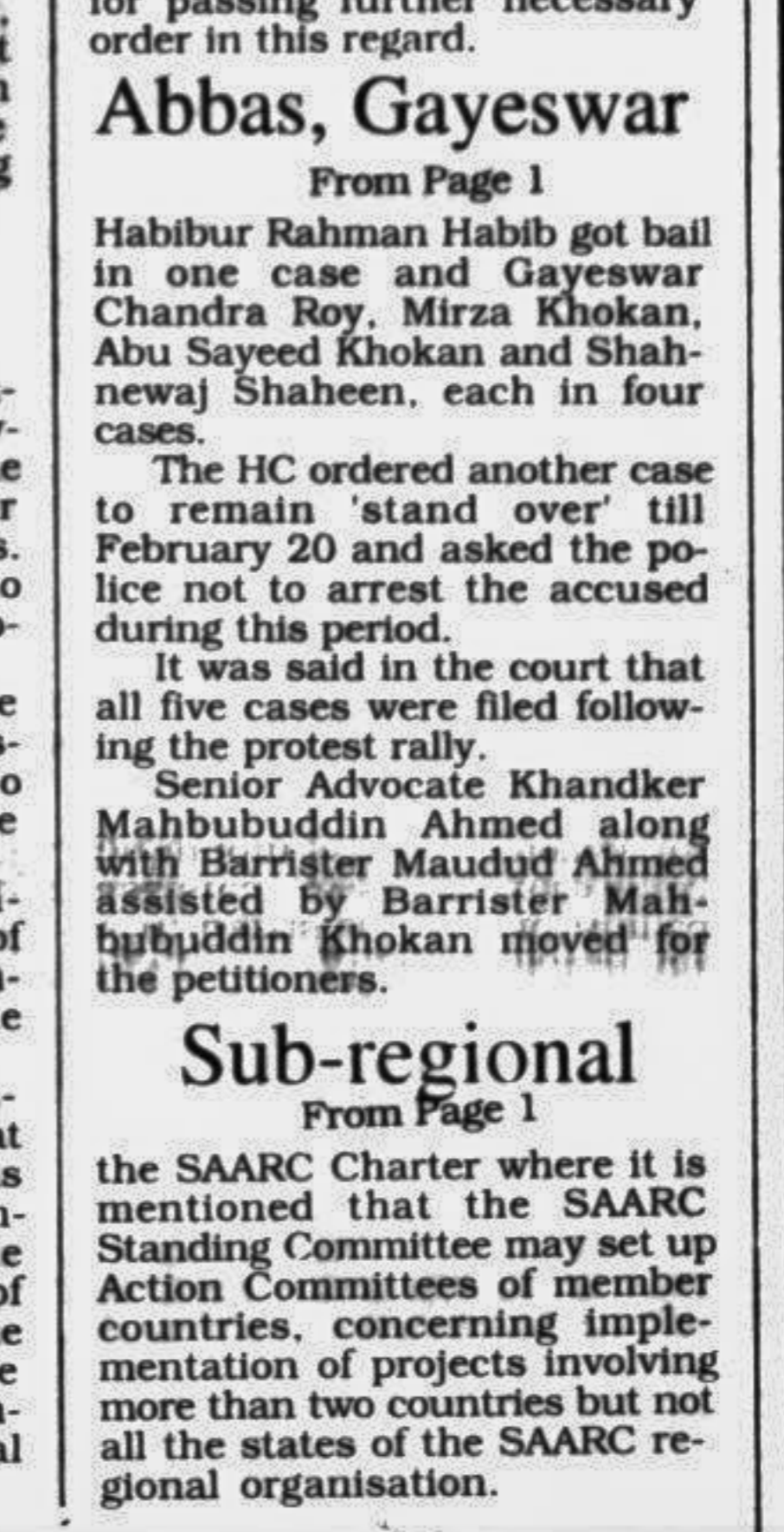
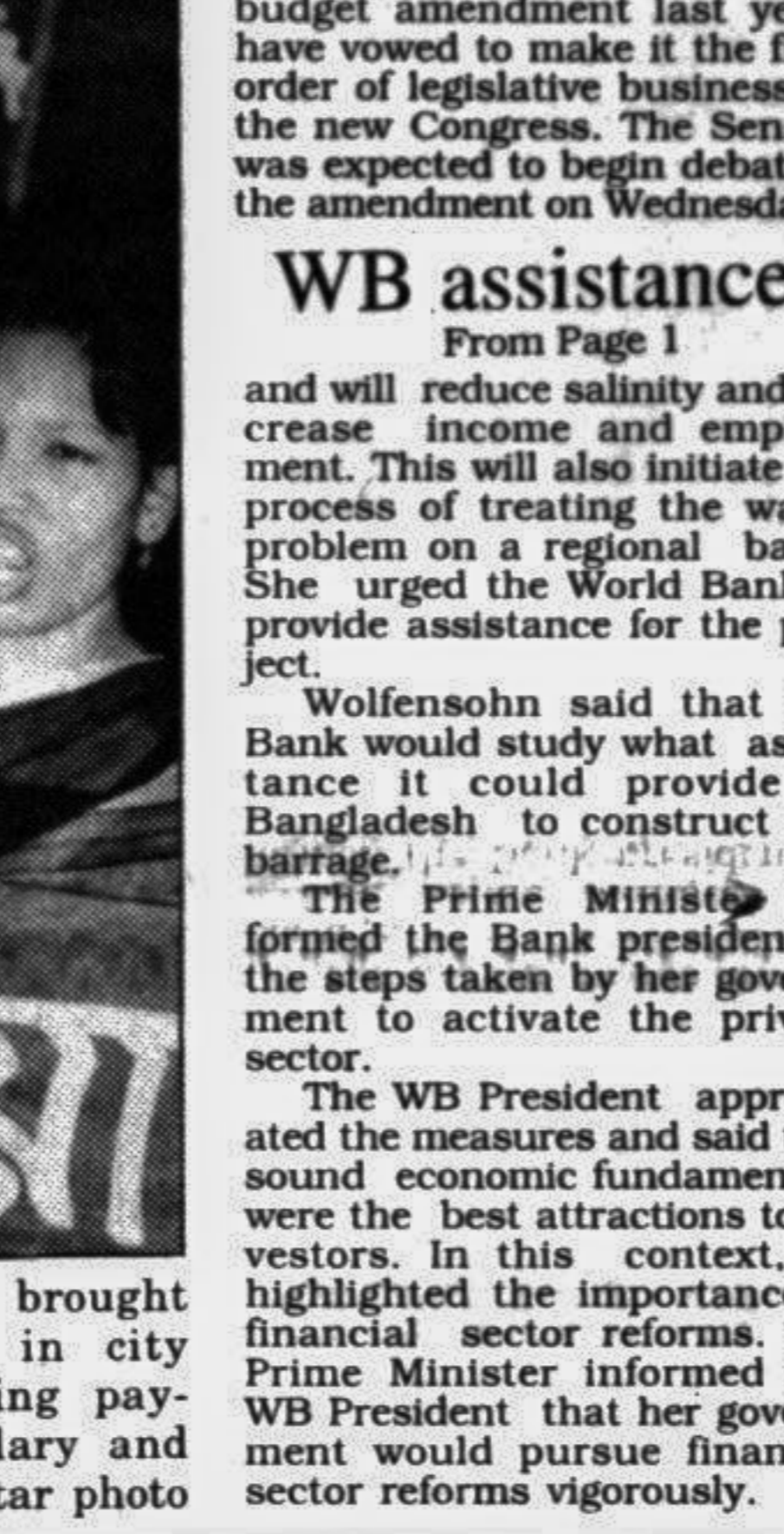
The secretaries pointed out problems relating to the preparation and implementation of projects. They said that there should be speedy decision on the clearance of budgetary and project allocations. To expedite the decision, the ministries were advised to explain the points about which they seek the opinion of the Finance Ministry.

The Finance Minister asked the secretaries to discourage extra budgetary proposals.

Kibria directed not to transfer the manpower from projects in revenue sector.

Garments workers

brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding payment of arrear salary and Eid bonus. — Star photo



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স্টল বরাদ্দ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৭ কর্তৃপক্ষের উদ্যোগে ঢাকার শেরেবাগা নগরস্থ প্র্যানিং কমিশনের দক্ষিণ পার্শ্বে ১৯৯৭ সালের ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৭-১৯ সময়কালে "জাতীয় পুষ্ণ প্রদর্শনী '৯৭" অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। মেলায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য আত্মহী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

ক) স্থানীয় পুষ্ণ/পট প্র্যান্টস/অর্কিড/পুষ্ণ সম্পর্কীয় ইকুইপমেন্ট এবং রাসায়নিক ম্যাদ্যাদি উক্ত প্রদর্শনীতে প্রদর্শন ও বিক্রয় করা যাবে।

খ) মেলায় স্টল বরাদ্দের নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্রের ফরম এবং অন্যান্য তথ্যাদির জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জাতীয় পুষ্ণ প্রদর্শনী '৯৭ সচিবালয়, রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর সদর দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

গ) আবেদনপত্রের ফরম ১০০ (একপাত) টাকা নগদ মূল্যে রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর হিসাবধা শাখা হ'তে খরিদ করা যাবে।

ঘ) আবেদনপত্র জমা দেয়ার নির্ধারিত শেষ তারিখ ১২ই ফেব্রুয়ারী, ১৯৯৭।

ঙ) স্টল ভাড়া ১০০০ (এক হাজার) টাকা নির্ধারিত করা হয়েছে।

মোঃ আকমল হোসেন
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জাতীয় পুষ্ণ প্রদর্শনী '৯৭
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রপ্তানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো
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