

VOL. VII NO. 43 REGD. NO. DA 781

# The Daily Star

FALGOON 18 1403 BS.

DHAKA SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 1997

SHAWAL 22 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

Ayubur Rahman resigns from Admin Reforms Commission

By Special Correspondent Chairman of the Public Administration Reforms Commission Ayubur Rahman has resigned, highly placed sources said.

They said the former cabinet secretary, who had died in September last year, and was appointed chairman of the Commission in December on contract for two years, handed over his resignation letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina early yesterday afternoon.

The reason behind the resignation could not be known immediately; Rahman could not be reached for his comments. It was also not immediately clear whether the government had accepted the resignation.

See Page 12 Col 8

AL, BNP leaders talk formation of JS bodies

Star Report

Three top level leaders of the ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP met yesterday to resolve a deadlock on the formation of the Parliamentary standing committees on various ministries, but the meeting ended with no specific outcome, sources in the parties said.

Leaders of both the sides, however, were optimistic that they would be able to overcome the stalemate.

The leaders who met to discuss the issue included Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sen Gupta, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

In the meeting, the BNP leader reiterated the demand that the membership on the committees should be distributed in proportion to the parliamentary strength of various parties and groups. The BNP leader also asserted that the ruling party had earlier accepted the proposition but it

See Page 12 Col 4

PG Hospital doctor shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

A doctor of PG Hospital was gunned down by some miscreants at Ziqatola in the city last night.

Dr Hafizur Rahman, 37, sustained fatal injuries when a gang of about 10 armed men fired on him in front of his house at about 10 pm. He died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), said police and hospital sources.

The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Inside Today

## Article

Donors' Mid-term Review of Bangladesh Economy

Column: Insight by Kabir U Ahmed

Fresh Hopes in the Middle East

Column: The Horizon This Week by Arshad-uz Zaman

Page 4

## Focus

Law and Our Rights

The Dilemma of Section 54; Towards a Broadcasting Policy Page 5

## International

Rioters storm army barracks, seize arms in Albania

Suharto won't tolerate unconstitutional means to unseat him

Page 8

## Business

Kibria opens seminar on hill economy: Govt's investment policy exceptional

42-point fall in DSE price index

Pages 6,7

## Iranian quake: Thousands feared killed, official figure crosses 500

ARDABIL, Iran, Mar 1: The death toll from the violent earthquake that rocked a mountainous region of northwestern Iran rose to 500 today as freezing weather and heavy snow hampered rescue operations, officials said, report agencies.

Deputy Interior Minister Rasul Zargar said on state television that at least 500 people were killed and 2,000 injured in the tremor which shook the Ardabil region in Iranian Azerbaijan on Friday afternoon.

He said around 5,000 families or 35,000 people lost their homes in the tremor, which measured 5.5 on the Richter Scale. Some 83 villages around the main towns of Ardabil and Meshkinshar had been destroyed or severely damaged.

But villagers, officials and aid workers helping to dig out victims said the number of dead was in the thousands.

In the village Villadareh at the center of the damage, residents beat their chests in grief as volunteers pulled out the bodies of a toddler and three other children from the rubble.

The wailing of the villagers echoed through the snow-covered valley that divides the village from the main road. Most of the houses made of mud and wooden beams were in ruins.

The number of dead was expected to climb since many of the damaged villages are cut off by landslides and heavy snows in

this mountainous region.

An Intelligence Ministry official who said he had toured some villages said the death toll was likely in the thousands.

"The situation in the other villages is even worse than here in Villadareh. It's a catastrophe," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

A teacher in the town of Sarain said he counted 2,000 dead from the surrounding villages taken to the cemetery in Ardabil.

In Villadareh, 15 bodies were laid out in the courtyard of the health center, and an aid worker said he had pulled 85 dead victims from under the rubble.

Most of the 720 people of the village were believed to have died, surviving residents said. They said each family, usually made up of at least six members, had only one or two survivors.

Trucks carrying tents, food and blankets were just starting to trundle in today. Cranes and bulldozers were being brought in to take out the dead.

Villagers said they spent the night in the open, keeping warm by burning tires or lighting bonfires. They said aftershocks continued until early today.

In Varania, a few kilometers from Sarain, dozens of cows,

See Page 12 Col 2

## PM's directive to Energy Ministry

## Allow pvt sector to generate power without delay

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed the Energy Ministry to give private sector permission for generating power without delay in order to solve the nagging electricity problem, reports UNB.

She issued the instruction after taking stock of the power situation across the country in over a three-hour-long meeting at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

Having been briefed about the overall situation, the Prime Minister directed the officials concerned to take immediate decision and action to overcome the problem.

She also asked them to adopt a standard power generation and distribution policy to meet up the increasing power crisis in a balanced way.

Taking note of the vexed problem of loadshedding, Sheikh Hasina directed the concerned officials to avoid long-time loadshedding in specific areas.

She told them to inform people of the particular area before shedding load of power, as an immediate measure to provide the residents with some relief.

To plug electricity pilferage, another step to come to grips with the situation, the Prime Minister suggested the energy officials to conduct a motivational campaign for reducing system loss of power.

"Such motivation to cut the system loss will be a great job done for the nation as it will save power for the convenience of the people," she told the Energy Ministry meeting that she presided.

She was apprised in detail about the current situation of power and causes of power crisis. Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Lt General (Rtd) Noor Uddin Khan briefed the PM.

About the prevailing power crisis, the energy officials said the power generation plants had become old causing production shortfalls.

Eight power plants were also under repair, which aggravated

the problem.

They also informed the Prime Minister that on completion of the 57 km Ashuganj pipeline, different power plants in Chittagong would get adequate gas and be able to go into full-scale operation for generating power. By April, the pipeline will be completed, they said.

Meeting sources said the power-sharing contracts with some private firms had already been signed. After setting up of power-generation plants in private sector, the country will have surplus power meeting its present demand, estimated at more than 2200 megawatt.

In this context, the Prime Minister was told that not a single megawatt power had been generated in the last five years, resulting in the crisis.

Referring to the Baropukuria coal mine, the Prime Minister suggested the concerned officials to acquire the technical know-how for installing coal-fired power plant, particularly

See Page 12 Col 3

## Tension, panic grip Sadhupur village

## 13 Ansars taken to thana, police guard trouble spot

By Masud Arif

Dozens of gunshots that rocked Sadhupur village in Savar leaving four people dead on Friday left the green hamlet and its people in a state of panic and tension.

Hundreds of people of Sadhupur and its adjoining villages, about 45 km from the city, started crowding the thatched huts around the Ansar camp yesterday to see, what they said, the 'devastation' caused by the Ansars and 'some hired armed mastars'.

Meanwhile, police said that four persons including a teenage girl were killed in the incident but the villagers claimed the figure was seven. Savar police added that none came to claim anyone as missing till last night.

According to police sources, 84 rounds were fired during the trouble. Thirteen Ansars who were on duty at the camp were taken to Savar thana till last night while extra police forces were guarding the troubled spot at Sadhupur.

Four persons, including a teenage girl, were killed and at least 25 others injured when Ansars opened fire during a

See Page 12 Col 1



Police deployed in the area where four villagers were killed in firing by Ansars at Sadhupur village in Savar.

— Star photo

See Page 12 Col 1

## Focus

Law and Our Rights

The Dilemma of Section 54; Towards a Broadcasting Policy Page 5

## International

Rioters storm army barracks, seize arms in Albania

Suharto won't tolerate unconstitutional means to unseat him

Page 8

## Business

Kibria opens seminar on hill economy: Govt's investment policy exceptional

42-point fall in DSE price index

Pages 6,7



People of Sadhupur village in Savar yesterday protesting the killing of four villagers in firing by Ansars.

— Star photo

**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**  
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF  
ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLA TO SICILIA,  
BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,  
MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE  
OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

**NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.  
TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

Chakma repatriation  
Tribal leaders seek UNHCR, IRC involvement

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of the Bangladeshi tribes people, now living in the refugee camps in the Indian state of Tripura, have renewed their demand for involving the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Red Cross in the repatriation and resettlement of the tribal refugees in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

According to a BBC report monitored here last night, the refugee leaders told the visiting Bangladesh National Committee on CHT delegation that they want the Bangladesh army and the settlers to leave the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Earlier, the tribal leaders had a three-hour

See Page 12 Col 4

## Over 100 killed in Baluchistan

## Bangabandhu murder

## Case sent to District and Sessions Judge's Court

Star Report

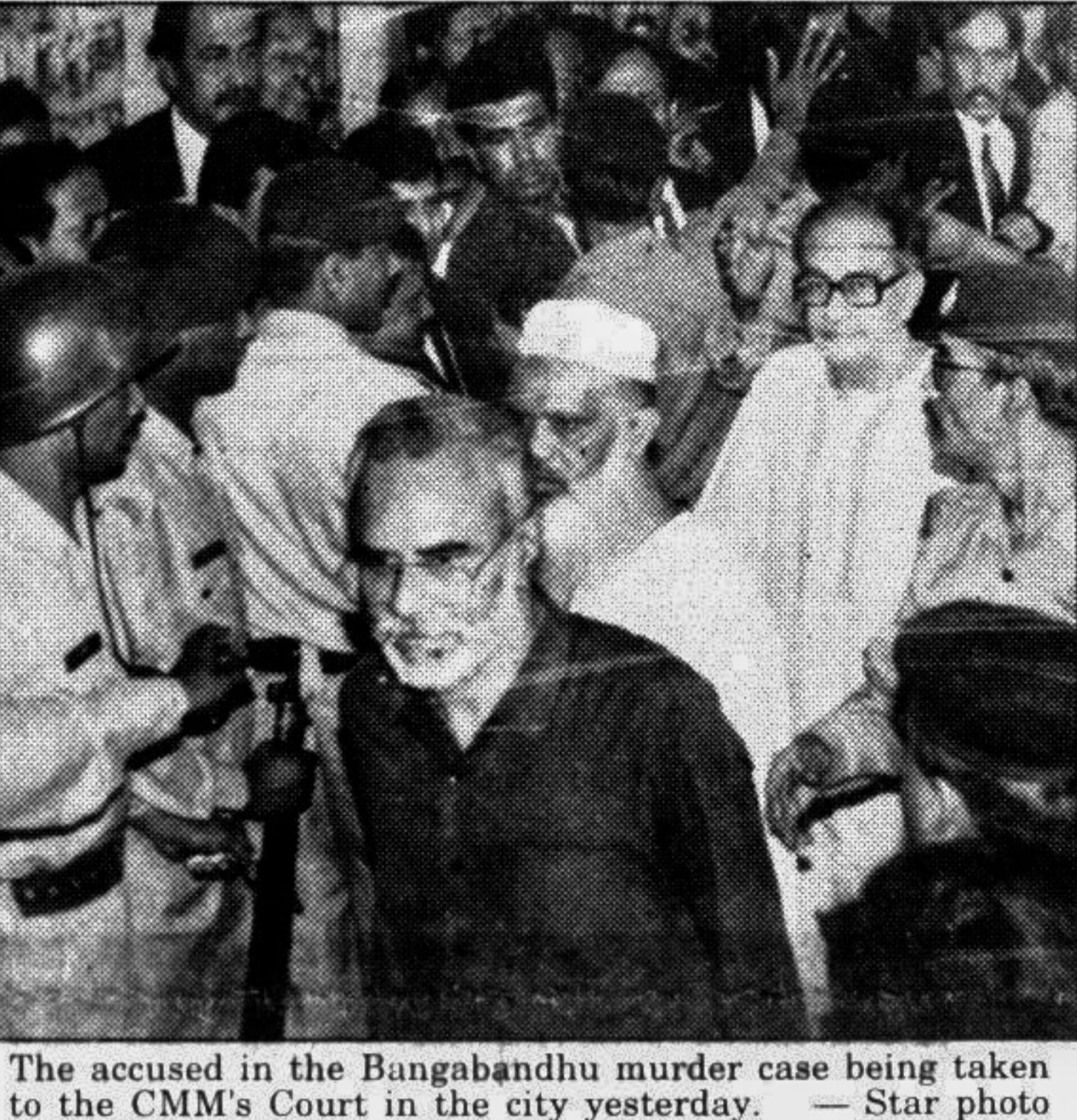
The six accused charged in the Bangabandhu murder case were committed to the District and Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka, for trial after a brief hearing by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) yesterday amidst tight security and demonstrations outside by a section of lawyers demanding their execution.

As the accused were brought to the CMM's Court under riot police escort from the Dhaka Central Jail, for their third appearance since they were charged on January 15, jeering crowd demanded their immediate execution.

Tension gripped the court room briefly when an unidentified lawyer taunted the accused. "Killers," he shouted repeatedly as a defence counsel was pleading for his client, Zobaida Rashid. However, his colleagues calmed him. The magistrate twice ordered all to maintain order.

The six accused are: Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooque Rahman; Lt Col (relieved) Sul-

See Page 12 Col 4



The accused in the Bangabandhu murder case being taken to the CMM's Court in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## Investing 'black money' in industrial sector

## WB for review of decision not to question source of funds

By Inam Ahmed

The World Bank (WB) has questioned the wisdom of the government decision not to question the source of 'black money' if invested in the industrial sector and suggested its reconsideration.

"A reconsideration of the proposed policy to exempt previously unreported income totally from any income tax if invested in manufacturing seems warranted since it could undermine the credibility of the tax system, apart from being misused," the Bank observed in its progress report on reform targets prepared on February 22.

The government in a cabinet meeting on January 13 had approved this new proposal aimed at increasing investment in the country.

The WB report further observed, it is also questionable whether the same investment should also be allowed to benefit from tax holidays, in addition to this concession, which seems "overly generous and possibly unethical".

The Bank felt that to strengthen fiscal balances in the medium and long term, serious efforts are required to ex-

ploit for this purpose.

Attention should be given to gearing up internal surveys so

See Page 12 Col 7

he said. "Some can only get a glucose trip."

Many people from the hardest hit outlying region of Sibi were still struggling to bid victims from rubble, authorities said.

Others, like Shah, were airlifted in army helicopters to Quetta.

Emergency workers still in the region said more than 100 people died in the magnitude-7.3 earthquake that shook the province of Baluchistan Friday morning.

They said the death toll was likely to climb even higher.

See Page 12 Col 5

BNP protests  
DCC's failure to resolve problems

City BNP staged a demonstration yesterday protesting the city corporation's failure to resolve the problems of city dwellers, reports UNB.

It held a rally in front of the