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Clinton acquitted

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: The US Senate acquitted William Jefferson Clinton of perjury and obstruction of justice today, ending a 13-month drama that catapulted an affair with a White House intern into only the second presidential impeachment trial in history. The vote allows America's 42nd president to finish his term in office, reports AP.

What's next: Remorse or revenge?

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: Remorse or revenge? President Bill Clinton must strike a delicate balance after his impeachment trial — trying to demonstrate contrition while waging a political war against the Republicans who sought to drive him from office. He wants to push his own agenda through the Republican Congress and then help Democrats win back control of the House and Senate. But at the same time, he can't gloat or be smug about defeating Republican efforts to oust him. That would be unseemly for a man marked in history as only the second American president to be impeached, reports AP. "We know Clinton, said Brookings Institution analyst Thomas Mann. "He's perfectly capable of going to work with people who were and are his adversaries. At the same time, he will fume privately and do what he can to defeat them. There's no overt public bitterness, there's no public 'I'm going to get even.' There's no sell pity."

It is therefore ordered and adjudged that William Jefferson Clinton be and hereby is acquitted of the charges in the said articles," Chief Justice William Rehnquist declared. Senators voted 50-50 on the impeachment article accusing Clinton of obstruction of justice, far short of the two-thirds required for conviction. Earlier, senators rejected the charge of perjury by a 55-45 vote, as 10 Republicans joined the Democrats. Both charges would have required 67 votes for conviction, a threshold that senators have known for weeks would not be met. Clinton was in the White House residence during the vote. Aides said he did not watch on television. The final votes were broadcast by the networks to a nation long since weary of the proceedings. "Senators, how say you? Is respondent William Jefferson Clinton guilty or not guilty?" Rehnquist said to a hushed chamber, beginning the vote. One by one, senators rose

from their seats and declared "guilty" or "not guilty." The Republicans who voted against conviction on perjury were: Slade Gorton of Washington, Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe of Maine, John Chafee of Rhode Island, James Jeffords of Vermont, Richard Shelby of Alabama, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, Ted Stevens of Alaska, Fred Thompson of Tennessee and John Warner of Virginia. Republican senators opposing the obstruction article were: Collins, Chafee, Jeffords, Snowe and Specter. Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott offered Democrats a long-shot opportunity to force a discussion of censure immediately after the trial ended — a reminder that even in acquittal Clinton would be forever tarnished as the second president in history to be impeached. The Senate chamber doors, mostly closed for the last four days, were opened for a final vote shortly after noon, ending a fifth week of the trial. Before the votes were taken, the articles of impeachment were read for a final time. Lott declared it was time for senators to fulfill their "obligation under the Constitution." The final outcome of the votes was known for days as five moderate Republicans announced in advance that they



President Clinton — AP file photo

BNP, allies to go ahead with agitation programme

By Staff Correspondent
The Liaison Committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance at a meeting yesterday expressed firm determination to continue the current street agitation to resist the municipal polls scheduled for February 23-25. Chaired by Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, the meeting reviewed the 60-hour hartal observed at the alliance's call and the post-hartal situation in the country. It was Ershad's first attendance in the liaison committee meeting held at his Baridhara residence. Meeting sources said that the committee leaders discussed the current mass contact programmes by alliance partners BNP, JP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Okya Jote to drum up support for boycotting the municipal polls. Chiefs of the four parties are likely to announce simultaneously the planned 96-hour hartal programme beginning on February 22 from four divisional headquarters, the sources further said. According to an earlier announced schedule, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Rajshahi. JP chief HM Ershad at

Programmes on Ekushey

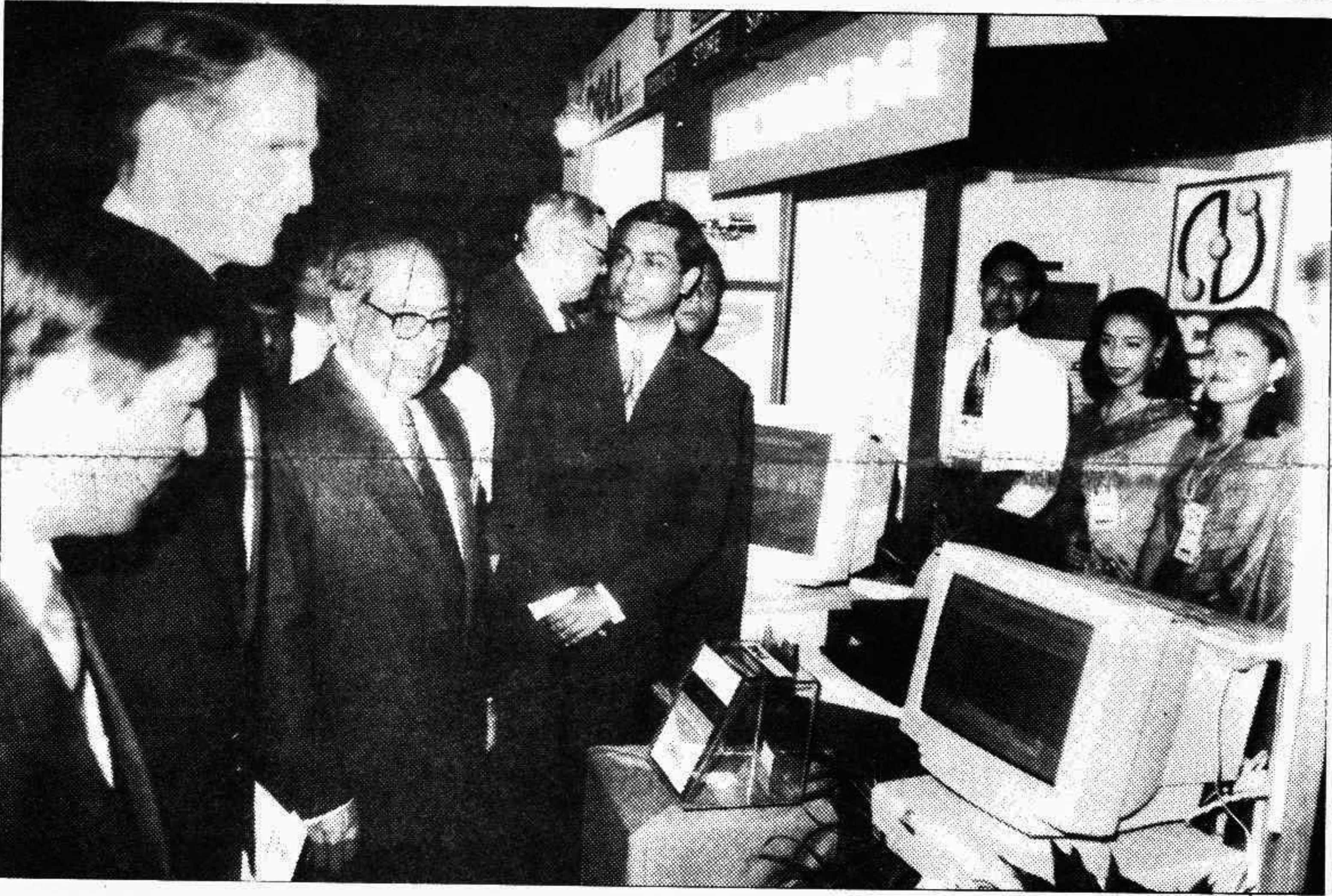
By DU Correspondent
The Central Coordinating Committee formed at Dhaka University for observance of the historic Ekushey February has urged all quarters not to put up any poster, portrait or banner and write on the walls around the Central Shaheed Minar. The committee met yesterday at the DU Administrative Building with chief coordinator Prof AFM Yusuf Haider in the chair. DU Vice Chancellor was also present at the meeting. The meeting decided that President Shahabuddin Ahmed will be the first to place wreaths at the Shaheed Minar at one minute past midnight. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her cabinet colleagues will follow the president. Then will come the Vice Chancellor and Syndicate members of DU. Lan-

EU to support combined dev efforts in CHT

The European Union governments and European Commission yesterday said they are willing to support development activities that are based on participation in planning and decision-making by both tribal and non-tribal people in the CHT, reports UNB. "Such activities, combined with continued and increased dialogue between the different communities can contribute greatly to achieving sustainable peace in the region," said a statement issued by the British High Commission. The statement was issued after the visit of European Union Heads of Mission to the Chittagong Hill Tracts from February 7-9, Germany, Denmark.

Earthquake kills 50 in Afghanistan

KABUL, Feb 12: At least 50 people were killed and 210 injured in a strong earthquake which struck eastern Afghanistan, officials and medical sources said today, reports AFP. Radio Shariat said 50 people were killed in three villages near Mayden Sahr, about 60 kms (36 miles) west of Kabul in late Thursday's earthquake. The Taliban authorities appealed for help from abroad.



Finance Minister SAMS Kibria along with US ambassador John C Holzman goes round different stalls after inaugurating the US Trade Fair at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday. — Star photo

US energy team to draft Action Plan by next month

By Staff Correspondent
The US Energy Department will initiate a process of coordination between private sector investors and international development banks dealing with the energy sector in Bangladesh, said US energy delegation chief Calvin Humphrey. While the Energy Department continues cooperation with Bangladesh, it would play a coordinator's role with the donor agencies and oil companies to avoid duplication and to assess where Bangladesh would need US technical assistance, he said at a press conference at Zia International Airport before his departure from Dhaka last night. By the end of the next month, the American energy delegation would draft, on an inter-agency basis, an Action Plan to develop the energy sector in Bangladesh. The US Embassy and USAID mission in Dhaka would help draft the plan. The Plan would then be shared with Bangladesh to finalise it in April, Humphrey said. The Action Plan is expected to take a much more concrete

JP takes action against Mizan, Sharfuzzaman

By Staff Correspondent
Jatiya Party yesterday relieved its senior leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury of all party positions and expelled Sharfuzzaman Jhantu MP on charges of anti-party activities. The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the JP Presidium with party Chairman HM Ershad in the chair, meeting sources said. Held at Baridhara office of JP chief, the meeting decided to serve show cause notice on Mizan Chowdhury why he should not be stripped of the primary membership of the party. The presidium decided to strip him of his party position based on charges of engaging in activities that would damage the party and the ongoing movement. "He had publicly opposed the current phase of the opposition movement," the meeting noted. The Presidium expelled Sharfuddin Jhantu, an MP (Rangpur) from the party's primary membership for violating party decision. The JP had earlier expelled Golan Faruque Ovee MP and Tasminia Hossain MP on the same charge. The meeting also demanded immediate release of partymen who were arrested during the last hartal and prayed for the salvation of Sajal Chowdhury, a hartal victim. Almost all members of the 23-strong JP Presidium were in attendance, sources said.

Japan may assist growth of SMEs in Bangladesh

By Rafiq Hasan
Development of small and medium enterprises (SME), in the private sector in Bangladesh will get top priority when a high-powered trade delegation from Japan meets local entrepreneurs and businessmen this week, business sources said. The 40-member delegation led by Uzuhiro Uwatoko, president of the Japan-Bangladesh committee for commercial and economic cooperation, is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka tomorrow. The Japanese team will have separate meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria and Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed. The delegation will be here mainly to attend the 10th meeting of Bangladesh-Japan joint committee for commercial and economic co-operation to be held at Sonargaon Hotel on February 16. According to sources, the delegation will include an 'environment observation team' which will evaluate the investment opportunities available in Bangladesh. The team will visit Dhaka and Chittagong export processing zones (EPZs) and other industrial areas for observing the investment situation there, one source said. The Bangladesh side at the joint committee meeting led by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) president Abdul Awal Minto will seek help from Japanese entrepreneurs to develop small and medium industries. A two-day seminar will also be held at the same venue on SMEs for appraising the Japanese businessmen of the prospects and possibilities of Japanese investment in Bangladesh. Papers will be presented at the seminar on behalf of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) and Board of Investment (BOI) highlighting various opportunities provided by the government to the foreign investors. Bangladesh Bank, Bangladesh Shilpa Bank and other financial institutions will also apprise them of industrial financing in the country. The ninth meeting of Japan-Bangladesh economic and commercial co-operation was held in Tokyo in 1997. At that meeting, the Japanese side had cited a number of factors which, according to them, prevented large scale

Villagers beat 3 outlaws to death in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Feb 12: Three armed cadres of an outlawed party were killed and two others severely injured in an attack by the villagers at Balarampur under Terokeda thana of the district today. Police identified the deceased as Saidul Islam, 30, Anwar, 32, and Kamrul, 28. The injured, admitted to Sadar Hospital in critical condition have been identified as Tuhin, 25, and Shahidul Islam, 28. Police said, a group of armed members of Biplobi Communist Party came under attack at Balarampur village where they had gone for collecting toll as demanded earlier. They were beaten to death, said police super, Khulna who visited the place of occurrence. Police could not recover firearms which the outlaws used against the villagers while trying to escape in the face of stiff resistance. "Only a small portion of

Fallout of hartal in Ctg Export items stuck, business halted

From Nurul Alam
CHITTAGONG, Feb 12: The Country's commercial capital and port city Chittagong has been badly hit by the opposition-called three-day hartal as it halted most of its business activities affecting economic life. Over 70 vessels loaded with thousands of tonnes of cargo have been stranded at the jetties and outer anchorage of Chittagong port as a fallout of the hartal that ended yesterday. Of the stranded ships, 24 anchored at the jetties and moorings while the rest were waiting at the outer anchorage for entering the port jetties, port sources said. "Congestion of ships already persisting at the port for the past few weeks increased as the hartal hampered cargo handling and delivery of goods", a port official said. "Only a small portion of cargo was delivered from this port by railway wagons to Dhaka", he said adding that delivery mostly remained suspended due to lack of trucks. President of Steamer Agents Association Tarek Anis said "We are really concerned due to the deadlock caused by hartal as the waiting time of ships at the port increased. This forced the vessels to incur demurrage for overstay, ranging from 3,500 US dollars to 10,000 dollars per ship per day." "Moreover, the dislocation will create an 'image problem' for our port abroad," he added. Shipment of ready-made garments was hampered due to the hartal, said Mahub Ali, Vice President of BGMEA. "Some garments exporters lost the validity of export orders by this time."

Remain alert against BNP's conspiracy to foil polls: AL

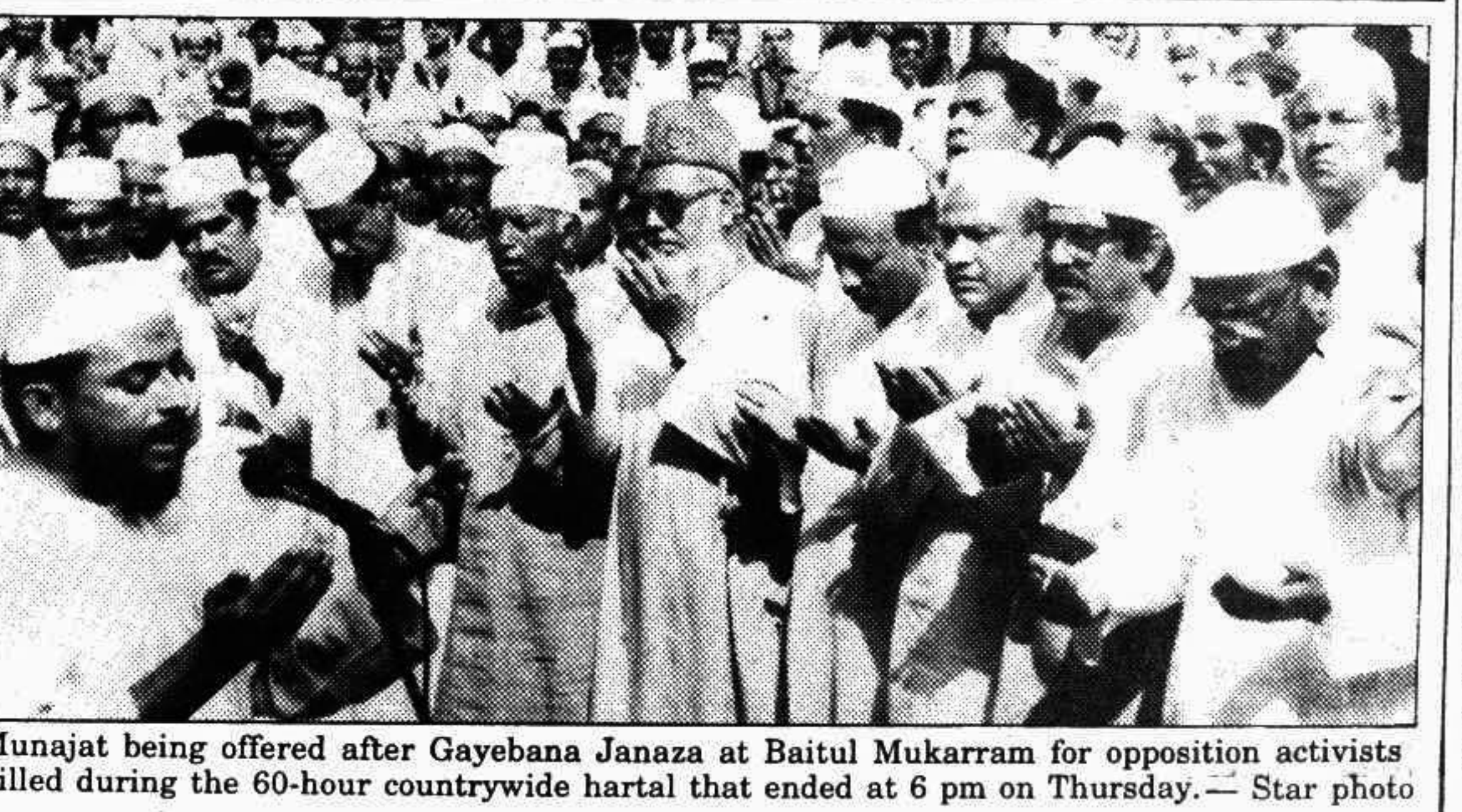
Ruling Awami League yesterday called for cooperating with the Election Commission to hold free, fair and impartial municipal polls despite conspiracy hatched by some opposition parties, reports UNB. A meeting of party's central coordination committee on February 23-25 municipal elections also urged all concerned to abide by code of conduct and other election rules. The meeting, with committee chairman and AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu in the chair, discussed reports from partymen across the country and took some important decisions, said a party press release. It welcomed the leaders and workers of parties, including

Jalalabad Gasfield Two more wells go into production by tomorrow

From Iqbal Siddiquee
SYLHET, Feb 12: Total gas supply from Jalalabad Gasfield to the National Grid will rise to about 100 million cubic feet per day in a day or two, said an official of the Occidental yesterday. "It is all set to put Well — 3 and Well — 4 into production sometime Saturday or Sunday," Field Manager of the US company told The Daily Star. Total production from the four wells in the gasfield will be about 100 mcmcf, he said. However, the wells have a total capacity of producing 125 mcmcf. The company started supply-

PM visits Amman Tuesday

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina goes to Amman on Tuesday to pay tribute to late King Hussein of Jordan, reports UNB. The Prime Minister will offer *fateha* at the mazar of King Hussein, and meet his widow, Queen Noor, new King Abdullah and his wife. During her stay in the Jordanian capital, the Prime Minister will hold bilateral talks with King Abdullah. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will accompany her during the trip. Hasina, who is leading a small delegation, will return home the next day.



Munajat being offered after Gayebana Janaza at Baitul Mukarram for opposition activists killed during the 60-hour countryside hartal that ended at 6 pm on Thursday. — Star photo

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Prayer Timings
February 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	5-29
Zohr	12:15	1:15
Asr	4-10	4-20
Maghrib	5-58	6-02
Esha	7-10	7-20

Source: Islamic Foundation

Son kills father in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Feb 12: A father was killed by his son after a heated dispute over the son's late return to home at West Masdar under Fatullah police station around 4:00 p.m. today. According to police reports, Mohammad Mozammel, 50, a small trader, was severely stabbed by his son Noor Islam, 22. The incident occurred when the former rebuked the latter for returning home late. Initially, Mozammel tried to persuade his son to return home early. But Noor Islam, a former drug addict, started arguing with his father and at one stage attacked him with a sharp knife. He stabbed in his father's abdomen, left chest and right hand.