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BGMEA asks 53 garment units to set up 2 exits within 45 days

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has instructed its 53 member factories to keep two exits in their units to ensure protection of workers from fire incidents, sources said.

The BGMEA, through a circular on March 4, asked the owners of these factories to comply with the instruction within 45 days. The association issued the circular after inspecting fire safety measures of its member factories located in Dhaka and Chittagong.

"If they do not comply with the instruction within the time, we will consider action against them," BGMEA President Tipu Munshi told the news agency.

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POLLS EXPENDITURE

No political party submits return

EC yet to act on law violation

SHAKHAWAT LITON

None of the 55 political parties that contested in the last parliamentary polls has yet submitted the return of their election expenditure to the Election Commission (EC).

The EC also has not taken any action against these parties for violating the electoral law introduced in 2001 fixing limit to the election expenditure although it is legally empowered to take punitive action for any contravention of the law. It has remained silent about the matter since the 2001 general

elections.

Officials at the EC Secretariat said they had issued a number of circulars after the October 1, 2001 election, asking the contesting political parties to submit the returns of their election expenditure, but none of them responded to the EC's directive within the 60-day period.

"The secretariat has not informed the Election Commission whether or not any political party has submitted the return of its election expenditure. The then chief election commissioner also

did not convene any meeting to discuss the issue," Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali told The Daily Star.

By showing such indifference to the electoral laws, major political parties, including the BNP, Awami League (AL), Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party (Ershad), have virtually proved their unwillingness to be transparent regarding their election expenditures.

According to the law, each political party shall furnish to the EC a separate statement certified

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Candlelight rally mourns 'black night'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters, their relatives and hundreds of people brought out a candlelight rally yesterday commemorating the 'black night' of March 25 in 1971 when the Pakistani military rulers started a massacre on our people, leading to

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Notice

The offices of The Daily Star remain closed today on account of the Independence and National Day holiday.

However, the newspaper will come out tomorrow (March 27, 2006) under special arrangements.

Today's issue includes 12-page supplements on the Independence and National Day.

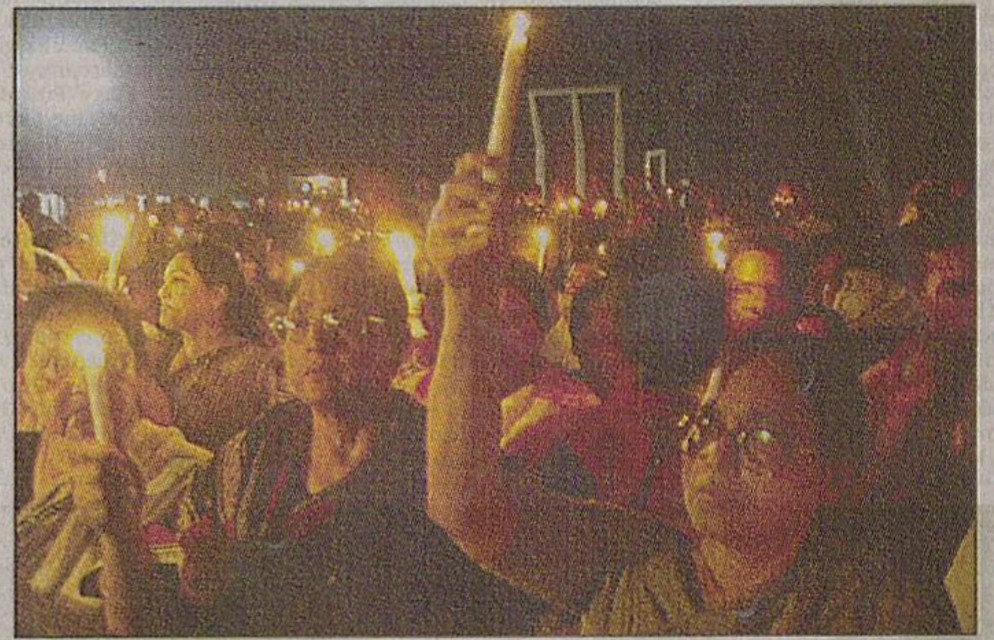


PHOTO: STAR

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee takes out a candlelight procession from the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday, commemorating the 'black night' of March 25 in 1971.

Other groups behind major blasts since 1999

Suspects intelligence, feels Huji linchpin Hannan be quizzed further

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The intelligence officials enquiring into militancy and bomb attacks suspect that militant groups other than Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) might have been behind some major bomb attacks since 1999.

JMB top brass Abdur Rahman, Bangla Bhai, Ataur Rahman Sunny and others have admitted to carry-

ing out all the blasts since August 17 last year, attacks on writer Humayun Azad and Prof Yunus in Rajshahi, blasts at cinemas in Mymensingh, circus and cinema in Satkhira and Failya Peglar Majar in Tangail, said sources.

But the investigators have yet to extract information from them about the groups and persons responsible for the other major attacks that include the blasts in

1999 at Udichi conference in Jessore, Ahmadiyya mosque in Khulna, and in 2001, Pahela Boishakh celebration at Ramna Batamul, CPB conference at Paltan, Awami League (AL) leader Shamim Osman's meeting in Narayanganj, AL leader Sheikh Helal's meeting in Mollahat upazila of Bagerhat and Baniachang church in Gopalganj.

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3 Kushtia BCL men found slaughtered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Criminals slaughtered three Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists at Nawda Alampur village in Mirpur upazila of the district on Friday night.

The killed are vice-president of Mirpur upazila BCL Sanwar Hossain Jibon, 33, son of Huzur Ali, Mizanur Rahman Maznu, 30, son of Mahbub Ali, and Miton Hossain, 30, son of Wadud Ali of the village.

An unknown caller phoned the BCL men when they were watching a VCD programme at the house of Mizanur Rahman Maznu at about 9:30pm, police said quoting wit-

nesses.

The three went out from Maznu's house after receiving the call, family sources said.

Finding their bodies beside Durbeel canal of the village, locals informed police who recovered the bodies yesterday morning and sent to Kushtia General Hospital for an autopsy.

Sanwar and Maznu worked at Toshiba Rangs electronics factory in Dhaka while Miton worked at his village home.

Sanwar and Maznu, who studied at Mirpur Degree College, were well known as BCL activists in the

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Nation celebrates 36th Independence Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation celebrates today the 36th Independence Day and National Day to pay tributes to the three million martyrs, who sacrificed their lives for independence.

On March 26, 1971, independence of Bangladesh was formally declared, leading to the nine-month Liberation War against the Pakistani occupation forces and resulting in the emergence of a sovereign state.

After the occupation army brutally cracked down on the unarmed Bangalees on the

night of March 25, they joined all-out guerrilla warfare for independence.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared Bangladesh's independence at 00:30 hours, just an hour before he was taken prisoner from his road 32 residence in Dhanmondi.

After many years of political and economic exploitation, the Bangalees' nationalist sentiments paved the way for the massive victory of Bangabandhu-led Awami League in the 1970 Pakistan national elections.

The Pakistani junta in the then West Pakistan however refused to hand over power to the then East Pakistanis. They stalled installation of the newly elected parliament and started ethnic genocide aimed at extinguishing all signs of Bangalee nationalist movement.

In the face of this, the inevitable declaration of independence came on March 26.

Bangalee policemen and paramilitary and army personnel had defected from the West and trained the general public, who took up arms to fight for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

In this green

my root is sown, extended.

In this green

I will build a land, prosperous and beyond.

freedom, it is for you.

freedom, it is my promise

Born to Build

SHAH CEMENT

26th March

Glorious Independence & National Day

Our Independence Our Pride

Our Bank



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