Economic performance a key factor for nat'l security: FM

In the wake of security threats emerging from non-military factors nowadays, such as socio-political unrest, Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan yesterday said that in the context of present globalised world, economic performance has become an important ingredient of Bangladesh's national security.

He. however, noted, "This is not to suggest that military power has lost its utility but to emphasise that non-military sectors have assumed key importance.

The FM made the observations at a seminar titled 'Security of Bangladesh: A Comprehensive Approach' organised by Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) marking the Independence Day

states are faced with a variety of threats both intra and inter-state. "Broader threat perceptions also continue to persist --- regional hegemony, spheres of influence, domination and neocolonialism."

About the vulnerabilities of Bangladesh, he said there is no doubt that the country has vulnerabilities in practically all aspects and areas, both military and nonmilitary. Economic viability, transnational economic and financial concerns, climate change and environmental degradation, political concerns, social chaos, arms, drug trafficking and terrorism are main sources of threats the country faces,

"The most pressing task for us is to minimise the degree of vulnerability and reduce threats," he said,

adding, "We must shape our security environment through an effective and realistic assessment of our national interest.

The Foreign Minister said a vital priority is to strive for political stability at home, maintain constant vigilance, seek active cooperation and coordinated efforts abroad and engage in a continuous process of confidence building.

Terming advancement in science and technology as the most pervasive phenomenon in international relations, he said the impact of advances of science and technology on security and foreign policy cannot be ignored. "The traditional way of dealing with security appears to be inadequate for the task of effectively tackling the challenges of technology, especially in cybernet-

Myanmar (BCIM) Forum meeting

here organised by Dhaka-based

Delhi-based Centre for Policy

with China, Myanmar and

Centre for Policy Dialogue and

Emphasising that cooperation

Bangladesh is a "core compo-

nent" of India's 'Look East' policy,

Sikri said India envisioned forma-

tion of a Pan-Asian Free Trade

"However, meaningful sub-

regional and regional cooperation

is dependent upon greater connec-

tivity and dismantling of barriers

between us to allow free move-

ment of goods, people and ideas,"

He stressed the need for

"India is actively engaged in a

"For us, cooperation with these

sustained endeavour to strengthen

bilateral engagement with

Bangladesh, China and Myanmar,"

three important neighbours is a

core component of our 'Look East'

policy, which occupies high priority

in India's foreign policy and reflects

recognition of the strategic impor-

tance of Asia in tomorrow's world

and of our place in the evolving

Humidity in

percentage

Morning Evening

25 37

global economy," he added.

exploiting the potential for cooper-

ation between India and its three

Sikri said

eastern neighbours.

now regarded to have a much wider focus and range. "In traditional terms security is about threats to the existence of a nation state and adoption of emergency or extraordinary measures to deal with them But non-traditional approach to security tends to make it allinclusive

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

First Saarc Secretary General Abul Ahsan and Prof M Shahiduzzaman presented two keynote presentations highlighting different issues related to the national security of Bangladesh Former ambassador Afsaru Quader. Prof Sved Anwar Hossain and BIISS Director General Ma Gen Abdul Matin also spoke at the seminar chaired by BIISS chairman Ambassador Mufleh R Osmany.

Tank lorry

BDNEWS. Dhaka

20 paisa per litre.

owners' strike

from tomorrow

The Tank lorry Owners' Association

has decided to go for an indefinite

strike from tomorrow protesting what it said non-implementation of a deci-

The association informed

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation

(BPČ) of the decision in a letter yes-

terday.
It said a meeting between the BPC

and the association on March 13 had

decided to raise the transport fare of light

fuel (diesel, petrol, octane, kerosene) to

20 paisa from 18 paisa per litre while

heavy fuel (furnace oil) to 24 paisa from

decision was not implemented until

Wednesday, it has decided to go for the

Meanwhile, Energy Adviser

Mahmudur Rahman has asked the BPC

chairman to implement the decision.

The association said that as the

sion to raise transport fare of fuel oil.

Police club the pedestrians in the stadium area at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday during a sit-in programme of the opposition 14-party.

BLUE FOR PEACE

'Govt nets militants for political gains'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP-led four-party alliance government has arrested militant kingpins Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai for political gains and not for eliminating religious militants, said the participants at 'Blue for Peace' programme in the city vesterday.

They said a large number of militants carried out bomb attacks across the country under the protection of alliance government killing progressive political leaders, civil society members and intellectuals one after another, but the government has captured only two top

Under the programme, a human chain was formed in front of slain Kibria's residence in Dhanmondi.

Taking part in the programme AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, said, " The arrest of Abdur Rahman and Bangla Bhai is not the success of the government. Rather, it is a victory for mass media that forced the government to nab the militants.

He said top militants were under the shelter of the government and it is clearly evident from the fact that the government leaders denied their existence saying they are the creation of media. Dr Reza Kibria, son of former

finance minister, said the government which is the patron of the militants, caught them as if it is outting the pet birds into the cage

He demanded an international investigation for finding out the mastermind of militants and killers of his father.

He also urged all to join the 50th 'Blue for Peace' programme which will be held on next Thursday at 4:30pm from Muktangon to Motijheel.

Along with the family members of late Kibria, yesterday's programme was also participated by leaders of Awami League, Mahila Awami League, Bangladesh Chhatra League Aamra Muktijoddhar Santan, Sonar Bangla Jubo Parisad and Bangabandhu Lalit Kala Academy.

Asma Kibria, widow of slain finance minister, initiated the 'Blue for Peace' programme protesting all bomb and grenade attacks including one that killed Kibria and demanding trial of the real killers.

Kibria, also an AL lawmaker, was killed in a grenade attack in his hometown Habiganj on January

'Indo-Bangla relations get a boost during Khaleda's Delhi visit'

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA. New

India's multidimensional relations with Bangladesh got a boost during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's recent visit to Delhi and the two countries have a "significant convergence of interests.

"Our multidimensional relations and our traditional friendship and wide ranging cooperation with Bangladesh were given a boost during Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's state visit to India a few days ago," said Indian External Affairs Secretary Rajiv Sikri.

"With our respective rich natural and human resources, India and Bangladesh have a significant convergence of interests in taking full advantage of the shared opportunities, complementarities and synergies that flow out of our historical, geographical, political, economic and cultural closeness and in tackling some of the challenges....such as terrorism and drug trafficking," he added.

Sikri said, "Bangladesh is the most important neighbour and regional partner for India. In fact, I would say Bangladesh is special and unique for India because the Indian State of West Bengal, Bangladesh and the northeastern region of India had historically constituted an integrated space."

He was addressing the sixth Bangladesh-China-India-

Dry weather likely

country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the

Day temperature may remain unchanged over the country, Met

Highest temperature 39.1 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

The sun sets in the capital at 6:14pm today and rises at

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

19.8

21.2

at Sitakunda and lowest 14.5 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

Temperature

36.1

38.4

35.8

35.8

35.5

36.0

TATE

5:51am tomorrow.

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Eden College reopens

DU CORRESPONDENT

The academic activities of Eden College resumed yesterday after a 16-day closure, but the presence of students was thin, as many students feared that the JCD activists might attack them again.

The four residential hostels of the college -- Hasna Khatun Hostel, Razia Hostel, Khodeza Khatun Hostel and Jebunnesa Hostel -- will reopen on April 3, 4, 5 and 6.

On March 13, the college authorities suspended all the classes for indefinite period and ordered the students to vacate the dormitories in the wake of students' demonstration against the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) college unit's involvement in distributing residential seats in exchange of money.

The next day, the JCD activists launched an attack on the agitating students who defied the authorities orders and forced them out of the

A student, preferring anonymity, yesterday said some JCD cadres have threatened the agitating students with attack if they come to the campus.

Meanwhile, the college authorities are taking fresh initiative to allocate seats among the residential Talking to The Daily Star, acting

principal Prof Jahan-e-Gulshan said,

"We are now making a list of legal residential students so that we can finish the job successfully." Sources said a new hostel super

committee is likely to be formed at the next academic committee meeting.

The five-member committee formed to investigate the attack on agitating students has been expanded by inducting four more members, as the head of the committee asked for more members.

15 hurt as JCD factions clash at RU

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 persons, including four policemen and a journalist, were injured in a clash between the law enforcers and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists on Rajshahi University (RU) campus yesterday. The clash erupted as the JCD

faction loyal to RU JCD Convener Masudur Rahman attacked a police camp on the campus while chasing opponent faction member Anwar Hossain Nipu around 4:30pm. Earlier in the morning, JCD

followers of Golam Kabir beat up Masud over formation of the Bangabandhu Hall committee Masud's supporters chased Nipu

to retaliate the attack on their leader, but Nipu took shelter at the police As the law enforcers prevented them from capturing Nipu, the JCD

cadres led by Miron and Romel attacked them The policemen called for reinforcement who charged baton to fight back the JCD activists

equipped with brickbats and iron Later, the JCD men assaulted RU Proctor Prof Enamul Haque and damaged his vehicle for allowing the police to set up the camp on the

campus. During the clash, the police beat up Ali Asgar Khokon, RU correspondent of the Daily Janata, mercilessly. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital

Injured policemen--Rana Sarkar. Masud Rana, Abdur Razzak-1 and Abdur Razzak-2--were admitted to police hospital.

The injured JCD cadres--Masudur Rahman, JCD members Anis Ferdous Ratul, Mahmudul Hasan Miron, Nazmul Alam Bony, Hamidul Islam, Nipu and Shankar-were admitted to RMCH and shown arrested in a case for attacking the

Empower women to stop early marriage

Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday reiterated the need for women's empowerment and self-reliance to prevent early marriage They also called for job-related

education to ensure women's participation in national economy. The daylong workshop titled

Programme and policy options for early marriage in Bangladesh' was organised by The Population Council at the Brac Centre Inn in the city.

Presenting the keynote paper on Causes and consequences of early marriage in Bangladesh', Dr Sajeda Amin, senior associate of The Population Council, pointed out that more than 70 percent of women between ages 18 and 24 were married before the age of 18 in 2005.

Social and economic insecurity

plays a major role for early marriage in the country," she mentioned. Chaired by Dr Hameeda Hossain

of Ain O Salish Kendra, the programme was attended by representatives of different organisations including Brac, Care, Unicef, and World Bank.

After the plenary session, a group discussion on 'Role and strategy for advocacy' was held.

Speaking on the occasion, Afsan Chowdhury of Brac said, "We have to ensure participation, interaction and mobilisation (PIM) in the community advocacy.

The speakers said marriage costs and dowry, family motivation and mobilisation of communities to change marriage practices should be taken into consideration before adopting any policies to prevent early mar-

to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for

arrested Kalu Kha of the village, also

nephew of Naria, in connection with

the outlawed Purba Banglar

Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddha

Properties worth

Tk 1 cr damaged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Fifteen shops were gutted and

properties worth Tk 1 crore dam-

aged in a devastating fire at

Mahilara Bazar on Barisal-Dhaka

highways under Gournadi upazila

said the fire originated from Makka

Traders, a wholesale shop, and

rapidly spread to the bazar at about

station rushed to the spot and after

two and half hours of efforts with the

help of local people extinguished

while trying to extinguish the fire.

organises a discussion on Meghdoot

of Kalidas translated by Zaheda

Khanom. It will be followed by a

session of recitation. Venue:

Natmondol of Dhaka University. Time:

Kabitapatra, an organisaion of

National Press Club poets, organises

discussion and poetry-reading

session to mark the World Poetry

Day. Venue: National Press Club.

Discussion

Time: 3.00pm

Kite festival

Seventeen people were injured

Fire service and police sources

Fire Services from Gournadi

Gournadi fire

here yesterday.

the fire at 6:30am.

the bomb planting.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)

Rab sources said Kalu is a cadre of

19 foreign crews held for illegal fishing STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Members of Bangladesh Navy held fishing in the Bay of Bengal inside Bangladesh territory in the early hours of Wednesday They also detained one

Taiwanese vessel J Sing 1 and one Thai vessel Lien Hsing, used for illegal fishing near St Martin Island in Cox's Bazar and seized six tonnes of es sources said The arrested crews, 11 Chinese,

five Indonesians, two Filipinos and one Taiwanese, were handed over to Patenga Police Station vesterday

Police in the afternoon produced the crews before the court that sent them to jail custody, sources added.

Seminar on women empowerment held in city

DU CORRESPONDENT

women was held at RC Majumdar Auditorium of Dhaka University (DU) vesterday, said a press release DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA

Faiz was present at the seminar as chief guest, while Jennifer Finch, adviser of an NGO The Good Earth, presented the keynote paper. Department of Peace and Conflict

Studies and The Good Earth jointly organised the seminar. Dean of Social Science Faculty

Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Chairman of Department of Peace and Conflict Studies Prof Dil Rowshan Ara Naznin, Prof Dalem Chandra Barman and Executive Director of The Good Earth Mohammad Rafiqul Islam spoke at the seminar.

Speakers at the seminar said women are to face difficulties in performing their duties in a patriarchal society.

However, they can overcome those if the women help each other,

road accident

8 injured in

BDNEWS, Bandarban

At least eight people, including six teachers, were injured yesterday morning in a road accident at Hafezkhana area on the Bandarban-Ruma road

Police said the accident occurred when a Ruma-bound jeep overturned after its driver lost control and fell into a roadside ditch.

Of the injured, six were primary schoolteachers, including four females and two businessmen.

Miladunnabi April 11

The holy Miladunnabi will be observed across the country on April 11, as the moon of the month of Rabiul Awal was sighted vesterday.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee at the Islamic Foundation yesterday evening, said a PID handout.

Chaired by Religious Affairs Secretary Muhammad Ataur Rahman, the meeting was attended, among others, by Islamic Foundation Director General M Fazlur Rahman and Meteorological Department Director M Akram

Death anniversary Today is the



Dhaka University

The first elected woman member of DU Syndicate, Dr Fyzennessa was an eminent personality widely respected in academic and liberal political circles. She initiated the Liberation War memorials on the DU campus and Rokeya Hall premises.

The founder of Chavaneer, she launched a merit scholarship project, Rokeya Memorial Foundation. She was also a member of the Pay Commission and Asian Regional Population Association, Bangkok. She was also the president of

Dhaka City Mahila Parishad and Usha and vice-president of Women Dr Fyzennessa also served as

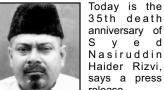
provost of the Rokeya Hall of DU. She played a significant role in

the movement for establishing women's rights and the country's liberation struggle. On the occasion of her death

anniversary, a milad mahfil will be held at her residence after Asr prayers today.

Also, food will be distributed among the students of Deep Shikha, a school for the underprivileged, and among the orphans in two orphanages at Dhaka and

Syed Nasiruddin Haider Rizvi



admirers have been requested to offer prayers for

salvation of the departed soul



Qulkhwani

wife of late Prof Abdul Majid Rushdi, and her eldest daughter Humaira Haider, wife of late Shamsuddin Haider, will be held at Musurikhola Shah Shaheb Bari, 47. Shah Shaheb Lane at Narinda in the city after Asr prayers today. Relatives, friends and admirers

Qulkhwani of Sveda Lutfun Nahar

have been requested to attend the doa mahfil. Humaira died due to massive

heart attack after seeing the body of

Begum Lazzutun Nessa Qulkhwani of



village home at Noakandi in Narayanganj after Juma prayers,

says a press release On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held and foods will be distrib-

uted among the poor. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the

Alhaj Tahera Khatun



Industries Ltd. founder director Alhai Sekandar Khan, will be held at her daughter's residence at Anandadhara, House No- 12/A

Road No-63. Gulshan-2 after Asr prayers today, says a press release. Tahera passed away on March 27 at the age of 78.

Family members of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, civil society members and leaders of different organisations line up in front of Kibria's house at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday as part of the 'Blue for Peace' programme demanding fair trial of Kibria killing case.

Outlaws kill 1, blasts injure 3

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Kushtia

Criminals killed a man in Chuadanga while two boys and a woman were severely injured in two separate explosion incidents in Khulna and Meherpur yesterday.

In Chuadanga, criminals allegedly belonging to an outlawed party killed a man at Khejurtala in the Sadar upazila. Police could not identify the 28-year-old deceased, our Kushtia correspondent reports. Locals found his body in a pair of jeans on a field and

Meanwhile, two boys were severely injured as a bomb they had earlier got in a dustbin went off around 10:45am on BL College road in Daulatpur in Khulna City, our staff correspondent in Khulna reports.

The injured Forkan, 10, and Jonny

were admitted to Khulna Medical

College Hospital (KMCH) for treat-

informed police.

Police said the bomb exploded when Forkan tossed it unwittingly. His right arm was blown off in the explosion while Jonny received severe splinter injuries. KMCH doctors said

both are in a critical condition. In Meherpur, Naria Begum, 37, wife of Nabis Uddin of Dorbeshpur in Sadar upazila, was severely injured when a bomb went off in her house around 9:30am, says our Kushtia

correspondent. According to police, Naria touched the bomb unaware that it was a bomb while doing her chores at home.

Her left arm and left eve were blown off and she received severe injuries to her face. She was admitted

Bapa rally Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon organises

a rally demanding quick implementation of modernisation and beautification programme of Osmani Udyan. Venue: Main gate of the udyan opposite to Nagar Bhaban. Time: 10.30am

BSD meeting Annual meeting of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal will be held. Venue:

Ramna. Time: 10.00am.

Engineers' Institution Auditorium,

Workshop The Hunger Project organises a workshop on flourishing latent force for self- development Venue: Ramna Park. Time: 9.00am.

Recitation Swanan, a forum for recitation,

playground of Dhaka University. Time:

Day Kite Festival. Venue: Central

Dhakabashi organises Independence

professor of the Institute of Education and