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The Daily Star

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Inside today

International



Saddam Hussein has built a worldwide conglomerate providing a huge personal fortune and with his family has taken Iraqi oil profits worth over 10 billion dollars.
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Article

Civil Servants in Mass Exodus
In Sri Lanka the aim of the retirement scheme is to lure public servants to leave in the shortest possible time in the largest possible numbers.
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NEWS BRIEFS

India expels Iraqi diplomats

NEW DELHI, Mar 25: India has expelled an unspecified number of Iraqi embassy personnel for firing at a group of Muslim demonstrators three days ago, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, says AFP.

246 prisoners to be released

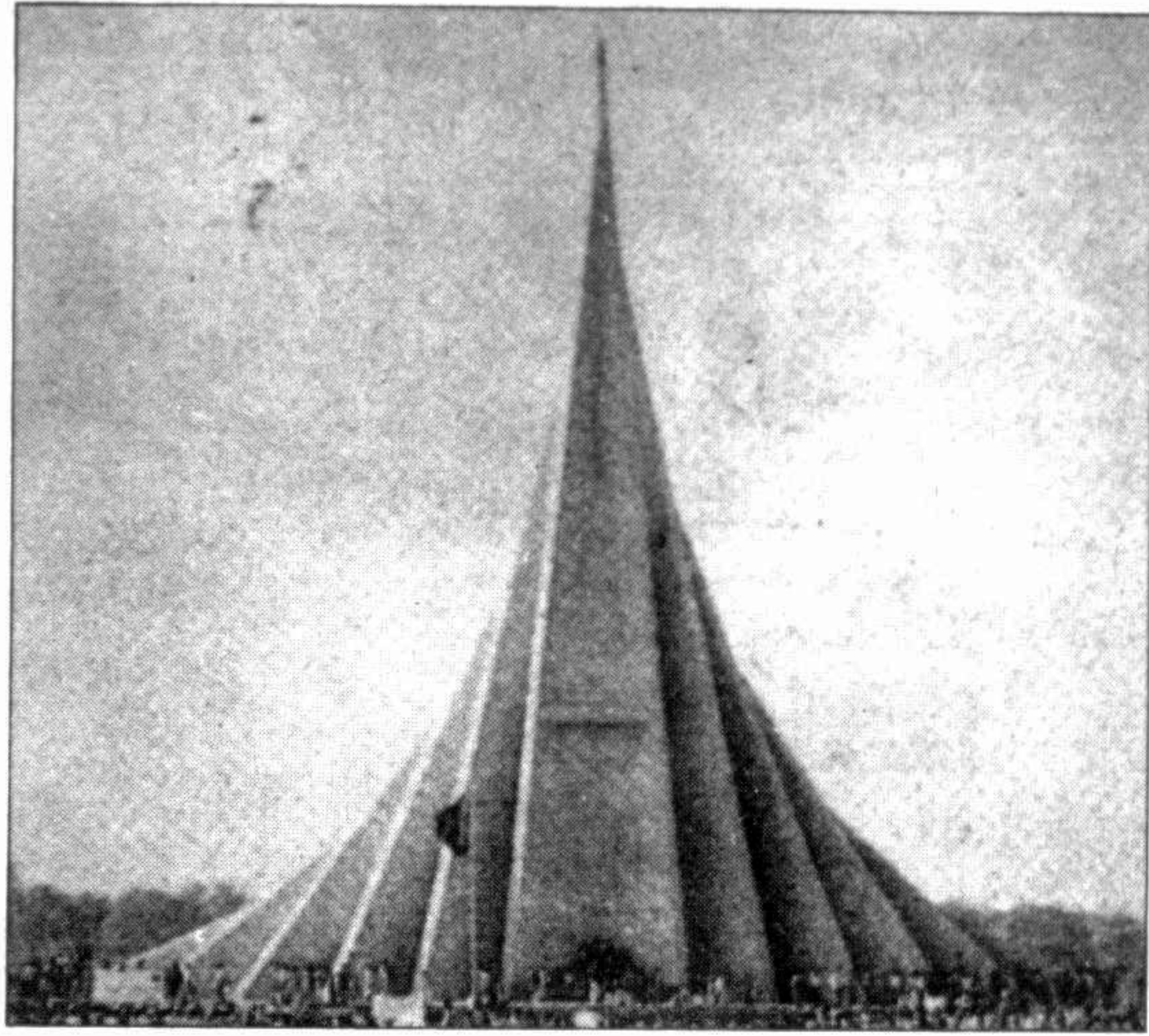
The government has ordered release of 246 prisoners on the eve of the Independence Day, an official handout said in Dhaka Monday night.

Sharif felicitates Khaleda

Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif has felicitated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion of the Independence Day, reports BSS.

Sehri and Iftar timings

| Ramzan Day | Last time for Sehri | Iftar |
|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| 09 Tuesday | 4.37 am | 6.19 pm |
| 10 Wednesday | 4.36 am | 6.20 pm |



Independence Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The nation observes its 21st Independence and National Day today (Tuesday).

The country's independence was declared on this day and the valiant sons of the soil took up arms against the Pakistan occupation army.

Freedom Fighters along with members of the police, BDR, army, navy and air force waged a relentless struggle that lasted nine months and cost over three million lives.

This year's Independence and National Day bears a special significance for the people as it is being observed after their victory in ousting an au-

toocratic government and establishing an elected one.

In a message to the nation on the occasion, Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed congratulated the people and called for a fresh vow to realise the aspirations of the nation through united and coordinated efforts.

He said that there may be differences of opinion in a democratic system but we must remain united and steadfast in achieving the goals of the nation.

Begum Khaleda Zia, the new Prime Minister of the country recalled the sacrifices of the

millions of people and especially those who had embraced martyrdom for the cause of liberation.

She said Shaheed Zia and thousands of others made supreme sacrifices for the liberation of the country.

Begum Zia said this year's Independence Day has a special significance for the people as they have triumphed over an autocratic regime after a nine-year movement.

She called upon the countrymen to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the nation.

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Shahabuddin's message

We must remain united to achieve goals

The Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Monday called for taking a renewed pledge to materialise the hopes and aspirations of the nation through united and integrated efforts by all concerned, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the Independence Day, the Acting President paid rich tributes to the abiding memory of the martyrs of the Liberation War and said their supreme sacrifices had enabled the nation to achieve independence. He recalled the days of

1971 when the freedom loving people of the country, risking their lives, had jumped in to an armed struggle for the nation's independence and had built an invincible resistance.

Justice Shahabuddin said this year's Independence Day had a glory of its own as a free, fair and peaceful parliamentary election was held in the country in the wake of a mass movement for the establishment of democracy.

He said the national success achieved through this election

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World leaders wish progress

Heads of state and government of various countries have sent messages of felicitations and greetings to the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of independence, reports BSS.

In their separate messages, the heads of state and governments wished their best for the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh and its people.

They expressed the hope that the bonds of friendship between Bangladesh and their countries would continue to increase in the years ahead.

Those who felicitated the Acting President on the occasion include Queen Elizabeth of Britain, King Baudoin of Belgium, King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of Bhutan, Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, President Mitterrand of France, President Gorbachev of Soviet Union, President Borislav Zovic of Yugoslavia, President Soeharto of Indonesia, President Lech Walesa of Poland, President Corazon Aquino of the Philippines, President Francesco Cossiga of Italy, President Ion Iliescu of Romania, President Hafeez Al Asad of Syria, Governor-General Bill Hayden of Australia, PLO President Yasser Arafat, Senior General Saw Maung, Chairman of the state law and order restoration of Myanmar and Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Li's call to raise defence budget

Hegemony continues to grow in Gulf

BEIJING, Mar 25: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng made a veiled condemnation of United States "hegemony" today, and warned against efforts to revive militarism in Japan, reports Agencies.

In his opening address to a new session of China's parliament, Li said his country had generally made "important progress" in its foreign relations over the past year, despite "rapid changes on the international scene." An important accomplishment was much better ties with the Soviet Union, he added.

But, while not mentioning the United States by name, Li pointed to the Gulf region and warned that "hegemony and the use of power politics continue to grow."

"Matters in the Gulf should be addressed mainly by the

Unabated smuggling out of soyabean raises import bills

Smuggled sugar gluts market while local produce piles up

Star Economic Report

A bumper sugar production in 1990-91 threatens to aggravate the financial problems of Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC). The Corporation's sales of sugar have recorded a sharp decline while smuggled sugar from across the border continues to flood the market.

Domestic production by BSFIC units will be around 2.30 lakh tons — the record highest for a year in the country, according to BSFIC.

While production is at its peak level, sales by BSFIC have plummeted to a record low. The off-take or sales of sugar stood at only 37,000 tons up to March 25. Cheaper smuggled supplies from India have priced out domestically produced sugar. Smuggled sugar sells at Taka 24 a kg in the border belt areas while the retail price of BSFIC sugar is Taka 30 a kg. Unsold stocks

thus continue to pile up at BSFIC units. And if such stocks lie unsold for long, they will be damaged or become unfit for sale.

Food Ministry is also having problems with its sugar stocks for long because of lower off-take under rationing system for price disadvantage factor.

Meanwhile, BSFIC is already in financial straits because of huge accumulated stocks of unsold sugar. The Corporation is unable to clear its dues to the sugarcane growers who supplied their produce to the mills. Severe funding problems of the Corporation to meet its current expenditures will force larger borrowings by it from the banks with a huge interest burden on such funds.

The BSFIC's problems were reviewed on Monday at a high-level meeting of inter-ministerial officials at the Ministry of Finance with Finance and

Planning Minister Saifur Rahman in the chair. The meeting reviewed the overall price situation, prevailing in the country, and also the supply position of essentials.

The Minister asked the acting chairman of BSFIC, who was present at the meeting, to submit a detailed report on the issue.

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on Tuesday, March 26, on account of the Independence Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of The Daily Star on Wednesday, March 27.

SUPPLEMENT

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page Supplement on the Independence Day.

Consensus on basic issues need of the hour: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Monday sought the cooperation of all quarters irrespective of their political affiliations for arriving at a consensus on some fundamental issues in the national interest, reports BSS.

In a message to the nation on the eve of the 21st Independence Day, she said there could be difference of opinions under the multi-party

Struggle for sovereign JS to continue: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina on Monday renewed her pledge to continue the struggle for establishing a government accountable to the people and a sovereign parliament (Jatiya Sangsad).

In a message on the occasion of Independence Day, Sheikh Hasina said her party will stand against all sorts of

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Former advisers call upon students to maintain unity

By DU Correspondent

The former advisers of the Acting President called upon students to uphold unity and continue their movement till democracy was given an institutional shape.

"Our responsibility is not yet over as we are yet to root out corruption and rebuild the shattered economy," they said.

The former advisers were addressing reception organised in their honour by the All-Party Students Unity (APSU). Prof Eazuddin Ahmed, See Page 12 Col. 6

AL amendment bid in first JS session likely

By Moinuddin Naser

The Awami League is likely to move for an amendment to the constitution at the inaugural session of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament), for the switching over to a parliamentary form of government.

Awami League insiders told the Daily Star that the party is planning to agitate inside and outside parliament to press home its demand for a parliamentary system.

Awami League president member Abdus Samad Azad, who is likely to become deputy leader of the AL Parliamentary Party, is now trying to muster support of the party's allies and the Five-Party Alliance.

The Five-Party Combine, which took initiatives to reduce the differences between the Awami League and the BNP on certain national issues is still hoping for a settlement between the two major parties.

The source said that the BNP has not yet responded to the proposal for a meeting on the issue of the form of government.

On the other hand, BNP sources said that the Party would welcome any proposal by any opposition party on the form of government to be de-

bated in parliament. But the Party itself would not take any initiative to change the present system of government.

The BNP may also not encourage its Members of Parliament to take part in any debate for a consensus on a form of government.

Meanwhile, the Jamaat-e-Islami, which has supported the BNP unconditionally, has proposed a balance between the presidential and the parliamentary systems.

BNP sources said that they would prefer an amendment to the Constitution if a consensus was reached through a parliamentary debate.

Awami League sources however said that they will not support any amendment for a system between the presidential and the parliamentary forms.

The sources said that in this situation the Awami League may move a bill on the Private Members' day to amend the constitution keeping intact the insertion of "Bismilla" at the preamble of the Constitution.

If the bill is rejected, the sources said Awami League

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'Double secretariat system' will end, officials hope

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder

Begum Khaleda Zia's assumption of the office of the Prime Minister is expected to help end the "double secretariat system" in the administration and smoothen the decision-making process, senior bureaucrats say.

The over-centralisation of the administration is also likely to be removed considerably, a senior official told the Daily Star.

However, the new Prime Minister is likely to have a tough time solving problems relating to the promotions of officers of different cadre services.

Secretaries of different ministries are also of the opinion that the duality of the President's Secretariat and the Central Secretariat in the administration will be removed and the Central Secretariat will have an increased role in decision making.

During the nine-year rule of former President Ershad, the President's Secretariat developed

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Prisoners clash in Ctg jail: Five injured

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 25: Five persons were injured in a clash between two groups of rebellious prisoners at Chittagong Central Jail this morning.

The clash took place as one group of prisoners wanted to return to lockups while the other group refused.

The concerned authorities have accepted some of the demands of the prisoners, jail sources said.

Inspector General of Prison, Abdul Matin, had a five-hour discussion with the prisoners' representatives inside the jail and assured them of solving some of their problems.

Independence Day Award '91 for 3

The Government Monday announced the decision to honour three renowned personalities with the 'Independence Day Award, 1991' for their remarkable contributions in their respective fields, reports BSS.

The recipients of the award are: late Naek Subedar Shah Alam (Posthumous) for sports, Poet Shamsur Rahman (Literature) and Dr M Innas Ali (Science and Technology).

সুজুকি RANGS

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সুজুকি জিএস১২৫

নতুন এসেছে

সুজুকি এ এক্স ১০০

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রাংগস গ্রুপ অব কোম্পানীজ-এর একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান

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