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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Residential hotels to remain open

The government's decision to keep the hotels and restaurants closed in day-time during the month of Ramadan will not be applicable to the residential hotels, an official hand-out said in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

### US donates medicine

The United States of America has donated 13,772 pounds of medicine worth about 2 million US dollar to Bangladesh. State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan formally received the consignment of the medicine at his office Sunday from the US Ambassador in Bangladesh William B Milam, reports BSS.

### Dacoity in Pabna

PABNA, Mar 8: Masked dacoits armed with lethal weapons robbed Tk 25,000 from a shop at Sutapati in the town this evening blasting bombs. The dacoits numbering about eight, raided the shop of Abul Hossain at around 7.30 pm. They blasted some crackers in front of the shop before rushing into the shop, reports UNB.

### Envoy to Romania

BUCHAREST, Mar 8: Bangladesh Ambassador to Romania Maj General Rafiqul Islam presented his credentials to president Ion Iliescu, at a simple ceremony on Friday held at the presidential palace, reports BSS.

### Shri and Htar timings

Ramadan March	Shri	Htar
3	9 4.54 am	6.12 pm
4	10 4.53 am	6.12 pm

## Anvar convinced of issuing world call for refugees' help

Jamshed Anvar, Regional Director for Asia and Oceania of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) left Dhaka Sunday for Geneva, satisfied that the UNHCR needs to issue and urgent international appeal for assistance to Myanmar refugees in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

He will report to the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva on his assessment of the worsening refugee problem stemming from unabated influx of "Rohingya" Muslims from Myanmar.

Anvar will give an account of the situation as he saw during his three-day stay in Bangladesh including a visit to the refugees in Cox's Bazar and Bandarbari districts, where most of the refugees are sheltered.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees S Ogata is expected to issue the

appeal for international appeal after having the report from Anvar.

The United Nations Secretary General Boutros Ghali is also in touch with the UNHCR headquarters in Geneva on the refugee problem in Bangladesh, diplomatic sources in Dhaka said.

Ghali has expressed his deep concern at the continued exodus of the Myanmar Muslims into Bangladesh.

Anvar before his departure briefed the heads of mission and donor agencies in Bangladesh on the refugee situation and the plans the UNHCR is making to meet the situation.

He gave an account of his own experience of the condition when refugees at the rate of five to ten thousands are pouring into Bangladesh and the number has swelled to one lakh ten thousand.

It is expected that the

plights of the refugees and Bangladesh's owes due to the pressure of such a big number of aliens on its soil forced to leave their own country for reasons contrary to their peace and security would receive bigger attention after the visit of Anvar.

The regional chief of the UNHCR during his stay in Bangladesh discussed the issue with Bangladesh government and also met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

Meanwhile, United Nations High Commission for Refugees has assured of releasing another chunk of Tk 1.5 crore in cash aid to the Rohingya refugees.

The local UNHCR office in a letter Sunday conveyed the assurance to the government, Secretary to the Relief Ministry M Abdul Hakim told UNB.

With this, the total assistance

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### State Minister for Relief interviewed

## 40,000 Rohingyas mix with locals

By S Y Bakht

About 40,000 Rohingya refugees have mingled with the local population in the Cox's Bazar area and are "scattered all over the region", State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan said Sunday.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star, the State Minister, quoting reports from district administration officials said that steps had been initiated to identify, register and bring these refugees to the camps.

The Relief Ministry is co-ordinating the overall relief efforts for the Rohingya refugees and a Joint Secretary has been appointed as the Relief Commissioner based in Cox's Bazar town. An Additional Relief Commissioner and a Camp in-Charge for each camp, of the rank of Deputy Secretary, have also been ap-

pointed by the ministry.

Replying to a question, Khan said that although a few Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) were already involved in the relief efforts, there was no plan to allow more NGOs to work in the camps as the government had the situation under "total control" and there was no shortage of manpower.

"We do not want to make it open for each and every NGO to be involved in the relief effort as it would create coordination problems," he pointed out, adding "it is better that we concentrate on a limited number of NGOs, more experienced in this type of work."

He however appreciated the work being done by the Red Crescent Society, Gonoshashtha Kendra, Rabita MSF and other NGOs in the relief effort.

The State Minister also noted that the World Food Programme has pledged to bear all food costs of the refugees for as long as necessary and the UNICEF pledged to bear all costs of setting up sanitary and drinking water facilities in the camps. He also appreciated the prompt response from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the concern over the problem expressed by the UN Secretary General.

Giving his impressions following a visit to the area late last week, the State Minister termed the way the refugees were driven out of their country as "inhumane and barbaric". "They are living in total uncertainty and that is very painful."

Noting that although adequate steps have been taken

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## Jamaat getting jittery as 'trial' day nears

By Mahfuz Ullah

A sense of uneasiness is prevailing in the Jamaat camp as the day for 'public trial' of Golam Azam is approaching.

The National Coordinating Committee for Implementation of the Spirit of Independence War and Annihilation of Killers and Collaborators of 1971 has planned trial of Golam Azam on March 26 in public at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

Jamaat leaders, despite continued preparations by adversaries, are yet to take any public stand on the issue. They have, however, gone for a 'quiet initiative' in the form maintaining regular contacts with the leaders of the Government, diplomatic missions based in Dhaka and advising party workers to remain against any eventuality.

Talking to journalists over

Iftar yesterday evening Maulana Mattur Nizami, leader of Jamaat Parliamentary Party, said that the move for a public trial was a clear violation of the Government authority. The responsibility lies with the Government, he asserted.

He held that such an initiative would lead to anarchy and observed "anti-democratic forces may take advantage of such actions."

Tracing the history of anti-Jamaat campaign by a political party Nizami said, "Back in 1970 Golam Azam was not a collaborator but his meeting in the Paltan Maidan was attacked by them leading to many injured and the meeting ending in fiasco."

Nizami further said that there was nothing they could do except follow a policy of

wait and see.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-Islami, Bangladesh has sent a lengthy letter to all diplomatic missions in Dhaka.

Explaining the contents of the letter, Abdul Kader Mollah, Amir of city Jamaat said the letter is an explanation about the citizenship of Golam Azam.

The letter, Mollah says, explains in detail the "inalienable rights of Golam Azam as citizen of Bangladesh."

Apprehending that foreign missions might ask the government for details on the issue the letter was circulated to pre-empt any possible misgivings, Mollah added.

Jamaat sources say, Nizami had two rounds of discussions with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Home Minister Abdul

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### Washington suspects Scuds aboard

## US Navy waits for order to intercept DPRK freighter

WASHINGTON, Mar 8: The US Navy is prepared, if ordered, to intercept a North Korean freighter believed to be carrying advanced Scud-C missiles that may be destined for Iran or Syria, a senior defence official said Saturday, reports AP.

Stressing that no decisions have been made, the Bush administration and Israeli officials nonetheless expressed deep concern about the possible missile shipment and its potential destabilising effect

on the volatile Middle East.

President Bush, speaking to reporters in Pensacola, Fla., said he was concerned about the shipment. Although he wouldn't address the specifics of the situation, he said he's "always contemplating options."

The ship has declared itself bound for Africa, but US officials have said they believe it's headed for the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

"We're doing what we can," said National Security Adviser

Brent Scowcroft, who was travelling with the president on a campaign swing through the South. "We're worried about any kind of missile proliferation. It's dangerous and destabilising."

A senior defence official said the United States has "the forces in that region which could be used to search for that ship and perhaps board it."

"The administration is putting North Korea on notice

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THE FIFTY PER CENT: Women rallied in front of the National Press Club shouting for 'equal rights' yesterday in observance of the International Day. Story on Page 3 — Star photo

### Govt aware of women's rights, says PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka Sunday that the women's community had to become self-reliant to establish and realise their socio-economic rights, reports BSS.

She also underlined the need for women's education for making them self-reliant.

The Prime Minister was talking to a 13-member delegation of Nari Pakkha, a women's organisation, which called on her at her Sugandha office.

The Prime Minister said the government was aware of the rights of the women's community. It had taken up several programmes to uphold the status of women and realise their rights in society, she said.

Begum Zia mentioned that she and her government had raised the issue of women rights in the international forum including OIC and SAARC.

### Owners keep restaurants open in city

By Staff Correspondent

Most of the restaurants in the city were kept open during the day hours of Sunday.

Despite an earlier government directive to keep the restaurants closed during the day time in the month of Ramadan, Bangladesh Restaurant Owners Association last Saturday decided to keep the restaurants open.

The restaurants in the city Sunday remained open with entrances curtained, it was observed.

The President of the Association, Khandkar Ruhul Amin, when contacted last night, said that they kept

See Page 12 Col 2

## ALWC takes up Montu issue today

By Nurul Kabir

The Awami League Working Committee (ALWC) today deals with the situation arising out of Montu's suspension from the party, apart from the scheduled discussion on the draft economic policy.

The ALWC meeting, to be chaired by Sheikh Hasina will be held at the Minto road residence of the Opposition Leader in Parliament at 10 am.

Meanwhile, AL chief Sheikh Hasina is learnt to have asked every Working Committee member to be present in the meeting on time.

According to a ALWC member, the meeting is likely to witness angry reaction from Hasina on the issues relating to both Montu's activities and Dr Kamal's press statement following suspension of the former's party membership.

Montu loyalists following the suspension Thursday last resorted to violent activities and burnt the effigy of party

Joint Secretary Amir Hossain Amu and abused those AL leaders who they believed had a role in the suspension.

Meanwhile, AL Presidium Member Dr Kamal Hossain in a press interview claimed that decision on Montu's suspension was not previously discussed either in the three-day extended meeting of the ALWC or in the meeting of the ALWC itself on Thursday.

The party membership of Montu, Chairman of the youth wing of AL and General Secretary of the party's Dhaka district unit was suspended Thursday last for his alleged involvement in the killing of Badal on January 9.

Mohammad Nasim, Publicity Secretary of AL and Chief, Whip of the Opposition in Parliament, while talking to The Daily Star said, "a dignified person like Kamal Hossain should not have told the press

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## BCL factions lock in combat again

By DU Correspondent

Two factions of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) exchanged gunfire in the Dhaka University campus yesterday (Sunday) noon.

Police fired several rounds of teargas shells in the Library and the VC house areas to disperse the angry activists.

The incidents began when the BCL faction known as the 'third world' group and backed by expelled Juba League leader Mustafa Mohsin Montu assaulted Tapash Kumar Kundu, a second year student of the Marketing Department of the DU and an activist of the BCL

(S-A) in front of the History department yesterday, witnesses said.

Later the angry 'third world' group workers rushed to Madhu's Canteen in the DU campus and also manhandled BCL leaders Aatur Rahman and Kamruzzaman Ansari. BCL (S-A)'s DU unit General Secretary, sources added.

After that the BCL held a rally in front of Madhu's Canteen protesting the incident.

At that time several shots were fired allegedly by the

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### Kiwis reach semis but Pakistan don't

BRISBANE, Mar 8: New Zealand defeated two-time champions West Indies Sunday to strengthen their grip on a spot in the semifinals of the World Cup cricket tournament, while South Africa scored a fortuitous win over Pakistan, reports AP.

Captain Martin Crowe made an unbeaten 81 to lead the Kiwis to a five-wicket victory over the once-formidable West Indies at Eden Park in Auckland.

The win was New Zealand's fifth in succession and left the Kiwis virtually certain of qualifying for the semifinals of the nine-nation tournament.

The West Indies was restricted to 203 for seven in its allocated 50 overs and New

See Page 12 Col 3

### I'm not worried: Rao

## Move to vote Cong out of office today

NEW DELHI, Mar 8: India's ruling party expressed confidence today that it would survive a determined Opposition bid to defeat the eight-month-old minority Government over its free market policies, reports AFP.

Prime Ministers PV Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) party will gather enough support from minor parties in the federal parliament to tackle tomorrow's planned move to vote it out of office, a party spokesman said here.

"Congress will be able to tackle it," said Chandulal Chandrakar, referring to the challenge posed by a centre of the left coalition and the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

"We will get adequate support (to remain in office)," he told AFP.

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## Stalemate over BAPA election continues

By Staff Correspondent

Stalemate over the election of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots' Association (BAPA) is set to continue until the membership issue of a retired pilot is settled by the court, BAPA sources said.

"One of our former members retired in January but the Biman management employed him on a contract basis," Capt Monwar Hossain, President of the BAPA said adding "BAPA constitution does not allow membership to those pilots."

"Our contract-service colleague was insisting about his membership and one of our existing members lodged a case in the Judge Court challenging whether the former is entitled to be a member of BAPA," he said without naming his colleagues.

The fortnight-long election of the 10-member executive committee for the year 1992 was scheduled to start from January 8 which was postponed upon a court order, he also said.

The tenure of the previous committee expired on January 21.

Capt Monwar said that the matter may be settled after Eid-ul-Fitr. BAPA now has 113 regular members, he added.

## Dhaka sets up diplomatic ties with Alma-Ata

KAZAKHSTAN, Mar 8: Bangladesh and Kazakhstan signed an agreement on March 5, at Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, establishing diplomatic and consular relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

The visiting State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan and the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Tolgat Suleimanov, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective countries.