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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Public Accounts Committee meets**  
 The number two sub-committee of Public Accounts Committee of the national parliament met in Dhaka yesterday at Sangsad Bhavan to discuss the financial report of the Comptroller of Auditor General (CAG) on Rangpur and Saidpur Cantonments Board for 1984-85, reports BSS.

**Japanese doctors for Rohingyas soon**  
 A team of Japanese doctors, belonging to Japan based Association For Asia (AMDA), is expected to arrive here soon with medical assistance for the Myanmar refugees, according to an official source in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS.

**Directive to disburse agri loan**  
 COMILLA, Mar 17: State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman has called on the bank officials to disburse agricultural loans timely to help boost crop production. He was addressing the bank officials of different nationalised commercial banks (NCBs), private banks and development financial institutions (DFIs) at the Deputy Commissioners conference room here today, reports UNB.

**Schri and Iftar timings**

Ramzan	March	Schri	Ifhtar
12	18	6.15pm	
13	19	4.44am	6.16pm

## RU closed sine die: BDR deployed

# Another GCO activist killed on campus

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 17: A student leader was killed in a clash between police and a student group in the Rajshahi University campus this afternoon.

At least 80 others were also injured, 10 seriously, in separate clashes between members of the Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and police and the Islamic Chhatra Shibir.

Witnesses said, Yasser Arafat alias Pitu, a second year student of the Political Science Department and an activist of the GCO, received bullet injuries in the abdomen when police opened fire during a clash with agitating GCO activists in the campus at around 1 pm. He later died while being shifted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The authorities closed sine die following an emergency Senate meeting late in the evening. All examinations scheduled for this month were cancelled and students were asked to vacate the residential halls by 10 am tomorrow (Wednesday).

Armed police and BDR personnel were deployed on campus as a tense situation prevailed there till late in the evening. Nearly 80 per cent of the students have already left the campus.

Hospital sources said that at least 30 of the injured have been admitted to the RMCH where the condition of ten of them was reported to be critical. About 40 persons with injuries were released from the hospital after being given first-aid.

Police sources said that four policemen were admitted to the local police hospital.

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## GCO calls student strike today

By DU Correspondent

The Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) has called a countrywide student strike today (Wednesday). Examinations will be exempted from the strike.

The GCO called the strike demanding the arrest and trial of the killers of Moin Hossain Raju shot dead on the Dhaka University campus Friday evening and for restoring a congenial academic atmosphere in all the educational institutions.

Meanwhile, the GCO yesterday observed demonstration day across the country in protest against the killing of Raju.

To observe the day, the GCO brought out a procession from the DU campus and held a rally in front of the National Press.

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## Ganges flows at all time low

# Dhaka wants JRC meet by April 15

By Mahfuz Ullah

Bangladesh has asked India to convene the meeting of the Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) by April 15.

Authoritative sources say Bangladesh's request for the meeting has already been communicated to New Delhi in view of an all time low flow of water in the Ganges.

The flow of the Ganges came down to its ever lowest level of 14812 cusecs on March 15 affecting navigation and causing an excessive rise in salinity.

The bases of the girders of Hardinge Bridge have already been exposed above the water level.

If India agrees to convene the meeting it will be the 32nd meeting of the JRC where irrigation ministers of both countries are co-chairpersons.

The last meeting of the JRC was held in Dhaka from June 21 to June 22, 1991. Since then, there has been no progress in water sharing arrangement though both the countries had a secretary level meeting to settle the issue.

Sources say the problem of water sharing has reached a certain point where top level political consultations leading to a summit meeting have become necessary.

For the last four years the

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## Jute workers to thwart terrorism bill

By Nurul Kabir

Leaders of the jute mills workers of the country are planning a strong movement against further attempts of the government to pass its proposed bill seeking death sentence for terrorist activities.

Leaders of different combined bargaining agents (CBA) and basic unions of almost all the jute mills of the country yesterday unanimously observed that such a bill once translated into a law would ultimately be used to suppress the democratic movement of the people — especially the movement for the working class for a better livelihood.

The leaders met at a 'convention' in the city yesterday to chalk out means of preventing the passage of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 1992.

When his attention was drawn to the jute workers' plan for launching a movement against the bill, Jute Minister Hannan Shah told this correspondent last night that if necessary the government would not hesitate to 'retaliate any political action of the workers.'

'We shall face their political action with both political and administrative measures,' the Jute Minister asserted.

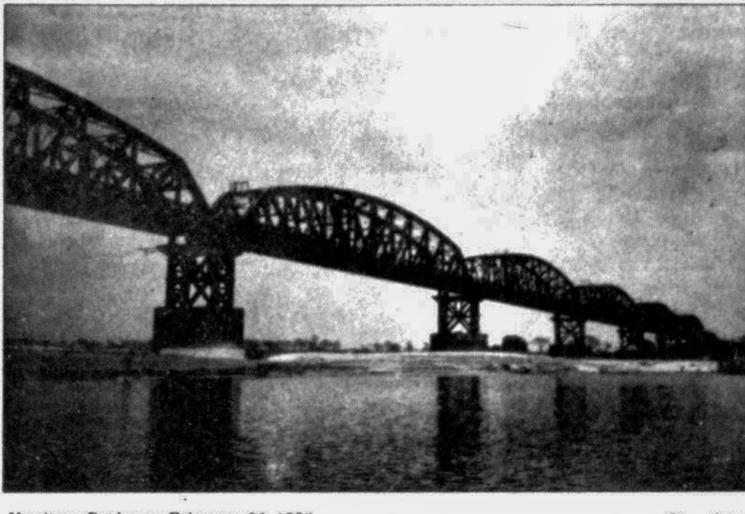
The Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad (PSKSP), the combined platform of all the jute workers' organisations belonging to the leading political parties of the country including the ruling BNP, has, however, already declared to stage a demonstration against the government in front of the Parliament on the opening day of the next Jatiya Sangsad session.

According to their programme they will also hand over a memorandum to the Leader of the House urging her not to make any further attempt to place the bill in parliament.

The bill was introduced by the Treasury Bench on February 17 but in the face of angry protest from the Opposition, the Speaker sent the bill to a parliamentary standing committee for scrutiny.

According to the proposed bill, any action causing among other things, damage, destruction or obstruction in the functioning of any educational institute, industrial units, shops, business organisation, factory etc will be considered as terrorist activity and the person involved will not be granted bail at any stage of investigation or trial unless and until the special court finds

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Hardinge Bridge on February 23, 1992. — Star photo

**BENSON & HEDGES**  
  
**WORLD CUP 1992**

**It's the knife's edge for them**  
 SYDNEY, Mar 17: Three teams will live on the edge Wednesday, the final day of qualifying rounds in the World Cricket Cup, reports AP.

Three matches are scheduled, with two of the games determining whether Pakistan, Australia and West Indies will join England, New Zealand and South Africa in the semifinals Saturday and Sunday.

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## Khaleda leaves UK for US

LONDON, March 17: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia left here this morning for Washington on a five-day visit to the United States.

Sir David Muirhead, a representative of her majesty's government, saw Begum Zia off at the Heathrow Airport.

During her short stay in London the Prime Minister had a meeting with the business community and civic leaders. Begum Zia also had meeting with local BNP leaders and workers.

Begum Zia gave an interview to BBC yesterday.

## DUTA probe body on ways to root out terrorism

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) formed another five-man probe committee Tuesday to find out ways to root out terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka University teachers yesterday observed a three-hour token strike called by the DUTA from 10.30 in the morning to 1.30 in the afternoon to protest terrorist activities on the DU campus. Examinations were exempted from the strike.

The DUTA, at a general meeting held at the Dhaka University Club with its President Dr S M A Faiz in the chair, instructed the probe committee to submit reports within three weeks.

The members of the committee

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## Autocracy yet to go, says Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the parliament Sheikh Hasina at a discussion meeting Tuesday said that the state power was again being concentrated in one hand due to existence of autocracy.

She said the nation had restored democracy through a nine-year-long struggle against the autocratic ruler, but it was yet to be free from autocracy, she added.

The discussion meeting was organised by the Awami League Tuesday afternoon in front of the 'Bangabandhu Bhaban' on the occasion of the 72nd birth

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## Bangabandhu's birthday observed

By Staff Correspondent

The 72nd birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was observed with due solemnity Tuesday.

Different socio-political organisations paid tributes to the late leader on the occasion.

The programme on the occasion included discussion meetings, children's procession, and cultural functions. Ward Awami League (AL) distributed food among the destitutes.

People recalled the contribution of Sheikh Mujib to the cause of liberation and the struggle for their rights. Thousands of people from all walks of life visited the Dhanmondi residence of Mujib to garland his portrait.

Leaders of Awami League, Sramik League, Krishak League, Krishak League, Jubo League and Chhatra League also garlanded the portrait of Mujib and observed one minute's silence to pay respect to the late leader.

Sheikh Hasina also garlanded the portrait. Party leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim were present on the occasion among others.

Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad held a discussion meeting with Advocate Dewan Ziauddin in the chair. It highlighted the contributions of Sheikh Mujib.

Ganatantrik Jubo Parishad also held a discussion meeting in the morning and said those who do not recognise Mujib as the father of the nation, are enemies of the nation.

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## Trial body 'summons' Azam

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat leader Golam Azam has been summoned by the 'Gano Adalat' (people's court-1) on Tuesday to appear before the 'People's Court' on March 26 at 10 am at the Suhrawardi Udayan to face 'public trial'.

The summons was signed by Jahanara Imam, Convener of the National Coordination Committee for Annihilation of the Killers and Collaborators of 1971.

Meanwhile, the members of the Coordination Committee decided to meet the Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury this morning at his office.

They were invited by the Home Minister to discuss the situation arising out of the planned public trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam for his anti-liberation activities.

Jahanara Imam yesterday inaugurated a publicity camp and information centre at Kamalapur at about 7 pm.

A unit of the Committee was also formed in Jamalpur at the office of local unit of the Muktiyoddha Sangsad with Alhaj Nazrul Islam as the convener.

UNB adds: Special police security has been posted at the Maghbazar residence of Jamaat leader Golam Azam, sources said Tuesday.

Another report says: A political move is under way for placing a bill in the next session of Parliament, seeking to

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Sheikh Hasina, accompanied by party colleagues, garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in observance of his 72nd birthday at Bangabandhu Bhaban yesterday. — Star photo

## Shah Moazzem falls from Ershad's grace

By Asiuzzaman

The Jatiya Party (JP) has abandoned the plan for a change in its key leadership.

A former MP of the party, preferring anonymity, told The Daily Star that though the imprisoned chairman of the party asked to remove Shah Moazzem Hossain from the post of Secretary General, the request had been kept in abeyance considering the prevailing political situation.

He claimed that he had read the letter from Ershad and added that Shah Moazzem Hossain took several decisions without consulting other senior leaders of the party and placed some of his 'cronies' in key positions.

Party sources say, Ershad suggested the name of former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed as the alternative candidate. The reasons given by Ershad, sources say, were Kazi Zafar's strong hold over the industrial workers especially

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## High command under fire

# 'Disunity steering JP towards crisis'

By Staff Correspondent

Mid-level leaders of the Jatiya Party (JP) Tuesday blasted the party high command saying that its disunity was steering the party towards a deep crisis.

The two-day extended meeting of the party was addressed by 27 district-level leaders following the inaugural address by Party Acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

The meeting, scheduled to be held at the Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium was hurriedly shifted to the Gulshan residence of Mizan Chowdhury. The shift was made due to unavoidable circumstances, party sources said. The meeting was also addressed by Party Secretary General Shah Moazzem Hossain.

'Our three leaders — Shah Moazzem, Kazi Zafar and Moudud Ahmed—should join hands with the acting Party Chairman and take oath at this meeting to ensure us that they are united', a former upazila chairman from Barisal said.

Another leader said that the JP had a large number of supporters and workers but because of the leadership problem they could not be mobilised.

'One leader gets hurt if I go to another's house so how can we feel that we are members of the JP family,' the aggrieved district leader asked.

A JP stalwart from Sylhet said that they faced harassment in getting nominations but that the district President, Secretary and Joint Secretary were all elected in the last parliament elections setting an

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## 5 Rohingyas die of diarrhoea, malaria

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 17: Five Rohingya refugees died of diarrhoea and malaria diseases in two refugee camps of the district today, reports UNB.

The victims were an old woman and four children, camp sources said.

Of them, two died in Dechuapalong-2 and three in Morichyapalong camps. Officials there have cited impure water and adulterated food as the major reasons for the outbreak of the diseases.

## 3 killed in accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Three persons were killed in three road accidents in the city Tuesday.

A Sub-Assistant Engineer of WASA, Abdur Rahim, 38, was crushed under a minibus near Motijheel Government High School at about 4.30 pm while he was returning home riding a motor bike.

Soon after the incident Motijheel police seized the minibus bearing number Dhaka-Ja-3975, a Shilpa Bank staff bus, and nabbed its driver in connection with the accident.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

In another accident, a 70-year-old man died on the spot as a minibus bearing number Dhaka-Ja-3806 ran him over near Uttara house building staff quarters, Uttara, at about 8.30 am. Uttara police said that they seized the minibus and arrested its driver Afzal Hawladar. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue.

A rickshawpuller died when a jeep rammed the rickshaw near Kakrail yesterday.

# Thai troops ordered to push back Myanmar intruders

BANGKOK, Mar 17: Thai troops were ordered Tuesday to expel Myanmar soldiers who had seized a hill in Northern Thailand, state-run radio Thailand reported, quotes AFP.

The radio said the Myanmar soldiers crossed the border Monday and occupied Sang hill. They were still on that soil today and Mae Hong Kong provincial governor Chanchal Jaisai had called in reinforcements to push them back into Myanmar, the radio said, adding there had been no casualties so far on the Thai side.

The intruders had fired at a Thai L-19 reconnaissance plane in the Sang Hill area, local military officials said by telephone.

They insisted the aircraft, which fired back, had been plying over positions inside Thai territory. Thai and Myanmar ground forces also exchanged fire across the border, the officials said.

The clashes in Mae Hong Son Province follow sporadic confrontations between Thai and Myanmar soldiers over the past few days in Northwestern Mae Sot province.

Myanmar troops were pushed back across the Moel river marking the border in Mae Sot after making brief incursions in to Thai territory in a bid to surround a Karen guerrilla stronghold.

Meanwhile, Karen officials here reported continued fierce fighting for the control of a key position in Myanmar some 180 kilometers (110 miles) Northwest of Mae Sot.

Sleeping Dog Mountain, vital for the defense of Manerplaw, the jungle headquarters of the Karen guerrilla insurgency, was overrun by government troops on Saturday.

The Karen officials said the guerrillas had tried since Sunday to retake the mountain top position, from where their adversaries were now preparing to shell Manerplaw.

Meanwhile, the Thai government has handed an official protest letter to the Myanmar ambassador concerning intrusions by Yangon troops into Northwestern Thailand, a senior official said Tuesday.

Thai Interior Minister Issarapong Noonpakdee, who is also Deputy Army Chief, said the letter told the Yangon government to pull its remaining forces out of Thai territory as soon as possible.

'We wish to emphasize to our neighbour that the Thai government has a clear policy to maintain friendly relations with neighbouring countries, but neighbours must recognize Thai sovereignty. No one will be allowed to trespass on to Thai soil', Issarapong told state-run radio Thailand in the Northeastern border town of Mae Sot.

Issarapong, who flew to Mae Sot this morning to meet military commanders and inspect the area, said Thai Supreme Commander and Army Chief General Suchinda Kraprayoon had given him explicit orders to 'ensure that all Myanmar troops are pushed out of Thai territory no later than midnight (1700 GMT) on Wednesday.'