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The Daily Star

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Impeachment proceedings may start today

President's rule unconstitutional, Russian Court declares

MOSCOW, Mar 23: Russia's Constitutional Court ruled Tuesday that President Boris Yeltsin violated the Constitution when he declared emergency rule, and the speaker of Congress said there were grounds to remove him from office, reports AP.

Russia's 247-member standing legislature, the Supreme Soviet, met in atmosphere of confusion and glee and called a meeting for Wednesday at which it may start impeachment proceedings. Some legislators shouted for Yeltsin's impeachment in the brief meeting.

The court's decision, a non-binding conclusion that did not mention impeachment, was likely to be disputed by the president's legal advisers. Kremlin spokesmen declined immediate comment on the decision but said Yeltsin would go ahead with plans for a referendum on his rule.

Court attorneys and Yeltsin's critics in the Congress clearly viewed the ruling as a green light to remove the 62-year-old president from office.

It is absolutely clear that there are grounds for initiating the impeachment process. That's without question," Congress speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, Yeltsin's main rival.

Under Russian law, a conclusion by the court that Yeltsin violated the constitution gives the Supreme Soviet grounds to convene the 1,033-member Congress of People's Deputies, which can impeach him on a two-thirds vote. An impeachment vote would declare his powers void immediately and permanently.

The president's aides have said he would ignore impeachment by the Soviet-era Congress, more than 80 per cent of whom are former Communist Party officials. Yeltsin, a reformer and former Communist leader, has accused the Congress of trying to restore hard-line Communist rule.

The court ruling said Yeltsin violated eight articles of the constitution and the Federal Treaty in his appeal to the nation Saturday night.

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Independence Day Friday

Materialise dreams of martyrs: PM

The nation celebrates the Independence and National Day Friday.

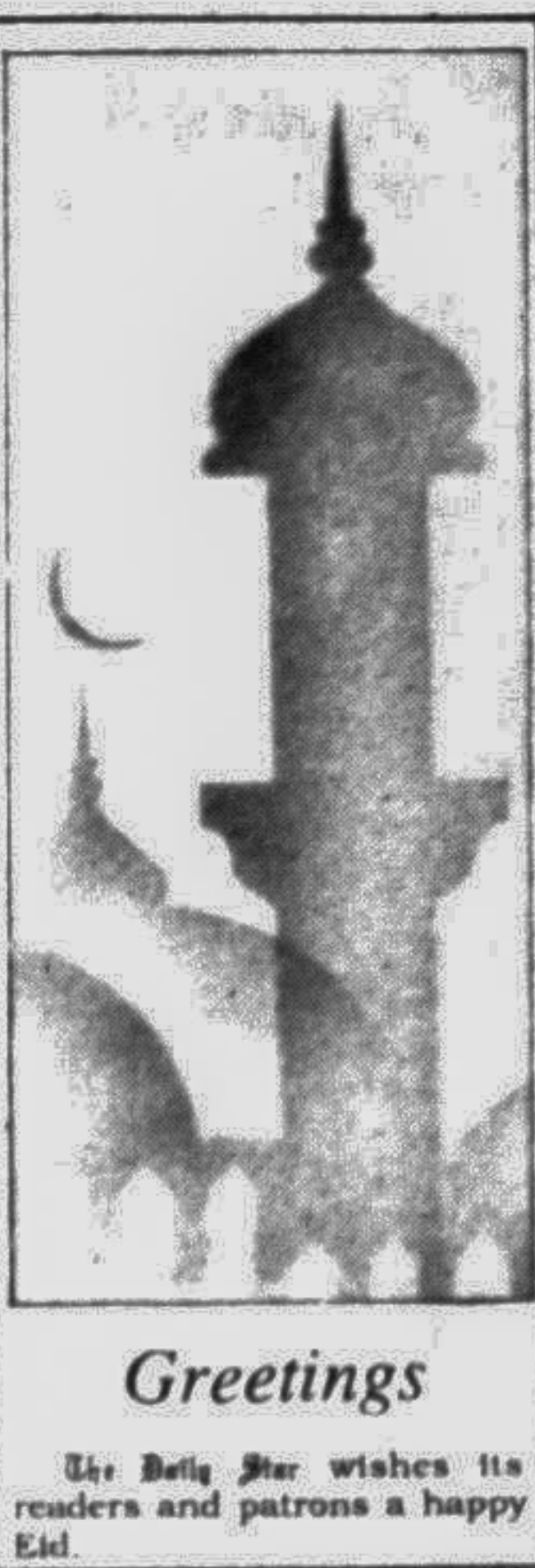
On this day in 1971 Bangladesh's independence was declared after a long struggle against the Pakistani repression. Following the declaration, the valiant sons of the soil took up arms to fight the Pakistani occupation troops who killed three million people and violated thousands of women during the nine-month Liberation War.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday gave a call to all to work hard for accelerating the speed of development through national unity and integrity.

In his message on the eve of Independence and National Day the President said, "I warmly felicitate fellow citizens and Bangladeshis living abroad on the occasion of our Independence and National Day."

"We achieved independence and sovereignty through indomitable heroism and immense sacrifice of our free-

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Greetings

The Daily Star wishes its readers and patrons a happy Eid.



NECESSITY KNOWS NO LAW: Eager to meet dear and near ones during the Eid, home-bound people swarmed the engine and even climbed to roofs of the coaches of an outgoing train at Kamalapur Station yesterday.

— Star photo

All set for Eid-ul-Fitr

By Staff Correspondent

The country will celebrate the biggest Muslim festival, the Eid-ul-Fitr with due religious fervour and festivity tomorrow (Thursday) subject to the sighting of the Shawal moon today.

The Muslim community is going to celebrate the religious festival following the month of fasting and prayer — the Ramadan.

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet today at the Islamic Foundation. The committee has urged the people to inform the committee of the sighting of the moon from any part of the country.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in separate messages wished for the welfare of the people of the country and have conveyed their Eid greetings. The leaders of the major political parties have

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Revenue collection up by Tk 150 cr

By Inam Ahmed

The overall revenue collection during July-February term should a good yield tallying with the government's high hopes of greater mobilisation of internal resource.

During the first eight months of the fiscal year, the total revenue collection exceeded its target Tk 5001.56 crore, by Tk 149.77 crore.

The rate of collection was 102.99 per cent over the target while it was 17.50 per cent higher than last year's collection for the same period.

The higher collection rate was mainly due to some improvements in the taxation system made in this year's budget," an official of the National Board of Revenue (NBR) said, "pilferage has been brought down to a considerable level."

The Value Added Tax (VAT) collection for this period showed marked improvements. In the import level, it reached Tk 1104 crore surpassing the target of Tk 845 crore. The figure was Tk 338 crore higher than last year's.

However, in the local production level, VAT collection fell short of its target by Tk 131.11 crore.

Customs duty, the biggest block of tax, also showed a downward trend during the period. The target of customs duty for July-February period was Taka 2045.52 crore. However, only Taka 1799.55 crore was collected of the total outlay.

NBR officials point out that there had been a slump of dutiable imports and also that the liberalisation of import had affected the collection.

Supplementary duty for local manufacturers also dropped short of its target. While the targeted outlay was Taka

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Resist forces opposed to liberation: Hasina

Awami League president and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina Tuesday called on the patriotic forces to build up "social resistance" against the elements opposed to the country's Liberation War and independence in 1971, reports UNB.

In a message on the eve of Independence Day, Hasina said the Bangalee nation had fought the Liberation War at the call of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to establish fundamental rights of the deprived multitude as well as achieving economic self-reliance.

Holiday Notice

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on March 24, 25 and 26 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and the Independence Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the paper on March 25, 26, and 27.

NEWS BRIEFS

Holiday on Mar 27 if Eid on Friday

The government has declared Eid-ul-Fitr holiday from March 24 to 26 subject to sighting of the moon, an official release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The announcement was made on the basis of the recommendations of the National Moon Sighting Committee that the moon is likely to be sighted on March 24.

However, if the moon is sighted on March 25 the government has taken a prior decision to declare March 25, 26 and 27 as Eid-holidays in that case the holiday on March 24 as decided earlier will remain effective under special consideration.

New BDRCS chairman

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday appointed Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal MP the Chairman of the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) for a term of three years with effect from March 10, reports BSS.

College teachers call off strike

Bangladesh Government College Professors Association and Lecturer Association have announced the postponement of their scheduled abstain from duty and boycotting of degree examinations on March 31, reports BSS.

DU reopens Apr 3

The classes of Dhaka University will resume on April 3 after Eid holidays instead of March 29 as had been announced earlier, reports UNB.

Health Day Apr 7

The World Health Day will be observed on April 7 throughout the country as elsewhere in the world, reports BSS.

Sehri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
29	24	—	6.19 pm
30	25	4.38 am	6.20 pm

2 bombs detonated in Calcutta

Huge arms seized in Bombay

BOMBAY, Mar 23: Police seized a huge quantity of weapons, including detonators similar to those used in deadly bombings here nearly two weeks ago, from an abandoned handcart today, reports AFP.

Twelve Chinese-made AK-56 rifles, 5,306 bullets for the automatic weapons, five nine-millimetre pistols, about 300 grenades and an equal number of detonators were found. Deputy Commissioner of Police Chandrashekhar Rokde said.

The cart was found near a Hindu temple at Kalbadevi, a congested business district in sought Bombay.

Meanwhile, in Calcutta, army experts detonated two bombs found in a parcel which was to have been sent to an address in the Netherlands, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The experts kept the parcel under observation for 12 hours in an isolated area of a post office before detonating the bombs Tuesday. Deputy Commissioner of Police Gautam Chakravorty said.

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Pak airports on red alert

ISLAMABAD, Mar 23: Islamabad has placed airports on alert after reports that suspects in India's Bombay bombings may have fled to Pakistan, reports Reuter.

Police officials in the southern port city of Karachi said Pakistan International Airline (PIA) was on red alert for suspects in the bombings that killed 250 people and wounded 1,200 on March 12.

"We are on full alert," the PIA managing director, retired Air Vice Marshal Farooq Umar, told reporters in Karachi. "Our security agencies have stepped up and strengthened the security system all over the country."

Foreign Ministry officials

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Govt won't yield to SKOP threat

Tk 7 cr jute export loss in two days: Minister

Bangladesh suffered an export loss of jute goods to the tune of Tk 7 crore due to the two-day strike called by SKOP on the 15th and 16th of this month.

Disclosing this, Jute Minister Brigadier (Retd) A S M Hannan Shah told UNB yesterday (Tuesday) that BJMC (Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation) suffered export loss of Tk 5 crore and the BJMA (Bangladesh Jute Mills Association) approximately Tk 2 crore due to work suspension by SKOP.

Giving details, the minister said that only eight of the 35 jute mills in the public sector worked on the first day of the strike.

But next day the number increased to 14 without any pressure from the government.

Of the 33 mills in the private sector, eight are sick and have gone out of operation. Twelve of the remaining 25 mills operated during the strike period, he added.

When his attention was drawn to the 72-hour strike the SKOP is reportedly planning in May, the Jute Minister stated with all the emphasis as his command that the government will not yield to the SKOP threat.

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SKOP discusses future course of action

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) at a meeting yesterday (Tuesday) reviewed the outcome of its recent 48-hour strike and discussed about future course of action.

A SKOP source told UNB that the meeting also discussed the pros and cons of a 72-hour strike being planned for the last week of April to press the government for implementation of the Wage Commission report.

"Opinion in favour of an indefinite strike if the planned 72-hour work stoppage fail to yield any result also emerged at the meeting," the source said.

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Investment picking up, minister claims

By Staff Correspondent

Dispelling the general impression of a gloomy investment climate, Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan Tuesday said that the country's industrialisation and investment were picking up "steadily".

At an extra-ordinary industrial progress review meeting, the Minister spelt out sector-by-sector investment to portray a healthy industrialisation scenario.

The meeting at the Shilpa Bhaban was convened in the wake of growing allegations from different sections that investment in the country had nose-dived despite the government's policy reforms.

Besides high government officials, representatives of donors, bankers, and chamber leaders attended the meeting.

Those who attendant were seen silently listening, and hardly nodding their heads as government officials laid out investment projections.

Only Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Latifur Rahman pointed out the need for changing the "mind-set" in

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