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Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmdn	Feb	Sehri	Iftar
15	27	—	6:04 pm
16	28	5:02 am	6:04 pm
17	Mar 1	5:01 am	6:05 pm

\$8.5m interest-free project aid

China reaffirms support for economic development

China will continue its support to Bangladesh's efforts for economic development, reports UNB.

The assurance came from the visiting Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, when he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon.

Qian lauded the development programmes of the present government under the leadership of Begum Zia. "Bangladesh in the last three years has marked significant progress," he said.

The Chinese Vice Premier hoped that Bangladesh would continue its economic progress and attain stability under the able leadership of Begum Zia.

Pointing at the traditional

friendship between China and Bangladesh, he said efforts would continue to further consolidate the relationship.

"The two countries can supplement each other in investment and development of industrial sector," he added.

Attaching importance to the activities of SAARC Qian recalled that the organisation was mooted by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for poverty alleviation and economic emancipation of the people of the region.

Welcoming the Chinese leader, Begum Zia said the excellent and friendly relation between the two countries would be consolidated further. Begum Zia lauded the present economic progress of China.

She thanked China for its

assistance to different development efforts of Bangladesh and said its cooperation in different sectors is appreciable.

The Prime Minister, however, pointed at the trade imbalance against Bangladesh and stressed the need for improving the situation.

Qian, who arrived here Thursday leading a 14-member delegation on a four-day visit, was accompanied by his wife Madame Zhou Hanqiong.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman was also present.

Project aid

Bangladesh and China yesterday signed an economic and technical cooperation agreement under which China will

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The visiting Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. — PID photo

Palestinians defy curfew to mourn dead: 3 more killed

HEBRON, West Bank, Feb 26: The people of Hebron defied curfew to mourn their dead today and reacted stoically to news Israeli soldiers had killed three more Arabs in protests against the mosque massacre, reports Reuters.

Every neighbourhood in this town of 110,000 was dotted with rows of plastic stools for mourners, who passed from house to house to offer condolences to 49 families who lost relatives in Friday's slaughter at the cave of the patriarchs and its aftermath.

Soldiers and armed Jewish settlers patrolled the narrow streets to enforce a curfew but they did not break up the Palestinian Wakes.

The settlers were supposed

to be confined by the army to their five settlements in the Hebron area but they walked with Uzi sub-machineguns alongside soldiers.

Protests against the killings continued in the occupied territories and spread to the Arab towns of Jaffa and Nazareth inside Israel on Saturday.

The imam, unable to lead prayers in his mosque, joined mourners at Wakes within sight of the imposing Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba home to Goldstein the killer.

Mourners, including local PLO leader Mohammad Hourani, said the peace Israel hoped to negotiate would never come until such settlements were cleared.

"The killing has shown that the way we are negotiating with the Israelis cannot go on," Hourani said, his remarks twice punctuated by the popping of Israeli tear gas canisters fired at stonethrowers. "We have agreed to an interim phase in which the settlers can stay... that means they can go on killing us and the peace."

"This is the peace we are having with Israel?" asked Sharban Natsche, who lost a brother and two other relatives in the mosque.

Meanwhile, the Arab League will hold an emergency meeting on Sunday to discuss the Hebron Mosque massacre at the request of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Myanmar border force abducts 26 Bangladeshis

COX'S BAZAR, Feb 26: NAKA, Myanmar's border security force, abducted 26 Bangladeshi fishermen along with four fishing boats from the Bay of Bengal off St. Martin island in Teknaf on Friday, reports UNB.

Local fishermen told reporters Myanmar's border guards in two modern trawlers attacked the fishermen at Feradia area at about 3 pm while they were fishing in the Bay.

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Khaleda, Hasina condemn Hebron massacre

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned and expressed her deep shock at the massacre of Palestinians by Israeli settlers in a mosque in Hebron in Israeli occupied West Bank, reports BSS.

In a statement the Prime Minister expressed concern that the barbarous carnage of the Palestinians by the Jewish settlers could make the Middle East peace process more complex.

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State honour for all FFs demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The contributions of the late freedom fighter Abdul Kuddus Makhani to the liberation of the country were recalled with gratitude at a public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday afternoon.

One of the organisers of the independence movement Makhani died of viral hepatitis at a US hospital on February 10.

The Abdul Kuddus Makhani Shoke Palon Jatiya Committee organised the meeting. Former student leaders

who had participated in the independence movement under the banner of the Swadhin Bangla Chhatra Sangram Parishad, speaking at the meeting condoled the untimely death of Makhani and recalled his contributions during the War of Independence.

The meeting adopted a resolution demanding state honour for all freedom fighters, dead and alive.

Most of the speakers representing different political parties stressed the need for a

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A laudable precedent

By Staff Correspondent

Visiting Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen meets Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at 9:30 am today.

Qian will call on the Leader of the Opposition at her Sangsad Bhaban office. Top ranking leaders of the Awami League will also be present at the meeting.

AL sources said, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad, general secretary Zillur Rahman, member of the Advisory Council A H M S Kibria and the party's international affairs secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP will be present at the meeting with Qian Qichen.

"The Chinese Foreign Minister is virtually meeting the core of the Awami League shadow cabinet," a senior AL leader pointed out.

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Body to look into 'anomalies'

Order upgrading pay scales withheld

The government has decided to withhold effect to the Finance Ministry order issued on January 8 upgrading pay scales of some cadre and equivalent non-cadre posts, reports UNB.

A Press Note from the Establishment Ministry yesterday said the government had circulated an order upgrading pay scales of 9 cadres and some equivalent non-cadre posts on January 8. Later, officers of other BCS cadres and organisations of non-cadre officers also appealed for their upgradation.

Even those cadre and non-cadre scale holders who had earlier been upgraded also said their grievances were not fully redressed.

"Keeping this in view," the Press Note said, "It is necessary to find an equitable and

comprehensive solution to the so-called anomalies among all the cadre and non-cadre scales through a thorough review."

For review of the matters a high-power committee has been formed, which will submit its recommendations to the government within three months.

The government hoped that all concerned would show maximum restraint and patience for ensuring justice to all and in greater interest of the country and make their valuable contribution in smooth running of the government's administrative machinery.

The government had announced upgradation of pay scales of 9 cadre and non-cadre posts in the face of

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Accord on aid for JMB, jute sector signed

WASHINGTON, Feb 26: Bangladesh will get an assistance of 447 million US dollar (equivalent to Taka 1,780 crore) from the International Development Association (IDA) for construction of the Jamuna Bridge and restructuring of the jute manufacturing industry, reports BSS.

Two agreements were signed here yesterday between the government of Bangladesh and the IDA in this regard.

IDA, which is an affiliate of the World Bank, lends on concessional terms to selected developing countries.

H M Ejazul Huq, Economic Minister of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington, and Govind T Nankani, Acting Vice President, South Asia region, World Bank, signed the agreements on behalf of their respective sides.

IDA will provide 200 million US dollar for the proposed

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Corruptions Speaker's ruling today

By Staff Correspondent

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali is likely to give a ruling in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) today on the opposition demand for a discussion on the reported corruptions of cabinet ministers.

A long-pending Bill seeking the setting up of a separate secretariat for the Jatiya Sangsad is also most likely to be moved in the House today. Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, who is now in charge of the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, would move the bill.

Three opposition MPs, including Tofael Ahmed and Mohammad Nasim of the Awami League (AL) and Suranjit Sengupta of the Ganatantri Party (GP) had submitted notices last week seeking adjournment of the normal proceedings of the

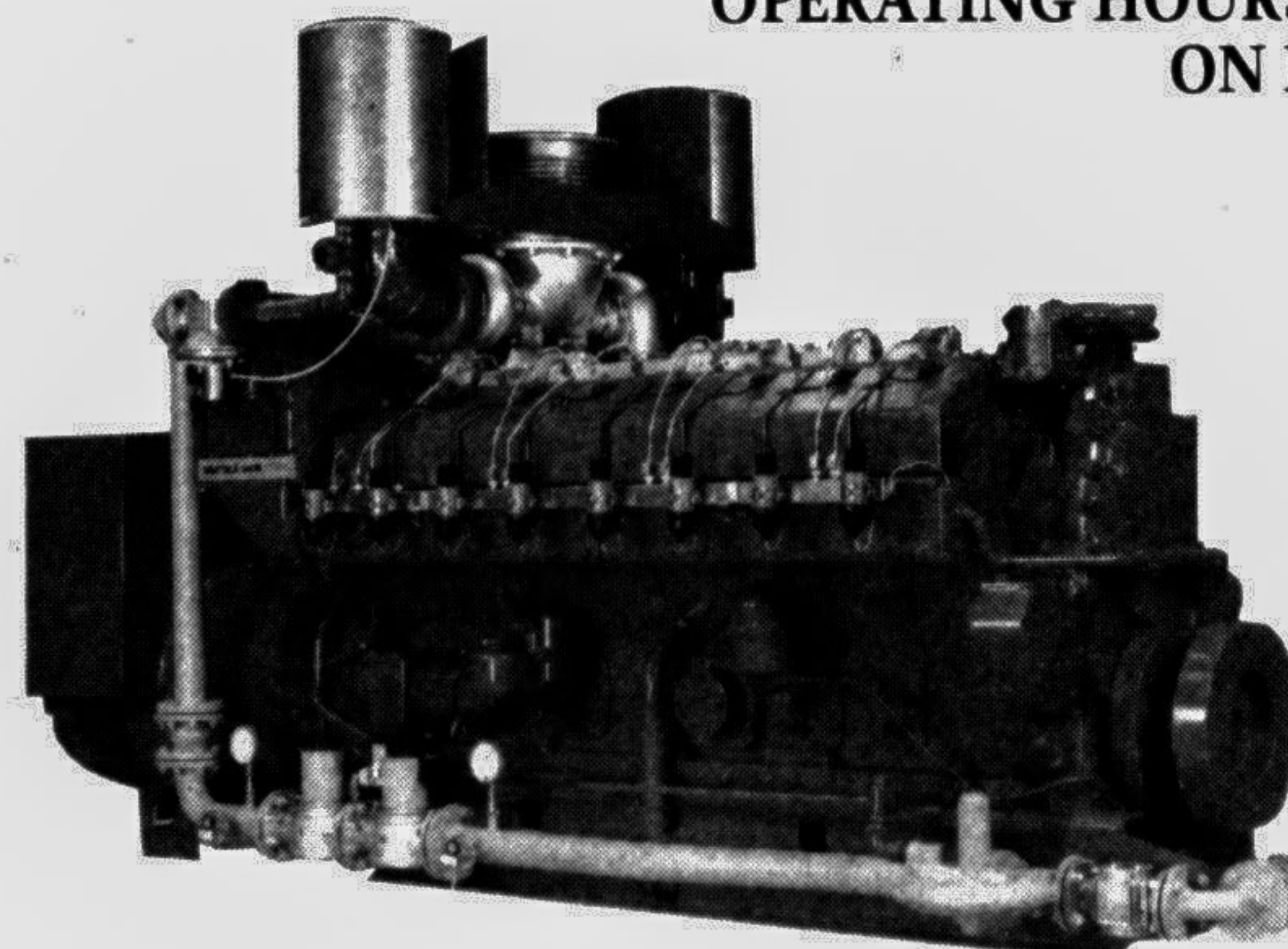
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OBITUARY



With deep sorrow we inform that our beloved founder Chairman Hamidur Rahman Sinha (84) breathed his last on Friday 25 February 1994 at 8.30 P.M. at his Uttara residence. (Inna lillahi.....rajeun).

His namaj-e-janaja will be held today Sunday at 10 A. M. at Abahani ground, Dhanmondi and his body will be buried at the family graveyard of his village home Dohuri, Kalma, Lauhajang, P.S., Munshiganj following Janaja after Zohar prayer at local Eidgah. His Kul Khawani will be held on Monday 28 February 1994 at the company's head office at 46 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

May Allah rest his soul in eternal peace.

All members of ACME family.



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