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# The Daily Star

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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Boom Awaits Bangladesh**  
 by K B Ahmed  
 Page 4

**International**

**Muslims, Croat forces begin withdrawing heavy guns**  
**US, UK, Norway back proposal to deploy int'l troops in West Bank, Gaza**  
 Page 5

**Business**

**Tea trade continues to regain position**  
**Russia must control inflation to prevent industrial collapse**  
 Pages 6, 7

**Women On The Move**

**International Women's Day: Where Do We Go from Here? An Unfair Share — of Burdens and Boundaries; Not Altogether Bleak; What are We Celebrating?**  
 Page 8

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Banking on Skills**  
 Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Malaysian trade team in city**

A two-member Malaysian trade delegation is now in the city to explore palm oil market in Bangladesh. Delegation members Balu and Ahmed are exchanging views with the government officials concerned and private sector businessmen on the matter. The team, which arrived here March 4, is scheduled to leave for home on March 11, reports UNB.

**Diarrhoea kills one**

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 BARISAL, Mar 7: One died of diarrhoea and 41 others affected in Barguna district in the last 24 hours, according to official sources. The dead was identified as Nurun Nahar, 46, of Barguna sadar thana. However unofficial sources gave the death figure at three.

**CU BA (Hons) results**

CHITTAGONG, Mar 7: The University of Chittagong today announced the results of BA honours examination 1991 in Islamic history and culture held in November 1993. Some 63 students appeared at the examination of whom 60 came out successful. Fifty-eight secured second class while two got third class, reports BSS.

**One killed in road mishap**

**From Our Correspondent**  
 KUSHIA, Mar 7: A young man was crushed to death on the Kushia-Bheramara highway yesterday. The victim, Haider, was knocked down by a trolley carrying a load of sugarcane yesterday evening. Seriously injured Haider died on way to the Kushia General Hospital.

Shetri, Iftar timings			
Rmda	Mar	Shetri	Iftar
24	8	—	6:08 pm
25	9	4:54 am	6:08 pm
26	10	4:53 am	6:09 pm

## JS prorogued amid opposition boycott

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 President Abdur Rahman Biswas prorogued the 13th session of the country's Fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday. The session, which began on January 5 with a walkout by the major Opposition parties including the Awami League (AL) and the Jatiya Party (JP), ended yesterday amidst a continuing boycott of the last five days' proceedings by the entire Opposition. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, before reading out the prorogation order in the House with the Opposition benches empty, called for united efforts by the legislators to make Parliament effective for advancing the cause of the people. He also called for greater tolerance and forbearance. The Speaker said the session had taken up a lot of important issues but could not quite transact its scheduled business for various reasons. The Speaker was hinting at the controversial remarks by the Information Minister on March 1 and the consequent boycott of Parliament proceedings by the Opposition parties until an unqualified apology from the minister. Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, urged the legislators of both the treasury and Opposition benches to avoid any conduct which could eventually affect a sound working atmosphere in the House. Earlier, the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister Abdus Salam Talukder told the House that 'much efforts' had been made to make the Opposition return to the House, but they failed to respond to the treasury bench efforts. Referring to several round of talks between the Opposition and treasury bench leaders on the issue, Talukder said, the Opposition was not ready to return to the House unless minister Nazmul Huda begged apology. Even expression of regret by the minister and withdrawal of his comment was not accepted. See Page 12 Col 1

## JEC Task Force meets Consultant to identify Indo-Bangla ventures

**By Inam Ahmed**  
 A Task Force of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting in the city yesterday decided to appoint a consultant to identify the sectors where joint venture industries with the buy back or third country export facilities can be set up in Bangladesh. The consultant will also make a database of the items now banned in India which could be exported from Bangladesh to that country. The second meeting of the Task Force was represented from the Bangladesh side by Manzur Elahi of the Bangladesh Employers Association, Latifur Rahman, president of MCCCI, Azimur Rahman, and C K Hyder. The Indian side was represented by S Sen, senior director, the Confederation of the Indian Industries (CII), P K Dutta, Md Bata, Alok Mukherjee, Md Flakt India Ltd and D Nair, Md Tata Exports. The Bangladesh side urged India to withdraw the ban on the export of certain items from Bangladesh to remove the huge trade imbalance between the two countries. They said, the demand for withdrawing the ban is not asking a 'favour' from India. It is reciprocal as Bangladesh allows the import of items produced domestically. The Indian side was told that unless they took steps to remove the trade imbalance with Dhaka, internal pressures might arise to ban Indian imports to Bangladesh. The Indian side opposed the proposal but ultimately they agreed that the CII would recommend to the Indian government to withdraw the ban. They would also explain the issue to the Indian parliamentarians. The Bangladesh side will prepare a paper on the withdrawal of the ban and send it to the CII. At the meeting, the Indian side also raised New Delhi's proposal for railway communication on the Benapole border with Bangladesh. But the Bangladesh side only took note of the issue. The Task Force first met in Calcutta. It will meet again there next month.

**BNP created crisis in JS deliberately: Opposition**  
**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The opposition parties in parliament at a news briefing yesterday alleged the ruling BNP had deliberately created crisis situations in the House to prevent them from discussing current issues. "The ruling party has lost its moral courage to face the opposition which has become very vocal against corruption, terrorism and deteriorating law and order situation," Abdus Samad Azad told the reporters. He said the treasury bench had been ignoring the opposition efforts to make parliament effective but they should keep it in mind that "without this House, there will be no government." The opposition leaders were briefing the press when the House was discussing the massacre of Palestinians in Hebron of the occupied West Bank. The House was prorogued after the adoption of a resolution condemning the incident in which more than 60 Palestinians were killed and many more injured. In reply to a question whether they would join the next session, Samad Azad said "It depends on the outcome of further discussion of the opposition." See Page 12 Col 4

## JS condemns Hebron massacre

Parliament yesterday condemned the February 25 Hebron massacre in which 63 Palestinian Muslims were killed in a mosque by Jewish settlers and demanded punishment of the killers, reports UNB. A strongly-worded resolution adopted unanimously urged the Israeli government to take effective measures for preventing recurrence of such dastardly killing. Parliament decided to send urgently copies of the resolution representing views of the people of Bangladesh to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, leaders of the OIC and the Non-Aligned Movement and the Secretary General of United Nations. The resolution, moved by Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman of the ruling party, See Page 12 Col 1

## Donor-aided ADP projects Audit finds faults in spendings

**Star Report**  
 Actual expenditures of only 20 out of 417 donor-aided projects, included in the Annual Development Plan (ADP) of 1988-89, matched the final budget allocations, according to an audit report released recently. Prepared by the office of the Auditor and Comptroller General, the report on the foreign-aided development projects in the 1988-89 budget identified a number of irregularities in the expenditure of the projects including exceeding budget allocations; expenditure without any allocations; spending on projects not included in the ADP but for which project-aid was received; and budget allocations not being spent fully. The findings of the report highlight the various project implementation problems being widely discussed presently and which have also come under severe criticism from the donor community. The report was placed before the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday last. According to the audit report, only 39 out of 3445 audit objections were resolved during the investigations. Of the 417 foreign-aided projects implemented by various government agencies during 1988-89, 267 failed to spend Tk 927.12 crore out of a budget allocation of Tk 2641.95 crore while 76 projects exceeded the budget allocation. See Page 12 Col 7

## Int'l Women's Day today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The International Women's Day will be observed today in Bangladesh, as elsewhere in the world, with the objective of establishing the dignity and rights of women in society. In a message on the eve of International Women's Day, President Abdur Rahman Biswas called for concerted efforts in women development and accelerating their economic emancipation. He said the government had given much emphasis on women development and taken up various programmes for their welfare. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in her message, said most women of the country were still lagging behind due to lack of proper education and awareness. She made a call for all to make efforts on the basis of a national consensus towards See page 12 Col 2

## Life's little ironies!

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Life, they say, is full of ironies. For Sharmin Khan, alias Anghi it was indeed an irony of fate that she should be blessed with a lovely little boy just two days after being widowed. Abu Nasim Mohammad Hasanul Farhad, Sharmin's police sergeant husband, bit a bullet last Saturday during the gunbattle among rival student factions at the city's Jagannath University College. Barely 24 hours after his burial at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' graveyard Sunday, his wife gave birth to their second child. It was a strange, almost surrealistic scene at the Islami Bank Hospital at Shahjahanpur yesterday. At around 5:03 pm the doctors delivered, by caesarean section, Sharmin's seven-pound baby boy. Relatives milled around the bed of the heavily sedated Sharmin hardly knew their own feelings. They could only gaze listlessly at mother and child. They didn't know whether to feel glad or sorry. The usual sense of joy that welcomes a birth in the family was missing. The sorrow of losing a loved one just a couple of days earlier was still too deep to be overcome. Six-year-old Sunny, Sharmin's older son who is yet See Page 12 Col 3



Sharmin Khan, the wife of slain police sergeant Hasanul Farhad gave birth to their second child — a boy — at a city clinic yesterday, just two days after the tragic death of the newborn's father during a shootout near the Jagannath University College. — Star photo by Enamul Haq

## Sergeant Murder Police raids hideouts of ring leaders

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 Police are yet to trace 32 suspects connected with the murder of police sergeant Hasanul Farhad, 37, until yesterday. A police source said that they raided several possible hideouts of two ring leaders — Kaji and Sagir — who reportedly led two rival student factions into a bloody battle in the Jagannath University College Saturday, but all police attempts to arrest them failed. Farhad was caught in a cross-fire and killed on the day. In the first information report of the police 52 people were accused of their involvement in the gunbattle and murder. But only 20 of them were arrested so far. Police also arrested 12 others on suspicion under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). Meanwhile, police yesterday continued interrogation of 13 of the arrested suspects who are on a five-day police remand in the city's Detective Branch (DB) office at Minto Road, according to the source. Several other names might be included as suspects which are being revealed through interrogation of the remanded See Page 12 Col 3

## Historic March 7 observed

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The historic March 7 was observed yesterday. This day, 23 years ago, marked a watershed in the history of Bangladesh with Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman making an epoch-making speech at the Suhrawardy Uddyan, the then Dhaka Race Course. The historic speech before a massive crowd of several lakh ended with the famous declaration: "The struggle this time is for our freedom; the struggle this time is for independence." That call by Mujib ultimately culminated in the emergence of an independent country through a bloody war. The Awami League and its front organisations and a number of other socio-cultural organisations held various programmes. See Page 12 Col 8

## Khaleda urges people of Magura Elect competent man

SHALIKA, Magura, Mar 7: Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today appealed to the electorates of Magura-2 constituency to elect a right and competent person as their representative in the March 20 by-election for the development of their backward area, reports BSS. At a huge election projection rally in the Arpara Ideal High School premises here, she urged the voters of the localities not to pay heed to the opposition's untrue and false anti-government propaganda and instead cast their valuable votes in favour of the sheaf of paddy, the BNP's election symbol, in the coming by-election. Recounting a series of allegations made by the local people that they did not see the touch of development in their localities, Begum Zia called upon all irrespective of party affiliations, caste and creed to give their verdict in favour of Kazi Salimul Huq alias Kazi Kamal, the BNP nominee, to involve themselves in the on-going massive development programmes. The projection rally was organised as part of her day-long election campaign in the Magura-2 constituency, consisting of Shalika and Mohamadpur thanas and four unions of Magura sadar thana. UNB adds: The Prime Minister cautioned that 'identified quarters' were active in anti-people activities to subvert government's development efforts. "They always criticise the government and obstruct development activities," she said and called upon the people to guard against them. She didn't name anyone in particular. See Page 12 Col 4

## Sonali Bank in Ctg looted: 3 arrested

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 CHITTAGONG, Mar 7: A group of armed miscreants this morning raided a Sonali Bank branch office at Kalurghat and looted Tk 7.92,584 at gunpoint. Police and witnesses said the miscreants had arrived by two motorcycles and looted the bank located at FICD Road at 11:30 am. Patrol police after chasing them for some distance managed to nab three along with their motorcycle at Kaptai Road and recovered Tk 4,26,975 of the looted money. Police also recovered from their possession one 303 double-barrel rifle, 12 rounds of ammunition, one Pakistani revolver with seven rounds of ammunition. The arrested are Amir Khasru, Chandan Sen and Animul Islam. Police also arrested the guard of the bank Zakir Uddin. Police informed that the dacoits in connivance with Zakir had made the plan about 20 days ago to loot the bank. A case was filed with the Chandga thana. 200 killed in Burundi

## Border trade agreement with Yangon to be signed Mar 20

**By M Anwarul Haq**  
 Myanmar and Bangladesh are expected to sign a border trade agreement in Dhaka on March 20. A four-member delegation headed by Myanmar's Minister of Trade Tun Kyi will arrive on a five-day trip to Bangladesh on March 18 to sign the agreement, which is the first of its kind between Bangladesh and any of its neighbours. Major General Win Myint, chief of Myanmar's western command and two other high officials will accompany the Trade Minister, according to Commerce Ministry sources. Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam will sign the agreement on behalf of Bangladesh which will initially be valid for one year. The agreement will automatically be renewed annually unless any side objects. The border trade agreement will primarily allow the sale and purchase of goods between the two countries via the Teknaf border of Bangladesh and the Maungdaw region of Myanmar located in the Rakhaine state. Initially most of the trade will be carried by maritime transports across the Naaf river. The two countries may also consider setting up ferry services and even constructing a bridge at some later stage if trade picks up, sources said. The proposed agreement is seen as a changed posture of Myanmar towards its neighbours and its desire to follow an open door policy against its previous isolationist attitude. Myanmar also signed a border trade agreement with India early this year. Officials feel that the signing of the border agreement will be mutually beneficial to both Myanmar and Bangladesh. Local exporters could make a major inroad into Myanmar's consumer market that includes items from cosmetics to toiletries and from newsprint to fertiliser. Particularly the local textile and pharmaceutical industries are expected to get a good market in Myanmar. There would also be demand for ceramic, leather products and tobacco. The items that should attract the Bangladesh market include timber, forest products, bamboo, fresh vegetables. See Page 12 Col 7

## Jahanara Imam accorded reception

**By DU Correspondent**  
 Begum Jahanara Imam, convener of the Ghatik Dal Nirmul Committee, yesterday urged the students to resist the anti-liberation forces. She also asked them to be vigilant against the forces opposed to the liberation of Bangladesh. "The people must free the country from the clutches of the Razakars and Al-Badr," said the Nirmul Committee convener at a function arranged in her honour at the TSC auditorium of the Dhaka University yesterday morning. Organised by Narigrantha Prabantana, a feminist organisation, the reception for Jahanara Imam was organised in observance of the International Women's Day. Presided over by Sufia Kamal, the function was at See Page 12 Col 7

## India offers unconditional talks on HR in Kashmir

GENEVA, Mar 7: India today offered an unconditional dialogue on the human rights situation with the United Nations or any member of the UN Human Rights Commission with bonafide credentials but ruled out negotiation of the status of Kashmir as an integral part of the country, reports PTI. "There is no precondition on dialogue with the UN on human rights. But we cannot accept the Pakistani resolution which mentions Kashmir as a separate entity outside the Indian union to show it as part of Pakistan," the Minister of State for External Affairs Salman Khurshid told newsmen here. Asked whether India would accept a fact finding mission to Kashmir as mentioned in the Pakistani resolution, Khurshid said, "You send a fact finding mission to a country which has no access. India has shown the maximum transparency on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir. Anyone could visit the Indian border state. We are willing to utilise the existing UN instruments available to other member countries." Khurshid said India was continuing dialogue with UNHRC adding that "The human rights rapporteur is also part of the ongoing dialogue. Australia, too, is participating with us in the dialogue on the human rights situation and on how to introduce human right organisations." But Pakistan through its resolution was trying to annex Kashmir by projecting it as a separate entity, Khurshid said. AP adds from Stenagar: The See Page 12 Col 6