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# The Daily Star

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### Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page special supplement on Independence Day Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10

### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



### A Different Voice

**Notice**  
The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of the Independence and National Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the paper on Sunday, March 27.

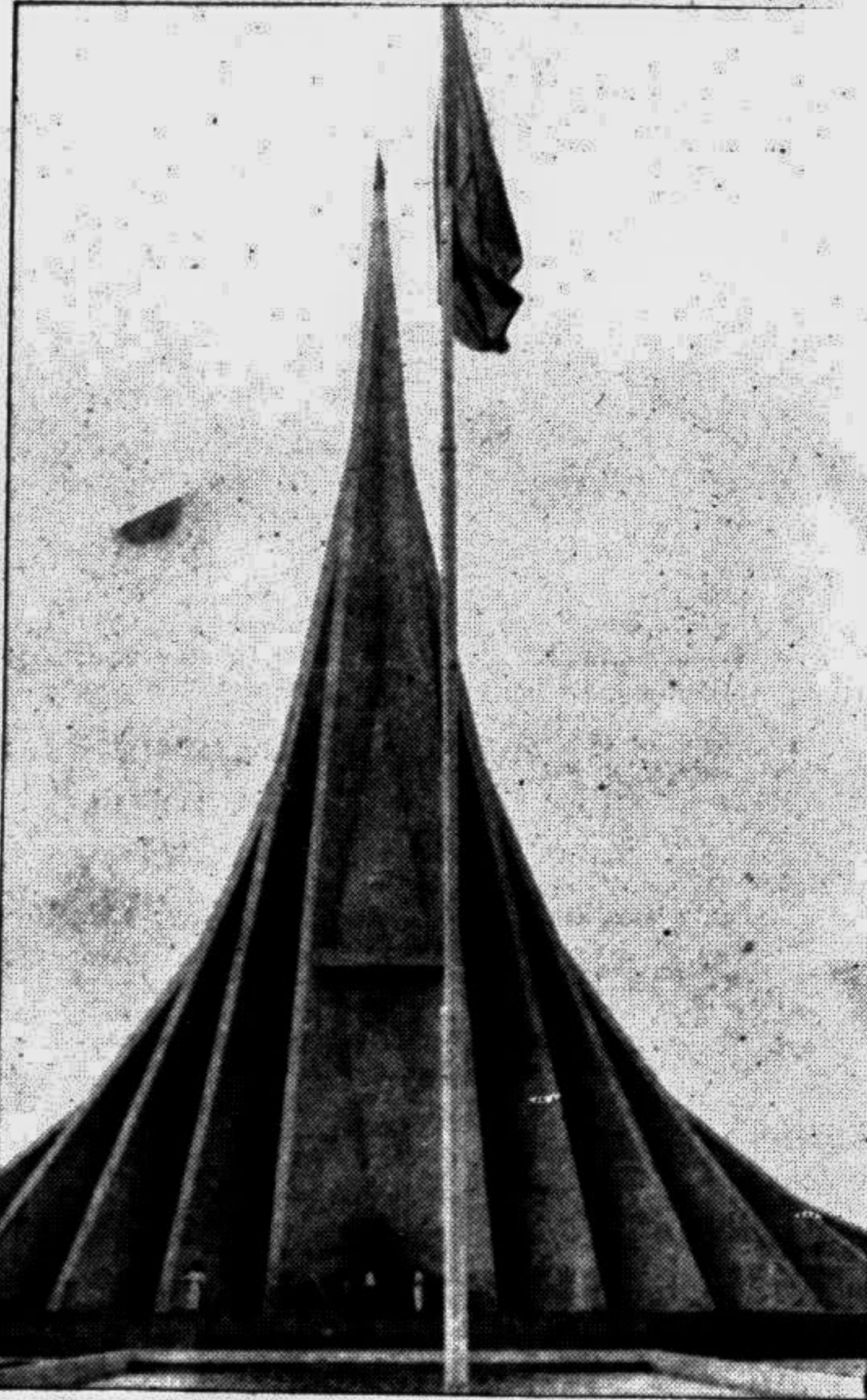
### NEWS BRIEFS

**Queen Elizabeth greets Biswas**  
 Queen Elizabeth of the UK has sent greetings to President Abdul Rahman Biswas on the occasion of the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. The Queen in a message to him said, "I send warm greetings to your excellency on the occasion of your National Day together with my best wishes for the good fortune and happiness of the People's Republic of Bangladesh," reports BSS.

**Rao felicitates Khaleda Zia**  
 Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao yesterday greeted Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the occasion of the 23rd Independence and National Day. In a message he said "I on behalf of the people and government of India have the pleasure of extending congratulations and best wishes to your excellency. I am confident that with your cooperation, the existing friendly and mutual beneficial relations between our countries would continue to grow stronger," reports UNB.

**Hasina goes to Habiganj tomorrow**  
 Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina will leave for Habiganj tomorrow on a two-day organisational tour of the district. Hasina will address wayside meetings at Bhairab, Ashuganj and Sarail, and a public meeting at Habiganj stadium at 3 pm, tomorrow. On Monday she will address rallies at Habiganj, Sherpur of Moulvibazar and public meetings at Sreemangal and Chunarughat, reports UNB.

## Fresh pledge to safeguard independence, democracy



The national mausoleum at Savar — Star photo

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The nation celebrates its 24th Independence and National Day today with a renewed pledge to safeguard its hard-earned liberty and consolidate democracy to reach the fruits of freedom to the common man.

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

Today the nation will reaffirm its vows to realise the dreams of the martyrs and the heroes by seeking to ensure the political, economic, social and cultural freedom of the people in the newly created democratic dispensation.

Today is a public holiday. President Abdur Rahman Biswas, in a message yesterday, called upon the people to come forward to consolidate national independence and democracy, establish nationalism and a welfare society.

"We have to keep on our relentless efforts to fulfil the people's basic demands including food, clothing, education and health care," the President said and called upon all to be tolerant and accommodative for consolidating democracy.

Recalling the contributions of the martyrs during the war, President Biswas pointed out

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## PM's Japan trip aims at boosting investments

**By M Anwarul Haq**  
 Japan. The two countries will also exchange views at the highest level on bilateral, regional and international issues.

Begum Khaleda Zia's 73-member entourage will include Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman and seven members of Parliament.

The government's new thrust on 'economic diplomacy' being reflected in the inclusion in the PM's en-

tourage of a 30-member business delegation representing trade, commerce and industry. The entourage also includes a dozen-strong media team of editors and senior journalists.

The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister A N M Yusuf, Commerce Secretary Muzaffar Karim, Industries Secretary Hasnatul Hye, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzak and the Director General of the Pacific Desk at the Foreign Office, Anwarul Alam, will also accompany Begum Zia.

The Prime Minister's

See Page 12 Col 4

## AL seminar concludes in city

### 'Mobilise internal resources for a strong economic footing'

Internal resource mobilisation by reducing revenue expenditure and public sector loss is needed to give the country a strong economic footing on its way to self-reliance, participants at a seminar said yesterday, reports UNB.

They said that despite increase of revenue in last two decades, the development budget of the country was mainly financed by foreign project aids.

Moreover, huge foreign aid also remained unutilised for lack of matching fund in domestic resources, said the speakers at the seminar on 'Internal Resource Mobilisation and Investment', organised by Bangladesh Awami League at the Engineer's Institute.

Awami League leader Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury MP chaired

the session, which is a part of the party's two-day seminar on economic policies. Mofizur Rahman, a former vice-president of the Islamic Development Bank, was the moderator.

Party leaders Abdul Mannan, Dr Mizanul Hoque MP, Alhaj Abul Hossain MP and Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP, economist Prof Rehman Sobhan, former member of Planning Commission Dr A H Shahdatullah, former deputy governor of Bangladesh Bank Syed Ali Kabir, Prof Aminul Islam Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University, Prof Moizul Islam of Chittagong University, Dr Abul Barkat of Dhaka University, FBCCI President Mahubur Rahman, Dhaka Stock Exchange chairman M Khurshid Alam, former DCCI President M Yunus and actuary

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## No pro-Pak tilt on Kashmir: US



**NEW DELHI, Mar 25:** The United States today extended support to the Rao government's efforts to pursue a political process in Kashmir, saying it believed that most of the people in the valley were "tired of fighting and want some kind of reconciliation," reports PTI.

The US Assistant Secretary of State, Ms Robin Raphel, told a select gathering here that there was no pro-Pakistan tilt in Washington's policies and "we vigorously oppose outside aid to the militants."

In what is seen here as a softening of the US position, Ms Raphel said that to begin a political process in Kashmir "all sides must accept that solution cannot be achieved

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## PM urges India to help reach fair water deal

**Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Indian government to help bring about a just, acceptable and durable solution to the sharing of the Ganges water, reports UNB.**

Addressing the nation yesterday evening over radio and television, the Prime Minister said diversion of the Ganges waters through the Farakka barrage causes tremendous loss to the national economy and environment.

Begum Zia described the Farakka problem as a life and death question for the people of Bangladesh and said she had raised the issue at the UN General Assembly.

As a result, the world conscience was aroused and sympathy of the world leaders was drawn for the just demand of the people of Bangladesh, she said.

"We will hope that the Indian government will realise the importance of the life and death problem of Bangladesh and will respond positively to the just and acceptable solution without further delay."

Referring to Tin Bigha corridor, she said Bangladesh could have established her sovereignty on the corridor during her government. Chakma refugees have started returning to their homeland from February 15.

A favourable atmosphere has also been created to resolve the Rohingya refugee problem with Myanmar and she hoped that this problem would be settled soon.

## DUCSU election schedule changed

The Dhaka University authorities have changed some schedules of ensuing DUCSU polls to be held on April 12, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the advisory council of the DUCSU elections with Chief Returning officer Prof A K M Abdull Alim in the chair yesterday.

According to the new schedule, the nomination papers will be distributed from different hall provost's offices upto March 29 till 11 am and will be scrutinized at 3 pm at the Administrative building.

The nomination papers could be filed at any halls of the University to the DUCSU returning officers on the day (Mar 29) from 10 am to 2 pm.

The final voters' lists of the 14 halls will be published on March 28 at 4 pm while the lists of the valid candidates will be published on March 30.

The withdrawal date of nomination papers has been fixed on April 3 till noon and the final lists of the candidates will be made public on April 4 at 4 pm.

The other schedules of the elections will be unchanged.

## Sergeant murder

### Two more arrested

**By Staff Correspondent**  
 The Detective Branch (DB) of Police in a pre-dawn raid yesterday arrested two persons from Sutrapur for their alleged involvement in the murder of the police sergeant.

The arrested are SM Bulbul, 35, and Abdus Samad alias Bengal, 28. They were detained in the Detective Branch office at Minto Road for interrogation in connection with the murder of Sergeant Abu Nasim Hasanul Farhad.

Hasanul Farhad was killed in a cross-fire between two rival groups of students at the Jagannath University College on March 5.

Police say, the arrested persons were the accomplices of a key suspect — Kazal — who is still at large.

## 10 hurt as train derailed in Ctg

**From Staff Correspondent**  
 CHITTAGONG, Mar 25: At least ten passengers reportedly received minor injuries following the derailment of a local train on the Chittagong-Dohazari line this morning.

According to railway sources, four bogies of a Chittagong-bound train from Dohazari suddenly went off the track at 7:45 am.

Later, a rescue team salvaged the bogies. The cause of the derailment is yet to be ascertained.

## People-based politics will continue: PM

**Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her firm determination to carry forward people-based politics, development trend and the people's creative endeavours already initiated for building a happy homeland for the country's future generation, reports BSS.**

The dreams of the Liberation War — democracy, people's creativity, administrative transparency and accountability — are being realised, she said in an address to the nation over radio and television.

"It would not be possible for anyone in future to deter the path of the people's own creative endeavours that we have opened," the Prime Minister said.

With a note of determination Begum Zia said, "The path of the restoration of democracy might be difficult, but it is irresistible."

The Prime Minister said her government, which has shouldered the responsibility of rejuvenating a ravaged economy, reviving the social values and establishing democracy and people's rights — has fulfilled many of the people's cherished aspirations within this short period.

In her 30-minute address, she touched on many subjects including democracy, freedom of the press, market economy, social justice, export earnings, education, employment, agriculture, population control, industrialisation, foreign policy



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday addressing the nation on the eve of today's National and Independence Day. — PID photo

## Final results of Magura-2 polls

### EC yet to complete all formalities

**Star Report**  
 The Election Commission (EC) is likely to come up with a decision regarding the Magura-2 by-election held on March 20 after it completes necessary formalities, an EC source said yesterday.


The source also denied reports appearing in a section of the press that the EC had already taken a decision to cancel the results of some centres. "No decision can be taken before all procedural formalities are completed," he said, requesting anonymity.

The EC has been examining the complaints lodged by the various parties. It is also investigating the election-related cases filed with police, the arrests and injuries on the day.

The EC would also examine the recorded statements of the election officials and government officials involved in the polls.

Another EC source said that the commission is counting the votes in 12 centres against which the Awami League

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## ATP lands on a flat tyre at Jessore

**From Our Correspondent**  
 JESSORE, Mar 25: Bangladesh Biman's morning flight to Jessore taxied to the tarmac safely after one of its tyres burst during landing.

However the ATP aircraft could not make its return flight on time and had to be delayed for several hours for lack of a spare tyre.

Another Biman flight brought the spare tyre later in the day and the ATP took off for Dhaka at 5:30 pm.

Biman's Khulna region manager, when contacted, told this correspondent that no measures have been taken to keep spare tyres or other essential equipment at airports other than ZIA, which often hinders flight operation.

On March 18, the VVIP flight carrying the Prime Minister had to avail the help of the Air Force here to start the flight. An emergency power unit had to be borrowed from BAF for the purpose.

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## Israel, PLO fail to reach accord on security issue

**CAIRO, Mar 25:** Israel and the PLO failed today to reach agreement on security for the troubled West Bank town of Hebron, a key step towards resuming Palestinian autonomy talks, reports Reuter.

PLO delegation leader Nabil Shaath said that in a 14-hour negotiating session that ended at 6 am (0400 GMT) they made substantial progress but more work was needed.

## 64 nations okay ban on export of toxic waste

**GENEVA, Mar 25:** Rich and poor nations agreed today to an immediate ban on the export of toxic and hazardous waste for disposal in the developing world, reports Reuter.

The ban, which comes after a year of difficult negotiations, was approved without a vote on the final day of a meeting of the 64 states which have signed the 1990 Basle convention on such materials.

Despite objections from environmental activists and some Third World countries, the ban did not immediately apply to the export of waste for "recovery" or recycling. Such exports will be phased out by the end of 1997.