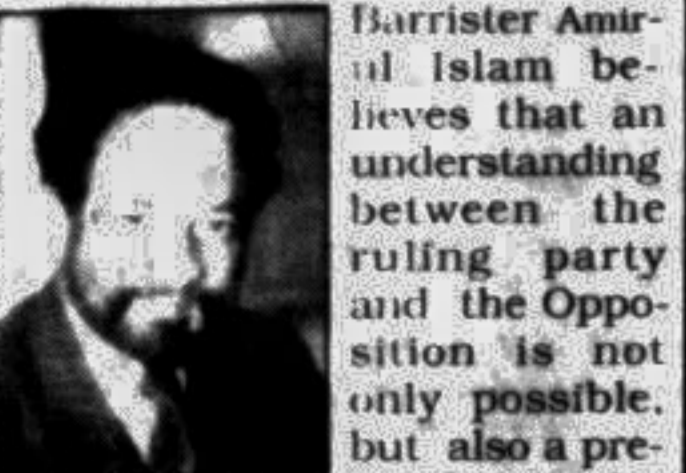


Untying the Gordian Knot of Our Politics

A SERIES OF INTERVIEWS AND ARTICLES ON THE CURRENT POLITICAL CRISIS



Amir-ul Islam believes that an understanding between the ruling party and the Opposition is not only possible, but also a precondition for meaningful democracy. He feels that the Prime Minister should initiate a dialogue with the leader of the Opposition clearly stating that she needs to find out a solution to the present situation with the help of the Opposition. Full text of his interview is on Page 4.

Tomorrow: Interviews of trade union leaders, Abul Bashar, Abdullah Sarkar, Lutfar Rahman and Wajedul Islam.

Inside Today

Article

Dollar's Dip: Ailing Emperor's Failing Currency!

Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

International

Leaders call on Kashmiris to boycott elections

India moving fast to high-tech information super highway Page 5

Business

President opens Sony sales confce

US, India clash on opening borders to foreign workers Pages 6, 7

Education

The spirit of liberation, and education for the poor; 52m children risk life and limb to earn a living Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Independence Day Award '94 at 1 pm

The distribution ceremony of the Independence Day Award-1994 will be held at 1:00 pm instead of 11:00 am at the Osmany Memorial Hall today.

Young man gunned down in city

By Staff Correspondent
Unidentified gunman killed one young man near the Kalabagan bus stand in the city last night. According to Dharmaditya police, the victim was identified as Sayedur Rahman

PM opens WFUNA confce in city
UN urged to protect interest of the poor

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday underscored the need for an effective role by the United Nations to protect the interest and ensure the security of developing countries in a new world order, reports UNB.

"We now stand at the crossroad in our quest for world peace and stability. Despite much optimism, there still exists acute discrimination and friction based on colour, race, ethnicity and religion," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the 5th Regional Conference of the World Federation of the United Nations Association (WFUNA) in Asia

and the Pacific at the Osmany Memorial Auditorium in the city in the afternoon.

Begum Zia said the developing countries are today waging a relentless struggle for building a prosperous society by upholding national independence and human rights and consolidating democracy.

She pointed out that massive changes had occurred in the geo-political scenario of the world after the cold war. Ethnic and regional conflicts have surfaced in many parts of the world.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, she said, freedom and human rights are being constantly molested and Muslims subjected

to inhuman torture and repression.

"An undeclared genocide on the plea of ethnic cleansing is raging through Bosnia-Herzegovina," Begum Zia said and hoped that the UN would take more effective step to tackle the situation.

She emphasised the need for sincere efforts for resolving conflicts, establishing democratic values and realising the ideals of human solidarity and development.

Bangladesh has shown her goodwill by helping the UN in resolving the existing conflicts in different parts of the world. "Our armed forces are playing

Restore fertiliser distribution thru pvt sector: FBCCI

The Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI) has emphasised that urea fertiliser deliveries through private sector should be fully restored and movement of fertiliser made free from hazards, reports UNB.

FBCCI president Salman F Rahman has requested the government to take the business community into confidence to improve the fertiliser situation as "the issue requires careful management rather than controversies", said an FBCCI press release yesterday.

The fertiliser crisis, seizure of urea from trucks, barges or

See Page 12 Col 1

Cement price up by Tk 40-60 per bag in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: Price of cement has gone up by Taka 40 to 60 per bag here affecting construction works.

Cement traders attributed the price-hike to delay in the arrival of imported consignments as well as the suspension of production by local cement factories. They, however, said the price rise is temporary and it is sure to come down shortly with the arrival of ships carrying imported cement.

They printed out that imported cement particularly

See Page 12 Col 4

Secularism trampled, says Hasina

From Our Correspondent
GOPALGANJ, Mar 24: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said here today that the ideals of secularism enshrined in the Constitution was trampled

after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

See Page 12 Col 2

12 killed, 45 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least 12 persons were killed and 45 injured in several road accidents across the country yesterday.

Our Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Correspondent says, one Mamun, 18, was killed when a truck hit an auto-rickshaw in front of the Kutubkhali High School under Demra police station.

Mamun succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH at 3 pm. Five others injured in the accident were released after first aid.

At least six persons were killed in another accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Fifteen others were critically injured in the accident that occurred when a minibus and a microbus collided at 11:45 am yesterday near Bausta under Gazaria thana in Munshiganj

district.

Three person died on the spot, while three others succumbed to their injuries at DMCH, according to our correspondents.

The dead were identified as Anwara, 35, her son Golam Mostafa, 14, and minibus driver Obaidullah, 35. Identities of those who died at the DMCH could not be known.

Our correspondent in Jhenidah adds: At least five persons were killed and 25 injured when a Kushtia-bound bus skidded off the road to save a cyclist at Charmuraidah, three kilometres off Jhenidah.

The dead were identified as Majid, 28, Yunus, 25, Shaif, 25, Mashkur, 23, and an unidentified person. Of the injured

See Page 12 Col 8



Looking Back at March towards Independence

The night of March 25, 1971 was fateful, black, blood-stained... The Pakistani occupation army cracked down on the EPR headquarters at Plikhara and the Police headquarters at Razarbagh, indiscriminately shelling and firing, and killing BDR jawans and police personnel. The city turned into an infernal slaughterhouse with people — men, women and children — being brutally killed by the occupation army throughout the night...

More on page 4

Manzur's murder: No fresh arrest

By Staff Correspondent

The investigation into the case regarding Maj Gen Abul Manzur's alleged murder in 1981 was progressing but no fresh arrest was made yesterday in this connection, CID sources said.

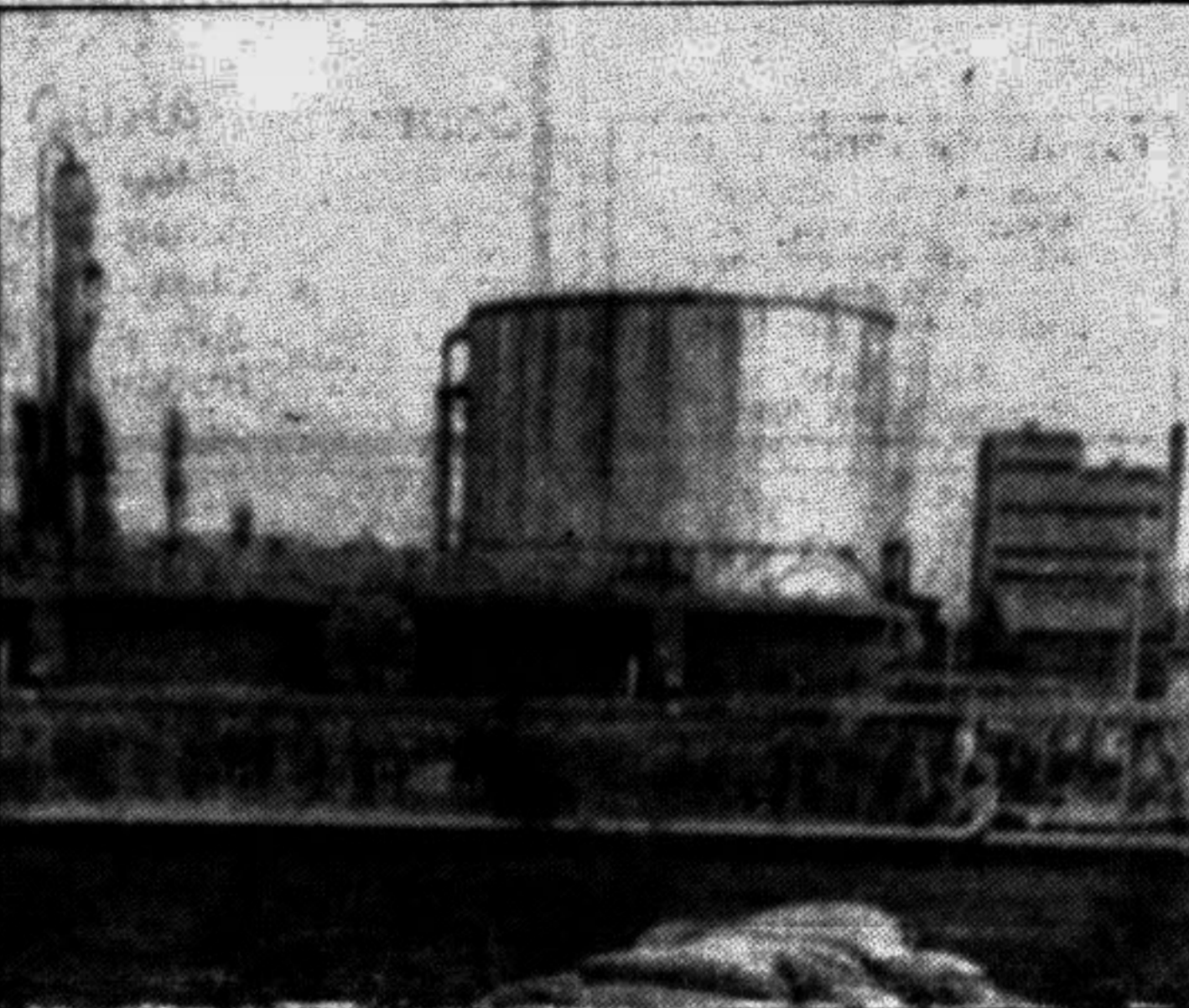
None was summoned to the Malibagh office of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) on the day for interrogation, the sources further said.

Until yesterday, Maj Gen (ret'd) Abdul Latif and Lt Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman were detained in the Dhaka Central Jail, jail sources said. The other accused, Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Haq, was shifted to Comilla jail from Dhaka on Wednesday night.

The Chief Metropolitan

See Page 12 Col 2

JFF engineers now struggling to avert ammonia explosion



The Jamuna Fertiliser factory in Tarakandi, Jamalpur. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin

By Morshed Ali Khan back from Jamalpur

With demands for fertiliser by farmers across the country mounting, the engineers at the Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) are rather struggling to avert an 'ammonia explosion' than to increase production.

Officials of the factory are now working round the clock to repair the faulty ammonia plant to prevent a serious accident.

"We have detected a serious fault at the ammonia level of the plant," said a high official of the factory who spoke to The Daily Star on condition that he would not be named.

The plant should be shut immediately to avoid danger, he suggested.

"If the explosion really takes place, God forbid, life around the factory could be seriously affected," the official

See Page 12 Col 3

Farmers block highway for fertiliser

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 24: Thousands of farmers, asking for immediate supply of fertiliser, put barricades at a number of places on Bogra-Nagarbari Highway in the district today, and looted some 250 bags of urea in Ullapara, police and witnesses said, reports UNB.

Following the blockade, road communication between the northern region and the capital city was disrupted seriously as nearly 200 vehicles were stranded at different points of the highway for four hours.

About 10,000 farmers, including women and children,

See Page 12 Col 5

Dhaka experiences world's highest temperature

The world's highest temperature was recorded in Bangladesh yesterday with the mercury shooting up to 38.8 degree Celsius at the northern town of Iswardi, reports UNB.

The second highest temperature was recorded at 35 degree at the Holy Makkah and Bangkok, according to a temperature chart of 83 cities of the world released by the American news agency Associated Press (AP).

Iswardi was followed by the capital Dhaka, where the temperature was registered at 38.7 degree Celsius.

See Page 12 Col 5

LDF calls half-day hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The Left Democratic Front (LDF) has called a dawn-to-noon hartal throughout the country today in protest against the price spiral of essentials including rice, fertiliser and papers.

The 6 am to noon hartal has also been called demanding resignation of the government and general elections under a neutral caretaker government as outlined by the front.

A press release of the LDF said ambulances, vehicles carrying newspapers, journalists and doctors, medicine and food shops and fire service vehicles will not come under the purview of hartal.

See Page 12 Col 8

Computer error downs DSE index

A downward trend in share prices and a fault in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) computer system resulted in a major fall of the index in the past one week.

The DSE, however, remains 'stable' as there is enough market strength to sustain the fall of the index points, according to market operators.

An authoritative source in the DSE said "The present index numbers shown by com-

puter has a maximum of 5 per cent flaws.

To remove the flaws, the DSE is now installing a new computer programme which will be completed very soon".

The DSE source further told The Daily Star, the computer programme which caused the error could not be replaced or corrected immediately because the person who had developed the software is not alive. The DSE had sought

the expertise of a different programmer now.

The index fell by 3.86 per cent in the past week. The DSE closed at 792.81 points Thursday last while the index stood at 824.65 in the previous week.

The index made a nose-dive by 23.93 points (2.90 per cent) Sunday and stood at 799.80 points from 823.79 of the previous day — the beginning of the week. It dropped to as low as 789.41 points Wednesday.

Although share prices had a declining trend in the week, the volume of trade was showing an upward trend. A total of 644,896 shares and debentures worth Tk 144,204 million was traded as against 435,247 shares and debentures worth Tk 80,146 million of the previous week. The previous week had only four working days due to a 48-hour

See Page 12 Col 6

শ্রী ভিক্টোরিয়া
(কুমিল্লা ভিক্টোরিয়া কলেজের প্রাক্তন শিক্ষার্থী সমিতি)

মহান স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামে কুমিল্লা ভিক্টোরিয়া কলেজের শহীদদের স্মরণে নির্মিত 'স্বাধীনতা সৌধ'-এর শুভ উদ্বোধন আগামী ২৬ মার্চ, '৯৫, স্বাধীনতা ও জাতীয় দিবসে, সকাল ১০টায় কুমিল্লা ভিক্টোরিয়া কলেজ গ্রাউন্ডে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

পঞ্চপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের প্রধানমন্ত্রীর মুখ্য সচিব বিশিষ্ট মুক্তিযোদ্ধা জনাব আ. ন. ম. ইউসুফ উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি এবং শহীদ মাতা শ্রীমতি সুমিত্রা জ্ঞান বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থাকতে সদয় সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করেছেন।

অনুষ্ঠানে সভাপতিত্ব করবেন শ্রী ভিক্টোরিয়া-এর সভাপতি ও পঞ্চপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মনসো ও পত পালন মন্ত্রণালয়ের সচিব জনাব এ. এইচ. মোকাম্মল করিম।

শ্রী ভিক্টোরিয়ানদের পক্ষ থেকে উক্ত উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে সকল সদস্য-সদন্যা ও ততানুধ্যায়ীকে যথাসময়ে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য সদয় আশ্বস্তি জানানো হল।

এতদপক্ষে ২৬ মার্চ সকাল ৭টায় জাতীয় প্রেস ক্লাবের সম্মুখ হতে একটি বাস কুমিল্লা যাবে।

M. Shaheedullah
General Secretary
Phone 311473

Attack on Anwar Hossain Manju, Salauddin Kader

Jatiya Party leader Anwar Hossain Manju and National Democratic Party leader Salauddin Kader Chowdhury were attacked by miscreants in the city early yesterday, but escaped unhurt, reports UNB.

Police said Manju, Editor of the Daily Ittefaq, and Chowdhury were returning home in a jeep when the miscreants

See Page 12 Col 5

The Independent

A daily committed to the ideals of presenting news objectively and expressing views fearlessly

Subscribe it, because—

- ✓ It is the daily you are looking for.
- ✓ It is different from others.
- ✓ It gives independent views on Politics, Finance, Economy, Education, Science, Environment, Culture, Sports etc.
- ✓ It gives a vivid picture of national events.
- ✓ It provides a broad idea of international happenings.
- ✓ It is the product of a House that knows your taste well.

The Independent
Coming out tomorrow

A Publication of BEXDICO Media Ltd.