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Supplement

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Dhaka Day by Day



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HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of Independence Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

NEWS BRIEFS

Diesel, kerosene looted

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: Some 50 barrels of diesel and kerosene worth about Tk 1.9 lakh were looted from a boat in river Jamuna on Sunday. Police said pirates swooped on the fuel-laden boat of Anisur Rahman of Islampur in Jamalpur district near Fuljhore village in Kazipur thana and took control of the boat after forcing him and the boatmen to get down. Anisur Rahman purchased the oil from Baghabari and was going to Islampur by boat, reports UNB.

Silver Jubilee of Independence

By Staff Correspondent

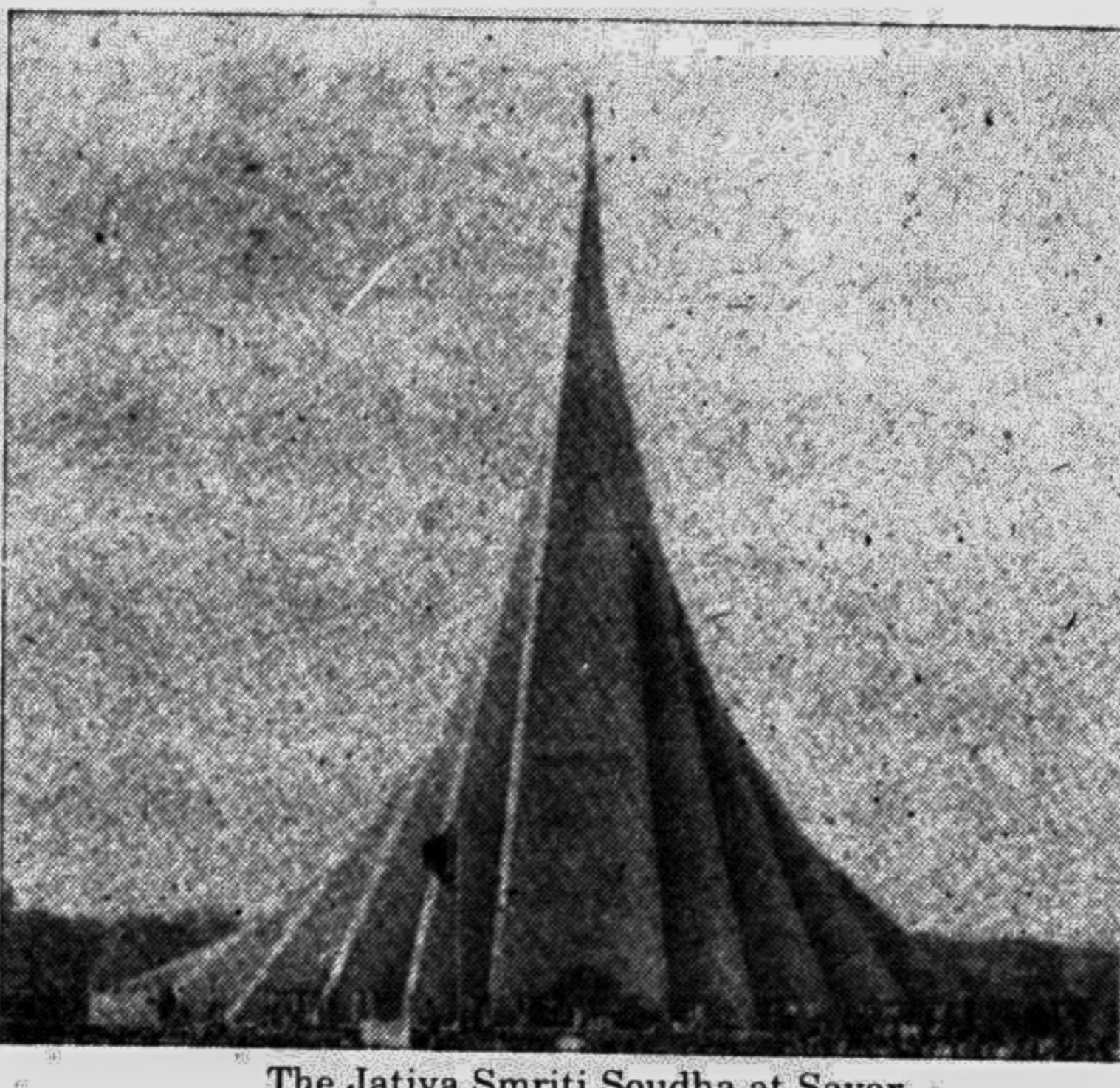
The nation celebrates twenty-five glorious years of its independence today with a renewed pledge to protect and uphold the independence and sovereignty of the country. The independence of Bangladesh was proclaimed on this day in 1971. For the next nine months, valiant members of the armed forces, BDR, police and all freedom-loving people of this soil - men, women and children - unitedly and gallantly waged a war against the Pakistani occupation forces to liberate the beloved motherland. Victory was finally theirs on December 16, 1971 at the cost of three million lives. In a message on the eve of the 26th Independence and National Day, President Abdur Rahman Biswas urged all to renew pledges for upholding national independence and sovereignty and to accelerate socio-economic progress by promoting a democratic soci-

ety and free market economy. The President also called for united efforts to consolidate democracy. In a separate message yesterday, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia called upon all to foster greater unity for building a strong nation and a prosperous society for now and posterity.

Editorial on page 4
 The Prime Minister paid tributes to the valiant freedom fighters who had made supreme sacrifice for achieving independence of the country.

In another message, Awami League President Sheikh Hasina called upon all to take fresh vow to establish the spirit and values of the Liberation War, by building national unity like that during the days of 1971.

Hasina paid tribute to the memory of the millions of martyrs of the War.
 See Page 8 Col 1



The Jatiya Smriti Soudha at Savar.

Officers-employees joint rally inside Sectt Deadline to President for caretaker govt by Mar 27

By Staff Correspondent

A large number of agitating employees and officers at a joint rally in the Secretariat compound gave an ultimatum to the President to form a neutral caretaker government by March 27. If the demand is not met by then, a sit-in will be staged in front of the VIP gate of the Secretariat on March 28 to prevent entry of all ministers. It was announced at the rally, addressed by leaders of different associations of employees and officers. It was also resolved at the rally that the Secretariat employees and officers would join the 'Janatar Mancha' in

front of the Jatiya Press Club on Saturday. A good number of high ranking officials including three secretaries, 27 officers of joint and deputy secretary ranks from various ministries joined the rally from 11 am to 1-30 pm in front of Bhavan No. 6.

We don't want to place our demands before this government. We urge the President to announce formation of a caretaker government by March 27, said Syed Mohiuddin Ahmed, President of the Sangjukta Sarkari Karmachari Sangram Parishad, while announcing the pro-

gramme at the rally. The next programme will be announced on March 30 and a procession will be brought out on that day, he said.

Some 20 officials, employees and leaders of this associations addressed the rally. Science and Technology Secretary Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir while addressing the rally on behalf of the officials expressed solidarity with the employees' movement.

Besides, Communication Secretary Wallul Islam, Health Secretary Syed Ahmed also attended the rally for sometime.
 See Page 8 Col 4

Sit-in outside Sectt passes third day

Thousands of people, demanding immediate resignation of the government, again started the sit-in demonstration on Topkhana road outside the Secretariat for the third day yesterday after a break of several hours, reports UNB. The sit-in, led by Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif, began at 6:30 pm on Saturday to press the government for cancelling the 'illegal' elections and fresh voting under a non-party caretaker government. The sit-in, designed to continue until the fall of the BNP government, resumed yesterday afternoon as the police barricades on the roads leading towards the Secretariat were removed. Huge contingents of Army, BDR and police, deployed around the secretariat sealed off all the entry points towards the Secretariat. Entry in areas around the Secretariat complex was restricted with police checking

the identity cards of all. Only government employees and journalists were allowed to pass through the roads. Despite the tight security, some 500 opposition activists sneaked into the sit-in venue in front of the Jatiya Press Club and held a rally there from 11 am to 2 pm. Awami League leader, including Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak and Mohammad Nasim, addressed the rally demanding cancellation of the February 15 elections and fresh polls under a caretaker government.

Gradually thousands of people gathered in front of the Press Club to resume the sit-in at 3 pm. Mayor Hanif, along with some City Awami League leaders, arrived at the rebuilt stage, Janatar Mancha, at about 4 pm. The stage was damaged during Sunday's police action. Presiding over another rally in the afternoon, the Mayor
 See Page 8 Col 6

Two killed during hartal in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and 25 people were injured in bomb blasts and other incidents in the city during the dawn-to-dusk hartal on the 17th day of non-cooperation yesterday.

An unidentified woman died and five other passengers on board a minibus received burn injuries when a petrol bomb was hurled at the vehicle near Bijoy Swarani at around 7:30 am.

A female rickshaw passenger also died when a minibus knocked her down at Uttara after being chased by pickets. Another person, who earlier received bullet injuries on March 21, also expired yesterday at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).
 See Page 8 Col 7

Awards distributed PM's call to sink differences, work together

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged all to sink differences and work together to face the formidable challenges of the emerging new millennium, reports UNB. A great challenge of the 21st century is confronting us. We have to face the challenges for our survival. Let's together work to face the challenges, she said at the Independence Day Award distribution ceremony at the International
 See Page 8 Col 7

Independence Day Award '96

The government has announced Independence Day Award '96 for seven prominent personalities and one organisation in recognition of their contributions in different areas of national life, an official announcement said last night, reports BSS.

The recipients of the awards are Prof AHM Zahirul Haq for Science and Technology, Dr Kazi Abul Mansur (posthumously) for Medical Science, Moulvi Abul Hashim (posthumously) for Literature, Safiuddin Ahmed for Fine Arts, Mohammad Abdul Jabbar and Sabina Yasmeen for Music, Kazi Mohammad Salauddin for Sports and Athletics and Anjuman-e-Mafidul Islam for Social Service.

Non-cooperation relaxed for two days

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties have announced relaxation of their on-going non-cooperation programme across the country from midnight last night to 6am tomorrow (Thursday) on the occasion of the Independence Day.

Separate statements from the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami last night said that transports would be
 See Page 8 Col 2

Caretaker govt bill Discussion continued till late last night

By Staff Correspondent

Discussions on the non-party caretaker government bill continued in the Jatiya Sangsad till the filing of this report at 2:30 last night. The bill was likely to be passed later in the night, JS sources said.

The Jatiya Sangsad began consideration of the Constitution (thirteenth amendment) Bill, 1996, as amended by the Select Committee shortly before midnight last night.

Earlier, the report on the bill seeking to provide for a non-party caretaker government was presented before the House when it resumed its sitting at 11:50 pm after about four hours of break.

After 25 minutes of sitting in the evening, the House was adjourned for an hour to facilitate finalisation of the Select Committee report and other related technicalities.

The bill was referred to the 10-member Select Committee for its scrutiny Sunday night. The Select Committee report was learnt to include that the President would appoint the Chief Adviser, heading the caretaker government, after discussions with the major political parties.

If, for any reason, the President fails to appoint the Chief Adviser and advisers, he would himself head the caretaker government, the Committee was learnt to have proposed.

According to sources, the committee met for six hours in the day and again for more than three hours at night to discuss some amendments to the proposed bill.

The committee was trying to avoid a referendum on the bill after it was approved by Parliament while it also discussed some changes in the proposed bill, the sources said.

Opposition announcement Ctg port to operate for 3 days from Mar 27

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 25: Opposition leaders here today unilaterally announced resumption of partial operation at Chittagong Port for three days from March 27.

The announcement was made this evening by Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and Awami League leader Mohiuddin Chowdhury at a press briefing at the local press club. Other opposition leaders belonging to the All Party Action Committee were also present.

Mohiuddin said the relaxation is being made only for

cargo handling inside the port with 'overside delivery' in the cargo vessels now stuck up at the port jetties and outer anchorage. But no delivery of cargo to and from the port sheds will be allowed initially, he added.

He said that such a unilateral announcement was made after holding a meeting today with the representatives of port users to uphold the move taken at a joint meeting held yesterday with port officials.

As a minister prevented signing an agreement based on
 See Page 8 Col 4



Independence Day Award for SM Ali received

By Staff Correspondent

Syed Mohammad Ali, the founder-editor of The Daily Star, was posthumously awarded the highest state honour - the Independence Day Award for Journalism for 1995. The award, announced last year, was formally handed over
 See Page 8 Col 1

Huge arms haul at Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 25:

Bangladesh security forces and police in a joint raid recovered 850 pieces of automatic weapons and several thousand rounds of ammunition from three trucks at Chawfaldandi here last night, according to official sources, reports BSS.

Acting on a secret information, the security personnel conducted the raid. Several persons, believed to be members of an organised group of terrorists, left behind the trucks hurriedly, sensing the presence of the members of security forces and police.

The sources said that the
 See Page 8 Col 2

We, the Directors, members of the Managements and staff of M/s. Green Delta Insurance Co. Ltd., M/s. Delta Life Insurance Co. Ltd. and M/s. Delta Medical Centre, deeply mourn the death of our beloved Sponsor-Director Mr. Faruk Ahmed Chaudhury who died in a London Clinic on 24.03.96 at 12 night (Bangladesh Standard Time) due to complications from post-cardiac operation.

We also pray to the Almighty Allah to bestow His unending mercy and blessings on the departed soul and give necessary strength and fortitude to the members of the bereaved family to bear with this irreparable loss to them.

The Directors, members of the Managements and staff of:

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স্বাধীনতার ২৫ বছর পূর্তিতে
মকাম গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীকে
এইচবিএফসি'র আভরিক শুভেচ্ছা

এইচবিএফসি প্রদত্ত সুবিধাদি

- বর্তমানে এইচবিএফসি ৬ প্রকার ঋণ সুবিধা প্রদান করছে
- ১লা জানুয়ারী '৯৬ থেকে সুদের হার ১% কমিয়ে টাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম মহানগরীতে ১১% ও অন্যান্য অঞ্চলে ৯% করা হয়েছে
- নিয়মিত কিস্তি পরিশোধকারীদের বছরান্তে প্রাপ্য ইনসেন্টিভ ১০% থেকে ১৫%-এ উন্নীত করা হয়েছে
- কিস্তি পরিশোধ শুরু হওয়ার বর্তমান মেয়াদ (মেরেটোরিয়াম পিরিয়ড) ২ মাসের স্থলে ১২ মাসে উন্নীত করা হয়েছে
- প্রচলিত পদ্ধতির পাশাপাশি গ্রাজুয়েশন পদ্ধতিতে (প্রথম পর্যায়ে কম হারে) কিস্তি পরিশোধের সুযোগ চালু করা হয়েছে

সময়মত কিস্তি পরিশোধ করে নিজে লাভবান হোন, আইনগত সমস্যা এড়িয়ে চলুন এবং অপরকে ঋণ পাবার সুযোগ দিন

বাংলাদেশ হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইন্যান্স কর্পোরেশন

H B F C

Pubali Bank Ltd

WE MOURN

We the Members of the Board of Directors and the Employees of Pubali Bank Ltd, mourn with profound grief the sad demise of **Mr. Faruque Ahmed Chowdhury** a member of the Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Ltd, at a London Hospital at 1.00 A.M. B.S.T. on 25th March '96. On arrival of his body at Dhaka Airport it will be carried to his village home at Sylhet. We fondly remember the invaluable services rendered by him towards the growth of Pubali Bank Ltd. We express our heartfelt condolence to his bereaved family.

Pubali Bank Ltd