Partial view of the rally inside the Secretariat yesterday.

From Page 1

One Secretary, requesting

anonymity, while talking to

The Daily Star said "the gov-

ernment has absolutely failed

to assess and address the situ-

ation for which the economy of

the country will have to pay

tion Secretary Syed Amir-ul-

Mulk said he was also

requested to join the rally. He

was willing to joint but could

not due to some important

pressed solidarity with them'

the Information Secretary told

Mohiuddin said if Cabinet

Secretary Aiyubur Rahman

failed to meet their demands.

official and will from a care-

taker government." Represen-

tatives of agitating employees

had a meeting with Aiyubur

Rahman on Saturday last over

their demands but it ended

Mohiuddin also urged the offi-

cials concerned to complete

the formalities for payment of

salaries for the month of

March on an emergency basis.

Dr Mushtaq Hussain,

leader of the Bangladesh

Medical Association also at-

tended the rally to express

BMA's solidarity with the agi-

tating employees and officers.

Addressing the rally, Syed

"we will replace him by a new

"Some of my colleagues ex

Addressing the rally, Syed

business, he said.

this correspondent.

inconclusively

When contacted Informa-

price for the next 10 years."

informed sources claimed.

2 young men shot dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Two young men were shot dead by a rival group of youths in a house at Rayer Bazar in the city yesierday.

The victims, Liton, 19, and Siraj, 18, died on the spot at around 3:30pm, police said, Dhanmondi police recovered the bodies and sent those to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

The armed youth entered the house at chitana in in Rayer Baza, area and tired on Liton and Siraj from close range, sources in the area claimed.

The killing was sequel to a previous rivalry between two local groups known as "Emon group arai 'Rafiq group', police and locals said. They were fighting for long for supremacy in the area, locals and police

It was alleged that the 'Emon group' members were

the supporters of the BNP while the 'Rafiq group' supported the Awami League.

Meanwhile, several gunshots were fired and cocktails The hartal was called by the blasted following the killing creating panic in the area, lo-

Locals claimed that the members of the 'Rafiq group' came to the spot in a microbus at around 3pm. They blasted some crackers and attacked the house where few members of 'Emon group' including Liton and Siraj were present

They fired shots indiscriminately inside the house killing Liton and Siraj on the spot. It was not known whether any family residing in the house.

A case has been filed with Dhanmondi thana in this regard but none was arrested in connection with the killing till last night, police said.

The Committee will place

The Bangla Academy will

The Sammilita Nari Samai

Special prayers will be held

wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti

hold a musical soiree at 4:30

will hold a discussion meeting

and a cultural function at the

Art College from 10 am to

in mosques, temples,

churches, pagodas and other

places of worship to seek di-

vine blessings for peace.

progress and prosperity of the

served at hospitals, prisons,

children's homes, orphanages

for members of the public at

BIWTA terminals at Chit-

tagong, Khulna, Dhaka, Barisal

and Narayanganj from 2 pm to

BNP, AL clash in

Sirajganj: 35 hurt,

houses ransacked

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 25: At

During a clash between the

From Our Correspondent

least 35 people were injured

and seven houses were ran-

sacked and set ablaze in three

separate incidents in the dis-

Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP) and Bangladesh Chhatra

League (BCL) activists at Alam-

pur Bazar in Kazipur thana, 15

ers Rafigul Islam, 20, and

Harunur Rashid, 22, were

admitted to Bogra Mohammad

Ali Hospital and later sent to

sacked the houses of Golam

Mostafa, Mokhlesur Rahman

and Motuz Ali Talukder at

ple were injured in a clash be-

tween the Awami League (AL)

were admitted to Chouhali

Thana Health Complex while

seven others were sent to Na-

garpur Thana Health Complex.

Nurul Islam was beaten up by a

group of processionists in

Belkuchi Thana. The group

also ransacked four houses in

Huge arms

From Page 1

recovered weapons included

SMG, LMG, rocket launchers,

automatic rifle, pistol and sev-

eral thousand ammunition.

These weapons were believed

to have been brought from

abroad by trawlers through sea

route and were meant for dis-

tribution among terrorist

groups inside the country, the

further details saying investiga-

tion was on to determine the

sources and persons involved

in smuggling the weapons into

The sources did not give

sources added.

Bangladesh.

In Chouhali thana, 18 peo-

Of the injured, five persons

In another incident, one

Alampur during the clash.

and BNP workers.

Mokundakati Bazar.

BNP processionists ran-

Seriously injured BCL work-

people were injured.

trict today.

and vagrant centres.

Improved diets will be

Navy ships will be opened

Soudha this morning.

Independence Day

nation.

To celebrate the silver jubilee of independence in a befitting manner throughout the country, the government and various organisations have planned elaborate programmes.

The day, a public holiday, will be heralded by a 31-run

The President will take salute and inspect a national day parade at the National Square at the old airport. Members of the army, navy

and air force, BDR BNCC, police, ansar and VDP will participate in the parade and their bands will play at selected points in the city. Later in the afternoon, the

President will host a reception at the Bangabhaban.

The National Flag will be hoisted atop all public and private buildings and main streets and road islands will be decorated with small flags. Besides all important buildings will be illuminated in the evening. Various political and socio-

cultural organisations wil place wreaths at the Jativa Smriti Soudha (national memorial) at Savar.

Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television will air special programmes and newspapers will bring out special supplements on the occasion.

Rallies, sports competitions and cultural functions will be arranged for students of schools and colleges.

Cultural programmes, discussions and art exhibitions on the Liberation War will be held throughout the city

The Muktijuddha O Swadhinatar Rajat Joyanti Udjapon Gano Committee, has organised a three-day programme. that began last night at the Central Shaheed Minar in the

SM Ali

From Page 1

yesterday by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to his sister, Fauzia Ali.

Born in Sylhet on December 5, 1928, late SM Ali had a distinguished journalistic career spanning 44 years which earned him fame at home and abroad.

Possessed of a strong sense of patriotism he actively participated in the Language Movement of 1952.

He was also very active during the Liberation War mobilising public opinion abroad in favour of the struggle.

SM Ali was the Managing Editor of the Bangkok Post in Thailand and Hong Kong Standard in Hong Krng. He served as the Executive

Director of the Fress Foundation of Asia in Manila, and was also with the UNESCO as the regional communications adviser, in Kuala Lumpur.

He wrote several books and also one novel which was published posthumously.

He founded The Daily Star in January 1991 and was its editor till he breathed his last at a Bangkok hospital on October 17, 1993.

Injured truck driver dies at CMCH

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 25: A half-day hartal was observed in the port city today.

Hartal observed

Opposition to protest the alleged repression on political leaders and activists. Meanwhile, one person, injured earlier in a bomb blast,

died at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital today Dil Mohammad, 35, a truck driver, and his helper. Helal, received bomb injuries when pickets hurled a bomb on their

truck carrying fertiliser at Strand Road on Saturday last. Helal's right hand was blown off in the blast and he died in the hospital on the

same day. The driver succumbed to his bomb injury early today after fighting for life for two

days, hospital sources said. Meanwhile, the half-day hartal called by the Opposition here passed off peacefully today, although normal life was paralysed.

Police raided different places in the city and picked up at least 15 people.

BASA denies link with Officials' Council

M Nuruzzaman Mia, Secretary General of the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, said in the city that the association has no involvement with the formation of the "Officials' Coordination Council of the Republic" led by Science and Technology Secretary Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

The recent activities of some government officials under the banner of "Officials' Coordination Council of the Republic" were the activities of the individuals not the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, he told

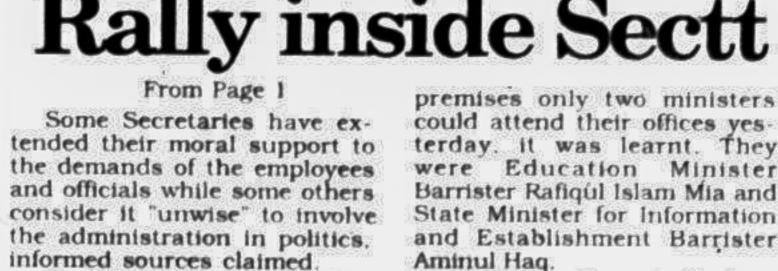
The Secretary General said the association has not authorised any of its member to carry out such activities.

He said that some government officials led by Dr. Mohi uddin Khan Alamgir, who is the Vice President of the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association, were carrying out their activities at their own responsibilities.

Describing the Bangladesh Administrative Service Association as an association for the welfare of its members the secretary general said that its executive committee takes decisions on matters related to the interests of its members to place them before the government as usual.

DU senate session postponed

Adjourned session of Dhaka University senate scheduled for March 28 have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. Special (requisition) session of the senate. scheduled for March 30, have also been postponed, said a DU press release yesterday. reports UNB.



- Star photo

A huge contingent of police. BDR and army was seen on guard around the Secretariat yesterday.

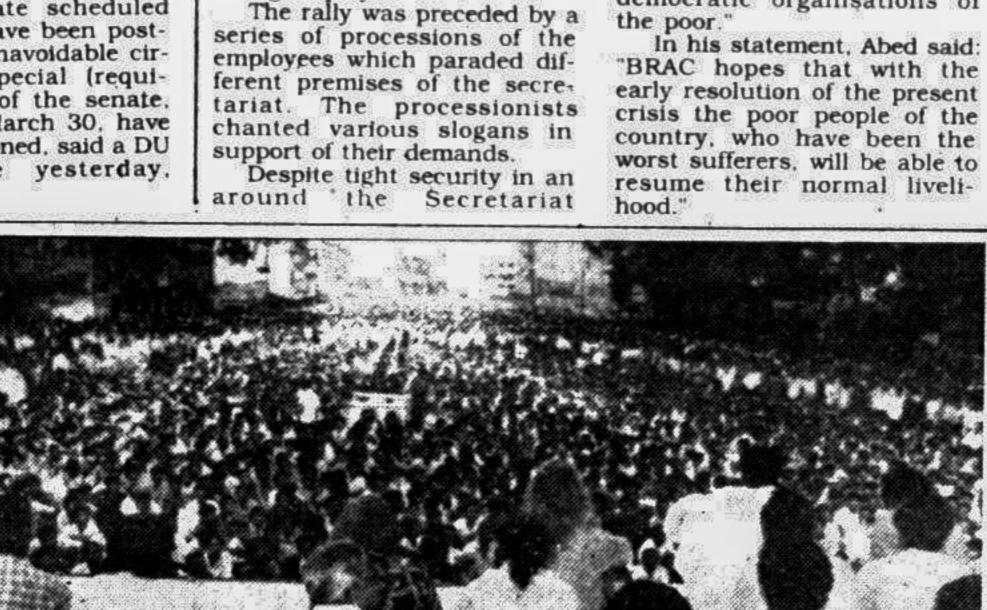
BRAC chief expresses solidarity

BRAC, the largest non-government development organi sation in the country, has expressed solidarity with the current "democratic movement" in Bangladesh, reports

In a statement yesterday Fazle Hossain Abed, the founder of BRAC, said his organdsation believed that the Pebruary 15 election was "heavily rigged and that the government arising out of that is devoid of moral authority to govern' Abed differed with a state-

ment of LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, made in the parliament on Sunday, where he tried to convey an impression that BRAC was not supporting the current movement for democracy in the country

"We wish to make it very clear that BRAC, which is a non-political development organisation, has always been in the vanguard of democratic movements in the country and has been promoting grassroot democratic organisations of



The sit-in on the Topkhana Road outside the Jatiya Press Club and Secretariat continued for the third day yesterday. - Star photo



বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Ctg port to operate

the decisions taken at the joint meeting organised by Chittagong Port Authority we have now taken fresh initiatives to run the port on the basis of those decisions defying anything of the 'illegal' government," Mohiuddin said.

"The Chittagong Port will now resume operations as per decisions of the All Party Action Committee" the mayor asserted.

He claimed that the decision of the opposition leaders here was also approved by Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier, the port authority. being authorised by the Ministry of Port and Shipping had organised the joint meeting of opposition leaders, port users and officials at a local hotel yesterday.

But the decisions taken at the meeting could not be turned into an agreement as the State Minister for Port and Shipping reportedly instructed the Chairman of Chittagong Port Authority not to sign any such agreement.

Meanwhile, partial cargo handling and delivery of foodgrains, which continued for the past two days, stopped today after the withdrawal of gang-labourers and staff of food

department, port sources said The withdrawal was made today fearing bomb attacks by pickets, the sources added.

At least 53 cargo vessels fell stranded at Chittagong Port jetties and outer anchorage due to suspension of port activities because of the Opposition's non-cooperation programme.

Meanwhile, cargo handling at Mongla Port remained as usual today, according to an official handout.

Businessman shot dead in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 25: A businessman was shot dead at Munshikhola Taltala Cement Ghat under Fatullah Thana at around noon today.

Ziauddin, 30, died on the spot when an armed gang fired gunshot at him. The killing was sequel to a rivalry over the occupation of the cement ghat and the Masud Trading House. Zia sustained bullet wounds

in his head. His body was handed over to his relatives after autopsy at the Narayangani General hospital.

98 Bangladeshis detained at Malaysian

airport KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 25 The Immigration Department said today that 98 Bangladeshis who arrived from Dhaka were detained at the airport on suspicion of having fake visas reports AP.

A statement from the department said the approval reference humbers and the issuing officer's signature on the visas were dubious. The passports also con-

tained two rubber stamps showing purported approvals from the Foreign Workers Task Force. But the company said to be employing them has denied seeking the task force's approval, the statement said.

The group was being detained at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah airport pending deportation, the statement said.

The department said it believed that a syndicate was in volved in bringing the Bangladeshis here for illegal employment. They arrived on Saturday, it said.

Jute Secretary's solidarity with movement

Jute Secretary Saifur Rahman in a statement vesterday expressed his solidarity with the on-going "peoples' move-

The following is the Eng lish rendering of the statement made in Bangla "As an employee of the

Republic, our duty is to obey orders of the government. But the government, formed through the farcical elections of February 15, has no legitimacy. Government officers and employees did not perform any duty in this election. People did not cast their votes in this election. This was completely a rigged and farcical polls. Through this farcical election, an immoral act of bringing into parliament a self-proclaimed killer of Bangabandhu was accomplished. As an employee of the Republic, I do not consider it my duty to abide by the orders of this illegally-constituted government.

"There is no legal government in the country now. The law and order situation had deterforated severely. The economy stands shattered. The country is now facing a disaster. The only way out of this impasse is the immediate resignation of Begum Khaleda Zia and formation of a representative government by holding election under a neutral caretaker government."

"As an employee of the Republic, I am expressing my solidarity with the agitating countrymen's on-going move-

2 killed in **Jhenidah** JHENIDAH, Mar 25: Two.

people were killed in separate incidents in Kotchandpur and Shailkupa thanas of the district today. Abdur Rashid, 41, of Talsha village in Kotchanpur thana was chopped to death by a group of armed miscreants in a field near his house. Zulfikar Ali 22 of Gokulnager in Shatlkupa thana succumbed to his injuries at the Jhenidah Sadar Hospital this evening. reports UNB.

From Page 1 told the huge crowd that the movement would continue until the fall of the illegal government. "The people has waged a

war against this government to restore democracy." Hanif said adding. 'This is a political war: A war against terrorism and autocracy, war to restore the democracy. He said there is no solution

to the crisis, other than the resignation of the BNP government. "We'll not leave this dais, nor the street, until this government quits.' The rally was also ad-

dressed by Gaziul Huq. Lt Gen (Rtd) KM Shafiullah, Abdur Razzak, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Dr Enamul Huq, Dr Anwar Hossain, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Maj (Rtd) Rafiqul Islam, poet Mahadev Shaha, Abdus Salam Khan, Habibur Rahman Milon, Principal Sufi Motahar Hossain, Abul Kalam Azad, Shafiqur Rahman, Dr Mostafa Chowdhury, Shamsunnahar Siddigui and Lutfunnahar Lata.

Big-3 sign South Pacific N-free treaty

SUVA, Fiji, Mar 25: The United States, Britain and France signed a treaty today declaring the South Pacific a nuclearfree zone, ending the region's use as an atomic playground for the superpowers. Fiji's prime minister said. The treaty covers 30 million square kilometers of ocean and tiny islands, some of which was used by the Western superpowers for nuclear explosions, reports AP.

2 killed during hartal

From Page 1

The hartal in the capital was observed at the call of Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif to protest Sunday's police action on citizen's sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The hartal coincided with the Opposition sponsored indefinite non-cooperation movement that passed its 17th consecutive day yesterday. Fullday hartal was also enforced at Tongi for the same cause as declared by Tongi Pourashava Chairman Azmatullah.

All the injured passengers of the minibus which came under petrol bomb attack at Bijoy Smarani were rushed to the DMCH. The unidentified woman, aged about 40, died at the hospital. The injured. Helal, Asma, Sufia, Rozina and Saifur - all employees of garments factory at Mahakhali - were also undergoing treat ment at the DMCH

Aklima, 17, a rickshaw passenger, died on the spot after being crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus near the House Building Finance Corporation office at Uttara at around 5:30 pm. Uttara

Directive to cut spendings in govt offices

The exchequer has asked for a 10 per cent ancillary spendings cut in all ministries. divisions and government agencies because of a revenue crunch amidst the staggering political unrest, reports UNB. Finance Secretary Dr Akbar

Ali Khan this week sent a directive to this effect to chief executives of different ministries and divisions in view of mounting strain on the 1995-96 revenue budget as a result of fattening food import bills against an uncertain revenue earning scenario. Official sources told UNB

the austerity measure came following a recent meeting on budgetary situation at the Ministry of Finance. The meeting with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in

the chair was learnt to have noted with concern the uncertainty in revenue receipt during the current budget due to the crippling political impasse that hit hard the economy. Saifur stressed expenditure control to strike a balance in the current budget.

police confirmed the death of Aklima, a garments factory worker.

You'suf Howlader, a resident of Dhanmondi, who sustained bullet injuries in an incident last week died at the DMCH at

around 9:30 am yesterday. Three persons namely Romena, Bilal and Abul Kalam were injured in a bomb blast at Kamrangirchar under Lalbagh thana at around 12:30 pm They were admitted to the DMCH later. -

In another incident of bomb blast, one person was hurt during the morning hours at east Jurain while a young man, Nazrul Islam, was also injured in a bomb blast at Shahbagh at early hours yesterday, witnesses said. Akhter Hussain, a Jubo

League leader, was hit by a bullet near Gulistan while taking part in a procession in the afternoon. Three others were also injured in the incident. Shafigul Islam, a student of Islamic History of the Dhaka

University, was hit on the head by a bullet near Surya Sen Hall at around 4:30 pm.

Bomb explosions at some other parts of the metropolis including Saidnagar, Malibagh, Mahakhali, Jatrabari left few more people injured. During the hartal hours

rickshaws were seen plying as usual while some autorickshaws, tempos and minibuses besides state-run BRTC buses were seen plying on the city streets from morning hours. Shops in the main commercial areas remained closed

Private-owned business institutions and schools and colleges remained closed for the 17th consecutive day yesterday.

AL leader killed in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, Mar 25: A freedom fighter and Sadar thana Awami League leader was killed by unknown assailants in the town last night, reports

Witnesses said Mostafizer Rahman Bablu, 38, commander of Gokunda unit during the 1971 Liberation War, came under attack at about 7:40 pm when he was listening to the BBC Bangla news at a betel-leaf shop at Teesta Bazar of the

The miscreants hacked him with Chinese axe and ramidao,

PM: Sink differences

From Page 1

Conference Centre (ICC). The Prime Minister called upon all irrespective of party and opinion to ensure democratic atmosphere and unhindered path for the nation's forward march. She recalled that innumer-

able people of the country had participated in the War of Liberation for establishing the nation in a dignified position, establishing a democratic society, economic emancipation and building a prosperous society by eliminating all sorts of exploitation and deprivation.

Seven eminent citizens were given the Independence Day Award, the highest order of state honour, for 1995 in recognition for their outstanding contribution in national development and progress.

Three of them have been awarded posthumously. The award carries a gold medal. Tk 25,000 in cash and a citation.

The recipients are Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sarfuddin -Science and Technology, Kazi Ambar Ali (posthumous) and Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad (posthumous) - Literature. Begum Ferdousi Rahman — Music, Syeda Iqbal Mandh Banu -Social Welfare, Mohammad Zakaria Pintu - Sports and late S M Ali (posthumous) Journalism.

Mrs. Roushan Ali, the widow of Kazi Ambar Ali, Jubaida Rahman, daughter of

Syeda Iqbal Mandh Banu/ Fauzia Ali, sister of SM Ali, received the award from the Prime Minister. Among the recipients, only

Zakaria Pintu was present at the function. None was to receive the award of Dr Abdullah Al-Muti Sarfuddin, Abdul Karim Sahitya

Bisharad and Begum Ferdousi

Rahman. Recalling the contribution of the recipients of the award. Begum Zia said they had earned a lot of praise and honour for the country. She said the nation would remember the valiant sons for ever and hoped that the recipients would further achieve successes and pride in both the national and international

The function was attended by ministers, MPs, Chiefs of three Services. Dean of Diplomatic Corps, high civil and military officials and dis-

Relaxed

From Page 1 allowed to operate during this

tinguished citizens.

The non-cooperation programme would resume at 6 am on March 28, the statements

Opposition sources said that shops, markets, banks and export-oriented industries would function as per previous announcements on exemp-

THE UNIVERSITY OF ASIA PACIFIC

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Dean of Admissions