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World leaders pay tribute to Bangabandhu

World leaders sent messages to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paying their rich tributes to the memory of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the eve of the National Mourning Day, reports BSS.

Chinese Premier Li Peng in his message paid deep tribute to Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Handing over the message to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, Zhang Xujiang said President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng had conveyed their sympathy and condolences to Sheikh Hasina personally. The people of China had shared the grief with the Prime Minister and the people of Bangladesh, the ambassador said quoting

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Announcement

The Star Weekend Magazine comes out today with a fascinating Cover Story on the new generation of stage players. Besides regular features, read a special report on Crimes of Passion.

Editor

Inside Today

Article

Appeal to Khaleda Zia

Help Repeal Indemnity Bill

by Mahfuz Anam

Page 4

Supplement

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on the National Mourning Day

Pages 13-16

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Thursday) on account of the National Morning Day.

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

Nation mourns assassination of Bangabandhu

By Staff Correspondent

The nation pays rich tributes to the founder of independent Bangladesh today marking the 21st anniversary of death of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The day is being observed as National Mourning Day, for the first time with full state honour, since Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated in a military putsch on the fateful night of August 15, 1975. The day has been declared a public holiday.

On this day 21 years ago, the country's first President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was killed along with most members of his family in a hail of gunfire at his residence at Road No. 32, Dhanmondi in the city.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, his wife, their three sons, two daughters-in-law and some other close relatives were gunned down in the pre-dawn action that drastically changed the political landscape of the new nation.

In separate incidents Ban-ga-bandhu's nephew, Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni, and brother-in-law, Abdur Rab Sherniabat, were also killed along with their families. In all 23 members of Bangabandhu's family were killed that night.

World leaders have sent messages to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina paying rich tributes to the memory of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the eve of the National Mourning Day.

With his daughter at the helm of the state affairs, the nation observes officially the National Mourning Day today marking the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after a lapse of 21 years.

Today the national flag will be hoisted at half mast at public and private institutions.

Sheikh Mujib, the founder joint secretary of Awami League in 1949, became general secretary of the party in 1953 and subsequently became president of the party in 1966.

After his bold declaration that the struggle this time was for freedom and independence of the then East Pakistan from the West in his historic speech on

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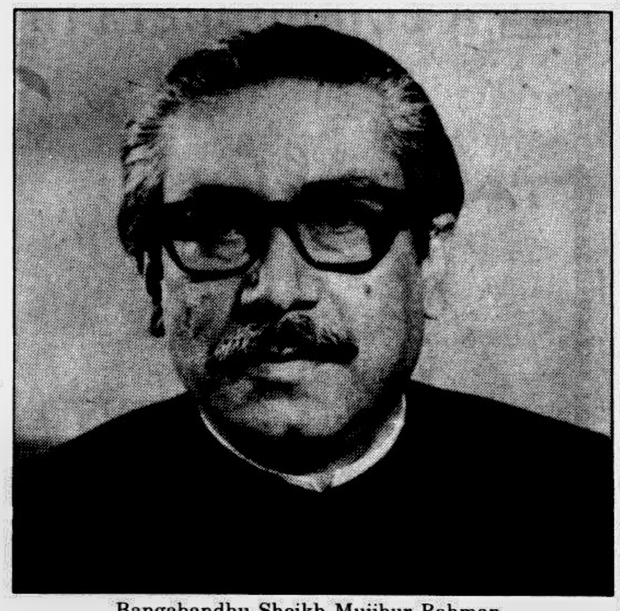

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

DMC again closed *sine die* as students clash

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Medical College (DMC) was closed *sine die* for the second time yesterday, only nine days after its reopening, and the students were asked to leave the hostels by 5 am.

"Following the clashes that left three students injured two of them seriously, a meeting of the academic council unanimously decided to close the college *sine die* from 14 August and ask the students vacate the residential halls by 5 pm on grounds of indiscipline and lawlessness on the campus" said a press release issued by the DMC authorities.

Arifuzzaman Palash, Rezwanur Rahman Sohail and AB Siddik Fatik, identified as Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders, were admitted to the DMC following the clashes.

Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and Chairperson of the (BNP) visited the injured JCD leaders at the hostel and urged them to face terrorists with patience and courage.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a press statement, condemned the incident and demanded trial of those involved in the 'terrorist act.'

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) backed by the BNP and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of the ruling Awami League, came out with contradictory statements on the incident and blamed each other for the closure of the college.

The press release issued by the DMC authorities said "Dissatisfied over the allotment of a room at the Dr. Fazle Rabby Hall two rival groups of students on the DMC campus exchanged hot words, followed by explosion of bombs, firing of gunshots and lawlessness on the campus that ultimately led to the closure of the institution for an indefinite period."

Earlier, the college was closed *sine die* following a

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Arms recovery drive to continue for two months

Star Report

The country wide arms recovery drive that began midnight Tuesday will continue for the next two months, according to official sources.

The sources, however, could not give details of illegal firearms recovered on the first day of the crackdown.

The official sources said, a total of 658 firearms along with 977 ammunition and 374 explosives had been surrendered in 64 districts and four metropolitan cities under a seven-day amnesty that ended at 6 pm Tuesday.

The surrendered arms included SMG 3, rifle 7, cut-rifle 7, SLR 2, single-barrel gun 21, double-barrel gun 6, country-made gun 22, foreign sawed-off rifle 25, revolver (country) 46, revolver (foreign) 47, pistol (country) 26, pistol (foreign) 15, pipegun 327, shuttergun 66, LG 17 and others 27.

Rly, CPA sign MOU to expand Dhaka ICD

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 14: A memorandum of understanding was signed today between Chittagong Port Authority and Bangladesh Railway with a view to expanding Dhaka Inland Container Depot (ICD).

According to a statement issued by the port authority, Chittagong Port chairman Captain Zahiruddin Mahmud and Bangladesh Railway (east) general manager Forhad Reza signed the MOU for their respective sides at the CPA office. Chittagong Port Authority will give a loan of Tk 50 crore to the Bangladesh Railway for expansion of the Dhaka ICD as per plan approved jointly by the Port Authority and Railway. The loan money provided by the Port Authority will be adjusted from the Railway earning against container handling at the ICD, the statement said.

The capacity of the ICD is [illegible] to be raised to 3,000 TEUs, from the existing 1,000 TEUs, after completion of ex-

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Materialise dreams of Bangabandhu: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday hoped that the nation would take the right way for translating into reality the Golden Bengal as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

In a statement on the eve of the National Mourning Day she said her government has been entrusted with the historic responsibility to lead the nation towards development through national consensus, to repay debt to the Father of the Nation.

"Let the objective of a remembrance of August 15 be a renewed dedication to the cause of liberty and the principles we fought for in the days of our liberation struggle 25 years ago," said the prime minister.

She recalled that 21 years ago, on the morning of August 15, 1975, the darkest of deeds in the history of human civilization was committed in Bangladesh.

The reactionary forces arrayed against Bangali freedom and national sovereignty struck a grievous blow at the nationhood through assassination of Bangabandhu and the members of his family, she said.

Thus the life of the greatest Bangali of all times, the founder of sovereign Bangladesh, was put to an end, she said, terming the August 15 as a day reminiscent of "nightmare and shame" for the Bangali nation.

Hasina mentioned that for the first time in 21 years, the

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Streams of people at Tungipara

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Aug 14: Tungipara wore the look of a place of pilgrimage as streams of people kept converging on Mujib's mazar premises to mourn the assassination of the nation's founding father, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will come here tomorrow, the concluding day of the three-day national mourning programme, to place wreaths at the mazar of the late leader.

The Prime Minister is expected to come here at 10:30 am to lead the state-arranged programme on the occasion.

Chiefs of three services, foreign diplomats, high civil and military officials will also visit the mazar to pay homage

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India gives Nepal transit route to & from Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, Aug 14: India has agreed to let traders from landlocked Nepal cross its territory to reach ports in Bangladesh, Nepali Foreign Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani said today, reports Reuter.

"The (Indian) government has agreed to provide a new transit route to and from Bangladesh. I see it as a breakthrough," Lohani told a news conference at the end of a two-day official visit to the Indian capital.

Mountainous Nepal has had access to the sea only through the Indian port of Calcutta. India is the Himalayan Kingdom's [illegible] trader, accounting for some 30 per cent of its foreign trade.

Goods from Nepal now will be able to transit a small land corridor across northeastern India to reach Bangladesh.

Lohani said Nepali businessmen using Calcutta port had complained of delays and congestions. Letting them use the 60-km Kakkarbhitta-Phulwari route to reach Bangladesh would cut transport costs and shipping delays, he said.

Nepali businessmen say the route would also reduce the Kingdom's dependence on India. A Nepali embassy spokesman in New Delhi said Bangladesh had approved the plan.

Lohani also said he had useful talks with Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda and Foreign Minister IK Gujral.

"We are impressed by the attitude of friendship and for the rightness we have seen. Your foreign minister is very forthcoming, and wants to start a new era of cooperative relations with neighbouring countries," Lohani said.

But Lohani said India had turned down Nepal's request to help it repatriate some 100,000 refugees from neighbouring Bhutan who have settled in southern Nepal.

"We have been requesting Indian help in solving this problem and we have been asking the government here to advise Bhutan, but he (Gujral) told us this is a bilateral problem and it is difficult for India to be involved," Lohani said.

The minister said India had agreed to [illegible] sures into a 1991 bilateral trade treaty to help trim

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Punitive steps if recalled diplomats don't return

Star Report

The government is planning to take punitive action as per rules against the army officers inducted as diplomats following the August 15 killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family, said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

"We shall take action as per rules," he told The Daily Star last night. He said that the officers have been given the necessary time for their return and if they do not come back, the government will have to

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1 killed in N'ganj garments factory fire

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 14: One person was burnt to death and 10 others sustained injuries in a fire at a garments factory at Tanbazar here last night.

Obaidur Rahman Kazi, 30, the gatekeeper of Padma Kneat Apparels, was roasted alive as he was trapped inside the factory building, police and witnesses said. The injured included three firefighters and their aides from the locality.

Two units from the Hajiganj fire station and the Mandolpara fire station extinguished the blaze at 11:30 pm. The fire originated reportedly from an electric short-circuit at about 9:30 pm.

Police estimated the extent of damage at about Tk eight lakh while the owner of the factory claimed the loss to be of Tk 18 lakh.

Worst traffic jam in recent months

The city traffic virtually collapsed yesterday for waterlogging and various other reasons, causing unlimited sufferings to the commuters, reports UNB.

According to traffic officials, reasons behind yesterday's jam all over the capital city included an incident at Aminbazar, rains, underconstruction underpasses, processions and stages on streets.

When contacted, DC (Traffic) Nur Mohammad, who led day-long effort to bring the traffic under control, termed the situation as the worst in recent months.

The jam was at its worst on the Mirpur road connecting New Market to Gabtoli bus terminal as some truck drivers left their vehicles scattered at Aminbazar after an incident with traffic officials at about 4 pm.

Hasina to visit China Sept 12

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is likely to start her five-day state visit to China beginning September 12.

The official announcement and details of the visit may be made by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad when he holds his first press conference on Saturday at 5 pm.

The Foreign Minister is also likely brief about the progress of the water talks and other bilateral issues with India following the visit of Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

তোমায় স্মরণ করি

আজীবন ত্যাগ-তিতিক্ষা-সংগ্রামের মধ্যদিয়ে বাঙালী জাতিকে দিয়েছিলে স্বতন্ত্র জাতিসত্তা। জাতিসত্তার স্বাতন্ত্রের সাথে সংগতি রেখে ব্যাংক গুলির নামকরন করেছিলে বাংলায়। সেই থেকে সারাবিশ্বে আমরা বাংলা নামেই পরিচিত।

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TUESDAY MARCH 23, 1971
Bangladesh Marches On

১৯৭১-এর মার্চ। বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীকার - স্বাধীনতা আন্দোলনে দেশ তখন উত্তাল। প্রতি পদক্ষেপে মৃত্যুর হুমকি। তবু সেদিন বঙ্গবন্ধুর আদর্শে অনুপ্রাণিত আমরাই প্রথম বের করেছিলাম - "বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীকার" শীর্ষক ক্রোড়পত্র। ২৩শে মার্চ যা একযোগে ছাপা হয়েছিল তদানীন্তন সবগুলো বড় দৈনিকে। সেই ক্রোড়পত্রেই প্রথম প্রকাশিত হয়েছিল বাংলাদেশের স্বাধীনতার স্বপক্ষে জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধুর প্রথম লিখিত বাণী.....

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