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SSC exams of Eng I, II Apr 8 & 10

The examinations of SSC English first paper essay type only and English second paper (objective and essay type) will be held in the morning of April 8 and 10 respectively, an official handout said yesterday.

The decision to reschedule the dates of the examinations of English first and second papers was taken at an emergency meeting held at the Ministry of Education. The practical examinations will be held as per earlier schedule, the handout said.

The meeting with Education Minister ASHK Sadek in the chair reviewed situation of different examination centres and decided to take tough measures against unfair means adopted during the examinations in some centres.

UNB adds: Education Minister ASHK Sadek yesterday said the government would take drastic action against the officials and teachers involved in the leakage of SSC question-papers.

Talking to some journalists at his Gulshan residence in the evening, he said actions would be taken immediately on the basis of enquiry reports by the probe committees and CID.

DSE price index falls by 86pts

By Staff Correspondent

The major market indicators of the Dhaka Stock Exchange dipped further yesterday with the All Share Price Index declining by over 86 points or seven per cent.

The DSE price index declined to 1153.62 points yesterday from the previous days 1240 points. The market capitalisation was down by Tk 672 crore and closed at Tk 8,960.08 crore from Tk 9,632.16 crore.

Prices of 108 issues suffered losses while only 9 gained out of 119 traded issues.

However, the volume and value of the day's transaction increased by 24 per cent and 15 per cent respectively over the previous days position as more than 3.03 lakh shares and debentures valued at Tk 7.06 crore changed hands against the trading of 2.44 lakh scripts valued at Tk 6.16 crore on the previous day.

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Our Culture of Delay

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Business

BJMA expresses concern over loadshedding: Private jute mills losing 50pc of production
Seven pc fall in DSE price index Pages 6, 7

Prospectus

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page prospectus on 'Rahima Food Corporation Ltd' Pages 13-16

Welcome, Mandela, Arafat, Demirel

By Staff Correspondent

Warm welcome will be accorded to three world leaders who arrive here today to attend the state functions of the Silver Jubilee of Independence.

President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and President Nelson Mandela of the Republic of South Africa will fly in the city this afternoon on three-day state visits.

The state functions will be held tomorrow.

Four jets of the Bangladesh Air Force will separately escort

their special aircraft as they enter the Bangladesh airspace. Twenty one gun salutes will boom out to herald their arrival and red carpets will be rolled out as soon as the leaders step down from their respective aircraft at the Zia International Airport.

President Suleyman Demirel will be the first to arrive at 1:30 pm. He will be flying in from Islamabad at the head of a 127-member entourage that would include two ministers and 30 businessmen.

The next to arrive at 2:30 pm will be Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. He will be coming from Colombo.

President Nelson Mandela will be flying straight from his country and is due to reach Dhaka at 4 pm.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be present at the airport to receive the distinguished guest.

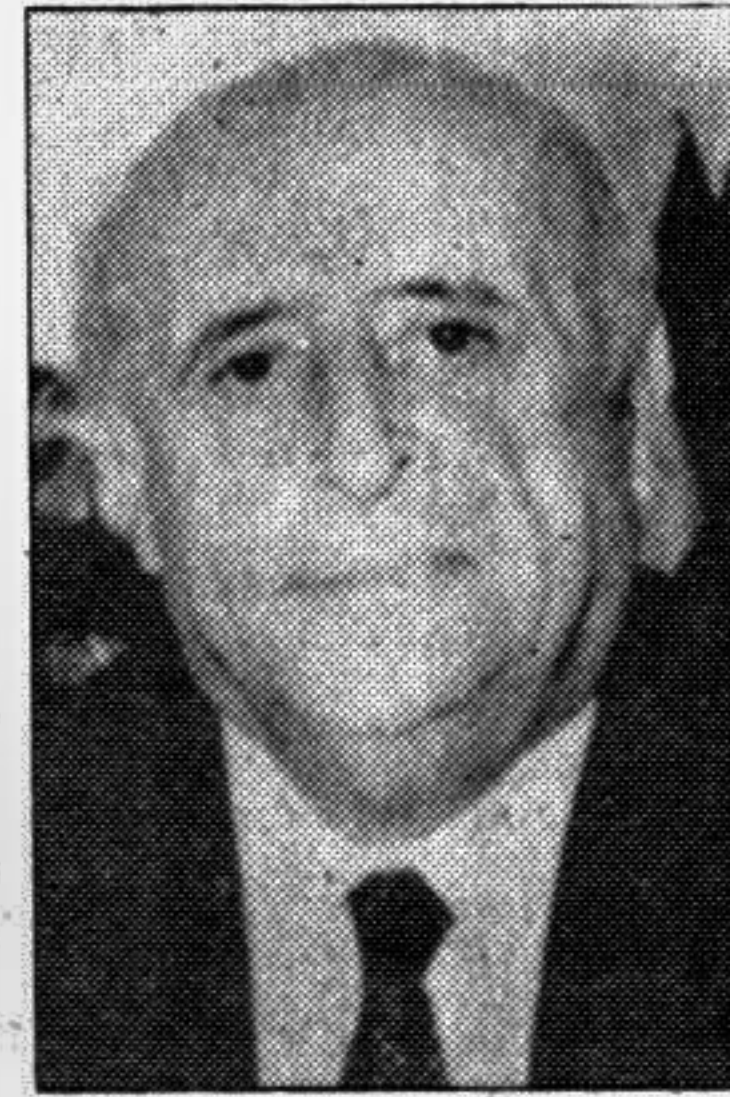
The foreign leaders, immediately after their arrival, will See Page 12 Col 1



Nelson Mandela



Yasser Arafat



Suleyman Demirel

Armed Forces to play last post at city points at zero hr tonight

Stage is set for the celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the country's independence on March 26, reports BSS.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh in the wake of an all-out attack by Pakistani troops on unarmed civilians in Dhaka and other parts of the country on the night of March 25, 1971.

Bangladesh was liberated on December 16, 1971 following the surrender of the occupation forces after a nine-month long Independence War, which claimed three million lives.

The government has taken elaborate preparations to celebrate the country's independence anniversary and national day in a befitting manner.

'Black night' of March 25

Last post will be played for five minutes at different points of Dhaka city at 12 midnight to night by bugle parties of Army, Navy, Airforce, BDR, Police and Ansars, to mark the 'black night' of March 25, 1971.

However, there will be no countrywide blackout at zero hour which was scheduled earlier, a press release of the Armed Forces Division of the Prime Minister's Office said last night.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will issue separate messages on the occasion of Independence and

National Day — March 26, according to UNB.

The day will be a public holiday.

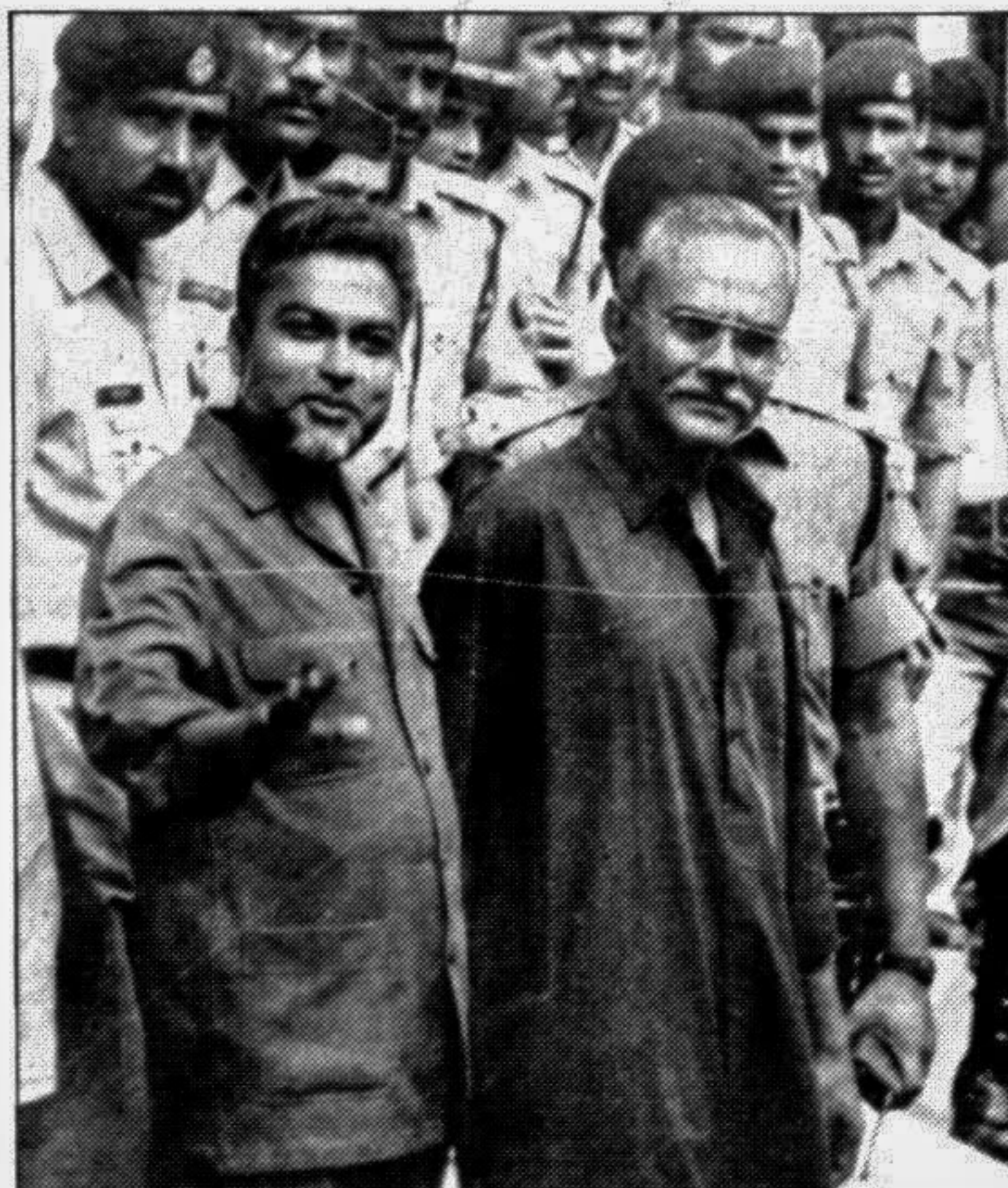
National flag will be hoisted atop at all government and private buildings and establishments. Main roads and road islands in the city will be decorated with miniature flags and bunting.

Commemorating the martyrs of the Liberation War, President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar.

Wreaths will also be placed on the portrait of country's independence leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi in the city at See Page 12 Col 7

Bangabandhu murder case

Charge-framing deferred to Apr 6



Col (retd) Shahriar (L) and Col (retd) Farooq — accused in Bangabandhu murder case — were produced before court yesterday.

By Staff Correspondent

The charge-framing of the Bangabandhu murder case was deferred to April 6 after yesterday's proceedings at the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

The date was shifted as the defence lawyers of the six arrested accused in the case separately submitted before the court for supply of certified copies of statements of witnesses which were recorded under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), before the framing of the charges.

Special Public Prosecutor Serajul Haq, informed the court that the necessary papers were supplied to the authorities concerned in time.

But he admitted that preparation of 25 copies of the necessary papers and documents was not possible within a short time.

After hearing both the defence and the prosecution sides, Judge Kazi Golam Rasul rescheduled the date for charge framing.

The court, in its previous sitting on March 12, had fixed yesterday for the framing of charge.

One of the accused, former Military officer Mohiuddin, was allowed to see his family for 10 minutes before he was being taken to jail after the production of his bail bond.

See Page 12 Col 1

Bangladeshis in US worried as tougher immigration law takes effect Apr 1

NEW YORK, Mar 24: With a new US immigration law set to take effect from April 1, New York's huge immigrant community is facing its worst crisis, reports UNB.

Many of them are worried that they will be asked to leave the country with no legal recourse at their disposal to challenge such an order. Bangladeshis will be among those to be seriously affected.

The immigration law, passed last year by the US Congress and signed by President Clinton in an election

year, makes it hard for many immigrants to stay in this country and find jobs legally. It makes equally difficult for many legal immigrants to sponsor their close relatives unless they meet certain requirements.

Immigrants who are allowed to live and work in the US while their applications for legal status are being processed now have six months to straighten their documents. The clock begins ticking for them from April 1 and it will stop on September 30.

The deadline could be extended if the Congress agrees to a Clinton administration request.

Under other provisions of the law, those who remain illegally in the US for six months or more will be barred from re-entering for three years if they leave the US or if they are deported. Those who stay illegally for a year or more can be barred for 10 years.

The New York Times, quoting US immigration officials, said last week, legal immigrants and citizens wanting to

Govt to appoint some woman joint secys

The government has decided to appoint some woman officials to the post of joint secretaries on contractual basis or deputation from the President's 10 per cent quota for a two-year term, reports BSS.

An official handout said the woman would be selected from those who are working in different ministries, divisions and autonomous bodies, organisations and offices under the government.

The officials who are working in the 7800-9000 taka scale will be selected for the proposed posts.

Indian team due today to see repatriation arrangements

All arrangements have almost been finalised for repatriation of 6,700 Bangladeshi Chakma refugees from camps in Indian state of Tripura in the first phase, officials in Dhaka said yesterday, reports UNB.

Preparations are underway for repatriation of another batch of the refugees within a month, they said, adding that adequate security and proper rehabilitation measures have been taken for the returnees.

Refugees who will be returning from two points — Ramgarh and Tabalchhari — will be re-

See Page 12 Col 6

Double murder: Two arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were picked up by police in connection with the killing of two young men on Saturday in Motijheel.

Without giving further detail, the duty officer at Motijheel thana said that the two had been taken into custody late Sunday night for interrogation.

Shishir and Amal were gunned down by an unidentified gang inside the office of a private recruiting agency, Metro Trade International, located at Motijheel Commercial Area in the city on Saturday evening.

3 BCL leaders arrested in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 24: Three Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders including the general secretary of MES college students union were arrested by Detective Branch police last night.

Police said they were wanted in connection with a number of criminal cases including murder.

ICC TROPHY



Bangladesh beat Argentina by five wickets

Bangladesh beat Argentina by five wickets in the ICC Trophy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, the opening day of the meet, reports UNB.

Naimur Rahman Durjoy hit a breezy 53 off 43 balls as a make-shift opener, helping Bangladesh to reach 142 for five in 24 overs to overhaul Argentina's modest 138 in the Group B opener at the University ground.

The 21-year-old right handed batsman was also successful with his off-spin claiming three for 21.

In their second group match, Bangladesh will meet West Africa at the PKNS ground today.

sponsor a family member currently staying in the US illegally will still be able to do so, as long as they pay a 1,000 US dollar fine and file the application by September 30.

Immigrants from Bangladesh and other countries in the Sub-continent will also be affected by a new provision of the law which sets new income requirement for each family wanting to sponsor a close relative to the US.

To be eligible to sponsor, a family of four will now have to See Page 12 Col 4

Autonomy Commission recommendations Proposal likely for placing Betar, BTB under special JS body

By Reaz Ahmad

The state-run electronic media — Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television (BTV) — should be made accountable to a special parliamentary committee instead of the Ministry of Information.

This is likely to be included as one of the major recommendations of the government appointed 'Radio, TV Autonomy Commission', sources in the commission said.

Formed on September 7 last year to recommend measures for autonomy of the state-run electronic media, the Commission is now at the final stage of preparing its report.

A well-placed source in the 16-member Commission told The Daily Star that the Commission found "highly restrictive and regulatory administrative and financial authority in the state-run media, which now don't even enjoy minimum level of delegated power."

The Commission, headed by a former Secretary, M Asafud-dowla, was scheduled to submit its report by March 8. But, during a recent meeting with the Prime Minister, the Commission members sought some more time for preparing the report and subsequently the time was extended till June 30.

In addition to suggesting formation of a special parliamentary committee, the Commission is likely to recommend constituting a five-member 'National Broadcasting Com-

mission' to monitor radio and TV programmes on a weekly basis, a code of conduct, a news value guideline and drastic economic and administrative reforms.

The Commission Chairman told this correspondent last week that the terms of reference (TOR) of the Commission includes making suggestions for autonomy, bringing dynamism, qualitative improvement in radio and TV programmes, enhancing administrative discipline and recommendations for opening private TV channels.

M Asafud-dowla further explained that the three basic points of the code of conduct would be: A) Nation's independence, sovereignty and cultural integrity, B) Propriety and decorum and C) Plugging the loopholes for propagating party ideology.

'News value guideline' would

JSJ to gherao TV Bhaban today

The Jatiyatabadi Sangkritik Jote (JSJ), an alliance of pro-BNP cultural organisations, will gherao the BTV Bhaban at 10 am today, reports UNB.

They will demonstrate their protesting nepotism, politicalisation, one-sided publicity and distortion of history in the state-run betar and TV, and demanding their autonomy.

be the most important portion of the report, he said. 'We will recommend for discontinuing the 'protocol value' that often supersede news value. TV camera will not necessarily move to a spot just because of the Prime Minister's presence or a minister cutting ribbons, rather news will be covered based on its importance in national interest'.

Asafud-dowla, also the Chairman of Sonali Bank and a renowned musician, disclosed that "in our report, there will be recommendations for higher pay-scale, fees and royalties, provision for 'production-on-contract' like package drama, recruiting 10 roving correspondents in Dhaka and ENG (electronic news gathering) units in each greater districts'.

Six chapters of the Commission's report would dwell on: Background; a brief on TOR (terms of reference); existing condition of Betar and BTV; financial and Administrative Rules; what these should be and; code of conduct. Of these, four chapters have already been prepared while the remaining two chapters are being prepared.

Recently the Commission members had exchanges of views with some experts from BBC, Voice of America (VOA), and NHK of Japan. Meanwhile, UNDP agreed to provide fund for arranging Commission members' visits to the headquarters of NHK, BBC, Doord-

See Page 12 Col 4

Link between hartal call & arrests ruled out 4 BNP leaders were involved in destructive activities: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that she had nothing to say against hartal as she herself gave scores of hartal calls in the past.

"But why she called hartal this time? She was always vocal against hartal," Hasina said referring to Sunday's country-wide hartal called by BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia.

The Prime Minister was replying to questions at a press conference at the Zia International Airport last night upon her return from Pakistan. Sheikh Hasina attended the special OIC summit in Islamabad.

"They (BNP) are protesting against giving transit to India, but it was late President Ziaur Rahman who had first agreed to it and the transit issues subsequently followed-up by foreign, commerce and communications ministers of their governments," she also wanted explanation from critics how India would be able to use the transit facility for military purposes.

The Prime Minister replied to a volley of questions from newsmen and talked about the one-day OIC Summit.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State

Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chelshury and State Minister for Information Abu Sayed were present, among others, during the press conference at the VIP Lounge of the airport.

Turning to the ruling party's claim of hartal-hour killings in Chittagong, Natore and Laxmipur on Sunday, Sheikh Hasina asked, "Why are they setting jute godowns on fire, why are they uprooting rail tracks only after nine months of installation of government?" She compared the post-independence scenario with the present situation and said, "The same way, jute godowns were set See Page 12 Col 4

Mannan Bhuiyan tells protest rally BNP has no link with destructive activities

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said yesterday that his party was never involved in any destructive activities in the past and it will not get involved in any such acts in the future.

"Our party has no link now, neither had any in the past nor it will have any links with any act harmful to the country and its people in the future," he told a protest rally in front of BNP's Pirana Paltan central office in the city yesterday afternoon. "We'll rather resist any destructive act by any quarter," Bhuiyan added.

The BNP Secretary General's statement came a day after a BNP called half-day hartal was observed throughout the country.

The ruling Awami League blamed the BNP for the destructive activities during the hartal while the latter said those were acts of sabotage.

The rally was organised protesting the attacks on former Home Minister Abdul Matin Choudhury and others allegedly by the ruling party activists during Sunday's hartal and arrests of BNP workers by police.

Addressing the rally as chief guest, Mannan Bhuiyan blasted the AL government for 'repression' on his party workers and its 'anti-people' activities.

"Only history will determine the course of the current agitation if the government does not refrain from its undemocratic practices,"

Successful observance of Sunday's hartal demonstrated See Page 12 Col 3

City BNP meets today

An emergency meeting of the Dhaka City unit of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at 10 am today at the party's central office, reports UNB.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP will attend the meeting as chief guest.

City BNP convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP has requested presidents and general secretaries of every thana unit, central leaders and presidents and general secretaries of front See Page 12 Col 1



Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Commercial-cum-Residential Plot No 37 of Road No 45, Gulshan North Commercial Area having roads on two sides measuring more or less 1336.28 Sqr Metre (19.97 katha) will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form with terms and conditions to be obtained from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 500/- (Five hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates), Rajuk from the intending bidders up to 2:00 PM on 12-4-97.

The auction will be held on 13-4-97 in the Conference Room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10:00 AM.

Chairman

DFP-6647-20/3 Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha G-816 Dhaka