



Historic June 7 today

By Staff Correspondent

The historic June 7 will be observed in the country today commemorating the nation's glorious struggle for realisation of the six-point demand.

On this day in 1966, a number of political activists were killed in police firing during demonstrations for realisation of the six-point demand and release of its architect Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The agitation for realisation of the six-point demand under the leadership of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman culminated in a mass uprising in 1969 that eventually led to the struggle for independence in 1971.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the week when children aged between 1 and 6, excepting those of Chittagong division affected by the May 19 cyclone, will be fed a high-powered Vitamin-A capsule.

The health workers of government and non-government organisations will conduct the Vitamin-A feeding drive at every vaccine centre of the wards in rural areas from June 7 to 15.

In city corporation and municipal areas, the drive will be conducted today but the drop-out children will be covered the following day.

Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN) of the Health and Family Welfare Ministry will also conduct a campaign in favour of breastfeeding and against the breastmilk substitutes during the week.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion and hoped the week.

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4 nations sign declaration

BISTEC launched

Four Asian nations floated a new economic bloc in Bangkok to bolster trade and investment between south and southeast Asia, report agencies.

The Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand Economic Cooperation (BISTEC) was formally launched as ministers of the four countries signed a declaration in the Thai capital, according to a message received in Dhaka.

The signing ceremony was attended by important personalities including Thai leaders who were involved in the process of evolving the ASEAN.

Myanmar was granted observer status to BISTEC.

The ministerial segment meeting of BISTEC began today at Bangkok with Thai Deputy Foreign Minister Pitak In-traviyanunt in the chair.

The BISTEC aims to expand links across a cluster of sectors like trade, tourism, investment, industry, technology, human resources development, agriculture, energy and infrastructure building.

The agreement also sponsored cooperation among the members of BISTEC on the basis of respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, political independence, non-interference in the internal affairs, peaceful co-existence and mutual benefits.

Thai minister Pitak In-traviyanunt hailed the declaration as "opening a new chapter to build a bridge linking South and Southeast Asia."

Leader of the Bangladesh delegation, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan

Chowdhury, in his speech emphasised the potential inherent in the formation of the sub-regional grouping.

The Thai deputy foreign minister thanked the Bangladesh government for co-operation in launching the BISTEC which would "prove beneficial for all countries in the sub-region."

Abul Hasan Chowdhury expressed the firm commitment of Bangladesh to BISTEC to make it truly productive and effective tool of involving the economic cooperation amongst the member states.

At the formal launching ceremony, Abul Hasan said the globalisation of the world economy has created not only opportunities, but also serious challenges for countries of the

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Govt offers new facilities for Sectt staff

By Staff Correspondent

The authorities have made a string of offers to the Secretariat employees to make them accept the new office timing.

According to employees sources, Establishment Secretary Mahe Alam on Thursday made the offers which include daily tiffin allowance of Tk five, placing of water dispensers with filters in different floors and corridors of the Secretariat and day-care centre for women employees.

Besides two cooperative-run canteens inside the Secretariat would be subsidised to provide improved food. There will be more transports for the employees to ease their transportation problem.

The proposals came during talks with the Class Four Employees Association and the Secretariat Employees Association.

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Delhi allows transit for trade between Bangladesh, Nepal

KATHMANDU, June 6: India today offered a 61-km route for trade transit between Nepal and Bangladesh on an experimental basis for six months, which could be operational with immediate effect, reports PTT.

Nepal's long-standing demand for an alternate route was accepted by Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral yesterday evening and the offer was conveyed to Nepalese Foreign Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani when he called on him today.

The route passes through Kakarbita on the Indo-Nepal border to Phulwari on the Indo-Bangladesh border.

Gujral said the arrangement

would be reviewed after six months before any further decision was taken in this regard.

Gujral, at a meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Lokendra Bahadur Chand yesterday, had agreed to make all arrangements within two months for providing such a route.

Land-locked Nepal had sought New Delhi's permission to use the route through Indian territory to give its traders an easy access to Bangladeshi port of Chittagong.

India provides other routes as per the current transit treaty, but Nepal feels this route would be more viable as the Calcutta port, being currently used by Nepali traders, gets clogged quite frequently.

Police force 10000 to be recruited in 2 phases

Star Report

The government is planning recruitment of 10,000 personnel for the police force, according to official sources.

The recruitment will be made in more than two phases. Announcement for the first phase will be made shortly, the sources said.

The recruitment will be made in the ranks of constable to Sub-Inspector, they said.

Some police officials, talking to The Daily Star, said that the existing capacity for training police personnel was around 3000. The four police training centres at Khulna, Tangail, Rangpur and Noakhali have the capacity to train 2000 and the Police Academy 1000.

Recruitment in the ranks of constable to Sub-Inspector will cause further imbalance in the existing ratio of supervising officials in the police force, observed some officials.

According to them, a total of 891 supervising officials are now leading 93 thousand police personnel. Police officials of the rank of Assistant Superintendent of Police and above are supervising officials.

Ctg BCL leader shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 6: A Chhatra League (BCL) leader was shot dead by unidentified gunman this afternoon near Golpohar crossing in Mehdiabag.

The victim was identified as Ashiq Ahmed, 23, a 3rd year student of City College.

The gunman shot Ashiq at point blank range at about 3:30 pm as he came out of a community centre after attending a marriage ceremony, police said. He died on the spot.

Protesting the killing, the BCL workers brought out a procession and held a rally in front of Bipani Bitan. They also put up a barricade on the road and damaged some vehicles, witnesses said.

Police have been deployed at different places to avoid untoward incidents.

However, none was arrested in connection with the killing.

Sharif wants mutual cuts in Indian, Pak defence budgets

NEW DELHI, June 6: Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has called for mutual cuts in the defence budgets of India and Pakistan, a private television network reported today, say AFP, BSS.

In an interview with India-based EL TV network the Pakistani leader said the South Asian arch-rivals should also withdraw troops from the divided territory of Kashmir through a bilateral arrangement.

"I have requested the Indian Prime Minister that troops should be withdrawn from Kashmir as a first gesture which will help in building an atmosphere of trust," Sharif said in an interview to be broadcast Sunday.

When Sharif met Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral in the Maldives last month during a regional summit their bilateral talks were the first between the leaders of the two countries in eight years.

EL TV, which released advance excerpts from the interview, said Sharif accepted there were limitations on both sides pruning defence spending.

"I can understand the limitations of Gujral, but I too have got my own limitations," the Pakistani Prime Minister said.

"We must learn from our past mistakes and should analyse what all we have gained or lost," he said.

"We fought wars and spent so much on defence budgets instead of concentrating on the development of both the nations."

"We have only suffered by adopting a path of confrontation... It is high time we should change our attitude."

India, which holds the southern two-thirds of Kashmir and Pakistan which has the northern part, have fought two of their three wars over the Himalayan territory since the Subcontinent's independence in 1947.

The Pakistan Prime Minister said that he had got mandate from his people to talk to

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