



Historic March 7 tomorrow

The historic 7th March will be observed tomorrow with an elaborate programme chalked out by the ruling Awami League, reports UNB.

The day's programmes include laying wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Museum 8:05 am and a public meeting at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm. Party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the rally.

On March 7, 1971, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered the historic speech giving an indication of independence of the country at the then Racecourse Ground (now Suhrawardy Udyan).

In a thunderous voice in front of about a million people, Mujib proclaimed: "Now it is the struggle for freedom ... now it is the struggle for independence."

In a statement on the eve of the historic 7th March, Awami League general secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman termed the day as milestone to independence of the Bengalee nation.

Shop owners to protest 'politics of hartal & violence' Mar 8

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity (shop owners) will stage an eight-hour token mass hunger strike on March 8 in the city to pressurise the politicians to give up 'politics of strike and violence' and create a welfare-oriented political environment in the interest of the country.

The hunger strike will begin at 10 in the morning at the National Stadium.

"We have taken up the token mass hunger strike programme to make the government understand that we are concerned over its dilly dally in solving political problems and the opposition parties that we are fed up with their frequent hartals," BDMS said in a statement yesterday.

The samity blamed the government for its 'apathetic attitude' towards resolving the political impasse. This is leading

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Rajuk approves bldg plan violating govt directive

By Staff Correspondent
Rajuk has approved the plans for a seven storied building in the city's Lalmonia area, directly violating a government directive that prohibits any construction over six floors.

Rajuk approved the building plans on the basis of a 'recommendation' by the Dhaka Housing and Settlement Section-2 office in Mohammadpur. The Housing and Settlement is the original owner of Lalmonia plots and has doled out the plots on 99-year leases.

According to a government directive no construction above six stories can be undertaken in any residential area of the city. A Rajuk source said Dhanmondi, Lalmonia, Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani, Uttara and other residential areas --- all fall under the government stipulation.

However, recently some

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Prayer Timings

March 6

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	5:35
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:10	6:13
Esha	7:25	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Liaison body to hold more meetings

Programmes soon 'keeping SSC exams in mind'

By Staff Correspondent

The Liaison Committee of the BNP-led opposition alliance at a meeting here yesterday discussed anti-government agitation programmes for the current month.

"We will not hesitate to announce tougher programmes if situation demands. But we will definitely consider the on-going SSC examinations. It (examinations) is in our mind," said a member of the Committee after the meeting.

Unlike the then opposition party now in power, the responsible leadership of the opposition alliance, since its formation, has been considering

people's causes", another member said.

The Opposition till today didn't announce any programme that creates suffering of the commonman. Our programmes are aimed at protecting the interest of the people," he added.

Discussions are also going on at party level and the Alliance will hold a series of meetings in the next few days to fix a programme, to be announced soon, they said.

The meeting that lasted one and a half hours from 4 pm, was attended by BNP leader Anwar Zahid, Jatiya Party leaders

Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Kazi Firoz Rashid and ABM Golam Mostafa, Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam and Islami Oikya Jote leaders Fazlul Haq Amin and ARM Abdul Matin.

BNP leader M Shamsul Islam MP presided over the meeting, held at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Anwar Zahid said the Committee evaluated last month's agitation programmes and discussed future course of action.

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Parvez shifted to ICU, no sign of improvement

By Staff Correspondent

Thirteen-year-old Parvez, who was fighting death at the neurosurgery department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital, was removed to Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Thursday.

"His condition deteriorated further since Wednesday evening. He needs constant observation. In addition to other complications, he is suffering from respiratory problems, attending intern doctor Sabuj told The Daily Star last night.

Parvez was hit in the head by a brick on the last day of the Opposition-called 66-hour hartal (February 25), in Saldabad area of the city while crossing the main road. His mother, a cousin and a tempo driver rushed him to DMCH emergency wing.

To remove the blood clot in the brain, Parvez was operated upon for the second time Wednesday evening. He first underwent brain surgery Friday last, a day after he was admitted to DMCH.

Parvez is in ICU, still in coma. He is on oxygen since he was removed to ICU Wednesday, a doctor said.

Another doctor said earlier even if Parvez survives, he may have permanent loss of sensation and memory.

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Talking to newsmen at

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Conducted by

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Indian Commerce Minister Hegde due Mar 8

NEW DELHI, Mar 5: Indian Commerce Minister Ramkrishna Hegde leaves here for Dhaka on March 8 on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, official sources said here today, reports BSS.

During his stay in Dhaka, Hegde will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.

He will have a discussion with his Bangladesh counterpart Tofail Ahmed on matters relating to the bilateral trade and commerce between the two neighbours.

In the first incident, the dacoits equipped with fire arms and sharp weapons, rang the calling bell at the flat at about 9 am yesterday. As an inmate opened the door, the gang entered the flat. They tied up the inmates and confined them in a room.

As the head of the family returned from outside, one of the dacoits opened the door, shut his mouth, dragged him inside and tied him up.

They also took away his mobile telephone set and a total of about Tk 4.50 lakh in cash and 44 tols of gold ornaments from the house.

One person was arrested in this connection and case was lodged with Lalbagh police.

At Karika show room, facing the Kabi Nazrul Islam Avenue, the gang broke the window panes and entered it. The robbers took away over Tk two lakh in cash and pearls.

In the other incident, seven armed dacoits robbed about Tk 2.5 lakh in cash, gold ornaments and valuables and a licensed gun from a first floor flat at Free School Street Thursday night, Dhanmondi police said.

Tension prevails at Faridpur over ADAB confe

PARIDPUR, Mar 5: Tension has been prevailing in the town over a NGO conference and a gathering called by an Islamic party on Monday, reports UNB.

Association of the Development Agencies of Bangladesh (ADAB) convened a grand conference of the members of different NGOs working in greater Faridpur at the local Mahim Institute ground at 11 am the same day.

Islam Oikya Parishad also announced to organise a gathering at the Housing Estate ground, adjacent to the Mahim Institute, at the same time the same day.

ADAB sources said all are set to make their conference a success and they expected that some 50,000 women members of various NGOs from five districts in the region would attend it.

The leaders of Islamic Oikya Parishad, however, vowed to resist the NGO conference and will hold a public meeting in the town tomorrow against the holding of the ADAB conference.

Imams of different mosques in the town, after Jumma prayers today, called upon the devotees to attend the Islamic conference.

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Happiness is a solar cooker

By Gobinda Bar, back from Tangail

Anowara Begum, 27, is happy to cook in a solar cooker. The reason is that she can do other things while cooking. "It is convenient and I have been using the solar cooker for a year," a jovial Anowara told reporters at Anando Solar Park opened at Bhurburia village under Nandail thana on Thursday.

"It has changed our lives, making us more comfortable in cooking. It has also reduced the cooking cost drastically," said Anowara, wife of a labourer of village Baruha under Delduar thana.

Asked how she manages cooking during the rainy season, Anowara said she uses improved chula (oven) when the

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A partial view of the main showroom of Karika after Thursday's dacoity.

Violence, crime unabated in Ctg

Worried business leaders urge CMP to take effective steps

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: The port city and its surrounding areas witnessed an increase in incidents of violence and crime including murder in the past few weeks.

Consequently, business circles and others feel concerned over such deterioration of law and order here.

Leaders of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other business bodies here met the commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) yesterday to register their concern and to check crime demand effective steps including attacks on business houses by armed terrorists.

The CMP commissioner assured the business leaders of

taking stringent measures to curb crime, by stepping up police patrol, meeting sources said.

Hardly a day passed here without incidents of killing, mugging and dacoity while police could do little in this regard.

Last night also, an activist of the ruling Awami League-backed BCL was gunned down by armed rivals in Nayabazar area under Panchlaish thana, police said.

The gunmen fired on Md Shahjahan, 16, at about 9 pm when he along with some other BCL activists was slapping posters on a boundary wall. Shahjahan was rushed to Chittagong Medical Hospital where

doctors declared him dead.

The day before yesterday, ex-tortionists gunned down the manager of a petrol pump near Love Lane crossing, a busy spot in the city, in broad day light and looted about Tk 1 lakh and a licensed gun from the petrol pump.

Police said the armed men fired on the manager as he refused to pay toll demanded by them.

Police so far arrested three suspects in this regard but could not recover the money and the gun.

A BCL activist, Abdul Kader was killed on March 2 after abduction from Chittagong Polytechnic Institute area due to

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BGMEA polls

Sinha-led panel bags all 27 seats

By Monjur Mahmud

The leader of the Forum-Sammita Parishad, Anisur Rahman Sinha, yesterday said he will give priority to developing backward linkage industries in the country to face challenges of the next millennium.

Sinha was talking to The Daily Star after the joint panel swept all the 27 executive committee seats at stake in Thursday's election to the apex body of the country's garment industry. He got the highest 1167 votes among all. The 27-member executive committee will choose the new office bearers on March 11 and the new leader will take over the charge the following day when BGMEA goes to its annual general meeting.

"We should have made moves towards developing backward linkage industries much earlier. The issue which has been neglected so far will get priority now," said Sinha who is set to become the next president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association or BGMEA.

"We will initiate a scheme of Tk 4,500 crore with the support of the government for developing backward linkage industries."

Besides, a survey will be

conducted to identify the problems of the ready-made garment factories that have been closed down and necessary measures will be taken to solve those problems, the newly elected BGMEA leader said.

According to Sinha, at present, some 800 to 1000 RMG factories are closed.

He added that transparency in quota distribution will be enforced so that the exporters do

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conducted to identify the problems of the ready-made garment factories that have been closed down and necessary measures will be taken to solve those problems, the newly elected BGMEA leader said.

According to election results announced yesterday, the Sinha-led panel bagged 1,167 votes while Quddusuddin Sammita Parishad trailed long behind with 864.

The executive members will choose five new office bearers in a meeting to be held at the BGMEA office soon.

Details on page 6

Rafique-ul Huq's rejoinder

Please refer to the above news item appearing in your newspaper on 4th February, 1999. It is very surprising why unnecessarily you involved me in the news without ascertaining the fact from me either personally or over phone. It is equally unfortunate that you publish such news involving cases pending for hearing before highest Court of the country.

I was present in the Court. I did not know what second Judge told to the senior Judge nor I heard any such