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## 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 at 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 Race-course 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 daily solving political problems and the opposition parties that we are fed up with their frequent hartal calls," BDMS said in a statement yesterday.

The samity blamed the government for its 'apathetic attitude' towards resolving the political impasse. This is leading to See Page 12 Col 2

## Rajuk approves bldg plan violating govt directive

By Staff Correspondent

Rajuk has approved the plans for a seven storied building in the city's Lalmatia 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 Mohammarpur. The Housing and Settlement is the original owner of Lalmatia 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, Lalmatia, Gulshan, Baridhara, Banani, Uttara and other residential areas -- all fall under the government stipulation.

However, recently some See Page 12 Col 5

## Inside Today Article

### Can We Take Care of the KAFCO Cabal, Finally?

Column: Toufique Imrose Khalidi Page 4

### Star Literature

Art: Mahmudul Haque's paintings; Exhibition: Tagore and the British press; and Award: Rushdie and Vikram Seth likely rivals for Booker Pages 6 & 7

### 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 Fazul Haq Amini 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. See Page 12 Col 2



## 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 Saidabad 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.'



## PM unveils sculpture tomorrow amid controversy

By DU Correspondent

The scheduled re-inauguration of a sculpture by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Dhaka University campus tomorrow has sparked controversy.

The original work sculpt by Shamim Sikder was inaugurated by the late Dr. Ahmad Sharif in February 1990.

Sikder recently added torsos of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his son Sheikh Russel atop the original work and changed the title of the sculpture to *Shwadinatar Sangram* (struggle for freedom) from 'Amar Ekushey'.

Swadesh Chinta Sangha, a cultural thinktank, condemned changes to the Language Movement memento saying that it carried memories of the late professor. It also called upon the authorities concerned to place the sculpture without any distortion in its configuration.

However, Shamim Sikder, who teaches fine arts at Dhaka University, has had her own arguments in favour of re-inauguration.

Talking to newsmen at the See Page 12 Col 3

## 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.

## 3-yr-old girl raped in city

By Staff Correspondent

A three-year old girl was raped by an unidentified miscreant at her house at Harirampur under Mirpur thana in the city Thursday evening.

According to the FIR lodged by the victim's grandmother, she was sleeping at the house. At about 7 pm, she found the minor girl in a pool of blood.

Immediately, she was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Her condition was critical, doctors said.

## Tension prevails at Faridpur over ADAB confce

FARIDPUR, 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.

Islami 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.

## 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 Nayahat 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, extortionists 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 one 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 ri- See Page 12 Col 5

## Sinha tells The Daily Star Priority to backward linkage industry

By Monjur Mahmud

The leader of the Forum-Sammilita 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



Anisur Rahman Sinha

conducted to identify the problems of the readymade 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 600 to 1000 RMG factories are closed.

He added that transparency in quota distribution will be enforced so that the exporters do See Page 12 Col 8

## BGMEA polls Sinha-led panel bags all 27 seats

A joint panel led by Anisur Rahman Sinha raced to a landslide, bagging all 27 seats at stake in the BGMEA election held at Dhaka and Chittagong simultaneously on Thursday, reports UNB.

The joint panel of Forum-Sammilita Parishad was elected for 1999-2000 term.

According to election results announced yesterday, the Sinha-led panel bagged 1167 votes while Qudus-led Sammlita Parishad trailed long behind with 864.

The executive members will now 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 comment by the Judges. If any such question arises as to which Court should hear a particular case, the same should be referred to the Hon'ble Chief Justice but this is not the way to embarrass a lawyer or a Judge through press. Since incorrect particulars have been published in the news, I would like to clarify the position, though I personally dislike publishing statement and counter-statement relating to any sub-judice matter.

Practice in High Court Division is that generally the cases are listed for hearing in different Courts in the beginning of a week. Accordingly this case was listed in Court No 23 along with many other cases on 22nd February (i.e. beginning of the week), also listed on 23rd, 25th & 26th no fresh list could be printed because of Hartal. On next Sunday (28th) the list was published as usual. But all on a sudden the case was listed in Court No 6 (it is not fair to give the name of the Judge) without notice to the lawyer of the petitioner. It is unprecedented and See Page 12 Col 4

## Gunfight leaves 40 hurt in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Mar 5: A gunfight over the control of a bazar at Sarishabari left at least 40 people injured, 20 of them with bullets Thursday night, reports APB.

Four of the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Witnesses said, the clash erupted when an armed group attacked their rivals at the Vatra Cooperative Market at about 9 pm. The clash was a sequel to a long-drawn dispute over formation of the bazar committee, local people said.

Both the groups used firearms during the clash. A tense situation has been prevailing in the area and additional police were deployed to avert further clash.

The seriously injured people were identified as Nazrul, 20, Masud, 22, Jyotsna Akhand, 30, Alamgir, 20, Bachchu, 28, Sultan, 31, Munser, 21, Mozammel, 19, Salam, 40, Mannan, 35, Laviu, 17, Shamsuzzoha, 45, Miar Uddin, 35, Abdul Hye, 41, Nurul Islam, 40, and Israfil, 25.



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