



VOL. IX NO. 54 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

FALGOON 29, 1405 BS

DHAKA SATURDAY MARCH 13, 1999

ZILQUAD 24, 1419 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

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CU convocation amid tight security today

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: The second convocation of Chittagong University will be held tomorrow.

Prime Minister and Chancellor of the University Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the convocation and distribute certificates among the graduates from 1984 to 1992, M Phil and Ph.D degree holders up to December 1998. Education Minister AHSK Sadek will be present as special guest.

Sheikh Hasina will also take part in the convocation rally on the campus at 11.15 am.

However, BNP and Jamaat backed White Panel teachers, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) have decided to boycott the convocation.

They said the present acting Vice-Chancellor (VC) has no legal right to arrange this programme as the decision of the convocation was not approved by the academic council of the University.

The first convocation held in 1994 was presided over by Begum Khaleda Zia, former Chancellor of the University and Awami League backed Pink Panel teachers had boycotted the convocation.

The University authorities have formed eight sub-committees, including a 17-member central organising committee headed by professor Zahurul Alam, registrar of the University to oversee the whole arrangement.

Professor Abdul Mannan, VC of the university urged all concerned to make the convocation a success.

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AJM polls: BDR, armed police to be deployed

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Mar 12: High police officials from Dhaka today visited Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) to see security measures for CBA elections scheduled to be held on March 14.

"We are examining all possible security measures to avoid violence," one visiting police official told The Daily Star.

The Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) elections are to be held in AJM after a lapse of nine years.

Deputy inspector general (DIG) of Police, Dhaka Range, Matur Rahman. Additional DIG Abdul Hannan and officials of district police administration discussed with the mills authorities the security measures on the election day.

It was decided that two companies of BDR personnel, two armed police battalion and 2,000 police personnel would be deployed to ensure a peaceful polling.

"However, the number of security personnel might be increased if needed," another police official said.

The police officials visited the AJM following a report in The Daily Star that a tense situation was prevailing at the jute mills ahead of the elections.

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Prayer Timings

March 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	5:35
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:20	6:23
Esha	7:30	7:35

Source: Islamic Foundation

Arshad Khan bags five wickets Pakistan bundle out Sri Lanka for 231

By Al-Amin

Arshad Khan came from nowhere to return with a career-best haul of five wickets to give Pakistan an edge over Sri Lanka on the first day of the inaugural Asian Test Championship final that began at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The tall right-arm off-spinner from Peshawar, playing only his third Test, took five wickets for 38 runs as Sri Lanka, batting first after winning the toss in the morning, were bundled out for 231 runs.

In reply, Pakistan were 33 for no loss at stumps with the left-right combination of Saeed Anwar and Wahajuddin Wasti watchfully encountering the torrid ten overs in the last 45 minutes.

Although Pakistan ruled the day, it was the spectacular Test venue with a legacy of a glorious past, which for an umpteenth time won the heart of the cricketing world by offering a full 90 overs of an absorbing battle despite a light drizzle before tea.

The wicket was harmonious to both bowlers and batsmen, the outfield was fantastic to say the least.

A regular visitor to the very

we SCORE... while others watch

Standard Chartered

ground. Arshad, who played for Surjo Tarun in Dhaka's Premier league this season, was rewarded for maintaining a good line and length on a wicket that produced lively bounce.

The 28-year-old Pathan more than justified his inclusion as a third spinner when he went to create a personal record. He erased his previous best bowling figures of 3 for 73, that against Australia in the third Test at Karachi last September.

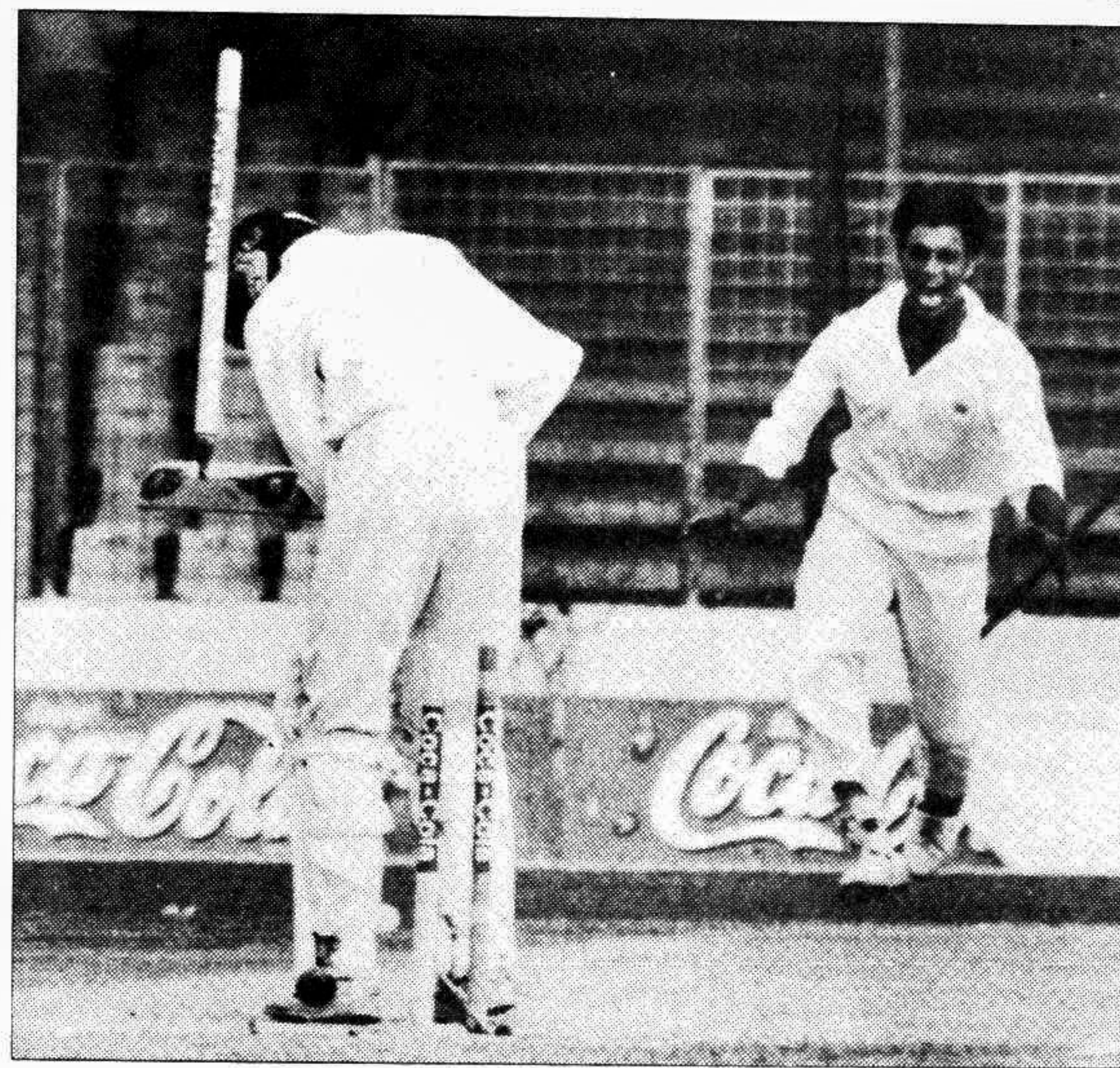
Although Arshad, who can hardly turn the ball, stole the limelight on an eventful day, Pakistani speedster Shoaib Akhtar returned to action in style by uprooting the off-stump of Sri Lankan opener Russel Arnold. It was, however, none but captain Wasim Akram, who inflicted an early Sri Lankan collapse, claiming two wickets in successive deliveries.

Arguably the best man in the business with the shiny ball, Akram took little time to vindicate his counterpart Aravinda's decision to bat on a gloomy morning when the left-arm seamer struck in the third over of the innings.

Bowling only his second over from the Pavilion End, Akram had opener Aviska Gunawardene caught by Wasti in second slip with an outswinger. He then returned one-down, Mahela Jayawardene for a first-ball duck. The young Sri Lankan right-hander was undone by yet another outswinger from the left-handed Akram that cut back sharply on to him.

Akram, who scored a hat trick in Lahore, was however deprived of a unique double in successive Tests when Atapattu safely negotiated the fourth delivery after the third one was declared 'no' by the umpire. But there was little respite for Akram.

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"OFF STUMP AIRWAYS" TAKES OFF!

A super-fast Shoaib Akhtar delivery sends Sri Lankan Russel Arnold's off stump flying during the opening day of the Asian Test Championship final at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

Big stretch of Banani Lake sold out to developers

By Staff Correspondent

The entire stretch of the city's Banani Lake between Mahakhal Road and Kemal Ataturk Avenue in the north has been sold out to developers violating the Prime Minister's order.

Many of these developers have already started filling up the lake. The remaining stretch of the lake is now full of demarcation pillars with signboards naming the owners. Trucks carrying earth to fill up the lake keep rolling day and night, residents of the area said.

The prime minister had issued an order to different government and semi-government organisations in April last year saying that no lake, open space, low lying area or canal in the city can be filled up without prior permission of the PM.

Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haque has categorically denied

that Rajuk allocated any plot in the lake and termed the act 'illegal occupation'. He said his office was in the process of identifying such land grabbers. And 'measures were being taken even to prosecute the culprits'.

In many cases, Rajuk lost ownership of the lake as illegal occupiers took advantage of legal loopholes and tufted parts of the lake into their own property. Haq said a move was underway to requisition those and save the lake.

But local people said most of the occupiers were producing Rajuk clearance before demarcating their boundaries.

At Road -16 on the Gulshan side of the lake, several people were injured recently when two groups fought over occupation of a part of the lake. One group arrived at the spot to put their

claim on a stretch of the lake which had already been demarcated by an influential person. At one stage, the group clashed with the other group protecting the demarcated portion, local people said. Gulshan police, however, denied any knowledge of the incident.

At the same spot, this correspondent found about two-thirds of the lake covering an area of more than 20 acres have been demarcated. Truckloads of earth were being dumped into the lake. Several young men who were guarding the site said the area belonged to one Akhtaruzzaman Babu of Chittagong.

At Road-28, a few hundred yards from Road -16 in front of the residence of State Minister for Jute Faizul Haque, one Sikim Ali also said the lake

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A truck is dumping earth into the Banani Lake near Road No 15.

—Star photo

Treatment of burn injury: UK experts to train up local docs

By Naimul Haq

British surgeons and nurses will train up Bangladeshi doctors and nurses in treatment of burn injury and plastic surgery at the proposed 50-bed 'burn unit' to be set up at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital compound.

The training will continue for five years, officials at the DMCH said.

British Overseas Development Agency (DFID) will provide "all necessary support" for the training, they said.

The DMCH has been selected for the proposed unit by the Overseas Interest Group of British Association of Plastic Surgeons. Dr. Ronald William Hiles, chief of the Association told The Daily Star during his recent five-week visit. Construction of the project is expected to start in July.

During his stay, Dr. Hiles gave training on treatment of burn injury including acid burn and plastic surgery, and operated upon 99 patients at the

DMCH free of cost. He left Dhaka on March 7.

"The need for supporting the local doctors and transferring technology is great and there is an urgent need for addressing the problem. The massive problem in the country needs a separate burn unit which should have a stable support for continuity," Dr. Hiles said.

An estimated ten lakh cases of burn injury including acid burns take place in the country every year. But only a fraction of the patients can be admitted to hospital for treatment due to lack of facilities and trained doctors and nurses.

DMCH, with allocated 16 beds, is the only hospital in the country providing treatment on a very limited scale.

A British physiotherapist, Ruth Ann Eastone, who accompanied Dr. Hiles during his visit, told this correspondent, "Presently, burn injury patients are dying. But they can be saved if certain improvements

are made. Disability can also be reduced if care is improved."

Ruth also put forward a number of suggestions which include intensive care for the patients. For this, nurses need basic training specially on physiotherapy, she said.

Asked how seriously the ministry was looking at the problem, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof. M. Anwarul Haq said, "We consider this as the number one problem and it would be given priority in the next budget."

"Development of treatment facility at the DMCH where almost all the patients are referred to is very urgent," said Dr. S. L. Sen, one of four plastic surgery consultants at the hospital.

"But it never got any attention from the authorities although repeated requests were made over the years for improving the facilities," he said.

Dr. Sen said Health Secretary

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Khaleda visits Jessore today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will visit Jessore today to console the family members of bomb blast victims.

At least eight people were killed and over 100 injured in powerful explosions at a cultural function of Udichi in the early hour of Sunday.

Begum Zia will also visit Jessore hospital to see the condition of the injured people. Later, she will address a protest rally at Jessore Eidgah Maidan at 3 pm.

The opposition leader will exchange views with local journalists and the leaders and members of Udichi at Jessore Circuit House separately.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali, Major Gen (Retd) Zahirul Alam Khan, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan MP.

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Arrested Monirul Hasan says I support Harkat, but the gun is not mine

From Shehab Ahmed

JESSORE, Mar 12: After nearly 24 hours in police custody, 37-year-old Maulana Monirul Hasan did not buckle and remained firm on his statement that he was a supporter of Harkatul Jihad but neither had a gun nor was involved in Sunday's bomb explosions at Udichi's cultural function here.

"No, I have not done anything. I did not have a gun. I have support for the Harkat. I collected subscriptions from people for them. But nothing else," Hasan told The Daily Star early today at Kotwali thana.

He was kept until 1 am at the CID office where plainclothesmen questioned him intensively, trying to ferret out information from him.

Police arrested him from his empty cloth shop at Chati Amtala Bazar, 10 km from the town yesterday as a suspect in Sunday's incident at the Town Hall Maidan and claimed to have recovered a US-made pistol from his possession.

"But he did not wait despite some rough interrogation which he took stoically. He would not give anything. He started to recite verses from the Quran when faced with tough questions, and sometimes to deter exasperated officials trying to break him down," a CID source said.

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Probe bodies suggest beefing up of security at ZIA

M Anwarul Haq

Two inquiry committees formed to investigate the death of a Bangladeshi in the wheel carriage of a foreign airliner have recommended immediate beefing up of security arrangements at Zia International Airport (ZIA) to prevent recurrence of security-related untoward incidents.

The committees were set up following Junaid Ali's death on January 2 after he managed to sneak into the wheel bay of a British Airways aircraft at ZIA. His body was found in a frozen state in the plane after it landed in Delhi. It was the second such incident involving a stowaway. The first was the death of one Mahub whose body was found in the wheel carriage of a Saudi bound Biman aircraft in early 1997.

Both the inquiry committees, whose reports were obtained by The Daily Star, felt that lack of proper security supervision might have enabled Junaid to sneak into the wheel bay of the British Airways plane when it stayed overnight on January 1-2. They also felt that failure to implement most of the recommendations made by a probe body two years earlier contributed to recurrence of a similar tragedy. Following Mahub's death, 10 recommendations were forwarded by the probe body headed by Group Captain Iqbal, Member, CAAB.

In the case of the latest tragedy, a one-member committee put forward 14 recommendations and a four-member committee made 26 recommendations. The one-member body was headed by Nurul Huda, a Joint Secretary in the Ministry

of Civil Aviation and the other was headed by Director Flight Safety of CAAB Group Captain Ashrafur Azhar.

Both the committees have identified, among other reasons, security lax and absence of the guard concerned from the tarmac in the early hours of January 2. However, it ignored the absence of Armed Police Battalion personnel from their

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See Page 12 Col 4

Opposition's 'protest day' today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led Opposition will observe "Protest and Demonstration Day" throughout the country today.

The BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote will simultaneously observe the day to protest government's failure to ensure security of life and property of people, repression on opposition activists and arrest of their leaders and workers.

As part of the central programme, the BNP will organise a rally at city's Mukhtang at 4 pm today and bring out a procession. Other parties of the alliance will also organise separate rallies and bring out processions from different parts of the city.

Meanwhile, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday urged the leaders and activists of all city, district and thana committees as well as people in general to make today, programme a success through holding rallies and processions.

Ten killed in Comilla road accident

At least 12 people were killed and 31 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla and Jessore last night, report agencies.

BSS adds: At least 10 persons were killed and 11 others seriously injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Gobindapur under Chandina thana of Comilla district last night.

Police and hospital sources said the accident occurred when a Dhaka bound bus carrying a bridal party from Nabinagar of Brahmanbaria collided with a container truck coming from opposite direction.

Four persons died on the spot and five others succumbed to their injuries at Chandina thana health complex and another in Comilla Combined Military Hospital (CMH).

The critically injured 11 persons, including the newly married couple were admitted to Chandina thana health complex and Comilla CMH.

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Yehudi Menuhin dead

BERLIN, Mar 12: Yehudi Menuhin, one of the most brilliant and celebrated violinists of the century, died here today after a heart attack at the age of 82, his agent Hand Adler said, reports AFP.

The attack was brought on by a bout of bronchitis, an illness which had frequently affected him, Adler said.

Menuhin was in Berlin to conduct the Warsaw Symphony Orchestra in a concert of music by Brahms and Mendelssohn on Tuesday this week. The concert was cancelled because of his illness.

Born in New York on April 22, 1916 to Russian Jewish immigrants, Menuhin was a child prodigy who developed into one of the most influential interpreters of classical and modern music.

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INNALLILAH WA INNA ILAIYAH RAJEUN



We, at Apex Tannery Group, deeply mourn the sudden death of **Md. Ruhul Ameen**, our Dy. Managing Director. He was a source of great strength and inspiration. We have lost a great visionary and above all, a wonderful human being. Our heartfelt condolences to his family in this time of grief.

Dacoity at a city house

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of dacoits looted gold ornaments, money and other valuables worth about Tk five lakh from the residence of a businessman in the city's Hazaribagh area in the early hours of yesterday.

According to the police the dacoits numbering about six cut the grills and entered House No 8/1 Charakghata under Hazaribagh thana at about 4 am. They tied up members of the family and confined them in a room at gunpoint.

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Night coach looted near Feni: 1 killed, 16 hurt

FENI, Mar 12: One person was killed and another 16 were injured when a gang of armed dacoits swooped on the passengers of a night coach on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Barairhat in the early hours of today, reports UNB.

The bandits looted valuables worth about Tk 50,000 from the passengers, police and travellers said.

Harun-or-Rashid, 41, of village Chhayani in Chatkhil, Noakhali succumbed to his stab injuries at Feni Sadar Hospital. The injured were also admitted to the hospital.

Police arrested one of the robbers, identified as Zahangir Alam, 25, son of Tajul Islam of village Charkhoa of Laxmipur.

Police and the passengers said a gang of about a dozen dacoits, who were travelling in the same bus in the guise of passengers took control of the Ramgati-bound coach and swooped on the passengers when it reached Feni bypass at about 1.30 am.

They got down at Lemua, nine km off Feni town, leaving 16 passengers injured.