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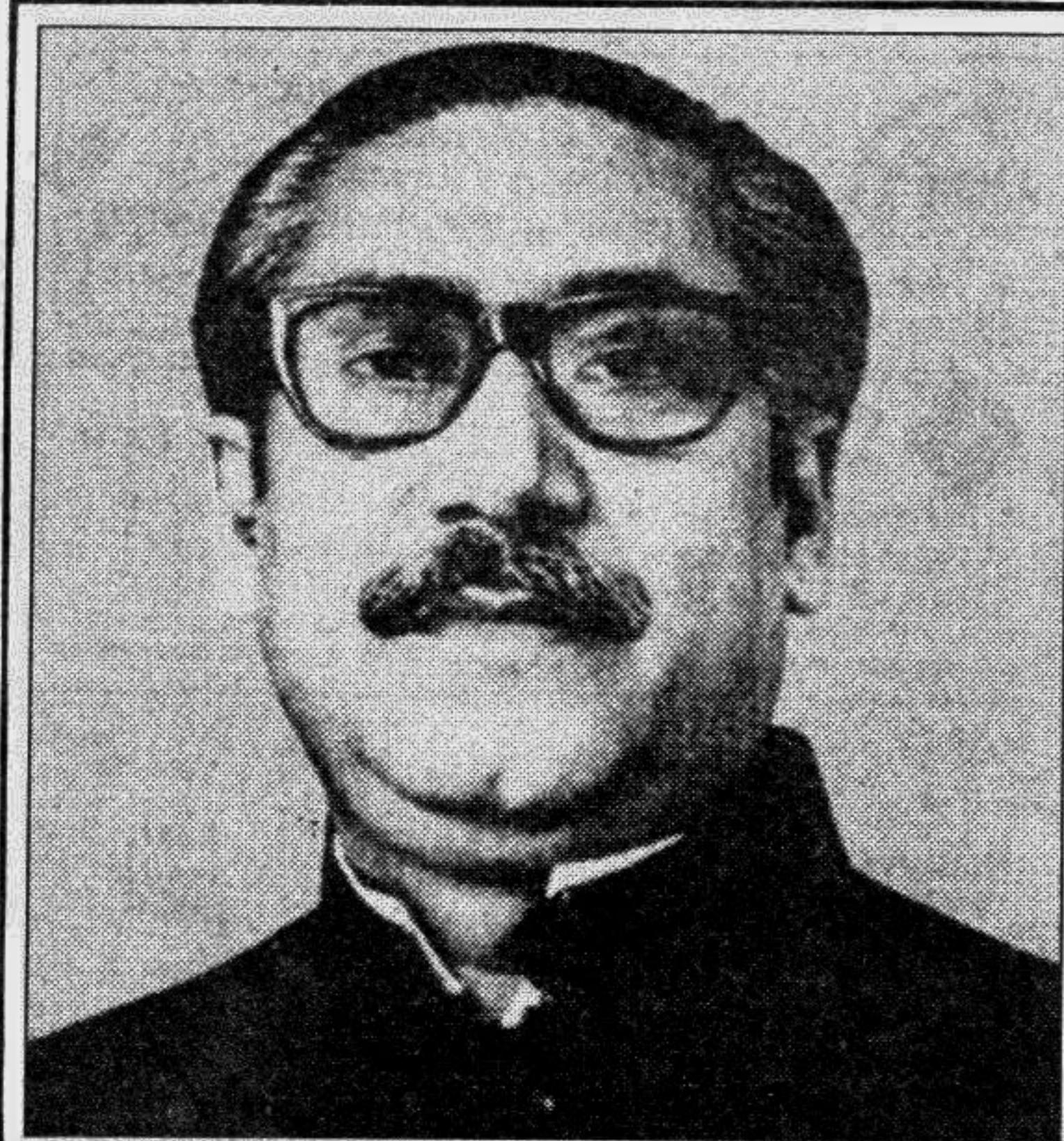
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# Nation mourns Bangabandhu's murder today

By Staff Correspondent

The nation today pays homage to the Founder of independent Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, on the occasion of the 24th anniversary of his death.

The day is being officially observed as National Mourning Day since 1996 when Awami League, led by Sheikh Hasina, the eldest of the two surviving daughters of the great leader, came to power after 21 years.

Bangabandhu was killed along with his family members and many close associates at his Dhamondhori residence in a military putsch on the night of August 15, 1975. Sheikh Hasina and her younger sister Sheikh Rehana survived as they were in Germany then.

The day is a public holiday. The National Flag will be flown at half mast atop all government and private buildings as a mark of respect to the late

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have given separate messages on the occasion.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed in his message called for "invigorating ourselves with the hope of a new life, forgetting political differences, bitterness and sorrows of the past in the greater interest of the nation".

He said the people loved Bangabandhu because he made immense sacrifices and made untiring efforts for their welfare.

"He could not live long to materialise his dream of Golden Bengal. His tragic death along with some family members in the hands of some misguided army personnel is a shameful chapter of our national history," the President said.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the killers of Bangabandhu have been thrown into the dustbin of history.

The nation has been relieved of an indelible stigma after the pronouncement of the historic verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case". Killing of Bangabandhu was not mere killing of an individual, she added.

The Prime Minister said the nation's hatred and resentment will continue against power mongers who want to capture power by killings.

The government and different political and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

The Awami League has drawn up a three-day programme to observe the day, said a party press release.

The National Flag and party flags will be hoisted at half mast atop the Bangabandhu Bhaban and party offices at 5.30 am today. Black flags will also be flown.

Bangabandhu's portrait at the Bangabandhu Museum will be garlanded at 6 in the morning. At 6.30am, Fateha will be offered and *milad mahfil* will be held at the city's Banani graveyard where the August 15 martyrs except Bangabandhu were buried.

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Food will be distributed among the destitute at different places in the city. Special prayers will be offered at mosques and other places of worship across the country on the occasion of the National Mourning Day.

A UNB report says the Ministry of Religious Affairs has requested the managing committees of all mosques in the country to organise special *maulid* except Bangabandhu.

AL central leaders and min-

isters will place wreaths, offer *fateha* and special prayers and hold a *milad mahfil* at Bangabandhu's mazar at Tungipara at 11am tomorrow. The leaders will leave the Bangabandhu Bhaban for Tungipara at 6 am tomorrow.

On Tuesday, the ruling party will organise a public meeting at the Paltan Maidan at 3pm. AL chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting as chief guest.

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## NCBs to help rehabilitate evicted slum dwellers

The nationalised commercial banks have decided to extend financial support for the rehabilitation of slum dwellers, reports UNB.

It was decided at a meeting at the Bangladesh Bank Bhaban yesterday with Bangladeshi Bank Governor Dr Muhammad Farashuddin in the chair.

Managing Directors of Sonali Bank, Janata Bank, Agrani Bank, Rupali Bank and Bangladesh Krishi Bank (BKB), and senior officials of Bangladesh Bank attended the meeting.

Initially, the banks will take up independent or joint programmes like short-term micro-credits to fund the slum dwellers affected by the ongoing eviction. The ultimate programme would be funding for moderately low-cost housing.

The long-term programme

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## Where is Agriculture Commission's report?

Policymakers fail to give direction to farmers

By Reaz Ahmad

When farmers have accomplished a good job in recouping the crop-loss after last year's unprecedented flood, policy makers miserably failed to live upto their promise of giving the nation a future plan for its agriculture.

It has been nearly three years now that the government constituted a high-powered Agriculture Commission with a mandate to formulate plans for producing surplus foodgrain in the country.

Sources say three months have passed since all the Commission members agreed upon a final report but the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) is yet to receive it. The Commission's report is likely to be useful in future decision-making by policy makers in the agriculture sector.

A M Anisuzzaman, the chairman of the commission, first termed the report a 'state secret' and then went on to say that he had already submitted the report. But he refused to disclose to whom he had submitted the report and what it really contained.

Most of the commission members expressed their ignorance about the fate of the report but strongly felt that the report should be submitted to appropriate authorities immediately. The members also suggested that contents of the report should be discussed in public for better policy formulation.

When government constituted the commission back in November 1996, it was assigned to prepare a report on the crop sector within a year.

However, a number of commission members told The Daily Star over the last two days that it was only in May this year that the commission could finalize its report.

After all the members signed the report on May 14, three months have passed but nobody knows where and when it will

be submitted. Meanwhile, the commission has failed to go into the details of the non-crop sectors like fisheries and livestock though it had taken a much longer time than initially sanctioned for it to prepare the report.

A commission member explained it to The Daily Star: "Initially, we were asked to prepare a report on the crop sector only. Later, when the government wanted us to include other sectors as well, we did ask for inclusion of two more members in the commission for the fisheries and livestock sectors. But that was never done."

Now some of the commission members feel that they did not do justice to the name and scope of the Agriculture Commission by highlighting the crop sector only while sidestepping the non-crop sector.

As Bangladesh has already set its target for producing 25 million metric tons of foodgrain by the year 2002 to attain food self-sufficiency, the commission's report is thought to be critical for future planning.

Experts attached utmost importance attaining self-sufficiency in food in the backdrop of the reality of the new world trade regime. "As and when the developed North would be forced to slash down their agricultural subsidies in compliance with URAA (Uruguay Round Agreement on Agriculture), food price would be on the rise in the global market," explained an expert.

The issues of technology transfer, crop diversification, use of balanced fertilizer, planned use of surface and ground water and ensuring fair

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points, also from 14 matches.

The high-voltage affair of the two heavyweights turned sour when the game was halted for 45 minutes in the late second half following an ugly incident on the field. The fracas broke out in the 74th minute when Rubul Amin of the black and whites sent a cross deep into box. Abahani defender Kingshuk, while trying to clear the floating pass with a header accidentally touched it with his hand.

When the Indian referee Udayan Haldar pointed to the dreaded spot Abahani midfielder Iqbal rushed to the man in uniform and grounded him with a big push.

With the referee trying to

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## Violence marks soccer titans' derby

Abahani beat Mohammedan 1-0

Sports Reporter

A first half strike by Indian forward Sabir Pasha enabled Abahani to clinch a solitary goal win over arch-rivals Mohammedan Sporting Club in their second 'super-four' clash of the Keye Premier Division Football League at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

In an incident-packed match which saw play suspended for more than an hour late in the second half mostly because of the players from both sides, Sabir scored the match-winner with a brilliant header from a right side free-kick by skipper Partho in the 27th minute.

Now some of the commission members feel that they did not do justice to the name and scope of the Agriculture Commission by highlighting the crop sector only while sidestepping the non-crop sector.

The sky-blues also moved to the second position with a slim two-point lead over holders Mukti Juddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in succession in the 'super four' stage. The Dhamondhori outfit closed their seven-point gap with leaders Mohammedan to four after raising their collection to 28 points from 14 matches.

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A single drop of tear encapsulates a mountain of tragedy

Halima, in her late fifties, and her husband have lived in this city for the last four years since the poor couple from Faridpur lost ancestral home to the devouring Padma. Life has never been so cruel since she landed in a slum along the tracks in Khilgaon. The husband being too ill to undertake any activity for a living, Halima goes out begging in the streets. But that too has been impossible since her shanty was razed Wednesday. Nature has not been kind to her either. For the last three days, she told Star photographer Sk Enamul Haq yesterday, she has not been able to change her rain-soaked saree.

### Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Sunday) on the occasion of National Mourning Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Monday).

## ANNOUNCEMENT

With Effect From 15 Aug.'99

For All Cargo And Passenger

### RESERVATIONS AND TICKETING

Please Contact Malaysia Airlines or our Agent, Vantage Aviation Services Ltd.

### AT

ABC House (10th Floor)

8, Kemal Attaturk Avenue

Banani, Dhaka Tel : 9885479 - 80

9881833, 019-330727 Fax : 889421

### AIRPORT OFFICE

Zia International Airport

Kurmitola, Dhaka

Tel : 896953, 019-330737

Fax : 896953

## NOTICE OF CESSATION

This is to announce that M/S Shahjalal Aviation Systems Limited shall cease to be the Malaysia Airlines General Sales Agent (GSA) for Bangladesh effective 14th of August, 1999.

With this notice, M/S Shahjalal Aviation Systems Limited and/or its employees, servants, agents, representatives and/or its associates shall cease their right whatsoever to negotiate in any business relating to Malaysia Airlines.

Malaysia Airlines shall not assume any responsibility or liability for transactions performed by person (s) with M/S Shahjalal Aviation Systems Limited or its employees, servants, agents, representatives and/or its associates effective 14th August, 1999.

We regret the inconvenience

Abdullah Mohamed  
Area Manager, Bangladesh, Malaysia Airlines

## দেউলিয়া বিষয়ক বিধিমালা ১৯৯৭

### এর ৩৩ নং বিধি

মোতাবেক দেউলিয়া বিষয়ক আইনের ১২(২) ধারা মোতাবেক

প্রত্যক্ষ অনুষ্ঠানের দায়ীনামৰ সারথম

আবাস বোর্ড চৌকুরী

৪৫ পি. নিউ ইস্ট রোড

হাফিজুর রাম কলেজী

ঢাকা।

শাহিন পুরুর হোলিসে লিমিটেড

বাড়ি নং-১৭, রোড নং-২,

ধনমন্ডি আর্টিশন

ঢাকা।

মাহমুদুর রহমান

ম্যানেজিং ডাইরেক্টর,

শাহিন পুরুর হোলিসে লিমিটেড

বাড়ি নং-১৭, রোড নং-২,

ধনমন্ডি আর্টিশন

ঢাকা।

ধনমন্ডি আর্টিশন

বাড়ি নং-১৭, রোড নং-২,

ধনমন্ডি আর্টিশন

ঢাকা।

সি-৬৪৯

পাওনার বোর্ড চৌকুরী

ঘোষণা