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# The Daily Star

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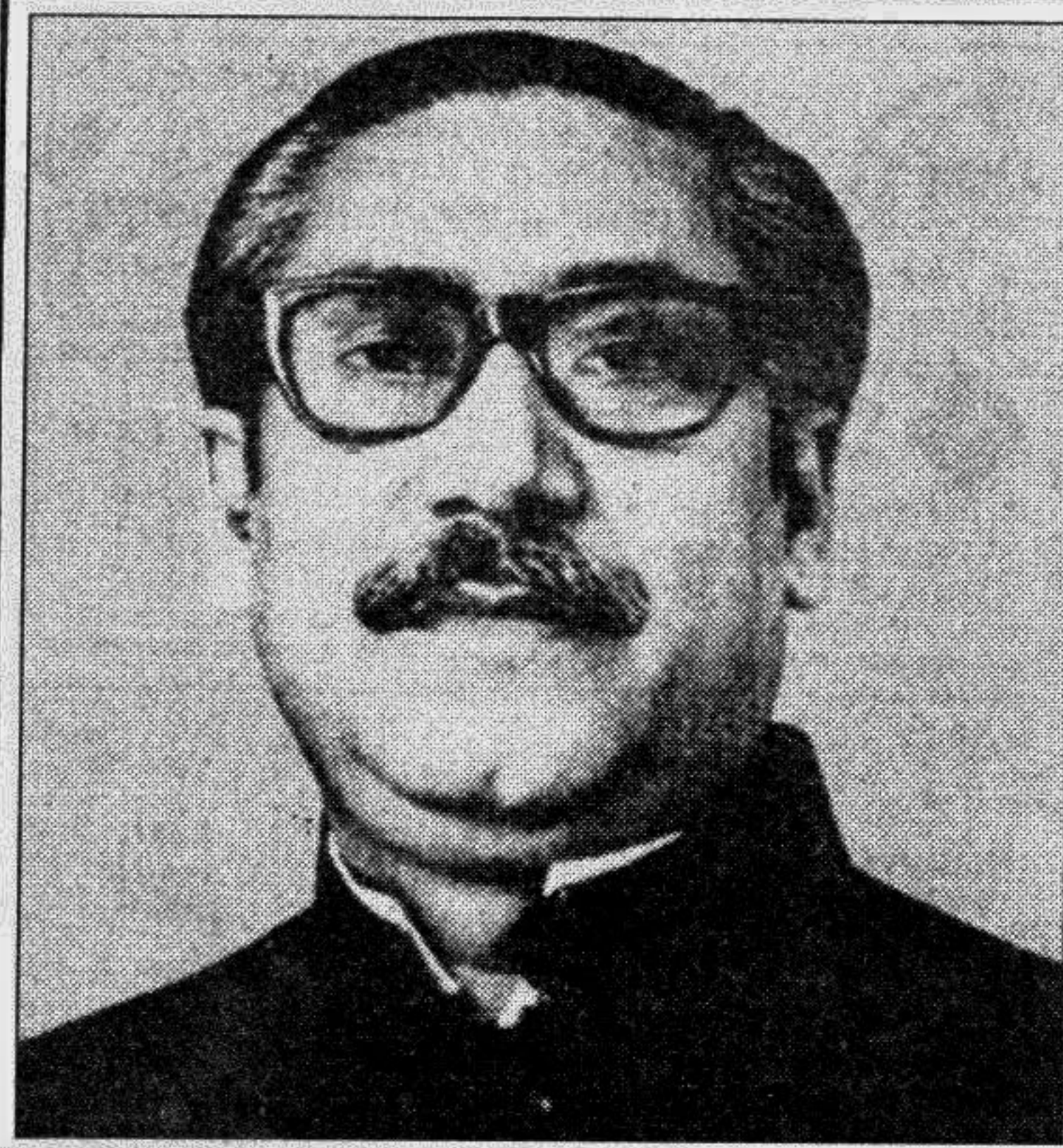
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## Nation mourns Bangabandhu's murder today

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 Dhammondhi 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

leader. 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.

Food will be distributed among the destitute at different places in the city. Special prayers will be offered at mosques, temples, churches and pagodas.

At 4 in the afternoon, a mourning procession will be brought out from the Suhrawardi Udyan. It will be terminated in front of the Bangabandhu Museum.

AL central leaders and ministers 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.

The government has taken up a programme for offering special prayers at all 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 *mu-*

See page 11 Col 8

## 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 Bangladesh 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 See page 11 Col 7

## 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 up to 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 policymakers 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 food-grain 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

See page 11 Col 5

## 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 Keya 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 unsporting attitudes 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. The crucial goal brought Abahani back into the title race.

Abahani, who were almost

out of contention with their inconsistent campaign in the first phase, showed a remarkable turnaround beating two aspirants Mohammedan and Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra in succession in the 'super four' stage. The Dhammondhi outfit closed their seven-point gap with leaders Mohammedan to four after raising their collection to 28 points from 14 in the first phase. The sky-blues also moved to the second position with a slim two-point lead over holders Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra, who have collected 26 points from 13 outings.

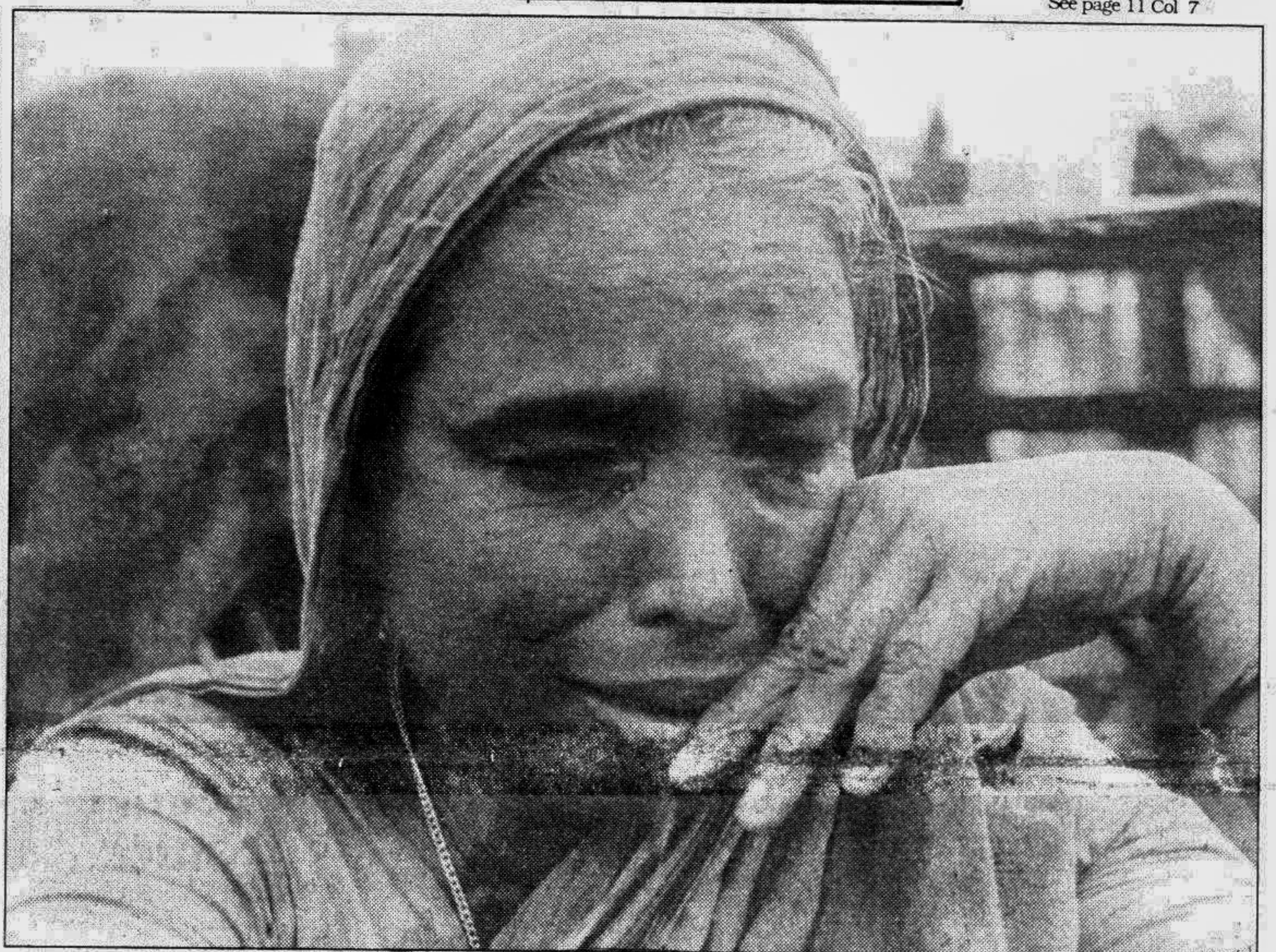
On the other hand, despite the defeat, Mohammedan remained atop the table with their previous collection of 32

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 ungodly incident on the field.

The fracas broke out in the 74th minute when Ruhul 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 Halder 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 See page 11 Col 8



## 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 railtracks 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).

## Inside Today Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a four-page supplement on 'National Mourning Day' on Pages 13-16

## Prayer Timings

August 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:10	4:15
Johr	12:50	1:25
Asr	5:00	5:10
Maghrib	6:55	7:00
Esha	8:00	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## দেউলিয়া বিষয়ক বিধিমালা ১৯৯৭ এর ৩৩ নং বিধি

মোটাবেক দেউলিয়া বিষয়ক আইনের ৯(২) ধারা মোতাবেক প্রদত্ত আনুষ্ঠানিক দাবীনামার সারসংক্ষেপঃ

- আব্দুর রশীদ চৌধুরী  
৪৫/সি, নিউ ইকান্টন,  
হাফিজাবাদ কলোনী,  
ঢাকা।
- শাইন পুন্ডর হোসেন লিমিটেড  
বাড়ি নং-১৭, রোড নং-২,  
ধানমন্ডি আ/এ,  
ঢাকা।
- মাহমুদুর রহমান  
ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর,  
শাইন পুন্ডর হোসেন লিমিটেড,  
বাড়ি নং-১৭, রোড নং-২,  
ধানমন্ডি আ/এ,  
ঢাকা।

..... নোটিশ প্রীতিপত্র।

এদ্বারা আপনারা নোটিশ প্রীতিপত্রকে অবগত করানো যাচ্ছে যে, আপনারা নোটিশ প্রীতিপত্র নোটিশ দাতাকে বিগত ৩০/৯/৯৫ইং তারিখের চুক্তি মোতাবেক রক-এফ, নুন্নগর কলোনী, ৪৫, নিউ ইকান্টন রোড, রমনা, ঢাকাকে অবস্থিত ১.৫০ একর জমির বিকল্প ও হস্তান্তর বাবদ নোটিশ প্রীতিপত্র নিকট নোটিশ দাতার পাওনা টাকা ৩,৩৩,০০,০০০/- (তিন কোটি তেত্রিশ লক্ষ) টাকা বিগত ০২/০৫/৯৬ইং তারিখে পরিশোধ করিতে ব্যর্থ হওয়ায়, বিগত ১২-৮-৯৬ইং তারিখে আপনারা নোটিশ প্রীতিপত্রের নিকট রেজিঃ ডাকযোগে ফেরত রপিসদে দেউলিয়া বিষয়ক আইনের ৯(২) ধারা মোতাবেক একটি আনুষ্ঠানিক দাবীনামা প্রেরণ করা হইয়াছে, যাহা প্রাপ্তির ৯০ দিনের মধ্যে উপরোক্ত টাকা ৩,৩৩,০০,০০০/- (তিন কোটি তেত্রিশ লক্ষ) পরিশোধ না করিলে বা উক্ত দাবীনামাতে উল্লেখিত জামানত প্রদান না করিলে নোটিশ দাতা পাওনাদার আপনারদের বিরুদ্ধে আপনারদেরকে দেউলিয়া ঘোষণা দেওয়ার জন্য ও অন্যান্য প্রতিকার চাহিয়া দেউলিয়া আইনের বিধান অনুযায়ী নোটিশ প্রীতিপত্রের বিরুদ্ধে দেউলিয়া আদালতে মোকদ্দমা দায়ের করা হইবে।

আব্দুর রশীদ চৌধুরী  
পাওনাদারের স্বাক্ষর  
প্রত্যক্ষঃ  
মাসুদ আর সোবহান,  
ব্যবস্থাপক এট-ল,  
৪৮, গুলশান সাউথ এডিনিউ  
ঢাকা।

সি-৬৪৯

## India ready for war

President calls for more money for defence

NEW DELHI, Aug 14: India seeks peace with Pakistan but is ready for war, President K R Narayanan said today, urging an increase in the country's defence budget, reports AP.

"We adhere to the same friendly stand but, as we have been let down more than once in the past, it is prudent of us and it is our duty to our people to be prepared for any surprise attack on us," Kocheril Raman Narayanan said in a speech on state-run television on the eve of India's independence day tomorrow.

"Eternal vigilance is the price of freedom as well as peace," he said. India's president holds a figurehead position but his ceremonial independence

day speech reflects official policy and is cleared by the government.

Pakistan and India observe their independence day on August 14 and 15 respectively, marking the days in 1947 when they won their independence from British colonial rule.

This year's celebrations have been overshadowed by rising tension along their western border, where Indian air force fighter jets shot down a Pakistani plane on Tuesday and Pakistan launched a missile attack on three Indian air force helicopters a day later.

The two nations were earlier involved in an 11-week military conflict in the Kashmir Himalayas along the Line of

Control, the 1972 ceasefire line drawn after their last war in 1971.

"We have to pay special attention to strengthening our armed forces, equip them with the latest weapons and force multipliers," Narayanan said. Hitherto, our expenditure on defence has been one of lowest in the world in terms of GDP, much lower than that of our neighbours," he added.

India's defence budget has shrunk as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product from 3.7 per cent 10 years ago to 2.25 per cent this year. By comparison, Pakistan spends 6.9 per cent of its GDP on defence, and China 5.6 per cent.

See page 11 Col 7

## Opposition to transit triggered by India's attitude, says Saifur

By Staff Correspondent

Former finance minister M Saifur Rahman has said people of the country might not oppose providing transit or transshipment facility to India if it could have shown broadmindedness towards its small neighbours from the very beginning.

"I think objection or resistance from our people might not come if India cooperated with us and resolved various existing problems before seeking transit facility," he said. "We have bitter experience with India because of its mind-set and attitude."

Addressing a discussion on "Transit and Bangladesh Perspective" at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Saifur said mentality and attitude of people

the country become totally different whenever any issue concerning India comes before them. This is because of a historical background, he noted. Zia Khaleda Research Council organised the discussion, marking the 54th birthday of BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia. Convenor of the Council Ehsanul Kabir presided.

The former finance minister said India had always imposed preconditions and raised various other issues whenever Bangladesh sought to resolve the Ganges water problem.

"We had told India to resolve the water-sharing issue first and that we will then provide

facilities to you in phases. But all the time India raised issues like use of Chittagong Port, gas export and transit," he mentioned.

The BNP stalwart said Bangladesh wanted to import stone from Nepal for constructing Jamuna Bridge and export fertiliser to that country through India. But India didn't allow this.

"I can't understand why India, despite being a big country and after practising democracy for 50 years, could not have confidence in its small neighbours."

Referring to treaties and agreements with India including the Ganges water sharing See page 11 Col 3



## ANNOUNCEMENT

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We regret the inconvenience

Abdullah Mohamed

Area Manager, Bangladesh, Malaysia Airlines