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20 pages

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Prime Minister says

Nation failed to reach its goal due to conspiracy

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the nation could not reach its desired goal owing to conspiracy of the anti-liberation forces, report agencies.

"Over two decades were totally lost from the nation's life as this long period was dominated and dictated by the anti-liberation forces and boot-lickers of Punjabi clique who had subjugated our nation and exploited us for 23 years," she said.

"As after a long and arduous struggle we have re-established the values of war of liberation, our government is committed to translating into reality the hopes and aspiration of the people who fought for independence of the country." She said this while distributing 'Swad-See Page 12 Col 4

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of the Independence Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

Inside Today

Independence Day Special

The Daily Star Special on Independence Day on Pages 5-8

Supplement

Four-page special supplement on The Independence Day and National Day Pages 17-20

Mar	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
26	-	6.12 pm
27	5.57 am	-

Prayer Timings

March 26		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:00	5:30
Zohr	1:00	1:30
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:15	6:20
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

The day Bangladesh broke the shackles



The National Memorial at Savar.

—Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

The nation today celebrates the 29th anniversary of independence it earned through a bloody armed struggle.

A grateful nation will remember the valiant sons of the soil who laid down their lives for liberation of the motherland.

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared independence after midnight of March 25 in 1971 in the wake of a crackdown by the Pakistani troops on unarmed civilians in Dhaka and other parts of the then East Pakistan. The proclamation was later spread through a radio transmission by then Maj Ziaur Rahman.

Bangladesh emerged on the world map as an independent country on December 16 following a nine-month bloody war in which more than three million sons of the soil made supreme sacrifices.

The Last Post was played for five minutes at different points of the capital at midnight last night by bugle parties of the Army, BDR, Police and Ansar to mark the black night of March 25, 1971 when the Pakistani army massacred thousands of unarmed Bangladeshis.

Railway engines, buses, trucks, ships and launches also blew whistles at midnight all

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Rival partymen foil Speaker's public function in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 25: Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury could not deliver his speech at a public function at Biswanath this afternoon as it was foiled due to a trouble created by a group of party activists.

About 20 people were injured in the incident. Escorted by security men, the Speaker drove straight to the district headquarters and left for Dhaka in a private helicopter service at about 4:30 pm, canceling another programme at the Jalalpur High School in Sadar thana.

The Speaker attended a stipend distribution ceremony at a school at the thana headquarters, organised by the Biswanath Expatriates Education Trust. The programme be-

gan with Shafiqur Rahman Chowdhury in the chair. As per programme, front ranking local leaders of all parties were invited to address the function.

Accordingly, Principal Abdul Hannan of Jamaat-e-Islami, Iftekhar Hossain Shamim, district General Secretary of Awami League and Joint Secretary A N M Shafique addressed the function. The Speaker and the local MP Shah Rahman were yet to deliver their addresses.

At about 1-20 PM, former secretary general of JCD and local BNP candidate in the last parliamentary election begun his speech. At one stage, he said that the development activities initiated by former finance

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The speculation & its basis

By Special Correspondent

With the cancellation of President Bill Clinton's trip to Savar and Joypura, there has been speculation in a section of the international media about Bangladesh being a 'fertile

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No military solution to Kashmir

Clinton declares, vainly presses Pak ruler for early return to democracy

ISLAMABAD, Mar 25: US President Bill Clinton said in a speech to the Pakistani people that there could be no military solution to the 52-year dispute over Kashmir and urged its military government to try to restore dialogue with India, report Reuters, AP.

"There is no military solution to Kashmir," Clinton said

In an address to Pakistani people over national radio and television at the end of a brief visit after a five-day visit to India and Bangladesh.

Clinton vainly pressed Pakistan's military ruler today to say when democracy would be restored and termed Pakistan's nuclear weapons a waste of the nation's wealth.

A senior US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Clinton made the blunt points in more than one hour and 40 minutes of talks with General Pervez Musharraf, who overthrew the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on October 12.

US officials described the talks as constructive, serious

and direct.

But the talks underlined the gulf between Washington and the military administration over the suspension of democratic rule in Pakistan.

"He (Musharraf) did not offer a time line or an extended road map to the return of democracy," said the official.

The official said Clinton told Musharraf that Pakistan's nuclear weapons "did not make Pakistan a safer place, had not enhanced its deterrence capability and did not make the Pakistani people safer."

"In fact, embarking on a nuclear arms race (with arch-rival India) was an expensive way to squander the nation's wealth," the official quoted Clinton as telling Musharraf.

"The answer to flawed democracy is not to end democracy but to improve it," Clinton said in his broadcast address to the people of military-ruled Pakistan.

Clinton portrayed the United States and Pakistan as friends over five decades. "I believe our friendship can still be a force for tolerance and understanding throughout the world," he said.

But he said the military coup that suspended Pakistan's democracy last October threatened to undermine that friendship.

Clinton spoke on state-run television after a series of meetings with Gen Pervez Musharraf.

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US President Bill Clinton (L) who arrived in Pakistan for a 5-hour visit, shakes hands with Pakistani President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar (C) as Pakistani military officials look on, in Islamabad yesterday.

—AFP photo

Sylhet tense: Humayun stages his 'silent protest' today

From Nurul Kabir and Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Mar 25: Noted writer Humayun Ahmed, his family and friends are expected to arrive in the city tomorrow morning, amid mounting tension between the opposing political camps.

Ahmed, is scheduled to stage a 10 am-6pm hunger strike at the main entrance of Shahjalal University tomorrow.

He announced the programme on February 28 as 'a personal protest' against attack on teachers of the university, including his brother, and closure of the institution amid political disputes over naming of a few academic buildings and dormitories.

The BNP-led opposition parties, organised under an All Party Action Committee, have been opposing naming of the buildings and dormitories after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Ja-

hanara Imam and some other dignitaries.

The ruling Awami League and freedom fighters, organised under Mukti Joddah-Janatar Mancha, have been supporting the naming, while a faction of the ruling party has reportedly been backing the opposition.

Chancellor of the university Shahabuddin Ahmed earlier asked the authorities concerned to refer the matter to the Shahjalal University Senate, yet to be constituted.

Meanwhile, more than five hundred activists of the All Party Action Committee brought out a procession in the town chanting slogans against the government and Humayun Ahmed. They went to the university gate and stayed for a couple of hours.

Earlier, leaders of the Action Committee announced at a pub-

lic rally at Madhubon in the city that they would not allow Ahmed to stage any sit-in at the university gate.

In the afternoon, several crackers were blasted and gun shots fired near the residence of

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200 terrorists identified in Feni: Police

Feni Police have identified about 200 terrorists involved in murder, mugging, extortion, smuggling and vandalism in the crime-ridden district, official sources said, reports BSS.

However, other sources said the number of terrorists in the district is almost double the official statistics.

Police sources said they have

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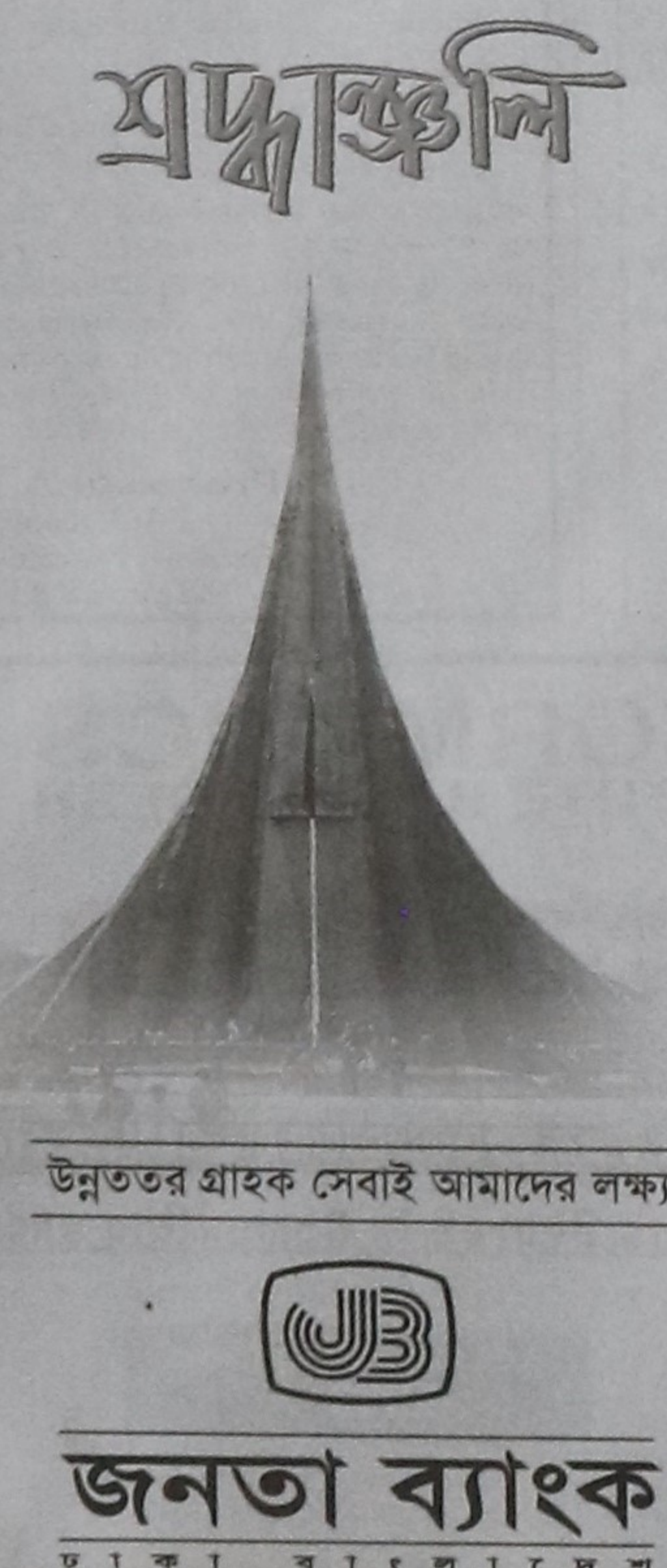


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জনতা ব্যাংক

The Daily Star-Bangladesh Scouts seminar Implement zoning laws, save Dhaka from unplanned growth

By Staff Correspondent

Proper implementation of zoning laws can save Dhaka from haphazard growth as a future megacity.

In building construction, developers should abide by zone-wise area plans so that Dhaka can grow keeping its residential and commercial characters intact.

Participants at a day-long workshop in the city yesterday made these observations, resolving that an unplanned metropolis would not be able to provide civic amenities to its residents.

Representatives of different service-providing agencies also acknowledged lack of coordination among those and under-

lined the need for guaranteeing 'one-stop service' to the people who like to construct buildings in the city.

The Daily Star organized the workshop on 'The Building Construction Act, 1952' in collaboration with the Bangladesh Scouts. The workshop was held at Scouts Bhavan.

City Mayor Mohammad Hanif joined scores of professionals, engineers, architects and academics representing RAJUK, Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka WASA, BUET and building developers in the brainstorming that worked out some recommendations in the light of existing laws.

Their recommendations in-

clude, proper city zoning, penalty for violators of law, more judicial power to the authorities in charge of implementing the laws, stopping external pressures from powerful lobbies, one-stop service in plan approval, stopping unauthorized land filling, charting out detailed area plans (DAPs) for each area and defining the roles of professionals in designing and constructing buildings.

The discussants recommended a unique system for approval of plans. Instead of making the applicants move from door to door, plans could be approved at one stoppage. Representatives of different service

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Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif making a point at the workshop on 'The Building Construction Act, 1952,' organised jointly by The Daily Star and Bangladesh Scouts at Scout Bhavan in the city yesterday.

—Star photo