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## Nat'l Revolution & Solidarity Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The National Revolution and Solidarity Day marking the uprising of the sepoy and people to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty will be observed in a befitting manner across the country today.

On this day in 1975, sepoy and people together foiled a conspiracy against the independence and sovereignty and freed late president Ziaur Rahman, who was then the Deputy Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Army, from captivity in Dhaka Cantonment.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to mark the day through milad mahfils, seminars, symposiums and cultural

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## Attack on Hindus BJP to take up the issue with Bangladesh

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will seriously take up the issue of alleged attacks on minority Hindus in Bangladesh.

The BJP President Jana Krishnamurthy raised the issue at the party's national executive meeting in the northern Indian town of Amritsar last week and voiced serious concern over "atrocities" against Hindus in Bangladesh.

The party's West Bengal unit presented a report on the subject to the national executive asking the government of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to launch a strong diplomatic campaign to pressurise Bangladesh to end "attacks" against Hindus.

The report suggests that the BJP central leadership send teams of party leaders to West Bengal, Tripura, Assam and Meghalaya where Hindus from Bangladesh have taken shelter after being alleged

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## Minorities attacked in Mirersarai: One killed, 16 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

One person was chopped to death and 16 others were injured, ten of them seriously, when a gang of terrorists attacked minority people at village Daspara in Mithanala union under Mirersarai upazila Monday night.

The dead was identified as Sunil Das Sandhu, 28. He died on the spot, police said.

The gang also ransacked and looted 20 houses during the attack.

Nine of the injured, identified as Sandhya Rani, 33, Santosh, 13, Dr. Subodh, 60, Sanjib, 10, Binod Das, 70, Atul Majumder, 60, Dalim, 20, Usha Rani, 25, and Ranjit, 30, were admitted to Upazila Health Complex.

Police and witnesses said the armed terrorists numbering about 25 attacked Hindu majority

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## INSIDE TODAY

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The clash of confusions

Column: Byline  
M J Akbar

Supplement 17-20

Today's 20-page issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day 2001'

## Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

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

|       | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| Nov 7 |           | 5-16 pm  |
| Nov 8 | 6-09 am   |          |

| Prayer Timings |       |        |
|----------------|-------|--------|
| Nov 7          |       |        |
|                | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr           | 5-00  | 5-30   |
| Zohr           | 12-45 | 1-15   |
| Asr            | 4-00  | 4-15   |
| Maghrib        | 5-26  | 5-30   |
| Esha           | 7-15  | 7-45   |

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Shady telecom business robs country of crores a month

INAM AHMED

Farhad has a brother in New York. He calls him every week and they have long talks. One day, a curious Farhad wanted to know whether such telephonic conversations cost his brother a fortune.

"No, I buy a phone card for five dollars and can talk for 20 minutes," replied his brother. That is just 25 cents a minute, while the normal tariff is 50 cents every minute. Assured, Farhad never bothered to cut short their weekly chats. Little did he know that he and his brother were part of a vice, which has grown in Bangladesh over the last few years and is costing the public dearly.

As a Daily Star investigation has revealed, people at the top level of the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) and the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications are involved in an illegal voice transmission operation known as call termination.

Even former post and telecommunications minister Mohammad Nasim is openly mentioned as part of the game that deprives the public exchequer

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| Current TAR and demand by operators |                       |              |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Operators                           | Current TAR (SDR/min) | Demanded TAR |
| KDDI                                | 0.50 SDR              | 0.2 SDR      |
| Sprint                              | 0.50 SDR              | 0.2 SDR      |
| MCI                                 | 0.50 SDR              | 0.2 SDR      |
| Concert                             | 0.50 SDR              | 0.15 SDR     |
| SingTel                             | 0.50 SDR              | 0.18 SDR     |

## All help for growth of local industries

Strong partnership with pvt sector: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said yesterday that her government intends to forge a cohesive partnership with the private sector.

"The government's role will always be that of supplementary and not regulatory," she asserted. Khaleda Zia said her government wants to end the country's dependence on imports and do all possible to assist growth of local industries.

The prime minister said the above during a meeting with a

delegation of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) which called on her at the PM's Office in the afternoon.

The business delegation felicitated Khaleda Zia on their landslide victory at the October 1 general election and also appreciated the steps so far taken by the new government.

Led by DCCI president Benazir Ahmed, the delegation included senior vice president Mahbubuzzaman and vice presi-

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## Gas export only after careful consideration, Saifur tells donors

SHAHRIAR KARIM

The government told the donors yesterday that it would export gas only after 'careful consideration' and address the privatisation issue in view of its socioeconomic impact.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman disclosed the government's position at a meeting with the Local Consultative Group (LCG) of the donors' community in the city yesterday.

The minister also highlighted the current pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserve and urged donors to give more assistance and quickly release pipeline commitments.

The donors in reply said quick fund release would necessarily require some critical reforms in the realms of energy, financial sector and public administration.

Speaking on the occasion, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) representative said unless immediate reforms were made, Bangladesh might as well witness this year the lowest ADB assistance in the last 15 years.

The ADB's commitment is \$296 million of which \$200 million involves the energy sector. If the reforms are not done, then Bangladesh may miss out on this total energy sector assistance and will have to be content with \$96 million only, he added.

Representatives of different donor agencies and countries attended the meeting held at the External Resource Division (ERD) in the city, according to sources.

The finance and planning minister briefed the donor community about the government's f u t u r e

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Geoff Marsh, former Australian Test opener and now coach of the Zimbabwean national team, conducts a catching practice session at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

## First home Test against Zimbabwe from tomorrow

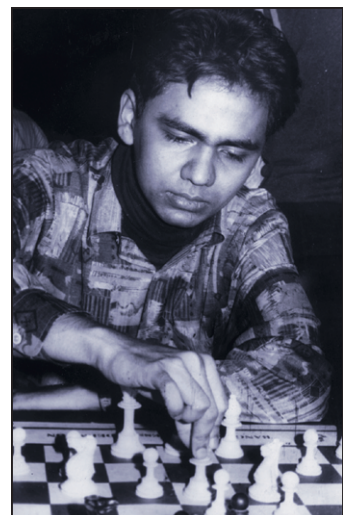
SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's first home series against Zimbabwe begins on the lush green of the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow.

The Coca-Cola Series -- two Tests and three one-day internationals -- are going to be a good chance for the international newcomers to register a respectable result against the Southern African nation, who have brought in a relatively inexperienced side.

"This is our best chance to win a Test. Even a draw would be inspiring in either of the Tests. And about the three one-dayers we are eager to win at least one," said Bangladesh cap-

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## Zia second Grand Master in country

SPORTS REPORTER

Ziaur Rahman, top-ranked chess player in the country, finally realised a long-brooked dream when he became only the second Bangladeshi Grand Master (GM).

Zia earned six and a half points out of a possible nine that enabled him to collect the much-anticipated third and final GM norm at the Ler Open Chess tournament which ended on November 4 in France.

The 27-year-old finished runner-up in the competition that featured as many as 13 Grand Masters from all over the world. Before Zia, Niaz Murshed was the country's lone

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