

## Bill to make *namaj* mandatory deferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday deferred introduction of a private member's (non-minister lawmaker) bill seeking state intervention to ensure that all Muslim citizens offer prayers (*namaj*) five times a day.

The deferral came as the architect of the bill, GM Quader of the Ershad-led Jatiya Party, said he was not 'prepared' to move the bill after the speaker invited him to do so.

"I seek your permission to table the bill on the next private member's day," Quader told the speaker.

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## Fahima rape case Prime accused & his accomplice placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suman, the prime accused in Fahima rape case, and his accomplice were placed on a two-day police remand yesterday.

They were produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court by the Investigation Officer (IO) of the case with a prayer for a 10-day remand. The court granted a two-day remand.

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PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses a rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday on the occasion of historic March 7.

# Stand up to oppressive government

Hasina tells March 7 rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami league chief Sheikh Hasina has urged the people to build up resistance against the BNP-led alliance government which, she

alleged, was repressing opposition leaders and workers and members of the minority community across the country.

"First they (ruling alliance men) gouged eyes and cut limbs of Awami League leaders and workers, then they looted houses and property of opposition workers and now they are torturing and killing women," the Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad said while addressing a big rally at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday.

The AL organised the rally in observance of the historic March 7. Senior party leaders also addressed it.

Hasina alleged that the administration of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was 'pressurising the victims of repression' to give statements as per its wishes.

Citing examples, she said that an acid victim named Rahima was kept confined at a Narail police station to force her not to mention the name of a BNP man who had thrown acid on her.

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|       | Sun Rises | Sun Sets |
|-------|-----------|----------|
| Mar 8 |           | 6-04 pm  |
| Mar 9 | 6-14 am   |          |

| Prayer Timings             |       |        |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Mar 8                      |       |        |
|                            | Azan  | Jamaat |
| Fajr                       | 5-15  | 5-50   |
| Juma                       | 12-15 | 1-20   |
| Asr                        | 4-45  | 5-00   |
| Maghrib                    | 6-09  | 6-13   |
| Esha                       | 7-30  | 8-00   |
| Source: Islamic Foundation |       |        |

# Southern region losing ecological, social character

People's consultation told in Barisal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Representatives of various professional and socioeconomic groups from greater Barisal yesterday observed that this southern riverine region is losing its ecological and social character through introduction of unplanned development programmes in different sectors affecting the heritage and livelihood of the people.

Taking part in a daylong consultation here at the divisional headquarters of Barisal they said the programmes particularly in agriculture and communication sectors were designed without taking into consideration the features of the region causing loss of its natural advantageous characteristics in favour of random, drastic development.

This part of the country once identified as a region of "paddy, rivers and canals" has now almost lost its heritage with its rivers and canals dying out and its famous varieties of rice becoming extinct, forcing locals to be dependent on imported rice from outside, they said.

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# Face global challenge with new generation industries

BEA seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh would become another victim of globalisation unless it develops a new generation of industries, the country's frontline economists observed yesterday.

To integrate successfully with the global economy Bangladesh needs to make a transition from 'trade-driven globalisation' to 'investment-propelled globalisation', they said at a conference.

Organised by the Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA), the conference on 'Globalisation and Bangladesh Economy' was held at the TSC auditorium in the city.

Chairing a session on 'Globalisation and Trade, Foreign Aid and Investment in Bangladesh', Professor Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said 20 major industrial sectors in

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PHOTO: STAR

Top media men at an opinion exchange meeting organised by the UNDP on 'Parliament-Media Consultation' at a city hotel yesterday.

## Danish, German envoys ask govt to stop minority repression

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk and German envoy in Dhaka Dietrich Andreas yesterday asked the government to take immediate steps to stop all sorts of repression and attacks on the country's religious and other minorities.

The envoys of the two European countries made the appeal while visiting two of the victims of the attack on Christian Palli at Chatmahar in Pabna on February 26 and 27 at the Orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital in the city.

Kaula Baidda, 75, and Subal Mandal, 52, are the two critically injured victims of the attack now undergoing treatment at the hospital. Another 23 victims are receiving treatments at different other hospitals.

The Danish envoy said growing incidents of crime here worried

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## Media men ask AL to join JS

UNB, Dhaka

Editors of different newspapers and mass media personalities have requested the main opposition Awami League to join the parliament session.

The request came from an opinion exchange meeting organised by UNDP, on Parliament-Media Consultation held at a hotel in the city yesterday.

In the meeting, they also placed various recommendations for making the parliamentary democracy more effective and strong.

Speaker Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Parliamentary

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Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk (middle) and German Ambassador Dietrich Andreas (R) yesterday visit Kaula Baidda, 75, at Pangu Hospital, who was injured in attacks on Christian Palli at Chatmahar in Pabna recently.