

**The horrifying night of Mar 25**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

March 25 is back again with the horrifying memory of genocide of innocent peace-loving Bangalees by the barbarous Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.

The Pakistan army cracked down on the people on the night of March 25 after several days of mock dialogue in Dhaka, negating the election mandate of 1970.

At about midnight, columns of tanks and armoured vehicles rolled onto the streets of Dhaka under the army's 'operation searchlight'. The heavily armed occupation forces launched a virtual war against the unarmed people, bombarding, showering bullets and torching houses indiscriminately. Many city areas were in flames for couple of days.

The indiscriminate killing

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## Supplements

Today's 24-page issue of The Daily Star includes three supplements: One-page supplement on 'Convocation of Darul-Ehsan University' on page 8; a four-page in-house supplement on Independence Day on pages 17 to 20; and another four-page govt sponsored supplement on the same occasion on pages 21 to 24.

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## Notice

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today and tomorrow (March 25 & 26) on the occasions of Ashura and the Independence Day.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper on March 26 & 27.

## Prayer Timings

Mar 25		
	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Mar 25		6-11 pm
Mar 26	5-57 am	

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Police strike on strikers

Motia, Saber, Noor detained for 3 hrs: Hasina, four others sneak into cordoned-off Osmany Udyan, others gather at different venues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police clamped down on Awami League hunger strikers, clubbing and teargassing them who tried to gather at the Osmany Udyan yesterday, defying a ban.

Three top AL leaders -- Motia Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Asaduzzaman Noor -- were roughed up and also detained for about three hours as they tried to walk down the riot police swept streets to the cordoned-off Udyan. Also injured was Tanjim Ahmed, an opposition lawmaker.

The venue of the hunger strike, Osmany Udyan, was made off-limits to strikers from early morning. And only five AL leaders including Dhaka Mayor Mohammad Hanif managed to enter it in the morning. Later, AL chief Sheikh Hasina joined them there in the afternoon.

From early morning, huge contingents of riot police stationed at strategic city points barred opposition leaders and workers from proceeding towards the Osmany Udyan.

The strikers sat down on streets in front of the Jatiya Press Club, AL office on Bangabandhu Avenue, the High Court and the city corporation office, and police swooped on them as they defied orders to disperse.

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PHOTO: STAR

Former home minister Mohammad Nasim cringes in reflex as thick smoke from a teargas shell fired on a sit-in front of the Jatiya Press Club blankets the footpath.

**Hasina calls hartal on April 6  
'Peaceful agitation our constitutional right'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League called a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal on April 6 protesting government's repression and yesterday's police action barring it from staging a 'mass hunger strike' in the city.

AL President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina announced the hartal programme while addressing a brief rally outside the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office amid firing of tear gas shells by police. Police dispersed the rally.

"It is most unfortunate that the government foiled our peaceful hunger strike programme today (Sunday). This government will not remain in power any longer. Their days are numbered," Hasina said over a megaphone from an open-roof vehicle.

The AL programmes also include anti-government demonstrations in the city on March 28 and in the country on March 30. Demonstrations will be held and processions brought out in support of the hartal on April 4 and 5.

She addressed the rally after participating in the 'mass hunger strike' at

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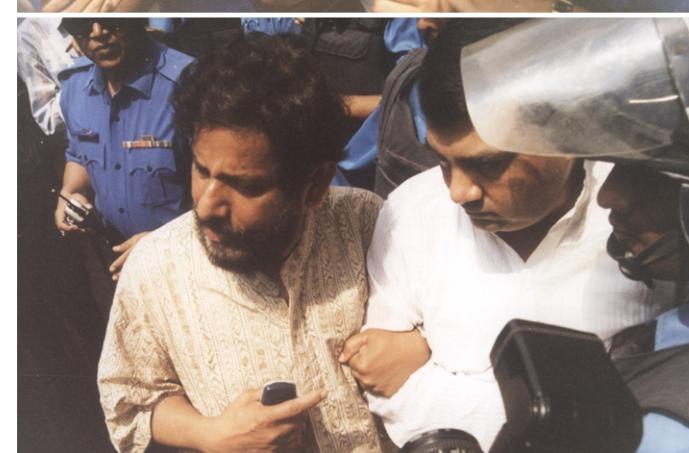


PHOTO: STAR

Former agriculture minister Motia Chowdhury (top), leader of the opposition's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury (bottom right) and opposition lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor are being taken to police vans after they were detained during the Awami League-called hunger strike yesterday.

## Ashura today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The holy Ashura, the tenth of Muharram, will be observed today across the country with due religious fervour.

On this day in the Hijri year 61, Hazrat Imam Hossain (RA), grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), made a supreme sacrifice for the cause of Islam and the teachings of the prophet.

Hazrat Imam Hossain along with other members of his family and close associates embraced martyrdom in an attack by Yajid and his soldiers in the desert of Karbala.

Newspaper and government offices will remain closed today.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have drawn up programmes to observe the day. Discussion meetings will be held and Tazia processions be brought out in the capital and elsewhere in the country.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television will broadcast special programmes and the dailies will publish special articles on the significance of the day.

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of Ashura.

## Moyeen finally joins ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan has finally joined the Ministry of Science and Technology, ending all speculations and rumours.

Yesterday evening, Dr Khan attended the inaugural function of the annual computer show organised by Bangladesh Computer Sanity (BCS) as special guest with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest.

Although Dr Khan did not go to his ministry in the morning, he attended the special cabinet meeting, family sources said.

However, the minister could not be reached for his comments despite repeated efforts by telephone.

Earlier, Khan was transferred to the Ministry of Science and Technology from the Ministry of Information. But he did not join his new office even a week after the transfer order nor did he participate in the parliamentary sessions as well as in cabinet meetings.

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# Bangladesh turns 31 tomorrow

STAR REPORT

The nation celebrates the 32nd Independence Day tomorrow with a patriotic zeal and renewed pledge to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh.

On this day in 1971, Bangalees took up arms and joined the War of Independence at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Bangabandhu declared independence on the night of March 26, 1971 as the Pakistani occupation forces cracked down on innocent and unarmed people of the then East Pakistan and launched a genocide.

The nation earned independence after a nine-month bloody war and supreme sacrifices of three million people.

The independence came after a long struggle against exploitation and repression by the then Pakistani rulers. The struggle began with the Language Movement of 1952.

This year, the Independence Day

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## City crime silences a young architect

IAB urges govt to protect professionals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It was a Friday evening. Abul Hossain Hasan, an architect, sat inside a computer graphics shop at Sir Syed Road in the city's Mohammadpur area. He had rented the shop to his nephew and helped him set up the business.

At around 9:00pm, an auto-rickshaw pulled over in front of the shop and out came four men. They entered the shop, pulled out weapons and asked Hasan to keep quiet. One of the intruders got hold of a computer and tried to take it away.

Meanwhile, Hasan dashed for the exit in a bid to escape. The miscreants shot him in the chest. Profusely bleeding, Hasan dragged himself up to the main entrance of the house opposite the shop and pleaded for help.

Unfortunately, no one could come forward to help. The armed intruders had begun firing shots and exploding crackers by then.

Help finally came after the miscreants had left the scene, running towards the Mirpur Road and leaving



Abul Hossain Hasan

ing behind the auto-rickshaw they came by. It was too late.

By the time relatives took Hasan, father of a three-month old girl, to the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases on a rickshaw, he was already dead.

According to family sources, ten vital minutes were lost as nobody could attend to the BUET graduate

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