

## Int'l Women's Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women take centre stage once again as numerous women's rights groups and international organisations in Bangladesh and elsewhere around the world prepare to observe the International Women's Day today.

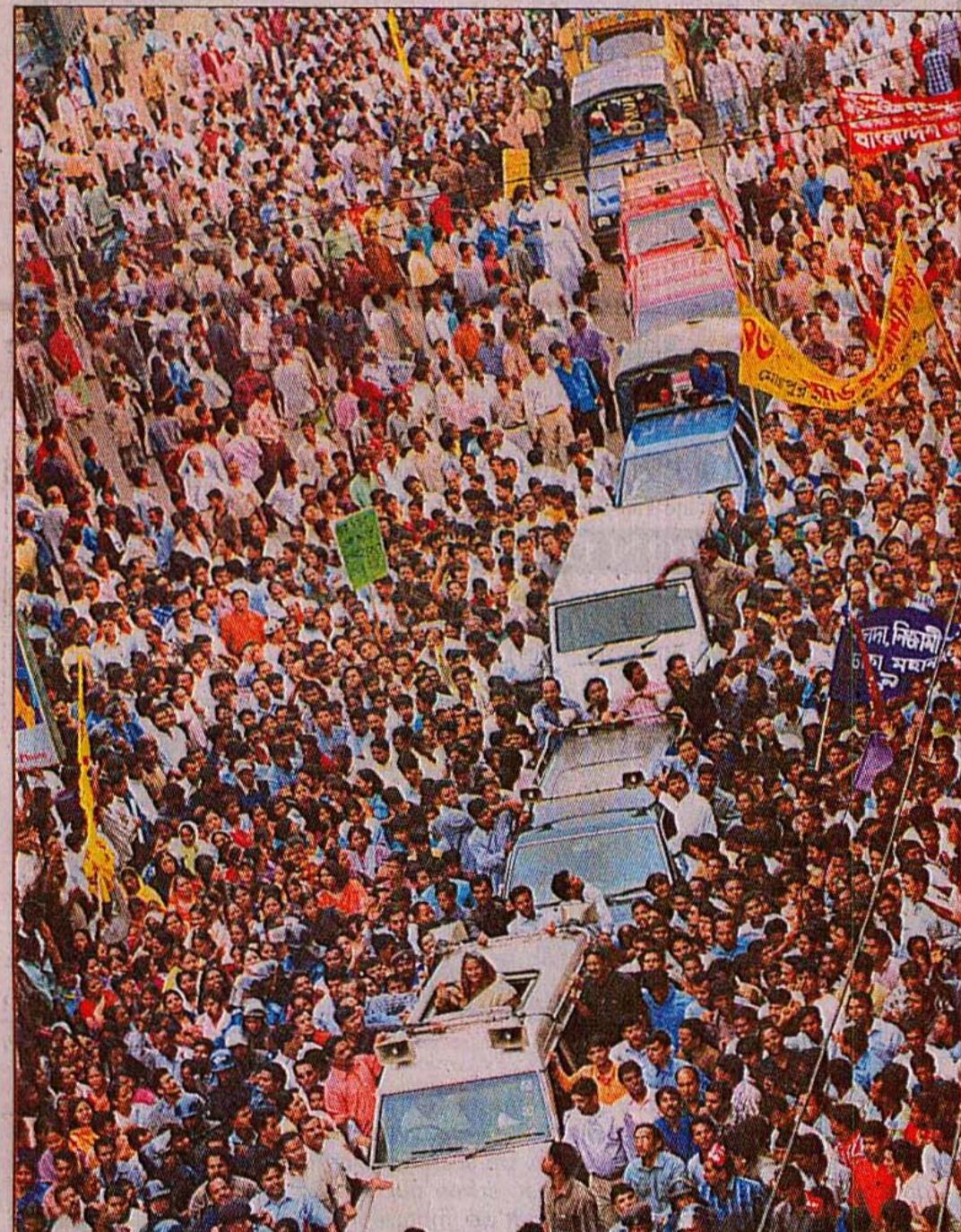
On this day in 1857, female workers of a sewing factory in New York fought police while protesting against a 12-hour workday, low pay and unhealthy condition at workplaces.

Later, the day was declared International Women's Day during the second International Socialist Women's Conference in Copenhagen in 1910 following a proposal by German Socialist Movement leader Clara Zetkin.

The theme 'No more dowry' has been chosen to observe the day in Bangladesh where millions have fallen victim to the social scourge

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## Hasina threatens more hartals at month-end



Asks coalition to step down, unveils March 9-22 protest programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday rejected Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's call to give up hartal before a huge procession and said her party along with allies would enforce more hartals at the month-end against 'the misrule of the government'.

"After the end of the SSC examinations on March 24, we'll consider calling more hartals demanding resignation of the Khaleda regime," Hasina, also the leader of the opposition, told thousands of demonstrators from a truck in front of her Bangabandhu Avenue party headquarters before the beginning of the procession.

She asked the Khaleda Zia administration to step down immediately, showing respect to people's desire. She alleged that people had no confidence in the present BNP-Jamaat coalition government as it totally failed to run Bangladesh.

The demonstrators of the AL and its front organisations paraded through different city roads for hours shouting anti-government slogans and carrying banners reading 'People Don't Want the Anti-people Government Any More', 'Step Down Immediately', and 'Khaleda's quit is Our One-point Demand', while many beat drums.

The main opposition brought out the procession for the immediate resignation of the government and snap polls and unveiled protest day programmes from March 9 to March 22 across Bangladesh against what it said were repression, price hike and attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad along with the resignation.

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina leads a procession from Bangabandhu Avenue to Russell Square in Dhaka yesterday with thousands of demonstrators shouting anti-government slogans, carrying banners and placards.

## 2 PCJSS activists killed, 8 abducted

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Operatives allegedly of an anti-CHT peace accord group gunned down two members of Parbatya Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), abducted eight others and burnt a house in a five-hour raid on a remote village in Rangamati Saturday night.

The PCJSS, a pro-CHT peace accord platform of hill people, in a press release yesterday blamed its rival United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) for the violence.

A 25-man strong UPDF gang led by Shantibabu Chakma and Tapon Jyoti Chakma stormed Kurolyamura village in Naniarchar upazila at around 8:00pm.

The attackers reportedly in search of PCJSS activists found Chitra Kumar Chakma, 27, and Juhudam Chakma, 25, shot them

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## MPs not elected to set vehicles afire

PM criticises AL for not joining JS

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday questioned whether an MP should set afire and vandalise vehicles on the streets instead of joining parliament sessions for which people elect them.

Criticising the Awami League (AL) MPs for not joining parliament and staging procession inside the parliament building, she urged people to tell them there is no use voting them in future as they did not go to parliament this time.

Addressing a public meeting at the Collectorate ground here Khaleda said, 'Peace and discipline are of utmost necessity now but the opposition party (Awami League) is impairing these. They (AL) don't want to let us work for the country.'

The PCJSS and UPDF claimed to have lost 300 members in rival

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## 2 Khulna outlaws lynched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A mob lynched two activists of Janajuddha faction of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party on Saturday night (at Barisila village in Sadar upazila) in Bagerhat when they hurled bombs at a shrimp trader for refusing to pay toll.

The dead were identified as Alamgir, 24, and Ismail, 22.

The trader, Abu Saeed, was seriously injured.

Officer-in-Charge of Sadar Police Station Matia Rahman said a gang of five outlaws threw two hand bombs at the shrimp trader as he did not pay them toll.

A crowd of Barisila villagers then chased the attackers, caught two of them at the nearby ferry ghat and beat them dead. The other three managed to escape firing shots at the mob, police said.

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## RESERVED JS SEATS FOR WOMEN Cabinet sits today to okay quota system

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Names of the leaders of the proposed 'alternative stream' in politics led by former president AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury will be formally announced on March 11.

"Hopefully we will announce the names of the leaders of the proposed alternative political stream on March 11 at Muktagong, if the venue is allocated to us," said Prof. MA Mannan, a member of the national committee of the proposed platform.

Speaking at a press conference at the KC memorial clinic in Baridhara, he said, "If our desired venue is not allocated, if necessary we will

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## Fresh bid to tap tele-talk

Security agencies press for making police verification a must for new cellphone connection

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

Security agencies have asked the telecoms regulator to introduce mandatory police verification for new cellphone connections in a bid to control telephone conversations in the name of national security.

In a letter the chairman of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the National Security Intelligence (NSI) asked the watchdog to take an undertaking from the would-be

subscribers that they would not object to the security agencies' tapping their telephonic conversations for the sake of national security.

Subscribers reacted to the plan that they said would be an additional hassle. "Police demand conveyance allowance to do verifications for passport and other needs," Mizanur Rahman, a businessman, said in distrust of police roles.

"In many countries we have a prepaid cellphone without pro-

ducing any document."

The letter that came after the proposed amendment to Bangladesh Telecommunications Act 2001 was delayed also requested the regulator to ask telecoms service providers and internet service providers (ISPs) to maintain a subscribers' database which the intelligence agencies can access for pressing charges and trial purposes.

The agencies also asked the chairman to take steps so that

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## AZAD ATTACK 10 days gone, investigators still clueless

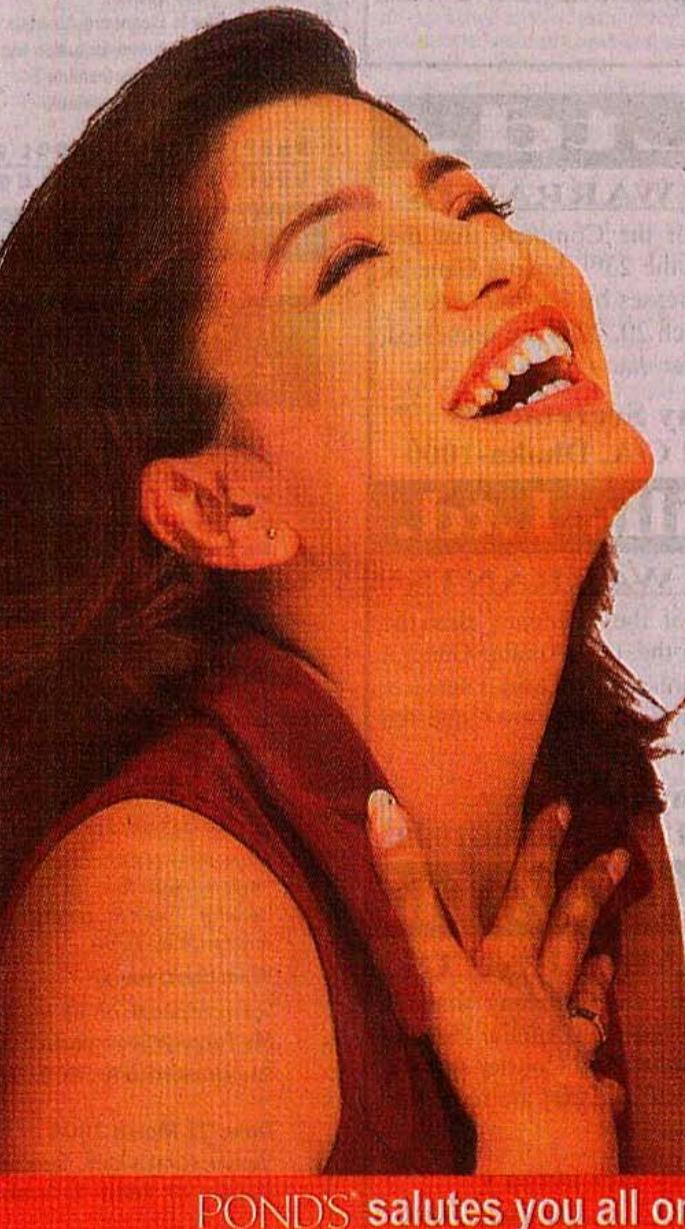
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Investigators are still clueless about the motive for February 27 deadly machete attack on writer Humayun Azad near Bangla Academy even 10 days into the incident that critically injured his head, jaw and shoulders.

Immediately after the attack, Azad's family pointed an accusing finger at some fundamentalist quarters who had threatened the versatile author of over 50 books. But the investigators, firstly Ramna police and later the Criminal

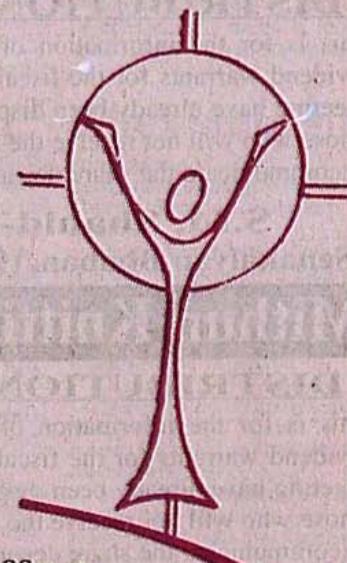
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8th March  
International Women's Day  
Celebrations from POND'S®



Celebrating Life  
Celebrating Womanhood

Every moment of every day.



Watch CHANNEL 1 today at 8:20 p.m.

POND'S salutes you all on International Women's Day.