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Encyclopaedia on Liberation War launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muktijuddho Kosh, a five-volume encyclopaedia on the Liberation War, was launched yesterday at a simple ceremony in the capital.

Edited by a team of historians and researchers headed by Prof Muntasir Mamun, the more than 2,000-page encyclopaedia contains about as many entries.

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38 Thais of Rupsha Bridge Project found HIV-positive

21 repatriated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A health survey found 38 Thai workers engaged in Rupsha Bridge Project (RBP) HIV-positive.

The Health Services Society (HSS), a voluntary organisation that

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70 Chinese miners die in coal mine explosion

AFP, Beijing

Seventeen miners were confirmed dead and more than 50 were trapped underground after a powerful gas explosion at a coal mine in northern China yesterday, state media reported.

The blast occurred around noon at the Xishui colliery at Shuozhou

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Prayer Timing

March 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-55	5-30
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-16	6-20
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Pakistan to upgrade nuke capability

Tests long-range missile

AFP, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf vowed yesterday to further upgrade Pakistan's nuclear capability with a "strict adherence" to non-proliferation as he watched the test-firing of a long-range missile which can carry a nuclear warhead.

"The nation's nuclear capability, which enjoyed the broadest national consensus, was developed for Pakistan's own security and will continue to receive the highest national priority," a military statement quoted Musharraf as saying.

The military ruler allayed apprehensions about the future of the programme after the fresh disclosures about the activities of disgraced nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan.

"The capability was here to stay, will continue to go from strength to strength and no harm will ever be

allowed to come to it," he said.

Pakistan admitted last week that Khan had supplied Iran with centrifuges, used to enrich uranium for atomic warheads. It said the government was not involved but has refused to give him up for questioning by other countries.

Khan, who is considered a national hero in Pakistan and is the father of its nuclear bomb, confessed in February 2004 to leaking secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya after a government probe into nuclear proliferation.

He was pardoned by Musharraf but has been living under virtual house arrest in Islamabad.

"The president reiterated Pakistan's policy of consolidating and strengthening its minimum deterrence needs, as well as strict adherence to non-proliferation," the statement said.

Saturday's firing of the Shaheen 2 (Hatf VI) surface-to-surface missile was successful, the statement said.

"This missile system, which incorporates advanced two-stage solid motor technology, can carry all types of conventional and nuclear warheads to a range of 2,000 kilometres (1,243 miles)," it said.

"The test was carried out to verify some of the refined technical parameters...all parameters were validated."

Musharraf congratulated the scientists and engineers on the test and said "the nation is proud of its strategic organisations and strategic forces."

He said these forces had "gelled extremely well" under the National Command Authority into an effective deterrence force in a short span of five years.

"Their technical and operational readiness was indeed praiseworthy

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A tiny tot poses for photograph beside some miniature country boats at an exhibition of boats of Bengal launched yesterday at the National Museum.

Fresh row at ACC over transfer order

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

A new conflict surfaced between the chairman and a commissioner of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) over the recent 'controversial' transfer order of eight officials of now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (Bac).

ACC Commissioner Maniruzzaman Miah questioned the transfer order because it was issued by Lt Col Abdul Hannan Mridha, a former Bac official. Mridha himself holds no position in the ACC and presently is a reserved employee of the government.

When Miah met ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan on Thursday to talk about the issue, Sultan assured him of changing the transfer order. But yesterday, the chairman told Miah that the order will not be changed.

"I don't think there is any legal basis of this transfer order," Miah told The Daily Star.

On the other hand, the chairman told The Daily Star, "There has been no irregularity."

The transfer order was issued on Thursday under which seven former Bac officials of Dhaka have been posted to different places outside Dhaka and one Bac official from outside was deputed to the ACC's Dhaka office.

All the former Bac officials are now the government's reserved employees but the ACC last month unilaterally decided to attach them temporarily. This decision was conveyed to the Cabinet Division, but the government has not yet given its consent to it.

Following last month's decision, Miah named a dozen officials for attaching them with him and sought

Decision taken to set up textile zone outside Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs yesterday in principle decided to set up a textile zone outside Dhaka which will be equipped with waste treatment plants.

The committee took the decision on the basis of a recommendation of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Father, son die in freak accident

Mother in critical state, daughter injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two members of a family were killed and two others injured when a tree fell on the CNG-run three-wheeler they were in at Tejgaon yesterday evening.

The dead were identified as Anwarul Kabir, 48, a civil engineer, and his 11-year-old son Sadram Kabir. The injured were Kabir's wife Jinat Roksana, an assistant director (training) of Education Bhaban, and her seven-year-old daughter Raisa Kabir.

The four were returning to their house at Baily Road government quarters when a trunk of a tree fell on a running bus right in front of the three-wheeler near Tejgaon Police Post at about 6:45pm, said a witness.

After hitting the back of the bus, the trunk rolled onto the three-

'Dead woman' arrested after convict spends 7 years in jail

BDNEWS, Magura

Police Friday night arrested Josna for whose alleged 'murder', one youth of Magura has already spent seven years in jail.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

CJ refused Thai visa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain on Thursday was refused Thai visa for strict visa rules.

Officials at the Thailand embassy in Dhaka declined to receive the red

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Opposition human chains today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The mainstream opposition parties today form human chains in upazilas across the country to register their 'no confidence in the BNP-led coalition government'.

The opposition said today's

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