



'SLOW-POISONING' OF HASINA Court rejects SQ Chy's bid to sue 7

COURT CORRESPONDENT
A Dhaka court yesterday threw an attempted murder case against immediate past president Iajuddin Ahmed, former chief adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed, ex-army chief Moeen U Ahmed, and four others.
The defendants were accused of attempting to kill Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by "slow poisoning" in a sub-jail during the state of emergency under the immediate past caretaker government.
Metropolitan Magistrate AKM Emdadul Haque
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PM gets war trial process going

Black Night revisits tonight

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and HASAN JAHID TUSHER
A long wait for justice is about to end today as the government announces a formal start to the process of trying the war criminals, just before the nation's 40th Independence Day.
The government timed the landmark announcement with the Black Night of March 25 that evokes the painful memories of thousands of unarmed Bangalees slaughtered by the Pakistani occupation forces in 1971.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night approved initiation of the trial of war criminals at her official residence Gono Bhavan, which will open a new chapter in the history of Bangladesh.
It was confirmed by Law Minister Shafique Ahmed, who told The Daily Star that on completion of the official process a gazette notification would be issued in the later hours today.
"We'll announce it formally tomorrow [today] in the afternoon," said the law minister.
He added the prime minister approved a six-member investigation committee to probe the war crimes and a prosecution team of equal numbers, which the government can expand, if need be.
The premier gave her nod to the proposed three-member war crimes tribunal, but her
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Some Jamaat leaders living on nerves

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN
Panicked by the government move to hold trial of war criminals, top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders with alleged links to 1971 war crimes are desperately searching ways to evade prosecution and protect their political future.
Once convicted of war crimes, an individual will permanently lose the right to contest election to parliament or local government bodies, according to the electoral laws enacted before and after the ninth parliamentary election.
A number of top Jamaat leaders might be detained on
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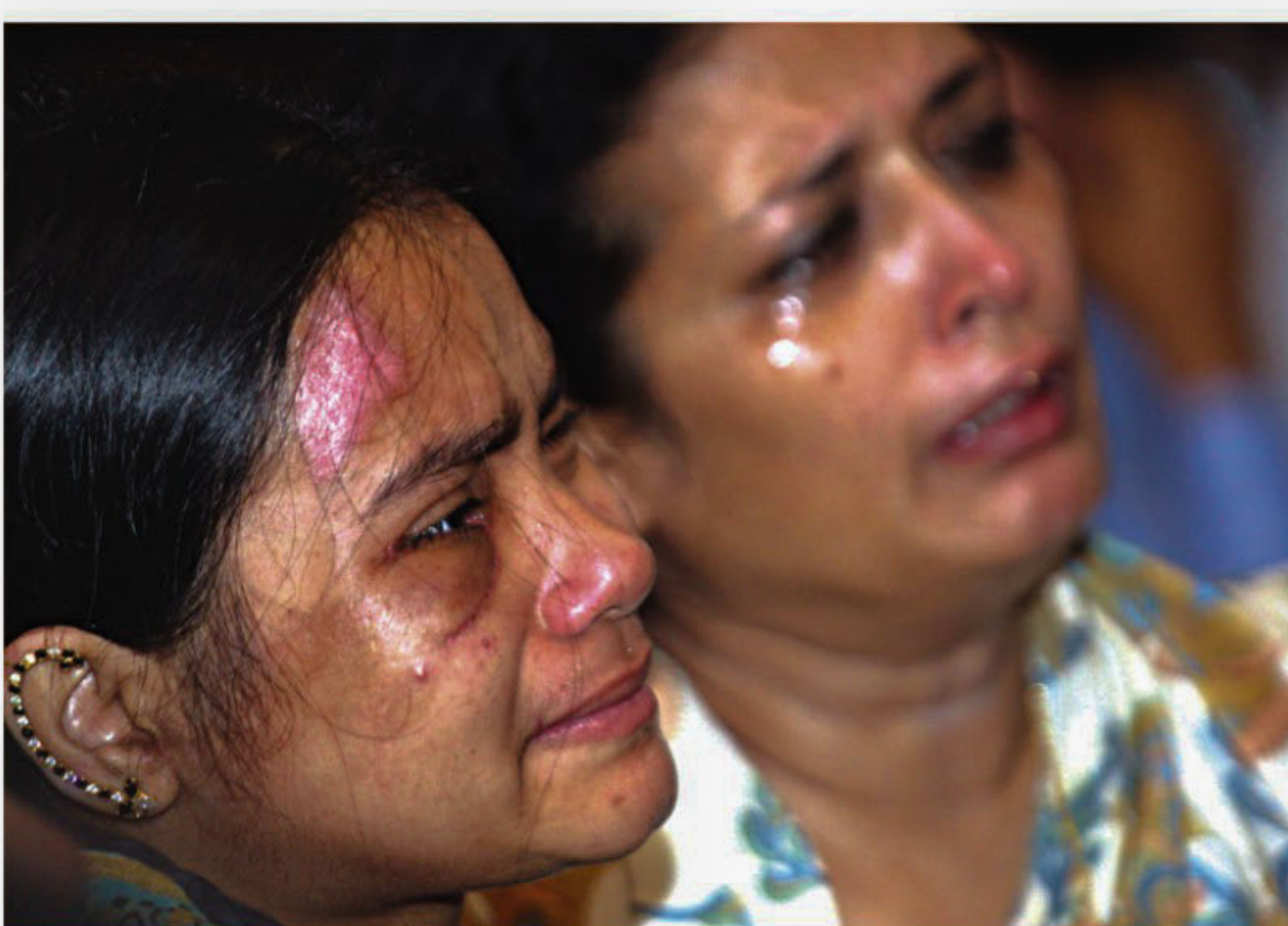
Food ration in hills Tk 100cr a year

Most beneficiaries of public money Bangalee settlers

PINAKI ROY
The government has to spend over Tk 100 crore a year to provide food rations to 40,335 families, mostly Bangalee settlers living in 81 cluster villages in Chittagong Hill Tracts.
And it has been shouldering the expenditure for years without solving the problems in CHT region.
A total 26,220 Bangla-speaking families living in the 81 cluster villages in Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts have been getting the ration since October 1988. The remaining 14,115 families are repatriated indigenous refugees and members of the Shanti Bahini who have been given the ration since 1998.
Many said most Bangalee families are quite well-off for getting the food ration of 85kg rice a month each, but the government has never stopped providing it.
In 1986, when massive violence erupted in the region HM Ershad's government built the cluster villages for Bangalee settlers near army camps to ensure their safety and security and later decided to provide them with food ration initially for three years.
On the issue, some Bangalees living in Baghaichhari upazila of Rangamati said the government has not increased the number of recipients for years.
"Population has increased in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Now they should review and increase the number of ration recipients," said Abdul Kalam, who moved to Baghaichhari from Dighinala, Khagrachhari, three years ago.
Indigenous recipients comprise those
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All unfit vehicles to be seized

Vows communications ministry
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The communications ministry yesterday announced to initiate a drive to confiscate all unfit age-old public transport and remove them from the capital.
"We have decided to seize all over-20-years-old and unfit public vehicles and dump them in two designated places at Kanchpur and Khilkhet," Communications Secretary Mozammel Haque Khan said.
The announcement came following reports in The Daily Star yesterday.
Talking to The Daily Star at
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Words fail to convey how mothers feel reminiscing the lovely moments with their children lost in road accidents. Read the faces if you can.

Murders, not accidents

Families gather to mourn deaths in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Sufia Kamal Auditorium of the National Museum was plunged into a sombre mood yesterday with the arrival of family members of road accident victims.
They were sobbing uncontrollably and some of them were trying to choke back tears as they recounted how their near and dear ones were killed in road accidents.
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RanksTel, Dhaka Phone shut down again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission once again shut down RanksTel and Dhaka Phone yesterday.
BTRC Chairman Zia Ahmed said the private land phone operators failed to submit their subscriber-lists.
RanksTel and Dhaka Phone were permitted to resume operations Tuesday on
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STRIKE ENTERS DAY 2 Local miners confine 760 over pay hike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur
Local miners confined 760 people, including 370 staff, to Barapukuria Coal Mine Company Ltd (BCMCL) complex yesterday, the second day of their strike, to realise their demand for pay hikes.
Some 220 Chinese officials and staffs of two contractor companies--CMC and XMC--are among the victims of confinement.
The coal production and sale remained suspended for the second consecutive day, said BCMCL official sources.
The agitating miners with the help of villagers encircled the BCMCL complex with sticks from outside and resisted any movement of its officials and staffs. But the staffs were maintaining external contacts over phones, sources said.
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MARRIAGE REFUSAL Youth shoots dead parents of schoolgirl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A youth shot a schoolgirl's parents dead in their flat at Kalachandpur in the capital's Gulshan yesterday as they declined to marry their daughter off to him.
Rubel, 24, shot the couple when they tried to prevent him from dragging their daughter away.
Deceased Sadequr Rahman, 55, general secretary of Bangladesh Nursery Owners' Association and his wife Romana Nargis, 45, were living on the first floor of a five-storey building.
Victims' daughter Bithi who witnessed the murders told The Daily Star that Rubel along with his friend Mithun came to their flat around 8:45am.
"Rubel had a hot exchange of words with my father as he turned down Rubel's proposal of marriage with my sister Nilufar Yesmin Iti. My father asked him to send his guardians instead," said Bithi.
At one stage Rubel tried to drag Iti out of the house. As her father resisted, Rubel shot him in the head around 9:00am, she said adding that Rubel shot her mother as she came to her husband's help.
"My father died on the spot and my mother succumbed to her injury at United Hospital in Gulshan at 9:30am," Bithi said.
When Rubel was having an altercation with Iti after the killings, Bithi ran down to the garage and took shelter in a car asking the security to close the main gate.
Caretaker of the building Abdul Kuddus told this correspondent that around 9:00am he locked the main gate as Bithi told him that Rubel had killed her father.
"Rubel made me open the gate at gunpoint and fled the scene with his accomplice," the caretaker said.
He said Rubel used to come to meet Iti in the flat over the last six months. Rubel also went out on dates with Iti at times.
Officer-in-charge Kamal Uddin of Gulshan Police Station said Rubel, a resident of Nadda in Gulshan, tried to develop a relation with Iti over the last one year but Iti's family did not accept it, as he was a drug addict.
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Celebrate 26th March with Star

We are proud to present, along with our issue of 26th March, all our Dhaka based readers with the National Flag, along with a specially designed stand, which will enable you to hoist the flag in your car, home and other places.
Let us raise our flag high, re-live the spirit of our Liberation War and resolve anew to build our society.
Love Bangladesh, Build Bangladesh.
Our thanks to Nazim Farhan Chowdhury of Adcomm and Daniel Seidl of Bangladesh-German Chamber of Commerce & Industry for their cooperation and assistance for this venture.

From today our 4th SME SERVICE CENTRE starts operation at Jatrabari

SME BANKING

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