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REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXI No. 52

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FALGUN 23, 1417 BS | RABIU SANI 1, 1432 HJRI | 32 PAGES PLUS STAR FORUM PRICE: Tk 10.00

## HISTORIC MARCH 7

Mahfuz Anam recalls Bangabandhu's moment of glory

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What has freedom meant for women in 40 years of independent Bangladesh

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# DU students go berserk

100 vehicles vandalised, bus burnt in 2-hour mayhem following overnight death of a student under truck

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University students yesterday vandalised around 100 vehicles, set a bus afire and clashed with police in protest at the death of a fellow student.

At least 15 students and five policemen were wounded in a spate of clashes. Several passengers also suffered injuries during the attacks on the vehicles, witnesses said.

Enraged at the death of Muhammad Redowan, 25, a post-graduate student of Arabic department, the students also ransacked the DU proctor's office and different other rooms of the university.

Redowan received a fatal injury after he was pushed under a speeding truck during a clash with transport workers at Motijheel Saturday night, students alleged.

DU Vice-Chancellor AAMS Arefin Siddique claimed outsiders had carried out the vandalism. "I don't believe DU students could take part in such vandalism."

The university syndicate in an emergency meeting last

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Dhaka University students vandalise vehicles at Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday following the death of a fellow student on Saturday night.

Inset The dead, Muhammad Redowan, a post graduate student of Arabic Department of the university.

PHOTO: STAR



## Bangabandhu's finest hour

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

March 7 was expected to be a day of decision for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

There were those who believed that he would offer the regime in West Pakistan one last opportunity for a settlement of the crisis in East Pakistan. In much the same manner, there were millions of Bengalis who without question expected him to declare Bangladesh's independence at his Race Course public rally on the day. Right up to his arrival at the Race Course, Mujib and his party colleagues had carefully assessed the situation, with hardly any details of the deliberations trickling out into the public domain. The upshot of the situation was that the people of Bangladesh, in broad measure, did not



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## NEW CIVIL SERVICE ACT ON THE CARDS

# No more forced retirement

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The final draft of a new law proposes that no civil servant should be forced into retirement as punishment without adequate departmental proceedings including an opportunity of self-defence.

According to the draft, all cadres in Bangladesh Civil Service will be deemed civil servants, who are the deputy secretaries, joint secretaries, additional secretaries, secretaries, the principal secretary and the cabinet secretary of the government, and all Class-I and II gazetted officers.

Bureaucrats say currently civil servants may be forced into retire-

ment by political governments using a 1974 law. The new law will put an end to that practice, they feel.

As per the Public Servants (Retirement) Act, 1974, the government may send any of its officers into retirement any time on completion of 25 years of service. And the government does not even need to explain the reasons for making such decisions.

The Ministry of Establishment prepared the draft of the Civil Service Act, 2010, and it was reviewed by a committee headed by Cabinet Secretary M Abdul Aziz, chief of the civil service.

According to the proposed law, the

Public Servants (Retirement) Act, 1974, will not be applicable for civil servants from the day the new law will be enacted, but it will remain effective for other government officials.

However, there will be an option for the government to force a civil servant into retirement if he or she fails to pass a promotion examination four times. The officials will be allowed to go into voluntary retirement, after their third failure to pass an exam.

According to the draft, a civil servant's regular retirement age will be 60 instead of the current age limit of

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# Removal letter illegal

Say Yunus' counsels, argue at HC as no show-cause notice served; hearing resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Counsels for Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday argued that there is no legal bar for him to continue as the managing director of Grameen Bank since the Bangladesh Bank's directive to remove him was illegal.

The removal of Yunus without any show-cause notice was a violation of law, they told the High Court while placing arguments on a writ petition filed by Yunus, who challenged the legality of the central bank's order.

The HC bench of Justice Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and Justice Gobinda

Chandra Tagore adjourned the hearing till 2:00pm today. Prof Yunus was present in the courtroom during the hearing.

Former attorney general Mahmudul Islam and Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud appeared for Yunus and said their client was appointed as the managing director with approval of the central bank as per the provisions of the Grameen Bank Ordinance, 1983.

Bangladesh Bank has no authority to remove anyone from Grameen Bank. The central bank is empowered to approve appointments as per the provisions of the ordinance, they argued.

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## Khaleda deeply concerned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government has tarnished the country's image in the global arena by removing Dr Muhammad Yunus from the post of Grameen Bank's managing director in a disrespectful way.

"The debate created by the government centering Grameen Bank and Dr Yunus is nothing but a blatant exhibition of its partisan views and mean mindedness. It will harm

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## Govt forces attack 3 rebel held towns

AFP, Ras Lanuf

Libyan troops loyal to Muammar Gaddafi launched counter-offensives on three rebel-held towns yesterday as the popular uprising escalated into open warfare.

The resilience of Gaddafi's forces in the face of the widespread insurrection and their ability to counter-attack will increase fears that Libya is heading for a protracted civil war rather than the swift revolutions seen in Tunisia and Egypt.

Gaddafi's troops, backed by tanks, artillery, fighter jets and helicopters attacked the towns of Zawiyah and Misrata, to the immediate west and

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Evacuees from Libya stand on the Cypriot-flagged ship Ionian King, which was used to evacuate 1,280 people from Libya, docked in Souda Bay on the southern Greek island of Crete yesterday. Three Bangladeshi nationals died while fleeing from the ship.

PHOTO: AFP

# Three drown in Greek waters

Bangladeshi evacuees from Libya reportedly get desperate not to return home

STAR REPORT

At least three Bangladeshi evacuees died yesterday after they jumped from a ship that was carrying them to the Crete Island in Greece from strife-torn Libya.

Several dozen evacuees jumped from the vessel. Of them, 18 were hospitalised

and 15 others are missing, said foreign ministry officials.

In an apparent attempt to avoid being sent home on arrival in Crete, they used a rope to lower themselves from the Cypriot-flagged ship into the sea at night, said Greece authorities.

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## UK to arrange 3 evacuation flights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The British government said it will provide three emergency evacuation flights to repatriate 500 Bangladeshis stranded in Tunisia.

Three commercial charter planes were to take the Bangladeshis home from Djerba airport later yesterday, the British government said.

"I have seen for myself the scale of the humanitarian

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Qulkwani

Qulkwani of late Badiuzzaman Khundker father of Mr. Nafees Khundker, Director, Bank Asia will be held at his residence: Exclusive Circle, Apt-401, House-62, Road-27, Gulshan-1 on 8th March, 2011 (Tuesday) after Maghrib prayer.

Relatives, friends, wellwishers and admirers are requested to attend the programme and pray for peace of the departed soul.

Family members