



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

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Independence Day special

28 PAGES PRICE: Tk 10.00



## MARCH 25, 1971

A journalist's account of  
Operation Searchlight

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## A BOOST FOR JUTE

Exports to Thailand and  
India will increase

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## OBAMA WARNS

N Korea risks further sanctions if its  
missile launch is not cancelled

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## Crimson dawn of freedom

Independence  
Day today

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

A few minutes past midnight on March 26, 1971, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared the independence of Bangladesh.

The message of freedom came even as Dhaka burned. Units of the Pakistan army had already fanned out in various directions, putting everything -- people, buildings, homes, monuments -- to the gun and the torch. A column of soldiers was on its way to arrest the supreme leader of the Bangalees.

Bangabandhu's message was brief, passed on to MA Hannan, a prominent Awami League leader in Chittagong, by wireless:

*This may be my last message. From today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh, wherever they might*

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## Sand traders, not mob, killed them

Criminals, cops staged mob beating drama  
after killing 6 students at Aminbazar last year

KAILASH SARKAR

The six students were already dead when the villagers found them.

A crime gang killed the youths near the Aminbazar bridge, took the bodies more than half a kilometre away at Keblarchar on the advice of police and called the villagers, saying they had caught robbers.

The mob started beating the six, without knowing the ill-fated youths had already gone beyond all pain.

This was how the murder that took place on July 18 last year became known as an incident of mob beating.

Abdul Malek, who filed a robbery

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## DEMO FOR WAGE HIKE Violent clash in Ishwardi EPZ

Over 100 workers, cops hurt

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU from Pabna

Over a hundred people were injured as police and garment workers fought for around five hours at Ishwardi Export Processing Zone in Pabna yesterday.

The EPZ erupted into violence soon after workers of Roshita Knitting Wear

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## BNP calls off March 29 hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP last night withdrew the hartal on March 29 it had called earlier, but will hold demonstrations across the country on the day.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the main

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The foreigners who are in the capital for receiving honours for their contributions to the Liberation War, 1971 pose to the camera during a visit to Shikha Chirantan at Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. Story on page 20.

PHOTO: AMRAN HUSSAIN

## NEWS ANALYSIS

## Cotton balling crisis

INAM AHMED

The recent ban on cotton export by India has sent a shockwave down the textile industry in Bangladesh, which mostly depends on Indian cotton to run its spinning factories. But more important, this has created the need to rethink a strategy to secure its supply from India, the major

sourcing country for Bangladesh.

At the centre of the recent ban is the role played by China. Over the years, China has emerged as the single largest cotton consumer, accounting for almost 40 percent or 43.5 million bales of the total global consumption of 108.72 million bales in 2011-12.

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## POWER IMPORT FROM INDIA No fixed tariff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh will follow a formula for adjusting tariff from time to time for power import from India, instead of fixing a permanent rate.

A power purchase agreement (PPA) to be signed between Dhaka and New Delhi will provide for this.

The cabinet committee on economic affairs yesterday approved the PPA at a

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