



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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NIMRUD OUTCRY

Islamic State bulldozes ancient Assyrian city in Iraq

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FORD HOSPITALISED

The adventure hero has been injured in a small plane crash in Los Angeles

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POWER TRADE WITH INDIA

Bangladesh eyes 2,000MW more by 2018

Pushes for long-term regional electricity exchange plan involving 4 countries

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh is negotiating with India to get at least 2,000 megawatts more electricity by 2018.

It hopes to get at least 1,500MW -- half of Dhaka's demand -- from Rangia Raota of Assam and 500MW from Baharampur of West Bengal, said diplomatic and the Power Division sources.

The country is currently importing around 500MW of power from Baharampur through Bheramara. It is also set to get 100MW this year from the Palatana power plant in northeastern Indian state of Tripura. India was allowed free transit and transshipment facilities to build the Palatana plant.

Last year, Bangladesh agreed to allow India a transmission of 7,000MW of power from Rangia Raota of Assam to Borakpur in Bihar through Barapukuria in Dinajpur. For the transmission, India will pay wheeling charge.

Dhaka has proposed that Delhi sell it 2,000MW electricity from the Rangia Raota project. India has so far agreed to sell 1,000MW.

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2030: THE POWER PLANS

1 More Power
Target set for 39,000 MW of power to propel fast growing economy

11,250 MW
Domestic Coal

8,400 MW
Imported Coal

2 By All Sources

Coal based plants will generate over half of total power but all sources will be tapped including nuclear and renewable

Target 39,000 MW by 2030

Current Power Generation Capacity: **10,618 Mw**

8,850 MW
Gas/LNG

4,000 MW
Nuclear

3,500 MW
Regional Grid

2,7000 MW
Others

Sources of Power Generation by 2030

3 Regional Cooperation

1000 MW
Import from Indian transmission lines going through Bangladesh

500 MW
From Baharampur-Bheramara line

100 MW
From Palatana plant in Tripura (India)

500 MW
Import from Myanmar

1,000 MW
Joint investment by Bangladesh, India and Bhutan

1,000 MW
Joint investment by Bangladesh, India and Nepal

Short-term power trade starts soon

REZAUL KARIM

India is soon going to start a short-term trade of 220-megawatt power with its three neighbours -- Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan.

Indian Energy Exchange (IEX) has already sent its proposal to the Central Electric Authority of India for approval to open the cross-border trade of electricity, according to diplomatic sources.

The IEX, an automated power trading exchange, plans to trade 120MW with Bhutan and 50MW each with Bangladesh and Nepal.

This four-nation power trading would expedite the implementation of the Saarc Framework Agreement for Energy Cooperation, signed in Kathmandu on November 27 last year.

Under the agreement, a Saarc Market for Electricity

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Historic 7th March today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the historic March 7. On this day in 1971, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his fiery speech called on the freedom-loving Bangladeshis to wage a decisive struggle against the Pakistan junta.

The speech had set the tone for the Liberation War that would officially begin on March 26.

"Ebarer sangram amader muktir sangram, ebarer sangram swadhinatar sangram (This struggle is for our emancipation, this struggle is for independence)," Bangabandhu

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108 Rohingyas held for illegal entry

BGB man injured as traffickers open fire; detainees pushed back to Myanmar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Border Guard Bangladesh members intercepted a convoy of vehicles carrying hundreds of Rohingya intruders in Ukhiya of Cox's Bazar and detained 108 of them.

A subedar of the BGB was shot by the alleged human traffickers during the incident. He was flown to the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka where doctors said he was out of danger.

The Rohingya detainees were later pushed back to Myanmar, according to BGB sources.

Cox's Bazar BGB Sector Commander Col Khaliqzaman said the border guards were raiding places in the area to catch human traffickers and intruders.

Acting on a tip-off, a six-member BGB patrol team setup a roadblock at Balukhali Bridge in Panbazar on Cox's Bazar-Teknaf highway around 9:00am and half an hour

later they stopped a convoy of eight vehicles, locally known as *Chander Gari*.

Rohingyas were crammed in and on the vehicles.

But the team soon found itself surrounded by a crowd of suspected traffickers and locals, who tried to secure an escape for the convoy. This prompted the team to call in reinforcements, he said.

"A bullet came whizzing from the crowd and hit Subedar Fazlul Haque in the shoulder as soon as he reached the scene leading his six-man reinforcement team," said Khaliqzaman.

The BGB men then fired four shots in the air to disperse the crowd but by the time they had brought the situation under control around 11:00am, six of the vehicles had left the scene with their passengers.

"We managed to detain 108 Rohingya intruders travelling in and on two of the

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27kg gold seized from North Korean diplomat at airport

STAR REPORT

In a rare instance, a North Korean diplomat has been caught with 27kg gold worth about Tk 14 core at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Customs officials said the smuggling of gold, mainly from Dubai, has increased in recent months, but this was the first instance of a diplomat being held in such scam.

According to customs and airport security authorities, First Secretary (Commercial and Economic Affairs) Son Young Nam was detained after he landed on a Singapore Airlines flight around 11:00pm Thursday. The gold he was carrying in his handbag was confiscated.

The diplomat was released the next day at 2:00pm under the Vienna Convention after he and his embassy officials gave a written confessional statement.

Young Nam admitted in the statement that he had abused his diplomatic privileges.

Foreign ministry officials said Article 29 of Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations states that "diplomats must not be liable to any form of arrest or detention. They are immune from civil or criminal prosecution."

But, they said, the government will take action against the North Korean first secretary as a serious crime like gold smuggling cannot be covered by diplomatic immunity.

"This is not at all a diplomatic or professional activity... it [smuggling] is

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TOP QUOTE

Vehicles owned by those who had called hartal are on the roads; their businesses are open too. When they do not observe their own programmes, how could people do so?

ROAD TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER
OBABDUL QUADER
WHILE VISITING DHAKA-MYMMENSINGH HIGHWAY

Series of blasts in Jessore

Target 6 BNP leaders' houses; no one hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Crude bombs were hurled at the houses of BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam and five other Jessore BNP leaders in the district town all within a span of a half hour early yesterday.

Nobody was injured in the attacks.

Former minister Tariqul's wife Prof Nargis Begum, who is a member of Jessore district unit BNP, said the area was suddenly rocked as five crude bombs exploded at her house in Ghop area around 1:00am.

The explosions damaged windows of her home, she said.

The five other BNP leaders whose houses came under the attack are Syed Saberul Haque, general secretary of Jessore BNP, Delwar Hossain Khokon, its organising secretary, Mizanur Rahman Khan, its joint secretary,

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India pacer Mohammed Shami celebrates the dismissal of West Indies batsman Darren Sammy during their World Cup match at the WACA in Perth yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India book last 8 spot

Beat Windies by 4 wickets in low-scoring affair

AFP, Perth

Defending champions India survived a scare to beat the West Indies by four wickets at Perth's WACA Ground on Friday to remain unbeaten in the World Cup and so secure a place in the quarterfinals.

Set a modest 183 to win by the West Indies in the Pool B match, the Indians made hard work of the run chase before captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni steered them home.

Dhoni's calm 45 not out enabled India to make it four wins from four after they looked in real trouble at 134 for six.

The skipper and Ravi Ashwin (16 not out) put on an unbeaten 51 for the seventh wicket, as the unlikely West Indian challenge finally wilted.

Victory kept India on target to claim top spot in the pool, while the West Indies' last eight hopes are no longer entirely in their own hands after two wins from five matches.

"It was a difficult wicket, with movement and bounce early on. There was a bit of swing for their fast bowlers but I don't think it misbehaved as much as it did in the first 10 overs of the first innings," said Dhoni.

"Our bowlers stuck to their line and lengths. A lot of batsmen got out to short-pitched balls."

West Indies skipper Jason Holder said he had no regrets about batting first.

"I always thought the wicket was going to be a good one. The batsmen did not stick around long enough. We didn't apply ourselves well enough and never caught up in the game," he said.

On a lively pitch that offered pace, bounce and movement, the Indians were clearly unsettled by a short-pitched

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SMS UPDATE

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