



TACKLING RADICALISATION

Experts write for The Daily Star as the country looks for answers

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'UNPRECEDENTED TERROR'

Left accuses BJP of assaults, vandalism, arson in Tripura

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COMMEMORATIVE COMMENTARY

Bangabandhu's finest hour

MAHFUZ ANAM

It is this writer's view that the 7th March speech was Bangabandhu's finest hour. He stood far taller than ever before and with him we too stood tall as well, far taller than we could ever imagine or even dream of till then. He was always known for being a powerful and spellbinding speaker. But that day, 47 years ago, he outperformed himself a thousand times over, and a thousand times more empowered we felt that day.

During that crucial March afternoon, and especially through the electrifying moments of the speech the young Bangabandhu stood towering above the nation, singly shouldering the burden of leading an unprepared people towards an independence struggle that was later to become one of the most brutal.

However bravely we may talk today about those events so long ago, at that time we really did not know how things were to unfold. Yes, we all wanted our rights and our freedom and we wanted

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hands over Unesco certificates to five organisations for their outstanding contributions to achieving the recognition of the March 7 Speech of Bangabandhu as the world's documentary heritage. The photo was taken at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Work to tap potentials of jute: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to work sincerely for unlocking the huge potentials of jute and jute products.

"Jute is our national asset... this is an agricultural product and an industrial material as well... Its multipurpose use is important for us... we can expedite our socioeconomic development by using it," she said.

Hasina was addressing a programme marking the National Jute Day-2018 and the inauguration of a three-day multipurpose jute product fair in the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

The PM said jute and jute products have good demand at home and abroad as people are now very much aware about using eco-friendly items.

"We can produce better jute and jute products. If we can work together, we can tap the enormous potentials of jute for the country's development."

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MARCH 7, 1971

The thunder roars

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The stage was set, the podium standing tall and ready and the microphones were switched on, waiting to echo the strong voice of the leader to deliver what would become the most powerful speech in the country's history. The people of the then East Pakistan, his people, were waiting on their toes for the much-anticipated words. And then he came.

He was clad in a white punjabi and pyjama with the iconic sleeveless black coat. Around 3:15pm, he approached the podium. "Joy Bangla!"

The confluence of people greeted him with the slogan.

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ROHINGYA CRACKDOWN

Ethnic cleansing continues in Rakhine: UN

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar is continuing its "ethnic cleansing" of the Rohingya with a "campaign of terror and forced starvation" in Rakhine state, a UN human rights envoy said yesterday, six months after a military crackdown sparked a mass exodus of the Muslim minority.

Some 700,000 Rohingya have fled over the border to Bangladesh since August, with horrifying testimony of murder, rape and arson by soldiers and vigilante mobs.

While the majority of those refugees fled Myanmar last year, Rohingya are still streaming across the border by the hundreds every week.

"The ethnic cleansing of Rohingya from Myanmar continues. I don't think we can draw any other conclusion from what I have seen and heard in Cox's Bazar," UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Andrew Gilmour said after speaking to newly-arrived Rohingya in Bangladesh's crowded refugee camps.

"The nature of the violence has changed from the frenzied bloodletting and mass rape of last year to a lower-intensity campaign of terror and forced starvation that seems to be designed to drive the remaining Rohingya from their homes and into Bangladesh," he said in a statement, adding that new arrivals are travelling from towns in Rakhine's interior further from the border.

His statement also said it was "inconceivable" that any Rohingya would be able to return to Myanmar in the near future, despite its pledges to start taking back some refugees.

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Mia Seppo

'Some progress' in UN role

Says resident coordinator about Myanmar

PORIMOL PALMA

Myanmar and the United Nations have made "some progress" in terms of UN's engagement in repatriation of the Rohingyas, who fled en masse atrocities in Rakhine over the last few months.

"There is some progress, but those discussions [on engaging the UN Refugee Agency] are ongoing," said UN Resident Coordinator Mia Seppo in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at her office in the capital on March 1.

There are more than a

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PRIYABHASHINI End to a symbol of Liberation War

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted sculptor and freedom fighter Ferdousi Priyabhashini passed away in a city hospital yesterday. She was 71.

She had been suffering from multiple complications, including kidney ailment, diabetes, high blood pressure, orthopedics and heart disease. She had been admitted to Labaid Hospital late last month where she breathed her last around 12:45pm.

Priyabhashini left behind her three sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor expressed their deep shock at her demise.

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Mahmudur Shafik

PLOT TO KIDNAP JOY Court accepts charges against five people

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday accepted charges against Amar Desh acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, journalist Shafik Rehman and three others in a case filed over plotting to kidnap and kill prime minister's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy.

Earlier in the day, the same court cancelled the bail of Shafik and issued an arrest warrant for him as he was absent when his lawyer submitted a petition before the court.

His bail was valid until yesterday.

In the petition, the lawyer said Shafik has travelled abroad for his wife's

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SL canter past India

MAZHAR UDDIN from Colombo

Few could have imagined that there would be a packed 35,000-strong crowd on the opening day of an international series that commemorates the 70th anniversary of the nation's independence on the very day that the government called a nationwide state of emergency. That, however, is what happened on the opening day of the tri-nation Nidahas Trophy in Sri Lanka yesterday after the government took the step in the aftermath of communal violence in Kandy. Sri Lanka however brushed aside the

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Armed plainclothes policemen detain Shafiul Bari Babu, second from left, president of Swechhchasebak Dal, pro-BNP volunteers' organisation, from inside the Jatiya Press Club compound yesterday afternoon. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

94pc women harassed

Finds Brac research on women's safety on roads



26% are harassed on streets
81.6% complained of staring/leering
20.5% stopped using public transport
45.4% started wearing hijab to avoid stalking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A whopping 94 percent women surveyed have complained of harassment in public transport at a time when more and more women are stepping out of social and familial boundaries to get education and join the job market.

If all engaged in the transport sector are not trained to be gender sensitive and women not encouraged to shun the culture of silence, a lack of free movement would stifle women empowerment, speakers said yesterday at the presentation of a research by Brac at the Jatiya Press Club.

The research titled, "Safe road for women: Reducing sexual harassment and road crash in Bangladesh" was conducted between April and June last year under the road safety programme of gender justice and diversity initiative, Brac. The study was conducted with the help of Brac University.

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