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REVENUE TARGET

Government has a plan to collect Tk 340,000cr next fiscal year

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INDIA'S FODDER SCAM

Lalu Prasad Yadav sentenced to 14 years in jail

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JESSORE ROAD EXTENSION

Students made to join human chain wearing uniform on Friday

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40KM ELEVATED EXPRESSWAY Govt moves to link highways

KL keen to invest under govt-to-govt initiative

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and TUHIN SUBRATA ADHIKARY

The government plans to build a nearly 40km elevated expressway from Hemayetpur in Savar to Madanpur in Narayanganj for creating a vital link between major highways.

The East-West Elevated Expressway would allow traffic to switch highways and skip the congested streets of the capital.

Vehicles on Dhaka-Aricha highway would be able to speed towards the Dhaka-Chittagong highway with options to go in the direction of Mawa and Sylhet.

In turn, vehicles from Chittagong and Sylhet would be able to bypass the city and head towards Mawa, Aricha, and northern districts.

The Dhaka-Mawa highway is directly linked with the under-construction Padma

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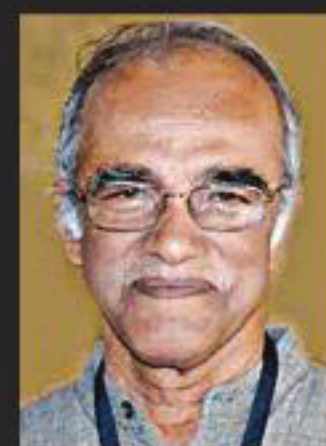


BLUEPRINT for GENOCIDE



Bodies of Dhaka University students lie on Iqbal Hall ground on March 26, 1971.

PHOTO: FILE



MOFIDUL HOQUE

The planning and execution of genocidal brutality in history is marked by efforts to wipe out traces of such acts but surprisingly, chilling documents are always left behind. In case of the Nazi effort to achieve the "final solu-

tion" to the "problem" of European Jews, we have the Wannsee Protocol. Pakistan's plan of genocidal attack to destroy the Bangalee nationalists and Hindu population of the then Eastern Pakistan is reflected in the Operation Searchlight.

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TRIBUTE WITH A BIG DIFFERENCE -- PAGE 2



MARCH 25, 1971

Pakistan army unleashes terror

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh witnessed a deadliest night. Around 11:00pm, the army pounced on sleeping citizens of Dhaka.

Military authorities looted and murdered innocent Bangladeshis fighting for their freedom. In military terms it is known as "Operation Searchlight". In the evening, Yahya Khan quietly left Bangladesh without any word.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called a

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DEMOCRACY INDEX Govt rejects German study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday rejected the Bertelsmann Stiftung report which highlighted shrinking democratic practices in Bangladesh and said that the country is now under an autocratic rule.

The German-based think-tank conducted the study titled Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index on the quality of democracy, governance and market economy of 129 countries.

However, HT Imam, the political affairs adviser of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rubbished the claims when speaking to BBC Bangla Service. "It [the report] is motivated and baseless," he said.

Bertelsmann Stiftung published the report on Friday which said Bangladesh is among five

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No joining polls if Khaleda in jail

BNP-led 20-party alliance decides in principle

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP-led 20-party alliance yesterday decided in principle not to take part in the next parliamentary election with Khaleda Zia in jail, said insiders.

It was also decided that from now on, all protest programmes pressing for the release of Khaleda will be held under the banner of the alliance, they added.

BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan was given the assignment to coordinate the activities of the alliance.

The decisions were made at an alliance meeting held at Khaleda's Gulshan office last night with BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir in the chair.

A 20-party leader, wishing not to be named, told The Daily Star that another alliance leader raised the issue of election and seat sharing.

In response, other alliance leaders, including those of the BNP, said now the only focus of the 20-party combine is getting Khaleda Zia out of jail, and the issue of election will be discussed only after her release.

One leader mentioned some news articles published in a number of online portals regarding alleged splits in the alliance and the BNP. In response, Fakhrul urged all to communicate with the alliance leaders if they have any confusion and not to get misled.

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Ershad slams govt for 'graft, misrule'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad has proposed an election-time government comprising the political parties that have representatives in the current parliament.

Ershad, also a special envoy to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, slammed the government for corruption, misrule and absence of good governance and said his party would create history by bagging victory in the next national polls.

"The government has spent huge money to celebrate the country's upgraded status of being a developing nation. But go outside Dhaka -- what is the condition of the people there? There you will understand how much progress we have achieved," Ershad said in a grand rally

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A WAR FOR OIL 4

For months and years, George Bush and Tony Blair built the case with certainty that Iraq is an evil power that possessed Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD). The US and UK built the case that Saddam Hussain must be toppled if the world is to be safe. Then they attacked and pounded Iraq to rubble. But after the war, numerous investigations found Saddam had no WMD. Bush and Blair had peddled lies to the world.

A war built on falsehood

INAM AHMED and SHAKHAWAT LITON



President Bush in October 2002, signing the authorisation for use of force in Iraq, which the congressional leaders around him approved.

PHOTO: REUTERS

After the Iraq war the events and claims that led to the joint decision by America and Britain to launch the invasion came under a lot of scrutiny. The Chilcot Commission and the ISG investigation by the CIA, the two most comprehensive studies -- the first one by reviewing all the available documents and the second one by sending 1,200 inspectors to Iraq-- found that both George Bush and Tony Blair had misled their people and the world at large to embark on a war on the false pretext that Saddam had Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Now, the Centre for Public Integrity, a US non-profit investigative journalism organisation, has done a computer aided analysis and come up with interesting statistics about how much Bush and his top men had been lying about WMD. The falsehood they had resorted to is actually a confirmation of Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels' favourite theory: if one keeps on telling a lie repeatedly, the

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A truck loaded with garbage moves slowly through traffic near Karwan Bazar while people bear the repugnant stench yesterday afternoon. The High Court on October 16 last year directed both the city corporations of Dhaka to have garbage transported by covered trucks between 10:00pm and 6:00am.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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