



This transceiver was used by transceiver operator constable Md Shahjahan Mia on the night of March 25 in 1971 to relay all over the country the news of the attack on Rajarbagh Police Lines by the Pakistan army. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

WIRELESS MAN'S WAR

A radio operator's heroics on March 25 black night in 1971

"Base for all stations from East Pakistan Police. I say again Base for all stations from East Pakistan Police. Very, very important message for you. Keep note. Keep listening, watch. We are already under attack by the Pak army. Try to save yourself. Over and out."



Shahjahan Mia

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

An eerie stillness hung over Dhaka since the afternoon of March 25, 1971. In the evening, the uneasiness escalated into a foreboding, like a lull before the storm.

With information from various sources pouring in, Md Shahjahan Mia, a wireless operator at the Rajarbagh Police Lines Control Room, thought something might go very wrong.

After dinner, he went out of his barrack for a walk on New Circular

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

UN will raise the issue of '71 genocide

Visiting under secy-gen tells PM

UNB, Dhaka

Visiting UN Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Prevention of Genocide Adama Dieng yesterday said the United Nations will raise the 1971 issue of the Pakistani genocide in Bangladesh at the international forum.

He said the issue would be raised even though some countries may oppose it. Adama made the statement when he met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

The PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim later briefed journalists.

Bangladesh observes March 25 as National Genocide Day and is trying to get international recognition for it.

Hasina recalled that the Pakistani occupation forces launched the genocide in Bangladesh on March 25 in 1971.

Over three million people were killed, while two lakh women were raped by Pakistani occupation forces and their local collaborators during the Liberation War, she said.

Sheikh Hasina said Father of the Nation

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



A police constable being taken to the capital from Chattogram. The man was injured during a clash between police and supporters of an AL candidate for Chattogram's Chandanaish upazila polls yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Third phase too sees low turnout, anomalies

Sporadic violence during polls in a number of upazilas

STAR REPORT

Sporadic violence and irregularities at a number of voting centres marked the third phase of upazila parishad elections yesterday amid a low voter turnout.

Of the 117 upazilas that went to

polls, Katiadi upazila in Kishoreganj saw voting suspended in all its 89 centres following allegations of ballot stuffing and vote rigging.

Besides, polling at 14 centres in seven upazilas of five districts were suspended over the same allegations.

According to results provided by

the returning officers at 12:15am today, Awami League-nominated chairman candidates emerged victorious in 40 upazilas. The party's rebel contenders won in 24 upazilas and a Jatiya Party contestant in one upazila.

At a post-polls briefing, Election

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

STUDENT'S DEATH ON ROAD

Protests go on in Sylhet

Bus helper arrested

STAR REPORT

Students in Sylhet continued protests for the second day yesterday, demanding justice for Wasim Adnan who died on Saturday after being pushed off a bus by the helper and crushed under the rear wheels.

Police said they arrested the helper, Masuk Ali, early yesterday.

Several hundred students of Sylhet Agricultural University (SAU) blocked Chouhatta, a key intersection in the city, for around two hours since 11:30am, halting traffic movement in the area.

They vowed to continue agitation until the helper was punished.

In the face of the situation, the SAU authorities suspended all classes and examinations yesterday, said Faisal Khalilur Rahman, assistant director of the university's public relations department.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Students of different schools, colleges and universities in Sylhet block a main road in Chouhatta, protesting the death of Wasim Adnan, 21, a student of Sylhet Agricultural University. Wasim died after being pushed off a bus by its helper and going under the rear wheels in Nabiganj upazila of Habiganj on Saturday. PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

ROHINGYA RELOCATION TO BHASAN CHAR

UN draws up plans to 'facilitate' move

REUTERS, Yangon

The United Nations is making plans to help Bangladesh relocate thousands of Rohingya refugees to a remote island off its coast, documents seen by Reuters show, a move opposed by many refugees and that some human rights experts fear could spark a new crisis.

Bangladesh says transporting refugees to Bhasan Char – a Bay of Bengal island hours by boat from the mainland – will ease chronic overcrowding in its camps at Cox's Bazar, which are home to more than 1 million Rohingya, members of a Muslim minority who have fled neighbouring Myanmar.

Humanitarian and human rights groups have criticised the relocation proposal, saying the island is flood-prone, vulnerable to frequent cyclones and could be completely submerged during a high tide.

A document drawn up by the World Food Programme (WFP), the UN's food aid arm, shows the agency has supplied the Bangladesh government with detailed plans – including a timeline and budget – of how it could provide for thousands of Rohingya transported to the island within weeks. It stresses that any relocation should be voluntary and done "in accordance with humanitarian principles and code of conduct".

The document, labelled as a "Concept of Operations" and dated March 12, outlines how the organisation and its partners "may facilitate the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

CREATING LANDMARKS

Hotline 16594

CONCORD

www.concordgroupbd.com