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Fateful talks



MARCH 17, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

MUJIB-YAHYA TALK CONTINUES

On the morning of March 17, the Mujib-Yahya talks resumed. Today was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's 51st birthday. Bangabandhu reiterated his demand for the withdrawal of martial law and the immediate transfer of power to elected representatives. Yahya put forth the same excuse of legal difficulties and stated that Justice Cornelius, then Yahya's legal adviser, had been entrusted with the task to consider the legal aspects.

A meeting between the advisers on both sides was proposed, which took place the same evening. Lt Gen Peerzada started off with the observation that the discussions between Bangabandhu and Yahya that morning had proceeded on the basis that Yahya would make a proclamation.

Bangabandhu, according to Peerzada, had proposed that the elected members from both the eastern and western wings should

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BCS exam to be on schedule

5 lakh candidates set to sit for it on Mar 19; 11-point health guideline issued by PSC

SHARIFUL HASAN

The 41st BCS preliminary examination is going ahead on March 19 after the High Court rejected a writ petition filed by a BCS candidate seeking its deferral due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the recent surge in infections and fatalities.

Nearly half a million candidates are to sit for the exam, which is conducted by the Public Service Commission.

Amid many job aspirants demanding the exam be rescheduled, the High Court dismissed the writ and cleared the way for the exam to be held following health guidelines. PSC circulated an 11-point guideline in this regard yesterday.

However, public health experts say ensuring the health guidelines is now a challenge for PSC and the five lakh candidates.

Earlier, on February 22, Education Minister Dipu Moni had said that the BCS exams would be postponed, and a new date would be announced in line with the universities' opening date. However, at a PSC meeting on March 3, it was decided to keep the 41st BCS exam on March 19.

While many students The Daily Star spoke to demanded the rescheduling of the exam, a portion of students want the exam to be held on the set date.

Mahfuz Ahmed, a graduate from Rangpur University, said there were fewer Covid-19 infections when the PSC announced the exam date. "Now that infections are on the rise, the exam should not be held."

Another BCS candidate Nazmus Shakib said that as the universities are closed, many candidates would naturally stay at their relatives' homes and at various messes and hotels in the city. "They have to move from one city to another. Taking the exam in this situation means putting half a million candidates at health risk."

Candidate Enamul Haque said not only the candidates but teachers, office assistants, PSC officials and employees, members of the law enforcement agencies, and parents, would be on the move because of the exam.

However, other candidates want the exam to be held on time.

Mubinul Haque, a graduate of the University of Dhaka, said, "Where is the problem in taking exams if processions, meetings, offices and courts,

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3 aides of PK Halder held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday arrested three officials of International Leasing and Financial Services Limited (ILFSL) in connection with a case filed over laundering about Tk 70.82 crore from the non-banking financial institution.

ACC's Deputy Director Gulshan Anowar Prodhana

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Govt to rethink Boi Mela if virus spread worsens

DU CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Cultural Affairs KM Khalid has said the authorities will rethink their decision to hold the Ekushey Boi Mela if the pandemic situation deteriorates badly.

Speaking to reporters at the Bangla Academy yesterday, he said they were very worried about the Covid-19 situation.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Happy Birthday

Paying Deepest Respect to
The Architect of Independent Bangladesh
The Greatest Bengali of All Time and The Father of The Nation
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 17

	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	5:00	12:45	4:30	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT	5:35	1:15	4:45	6:18	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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Mr. Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, MP
Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Land, Bangladesh

for achieving world book of records certificate in recognition of matchless contribution in digitalising services and developing transparent and accountable public institutions of the Ministry of Land, Bangladesh.

NAVANA PHARMA

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১০১তম জন্মবার্ষিকীতে **কেডিএস পরিবারের পক্ষ থেকে শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষা**

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HONORABLE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

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