

Nation observes historic March 7



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation yesterday observed the historic March 7, marking the landmark speech of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The speech was touted as an indirect declaration of the country's independence in 1971.

On October 30, 2017, Unesco recognised the speech as part of the world's documentary heritage.

Yesterday, the fiery speech was played over the loudspeakers countrywide.

Marking the day, Awami League organised a discussion at its Bangabandhu Avenue central office where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina – the daughter of Bangabandhu – joined virtually.

During her speech, she expressed her optimism that none can confuse the new generations about the true history of the Liberation War. "I firmly believe that it won't be possible to push them to darkness in this age of technology," she said.

She also released commemorative postage stamps and data cards marking the day.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina places a floral wreath at the memorial of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the capital's Dhanmondi yesterday, marking the historic March 7.

PHOTO: PID

Govt seeking WHO nod Says health minister on vaccinating children 5 and above

UNB, Dhaka

Vaccination for primary school students aged five and above will start soon after WHO approval, said Health Minister Zahid Maleque yesterday.

"We have asked the education ministry to prepare a student list. We have also contacted the WHO for its approval," the minister told reporters at the secretariat.

Besides, vaccination drive for administering the second dose will begin on March 28 and will continue till March 30. Approximately 2.25 crore people are likely to receive the second dose during the drive, he said.

He informed that 22 crore doses of Covid vaccines so far have been administered in the country covering 75 percent of the population, for which the government has spent Tk 40,000 crore so far.

Since the inauguration of the mass inoculation drive on February 7 last year, around 8,68,44,218 people have been fully vaccinated with two shots and 12,54,90,996 received their first doses till March 6. Besides, 42,53,378 have received booster doses, said the minister.



MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Believe it or not, there are some "professional" thieves out there who can unlock motorbike locks within four to five seconds.

These gangs of thieves target bikes parked in the crowded areas of the capital, that have no additional or hydraulic locks beyond the regular ones.

They use a special "master key", made by a section of locksmiths at Narayanganj's Ghat-2, which charge Tk 200 for each.

Every week, they steal at least two bikes. They usually target the more costlier ones and sell them in rural Munshiganj, saying they've been brought in from across the border. They charge only Tk 35,000 to Tk

THEFT SPOTS		I SELL POINTS	
DHAKA	Gulistan	MUNSHIGANJ	
DMCH	Jatrabari	TUNGIBARI	
DU (TSC)	N'GANJ	BETKA	
Dhanmondi	Kachpur	MOLLAR CHAR	
Lake	Gausia		

In the last three to four years, two syndicates have stolen over 400 bikes in Dhaka. Analysing around a dozen of CCTV footage from five to six points of the capital, DB found out about the gangs and their lightning-fast thefts.

40,000 for a 150cc bike.

In the last three to four years, two separate Munshiganj-based syndicates have stolen over 400 bikes from Dhaka this way.

Analysing around a dozen of CCTV



footage from five to six points of the capital, police's detective branch (DB) found out about the lightning-fast thefts. Copy of the footage was obtained by The Daily Star.

The syndicate's techniques were brought to light after the arrest of three members over the last two days.

The arrestees are ringleader Mashiur Rahman Mishu (30), Rony Dalal (29) and Nizam Uddin (35). Police have also seized 10 stolen bikes from their possessions, said Khalilur Rahman, assistant commissioner of DB police.

"We have so far found around eight cases filed against them. Four were filed with Shahbagh, one with Bangshal, two with Narayanganj and one with Dohar police stations," he added.

This correspondent managed to talk with ringleader Mishu, as he was being taken to court after the arrest. "I was a tailor by profession even three-four years back. One of my friends, Mamun, offered me a job in Dhaka. After meeting him, I

came to know about the gang and learned all the techniques from him," said Mishu.

Soon enough, Mishu started his own syndicate after Mamun was arrested and sent to jail.

"I used to steal one, sometimes two bikes in a week or two, then sell them at low price because people don't want to pay much for paperless bikes," he said, adding that he earns Tk 5,000 to Tk 10,000 from each bike.

Mishu's associate Rony was right beside him. He said his only task was to sell the bikes. "I bought them from Mishu and sold them keeping a profit of Tk 5,000-7,000."

"We used to target rural areas to sell the bikes as there's less vigilance from traffic police as well as fewer mobile courts," he added.

Before this, Mishu was arrested on December 21 last year, but managed to secure bail. Within 15 to 20 days, he got involved in the crime again.

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Protect female migrant workers Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to enhance its capacity to ensure the protection of Bangladeshi female migrant workers in different countries, especially in the Middle East.

The discussion was organised by Brac Migration Programme at the capital's Brac Centre on the eve of International Women's Day 2022.

According to the discussants, many aspirant female migrant workers are not provided with accurate information regarding their migration abroad.

They stressed that besides sending women as domestic workers, other sectors also need to be explored to widen their scope.

Addressing as chief guest, Mahjabeen Khaled, secretary-general of Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration and Development, said Bangladesh missions should appoint female officials so that female migrants can be comfortable sharing their experiences.

According to Shariful Hasan, head of Brac Migration Programme, at least 50,000 female migrant workers returned home amid the pandemic.

Combined efforts are required to ensure their protection and safe migration, he added.

MISCARRIAGE AFTER POLICE 'ASSAULT' Female constable withdrawn in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A female constable was withdrawn and attached to the police lines in Gazipur on Sunday after a woman complained that she had a miscarriage following police assault last week.

Necessary action regarding Constable Ruma will be taken once a three-member committee looking into the matter submits its report, said Zakir Hossain, deputy commissioner Gazipur Metropolitan Police (north).

The committee, formed on Thursday, was supposed to file the report yesterday.

The 25-year-old complainant, who owns a beauty parlour, earlier told our correspondent that she filed a case with Kashimpur Police Station under the Digital Security Act (DSA) around six months ago after several unidentified men sent her husband some fake indecent photos of her.

On March 1, the woman, who was three months pregnant, went to the police station to inform the officers the names of two witnesses in the case, she said.

The woman met the constable and told her the names.

She requested Ruma to write down the addresses.

"As I repeatedly requested her to write down the address, she started hurling abusive words at me. When I protested, she shoved me against the wall. That hurt my nose and stomach," she further said.

The woman had a miscarriage the next day, she said.

3 more die in Rampura fire Death toll rises to 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three more persons, burnt in a fire believed to have originated from a gas leak in Dhaka's Rampura on March 3, died at a city hospital over the last two days.

Nader Ali (50), owner of the scrap material shop that caught fire, passed away around 10:30pm on Sunday while Siddique (60) and Nurnabi (51) breathed their last around 12:30am and 3:00pm yesterday at Sheikh Hasina National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery.

Nader, Siddique and Nurnabi sustained 43, 74 and 42 percent burns on their bodies, respectively, said SM Aiyub Hossain, resident surgeon of the institute.

Five persons were burnt after the fire broke out due to gas leak from a cylinder at the shop in Chowdhurypara area on March 3, when staffers were loading a pick-up van with scrap materials.

The death toll in the incident rose to four after another injured named Helal died on Sunday afternoon.

Another injured, Yousuf (49) is receiving treatment at the burn hospital.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Spotted around Shahbagh yesterday, this biker was carrying four children without helmets, while wearing one for his own safety. The child at the back was clasping the rider's shirt to avoid falling off, with his foot resting on the bike's silencer. This poses an extremely concerning situation, since a second's lack of concentration can lead to fatality.

PRAYER TIMING MAR 8	Fazr					
	Azan	5-15	12-45	4-30	6-05	7-30
	Jamaat	5-50	1-15	4-45	6-10	8-00
	SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					