

### Sharon back in operating theatre

AFP, Jerusalem  
Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was rushed back to the operating theatre on Friday after doctors detected new bleeding in his brain. Shlomo Moryussef, director of Jerusalem's Hadassah hospital, said that "an area of bleeding" had been detected when he underwent a brain scan. "The prime minister was transferred to the operating room in order to reduce the intra-cranial pressure," Moryussef told reporters at the hospital where Sharon was admitted on Wednesday night with a brain haemorrhage. The downturn in Sharon's condition came after some of his closest allies have acknowledged he is unlikely to ever return to office, while doctors have privately said that he may well have suffered

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### Nomination of new US envoy to Bangladesh announced

BDNEWS, Dhaka  
Patricia A Butenis is going to be the next US ambassador in Dhaka as the third woman ambassador after Merry Anne Peters and Jane Abell Coon. President George W Bush is to nominate Butenis as the 12th US ambassador to Bangladesh, according to a White House announcement. Butenis, now serving as the deputy chief of mission at the US embassy in Pakistan, is a career diplomat and previously served in

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## Prices of essentials go haywire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prices of essentials including rice, pulses, edible oil, sugar, powder milk, onion, garlic, zinger fish, meat and vegetables have shot up in the city's markets ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. During this correspondent's visit to quite a few wholesale and retail markets including Karwan Bazar, New Market, Mohammadpur Krishi Market, Kathal Bagan Bazar and Malibagh Bazar, traders could show no plausible reason behind the price hike. While the supply of most of these essentials were adequate, there are allegations that unscrupulous

people backed by some ruling party men have intentionally increased the price showing artificial crisis in the markets before the Eid. Besides, a sharp difference among the prices of the essentials was also found between the wholesale and retail markets. Asked about the illogical differences, the traders of the two types of markets blamed each other. The prices of all types of rice rose by Tk 1 a kg this week, though the markets are now flooded with new rice. Local onion that sold at Tk 20 last week is now selling at Tk 24 in the retail markets and the price of Indian onion leaped to Tk 22 from

the last week's Tk18 a kg. Difference of up to Tk 8 was found between the wholesale and retail rates of edible oil. Although a litre of soya bean oil was selling at Tk 44.50 in wholesale market, the retailers sold it at Tk50. The price of sugar, however, has remained steady at Tk 48 per kg for the last two weeks. In the wholesale markets, the price of lentil was Tk 47.50 a kg, Tk 1.50 up from the last week's price. In the retail markets it was selling Tk at 52. The price of every spice has increased by Tk 10 to 50 per kg in a

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### Outlaw lynched

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A mob lynched a cadre of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) in Kushtia, while the outlawed party cadres abducted a trader for ransom in Chuadanga on Thursday night. Three GMF cadres on a motorcycle stormed a phone-fax shop at Kushtia Polytechnic Institute market at about 9:45pm and shot police informer Sahin there. As the gang was fleeing on the same motorcycle, a police patrol team chased them. When one of the criminals fell from the motorcycle at Bazar Moar, police caught him with two rifles and nine bullets. Later frenzied people snatched away the outlaw from police and beat him dead. The dead is Abdur Rahim, 32.

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## Travel agents ruin hajj of 39 pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 39 intending pilgrims could not go to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj as their agencies cheated a huge amount of money out of them. Sources at Hajj Camp in Ashkona in Uttara said the 39 are victims of two hajj agencies -- Sweet Travels and Moallem Overseas -- and a travel agency -- Kazi Air International. Among them, 36 paid Sweet Travels and the rest Moallem Overseas amounts more or less Tk 1.5 lakh each. Motijheel police arrested

Osmani Gani, owner of Sweet Travels, Kazi Mostafizur Rahman, owner of Kazi Air International, and Moallem Faizullah of Moallem Overseas after Jahangir Alam, one of the victims, filed a case yesterday. The angry intending pilgrims held the three and turned them in to the police. The FIR (first information report) says Sweet Travels and Kazi Air International misappropriated Tk 54 lakh from the 36 intended pilgrims. Earlier in the morning, the 39 staged demonstration in front of

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## Cattle to be costlier

ABDUL KADER

Prices of sacrificial animals at the makeshift cattle markets ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha and the permanent one in the capital are likely to be higher this year than last year's mainly due to price hike of fodder and increase in transport cost for fuel price hike, and also extortion from cattle traders at some points on their way to Dhaka, traders said. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has set up 14 makeshift markets for sacrificial animals apart from the permanent cattle market at Gabtoli this year. As per the DCC orders, sale and purchase of sacrificial animals at these markets is supposed to start tomorrow but it has already started on a small scale. Traders with sacrificial animals from different districts of the coun-

try were already coming to these markets though there was no rush of buyers till yesterday. including Faridpur, Pabna, Kustia, Chuadanga, Jessore, Rajshahi and others. The markets would start operating in full swing a couple of days ahead of the Eid due on Wednesday, traders thought. Apart from bulls and goats, buffaloes and even lambs were seen yesterday at the markets, especially at Gabtoli market. Meanwhile, only a small number of cattle from a neighbouring country was found at these markets. But traders said supply of such cattle will sharply increase in two days. Traders think a small sized bull

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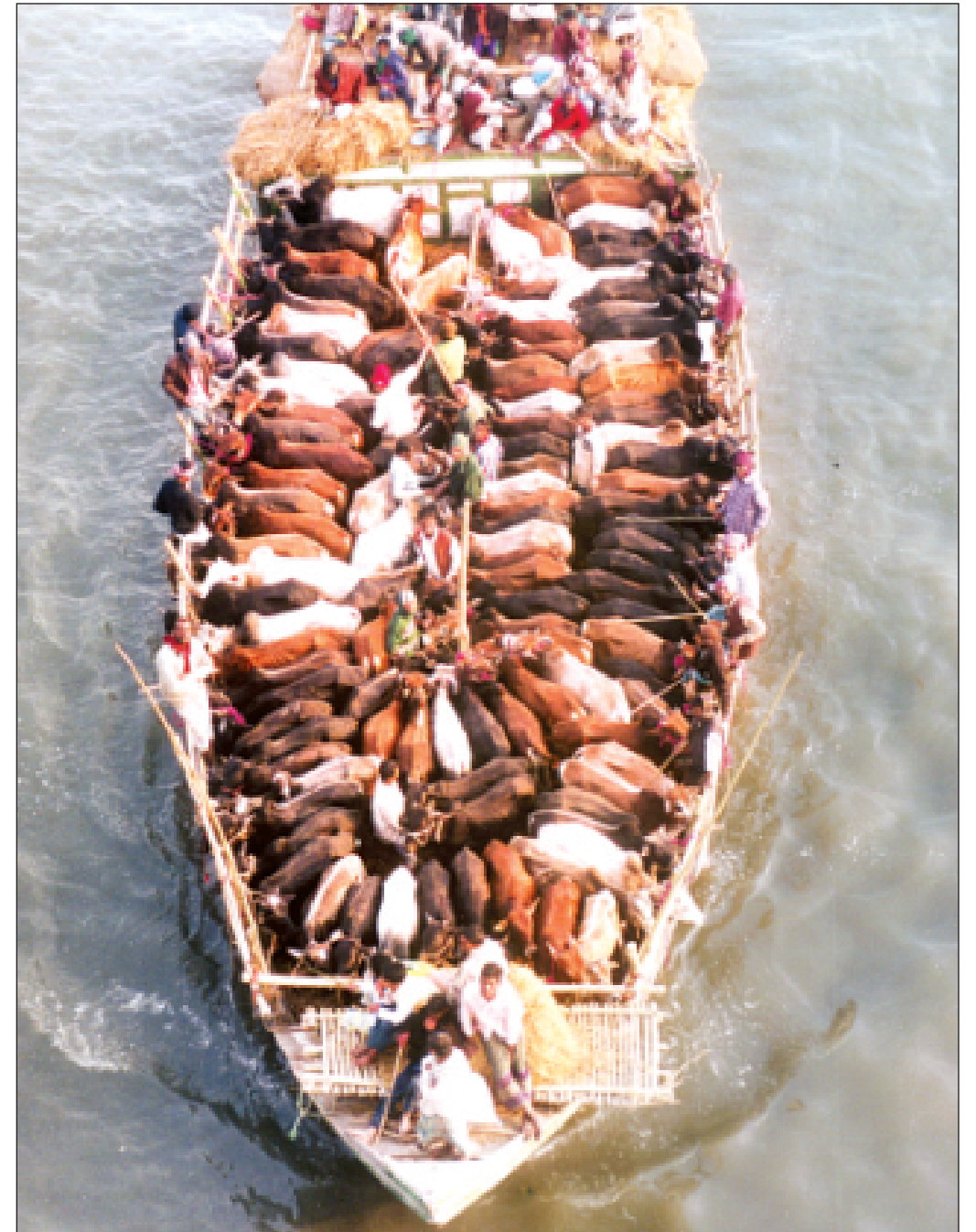


PHOTO: STAR  
A motorboat laden with cattle cruises through the Buriganga river yesterday, as the capital's makeshift markets get ready with sacrificial animals for the Eid-ul-Azha.



PHOTO: STAR  
Child artistes perform at the Poush Mela in Dhanmondi's Rabindra Sarobar yesterday.

### 2 Ctg cops closed for bribery

UNB, Ctg

Two traffic police, including a sergeant, were yesterday closed for allegedly demanding bribe from a trucker. They are traffic sergeant Priyadarshan Suchi and constable Abu Hanif of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP).

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### POLICE FIRING Judicial probe into killing demanded

UNB, C'nawabganj

Chapainawabganj Awami League (AL) has demanded judicial inquiry into the killing of two people and injury to 90 others in Wednesday's police firing outside Shibganj Pali Bidyut Samity office.

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## Touts selling already 'sold out' Eid tickets outside counters

SURANJITH DEABNATH

Scalpers in connivance with a section of staffs of inter-district buses, launches and trains are now charging two to three times the normal fare from advance ticket buyers for journey before the Eid-ul-Azha under the nose of law enforcers as ticket counters have stopped sale claiming all tickets were sold. With the Eid only four days away, thousands of people, especially women and children, yesterday left the capital for their village homes to celebrate the second greatest religious festival of the Muslims with their near and dear ones. The rush of home-goers will rise from today and continue up to the day before the Eid. Disgruntled, a large number of people were moving about for tickets at Sadarghat launch terminal, Kamalapur railway station and bus terminals at Gabtoli, Mohakhali, Jatrabari and Saidabad yesterday.

Those who managed to get tickets from scalpers said they had to pay much higher than the fare rate. The elements 'captured' advance tickets in the last couple of days creating an artificial crisis of tickets with the law enforcers taking no action against them. Traffic system in and around the terminals have virtually broken down due to negligence of the law enforcers creating further sufferings, many home-goers alleged. **BUSTERMINALS** Scalpers were seen busy selling advance tickets near the counters at Gabtoli, Mohakhali, Jatrabari, Shyamoli, Kalayanpur and Saidabad terminals but law enforcers remained indifferent to it. Many of the ticket counters were not selling any advance tickets to passengers while brokers were doing the job charging much higher fare, many sufferers alleged. Two days ago, a bus company at Gabtoli terminal declared that all

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## MANIK SAHA KILLING Re-probe yet to start 9 months into order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Despite the home ministry's orders about nine months ago, reinvestigation into journalist Manik Saha murder is yet to start while the case docket is gathering dust at the office of the fourth investigating officer (IO) Abdul Hamid, who is officer-in-charge (OC) of the Khulna Police Station. On April 13 last year, the case

docket was sent back to the Khulna Police Station from the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate following the ministry's order for reinvestigation and trial of the case in Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal. Manik Saha, Khulna correspondent of The New Age and a BBC stringer, was killed in a bomb attack in front of the press club here on January 15 in 2004.

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