



Kim Young Sam takes office today

Star Report

Kim Young Sam, who becomes the first South Korean president without a military background in 32 years, takes office today.

Sixty-six-year old Kim succeeds Roh Tae Woo, president since 1987. The new South Korean chief executive, leader of democratic struggles for four decades, secured 42 per cent vote to beat his nearest rival Kim Dae-jung last December in a day of seven candidates.

A nominee of Democratic Liberal Party, formed in 1990 merging two opposition and Roh's ruling parties, Kim has promised social and economic reforms during his presidency.

The election and inauguration of President Kim Young Sam to the highest office reflects the long cherished desire of the Korean people to build up the nation in a peaceful and more democratic manner. Ambassador Sung Oh Shin, Seoul's envoy in Dhaka, said in an inauguration-eve statement yesterday.

Govt to give statement on Banglabazar Patrika incident

The ransacking of the Banglabazar Patrika by unidentified miscreants was raised in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday with Speaker Sheikh Razzaque Ali requesting the acting Deputy Leader of the House Majidul Huq to give a statement so that such condemnable and regrettable act is not repeated, reports ISS.

Referring to several notices seeking discussion in the House on the attack on the Banglabazar Patrika on February 23 night, the Speaker said that he himself had visited the damaged office of the newspaper. He said a newspaper might write for or against any person or group, but the way a daily's office was attacked was condemnable.

Huq said that he would give a statement later.

Dhanmondi Lake

From Page 1 Col 4

The Dhanmondi Lake Anglers Association alleged that they urged the lake authorities to take immediate action but that nothing had been done until Wednesday.

The Association source quoting a senior government official said that there was no official permission to link the sewage pipe with the lake but that the contractor said it was not possible on his part to continue the drainage development work without doing so far the time being.

He claimed that he had informed the authorities about the matter.

Balding men

From Page 1 Col 5

suggesting a link between male pattern baldness and the risk of coronary heart disease.

The authors, led by Dr. Samuel M. Lesko of Boston University School of Medicine, acknowledged they don't know why baldness and heart problems might be related. But they said it is possible increased levels of a male hormone necessary for baldness to develop also may have a role in suppressing "good" HDL cholesterol, which protects the heart.

Outside researchers said balding men may want to take extra precautions.

"Persons who belong to families with an increased risk of premature coronary heart disease are advised to scrupulously control known risk factors such as elevated cholesterol levels, smoking and elevated blood pressure levels, and it also seems prudent for bald men to follow more rigorously similar regimens," said Drs. Peter W F Wilson and William B Kannel of the Framingham Heart Study. They commented in an editorial accompanying the report in JAMA.

BJP rally today

From Page 1 Col 5

lained all over the country. Former Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Kalyan Singh and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Sundarlal Patwa were among scores of BJP leaders held today.

Nearly 25,000 BJP workers were arrested in Delhi, 18,000 in Uttar Pradesh, 7,000 in Andhra Pradesh, 7,300 in Rajasthan, over 10,000 each in Maharashtra and Bihar and 3,000 in Madhya Pradesh, according to BJP sources. Hundreds were held in other states, reports said.

The Boat Club, the venue of the banned rally, has been sealed off by security ring and all the roads around the Club declared out of bounds even for private vehicles from tonight.

Thousands of Hindu activists have reportedly slipped into the city unheralded to join New Delhi's BJP supporters for the expected showdown with police.

As the capital of the world's largest democracy began looking as if were under martial law, BJP legislators forced both houses of Parliament to adjourn several times on Wednesday.

Jute sector crisis

From Page 1 Col 7

The price of JOB oil, which is a by-product of petroleum and used to be sold for one-third the price of diesel, has been increased significantly in recent years.

"We are paying about Taka 40 crore more on account of purchasing JOB oil and we are the only user of the product," he pointed out.

The Jute Minister attributed the low-level of skills of Bangladeshi workers and management problems as the reasons for the higher production costs in the country's jute mills compared with the mills in India.

The Indian jute mill workers are skilled, the minister noted as they are mostly second or third generation workers while the Bangladeshi workers are low-skilled as most of them are first generation workers and they also have other interests.

"Most of our jute mill workers have strong ties with their village home and, off and on, they go back to their villages to supplement the labour force in paddy fields."

He also singled out the management problem for the high production costs in the jute mills.

"The management problem arose as immediately after the liberation people were promoted on political grounds rather than based on their efficiency," he said "more than 40 per cent of the officers are below standard and most of them are also not qualified for the job." Steps have already been initiated to reduce the excess workforce, the minister said.

"We are pursuing a policy wherein we are saying goodbye to the redundant workforce and I also include these unqualified officers."

As of January 31, he added, more than 17,900 officers, employees and workers have gone into voluntary retirement in the 35 jute mills of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC). "We hope to reduce another 3,000 by June this year."

Saying that "all these problems are surmountable", the Jute Minister noted that the government has initiated a dialogue with the World Bank for restructuring the jute sector.

"The primary aim of the jute sector reform programme is to make our industries viable and with a view to achieve that we are negotiating for some monetary loan programme."

Noting that the bank showed their "keenness" to come into the sector during Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman's recent talks with bank officials in Washington, he said a World Bank team was expected to be here soon to "iron out" various unresolved issues. "What are the unresolved issues? To me the first one is debt restructuring," he said.

According to one report, he noted, the total outstanding debt of the jute sector stands at a massive Taka 4,000 crore. "Out of which, Bangladesh Jute Corporation, which is in the process of being dismantled, owes about Taka 1100 crore, the share of BJMC will be around Taka 1800 crore and the rest is with the private sector jute mills, he said.

Immediately after his arrival from Washington, the Finance Minister said in a press briefing that the World Bank had offered 150 million dollars for the jute sector restructuring programme but that the government had asked "for more".

There are other "minor" points of differences with the World Bank relating to excess looms and redundant manpower in the jute mills, said Brig Hannan Shah.

The JUMS study recom-

Meanwhile, AFP adds: The Indian government said, in a White Paper today that it suspected a deep rooted conspiracy was behind the razing of the ancient Babri Mosque in Ayodhya by Hindu fanatics.

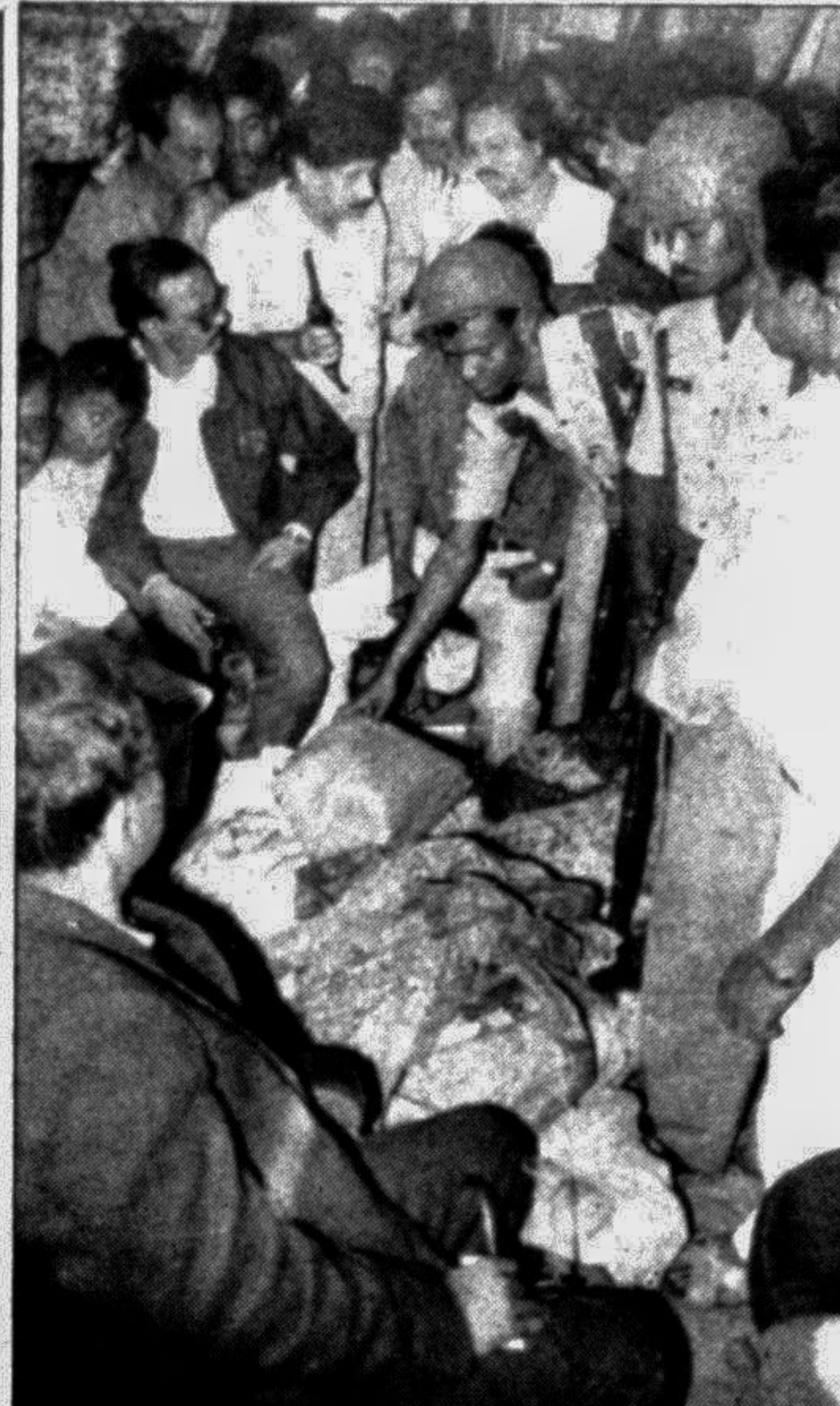
The manner in which the events of December 6 took place has given rise to suspicion of a deep rooted conspiracy on the part of the perpetrators of this crime," said the long-awaited document, which was introduced in Parliament.

The government was determined to take "all possible steps to unveil the conspiracy" in all its ramifications and relentlessly pursue the offenders till they are brought to book," it added.

The Central Bureau of Investigation had been charged with carrying out the probe into the destruction of the mosque.

The 122-page White Paper detailed the emotional build-up to the razing of the 16th century mosque, with a blow-by-blow account of its frenzied demolition which triggered unprecedented Hindu-Muslim violence across India.

Editorial on Page 4



Law enforcing agencies raided and recovered Indian sarees from Gausia Market in city yesterday. — Star photo

Azam : Repatriation

From Page 1 Col 7

since he lived outside for a long period of time.

The Court asked the Counselor of the petitioner whether the disqualification of citizenship order made by the government was under the Bangladesh Citizenship Temporary Order (Po-149 of 1972) or under the Bangladesh Citizenship Act of 1951 as both were in force.

The government disqualified Azam for becoming a citizen under Article 3 of the Temporary Order, Barrister Yusuf pointed out. The said Article delegates the power to the government, he noted, to remove doubt only about the three conditions required to be deemed to be a citizen.

"The conduct of the petitioner makes it clear that he placed Jamaat-e-Islami at the disposal of the Pakistan authorities" and it is "not true" that he was kept in Pakistan against his will and that he went to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj, read Barrister Yusuf from the verdict of Justice Sarkar.

He added that conduct is not covered under the Temporary Order.

"Had it not been pinned down on Article 3, it could have gone either way," observed the Court, while noting that collaboration with the enemy can be a ground for disqualification under Section 16 (b) of the Bangladesh Citizenship Act of 1951.

"The allegations makes it sound like it would come directly under Section 16 (b)," the Court added.

Barrister Yusuf replied that the government "never applied that law" and only disqualified the petitioner under the Temporary Order "for collateral purposes with malafide exercise of power".

"He was declared not to be a citizen in an impugned notification." The Counsel for the petitioner went on to note that Golam Azam was included in a number of voters lists since he came back in 1978.

"No, non-citizen can become a voter," the US ambassador may be powerful but he cannot become a voter," the Court noted.

Barrister Yusuf noted that conduct is not under question under Article 3 of the Temporary Order.

But "the Court noted "these observations are very strong", while referring to the com-

ments of Justice Sarkar about the conduct of the petitioner.

At this point the Attorney General noted that as he was busy with the upazila writ petition when the first hearing started and that he could not gather many of original documents. As such, he added, the Judge did not consider the earlier documents saying that they would not be useful in the case.

"Those documents were based on other documents but now I have the original documents," the Attorney General told the Court. He noted that the conduct of the petitioner during and immediately after Liberation was an important aspect.

But Barrister Yusuf pointed out that the power of Article 3 of the Temporary Order was very limited and was only confined to removing doubt in respect to Article 2.

"Saying that 'there comes the crucial part', Barrister Yusuf asserted that the petitioner was a citizen on the commencement day (March 26, 1971) of the Temporary Order. As Azam fulfilled all three conditions required to be deemed to be a citizen on the commencement date, he said and noted that the disqualification came in April 18, 1973.

The Court reminded the Counsel for the petitioner that the "Attorney General is saying through implication the petitioner has renounced his citizenship" as per Article 2 (b) of the Temporary Order, "if he fails on conduct he will certainly stick to renunciation."

Barrister Yusuf asked if the government could exercise power under Article 3 with retrospective effect.

Justice Sarkar, he said, ruled that Po-149 of 1972 would prevail upon the Citizenship Act of 1951.

At this point, the hearing was adjourned at 4:10 pm for the day and will resume at 2 pm today.

Awami League walkout

From Page 1 Col 8

He alleged that when court released Aurango from the first charge, the government framed another charge under Anti-Terrorism Act. But he said when court on February 22 released Aurango on bail from the second charge, the government served a fresh detention disregarding the order of the court.

Laughter

From Page 1 Col 8

Central Shaheed Minar was desecrated for the first time in the country's history in 1973, the minister said.

Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the Opposition in parliament, in a move to refute the allegation said that he had no intention to comment on a "traitor" like Fazlur Rahman who betrayed his political party in the past.

Rahman was a leader of the AL-backed Chhatra League till 1975 and he was elected Vice President (VP) of the Rajshahi University Central Students Union (RUCSU) on the organisation's ticket for the 1974-75 academic year.

He later joined the BNP immediately after the party came into existence in 1978.

Nasim further said those who join other parties betraying their previous ones were called "political prostitutes."

Matia Chowdhury MP of the AL, who was once a leader of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) and later joined the AL few years back, was visibly embarrassed at this moment.

Fazlur Rahman, taking the floor on the ground of personal explanation later, informed the House that he was a BCL activist during the Mujib regime and he had no connection with the AL misrule.

"Rather it was the AL misrule that virtually pushed me out of the party," Fazlur Rahman asserted.

The State Minister then came out with the revealing information that pushed the House into the laughter.

"My friend Nasim should not forget the cooperation I gave him in the past that had virtually helped him earning the present position and prestige," Rahman said adding "I brought Nasim, who was previously a Chhatra Union activist, into Chhatra League."

Everybody including Nasim burst into laughter. However, Matia Chowdhury once again looked embarrassed.

Incidentally, Matia Chowdhury was a very famous leader of Chhatra Union and a faction of the Union has been identified in history with her name.

CU holiday

CHITTAGONG, Feb 24: All classes of Chittagong University will remain closed from March 1 to April 1 on account of holy Ramzan, Shab-e-Qadr, Eid-ul-Fitr and Independence Day.

Health project

From Page 1 Col 3

signed in June, 1991. The IDA released a part of the committed fund in advance with which implementation of some schemes was initiated.

Most of the other donors, signed agreements with Bangladesh in the later part of last year for which the implementation process could not take off in time. Except the IDA, the other donors reimburse the cost after the expenditure is made for the scheme.

"The project implementation utilising the committed fund of the donors has been started", said an official admitting that the process was very slow during the first three months of 1992-93 fiscal year.

Other donors, who have signed agreements to finance the project are: Australia, CIDA (Canada), EEC, Germany, Netherlands, NORAD (Norway), SIDA (Sweden) and ODA (UK).

The concerned sources said that the implementation of 50 out of 61 schemes of the project has been started.

However, some major schemes including setting up of a condom manufacturing factory are yet to be initiated.

Meanwhile, a mission of the donors for the project is expected to reach Dhaka today (Thursday) to review its progress.

The Midnight File

Mulroney resigns as party leader

OTTAWA, Feb 24: Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney resigned today as leader of the Conservative Party but will continue as Prime Minister until a successor is picked to lead the party into this year's elections. "After almost 10 years as party leader and 8-1/2 as Prime Minister, it is appropriate now for me to step aside," he said in a letter to the party, reports Reuter.

Clinton may announce airdrop to Bosnia soon

WASHINGTON, Feb 24: President Bill Clinton was expected to announce an emergency airdrop of relief supplies to besieged villages in Bosnia soon, possibly after meeting later today with British Prime Minister John Major, the White House said. Spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said the President would unveil his plan "soon" and she would not rule out an announcement following his meeting with Major. The United States is seeking the support of Britain and other key allies for plans to airdrop food and other relief supplies to encircled Bosnian villages, reports Reuter.

Vandals to be arrested

From Page 1 Col 7

Students Union (DUCSU), told the House that three known BCL activists residing at the Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka University resorted to beating the Art Institute students busy painting the streets in front of the Shaheed Minar on the day.

Immediately after the incident the vandals set the red sun on fire and following the incident a group of students of the same hall rushed to the place and started chanting slogans accusing the Chhatra Dal

Prices of essentials

From Page 1 Col 4

Even the rice sellers said that the price of rice was likely to increase within a week.

Despite the price hike, the New Market and Kawran Bazar were crammed with buyers yesterday. Sale was good, specially of the items listed in the 'Ifte' menu.

"I have sold a good number of woodapples today," a fruit vendor at Kawran Bazar said, "although the price is Taka 15 a piece." Fasting people prefer woodapple juice at the Ifte table a lot.

Imported dates were sold between Taka 50 to 60 per kg yesterday depending on quality. The vendors said the price was not more than Taka 35 last ramzan.

Price of watermelon ranged between Taka 40 and Taka 80 a piece according to the size. Prices of powder milk — Dano, Red Cow etc all went up by Taka 10 to 20.

Although the ice factory owners withdrew their strike, the prices of fish were also high. The fishermen had blamed the strike for price hike at the fish market.

"Actually we are not getting a good supply for a long time," the fishermen said.

The Ifte market of the city was rather within the reach of the common people who entirely depend on the menu sold on the streets.

Popular Ifte items such as beguni and paju have not made a rise in price. They are sold for 50 paise a piece. Pudina chop is sold for 50 paise too, potato chop for Taka 1.00. But, interestingly, the size of these items has decreased.

"We ought to have raised the prices," some Ifte item sellers said adding "All the prices of essentials have increased but we can not increase the price of our products because the buyers will then settle for home made Ifte. So we have decreased the size."

People were seen buying pieces of ice for Taka 6 per kg.

The rickshawpullers and labourers were seen breaking the day-long fast with a glass of feed "isabgol sharbat" and woodapple juice for Taka 2, from the street vendors.

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বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
Bangladesh Shipping Corporation

BSC Feeder Ship MV Banglar Rabi arrives at Singapore, leaving Chittagong Port, and arrives at Chittagong, leaving Singapore Port, in time, within the stipulated time table.

Performance of BSC Feeder Service at a glance

Leaves Chittagong Port	Arrives at Singapore	Leaves Singapore	Arrives at Chittagong	Scheduled to arrive
29-01-93	03-02-93	03-02-93	08-02-93	09-02-93
11-02-93	16-02-93	16-02-93	21-02-93	22-02-93
24-02-93	01-03-93	02-03-93	07-03-93	

(to arrive) (to leave) (to arrive)

Esteemed exporters, importers & patrons are requested to extend support in favour of BSC.

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