

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD
 in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you
 will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than
 ever before.
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD.
 CHITTAGONG, TEL: 226803, FAX: (880) 31-225258

The Daily Star

NIRMAN TILES
 Broken Marble Tiles
 In More Shades
 Than The Rainbow
 Tel: 806887, 861985

VOL. III NO. 67 REGD. NO. DA 781

CHAITRA 9, 1399 BS,

DHAKA TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 1993

RAMADAN 28, 1413 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article
Political Culture: A Clear Pattern Yet to Emerge
 Column: Passing Clouds
 by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui
 Page 4

International



Congress dissidents step up attacks on Rao
 Page 5

Business

Traders' plight at Benapole
 Page 7

Supplement

A two-page supplement on Eid-ul-Fitr
 Pages 8, 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Butcher with a Difference
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Rao congratulates Khaleda

Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao has congratulated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the 22nd Independence anniversary of Bangladesh. In a message to Begum Zia, Rao said "on behalf of the people and Government of India, I have great pleasure in conveying our congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the National Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Hasina visits Brig Nuruzzaman's home

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina visited Siddeswary residence of late Ambassador Nuruzzaman yesterday evening and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. Hasina also visited the residence of ailing city Awami League leader Akhtiar Alam and enquired about his treatment, reports UNB.

Chinese FM may visit Bangladesh

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is expected to pay an official visit to Bangladesh sometime this year. The date for the proposed visit will be fixed through mutual consultation between the two countries, said Chief of the Political Section of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka Monday, reports UNB.

3 missing as boat capsizes in Jamuna

SIRAJGANJ, Mar 22: Three people were missing after an engine boat with 34 passengers capsized today (Monday) in the river Jamuna at a point four kilometres from Jagannathganj ghat, reports UNB.

Sehri, Iftar Timings

Ram	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
28	23	—	6.19 pm
29	24	4.39 am	6.19 pm

Media placed under president's control Court asks Yeltsin to lift Presidential Rule

MOSCOW, Mar 22: Russia's Constitutional Court today called on President Boris Yeltsin to withdraw his decision to implement presidential rule by decree, the court's president said, reports AFP.

Valery Zorkin, speaking at a press conference during a break in the court's session to consider Yeltsin's announcement, said, "the Constitutional Court expresses hope that the President will review his declaration."

He added, "We want to believe that the path to compromise is not closed off, if not it means the start of the war."

He did not say whether he was referring to a military or political conflict.

A Reuter report said Zorkin told reporters that Yeltsin had failed to provide the court with

MOSCOW, Mar 22: Justice Minister Nikolai Federov tendered his resignation today after refusing to go along with Russian President Boris Yeltsin's imposition of direct rule, Interfax news agency said citing informed sources, reports AFP.

a single document, forcing the 13 judges to base their deliberations on the President's weekend television address.

Zorkin, looking weary and tense, said Yeltsin had made "an additional telephone call

to the court. He refused to divulge the contents of the conversation.

Earlier as the court convened, Yeltsin issued a decree today placing Russian radio,

television and newspaper under his control to prevent outside "interference" aimed at curtailing press freedom.

The Yeltsin decree placing the media under his control, published by Itar-Tass news

agency, ordered the Interior Ministry to take "necessary measures to defend the premises" of radio and television broadcasters as well as information agencies and publishers.

The decree warned "authorities of state organs and all other organisms" that they would be held responsible for any interference in the activity of journalists or violating the professional independence of news editors.

It also warned that the President would take additional "measures" should any-

See Page 12 Col 4

World Bank sees slowdown in privatisation

By Nazmul Ashraf

The World Bank (WB) has predicted a slowdown in government performance in eliminating public enterprise losses and enhancing their efficiency through the privatisations of losing public sector units.

The Bank's latest economic forecast with regard to the government's goal of eliminating excess public service officers and workers over a three-year period says that the privatisation process "has been slow" and "more needs to be done."

A copy of the report titled "Bangladesh Implementing

Structural Reforms" was made available to The Daily Star yesterday.

The government's reform efforts seem to be moving on schedule in only one case — Bangladesh Railways (BR). The forecast report quoted a recent WB review of the performance of four public enterprises as saying:

According to the Bank report, no action whatsoever has been taken to implement the restructuring plan for Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC), although the need for

See Page 12 Col 1

Two Ctg Port officials held for spying

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Mar 22: Two port officials were arrested on charge of anti-state activities and put under detention for 120 days, according to police sources.

The Chief Medical Officer of Chittagong Port Dr Haripada Chowdhury and Gate Sergeant S K Das were earlier retired from service at the instruction from higher authorities when their alleged involvement in

See Page 12 Col 3

Lunthin attack Myanmar national on police remand

BANDARBAN, Mar 22: Ahmed Khalil, a Bengali speaking Myanmar national, who was arrested by Naikhangchari police on charges of involvement in the incident on Saturday was taken to police remand today, reports BSS.

According to official sources here tonight, Ahmed Khalil arrested from Ashartali, a frontier village, in a confessional statement said he is from Chaldang, a nearby village of Lunthin Bahini camp and he is a son of Azer Rahman.

He also admitted his involvement in the incident on Saturday in which one person was killed and several others were injured, the source said.

Meanwhile, members of Bangladesh Rifles and Police forces have been deployed in the border areas following the incident.

Hasina demands release of party workers before Eid

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded release of her party leaders and workers arrested on charges of "false and conspiratorial cases" before Eid festival, reports UNB.

In a statement, the opposition leader said when every Muslim is preparing to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr after a month-long Ram, a large number of

See Page 12 Col 3

Bombay blasts: 3 more suspects arrested

BOMBAY, Mar 22: Bombay police have arrested three more men in connection with bombings here on March 12 which killed nearly 300 people, reports AFP.

One of the three, all Muslims, had received weapons and explosives training outside India and previously faced murder and other criminal

See Page 12 Col 6



EID RUSH: Home-bound people crowding launch terminal at Sndarghat.

— Star photo

Socialists routed in first round of French polls

PARIS, Mar 22: France's governing Socialists, disavowed by voters, suffered a historic rout in first-round legislative elections likely to give the right a virtual monopoly over the power structure, reports AP.

Even Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, now doomed to work with a hostile government, will be hard pressed to counter what one politician called the right-wing "bulldozer."

Grim Socialist leaders conceded after Sunday's first-round voting for the National Assembly that the party that

has governed France for 10 of the last 12 years is no longer credible.

They voiced fears of a Parliament without an effective opposition and called on voters to oppose the rightist alliance in next Sunday's second round.

With all 577 assembly districts counted Monday, the Interior Ministry reported that the conservatives won 39.47 per cent of the vote, with the Socialists trailing at 17.59 per cent.

Projections show the alliance of the conservative Rally for the Republic (RPR) and

centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF) likely capturing 440-480 seats. The Socialists will probably get 70-100.

Of the 80 assembly seats decided outright Sunday, 78 were won by the RPR-UDF, and the other two by other conservatives. Socialists were leading in only 28 of the 497 run-off races.

"Tidal Wave," said the left-wing newspaper Liberation in a banner headline. "Frank and Massive Rejection," said the conservative Le Figaro on page one.

See Page 12 Col 7

Home bound people crowd Rly, launch stations

By Staff Correspondent

Home bound passengers, trying to reach their destinations before Eid-ul-Fitr, crowded the city's bus and railway stations and launch terminals yesterday (Monday).

The rush increased yesterday as it was the national holiday for the Shah-e-Qadar. The Railway authorities have arranged a number of special trains for today and tomorrow for Chittagong, Noakhali and Dinajpur bound passengers.

While a section of transport workers has started selling

See Page 12 Col 7

Serbs shower shells on Sarajevo

SARAJEVO, Mar 22: Serb forces have dramatically stepped up their bombardments of Sarajevo and eastern Muslim enclaves in what a UN spokesman said today was a clear attempt to gain ground before signing a peace accord, reports AFP.

The Bosnian-Herzegovina capital was suffering its heaviest shelling since the beginning of the war, said Colonel Marcel Valentin of the United Nations Protection Forces (UNPROFOR) here.

It was "quite obvious," Valentin added, that the Serbs were trying to gain territory before signing a peace agreement, now being negotiated in New York.

No less than 2,389 shells, mortar rounds and tank shells hit UN-monitored areas of Sarajevo between 2100 GMT Saturday and 2100 GMT

Sunday, he said.

Meanwhile, the bombardment of the Tuzla enclave in northeast Bosnia today was so heavy it was heard about 45 kilometres (30 miles) away in Mali Zvornik, according to an AFP correspondent in the town.

A European Community observer said Serb shells were hitting villages about 20 kilometres (15 miles) west of Tuzla, a Muslim-held town.

Serb forces also attacked Srebrenica, firing more than 1,000 shells at the east Bosnian enclave overnight Sunday to Monday, said the spokesman for Bosnian government forces in Zagreb.

Six civilians were killed and 12 wounded during the bombardment, in which Serbs also used aircraft, the spokesman said, citing reports from radio Hams in the town.

25 hurt in 4-hour clash

Sec 144 at Bianibazar

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 22: Section 144 has been imposed on the Bianibazar Thana Headquarters since 9 pm today following a clash between two rival groups of villagers.

At least 25 people were injured in the clash that took place between the villagers of Mathura and Sridhara at about 2 pm at the thana headquarters over some trifling matters.

The clashing villagers freely used guns and other lethal weapons during the four-hour clash, witnesses said.

Of the total injured, eight

people were admitted to the Thana Health Complex while another with bullet wounds was sent to the Sylhet Osmany Medical College Hospital here.

Witnesses said that the villagers fired at least 18 rounds of gun shots while police had to fire 33 rounds to disperse the mob.

They said ten shops were either burnt or damaged while some others were looted.

Police has been reinforced in the thana where a tense situation prevailed.

Spotlight Rajshahi Master plan to modernise city shelved since '78

By Asiuzzaman back from Rajshahi

Rajshahi, a city which celebrated its centenary at least two decades ago, has failed to assume a modern look until now.

A master plan for the northwestern divisional headquarters prepared by the Rajshahi Development Authority (RDA) in 1978 has remained tied up with red tape because of what the RDA termed economic strains.

The RDA failed to put the progress in percentage as development was very poor.

"We had got only 12 crore taka in the 10 years since 1978 when this organisation was founded," one senior RDA official said adding that "it is a development budget for a 127 sq km city having half a million people."

In the past four years the RDA got not a single penny to execute its masterplan although 40 per cent of the area was out of the plan scheduled to be completed by the year 2000.

The official mentioned six completed projects which included widening and straightening of Shahibazar Road, construction of a greater road through the city outskirts, one housing project and construe-

tion of a bus terminal and a market, as their achievement in 15 years.

The present city, initially a small town on the bank of once mighty river Padma, was established in 1876 by the Queen of Puthia, historians said.

The roadside water tanks locally known as "dhops" still bear her memory and are the main sources of water supply for the public.

Most parts of the city are like the old part of the capital. Lanes are narrow. Old dilapidated houses protrude into the lanes in some parts.

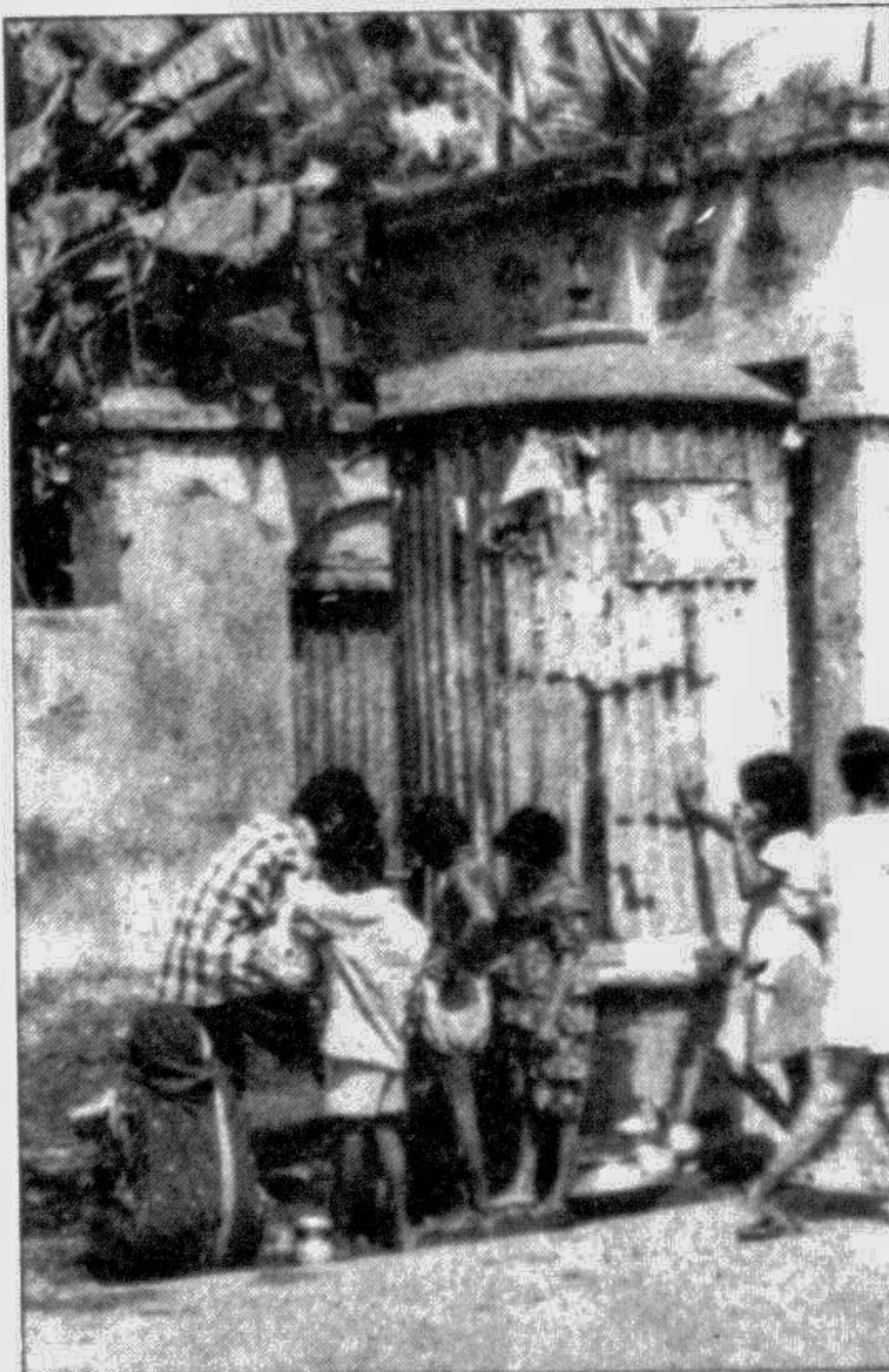
People still live in those "cottages" that may collapse at any time.

But there are no major traffic jams in and across the city, which the residents and officials attribute to the small number of transports plying in the city.

Only four to five town service buses ply between Court and Katakhal, a distance of nearly 15 kms. The residents know how many cars the city has "not more than 80," one resident who owns a car said.

The City Corporation has ever installed several hundred sodium bulbs, possibly the only

See Page 12 Col 6



Nearly century-old roadside water tank in Rajshahi city locally known as 'Dhop' is still the major source of water in the city.

— Star photo by Suman Shah

Pakistan to privatise telephone system

From M. J. Zahedi

KARACHI, Mar 22: The Pakistan Government has decided to privatise the telephone system in the country. However, to maintain security, all Government telecommunications facilities will be retained by a National Telecommunications Corporation to be set up before the plan is put into effect.

Moreover, initially private parties will be sold only 26 per cent of the shares of the Pakistan Telecommunications

See Page 12 Col 4

Blasts, gunshots mar a city BNP Iftar party

Trouble marred an Iftar party at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday which was attended by the Mayor and a State Minister, reports UNB.

A group of youth created pandemonium, blasting bombs and opening shots, during a discussion meeting at Mohammadpur Thana unit office of ruling BNP. The meeting was to be followed by Iftar.

Dhaka City Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Law and Justice

See Page 12 Col 5

গ্রাম বাংলার উন্নয়নের লক্ষ্যে বিশেষ ঋণ সুবিধা

গ্রামাঞ্চলে অবৈতিক উন্নয়ন
 দুর্বলিত করার সরকারী নীতির
 প্রেক্ষিতে জনতা ব্যাংক, ব্যাংক-
 গ্রাহক সম্পর্কে জিহিত বিভিন্ন
 কসল, কৃষি শিল্প, হাঁস মুগধীর
 খাদ্য, মূল্য শিল্প, কৃষি নির্ভর
 শিল্প, ইত্যাদি মত বিভিন্ন
 অবৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে ঋণ প্রদান করবে।
 ঋণ গ্রহণে আশ্রয়ী ব্যক্তিদের অতি
 সস্তা নিকটই শাখার বোঝাবোঝ
 করার অনুরোধ করা হল।

জনতা ব্যাংক
 দেশের সেবার সিংহাসিনী