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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Omar Hadi Ctg Port chairman

CHITTAGONG, Mar 9: Omar Hadi took over as Chairman of Chittagong Port authority here today. He was the division chief of the Planning Commission before taking up the present assignment, reports BSS.

### Landslide claims 51 in Kirghizstan

MOSCOW, Mar 9: At least 51 people were killed in a landslide in the Uzen region of western Kirghizstan today, the Itar-Tass news agency reported. A wall of mud at least 300 metres (yards) high destroyed dozens of houses at Tossol, a village in the region, witnesses said, reports AFP.

### Canadian professor arrives Mar 13

Prof Dr John Richards of the Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada will arrive on March 13 as a short term visiting professor at the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), Dhaka. The visit is a part of academic cooperation between the two institutions and this is his second visit to IUBAT, reports BSS.

### One slaughtered

KHULNA, Mar 9: A gang of miscreants slaughtered a young man in village Angorday in Dumuria thana of the district midnight yesterday.

### Shetri, Ifar timings

Rmdn	Mar	Shetri	Ifar
26	10	—	6:09 pm
27	11	4:52 am	6:09 pm
28	12	4:51 am	6:10 pm

## Resolution on Kashmir withdrawn

# Pak bid to secure UN condemnation fails

GENEVA, Mar 9: After a tough political battle, Pakistan on Wednesday lost its bid to secure UN condemnation of Indian human rights abuses in the disputed territory of Kashmir, reports AP.  
 Pakistan was forced to withdraw a resolution requesting an international fact-finding mission to Kashmir after finding itself isolated in the 53-nation commission.  
 Islamic ally, Iran, led an appeal by more than ten countries to persuade Pakistan to drop the resolution, which would have condemned "gross and consistent violations of the human rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir."  
 Iranian representative Siro-

us Nasser cited "the readiness of the government of India to facilitate a visit by a group of ambassadors from Muslim countries to Jammu and Kashmir."  
 The outcome was a diplomatic triumph for India, and a blow for Pakistan's Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who had compared the situation in Kashmir to the 'darkest days of the Holocaust.'  
 Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sarfraz Asef tried to put on a brave face.  
 "It's a great success of our foreign policy that for the first time in 29 years we brought the Kashmir question onto the platform of a United Nations organization," he told a news

conference in Islamabad.  
 "Our objective was to awaken the world conscience on Kashmir, and we have succeeded. Kashmir is being talked about now in all capitals of the world," Asef said.  
 Bhutto appeared before the commission in a bid to persuade the United Nations to take action. But India launched a diplomatic counter-offensive, including visits by foreign ambassadors.  
 India also agreed to let the International Committee of the Red Cross visit detainees in Kashmir.  
 Nearly 10,000 people have died in Kashmir since late 1989, when Muslim militants

## ADB okays \$ 200 m for Jamuna Bridge

MANILA, Mar 9: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a 200-million-dollar interest-free loan to Bangladesh to finance the construction of a bridge to link the eastern and western parts of the country, the Manila-based Bank said today, reports AFP.  
 The 4.8-kilometre, 696-million-dollar Jamuna Bridge will be co-financed by Japan's Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund and the International Development Association — the World Bank's soft loan agency, which will lend 200 million dollars each.  
 The balance of 96 million dollars will be financed by Bangladesh, which will also set up a 10 million-dollar fund to deal with emergencies caused by force majeure.  
 Critics have questioned the viability of the bridge in a deltaic country where rivers often change course. The Jamuna can broaden from four kilometres at low water to as much as a 15 kilometres during floods, and depths can vary by up to eight metres.  
 The ADB said in a statement that these issues have

been resolved, and the project needed to include long approach roads and viaducts linking the roads to the bridge, and guides at either side of the river to regulate its flow and prevent its changing course.  
 The loan carries a one per cent annual service charge and is payable over 40 years including a 10-year grace.

### BCI chairman granted bail

A High Court Division Bench yesterday granted bail to Mustafizur Rahman MP — Chairman and Managing Director of the BCI Limited. The bench comprised Justice Mohammad Badruzzaman and Justice Syed J R Modasser Hossain, reports BSS.  
 Mustafizur Rahman filed a criminal revisional application along with a bail prayer against the order dated 21.7.93 passed by the sessions judge, Dhaka in a criminal case wherein the sessions judge rejected his bail prayer.  
 See Page 12 Col 4

### Khaleda visits remote areas of Feni dist

FENI, Mar 9: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited remote areas of three thanas here today and made a fervent appeal to the rural people to adopt family planning and keep their families small, reports UNB.  
 "Both the country and individual families will be benefited if we keep our family small," she said pointing to the country's number one problem — population boom.  
 Begum Zia briefly addressed the people at 10 places — Anandayapur Bazar, Natun Munshirhat, Fulgazi high school ground, Chitolia high school ground, Purba Shaheb Nagar, Parshuram Zila Parishad ground, Khandal Hye Bazar, Amzad Hat, Adalat Bhaban and Bangla Bazar under Parshuram, Fulgazi and Chagalaia thanas.  
 The villagers came out of their homes to greet Begum Zia as she drove through different rural roads. Begum Zia shook hands with women, hugged small children and conveyed to them advance Eid greetings.  
 The Prime Minister urged the people to cooperate with her government from their're-  
 See Page 12 Col 7



An Israeli border guard rams the barrel of his rifle into a Palestinian woman during heavy clashes that erupted in East Jerusalem's main street following a march on the International Women's Day Tuesday. — AFP photo

### Probe body visits Hebron mosque

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank, Mar 9: Under heavy military guard, an inquiry commission Wednesday visited the West Bank shrine where a Jewish settler gunned down 30 Muslims as they knelt in prayer, reports AP.  
 Hundreds of soldiers and military police were stationed on rooftops and in the streets near the 2,000-year-old Tomb of the Patriarchs, the traditional burial place of Biblical figures such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Sarah.  
 Army jeeps escorted two busloads of journalists and a separate convoy containing the commission members to Hebron. Streets were deserted because of an army-imposed curfew that has kept the city's 80,000 Palestinians at home since the February 25 massacre.  
 The commission, headed by Supreme Court Chief Justice Meir Shamgar, climbed the steps to the main gate through which Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein entered before killing the Palestinians during Friday dawn prayers.  
 "Please preserve the sanctity of the site," read a sign in English at the entrance.  
 Water-hoses lay coiled in a  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## PM administers oaths to mayors today

By Staff Correspondent  
 The first-ever elected mayors of the country's four cities take their oaths of office at a simple ceremony in the capital this morning.  
 Besides, 102 ward commissioners of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations will also take their oaths today. However, the 90 elected commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are expected to take their oaths after the statements of their assets are submitted to the Divisional Commissioner.  
 According to official sources, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will administer the oaths to the mayors — Mohammad Hanif of Dhaka, A B M Mo-hiuddin Chowdhury of Chittagong, Shaikh Tayebur Rahman of Khulna and Mizanur Rahman Minu of Rajshahi — at the International Conference Centre at 11.30 am.  
 The Deputy Minister for Local Government, Abdul Hye, is likely to conduct the oaths of the ward commissioners at the National Institute for Local Government auditorium at 1 pm.  
 Besides the minister concerned and government offi-

## Fate of Syedabad water treatment plant uncertain

The fate of the Taka 400 crore Syedabad Water Treatment Plant of Dhaka WASA has become uncertain because the authorities are in a dilemma regarding the technical specifications of the project, reports PROBE.  
 Work on the project was expected to start last October but it was delayed as the authorities could not take any decision on the specifications. Official sources blamed bureaucratic tangles for the delay in starting work on the project.  
 The government had decided to set up the water treatment plant at Syedabad in view of the increasing demand for water in the city and to reduce heavy withdrawal of ground water.  
 Experts say, the ground water level has already gone down alarmingly, threatening the city's high-rise buildings.  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## Khaleda will lead 73-member team to Japan

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will lead a 73-member delegation to Tokyo during her March 28-31 official visit to Japan, reports UNB.  
 Official sources said the Prime Minister will stay in the Akasaka Palace during her four-day stay in the Japanese capital.  
 There will be a 43-member official delegation and a 30-member business team.  
 The official delegation will include Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman MP, Begum Farida Rahman MP, Lutfuzzaman Babar MP, Mayors-elect Tayebur Rahman of Khulna and Mizanur Rahman Minu of Rajshahi.  
 Besides the Prime Minister's media team, 8 senior journalists will accompany her.

## Farhad killing: Iqbal on remand for five days

By Staff Correspondent  
 Iqbal Hossain, arrested in connection with the murder of police Sergeant Hasanul Farhad, was remanded to the city's Detective Branch (DB) for five days yesterday.  
 Iqbal was arrested from a house at the Rama Kanta Nandi Lane under Kotwali police station around 4:30 am Tuesday.  
 He was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday from where he was taken on remand for interrogation.  
 No other arrest was made yesterday, said police.  
 Hasanul Farhad was killed in a cross fire during a clash between two warring groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at the Jagannath University College on Saturday.  
 Meanwhile, the government yesterday constituted a one-man enquiry commission with the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Badur Rahman to probe the incident.  
 All persons having direct or  
 See Page 12 Col 5

## Currency smuggling: Property of city businessman attached

By Staff Correspondent  
 Police yesterday confiscated the property of a businessman at Elephant Road for his alleged involvement in currency smuggling.  
 The businessman, Hayatullah, 38, has been absconding after a Singapore bound passenger was held at Zia International Airport (ZIA) with foreign currency and traveller cheques equivalent to Tk 1.5 crore on March 3. The passenger, Mohammad Nazmul Haque, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail later on.  
 A detective branch source said that according to the confessional statement of Nazmul, several other people, including Hayatullah, were involved in the attempt to send the money to Singapore illegally. But police refused to disclose any other name immediately for the sake of investigation.  
 Dhanmondi police raided Hayatullah's 168 Elephant Road residence in the afternoon and confiscated all his movable property.

## Experts team visits affected areas Ganges water should be properly shared for region's ecology

An independent experts team has said the water of the Ganges river should be shared in such a way that none of the countries in the catchment as well as in the delta disrupt the ecological balance, reports UNB.  
 "There should not be any adverse effect in the short term or long term," said a statement of the study team comprising environmentalist, scientist, sociologist and water expert who visited the banks and surroundings of the Ganges river and its tributaries recently.  
 "What India may think as a short time arrangement to convert river by constructing dam may in the long run harm India's agricultural and other economic development," it said.

But the lower regime of the dam will be the loser both in the short and long terms because of the scarcity of natural flow of water. The ecological disorder in the catchment area will also seriously affect people in the lower reaches of the watercourse, said the statement released in Dhaka yesterday.  
 A group of women and experts in Bangladesh have taken the initiative to study the situation and take action. They would also like to identify a similar group of women and experts in India to look at the water sharing problem from a humanitarian and ecological points of view.  
 A recently formed task force on Women and the Environment will act as a Coordinating Committee while

National Association for Resource Improvement (NARI) will offer workshop facilities.  
 The study team comprised Md Amjad Hossain Khan, Dr Khurshida Khandakar, Nazneen Azim, Dr M I Zuberi and coordinator of the project Women for Water Sharing Hasna Moudud.  
 The group visited Godagari, Tanore and different parts of Rajshahi, Natore, Ishurdi, Bheramara and Kushtia and met local university personnel, farmers, fishermen, women, elected local representatives, businessmen and tribal people.  
 The study team aimed at assessing the present situation arising out of the Farakka Barrage, and to lobby for water sharing based on equity and sustainability.  
 See Page 12 Col 1

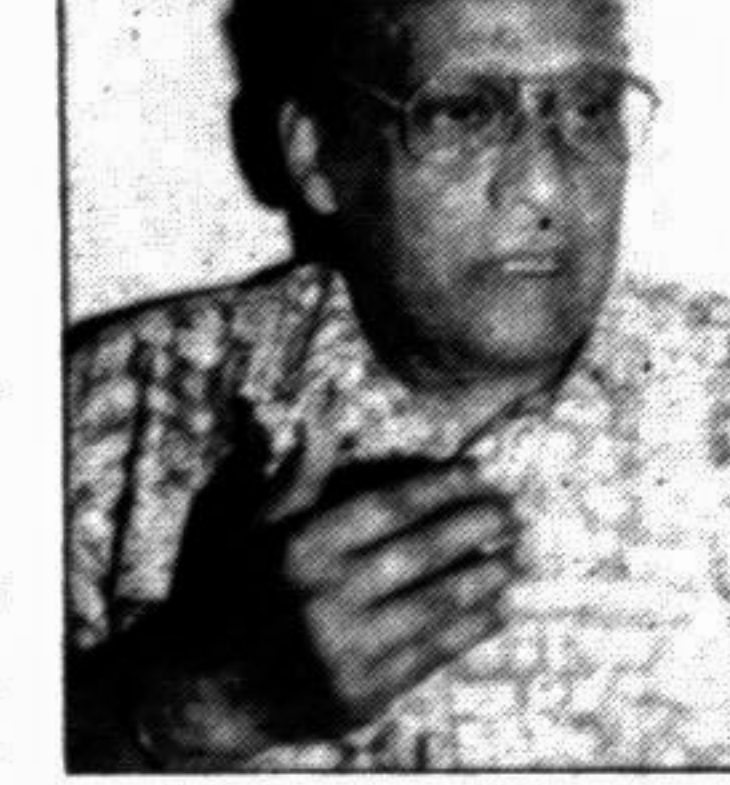


Despite a ban, the city markets have been illuminated for attracting Eid shoppers, necessitating widespread load-shedding by the DESA. — Star photo

## New Khulna Mayor tells the Daily Star

# I shall try to remain non-partisan

KHULNA, Mar 9: The first elected mayor of the Khulna City Corporation Advocate Shaikh Tayebur Rahman said here: "As a city father, I will serve the people of this port town resisting all political pressures and influence."  
 The city mayor, who will take his oath of office in Dhaka tomorrow, said in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star that he was not the mayor of the BNP. "After my election as the mayor of Khulna, I am the servant of fourteen lakh people of this port-cum-industrial city who naturally expect me to be non-partisan. I can assure them that I will not disappoint them."  
 Born in 1936 in village Karary of Bagerhat district, he is a soft-spoken gentleman. Tayebur Rahman passed his Matriculation Examination from the Madhudia Ichhamatee High School in 1954 and



Sk Tayebur Rahman graduated from the PC College Bagerhat in 1958. After obtaining an LLB degree from Dhaka University in 1963 he joined the Khulna Bar. He was an active member

of the National Awami Party and became the city president of NAP. Later he joined the Jatiyatabadi Front under the leadership of former president Ziaur Rahman. At present, he is the International Affairs Secretary of the BNP's central committee. He was elected general secretary and president of the District Bar Association in 1978 and 1979 respectively. He joined the Supreme Court Bar in 1979. He was the Bangladesh Ambassador to Senegal, concurrently accredited to Mali, Mauritania, the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Guinea and Gambia. He represented Bangladesh at the UN General Assembly Session in 1979 and many other international conferences. He also represented Bangladesh at the ESCAP mayors conference in Kuala Lumpur in 1992.  
 A former president of the  
 See Page 12 Col 6

## Information cadre officials wear black badges

By Staff Correspondent  
 The BCS (Information) Association yesterday sought immediate intervention of the Prime Minister for cancelling a recent order extending the contract service of Abdur Rahim, a non-cadre official, as the Principal Information Officer (PIO).  
 The association at a meeting yesterday also decided to wear black badges from March 10 to 24 in protest against the order.  
 A press release issued by the association last night also expressed resentment at the extension of the service of "an outsider," despite the Information Minister's earlier assurance that no extension would be made.  
 The meeting also resented, what it said, the 'recriminatory transfer of some cadre service officials.'

## STOL service likely to be delayed

By Asiuzzaman  
 The operation of the private sector Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) service is likely to be delayed by another couple of months as most of the licence-holders seem reluctant to start the service.  
 According to sources, it is not possible for the licence-holding companies to offer competitive fares by maintaining the 20-seat limitation imposed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB).  
 Moreover, the operation, if based only on Visual Flight Rules (VFR), would be risky, particularly during the rainy season, and even in cloudy weather, one company executive said.  
 "VFR is usually used in training flights in low-altitude," a Biman captain said.  
 The CAAB has issued li-