

## Inside Today

### Article

Entry of Foreign  
Press  
Column: Between The  
Lines  
by Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

### International

Alja dismisses possi-  
bility of confederation  
with Serbia

India welcomes with-  
drawal of Pak reso-  
lution on Kashmir  
Page 5

### Business

All areas open to in-  
vestors, Saifur tells  
Americans

Indian banks ease  
conditions for export  
credit

Pages 6, 7

### Weekend Magazine

Changes are Apparent in  
a New South Africa; Was  
Information Suppressed  
to Save NAFTA? New  
Window to Egalitarian  
Islam; Technology Trans-  
forms Journalism in a  
Generation; The Age of  
Violence; The British  
Council Language  
Matters; Distant Drum;  
Weekend Musings;  
Bollywood Woods India's  
Bandit Queen; Fine  
Feminine Touches;  
Dedicating a Lifetime  
to Sportsmanship  
Pages 9, 10, 11

### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Things Old and  
Precious  
Page 3

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Eid vacation may be extended

Government yesterday announced that the Eid vacation would be extended to March 16 if the Shawal moon was sighted on March 14 instead of 13. A 3-day Eid-ul-Fitr vacation from March 13 has already been announced by the government earlier, reports UNB.

#### Krisibid leaders meet Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the country's agriculturists to help bring about overall improvement in the agricultural sector including self-sufficiency in food production and crops diversification. She told this when Dr Ayub Rahman and Javed Iqbal, president and secretary general respectively of Krisibid Institution, Bangladesh called on her at her office, reports BSS.

#### Memorial plaque

A memorial plaque in memory of Moin Hossain Razu will be unveiled today at the TSC of Dhaka University. Vice Chancellor Prof Enamuddin Ahmed will unveil the plaque at 11 am, reports UNB.

#### UP chairman killed

KHULNA, Mar 10: A union parishad chairman was killed by unidentified miscreants in Koyra thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

#### Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmdn	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
27	11	—	6:09 pm
28	12	4:51 am	6:10 pm
29	13	4:50 am	6:10 pm

## 13 killed as truck skids off near Nagarbari

By Staff Correspondent

Thirteen people were killed yesterday when a truck loaded with drums containing vegetable oil overturned near the Nagarbari ferry ghat in Pabna district, according to messages received in Dhaka.

Another eight people were wounded, five of them seriously, and were admitted to the Pabna Sadar Hospital, the reports said.

Police said that the Shahjadpur-bound truck after crossing the ferry picked up some passengers at about 11:15 am.

The vehicle skidded off the Nagarbari-Pabna highway after its driver lost control and overturned at Natiabari.

All the 13 people were crushed to death under the oil drums.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman Patai who happened to be there on his way to Natore yesterday visited the spot. The Deputy Commissioner of Pabna accompanied him.

Our DMCH Correspondent adds: Two persons were killed and another was injured in separate incidents in and outside the capital city Thursday.

A school boy was killed when he fell from the roof of the dormitory building of the Graphic Art College at Mohammadipur in the city yesterday afternoon.

The victim Shamim, 12, son of Mohammed Abdul Matin was seriously injured and sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

In another incident one Akir, 15, was electrocuted at Siddhirganj outside the city Wednesday afternoon.

Seriously injured Akir was admitted to the DMCH where he succumbed to his injuries Thursday morning.

Police sent both the bodies to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Dhaka now needs  
investment,  
Saifur tells  
newsmen in US

Bangladesh will now concentrate on attracting foreign investment after having implemented a "massive" and "Painful" economic reform programme over the past three years, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has said, reports UNB.

The main thing that we need at the moment is investment to create job opportunities and pull the country out of

**Detailed Report on Page 6**

poverty," he told reporters at the National Press Club in Washington on Wednesday, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Rehman, also the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, was on a three-day visit to the US capital to attend meetings at those institutions.

See Page 12 Col 7

PM assures all cooperation

## 4 mayors sworn in

Rahman Minu, belonging to the ruling BNP, were in suit.

Excepting Tayebur Rahman, all the Mayors were accompanied by their spouses to the function that lasted for barely 15 minutes.

The four Mayors were for the first time elected directly to the City Corporations on January 30.

Shortly after the swearing-in ceremony, the Mayors made a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at her office.

Ministers, MPs and immediate past mayor of Dhaka, who were present at the brief function, congratulated them on their assumption to the offices of Mayor.

Mohammad Hanif and A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, who returned as Awami League candidates, were wearing the 'Mujib Coat' while Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu of Rajshahi at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

See Page 12 Col 4

DC-10 mishap  
Reprise for  
pilot, two  
others

By Asiuzzaman

The pilot, the co-pilot and the flight engineer of the Biman DC-10 aircraft that skidded off the runway of Zia International Airport in May last year have been spared the harsher departmental punishments meted out after a probe faulted them for the accident.

According to the original recommendations of the seven-member investigation committee formed after the May 18, accident, the two pilots and the flight engineer were demoted to basic equipment training under which they had to fly smaller aircraft like F-28s and ATPs.

But, the Chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CABA) exercising his official discretion, exempted the two captains from their punishment. The chairman

See Page 12 Col 4

**Dhaka to appeal  
for clemency of  
two in Cairo**

Star Report

The government is actively considering making an appeal on behalf of two Bangladeshis sentenced to death on drug trafficking charges by an Egyptian court recently, according to official sources.

The two Bangladeshis were among 10 others given the death sentence by the Suez Criminal Court in January last after a re-trial was ordered by a higher court on a similar verdict earlier.

According to official sources, the Bangladeshis were identified as Tausiful Alam of Nazirhat union under Fatikchhari thana of Chittagong district and Rafiq Bashir Nasser of Rampur union under

See Page 12 Col 1

**AL plans mass  
campaign after  
Eid-ul-Fitr**

The Awami League is planning to launch a nationwide mass campaign after Eid-ul-Fitr to whip up public opinion against the government.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina along with her party central leaders will join the mass campaign, including public rallies and workers' meetings at district and thana headquarters.

Corruption, election under caretaker government, politicisation, 'chaos' in the administration, growing terrorism and various problems of peasants, workers and professionals will figure prominently during the planned campaign. AL Presidium member Amir Hossain Amu told UNB tonight

Details of the programme would be finalised after Eid.

Political sources said other opposition groups are also expected to gear up their organisational activities by holding meetings and processions.

They said the opposition would concentrate more on issues like charges of corruption against ministers and the demand for national election under a neutral caretaker government.

The Opposition parties in Parliament are now working to prepare a draft bill seeking constitutional provision for a caretaker government.

Besides, the Prokrishi and BCS Coordination Council has already announced program-

See Page 12 Col 8

**Jumatul Wida  
today**

Jumatul Wida, the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan, will be observed today in the capital as elsewhere in the country with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports BSS.

Special prayers will be offered in all mosques of the country seeking divine blessings for the peace, progress and prosperity of the nation and the Muslim ummah.

The biggest Juma congregation will be held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque where thousands of devotees are expected to offer their prayers.

Meanwhile, a waz mahfil on the significance of Jumatul Wida and Eid-ul-Fitr will be held at 10:00 am today at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque. Moulaen Emdadul Huq will speak in the mahfil.

A special prayer will be offered on the occasion.



— PID photo

## Dhaka's concern at move to build new barrage over Ganges

By Staff Correspondent

which the Ganges, known as Padma in Bangladesh is the major one.

Asked if Bangladesh had officially protested on the reported move to construct the proposed barrage, Osmany said, "we have expressed our concern but refused to say if a formal written protest has been lodged with New Delhi."

The discussion on the issue is on", he remarked and said he did not want to indicate at what level Bangladesh's sense of concern has been communicated.

When the attention of the Foreign Secretary was drawn to a news item published recently that there has been some increase in the flow of Ganges water last month, Osmany said, "It was nothing unusual. And if at all there has been some increased flow, it

has been very negligible."

The Foreign Secretary said our concern for water remains as usual. He reminded that the water flow of the Ganges at the Hardinge Bridge recorded on February 28 in 1978 was 77,523 cusecs while the flow on the same day last year was recorded at 13,225 cusecs. "This year's flow, a little above is simply negligible," he emphasised.

Replying to another question, he said, it is quite natural for Bangladesh to inform all its international friends about the water situation.

On the matter of paying compensation to Bangladesh workers repatriated from Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf War, the Foreign Secretary said the United Nations have created a compensation

See Page 12 Col 8

Hanif assumes  
office tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka's new Mayor Mohammad Hanif will assume office at the Nagar Bhaban at Fulbaria in the capital tomorrow. Hanif, who took his oath of office yesterday, is scheduled to go to the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) at 11:00 am in the morning, and meet the corporation officials at his chamber at 11:30 am.

There would be no formal reception for the new City Father to mark his first day in the office, said an official.

Earlier, Hanif went to the Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi and garlanded the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman there soon after taking oath at the International Conference Centre yesterday morning. He then went to Banani graveyard to offer salaam at the graves of Mujib's family members. He also visited the graves of his mother and the victims of post-DCC polls car-

See Page 12 Col 6

## 2 political activists gunned down in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: A pro-BNP Juba Dal leader and a Shibir activist were gunned down in two separate incidents in the early hours of today.

But police believe the killing of Juba Dal leader Selim was a sequel to the attack on Shibir activist Yusuf.

Meanwhile, witnesses said there was an exchange of fire and a series of cocktail explosions at Chandanpura area between the two rival groups after the killing of Selim.

Shibir activists also put up barricades on the Chandanpura Road disrupting traffic movement this morning protesting the attack on their partyman.

A large contingent of police rushed to the spot and dispersed the unruly activists. Police were deployed at Chandanpura area till evening to prevent further outbreak of violence.

Yusuf later succumbed to his bullet wounds this afternoon at Chittagong Medical

Police said a case was filed

See Page 12 Col 8

**Sergeant murder at JN College**

## Sagir held, Kazal still at large

By Staff Correspondent

Police early yesterday arrested Sagir Ahmed alias Liton — a suspect killer of a police sergeant — from the Sadarghat terminal due to the absence of ticket counters.