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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 Ayubur 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 Emajuddin 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.

Shri, Ifar timings

Rmdn	Mar	Shri	Ifar
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 Shahjapur-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.

The victims were identified as Kader, 40, Nakib, 55, Badal, 32, Md Hanif, 60, Moni, 34, Sona Ali, 40, Nazir, 35, Setab Ali, 52, Arshed Ali, 37, Abul Kashem, 42, Jageer, 34, Refazuddin, 35, Moni, 34 and Abu Taleb, 62.

The driver and the helper of the truck fled the spot immediately after the accident.

State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman Patal 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 Mohammapur 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 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

Mayors of the four city corporations were sworn in yesterday by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia with assurance of her government's co-operation in resolving the problems of the city-dwellers, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister administered the oath of office to Mohammad Hanif of Dhaka, A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury of Chittagong, Sheikh Tayebur Rahman of Khulna and Mizanur Rahman Minu of Rajshahi at the International Conference Centre in the city.

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, 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.

Welcoming them Begum Zia assured the Mayors of all-out cooperation from the government in resolving the problem facing by the city-dwellers.

She advised the city fathers to work with sincerity and dedication for the welfare of the people.

She discussed in brief the problems of the city-dwellers, particularly unplanned road cuttings and traffic jams. She

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DC-10 mishap Reprieve 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 their 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 (CAAB) exercising his official discretion, exempted the two captains from their punishment. The chair-

See Page 12 Col 4

Dhaka to appeal for clemency of two in Cairo

Star Report

The government is actively considering making an appeal for clemency on behalf of two Bangladesh nationals 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 Bangladesh nationals were identified as Tauhidul 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 countrywide mass campaign after Eid-ul-Fitr to whip up public opinion against the government.

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina alongside 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 Anu 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 Prokrichi and BCS Coordination Council has already announced program-

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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. Moulaana Emdadul Huq will speak in the mahfil.

A special prayer will be offered on the occasion.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia administering oaths to four mayors — (from her right) Mohammad Hanif of Dhaka, Sheikh Tayebur Rahman of Khulna, A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury of Chittagong and Mizanur Rahman Minu of Rajshahi — at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

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

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka has expressed concern at the reported move by New Delhi to build another barrage over the Ganges at Kanpur in India.

Foreign Secretary M R Osmany at a news briefing at the Foreign Ministry yesterday disclosed Bangladesh's anxiety over the building of the dam, which he said could further decrease the flow of water into Bangladesh.

Responding to reporter's questions, the Foreign Secretary said Bangladesh had the right to be consulted, according to international conventions as the lower riparian country before building dams or barrages that could affect the flow of "of our legitimate share of the waters of the common rivers with India." The two countries are traversed by 54 common rivers of

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

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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 fataha at the graves of Mujib's family members. He also visited the graves of his mother and the victims of post-DCC polls car-

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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.

According to police, some armed terrorists dragged Aslam Pervez Selim, 27, Chawkbazar ward president of Juba Dal, out of his residence in Chandanpura area and then gunned him down in front of Kazem Ali High School at 5:45 am.

Earlier, one Md Yusuf, 25, identified as an activist of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, received bullet wounds when a group of unidentified assailants attacked him while he was taking his *sehri* in a hotel at Chawkbazar near Chandanpura, police added.

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

Hospital. Juba Dal and Shibir leaders blamed each other for the killings.

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 partymen.

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.

Police said a case was filed

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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 city's Dhanmondi area after a series of raids during the last five days.

Sagir was remanded for a week in the Detective Branch (DB) office at Minto road for questioning in connection with the murder of police sergeant, Abu Nasim Mohammad Hasanul Farhad.

Police also arrested one Jasim Uddin alias Montu, identified as Sagir's cousin, for giving him shelter at his House No-42, Road No-9/A, Dhanmondi. Montu was also taken on a day's remand.

The police sergeant was killed in a cross-fire during clashes between two rival student factions in the Jagannath University College on Saturday. Sagir and Kazal reportedly led the two warring groups.

Sagir — an MA student of History of the Jagannath University College — was absconding after the murder. Kazal is still at large.

A huge contingent of police led by an Assistant Commissioner of the DB Fazlul Karim Khan raided the house around 2 am yesterday and cordoned it off for about one and a half

hours until they arrested Sagir. A special team from the Police Control Room and the Dhanmondi police assisted the DB to conduct the operation, according to a police spokesman.

'Farhad's murder shocked all of us. Sagir's arrest was the toughest assignment for me in my career the arrest was the harvest of our day-long efforts.'

'We had a tip off in the morning and we kept on vigil throughout the day Finally, we arrested Sagir from the second floor of the four storied building,' said the police inspector.

Sagir and Montu were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate court from where they were taken on remand. Police sought a ten-day remand for Sagir and a five-day remand for Montu.

Police say Sagir was also involved in seven other criminal cases filed with Sutrapur, Kotwali and Lalbagh police. Sagir was being tried in three criminal cases while police were investigating four other cases against him.

Sagir was also allegedly involved in the murder of Dr Shamsul Alam Milon who was killed on November 27, 1990, during the anti autocracy movement, said police.

Meanwhile, Farhad's mother-in-law Razia Sultana told The Daily Star 'Those who are responsible for such crimes should be given capital punishment.'



Sagir Ahmed Liton

hours until they arrested Sagir. A special team from the Police Control Room and the Dhanmondi police assisted the DB to conduct the operation, according to a police spokesman.

A police inspector who was involved in the operation said



THE EID RUSH: Home-bound passengers occupying all available space on the roofs of motor launches at the Sadarghat terminal in the city yesterday. — Star photo