

TABLOID

The Star Computer Special, our regular monthly section on the information revolution, goes tabloid from today. The eight-page handy supplement comes free with today's issue of your favourite English daily.

Inside Today

International

UN needs 12000 more troops to enforce truce in Bosnia

Hamas, Jihad activists demand revenge for Hebron carnage

Page 5

Business

US House passes \$1.5trillion budget
 Beijing hikes defence spending

Page 6

Supplement

Special Supplement on Eid
 Pages 8, 9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Roving Tea Man
 Page 3

NOTICE

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed from March 13 to March 15 on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Fitr. Therefore, there will be no issue of the paper on March 14, 15 and 16.

NEWS BRIEFS

Eid in Gulf states today

DUBAI, Mar 12: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar and United Arab Emirates announced overnight that the three-day Islamic Eid-ul-Fitr holiday would start on Sunday, reports Reuter.

The official news agencies of the five states said that Saturday will be the last day of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Voting time for Magura by-polls

The Election Commission has revised the voting time for March 20, by-election of Magura-2 constituency. The casting of vote will begin at 8 in the morning and continue till 4 pm without any break, reports UNB.

CU probe body

CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: The inquiry committee to probe alleged leak-out of question paper of first year BBA admission test 1993/94 of the University of Chittagong will receive reports on the matter from the interested persons on March 21 and 22 at the university arts faculty and the university club at the Sholashahar rail gate respectively.

Relief for Bosnia

Bangladesh government has decided to send relief materials for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The relief materials included 1,000 tons of rice, 1 lakh US dollar and woollen garments and tea.

Dacoity in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 12: Dacoits looted valuables and cash including foreign currency worth about Tk two lakh from a returnee from Saudi Arabia last night at Tola Haor of Sadar.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmdn	Mr	Sehri	Iftar
29	13	—	6:10 pm
30	14	4:49 am	6:11 pm

The Daily Star

FALGUN 29, 1400 BS, DHAKA SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 1994 RAMADAN 29, 1414 HIJRI

6 killed, 100 hurt in Ctg train mishap

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: At least six persons were killed on the spot and over 100 injured, 20 of them critically, in a major train accident today which took place at Mirersarai, 50 kilometres from the city here.

But according to unofficial sources, the death toll may rise to 10 as the spot was reportedly littered with mutilated bodies and dismembered limbs.

The victims were identified as Ripon Ahmed Chowdhury, 13, of Bara Kapor village of Moulibazar thana, Rahela Sultan, 23, Cashier, Agrabad Chittagong Branch of AB Bank, Nurul Amin, 40, of Dakkhin Satero village of Chhagalnaiya, Feni, Alamgir Hossain, 35, Sub-Asstt. Engineer(Works) Railway, Kadamtali of

sources said.

Though the actual cause of the accident is still unclear, railway and police sources attributed it to the curving of the track following the breaking of a slipper over a culvert.

A senior Railway official, however, did not rule out the possibility of sabotage.

Railway sources said a rescue team was immediately sent to the spot and high officials of the railway and other administrations had visited the spot.

Meanwhile, a high-powered four-member body has been constituted to unearth the cause of the accident.

Railway sources informed this correspondent that around 1200 passengers for home bound to celebrate Eid, were on board the train.

Tragic!

By Staff Correspondent

A senior railway official and his driver were killed in a road accident in the city yesterday evening.

A K M Zainul Abedin, 58, Additional Director General of Bangladesh Railway, was scheduled to fly to Chittagong along with Railway Secretary Dr Mashru Rahman to inspect the train accident there earlier in the day which left six people killed and 100 others injured.

Zainul Abedin's vehicle met with an accident near the Naval Headquarters at Banani on the Airport Road when he was rushing to avail a train for Chittagong after having failed to catch the last Biman flight to the port city.

A Dhaka-bound minibus coming from Mymensingh collided head on with Abedin's car and left both him and his driver Lakdittullah dead on the spot. Bus driver Sona Mia and two helpers suffered injuries in the accident. The driver was

4 states may appoint hony consuls

By M Anwarul Haq

The first elected Mayor of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mohammad Hanif assumed his office at the newly-constructed Nagar Bhaban at Fulbaria in the capital yesterday morning.

The new mayor took over charge formally by signing an office record of his joining soon after he reached the DCC office at 11:05 am. Chief Executive Officer Abdul Jabbar and other high officials of the corporation were present during the signing of the record at the mayor's chamber.

The new city father, who arrived at the DCC headquarters on board a Pajero jeep carrying the national flag, was received by the Chief Executive Officer at the gate with a bouquet. The suited mayor was then taken to his chamber on the first floor where he received more wreaths from the DCC officials and employees.

During his two-and-a-half hour stay at the Nagar Bhaban, Hanif addressed a gathering of the new DCC commissioners, officers and employees at the conference room and later went round various sections of the corporation building, including the office of the em-

See Page 12 Col 8

At least four countries are actively considering appointing honorary consuls or consul generals in Bangladesh. The countries are Mauritius, Australia, Singapore and Finland.

As most of these countries do not have permanent resident ambassadors in Dhaka, they will appoint honorary consuls to increase economic ties with Bangladesh. Bangladesh, on the other hand, has 26 honorary consuls abroad while there are 13 consuls in Dhaka or Chittagong representing as many countries.

The most recent appointment of an honorary consul has been made by the Maldives which maintains diplomatic ties with Bangladesh through its High Commissioner in Colombo. The Maldives does not have a resident mission in Dhaka or New Delhi.

Farooq Ahmed Chowdhury has already been appointed as the Consul General of the Maldives in Dhaka.

Mauritius, which is planning to appoint a Consul General in Dhaka has submitted a list of three prominent persons to the Foreign Ministry. The persons are: Badrul Huda Khandaker, formerly a consul for Tunisia, Farooq Ahmed Chowdhury, al-

See Page 12 Col 6

In a message on the occasion of the 78th anniversary of birth of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 17, she said, he had dreamt of an exploitation-free "Sonar Bangla" where people would get food, clothes, shelter, education and a better life.

With this mission in life, the Awami League President said, Sheikh Mujib had led the country to achieve her independence. In this context, she recalled his declaration that The Bengali is a nation of heroes. No force in the world could trample us.

She said Mujib's leadership was unparalleled during the struggles against the Britishers in the subcontinent and the Pakistani military junta for the GATT targets for liberalisation.

Rahel praised the coura-

See Page 12 Col 3

and postponed the Jiang talks until Sunday, US officials said.

Demonstrating its disdain for Christopher's human-rights message, China detained or harassed several prominent dissidents in the days before his arrival, prompting Christopher to express "deep distaste" for Chinese actions.

Far from improving its performance, China was actually moving in the wrong direction, he told reporters in Tokyo on Thursday.

The Chinese regard US pressure on human rights as an affront to their national pride, a sentiment Wu made crystal clear in his briefing.

"There is a saying in China that courtesy calls for reciprocity," he said.

Discontent among civil servants mounts

By S Y Bakht

Mounting discontent is brewing among the civil service cadre officials as all administrative re-organisation initiatives of the government remain ineffective and muddled in a maze of committees.

All major belligerent groupings in the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) cadre are preparing to step up their agitation programmes immediately after the Eid vacation. On the other hand, the various committees entrusted with formulating a framework for administrative restructuring remain virtually inoperative due to the absence of any clear political guideline from the BNP government.

The government's slow-stepping on the issue came into sharp focus recently when it withheld the implementation of an earlier order upgrading the pay-scales of nine BCS cadres following pressure from members of rival cadres. At the

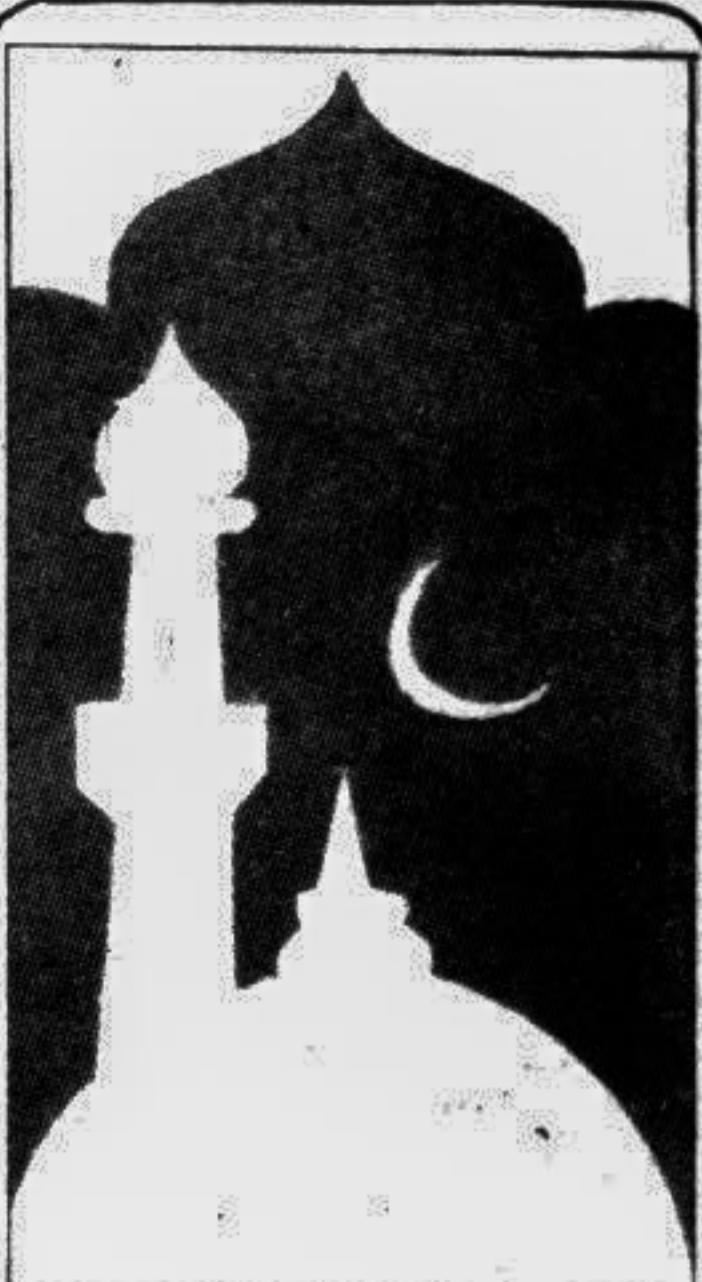
time the government had announced the formation of a 3 member committee to look into the issue. But that committee is yet to be formed.

Presently, there are four committees, including a ministerial one, working on different aspects of administrative re-organisation.

The 7-member Ministerial Committee on Administrative Re-organisation is led by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed. Earlier this month Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman was also included in the body. Formed in December last after a prolonged agitation by the Prokrishi, the committee has held only two meetings so far without making much headway.

Then there is the 5-member Secretary-level Administration Development Committee, formed a few years ago.

See Page 12 Col 1



Eid Mubarak

The Daily Star wishes its valued readers and patrons a very happy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Eid holidays begin

By Staff Correspondent

If the Shawal moon is sighted this evening, Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated in the country tomorrow (Monday). If not, Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Tuesday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee will meet at the Islamic Foundation office this evening. The committee has urged the public to inform it of the sighting of the moon from any part of the country.

After a month of fasting, Muslims celebrate Eid throughout the world with due

See Page 12 Col 4

Abahani lift Charms Cup in Calcutta

Sports Reporter

First, it was the total defeat of the Sixth South Asian Federation (SAF) Games football tournament last December. Then, the ICC Trophy cricket championship in Kenya last month. Local sports lovers really needed something to lift their spirits from the morass of dreary disappointment. And Abahani Krira Chakra, one of the two giants of the country's football arena, gave them that booster by clinching the Charms Cup, defeating Calcutta Mohammedan Spor-

See Page 12 Col 3

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star talks to leaders of the BNP and AL



Salam Talukder



Zillur Rahman

In two separate interviews, covering several hours, the Secretaries of the party in power and the major opposition party talked candidly to a team of Star reporters about the current political challenges, the parliamentary impasse, problems within their respective parties, the city corporation polls, the next general elections and questions relating to party reorganisation and future directions.

See details of the interviews on Page 4.

Multi-million dollar fish stocking project backfires

Star Report

A multi-million dollar fish stocking project in the country has turned out to be a major ecological disaster because of wrong policy decisions of the government, environmental experts claimed.

Unplanned use of a poison — Rotenone — has severely damaged the indigenous fish species in 1600 hectares of the Second Aqua-Culture Project of the Directorate of Fisheries (DOF), they said.

As a result, the development of fisheries in greater Mymensingh and Sylhet dis-

tricts has been hampered further increasing the miseries of the poor fishermen, the experts pointed out.

The Asian Wetland Bureau has already warned against the use of poison in the haors and beels wide waterbodies which might destroy the biomass of the project areas.

Funded by the Asian Development Bank, the aim of the project is to introduce carp variety of fish in the natural waterbodies.

Talking to The Daily Star, See Page 12 Col 7



On this happy occasion

IFIC Bank has the pleasure to inform you that during the last one year the Bank has emerged as the largest private sector Bank in the country.

From 1992 to 1993 our deposit has increased from 900 crore to 1100 crore taka.

This unprecedented growth has been possible due to the unfailing support of our valued clients, patrons and well wishers.

We vow to keep up this feat and would expect the same continued support from all concerned.