RAMADAN 29, 1415 HIJRI

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,

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16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

- Inside Today -

At least 18 persons were

Eight persons were killed

killed and 63 injured in road

accidents in the city and other

and over 50 injured, 14 of

them seriously, when a bus and

a truck collided head-on on

Dhaka-Chittagong highway

near Shashapara, 10 km off

Four of those killed were

Comilla town, at about 5 am

identified as Abul Quashem.

35. driver of the truck: Sadeq

Ali. 35. driver of the bus;

Saleh Ahmed, 44, of Rajapur in

Feni and Anil Chandra Saha.

bus and the Chittagong-bound

ruck collided in dense fog.

40. of Narayanganj.

vesterday.

areas of the country yesterday.

#### Article

#### **Efficient** Administration and Political Patronage

Column: On The Record by Shah AMS Kibria Page 4

### International

PLO calls for 'total cessation' of Israeli settlement activities



Imelda to run for Congress in May elections Page 5

#### Business

Weekly review: DSE buoyant despite Barings collapse

Kohinoor Chemical Co announces 10pc dividend Page 6

#### STOCK MARKET

828.17 (+0.63%) Market capitalisation Tk Turnover in volume 7.21 million

### **Eid Special**

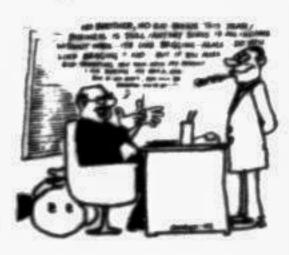
The Eid Festival: Reading the Social Text; Unshared Joy is no Joy; The Greatest Gift of Ramadan, Diplomacy in

Islam; Belief in God; The Missing; A Captivating Performance; Rising

Stars; Teens and Twenties; Living Pages 9-16

### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



An Eid Bonus is a Bonus Page 3

### Holidays

The offices of Chr Pathy Star will remain closed from February 2 to 4 on the occasion of the holy Eid-ul-Fitr There will, therefore, be no issue of the newspaper on February 3, 4 and 5.

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Moon sighting body meets today

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held today at 6:30 pm at the Islamic Foundation Conference Room in the city. Religious Affairs Minister and Chairman of the committee Mohammad Keramat Ali will preside over the meeting. Any news relating to the sighting of the Shawal moon should be communicated to following telephone numbers - 239493, 239643. 230280. 236407. 259631. 254457, reports BSS.

#### Nursing institutes classes from Mar 15

The classes of PTS students of 38 Nursing institutes will begin from March 15 instead of March 5 due to unavoidable reasons, said an officials handout yesterday, reports UNB.

#### Sehri, Iftar Timings Mar | Sehri | Iftar 6:05

# 18 killed, 63 injured in road accidents

FALGUN 18, 1401 BS,

By Staff Correspondent

Ten of the injured - Nurul Islam, Jashimuddin, Kalim Malanker, Akram Hussain, Abul Basher, Abdus Shukur, Sultan and three unidentified persons were admitted to Comilla Sadar Hospital while four other Oli Ahmed, Ranu Begum, Mohammed and Raqibul Islam were rushed to Comilla Medical College Hospital. They were stated to be in critical condition.

Police seized both the vehicles and a case was registered with Kotwali police.

In another accident, a 10 year-old boy was killed when hit by a private car at Hasanpur The Dhaka-bound passenger on Comilla-Daudkandi road at around 10 am. The victim was identified as Abdul Halim of

village Doulatpur under Daudkandi thana.

DHAKA THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1995

Our Correspondent in Faridpur adds Four persons were killed and six injured when a tempo hit a truck at Goalchamat on Faridpur-Rajbari road at about 2-30 pm vesterday.

Of the victims, Polash, 25, and Ananda. 24, of Rajbari, died on the spot while Satya Das alias Bishu Das. 60, succumbed to his injuries on way to Faridpur General Hospital and Parvez, 35, expired at the hospital. All the victims were passengers of the threewheeler.

The injured - Sukur Das. Phooljan, Shahida, Abdur See Page 8 Col 7

#### Greetings

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

### Eid likely tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Muslims of the country will celebrate the holy Eid-ul-Fitr tomorrow, subject to the sighting of the Shawal moon this evening.

If the moon is not sighted this evening the Eid will be celebrated on Saturday.

After a month of fasting that also required patience, frugality and austerity, the Muslims in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the Islamic countries around the world, will celebrate the festival by offering prayers making social calls, exchanging gifts and embracing each other the three-day Eid holi-

See Page 8 Col 4

# Bangladeshi troops leave Somalia for home

Polls, if and when, main

topic of speculation

Star Report

Leeson's deals?

MOGADISHU, Mar 1: Hundreds of Bangladeshis sailed off singing from Somalia vesterday to end a frustrating tour of duty in a country so riven by clan warfare that the international community has given up, reports AP.

The departure of 903 Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers

Editorial on Page-4

under the guard of American and Italian troops around Mogadishu's airport and seaport means 1,500 Pakistani peacekeepers remain in Somalia - and that's only until

The prospect that Somalis will be left to fend for themselves in a nation no closer to democracy than when interna-

When and how the next

general elections will be held?

Will the opposition parties par-

ticipate in those elections or

will it be a repetition of 1988?

dominating the country's polit-

ical arena after all attempts at

negotiation failed to bring back

the boycotting opposition par-

the Fifth Parliament com-

tions under a caretaker gov

ernment. The question of re-

turning to Parliament does not

arise after one year of boy-

cotting." said Zillur Rahman,

General Secretary of the

tion parties would not partici-

pate in may elections unicss'

their demand of a caretaker

government was fulfilled," he

The AL general secretary

LONDON, Mar 1: Executives

at a venerable British bank

knew a month ago about a

trader's disastrous deals that

would cause its collapse and

had authorized tens of millions

of dollars to try to cover them,

news reports said today, re-

British regulators, who have

sent investigators to Singapore

and Tokyo, will try to deter-

mine what top managers at

Brunei Sultan

wanted to

rescue Barings

LONDON, Mar 1: The Sultan

of Brunei came close to taking

over Barings' loss-making fu-

tures contracts and funding

half a 600-million-pound plan

to rescue the failed merchant

bank, the Financial Times re-

ported today, quoting bankers

involved in the negotiations.

governor of the Bank of Eng-

land, told bankers at 7 pm on

Sunday, after a weekend of

It said that Eddie George.

ports AP.

said Prime Minister Begum

told The Daily Star last night.

"The AL and other opposi

pleted one year yesterday.

The Opposition boycott of

"We want immediate elec-

ties to Parliament.

Awami League.

These are the questions

tional peacekeepers first came here 26 months ago to help deliver humanitarian aid to the hungry did not hearten the chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"All of us hoped against hope the Somalis would get their house in order" by now, Gen. John Shalikshvili told reporters in Washington, adding,

"They're on their own". The Bangladeshi who left yesterday had been guarding the seaport until two companies of US Marines arrived in landing craft to relieve them before dawn. Eight hours later. the Bangladeshi sailed away in

The ferries will take the Bangladeshi troops down See Page 8 Col 7

Khaleda Zia should resign im-

mediately to facilitate the

holding of fresh elections after

dissolution of the present

In reply to a question

whether the Awami League

would accept a caretaker ad-

ministration under the Presi-

dent, as announced by party

chief Sheikh Hasina, the AL

general secretary said. "Our

party chief announced her

willingness to accept a

caretaker government under

the President in a certain

comment on whether his party

tion," Zillur Rahman said.

See Page 8 Col 6

Baring Brothers and Co. in

London knew about trader

Nick Leeson's deals and when

they knew it, a Bank of Eng-

administrators who are in con-

trol of Barings said they have

begun closing out the bank's

bets on Asian futures markets

that caused its collapse. This is

a crucial first step toward

containing the losses and

selling Barings - either whole

the Leeson's wife. Lisa, had

worked in the office of Barings

in Singapore that was sup-

posed to monitor traders' ac-

couple continued, officials in

Singapore said they were in-

vestigating possible fraud and

sabotage in the collapse of Bar-

ings. Britain's oldest invest-

in response to a complaint

filed by Barings, said Roy

Neighbour, spokesman for

Singapore's Commercial Affairs

Department, which investi-

See Page 8 Col 1

The probe began yesterday

As the hunt for the missing

It was also reported that

or in pieces.

tivities

ment bank.

Meanwhile, court-appointed

land spokesman said today.

He, however, declined to

Jativa Sangsad.

circumstance."

two ocean-going ferries.

### Looking Back at March towards Independence

Part of our history was in... the process of being made in the month of March, 1971. Crucially eventful, immensely charged with mounting mass agitations and pressing political moves accompanied by fastspreading public speculations mixing memories with desires. the month of March was marching towards the eventual birth of Bangladesh as an indea pendent, sovereign state. Indeed, "life is lived forward but understood backward," as Kierkegaard justly puts it. And we take this opportunity to look back at March 1971, day by day, in terms of recounting some of the crucial events, incidents and experiences that characterized those turbulent, history-making days.See Page 4

#### Tk 372 cr Canadian aid for railway, agri-project

By Staff Correspondent

Canada will provide Tk 371.60 crore worth of financial and technical assistance to Bangladesh for the railway sector and the Crop Diversification Project.

had shifted from that position. Two agreements to this ef-"Let the proposal come fect were signed yesterday by (from the ruling party). Please Dr Saadat Hussain, Additional wait until after the Eid vaca-Secretary at the Economic Relations Division, and Dr John On the other hand, ruling Devell, Head of the Aid section party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar said the BNP

at the Canadian High Commission, on behalf of their respecpolicy-makers did not yet distive governments. cuss the matter, although Under the first agreement, Bangladesh Railway will receive a total grant of Tk Barings knew about

273.60 crore (95.97 million Canadian dollars) for financing the Rehabilitation of the Bangladesh Railway Phase-2 Project. The project will include

training units and technical skill upgrade training programme; refit of locomotives; improved locomotive maintenance system; and programme and ancillary studies. Under the second accord

four components: workshop

Canada will extend its financial assistance to the Crop Diversification Project under the Ministry of Agriculture, to the tune of about Tk 98 crore. The purpose of the project is to increase the production of pulses, tubers and oil-seed.

#### Govt advice to Malaysia-bound Bangladeshis Bangladeshi workers await-

ing their trip to Malaysia have been advised to reach there within 90 days of issuance of their medical certificates, reports UNB. The government in a hand-

out yesterday also requested the workers, whose medical certificates have passed 90 days, to take fresh certificates.

The advice came after Malaysian immigration authorities stopped giving clearance to the workers whose medical examination certificates, usually valid for 90 days, expired.

The Malaysian Health Ministry has started taking sample blood at random from Bangladeshi workers arriving at the Subang airport for various tests, according to the hand-

The ministry has taken the step following allegations of irregularities in the medical examinations of foreign workers.

## flood Chittagong markets

CHITTAGONG, Mar 1: Smuggled goods flooded most of the city markets here as anti-smuggling drive slowed down during the month of

## All roads lead to village home Star Report

SERIOUS TRANSACTION: Ladies making a last-minute grab of the choicest sarees at a city shopping arcade

With the Eid of Fitr around the corner, the city is witnessing a virtual mass exodus of people to their village homes to celebrate the Eid with their near and dear ones.

vesterday ahead of tomorrow's Eid.

An estimate said at least a third of the working people in the capital are separated from their families, who live away from Dhaka. Besides, a large number of city dwellers prefer to spend the Eid holidays with their relations living outside the capital.

According to an unofficial count, some three lakh people are leaving the city everyday for the past few days. The rush of home-bound

people at the three inter-district bus terminals, Sadarghat launch terminal and Kamalapur railway station in the city remarkably increased yesterday. the last working day before the Eid holidays. The figure, operators of various modes of transport forecast, would be double today

According to sources at the bus and launch terminals and the railway station, the exodus from the city began Tuesday, a public holiday on the occasion of the Shaab-e-Kadre, Many

talks with the rebels.

The warning made in

press release and a letter to

President Chandrika Ban

daranaike Kumaratunga by

rebel leader Velupillai Prab-

hakaran Tuesday added addi-

tional strain on the already

nouncements such as opening

of both routes to the public.

that are meaningless in prac-

tice while failing to attend to

the basic day to day needs of

our people, begins to shake

our confidence in a govern-

ment on which we have placed

trust from the beginning," a

statement issued by the Libera-

tion Tigers of Tamil Eelam

"Making unilateral an-

deadlocked peace talks.

people took leave for yesterday (Wednesday) while the three day Eid holidays begin today. The process of returning

home would continue until the Eid day.

According to available information, some 1200 buses with a total capacity of nearly 56.000 passengers operate daily from the city's inter-district bus terminals at Gabtolt. Mahakhali and Sayedabad, the bus stand for luxury coaches at

#### Editorial on page 4

Fakirerpool and the Gulistan bus stand during the normal

Some 260 steamers and launches sail for different destinations from Sadarghat terminal, carrying about 20,000 passengers on a normal day

From the Kamalapur Station, 27 trains with a seat capacity of about 23,000 usually operate on.

Thus the number of people leaving Dhaka on a normal day stands at about one lakh. During the Eid period most of the transports carry passengers two to three times their capacity. Besides, additional

trips are also made by trains. buses and river transports on the occasion.

Visiting the railway station and the bus terminals in the city vesterday and on the previous days, this correspondent found that the home-bound people were locked in a terrible competition for having place in the various modes of transport to ensure their return to sweet home before the

The existing arrangements are madequate for the journey of lakhs of home-bound peo ple. The undesired happenings at those spots range from the mad rush of passengers to blackmarketing of tickets.

Extra charge for ticket, a common feature in the Eid season, is multiplying the suf ferings of the passengers. The blackmarketeers of ticket of intercity trains and long-distance buses were found doing brisk business openly at the cost of passengers. Hapless passengers were being compelled to buy tickets from the blackmarketeers paying extra charge, two or three times the normal rate.

See Page 8 Col 6

#### Extortionists shoot, stab shopkeeper in city By Staff Correspondent

-Star photo

A manager of a Bata shoe shop on the city's Mirpur Road was shot and stabbed by a gang of armed hoodlums yesterday afternoon, said police.

Witnesses said Md Shahjahan Uddin Khan, 50 manager of a Bata shop at the ground floor of Mahmood Mansion, opposite to the Teachers' Training College at 27. Mirpur Road, sustained bullet and stab injuries inside his shop at 3:45 pm yesterday. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Doctors said he was out of danger.

Salesmen of the shop told The Daily Star that two armed vouths, in their early 20s. stabbed Khan on his left wrist and opened fire at him after a brief altercation over extortion money. Two bullets hit him in the abdomen.

Two salesmen of the shop. Naeem Khandaker and Mohiuddin Ahmed said, two Dhaka College students went to the shop on Monday and See Page 8 Col 3

### Sexy social summit!

summit, reports Reuter.

Escort bureaus offering high-class call girls plan to double their staff to 4,000 girls and strip-clubs will be open round the clock. Danish National Television reported.

The UN World Summit for Social Development from to the Danish capital.

The sex trade in Denmark, a pioneer of the sexual revolution in the 1960s, is confident that some of the visitors will turn to private social issues after work

COPENHAGEN. Mar 1 Striptease clubs and escort bureaus in Copenhagen are extending opening hours and hiring more girls to cope with expected demand during next week's United Nations social

March 6 to 12 will discuss the state elections taking place in eradication of poverty and the India in February and March, creation of jobs and social was due to have been held on stability. It will draw up to 20,000 people including 130 heads of state and government

See Page 8 Col 3

#### See Page 8 Col 8 CPM candidate shot dead

reports AFP

#### Bihar polls postponed banned Maoist Communist NEW DELHI, Mar 1: India's Centre (MCC) killed Santu Das National Election Commission of the Communist Party of said today voting in state polls

15 and 19, reports Reuter. The Commission gave no reason for the move, which followed days of press speculation about delaying the poll in populous and violence-

in Bihar had been postponed

for several days to March 11.

The commission said it would make a statement about the postponement later in the The poll in Bihar, one of six

ridden state in eastern India.

March 5, 7 and 9. The vote is for deputies to a 324-seat state assembly. Meanwhile: Maoist guerillas

shot dead a communist party candidate in India's northern Bihar state days before crucial elections there, the United News of India (UNI) said today. The news agency said armed insurgents of the

India-Marxist (CPM) and his bodyguard in Chatra district 150 km (95 miles) from the state capital, Patna. The Maoists wounded four other party workers in the attack on a group Das was lead-

ing home after campaigning, it The MCC is opposed to

elections, while the CPM is contesting the poll. Polling is scheduled for three days in the state beginning on Sunday.

Paramilitary troops were

deployed in parts of the state on Monday and ordered to shoot on sight anybody disrupting the elections. This followed a failed attempt to kill a candidate of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's Congress Party.

On Tuesday, guerillas burned down a police station. killing one officer and seriously injuring five others.

# Smuggled goods From Staff Correspondent

Ramadan. Most of the shops in the city's main markets like Bipani Bitan, Reazuddin Bazar, Apollo Shopping Centre. Mimi Super. Chittagong Shopping Complex and Highway Plaza, are report See Page 8 Col 2

#### Tamil rebels losing patience, Chandrika warned From Waruna Karunatillake (LTTE) said Pooneryn and Elephant Pass COLOMBO, Mar 1: Sri routes to the public can only The rebels on Monday re-Lanka's Tamil separatist rebels help gain propaganda mileage jected a government anhave warned the government for the government. It cannot nouncement that two land that they are loosing patience be of any use in taking the foutes linking their stronghold with its peace process as govof Jaffna Peninsula with the ernment peace negotiators prepare for the fourth round of

northern mainland were open for civilians and vehicle movement. The government said the strategic Pooneryn army camp across which the road passes has been pulled back by 500 metres. The government said the main road linking Jaffna with the south is also open for traffic. However, the Elephant Pass army camp which blocks the road will remain in place. The rebels who are de-

manding the total withdrawal

of the Pooneryn camp have

dismissed the move saying the

government is trying to gain

cheap popularity. To go ahead

and make unilateral declara-

tion that the government has

decided to open both the

peace process forward. We are (ICRC) and released to the media by the rebels. It is the first time the rebels have released an exchange of letters

See Page 8 Col 3

surely disappointed over this This unilateral declaration makes things very clear. The government is intent on giving priority not to the needs of the people but to military subterfuges," LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran told President Chandrika Kumaratunga in a letter dated Tuesday. The strongly worded letter was sent through the International Committee of the Red Cross

with the government to the The peace talks which began soon after the People's Al-