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Eid Greetings
The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons and well-wishers a happy Eid-ul-Azha.

Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
The holy Eid-ul-Azha, one of the biggest religious festival of Muslims, will be celebrated in the country on Friday with due solemnity and religious fervour.
Animals will be sacrificed on the day symbolising Prophet Ibrahim's (A) sacrifice in the name of Almighty Allah.
Eid congregations, sacrificing animals, visiting friends and relatives and exchanging greetings are the main features of the Eid-ul-Azha celebration.
President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages greeted the country-
See Page 12 Col 4

Messages Eid inspires us to sacrifice

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday hoped that the teachings of sacrifice of 'qurbani' would inspire all to ensure welfare of the people, reports UNB.
In a message on the eve of the Eid-ul-Azha, the President said equality and bondage of brotherhood of Islam will gain new strength through celebration of Eid-ul-Azha.
The President greeted the countrymen on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina greeted the countrymen
See Page 12 Col 7

Holiday Notice

The offices of The Daily Star will remain close on April 17, 18 and 19 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.
Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper on April 18, 19 and 20.



The Holy Hajj was performed yesterday. — TV photo

2m perform Hajj

MINA, Apr 16: An estimated two million pilgrims climbed Mount Arafat today, leaving behind traces of a blaze that roared through a section of their tent city, killing up to 250 fellow Muslims, reports AP.
Calls of "At thy service O Lord, at thy service," thundered through the valley as the white-robed pilgrims moved in a massive white wave up the mountain where Prophet Hazrat Mohammad (SM) delivered his last sermon shortly before his death in 632.
By ritual, every pilgrim must arrive at Arafat by midday to stand silently in prayer as a group. It is the climax of the Hajj, which every Muslim who can afford it must perform at least once in a lifetime.
The Saudi Interior Ministry said that more than 1.1 million pilgrims had arrived in the kingdom for the Hajj. They joined a nearly an equal number of worshippers from inside the kingdom.
In Makkah, worshippers today scurried to finish their rituals and head for Arafat before the midday deadline.
Burly security guards in long white robes pushed back worshippers lunging to touch the holy Ka'aba inside the massive Grand Mosque. Ka'aba is covered by a gold-embroidered black cloth, and was built by Prophet Ibrahim (A) as the House of God. Thousands made their seven counter-clockwise rounds around the Ka'aba.
"Forgive me O Lord, forgive me for my sins, I surrender to thee and hope for mercy," they said.
Directive to acquire land for cricket stadium
The Land Ministry has finalised all necessary preparation for acquisition of land to build a cricket stadium at the city's Bara Moghbazar, reports UNB.
The ministry has directed the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka to acquire 17.44 acres of land there for the stadium, according to a PID handout yesterday.
The ministry took the measures as per declaration of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the civic reception for the cricket heroes of the country at the city's Manik Mia Avenue on April 14.

Mujibnagar Day today

The historic Mujibnagar Day will be observed today in a befitting manner, reports UNB.
On this day in 1971, the first government of independent Bangladesh was sworn in at a mangrove of village Bhabarpara Baidyanathpota, 15 kms off Meherpur district headquarters. The place has been renamed Mujibnagar.
Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the father of the nation, was the President of the government in exile, known as the "Mujibnagar Government."
As Bangabandhu was imprisoned in Pakistan jail, vice-president Syed Nazrul Islam took oath as acting President while Tajuddin Ahmed as Prime Minister.
Members of the cabinet were: Capt Mansur Ali (Finance), A H M Kamruzzaman (Home Affairs, Relief and Rehabilitation), and Khandaker Mosh-taque Ahmed (Foreign Affairs and Law).
The proclamation of independence by Bangabandhu
See Page 12 Col 1

Death toll from Mina fire soars to 343

MAKKAH, Apr 16: The death toll from the huge blaze that ripped through 70,000 pilgrims' tents in Mina soared to around 343, mostly Asians, reports AFP.
While the mass of pilgrims gathered for the climax of the annual Hajj, at Mount Arafat, 20 kilometers from Makkah, officials sifted through the charred wreckage of Tuesday's fire at nearby Mina.
New tents were hastily erected to replace those incinerated by the inferno, which also left more than 2,000 people injured.
The last Saudi toll said 217 pilgrims had been killed and 1,290 injured, although a Saudi official told AFP that many of the injured had life-threatening burns.
Indian prime minister H D Deve Gowda expressed "shock and anguish" over Tuesday's tragedy, which is believed to have cost the lives of around 100 Indians and 60 Pakistanis.
Pakistan President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, meanwhile, said in a statement he was "deeply anguished" while Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif expressed his shock and sympathy for the families of all victims.
An estimated 80,000 Indians were among the two million pilgrims at Makkah, while 120,000 had travelled from Pakistan and more than 10,000 from Bangladesh.
The identification of victims is being hampered by the charred state of many of the bodies. In addition, the authorities insist all pilgrims hand over their passports on arrival in Makkah.
The inferno was sparked by a gas canister used for cooking and fanned by strong winds it swept through the Mina encampment, about five kilometers south of Makkah, witnesses said.
King Fahd today expressed condolences on his own and his country's behalf to the families of the victims from Saudi Arabia and other countries.
President Bill Clinton expressed his sorrow on Tuesday.
"I was deeply saddened to learn today of the tragic loss of life in Saudi Arabia among the pilgrims performing the hajj," Clinton said in a statement issued during a visit to New York.

No Bangladeshi killed in Mina fire incident: Religious Minister

State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam said yesterday from Mina that none of the Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims was affected in Tuesday's fire at Mina, BSS quoting an official handout said last night.
The State Minister informed that all the pilgrims from Bangladesh were safe.
However, he said one Javed Ali Mondol from Jamalpur (passport number 4690) was killed in a stampede during the fire.
He said three Bangladeshi pilgrims were injured in the incident the injured are: Chan Mian of Gazipur (passport number 3809), Imanullah of Gazipur (passport number 3839) and Amina Khatun of Brahmanbaria (passport number 2160). All the injured are now under treatment at Nur Hospital in Makkah.
See Page 12 Col 3

Release BNP leaders, workers before Eid: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan demanded release of leaders and workers of his party and its different wings, who were arrested on "false" charges, before Eid-ul-Azha, reports UNB.
He made the demand when a group of 11 Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal leaders of Pabna district unit, released recently, met with him at party office yesterday morning.
Bhuiyan alleged the entire country turned into a wasteland due to killings, terrorism, filing of false cases, harassment and other autocratic activities perpetrated by this government.
"The sky and wind that blows over the country became gloomy amidst the cries of afflicted and victim families," he said.
"Thousands of BNP leaders and workers are now in jail without charges and many are facing death sentences," he said.
See Page 12 Col 6

Post-Eid programme BNP may agitate for CEC's resignation

By Nazmul Ashraf
BNP's planned anti-government agitation after the Eid-ul-Azha is likely to concentrate mainly on its demand for resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena for his alleged partisan role during elections, highly-placed sources in the party said.
However, the nature of the planned agitation is yet to be finalised, the sources said.
The party has been demanding resignation of the CEC since the June 12 parliamentary election.
BNP earlier boycotted by-elections to three Jatiya Sangsad seats alleging that fair elections could not be held under the 'partisan' CEC. The three seats had fallen vacant due to the deaths of three Awami League MPs. By-election in Manikganj-3 constituency, which fell vacant due to the death of a BNP MP, is also in the offing. BNP lost in the by-polls in a Laxmipur constituency in September last year.
However, as regards the by-polls in Manikganj-3 constituency, the party policy-planners are 'unwilling to let the confirmed seat go unchallenged,' one source said. BNP candidates had bagged the seat for last three consecutive terms.
"We're willing to contest the Manikganj-by-poll but the partisan CEC must go," BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told this correspondent. The schedule for the by-polls is yet to be announced.
Mannan Bhuiyan said he hoped that the CEC would resign for the sake of fair elections. "Otherwise, we will compel the CEC to resign through massive agitation," he added.
BNP has now been demanding the CEC's resignation at its public meetings. Besides, the party also sought the President's intervention in the matter when a three-member delegation led by its secretary general called on him on Tuesday.
The planned agitation programmes are likely to include a demonstration before the CEC's office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city to press for his resignation," a standing committee member of the BNP said, preferring anonymity.
The agitation programmes
See Page 12 Col 1

Unika Devi urges PM to restore her right as Mong chief

CHITTAGONG, Apr 16: Unika Devi, successor to the Mong Raj family of Khagrachhari hill district urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to uphold the tradition of succession of the Mong and restore her right as Mong chief, reports BSS.
Exchanging views with the journalists at her palace at Manikchhari, 60 km from here, on the eve of the Bangla new year Unika Devi, 59, congratulated the present government for its efforts in resolving the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) problems.
She also said this is for the first time the people of CHT got a holiday to celebrate their Baishakh Utsav. This is possible due to the good gesture of the present government.
See Page 12 Col 1

5 promoted as additional secretaries

By Staff Correspondent
Five Joint Secretaries have been promoted as Additional Secretaries.
According to a government notification yesterday, they are: Mohammad Giasuddin Pathan, DG, NBC, Abdul Halim of Housing and Public Works Ministry, Kazi Abdul Bays of LGD Ministry, Mohammad Mosharrafullah of Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, Golam Rahman of Commerce Ministry and Aziz Ahmed Choudhury, DG, Primary Education.

গ্যাস ব্যবহারে সতর্কতার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

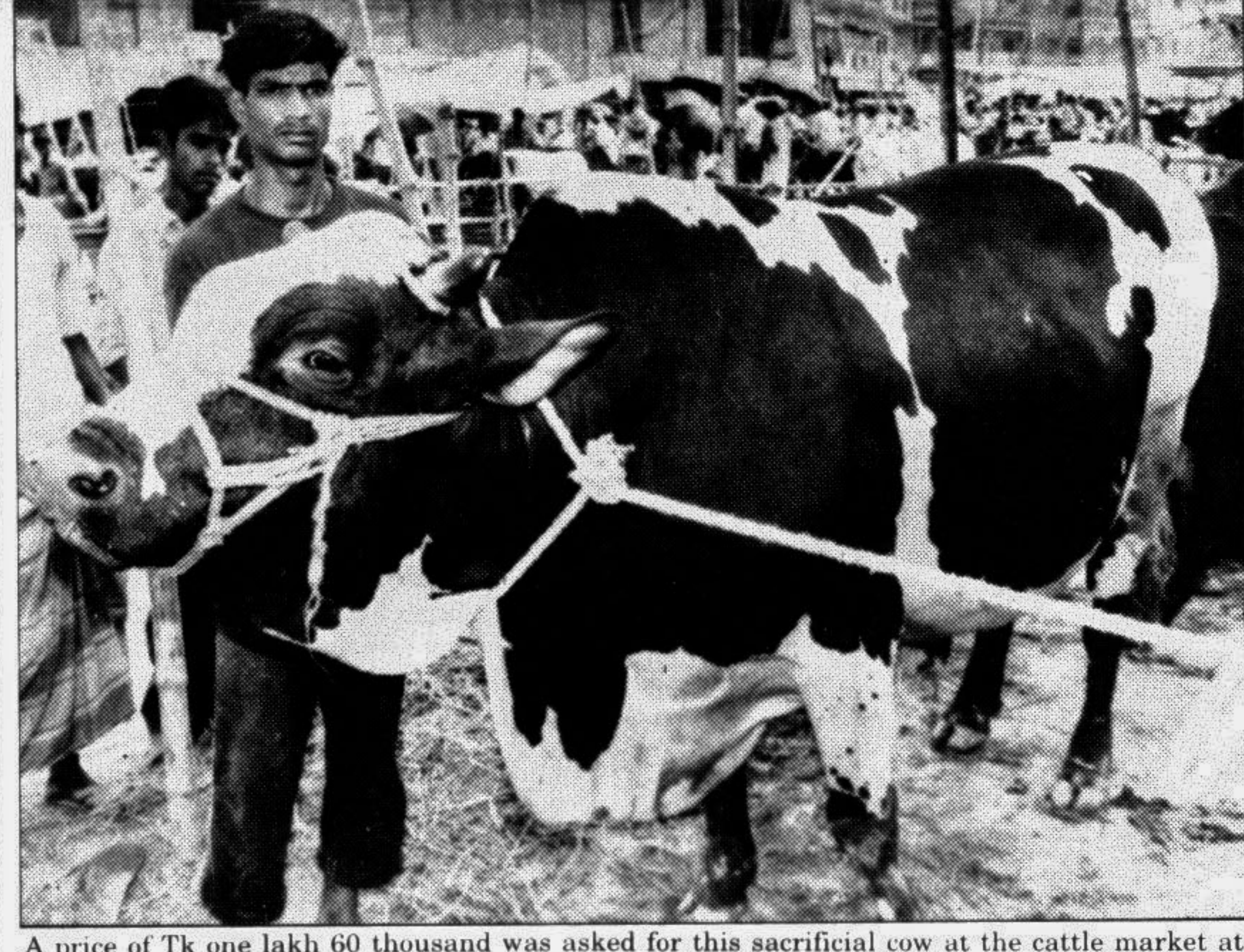
- এখন শুক মৌসুম। সামান্য অসতর্কতা বা ভুলের কারণে অগ্নিকান্ড ঘটে জানমালের ক্ষতি হতে পারে। গ্যাস ব্যবহারে অধিক সতর্ক থাকুন।
- আজই আপনার বাড়ি, রোস্টেরা বা কলেক্টরবার গ্যাস লাইন অনুমোদিত কর্মী দ্বারা পরীক্ষা করুন।
- গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়মকানুন মেনে চলুন এবং গ্যাসের অপব্যবহার ও অপচয় রোধ করুন।
- কোথাও গ্যাসের গন্ধ পেলে বা গ্যাস সংক্রান্ত যে কোন ক্ষমস্যার স্থানীয় গ্যাস অফিসে অবিলম্বে যোগাযোগ করুন।

সাবধানী হউন নিরাপদে থাকুন
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(সেন্ট্রালার একটি কোম্পানী)
ফোন : ৯৫৬৬৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৬৬৬৮, ৮১৯০৭৯ (দিবা রাত্র)
সিএমবিএস ৮১২১০৫-৮২
১৩৫/১৩৫৭-১৩৫৮

Boycott Inqilab, urge four leading citizens

By Staff Correspondent
Four leading citizens of the country have urged the people to boycott The Inqilab, a vernacular daily, for spreading propaganda against the country's independence and sovereignty.
Poet Begum Sufia Kamal, litterateur Shawkat Osman, Prof Kabir Chowdhury and poet Shamsur Rahman in a joint statement, issued recently, also made an appeal to not patronize this newspaper either by giving advertisements or by any other means.
They noted that the main goal of The Inqilab was to create misunderstanding among people about the War of Liberation, the country's independence and sovereignty, preach fundamentalism, incite hatred among the believers of different religions, generate anti-India sentiments, oppose the rights of women and propagate against the progress and development of the country.
"Giving advertisements to the Inqilab will mean financing the anti-liberation forces. That's why we are fervently appealing to all ministries, government offices, directorates, departments, semi-government organisations and 'national' and 'multinational' business
See Page 12 Col 3



A price of Tk one lakh 60 thousand was asked for this sacrificial cow at the cattle market at Nayabazar in the city yesterday. — Star photo

3 rebel leaders' conditions for dialogue with Ershad

By Staff Correspondent
The three 'rebel' leaders of the Jatiya Party (JP), have agreed for a dialogue with party chairman H M Ershad provided he accepts their demands. Shah Moazzam Hossain, one of the three leaders told The Daily Star after a meeting here yesterday.
The three presidium members of the JP — Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Shah Moazzam Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed — held the meeting at the residence of Shah Moazzam Hossain.
"We have agreed for a dialogue with Ershad," he said.
See Page 12 Col 8

Sacrificial animals flood markets

By Staff Correspondent
A large number of cattle were brought in to the city's cattle markets from different parts of the country yesterday.
Unlike previous years, most of the herds of cattle and goats seen flooding the 19 temporary markets and their adjacent roads, came from villages across the country. Market organisers in Banani, Dhanmondi, Nayabazar, Rayer Bazar, Gabtoli and Kawnar Bazar said about 90 per cent or more of the animals were coming from villages.
According to them, most of the cattle arriving in the city were brought in by traders who appeared ready to form a government by early next week under a new prime minister, a demand the powerful Congress Party made when it withdrew support from the coalition two weeks ago.
Prime Minister Gowda remains head of a caretaker government that has been paralysed by the political turmoil.
Differences among the 13 regional parties that comprise the Front have delayed the choice of a new leader. The leaders of
See Page 12 Col 8

Moopanar, Gujral front-runners UF chooses new leader today

NEW DELHI, Apr 16: Having regained the support of its feuding ally, Congress Party, the United Front coalition is expected to choose a new leader tomorrow to replace HD Deve Gowda as India's prime minister, reports AP.
"The leadership question would be resolved amicably," said Front leader GK Moopanar today.
Moopanar, a regional power broker, and Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral are the front-runners to succeed Gowda.
Moopanar, who defected from the Congress Party last year to form a regional party in Tamil Nadu state, appeared well placed ahead of a meeting of the United Front coalition's steering committee set for 3:00 pm (0930 GMT) tomorrow.
As a former Congress member, Moopanar is seen as a link between the United Front and Congress. He is close to Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi.
The United Front coalition appeared ready to form a government by early next week under a new prime minister, a demand the powerful Congress Party made when it withdrew support from the coalition two weeks ago.
Prime Minister Gowda remains head of a caretaker government that has been paralysed by the political turmoil.
Differences among the 13 regional parties that comprise the Front have delayed the choice of a new leader. The leaders of
See Page 12 Col 8

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
স্থাপত্য অধিদপ্তর, পূর্তভবন
সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা

ঢাকাস্থ সোহরাওয়ারী উদ্যানে স্বাধীনতা স্তম্ভ নির্মাণের জন্য স্থাপত্য ডিজাইন প্রতিযোগিতার সংশোধিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১৯৭১ সালের ৭ই মার্চ, জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান কর্তৃক স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের আহবানের পরিপ্রেক্ষিতে দীর্ঘ নয় মাস ব্যাপী মুক্তি সংগ্রামের ফলশ্রুতিতে একই বঙ্গবন্ধুর ১৬ই ডিসেম্বর দশলক্ষ্যার পাকিস্তানী বাহিনীর আত্মসমর্পণের মাধ্যমে বিজয় অর্জিত হয়। জাতির জীবনের এই গৌরবোজ্জ্বল ঘটনাকে চির অজ্ঞান ও চির ভাবের রাখার উদ্দেশ্যে ঢাকাস্থ সোহরাওয়ারী উদ্যানে সরকার কর্তৃক একটি "স্বাধীনতা স্তম্ভ" নির্মাণের উদ্যোগ নেয়া হয়েছে।

বাংলাদেশ স্থপতি ইনস্টিটিউট-এর অনুসৃত নীতিমালা অনুযায়ী স্থপতিদের মাধ্যমে আয়োজিত একটি উন্মুক্ত ডিজাইন প্রতিযোগিতার মাধ্যমে এই প্রকল্পের স্থাপত্য নকশা নির্বাচন করা হবে। বাংলাদেশের যে কোন স্থপতি/স্থাপত্য উপদেষ্টা প্রতিষ্ঠান এই প্রতিযোগিতায় অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন। বিচারক মণ্ডলী কর্তৃক নির্বাচিত প্রথম, দ্বিতীয় ও তৃতীয় স্থান অধিকারী ডিজাইনের জন্য যথাক্রমে ১,০০,০০০/- (এক লক্ষ), ৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার) ও ৪০,০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা পুরস্কার হিসাবে প্রদান করা হবে। এই সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত তথ্য সংশ্লিষ্ট কাগজপত্রাদি অফিসের তথ্যোগ্য নশদ ২০০/- (দুইশত) টাকার বিনিময়ে অত্র অধিদপ্তরের সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তার নিকট থেকে (এ. এস. এম. ইসমাইল, সহকারী প্রধান স্থপতি, ফোন: ৯৫৫০৮১১) আশামী ২৬শে এপ্রিল-৯৭ থেকে তারা মে-৯৭ অবধি ১:০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রতিযোগিতার জিজ্ঞাসাবাদের জবাব (প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী) প্রদান করা হবে ৭ মে-৯৭ সন্ধ্যা ১০:০০ ঘটিকায়।

প্রস্তাবিত ডিজাইন দাখিল করার শেষ তারিখ ৩রা জুলাই-৯৭ অবধি ১:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

ইতিপূর্বে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী যারা প্রতিযোগিতার কাগজপত্রাদি সংগ্রহ করেছেন তাদের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত বিষয়সমূহ প্রযোজ্য:

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- খ. ইতিপূর্বে সরবরাহকৃত কাগজপত্রের অনুচ্ছেদ ৫.০০-এ প্রকল্পের চাহিদামালার সরকারের সিদ্ধান্ত অনুযায়ী "শিফা টিরসন" অন্তর্ভুক্ত হবে।
- গ. ইতিপূর্বে কাগজপত্রাদি সংগ্রহকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহ পূর্বে সংগ্রহের প্রমাণ দেখিয়ে সংশোধিত কাগজপত্র বিনামূল্যে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।

সা. আ. কা. মাসউদ আহমাদ
প্রধান স্থপতি
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