

Eid-ul-Azha

Piety, Not Meat Nor Blood Reaches Allah

by Kazi Aulad Hossain

Id-ul-Azha is the second great festival of the Muslim world after Id-ul-Fitr. After offering two rakats of congregational prayers and special thanks to Almighty Allah in the morning at the mosques or open fields the festival of Id-ul-Azha formally starts with the sacrifice of suitable animals in commemoration of the supreme sacrifice made by Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim in deference to wishes of Almighty Allah.

Hazrat Ibrahim is not only an important Prophet, he has also been designated as Ibrahim Khalilullah or Ibrahim the Friend of Allah. I may further add here that it is obligatory on the part of a Muslim to offer salat five times a day and no salat or namaz is complete unless he says in his prayers all the five times (before he, while sitting, turns to the right and then to left), O, Allah shower Your peace and blessings on the holy Prophet Muhammad (peace be on him) the way You showered Your peace and blessings on Prophet Ibrahim. Again Almighty Allah saved this great prophet Hazrat Ibrahim from the wrath of Ferun and the blazing fire specially prepared by him. Such a Prophet was put to a severe test. Almighty Allah asked Ibrahim (SM) to sacrifice his dearest thing in life in the name of Allah. And the dearest thing was, needless to say, his young son Hazrat Ismail. Both the affectionate father and the beloved son, were pleased to agree with their Lord Creator and Hazrat Ibrahim made all necessary preparations to make the supreme sacrifice. At the final stage when he apparently made the sacrifice of his son, it was not the son who was actually sacrificed but in his place a sheep (Dumba) was sacrificed as ordained by Almighty Allah and the beloved son was standing nearby.

the upperhand... They must prevail over his shortcomings and lapses so that society may be a better place to live in. Allah Rabbul Alamin wants man should learn and endeavour to sacrifice his personal interests for the less fortunate and the needy. He gives much importance to piety and devotion. In Surah Hajj (Ayat 37) of the Holy Quran Almighty Allah says:

"It is not meat Nor their blood, that reaches God: it is your piety That reaches Him....."

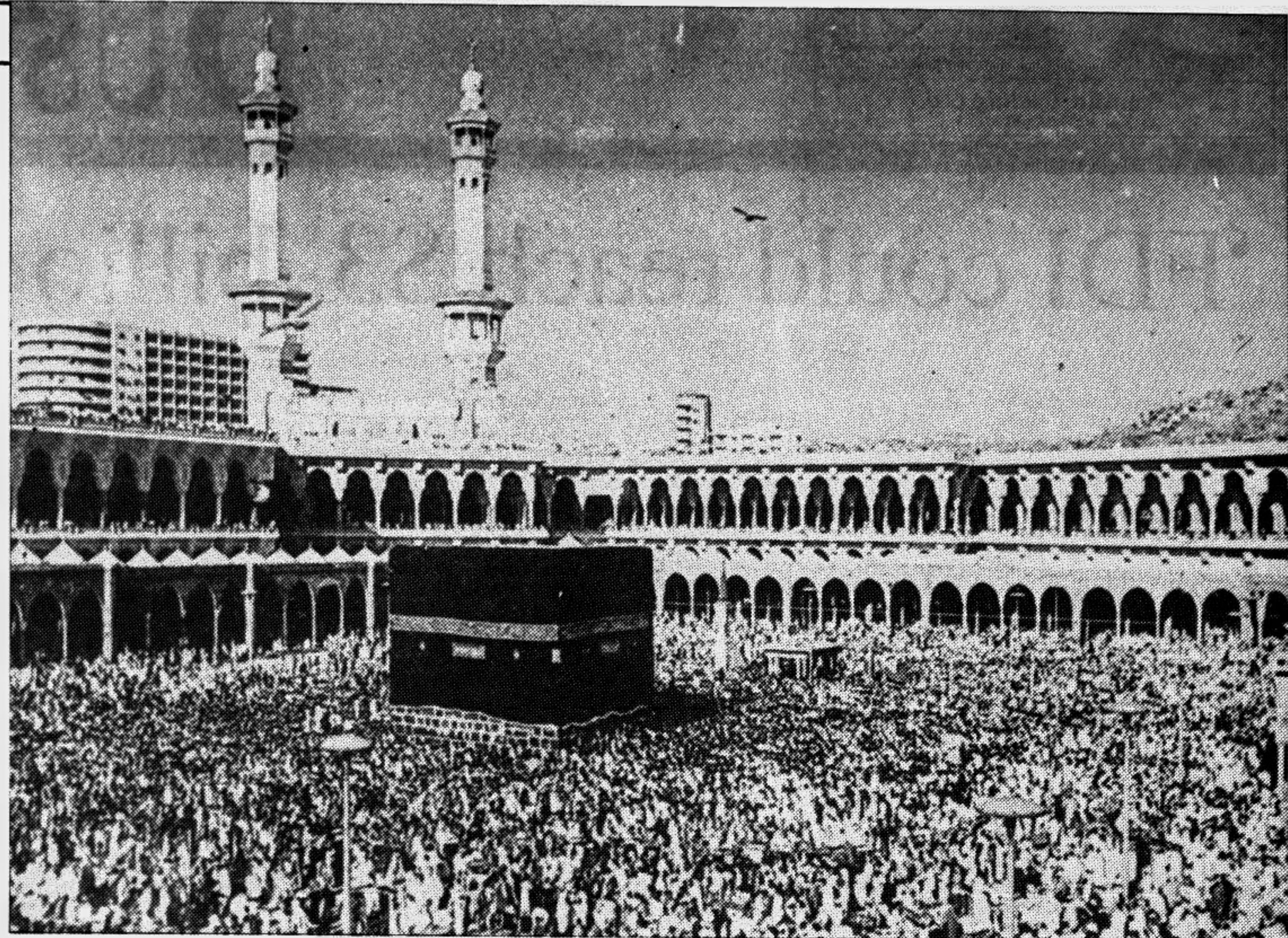
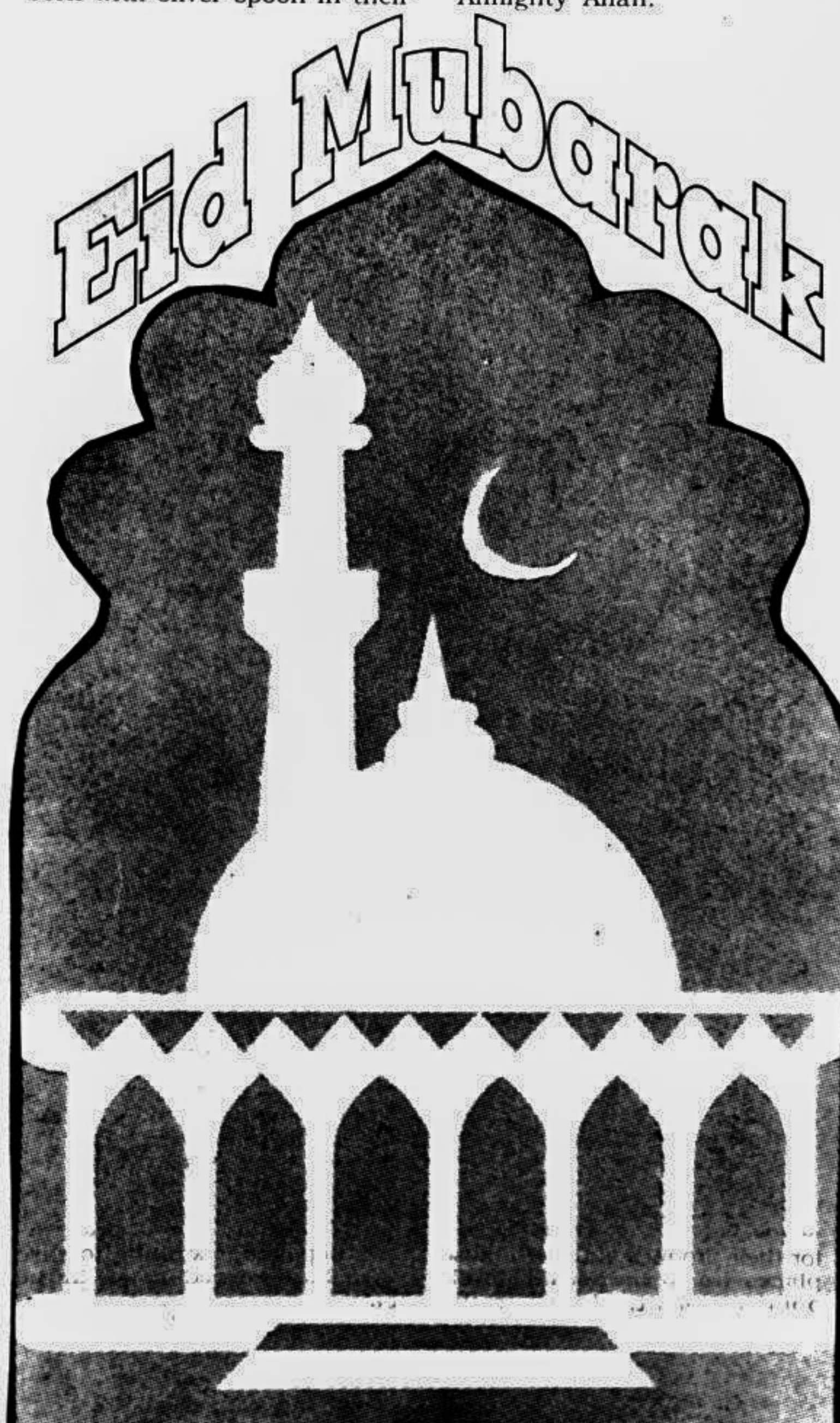
So, sacrifice of animals on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha in commemoration of the supreme sacrifice made by Hazrat Ibrahim Khalilullah teaches us a great lesson. It teaches us that we should not only be pious and devote ourselves in discharging our duties properly and honestly as desired by Allah, we should also sacrifice our own interest, time and comforts for the sake of others who are needy, destitutes and helpless. If Hazrat Ibrahim was graciously pleased to sacrifice his best thing in life to please Allah, we should be prepared to sacrifice at least a portion of our money and wealth, for others who badly need them.

Id-ul-Azha, it may be mentioned here, is not only an occasion to eulogise Hazrat Ibrahim and his son Hazrat Ismail, nor it is an occasion only for preparing various kinds of delicious dishes of meat. Id-ul-Azha is surely an occasion to examine one's self whether he has been able to achieve "Taqua" or piety as desired by Almighty Allah in the said Ayat 37 of Surah Hajj of the Holy Quran. Sacrifice of animals is symbolic and it is whether man has been able to sacrifice his own interest for others, in real life, however, by and large, we do not do so.

A tycoon, say, travelling in his personal jet plane and having a fat bank balance of one hundred million dollars hardly feels for his fellow beings. He is unmindful of the hardship of the havenots and he is also oblivious of sorrows and sufferings of the poor. He pays Zakat (poor due) every year, but he is forgetful of the wailing of the orphans or sorrows and sufferings of the slum dwellers. The symbolic sacrifice of animals made every year on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha may remind the tycoon to spend a substantial portion of his money and wealth bestowed on him by his Creator Allah for good and welfare of the needy people and achieve piety. It may be further

mouths who can also help rehabilitate many unfortunate indignant slum-dwellers and marooned people of the country.

The supreme sacrifice made by Hazrat Ibrahim and the symbolic sacrifices made by millions of Muslims on the occasion of Id-ul-Azha may surely be the sources of inspiration for them. And why only the moneyed and wealthy persons. Muslims in general can also take lesson from the sacrifices for Allah likes piety ("Taqua") on the part of his servants as said in the relevant Surah of the Holy Quran. If a considerate man snatches a few moments of his time with a view to visiting his ailing neighbour then this action of his will surely be treated as a good deed which is nothing but "Taqua" or piety. And this "Taqua" is very much liked by Almighty Allah.



The Festival of Sacrifice

by Prof Abul Kalam Elias

THE necessity of festivities, merry-making and fun can never be overemphasized in the monotonous and prosaic life of hard struggle to survive on earth. The celebrations of festivals go a long way to enable the people to recoup lost energies and cheer up the mind and body so as to make the life meaningful and significant.

Eid-ul-Azha is the symbol of sacrifice or Qurbani. So also is the Muharram that reminds us of supreme sacrifice made by Imam Hasan, the son of Hazrat Ali (R) at the battle field of Karbala for the sake of Truth against Yazid and his hordes.

It needs no telling that we, the Bengalees, are a self-forgetful nation. What is all the more painful and saddest thing is that very many Muslims have strayed away from the path of rectitude and straight path (siratul mustaqim) — the ideals of Holy Quran and Hadith.

Most of us are rendering lip-service to Islam. Our words are not in conformity with our deeds although we know that "integrity in words, deeds and thoughts in character" is the crown and glory and summum bonum of life. Today most crucial crisis of our society and the country is the crisis of character.

Culture is the way of life of a nation. It finds expression in the history and tradition, name and nomenclature, customs and calendar, in a nutshell, in the very outlook and attitude of life.

What do we see today in our society? Our cultural identity is in jeopardy. We are, day in and day out, swimming with the swift current of western way of life and lifestyle. It is no use pouring down water on the top of a tree that has been struck at the very root.

We, the Muslims, had once reached the pinnacle of glory in the realm of science, art and culture. But by a strange irony of fate, we have fallen into the deep valley of decay and degradation. What is the use of performing our prayers, observing Ramadan fasting, celebrating Eids and going on to pilgrimage while our society and the country is going from bad to worse.

According to the sayings of the holy Prophet (SM) — prayer is a light, charity is a proof, patience is a lamp, fasting is a shield and Qurbani is the symbol of sacrifice.

Year after year we are keeping fast during Holy Ramadan, year after year we are sacrificing eye-catching bulls, goats, camels, rams and other halal (sanctioned by the religion) beasts in the name of religion, at the instance of Hazrat Ibrahim who was about to slaughter his beloved son, as he was ordained in his dream by Almighty Allah to seek His pleasure.

A famous Urdu poet once sang: 'Islam zinda hota hai har karbala ke bad'. Implying that the regeneration, revival, renaissance and reawakening of religious fervour of Islam is brought about after every sacrifice.

But how many of us have at-

tained taqua (revolutionary spirit of Islam) and given up evil habits and bestial propensity in our life?

Moreover, while we are slaughtering sacrificial beasts, we could not slaughter the beasts of the mind. To make the matter worse, the rich people are becoming richer and the poor poorer.

Today, black-money holders, swindlers and thieves have got upperhand in our society. But they are making a parade of their religious piety. The more we have died on the inner side of life, the more we have multiplied on the outer side. This reminds me of a poem of Longfellow:

"For, the soul is dead, that slumbers, And things are not what they seem."

There is no denying the fact that appearances are very often deceptive. All that glitters is not gold. Where is that revolutionary spirit of Islam? Where is that spirit of sacrifice that induced Hazrat Ibrahim to sacrifice his beloved son (Ismail) to seek the pleasure of Allah, the Most High?

What do we see today? We could not repose our complete trust in Almighty Allah. This is why we are running counter to the tenets of Islam. Self-centredness, and self-aggrandisement have overtaken us in our personal, domestic, social and political life.

A bit of sacrificing tendency and attitude among the Muslims in our society could get rid of stupendous odds — suicidal litigations, fratricidal bellicosity, untoward incidents and domestic and social violence.

Nothing noble can be accomplished without any sacrifice. Hundreds of thousands of people have sacrificed their invaluable life at the altar of

freedom.

In Quran-Ul-Karim Almighty Allah says: "So, worship your Lord and sacrifice" [— Surah Al-Kauthur]. "Verily Allah does not look at your appearances and properties; but He looketh at your hearts and deeds."

Hadith "Actions are only (to be judged) by the end."

"Be cautious of greed, for verily greed killed those that were before you." — Hadith "The better part of generosity is speedy giving."

— Hazrat Ali

It has been observed that a man without faith lacks generosity and sacrifice. Our holy Prophet said that a *bakhil* (a miser and close-fisted man) is far away from the poor, relatives and Almighty Allah but near to hell; but the *shakhi* (generous) is always near to the poor, relatives, Almighty Allah and heaven and far away from hell.

In our present-day society, there are a great many miserly Muslims like *karun* and *haman* who have flourished at the expenses of have-nots by a vicious system. They slaughter sylvan beasts only to satisfy their stomach. Their souls are ever starved.

Let us, at long last put in the words of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam: "The day is not for the slaughter of beasts."

But for the invocation of Truth and Strength.

On this day at the sacred meadow of Meena, Father Abraham kept his terrible word by knifing at the neck of filial affection.

Wanted strength, not begging any more.

Is not this the day of sacrifice?

The real invocation of this festival is the sacrifice of life for Allah's sacred cause."

Metropolitan

VC of Shahjalal University, PSC chairman call on Shahabuddin

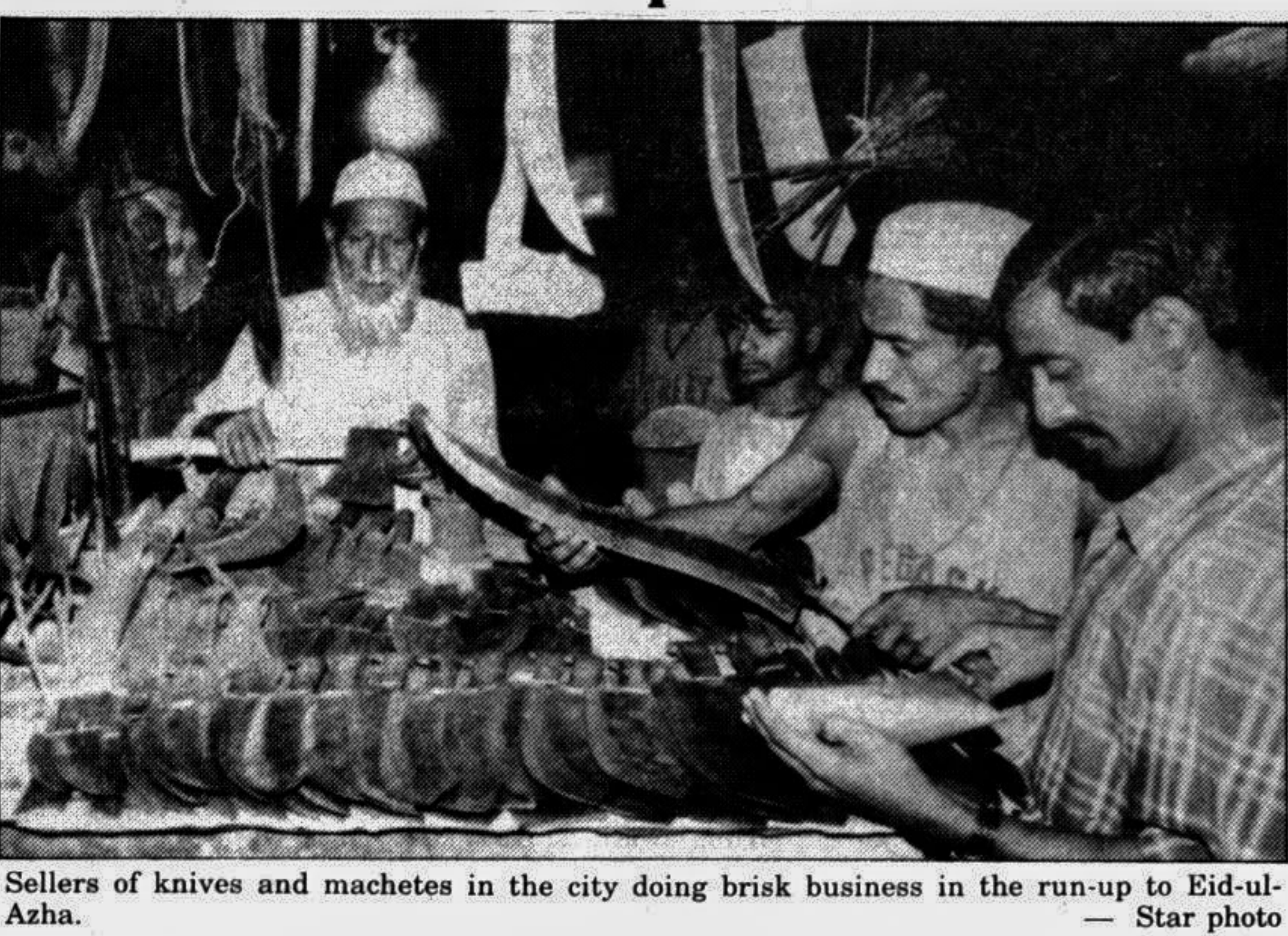
Vice-Chancellor of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology Prof M Habibur Rahman called on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Rahman apprised the President of the forthcoming first convocation of the university to be held on April 29. He also informed the President of the preparations so far made for the purpose.

President Shahabuddin, who is also the Chancellor of the university, is expected to inaugurate the convocation.

Meanwhile, the newly-appointed chairman of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission Prof M Mostafa Chowdhury made a courtesy call on him at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Chowdhury stayed with the President for sometime.



Sellers of knives and machetes in the city doing brisk business in the run-up to Eid-ul-Azha. — Star photo

President greeted on Eid-ul-Azha

Heads of state and government of a number of Muslim countries have sent messages of good wish and felicitation to President Shahabuddin Ahmed on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

In their messages, they also wished continued peace and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh.

The messages so far received are from King of Jordan Hussein bin Talal, King of Morocco Hassan-II, Sultan of Oman Qaboos bin Said, Emir of Kuwait Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, Emir of Bahrain Isa bin Salman al-Khalifa, Emir of Qatar Ahmed bin Khalifa al-Thani, President of Syria Hafez al-Asad, President of Iran Sayeed Mohammad Khatami, President of Egypt Muhammad Hosni Mubarak, President of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, President of Sudan, President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel, President of Iraq Saddam Hussein and President of Afghanistan Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Kenyan military team visits DSCSC

The chief of the general staff of the Kenyan armed forces General Dre Tonje and the members of his delegation visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur yesterday, reports BSS.

An ISPR press release said, general Tonje and the members of his delegation were received by the commandant of the DSCSC Major General Abul Muneem Mansur Ahmed at the college.

PM greeted

Leaders of several Muslim countries and organisations have felicitated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

Those who have sent messages on this auspicious occasion included Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani, President of Afghanistan, Sayeed Mohammad Khatami, President of Iran, Islam Karimov, President of Uzbekistan, Mesut Yilmaz, Prime Minister of Turkey and Dr Azeeddin Laraki, secretary general of OIC.

Social Aspect of Eid-ul-Azha

EID means happiness and Qurbani means sacrifice. The words if read together denote happiness through sacrifice. This has a history. Allah (SWT) wanted to test Prophet Ibrahim (AS) about his (Ibrahim -AS) love for Him (Allah-SWT), so He, through dream, asked him to sacrifice the dearest thing of his life. He sacrificed a number of camels, but his dream was repeated. So, he sacrificed more goats/sheep. Still he dreamt of unfulfilled Divine wishes. This time he could understand that Allah wanted his son Ismail (AS) to be given in sacrifice. Being the most faithful, next morning he took his son to comply with the wishes of Allah (SWT). Soon he (AS) put Ismail (AS) down on the earth and got himself blindfolded lest he felt pity and was over-powered by his weaknesses for his son. And then he tried his knife on the neck of his son Ismail. But the more he tried, the more he failed to cut Ismail's throat. Being tired, he unfolded his eyes. To his (AS) surprise, he found a dumba (a kind of sheep/goat) having been slaughtered and his son safe at a distance. Then he was given to understand that Allah had become pleased with his (AS) supreme sense of sacrifice and thenceforth He (Allah) (SWT) made it obligatory on the part of Muslims of means to sacrifice in the name of Allah and also to commemorate the event which is known as sunnat-e-Ibrahimi or the practice of Ibrahim (AS).

The practice of sacrifice is rigidly followed at Hajj in Makkah where pilgrims from all over the world flock for the rituals prescribed by Allah (SWT). Nearly two million Muslims every year perform Hajj where among other rituals, like prayers etc, the sacrificing of animal is a must. Hajj is an international gathering of Muslims — rich and poor, rulers and the ruled all clad in white give the supreme example of unity and brotherhood of the Muslims the world over be he/she black, brown or white. Be-

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
 Directorate of Public Health Engineering  
 Mechanical and Electrical Division  
 36-37, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212

Memo No. 943/(M/E) Division Dated : 25-3-98

গৃহস্থালীর সকল কাজে নলকূপের পানি ব্যবহার করুন

Separate tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2908 under sealed cover are hereby invited from bonafide pump manufacturers for the undermentioned work of pump supply. Tender document of the work can be purchased from the office of the undersigned as well as the undermentioned divisional offices at prescribed price (non-refundable) up to 15-4-98 and the tenders will be received up to 1-00 PM of 16-4-98 and opened on 20-4-98 at 1-30 PM at the office of the undersigned in presence (if any) of the tenders or their nominated representatives.

Place of selling and receiving tender: Executive Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Mechanical & Electrical Division, Dhaka/Ground Water Division, Dhaka/Stores Division, Dhaka.

| Sl No | Name of work  | Quantity of work | Estimated cost | Amount of earnest money | Time limit for completion of work |
|-------|---|------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.    | Supply of 10 HP motor fixed 7000 IGPH capacity 1 set submersible pump for water supply to Bakerganj municipal area under 23-Towns Water Supply Project. | 1 set            | Tk 1,90,400/=  | Tk 3,810/=              | 30 (thirty) days                  |

**Terms and conditions:**

- Detailed description, specification, contract document, bill of quantities, Bangladesh Form No. 2908 and other necessary documents will be available at the office of the undersigned and all offices mentioned in the invited tender on all working days during office hours.
- Earnest money should be deposited with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned.

Sawkat Ali Chowdhury  
 Executive Engineer  
 Public Health Engineering  
 (M/E) Division, Mohakhali  
 Dhaka

DFP-7250-1/4  
 G-713

**HERE and THERE**

**DU Film Society**  
 By DU Correspondent

Hassan Sabir Sujon and Hassan Al-Faruq were elected president and general secretary of the Dhaka University Film Society for 1998-99.

The election was held at the annual general meeting of the film society held recently at its TSC office with the outgoing president Biplob Mustafiz in the chair.

The other office bearers are: Vice presidents — Shafiqul Alam Shuva and Mohammad Aquib, assistant general secretary — Sharar Momin Shahed, treasurer — Mohammad Zakir Hossain, office secretary —

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