## Eid-ul-Azha

world after Id-ul-Fitr. After

(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 Fer-

aun and the blazing fire spe-

cially 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 Al-

lah. And the dearest thing was,

needless to say, his young son

Hazrat Ismail. Both, the affec-

tionate 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 stand-

is why Allah Rabbul Alamin

asked Hazrat Ibrahim to sacri-

fice his only son? Allah does

not do anything without any

reason. This action of Almighty

Allah vis-a-vis the solemn sac-

rifice by Hazral Ibrahim of his

son was aimed at bringing revo-

lutionary changes in the think-

ing of man. Man is by nature

prone to take special or greater

interest in his personal affairs

than affairs of others. For in-

stance, by and large, he is un-

willing to give relief to the

poverty stricken people living

in sub-human condition. At

times, also by nature, human is

kind and selfless. His innerman

dictates him to feel for the grief-

stricken fellow beings, his

neighbours, the destitutes and

lapses as well as virtues in man.

Almighty Allah definitely de-

sires man's virtues should have

VC of Shahjalal

University, PSC

chairman call on

Shahabuddin

jalal University of Science and

Technology Prof M Habibur

Rahman called on President

Justice Shahbuddin Ahmed at

Bangabhaban yesterday, re-

dent of the forthcoming first

convocation of the university to

be held on April 29. He also in-

formed the President of the

preparations so far made for

who is also the Chancellor of

the university, is expected to

pointed chairman of the

Bangladesh Public Service

Commission Prof M Mostafa

Chowdhury made a courtesy

call on him at Bangabhaban

President for sometime.

Chowdhury stayed with the

Place of selling and receiving tender:

DFP-7250-1/4

pump for water supply to Bakergani

municipal area under 23-Towns

inaugurate the convocation.

President Shahabuddin,

Meanwhile, the newly-ap-

Rahman apprised the Presi-

Vice-Chancellor of Shah-

So, there are demerits or

Now the pertinent question

ing nearby.

the poor.

ports BSS

the purpose.

yesterday.

#### Piety, Not Meat Nor Blood Reaches Allah TD-UL-AZHA is the second great festival of the Muslim

by Kazi Aulad Hossain

\_\_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-ulthe upperhand... They must prevail over his shortcomings Azha formally starts with the and lapses so that society may sacrifice of suitable animals in be a better place to live in. Allah commemoration of the supreme Rabbul Alamin wants man sacrifice made by Prophet Hazrat Ibrahim in deference to should learn and endeavour to sacrifice his personal interests wishes of Almighty Allah. for the less fortunate and the Hazrat Ibrahim is not only needy. He gives much imporan important Prophet, he has tance to piety and devotion. In also been designated as Ibrahim Sura Hajj (Ayat 37) of the Holy Khalilullah or Ibrahim the

Quran Almighty Allah says: Friend of Allah. I may further add here that it is obligatory on "It is not meat the part of a Muslim to offer Nor their blood, that reaches salat five times a day and no God: it is your piety salat or namaz is complete un-That reaches Him...." less he says in his prayers all the five times (before he, while So, sacrifice of animals on sitting, turns to the right and the occasion of Id-ul-Azha in then to left), O, Allah shower Your peace and blessings on the holy Prophet Muhammad

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 hon-estly 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 "Taqwa" or piety as desired by Almighty Allah in the said Ayat 37 of Sura 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.

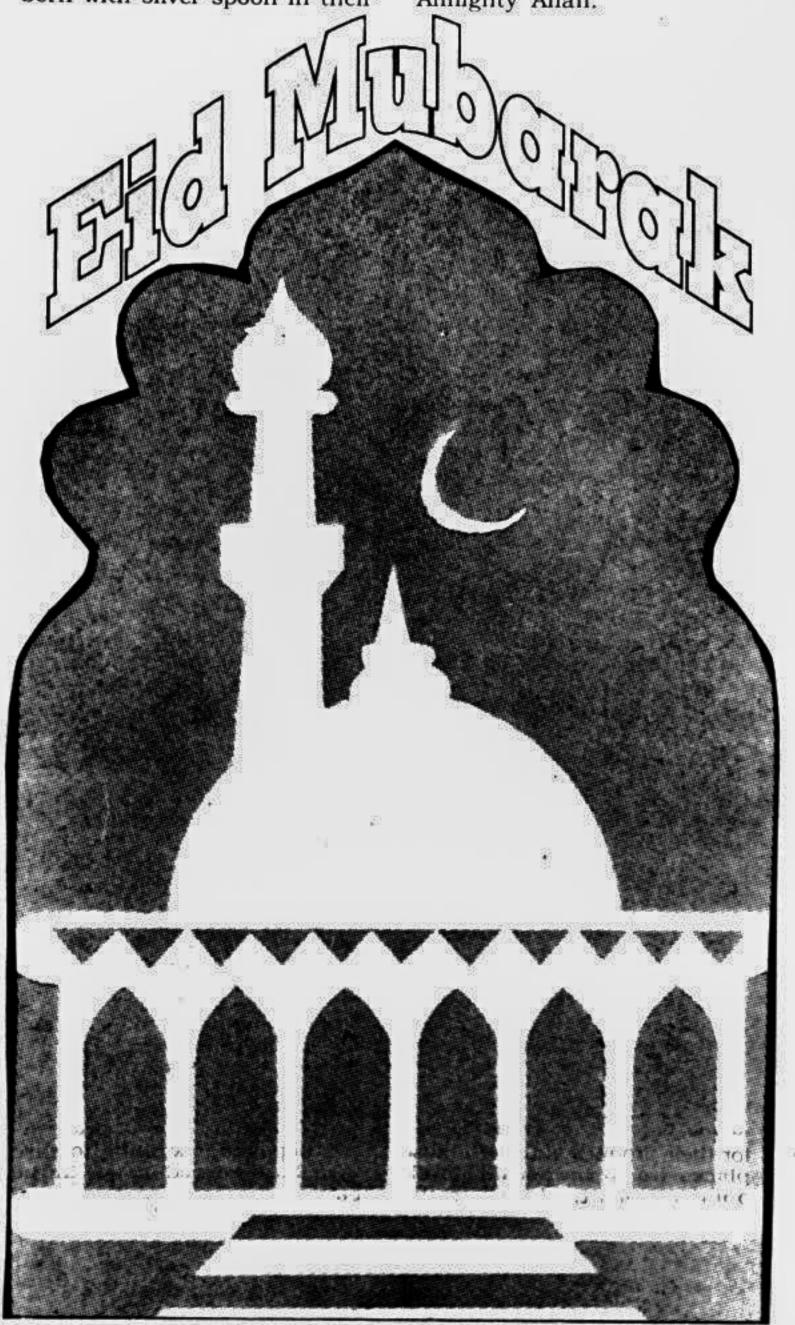
A tycoon, say, travelling in his personal jet plane and hav-ing a fat bank balance of one hundred million dollars hardly feels for his fellow beings. He is unmindful of the hardship of the havenots and he is also oblivious of sorrows and sufferings of the poor. He pays Zakat (poor due) every year, but 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 tof 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

added here in this connection that man is not actually the owner of the wealth he possesses. He is nearly a trustee of the wealth given to him by Almighty Allah and as such he should properly spend it in the manner indicated above. (Sura Hadid Ayat 7 of the Holy Quran).

While concluding, it may be said that Prince Charles came all the way from London to Dhaka in connection with rehabilitation of a few thousand helpless poor slum-dwellers living in Tikapara area of Dhaka's Mohammadpur. But we have many wealthy and moneyed persons in Bangladesh born with silver spoon in their

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 ("Taqwa") on the part of his servants as said in the relevant Sura 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 "Taqwa" or piety. And this "Taqwa" is very much liked by Almighty Allah.



# The Festival of Sacrifice

THE necessity of festivities, merry-making and fun L 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 signifi-

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 mustakim) — the ideals of Holy Quran and Hadith.

Most of us are rendering lipservice 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 charac-

President greeted

on Eid-ul-Azha

Heads of state and govern-ment of a number of Muslim

countries have sent messages of

good wish and felicitation to President Shahabuddin Ahmed

on the occasion of Eid-ul-

In their messages, they also wished continued peace and

prosperity of the people of

are from King of Jordan Husein

bin Talal, King of Morocco Has-

san-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, Presi-

dent of Iran Sayeed Mohammad

Khatami, President of Egypt Muhammad Hosni Mubarak.

President of Maldives Mau-

moon Abdul Gayoom, President of Sudan, President of Turkey

Suleyman Demirel, President

of Iraq Saddam Hussein and

President of Afghanistan Prof Burhanuddin Rabbani.

The messages so far received

Azhar, reports BSS.

Bangladesh.

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

try 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.

while our society and the coun-

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 sacri-

But how many of us have at-

tained taqwa (revolutionary spirit of Islam) and given up

Culture is the way of life of a nation. It finds expression in the history and tradition, name evil habits and bestial propenand nomenclature, customs and sity in our life? calendar, in a nutshell, in the very outlook and attitude of

by Prof Abul Kalam Elias

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

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

In Quran-Ul-Karim Almightv Allah savs: "So, worship your Lord and sacrifice" (- Surah Al-Kauthur)
"Verily Allah does not look

at your appearances and prop-

erties; but He looketh at your hearts and deeds". — Hadith "Actions are only (to be

judged) by the end." — Hadith

"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

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 sacri-

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

# Social Aspect of Eid-ul-Azha

ID 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) surprize, 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 thence-forth 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 in 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

#### by Abu Imran

he/she from East, West, North or South, all have the same intention to seek blessings of Allah (SWT). And so Hajj has been made obligatory on all Muslims of means at least once in life time. This is one of the fine car-

dinal principles of Islam. Those who do not or cannot go to Makkah, locally the per-sons of means are obligated to participate in sacrificing animals to please Allah (SWT) as indicated earlier. The sacrificing of animals besides being a religions duty, its social and economic considerations are also no less important. The animals sacrificed by the haves are supposed to be distributed amongst friends, relatives and the have-nots. This helps the poor at least to make some good meal which they most often miss. This has socialisation effects too as the meat is given to people around and like-wise received since sent by others. Then people visit friends and relations on the occasion. The occasion oblige them to forget the bitterness of the past, if any, and renew the bond of friendship afresh. Its socialization effect is too great to be empha-

Economic aspects too are no less great. It helps narrow the gap between the rich and the poor since money does not remain stagnant in one hand. It helps money circulation and boost economy. Poor people rear cows and goats to sell them during Eid-ul-Azha relatively at a higher price. Centring this, other economic activities grow, though small yet better in absence of other employment opportunities. Lot of people get into trading of hides and skin which are sold to generate fund to be given to the poor. But those involved in the process of sale/purchase make brisk business. Some one if I correctly remember observed that alone in Lalbagh area, Dhaka, at one point of time, there was a turn-over of around 200 crore taka, which besides helping the

Arathdars (dealers) must have

generated employment opportunities for a good number of people. However, it may be borne in mind that though trading takes place but the ultimate turnover is supposed to be given in charity else, it'd be un-lawful,

The hides and skins during Qurbani Eid having been collected in large number help boost export of leather and leather products. It thus earns a considerable amount of foreign exchange for Bangladesh. Its economic value is no less important. Further, to some extent, the occasion helps check concentration of wealth in few hands. For instance, those going to Hajj need to spend money, rather a considerable amount. Those who do not, and if they have the bare means, need to offer sacrifice which requires of them to spend money locally. The economic theory "one man's expenditure is another man's income" operates here as usual. Under this system, distribution of wealth becomes possible not by option but by compulsion. This, therefore, is an in-built mechanism to check economic disparity which further fosters social equality and brings in social harmony in the society.

The discussion above would suggest that Islam being a religion of nature, even in matters of activities considered as purely religious and for God, the social and economic aspects are not ignored rather. To make it more effective and acceptable as an act of piety, due importance has been laid on its social aspect. Though Qurbani is said to be for Allah (SWT) but its beneficiaries are we the human beings, for God is above wants and needs. He (SWT) has made it to be for Him so that people take it more seriously to discharge their duties with perfection in order to be rewarded both here and hereafter. Thus in Islam, we see Divine commandments have been made not to benefit God but for men and women on earth to live in social harmony and peace. Qurbani teaches one such lesson.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer

Azha.

Directorate of Public Health Engineering Mechanical and Electrical Division 36-37, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212

Dated: 25-3-98

(M/E) Division, Mohakhali

Sellers of knives and machetes in the city doing brisk business in the run-up to Eid-ul-

Metropolitani

Memo No. 943/(M/E) Division গহাস্তালীর সকল কাজে নলকুপের 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 tenderers or their nominated representatives.

Executive Engineer Public Health Engineering Mechanical &

Electrical Division, Dhaka/Ground Water Division, Dh					
SI No	Name of work	Quantity of work	Estimated cost	UNIO CHEST STREET AND	Time limit for completion of work
1	Supply of 10 HP motor fixed 7000 IGPH capacity 1 set submersible	1 set	Tk 1,90,400/=	Tk 3,810/=	30 (thirty) days

Water Supply Project. 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.

scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned. Sawkat Ali Chowdhury **Executive Engineer** Public Health Engineering

Earnest money should be deposited with the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any

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

Kader Zafri, international secretary - ANM Tanzel Ahsan. information and research secretary - Sohrab Hossain Chowdhury Sumon, press and publication secretary — Tarek Hasan Shomi.

A faction of Pahari Chhatra Parishad at a meeting in the city yesterday condemned the killings of Pradip Lal Chakma and Kushum Priya Chakma, reports UNB.

The meeting, chaired by Milton Chakma, blamed the supporters of Shantu Larma for the killings.

## of the Eid-ul-Azha, reports BSS.

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

Star photo

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

Kenyan military

team visits DSCSC

### PM greeted

Leaders of several Muslim countries and organisations have felicitated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the occasion

Those who have sent messages on this auspicious occa-sion 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 Azeddien Laraki, secretary general of OIC.

# HERE and THERE

DU Film Society

the chair.

Pahari Chhatra Parishad