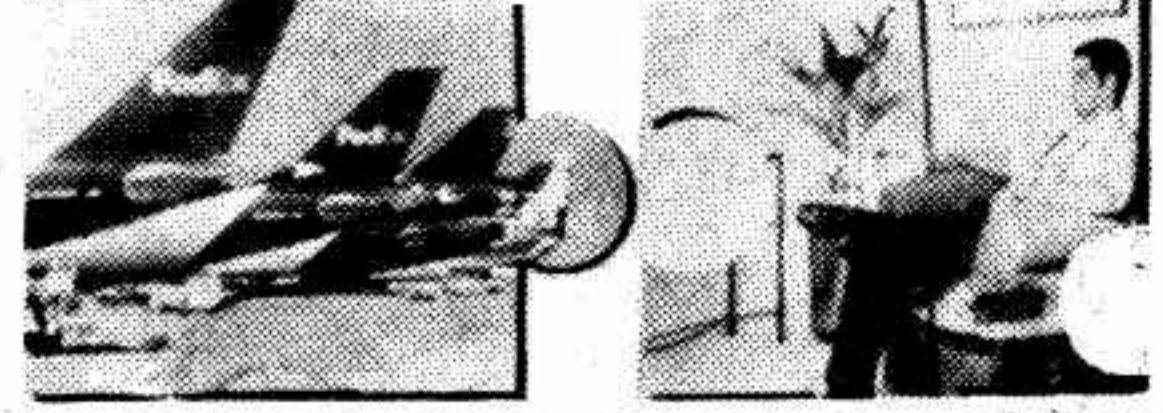
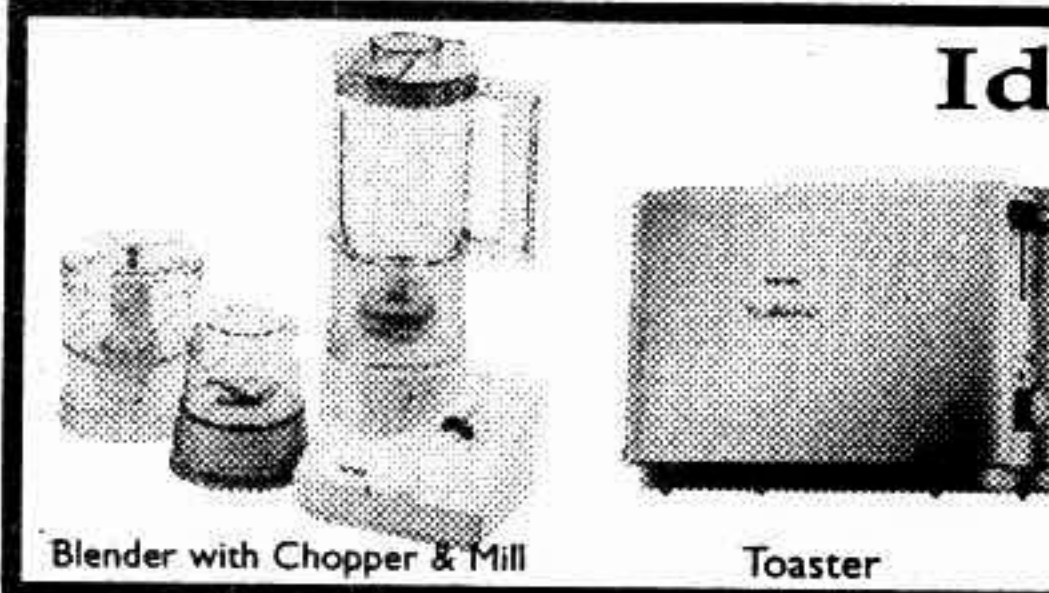


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Alleged mugger beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent An alleged mugger was beaten to death by a mob at Saraf Masjid Lane of Dhania under Shyampur thana in the city yesterday. The identity of the dead could not be known immediately. Police said the incident occurred when one Zakir Hossain, a businessman, was attacked by a gang of muggers at about 6:45 am. The gang snatched away valuables from the Zakir who was on a rickshaw. When the victim cried for help, people rushed to the spot and caught one of the muggers and beat him severely. He died on the spot. Three others of the gang managed to escape.

Bunty sent to jail

Bunty Islam, an accused in the film star Sohel Chowdhury murder case, was sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday, reports BSS. The Detective Branch (DB) of police produced him before the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) after expiry of his remand. The DB prayed for his fresh remand but the CMM rejected. The CMM also rejected Bunty's last prayer.

Chandpur

From Page 1 Faridganj and Matlab ended their month-long fasting today. Of the villages three are under Faridganj thana, six under Faridganj thana and the rest are under Hajiganj thana. Like the people of Saudi Arabia, the followers of the late Pir of Sadra had begun their fasting two days ahead of rest of the people in the district and across the country. The Eid congregation will be held at Sadra Darbar Sharif premises. Maulana Mohammad Abu Zafar Khar Siddique will conduct the prayer.

Eid tomorrow if

From Page 1 Preparations for the big occasion are evident all over. Shopping malls are busy dealing with last-minute shoppers. Already, government offices in the capital showed the signs of a holiday mood yesterday. In links, tellers were busier than usual. The festival is taking home tens of thousands from their workplaces in cities and towns. The massive movement has had its reflection in the transport terminals where homebound people scrambled for tickets as usual yesterday. For the permanent residents in the city, the holiday promises a welcome relief—at least from regular chaos and congestion on the streets. In last few days, lakhs of people are estimated to have left the capital city of nearly 10 million ahead of the Eid.

Congregations

From Page 1 Eid congregations will take place on the DU campus at 8 am and 8:30 am at Baitus-Salam Jam-e-Mosque and Shahidullah Hall ground respectively. The congregation at the BUET ground will be held at 8 am. In case of bad weather, it would be held at 8:15 at the central mosque of the university. Eid congregations will be held at 8:30 am at Gulshan Central Mosque, Mitford Jam-e-Mosque, Lalmatia Shahi Mosque, Agargaon Government Colony Mosque, Mohammadpur Jam-e-Mosque and Salamabagh Jam-e-Mosque, Rampura. The last congregation in the city will take place at 11 am at Dayanid Shahi Mosque of Chhoto Daira Sharif at Azimpur. In Chittagong, two congregations—one at 8:30 am and the other at 9:30 am—will be held at Jamiatul Falah Masjid Maidan at Dampara under the supervision of Chittagong City Corporation.

Impeachment

From Page 1 Supreme Court Chief Justice William Rehnquist, presiding over the historic proceedings, suspended the trial some five hours after he reconvened it shortly after 10:00 am (15:00 GMT). Clinton's defence was set to kick off at 1:00 pm (18:00 GMT) Tuesday, the same day as Clinton was to deliver his annual 'State of the Union' speech to the full Congress and the nation. Like the House managers, they have up to 24 hours over several days. There will be no session tomorrow, a US federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr. Republican Senator Fred Thompson stressed that the House case was 'very well presented, very powerful, but we need to keep in mind that we've only heard half the case.' 'Some of them did a good job... a better job in the Senate than they did in the House,' said Democrat Charles Schumer, who voted against the articles in the House and on its judiciary committee before moving up to the Senate earlier this month.



When the system does not work Traffic lights seem to have lost their relevance in this sickening city of chaos and congestion. So the law-enforcers have to go the different way. The photo shows a policeman uses a flag and an army jawan his walkie-talkie to do their job standing on the over-bridge at Jatrabari. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Arbitration Act to be amended

The government has decided to amend the Arbitration Act of 1940, reports BSS. The decision was taken at a meeting of the legal experts, former judges and law officials of the country held at the Law Commission office at Old High Court Building yesterday. The Law Commission already finalised a report for updating the Arbitration Act, an official handout said. The top legal personalities under the Arbitration Act of 1940 is already backdated and some of its provisions have become inconsistent with the present time. They discussed pros and cons of the draft bill for amending the act. The meeting was attended, among others, by Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Chairman of the Law Commission and former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain, Attorney General Advocate Mahmudul Islam, Barrister Ishiaque Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, member of the law commission Justice Naymuddin Ahmed, Barrister Amir ul-Islam, Barrister Rafiqul Haq and Law Secretary Aminullah.

2 slaughtered by outlaws in Chuadanga

CHUADANGA, Jan 17: Two people were slaughtered in Alamdanga thana of the district on Saturday night raising the number of murders in the district to nine in a week, reports UNB. The victims were identified as Rahim Bakht, 55, his son Shaiful Haq, 25, of Raisa village in Alamdanga thana. Police said armed outlaws dragged Rahim Bakht out of his residence and slaughtered him on the courtyard of his house. They also slaughtered Shaiful when he went to save his father. Rahim was said to be an informer of police.

Saudi Arabia

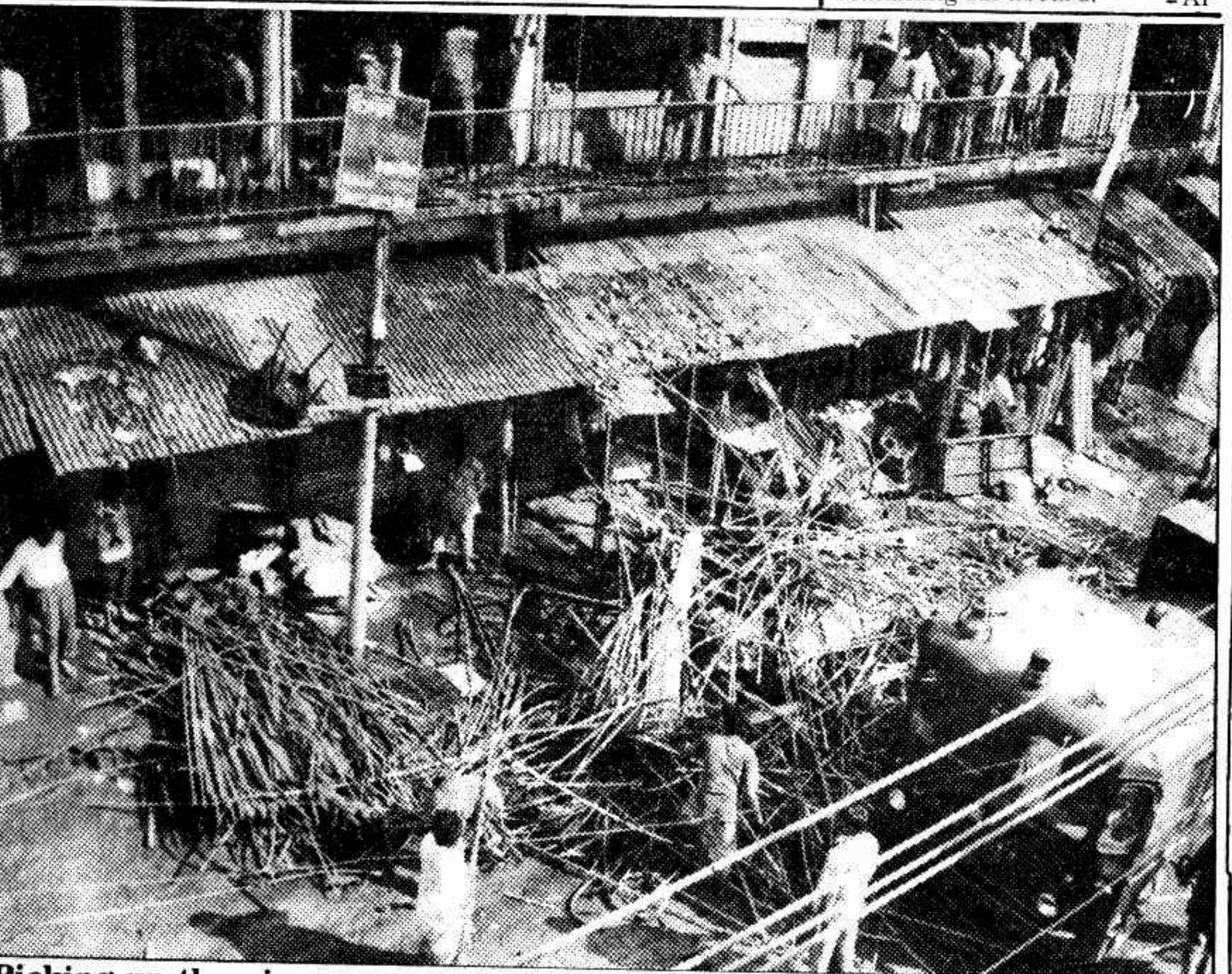
From Page 1 also celebrate the feast tomorrow with traditional dances in the cities' main squares if the crescent moon was spotted after dusk today. Iran, which is predominantly Shiite Muslim and likes to stand out among the mainstream Sunni Muslim countries, announced it would celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr with a one-day holiday on Tuesday. In Lebanon, the office of the chief religious official for Sunni Muslims, announced the beginning of Eid-ul-Fitr tomorrow. Lebanese ministries, government offices, banks and public and private schools will be closed for three days starting tomorrow. But the country's senior Shiite Muslim cleric, the pro-Iranian Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, said in a statement that Shiites would celebrate the feast beginning Tuesday. Egypt, also awaiting the sighting of the crescent moon to announce the feast, said it would free 1,600 prisoners to mark the Eid. In Qatar, a tiny emirate in the southern Gulf, candidates running for the country's first municipal elections planned to use the Eid celebrations for a bit of electioneering. Many of the 248 candidates running for the 29-member Municipal Council have set up tents around Doha and hired traditional dancers to attract prospective voters.

Tale of a terrible journey

By Reaz Ahmad Poor Hanif could no longer stand the smoke spewed by traffic. So could not I. Hanif stopped his autorickshaw at The Daily Star office, dropped me and started coughing madly ending what seemed an endless journey from Jatrabari. It took nearly three hours to reach the office, thanks to Hanif's knowledge of city alleys and time-saving short-cuts that it did not take more. Jatrabari to Dhanmondi—usually a 30-minute drive. However, it should be noted that there is nothing normal as far as the city traffic is concerned. Poisonous haze coupled with traffic mess has made city life miserable. With Eid shopping in high gear, the ordeal of living in the capital has crossed all limits. A colleague in the office narrated how he reached Malibagh yesterday after having enough of his 'daily dose of poisons' (inhaling the polluted air) on the way. 'I lost two hours to reach Malibagh from Gulistan. I found consolation when I saw even the prime minister's motorcade finding it difficult to negotiate the heavy traffic near Zero Point,' said Munir. A number of volunteers joined hands with the Army personnel at around noon yesterday to help ease the traffic jam from Jatrabari to Motijheel commercial area. But they could not do much as the road space seemed too insufficient for the large number of vehicles. Hundreds of buses, trucks, cars, autorickshaws, tempos, rickshaws and pushcarts haphazardly mingled together to negotiate their way through the Jatrabari-Sayedabad road, gateway to the capital from the port city Chittagong and other towns in the eastern region. An experienced Hanif tried to avoid the mess taking to alternative routes but failed. There was heavy traffic jam all around. Further down, when we reached Motijheel and Gulistan areas Hanif and myself were sniffling like anything. Things worsened as buses and cars were recklessly honking their horns creating noise pollution besides the air pollution and traffic menace. As if their honking cries would play the trick and clear the jammed roads. Poor they must be in their thoughts. Or they must have missed The Daily Star photograph showing the prime minister's motorcade taking a wrong road to avoid the rush only a few days back.

Security at ZIA

From Page 1 lights and any kind of protective fencing around the runway often leads to pilferage of runway lighting equipment including bulbs, fittings and cables. It was learnt that runway fittings worth nearly one crore taka was stolen in the last few months. It is alleged that some people of Baunia village nearby often indulge in theft of runway equipment. Sources said that the airport authorities may have also increased the ire of the villagers. Years back, 12 of them were employed for protection of runway lighting equipment without providing them with any appointment letters. But they were not paid. One source said, an airport security force should be raised which will operate under one command. This will tighten security by bringing Ansar, AP Battalion and Civil Aviation Security under one command, he said. The source said, it was not clear why the ministry of civil aviation suspended the Director and the Chief Security Officer of ZIA before submission of the probe body report. This created a dislocation in the normal chain of command in running the security and operational affairs at the airport which require expert supervision and handling, they said. It is interesting to note that no action was taken against any official at the level of supervisors who oversee and monitor security at the runway, one source said. The minister for civil aviation and tourism was not available for comments. Meanwhile, two more inquiry committees have been formed after the second death in wheel carriage. Observers feel that the government should act immediately. It should erect a permanent fencing around ZIA, construct a walkway/motorway, install adequate number of search lights and reorganise the security force to prevent recurrence of such unfortunate tragedies that befell Mahub and Junaid.



Picking up the pieces Rescuers and the affected sift through the rubble after the big fire at the Mirpur Mazar Co-operative Market yesterday. — Star photo by Amran Hossain

Lahore attack 'was instigated by MQM men in London'

LONDON, Jan 17: A bomb attack targeting Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been linked by investigators to dissidents based in London, AFP quoting a British newspaper reported today. A report by Pakistan's Civilian Security Service says the attack was instigated by some members of the Muttahida Quami Movement (MQM), whose leader Altaf Hussain has been in exile in Britain since 1992, said The Observer. He runs much of the group's fund raising and publicity from there, it said. The report comes amid growing concern over the number of organisations alleged to have terrorist links which are using the British capital as a base. The Yemeni extremists who killed two Britons and an Australian last month are alleged to have strong connections with a London based Islamist extremist. Saudi Arabia and Algeria have accused London in the past of being a safe haven for Islamic fundamentalists and opposition members under arrest or wanted by authorities in those countries. British home secretary Jack Straw has promised to use new anti-terrorist legislation passed last year—which makes it an offence to instigate overseas acts of terrorism from Britain—to crack down on such groups. The bomb in Pakistan killed three people when it exploded under a bridge in the eastern province of Punjab on the route of the prime minister's cortege two weeks ago. The MQM—which represents the interests of descendants of refugees who fled to Pakistan from India on partition in 1947—was immediately pointed to as a suspect. The MQM is alleged to have commissioned hundreds of kidnappings and arson attacks in a wave of political violence that has claimed 6,000 lives in Karachi and the surrounding areas of Sindh province in the past six years. The party has strongly denied the allegations. However, in a recent interview in London, Hussein said that though the leadership of the MQM were opposed to violence, he was unable to stop elements in the party taking the law into their own hands. Violence breeds violence, when the state itself commits terrorism people will be forced to retaliate in a similar manner, he said.

JCD threatens Tough agitation if activists not released before Eid

By DU Correspondent Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, has threatened to launch a tougher movement against the Awami League government if their arrested activists, including Nasruddin Ahmed Pintu, are not released before the Eid-ul-Fitr. At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, JCD leaders vowed to continue demands for immediate release of their leaders and workers. They alleged that the ruling party, soon after assuming power, launched repression on JCD leaders and workers. It is nothing but a blueprint of the AL government to root out JCD activists from the country, they said. They claimed that 250 JCD leaders and activists have so far been killed during the rule of this government. They also alleged that AL was arresting and detaining their activists through filing of false cases. About 10,000 activists of JCD have been arrested under this government, they said. The JCD leaders, however, urged the government to refrain from such 'undemocratic activities' and free the arrested leaders and activists so that they could celebrate the Eid with their near and dear ones. Amanullah Aman, MP, Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, Monwar Hossain Rana, Munshi Bazul Basit Anjum, Monir Elahi, A B M Mosharraf Hossain and Monir Hossain were present at the press conference.

Road accidents kill 6 in two districts

Six people were killed and 48 others injured in separate road accidents in Rajshahi and Sirajganj yesterday, report agencies. AFP reports: Three people were killed and about 40 injured, seven of them critically, in two separate road accidents in the district yesterday. Police said two people riding a motor cycle and a woman died on the spot when a Rajshahi-bound truck carrying coal from Natore hit them at Senbagh on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at about 3 pm. Witnesses said the accident took place as the driver of the truck tried to save the woman while she was crossing the road. One of the victims was identified as Mizanur Rahman, 40. Identity of the two others could not be known immediately. Puthia police seized the truck and filed a case. In another accident, about 40 passengers of a Chapainawabganj-bound coach were injured as the driver lost control over the vehicle and fell into a roadside ditch at Sultanaganj in Godagari thana at about 6 pm. The seriously injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital. The rest were given first aid. UNB reports from Sirajganj: Three people were killed and eight others injured when a wheat-laden truck overturned on Dhaka-Bogra highway near Nalka bridge yesterday. Witnesses said the truck, also carrying passengers, overturned at about 3:30 pm due to overloading, leaving two people dead on the spot. One of the unidentified victims died on way to Sirajganj General Hospital. Of the injured Nazmul, 35, Nurul, 80, Saiful, 25, Majibor, 45, Abdus Sobhan, 60, Amirul, 20, Shahjahan, 40, and Tozammel, 20, were admitted to the General Hospital. Shahabuddin

UP chairman, ex-member shot dead

KUSHTIA, Jan 17: A UP chairman and a former UP member were shot dead in the district today, reports UNB. Police said Mohammad Ali Akbar, 55, chairman of Jhoulia UP in Sadar thana, was gunned down by three unidentified miscreants at Kushtia thana parisad compound at about 12:10 pm when he went to draw his honorarium from the parisad. In another incident, Rafiqul Islam, 40, former UP member of Ziaraki Union in the same thana, was shot dead by miscreants in the town at about 8 am, police said.

Plane crash kills 5 in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Jan 17: A single-engine plane taking off from a remote mountainous region in Nepal today hit an electricity wire and crashed, killing five passengers and injuring the remaining six aboard. — AP

Advertisement for 'ঈদ মোবারক' (Eid Mubarak) featuring a photograph of a mosque and Bengali text. The text includes 'সম্মানিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-ফিতরে আমাদের আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা' (Our sincere greetings to our honored customers and benefactors on the holy Eid-ul-Fitr).

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