

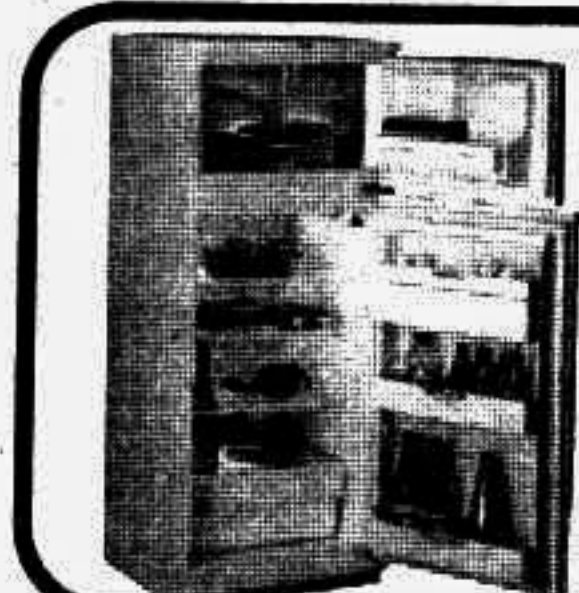
## PACKAGES, DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 983927, 9130647, 894213, DEPT 8338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108  
Rajshahi, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Gari, Tel: 9714336



**FedEx**  
Federal Express

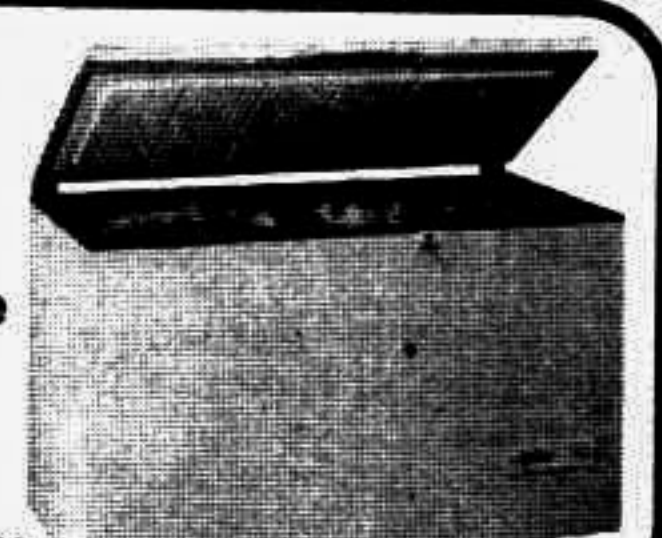
The World on Time



**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA  
Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578  
Kulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

**Refrigerator & Freezer**  
Instalment facility available



## Road accidents kill 15 in five districts

At least 15 people were killed and 87 others injured in separate road accidents in Gazipur, Comilla, Noakhali, Chuadanga and Mymensingh since Monday, reports UNB.

In Gazipur, at least five people were killed and 30 others injured, five seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bhogra in Sadar thana on Monday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Kishoreganj-bound passenger bus from Dhaka hit a rickshaw and fell into a roadside ditch at about 10 am.

Two of the victims were identified as rickshawpuller Liton Mia, 28, and Enayet Hossain, 25, of Haimchar in Chandpur district.

Enayet was going to his father-in-law's house in Kishoreganj to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr. Identities of the other bodies could not be ascertained.

The bodies were sent to Gazipur general hospital morgue for autopsy.

Five of the injured people were rushed to Dhaka in critical condition while others admitted to different hospitals in Gazipur.

The bus driver managed to flee the scene.

In Comilla, three people were killed and four injured in two accidents on the district on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Wednesday and Thursday, police and hospital sources said.

They said two people were killed and four injured when a timber-laden truck skidded off the road and fell into a roadside at Naotola in Chandina thana on Wednesday.

The dead were identified as Hajrat, 30, and Buida, 25, of Jalpur district.

The injured were admitted to Comilla sadar hospital and local thana health complex.

In another accident on Thursday, a speeding bus hit a motorcycle from behind at Dowjar in Choudhagram thana

leaving its rider seriously injured.

The unidentified rider succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

In Noakhali, three members of a family were killed and three others injured in a road accident at Kalyanjee on Noakhali-Chaumohoni road on Thursday night.

Police said Kamaluddin, 48, an inspector of Sirajganj district Bangladesh Roads and Transport Authority, met with the accident at 8:30 pm when his private car skidded off the road and fell into a ditch.

Kamaluddin, his wife Mehennessa, 34, and mother Sharifa Khatun, 70, died on the spot while his daughters Babi, 12, Irin, 10, and son Al-Amin, 14, were seriously injured. The injured were admitted to General Hospital.

Three people were killed in road accidents in Chuadanga on Monday.

Police said Dulal Mandal, 48, of Masjiddara area in Chuadanga town was crushed under the wheels of a truck near Chuadanga railgate while Nazrul Islam, 28, of Kashipur village in Jibannagar thana was knocked down by a speeding bus in front of Jibannagar High School.

Forkan Khan, 24, a worker of Chowdhury Towel Mills of Jazira thana, was killed when a Shariatpur-bound bus from Kerakandi hit his bicycle at about 5 pm on Monday.

One person was killed and 50 others were injured, 10 critically, in a road accident of Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Bailor in Trishal thana district on Monday.

Police said the accident took place at about 2:30 pm when a Jamalpur-bound overloaded bus from Dhaka overturned.

An unidentified man of about 45 succumbed to his injuries after he was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH).

## 4 murdered in Pabna during Eid holidays

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Jan 22: Four persons were murdered during the Eid holidays in three thanas of Pabna district. The thanas are: Chatmohar, Faridpur and Ishurdi.

The first incident occurred in village Umarpur under Darsuria union of Ishurdi thana on Eid day (January 19) at about 4:30 pm. Two groups of young people clashed over distribution of sweetmeats. At one stage, both the groups opened fire and one Mohammad Alam died of bullet injuries. Ten others received minor injuries.

In another incident, two persons were murdered allegedly by the activists of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party in village Shalikhapara under Faridpur thana on January 20.

Majid Mollah, an Awami League worker was shot and then slaughtered by the armed BPCP men. They also shot dead one Mozahar on the spot.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

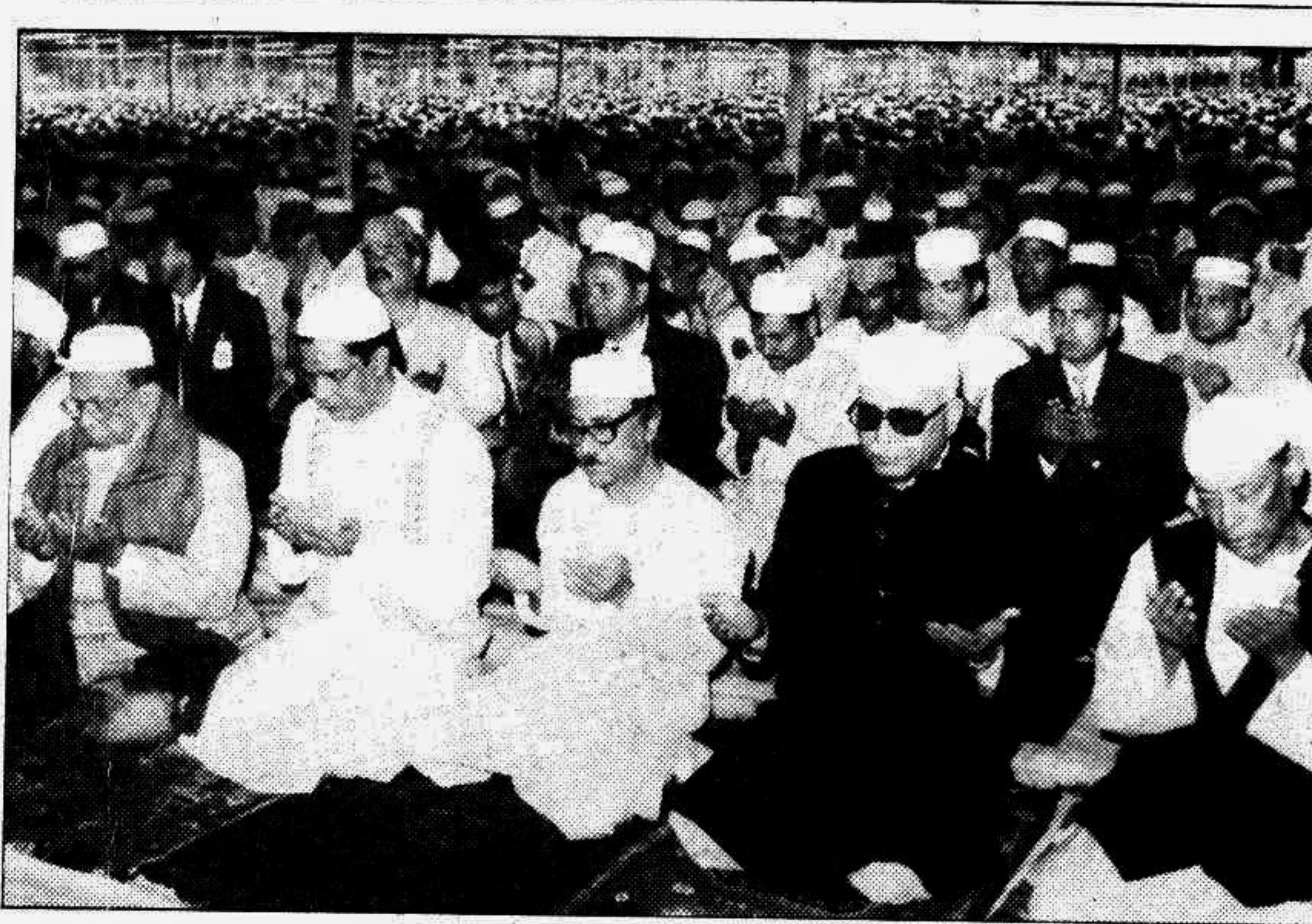
So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.

On January 21, Francis Palma, an income tax official of Bogra, was called out of his house in the morning by some unknown assailants at village Katuru under Chatmohar thana. He was later stabbed to death.

So far only one person was arrested in connection with the murder in Ishurdi thana.



The main Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah in the city on Tuesday.

—Star photo

## Attack on fishermen's village: 50 injured

SHERPUR, Jan 22: About 50 people were injured when rival villagers attacked a hamlet of fishermen at Chenguria in Jhenaigati thana here on Tuesday — the Eid day, reports UNB.

Of the injured, 20 people were admitted to Sadar Hospital with critical condition.

Twelve of them were identified as Nawab Ali, 60, Rashid, 50, Nabab Ali, 65, Nur Alam, 25, Manikjan, 20, Ahead Ali, 45, Manik, 8, Ajmat Ali, 5, Arshad, 3, Anis, 2, Monwar, 7, and Abbas, 35.

Witnesses said supporters of Khorshed Alam, a UP member of neighbouring Bainpara village, attacked the hamlet, Bepariara, as a sequel to an untoward incident that occurred the previous day.

On Monday, Qudus, a supporter of Khorshed, was locked in quarrel with a fisherman of Bepariara while buying fish from him at Kalbari Bazar.

The quarrel led to clashes and the villagers of Bainpara reportedly torched a house of Hajera Begum of the fishermen's colony.

Deputy Commissioner and Police Super of the district visited the spot on Wednesday.

Local administration allotted one metric ton of rice for the homeless people on Friday.

Both the groups filed separate cases with Jhenaigati police.

However, the situation became calm with the mediation of local people.

But in the next morning, Khorshed along with a number of supporters again attacked the colony and ransacked, burnt and looted several houses there.

During the incident, Khorshed sustained serious wounds. He was rushed to Sadar Hospital. However, a rumour had been spread that Khorshed was killed.

As the rumour of his death spread, about 2,000 villagers attacked Bepariara and burnt five houses. They also ransacked and looted 50 houses, rendering 300 people homeless.

On Friday, police arrested Khorshed member and Abdur Rashid in this connection.

By that time arguments came up before the committee that it would be 'haram' for a Muslim to fast if the Shawal moon had been sighted. It was argued that since the sighting by the Imam from Lalbagh was corroborated by reports from the four districts the Eid should be celebrated on Tuesday.

Even if Eid was celebrated on Tuesday it would not be a great sin but fasting on Eid day is 'haram', a member argued.

The committee then agreed to opt for Eid celebrations at about 10 pm and sent the decision to radio and TV for broadcast.

Earlier, the people who went to offer 'tarabi' prayer at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque had been kept waiting for some time as the committee was in session.

At 8 pm they were allowed to offer tarabi prayer as there had been no decision on the moon sighting.

The belated decision left many people, particularly mothers and housewives angry as they had to work hard late at night to prepare the traditional dishes for the Eid-ul-Fitr.

It also angered many who had to rush to the markets for buying dresses and spices. However, the shopkeepers made some quick bucks at the last-minute sale.

Karim, a prominent freedom fighter and social worker left behind his wife, five sons, one daughter and a host of relatives.

Karim, popularly known as Khair Master was elected a member of the Constituent Assembly from Hizla, Muladi constituency of Barisal in 1970 and a member of parliament in 1973.

WB to give \$ 177m to improve traffic system in city

WASHINGTON, Jan 22: The World Bank has agreed to lend Bangladesh 177 million dollars to improve traffic system in the capital Dhaka, the Bank announced on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The money will be spent to rebuild the city's sidewalks and major intersections, and to improve traffic flow by installing traffic lights and building lanes reserved for non-motorised vehicles.

Traffic problems in Dhaka have reached 'crisis proportions', the Bank said.

## Confusion

Ministry, Principal Information Officer and representatives from Information Ministry, Radio and TV.

The confusion arose when reports from Khagrachhari, Sathkira, Kurigram and Patuakhali came later in the evening, particularly the one on BDR wireless from Kurigram.

It was pondering on what action to take. As per one religious practice the moon sighting had to be confirmed by at least three independent witnesses, whose 'iman' or faith must be beyond any doubt.

Sources said that the committee felt a sense of relief when an Imam of a mosque in Lalbagh and some of his neighbours reported to the committee that they have seen the Shawal moon. One member immediately questioned their 'credibility' which led to further arguments. But the Imam stuck to his claims.

By that time arguments came up before the committee that it would be 'haram' for a Muslim to fast if the Shawal moon had been sighted. It was argued that since the sighting by the Imam from Lalbagh was corroborated by reports from the four districts the Eid should be celebrated on Tuesday.

Even if Eid was celebrated on Tuesday it would not be a great sin but fasting on Eid day is 'haram', a member argued.

The committee then agreed to opt for Eid celebrations at about 10 pm and sent the decision to radio and TV for broadcast.

Earlier, the people who went to offer 'tarabi' prayer at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque had been kept waiting for some time as the committee was in session.

At 8 pm they were allowed to offer tarabi prayer as there had been no decision on the moon sighting.

The belated decision left many people, particularly mothers and housewives angry as they had to work hard late at night to prepare the traditional dishes for the Eid-ul-Fitr.

It also angered many who had to rush to the markets for buying dresses and spices. However, the shopkeepers made some quick bucks at the last-minute sale.

Karim, a prominent freedom fighter and social worker left behind his wife, five sons, one daughter and a host of relatives.

Karim, popularly known as Khair Master was elected a member of the Constituent Assembly from Hizla, Muladi constituency of Barisal in 1970 and a member of parliament in 1973.

WB to give \$ 177m to improve traffic system in city

WASHINGTON, Jan 22: The World Bank has agreed to lend Bangladesh 177 million dollars to improve traffic system in the capital Dhaka, the Bank announced on Tuesday, reports BSS.

The money will be spent to rebuild the city's sidewalks and major intersections, and to improve traffic flow by installing traffic lights and building lanes reserved for non-motorised vehicles.

Traffic problems in Dhaka have reached 'crisis proportions', the Bank said.

Meanwhile, manager of Pakistan team Sharyar Khan, former foreign secretary of that country, told reporters on arrival at Delhi that 'we are here to honour India's invitation and to promote good relations between the two countries. This tour is not merely about winning and losing matches but about bringing the people of the two countries together.'

Responding to a question relating to Shiv Sena's threat, the seasoned diplomat said, 'We were coming irrespective of whether the threats were withdrawn or not.'

Advani met Pakistani players and officials at their New Delhi hotel before they left for India to ensure them of adequate security during their stay in India.

The Indian team flew into Calcutta yesterday after a tour of New Zealand. As a precaution, cricket authorities had changed plans to have the team touch down in Bombay and kept the destination secret before arrival.

Meanwhile, manager of Pakistan team Sharyar Khan, former foreign secretary of that country, told reporters on arrival at Delhi that 'we are here to honour India's invitation and to promote good relations between the two countries. This tour is not merely about winning and losing matches but about bringing the people of the two countries together.'

Responding to a question relating to Shiv Sena's threat, the seasoned diplomat said, 'We were coming irrespective of whether the threats were withdrawn or not.'

Advani met Pakistani players and officials at their New Delhi hotel before they left for India to ensure them of adequate security during their stay in India.

The Indian team flew into Calcutta yesterday after a tour of New Zealand. As a precaution, cricket authorities had changed plans to have the team touch down in Bombay and kept the destination secret before arrival.

Meanwhile, manager of Pakistan team Sharyar Khan, former foreign secretary of that country, told reporters on arrival at Delhi that 'we are here to honour India's invitation and to promote good relations between the two countries. This tour is not merely about winning and losing matches but about bringing the people of the two countries together.'

Responding to a question relating to Shiv Sena's threat, the seasoned diplomat said, 'We were coming irrespective of whether the threats were withdrawn or not.'

## Shamsur Rahman

From Page 1

7 pm. Shamsur Rahman recounting the incident said, 'The same members of the group had come to see me about eight days back and requested me to attend a function of Jubo Sanghati as the chief guest.'

'I, however, declined and said I was not in good health. They then requested me to write a poem.'

On the day of the incident, when the three came to the house, the poet's son Faiz Rahman, recognising the same group who had come earlier, reminded them that his father had asked them to come after Eid for the writing.

They however insisted on meeting the poet personally, saying, 'We will talk to him for two minutes only.'

Reluctantly the poet's son allowed them to move upstairs where the poet has his reading room and living quarters.

Shamsur Rahman came out from his first floor room and told them that the piece was not yet complete. He requested them to collect it after Eid, as told earlier.

The poet's son then led them down the staircase. As they descended the stairway, two of them suddenly grabbed Faiz from behind and tried to gag his mouth and push him into the ground floor toilet located at the foot of the stairs. Faiz Rahman put up a fierce struggle and after some time managed to free himself and rushed out of the house and screamed at the top of his voice.

Meanwhile, one of the assailants, Mahtabuddin, armed with a Chinese axe climbed upstairs and ran to attack the poet. The assailant was resisted by the poet's daughter-in-law Sahida and a housemaid, Nilufar, who grabbed his legs and shoulders.

The assailant moved ahead towards the poet despite being grabbed by two women. He aimed his axe at the poet's neck and swung the axe to hit him but fortunately at that instant the poet's wife Zohra Rahman

jumped forward, put her arm around his neck and pulled him backward. This saved the poet's life, inflicting a cut on her right elbow.

Meanwhile, hearing the screams of the poet's son, several persons accompanied by neighbourhood private security guards came to the rescue. Two of the assailants were caught red-handed while trying to flee, while the third escaped.

The two assailants, identified as Mahtabuddin and Hassan, have been handed over to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) and are now under a five-day remand. Yesterday was the third day of their interrogation by the CID cell.

A case accusing two people was filed on the same day of the murder attempt by daughter-in-law of the poet, Sahida Rahman under the Bangladesh Penal Code clauses 448, 324, 307, 34 at the Mohammadnagar thana. The case number is 91.

Meanwhile, according to the confessional statement of the accused, Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested seven more suspected criminals who are believed to have links with the murder attempt from different city areas in the last three days. Police also recovered two rounds of bullets from a house in East Rampara.

The arrested were identified as Hasan Mamud, Mahtab Uddin, Hafiz Monir Ahmed, Maulana Mahfuzur Rahman and Tarek Aziz, Mozammel Hossain and Safat Hossain.

CID police said the motive behind the murder attempt is still not clear but it is understood that the organisation whose name is not yet familiar is allegedly trying to win support of underground organisations in the Middle East by making such attacks.

Police said the arrested confessed that they had three more names in their hit-list for murder. The names are National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Prof. Taslima Nasrin and Chairman of Islami Foundation Maulana Abdul Awal.

tee with Professor Kabir Chowdhury and Justice K M Sobhan as Co-convenors and Professor Haroon-or-Rashid as member-secretary.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Ekhas Uddin Ahmed, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, Dr Kazi Farooq Ahmed, A B M Musa, Amir Hossain Amu, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Khan, Abed Khan, Prof Shamsul Huda Haq, Dr B K Jahangir, Monayer Sarkar, Advocate Syed Ahmed, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Dr Mizanur Rahman and Azizul Islam Bhuiyan.

Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Professor Khan Sarwar Mursheed, Dr Mostafa Noor-ul-Islam, Santosh Gupta, Dr Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir, Professor Zillur Rahman Siddique, Ekhas Uddin Ahmed, Professor Mamata Uddin Ahmed, Monam Sarkar and Toab Khan.

Vice-Chancellors of country's nine universities also condemned the attack on the poet. They are: Vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Professor A K Azad Chowdhury, Professor Abdul Khaleq of Rajshahi University, Professor Nur Uddin Ahmed of BUET, Professor Abdul Mannan of Chittagong University, Professor M Alauddin Ahmed of Jahangirnagar University, Professor Mohammad Hossain of BAU, Professor M Kayesuddin of Islamic University, Professor Aminul Islam of National University and Professor M Aminul Islam of Open University.

Dr Kazi Farooq Ahmed, president of ADAB, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, leaders of BFUJ and DUJ, about 100 teachers of Rajshahi University, Ramendu Majumdar, president of Sammilita Samakritik Jote and Bangabandhu Parishad also condemned the attack and demanded punishment to the persons responsible.

AL meets

From Page 1

general secretaries of 70 organisational districts of AL already reached Dhaka yesterday while others are expected to reach today to join the 156-member National Committee meeting.

Party sources told The Daily Star that upcoming elections to star corporations and 143 teashop corporations would be on top of the agenda at today's meetings as the major opposition parties had already rejected the schedules of the polls.

Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to preside over the meetings. Beginning at 10 in the morning the National Committee meeting is likely to continue till lunch break. Then an extended meeting of the National Committee would be held in the afternoon.

AL Central Working Committee would sit at the end of the day to summarise the essence of the earlier meetings and then decide next course of actions in coming days, sources said.

Nominations

From Page 1

said Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena Monday.

The law relating to parliamentary polls permits the Commission to be a little bit flexible in this regard. In that polls, the candidates get the scope for submitting nomination papers 'on or before' a specific date. It is not applicable for the local government elections.

Replying to a question, the CEC said that the EC has nothing to do with, while containing law and order is the government's responsibility.

Rifles looted

From Page 1

A young man identified as Iqbal Kabir was arrested this morning from Ikhtarpur village under Abhaynagar PS.

## BNP to boycott

From Page 1

'Government will have to bear the total responsibility for the future consequences if it fails to meet our demands,' Mannan Bhuiyan warned. It also decided to form 'Liaison Committee' at all levels of party units, including division, district and thana levels.

It was attended by BNP leaders M Shamsul Islam and Enayet Zahid, JP leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Kazi Firoz Rashid Chowdhury, Jamaat leaders Kamaruzzaman and A T M Azharul Islam and IOJ leaders Mufi Fazlul Haq Amin, A R M Abdul Matin and Muslehuddin Abu Bakar.

Prior to holding of the adjourned meeting of the BNP Standing Committee on Thursday evening, JP, Jamaat, IOJ, Jagpa, Democratic League, PNP, NDA leaders sat with the BNP chief separately and discussed about the next course of action.

A senior leader of BNP, who assisted Begum Zia during Thursday's meeting, told The Daily Star that the smaller allies of the 7-party alliance requested Begum Zia to include at least one representative from each party in the Liaison Committee meeting. Currently the meeting is participated by only the representatives of BNP, JP, Jamaat and IOJ.

Supporting their demand to be included in the Liaison Committee, they argued that prior to JP and IOJ's joining in the current movement they had formed 7-party alliance and strengthened the hands of BNP. It is learnt that the smaller party leaders told Begum Zia that Ersh