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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

The Holy Eid-ul-Azha, one of the greatest festivals of Muslims, will be celebrated tomorrow.

After the Eid congregations, Muslims sacrifice animals on this day as a religious rite following the unique example set by Hazrat Ibrahim (A) for the gratification of Allah.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages on the occasion have greeted the people and wished

Rain on Eid day likely

There is likelihood of a few drops of rain on the Eid day tomorrow as the moisture laden southerly winds are making their impact high in the atmosphere to induce precipitations including norwesters, meteorologists said yesterday.

After months of nearly bone-dry weather, the rain-bearing southerly winds started reaching up to 10,000 feet from Thursday, brewing clouds that burst in Sylhet (8 mm rainfall), Srimangal (26 mm), Rangpur (7 mm), Myemensingh (1 mm), Khepupara (1 mm) and Faridpur (traces) yesterday.

There were a few drops in

Khulna Jubo League leader shot dead

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Mar 27: A Jubo League leader was gunned down by some unidentified assailants in the town Thursday night, police said.

The victim, Md Zahiruddin Panna, 30, came under attack while he was gossiping with some of his associates on the premises of Sundarban Transport office at about 10.30 pm. He received bullet injuries in his chest and died on way to Sadar hospital, police said. Motive behind the killing could not be known, police added.

Nasiruddin, younger brother of the victim, filed a murder case with Kotwali thana today accusing five Jubo League activists.

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on March 28, 29 and 30 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper on March 29, 30 and 31.

Inside Today Article

NATO's Big Gamble on Kosovo

by Barrister Harun ur Rashid
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Business

Private firm to provide landline phones soon:
Nasim

Booming US economy in need of skilled labour
Pakistan slashes customs duties, power rates
Pages 6, 7 & 8

Prayer Timings

| March 28 | | |
|----------|-------|--------|
| | Azhan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 5-30 | 5-35 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-20 |
| Asr | 4-30 | 4-35 |
| Maghrib | 6-20 | 6-23 |
| Esha | 7-30 | 7-35 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Body found at DB office still unidentified

Pre-planned murder, says autopsy report

Star Report

The autopsy report has revealed that the man found dead in the overhead water tank at the Detective Branch office in the city on Thursday was murdered and his body was later dumped in it.

"It was a clear case of pre-planned murder," a source at Dhaka Medical College Hospital said yesterday quoting the report.

Serious marks of injury were found on the body of the unidentified man, in his forties, doctors involved in the autopsy said. The victim died

following severe blows to his head, chest and the abdomen. He was dumped into the water reservoir after his death due to the injuries, the report said.

However, even three days after discovery of the decomposed body, police and investigating agencies were yet to establish the identity of the man or the cause of the murder. No action involving any of the police personnel at the DB office was taken till yesterday.

But CID officials, who are conducting the investigation, said last night that they had not

received a copy of the autopsy report.

Police were learnt to be investigating a number of clues including the likelihood of the dead being a police source and a foreign currency dealer at Zia International Airport.

According to one CID source, the dead man could be Nurul Islam alias Nuru, a police source in Askona area near the Haji Camp close to the Zia International Airport.

It was not immediately clear why police officials and duty of

Road accidents in Comilla, Ctg, Feni & Jessore kill 32

At least 32 people were killed and 54 others injured in separate road accidents in Comilla, Chittagong, Jessore and Feni yesterday and the day before. Most of them were rushing home to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha, report agencies.

Of the victims, 11 people were killed in Comilla, nine in Chittagong, nine in Jessore and three in Feni.

In Comilla, eleven people were killed and 12 others injured in four separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in the last two days.

Police said, eight people were killed and 10 others injured when a Dhaka-bound car collided with a bus at Monipur in Burichang Thana at about 10 am yesterday, killing five car passengers, including its driver and a minor on the spot.

Of the injured, one unidentified bus passenger succumbed to his injuries on way to the local hospital while two others, identified as Shafiqul and Sipon Devnath died, soon after admission to Comilla CMH.

The other injured passengers were admitted to Comilla Medical College Hospital and CMH.

Police seized both the vehicles, but the driver of the bus managed to flee.

In another accident, an unidentified man, aged about 30, was killed and two others were injured at 6 am as a Chittagong-bound truck plunged into a roadside ditch after being hit by another truck at Bhanjarkara in Chaudhagram Thana.

Police seized both the vehicles.

See Page 12 Col 4

Political standoff Western diplomats to meet President, PM after Eid

Western diplomats would meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after Eid vacation in their bid to break the standoff between the ruling party and the Opposition, reports UNB.

The diplomats, mostly from the European Union and USA, who already had a parity with opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia last Thursday, are also expected to call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed sometime next month.

During the talks with donors, Khaleda Zia hammered a point that election to Upazila Parishad, City Corporation and Parliament should be held in close succession under a neutral caretaker government. She also raised a host of contentious political issues that are forcing the opposition to take to the street.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed rejected the opposition plea, saying it is neither possible nor feasible. "The Constitution does not

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Fix date, place for dialogue, Nasim's call to Opposition

Home and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday called upon opposition to fix a date and place for a dialogue with the government to end the present political stand-off, reports UNB.

"If we could sit together here, we can also sit at other places to talk," he told a function organised by Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd on the occasion of launching CDMA technology for mobile telephony.

Leaders of Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami were present at the function.

Urging the opposition not to go for hartal, the Home Minister said: "We would not be able to come here and introduce this latest technology, if there was hartal."

US Ambassador in Dhaka

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Army experts confirm bomb making

AL MP demands judicial probe into Chhatak blast

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Mar 27: An Army team of explosive experts has said that the explosion at the house of Awami League MP Muhibur Rahman Manik at Chhatak on March 15 took place while making bombs.

Two young men were killed on the spot while another sustained serious burn injuries in the explosion.

A nine-member team led by Maj Mohaimen of Comilla Cantonment searched the house on

Tuesday and Wednesday and recovered 20 live bombs, two kilograms of bomb-making materials, 150 imperative bombs, two bilhooks, six daggers and one Chinese axe from there, police said today.

The Army team detonated the live bombs at a nearby field on Wednesday and handed over the materials to Chhatak police.

The Army team in its report said, there could be a series of

explosions as the bomb-making materials were stored on the same floor. But that did not happen as those were kept at a distance.

The report has been submitted to the Home Ministry. Instructed by higher authority, the Chhatak police started a fresh case yesterday in connection with the incident.

The OC of Chhatak thana, Inspector Abdu Salam, lodged the case under Section 3, 4 and 5

of the Explosives Act accusing 4 persons. They are, Muhibur Rahman's cousin Abul Lais, injured in the incident and now under treatment at Sylhet M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital, Gopal, a Jubo League activist who was at the house during the incident but escaped unhurt and two other Jubo League activists, Abul Kalam and Arif Haider, both killed in the explosion.

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A proud Zimbabwe captain Alistair Campbell holds aloft the Meril International cricket tournament trophy at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

— Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Zimbabwe toy with Kenya, lift title

By Al-Amin and Hasan Masood

Zimbabwe clinched the Meril International Cricket Tournament trophy in style with a 202-run whipping of Kenya in the final played at the Bangabandhu National Stadium last night.

Opener Grant Flower shrugged off his earlier disappointing performance in the tournament with a brilliant hundred as Zimbabwe, opting to bat on a placid wicket after winning the toss, piled up a huge total of 325 for six in the

stipulated 50 overs. The all-African final petered into a one-sided affair when Kenya were bundled out for a meagre 123 in 36.5 overs. Experienced Kenyan all-rounder Steve Tikolo did not turn up to bat due to an injury on his left wrist.

Although there were a few hundred spectators to see Saturday's match, Kenya, who made it to the final at the expense of the hosts Bangladesh,

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Gas purchase Petrobangla to find it 'tough' to pay bills

By Sharier Khan
Bangladesh will find it 'tough' to pay for the gas supplied during the next five years by foreign oil and gas companies under various production sharing contracts (PSCs).

During this period, the government will purchase gas from foreign companies at a price higher than the local price and incur a huge loss, according to sources in Petrobangla and different companies concerned.

As per the PSCs, the foreign companies get priority to recover their investments in these gasfields. The PSCs provide that out of each 100 mmmcf of gas produced, the investors or the foreign oil companies concerned would get 60 mmmcf as cost recovery and another 20 mmmcf as profit. Bangladesh would be left with 20 mmmcf as its share of profit.

After the cost recovery in five years, the profit margin for Bangladesh would naturally

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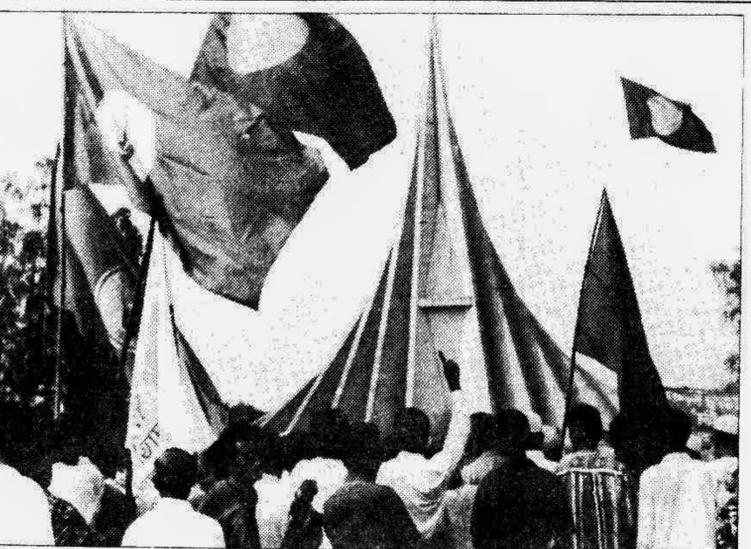
BCL central leader stabbed to death in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Mar 27: A central committee member of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was stabbed to death in the town yesterday evening, police said.

S M Golam Morshid, also a final year student of Sociology Department of Rajshahi University, was killed as a sequel to an intra-party feud, police said.

Morshid was repeatedly stabbed by some youngsters in

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Happy birthday to Bangladesh
Paying respects to martyrs at the National Memorial.

— Star photo

Man of the Match Grant Flower of Zimbabwe

Homage paid to Liberation War martyrs

The nation celebrated the 29th Independence and National Day on Friday with fresh pledges to uphold the spirit of the liberation war and build an exploitation-free society, reports BSS.

The grateful nation paid homage to the brave sons of the soil who embraced martyrdom to liberate the country from clutches of Pakistani military junta.

This day in 1971, people of the country took up arms to fight the Pakistani occupation forces at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The day's programme heralded with a 31-gun salute. President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina placed wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar in the morning paying homage to the martyrs of the War of Liberation.

The President and the Prime Minister stood in solemn silence after placing the wreaths while the national flag was

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5 killed as cattle traders, armed goons clash

By Staff Correspondent

Hired goons were forcing cattle traders and farmers to bring sacrificial animals to the city markets of their choice resulting in clashes at places and death of five people in one such incident.

Market organisers have allegedly deployed armed gangs and *mastaans* at different points in the city to apply force on the sellers.

A clash on Thursday night left five people drowned in the river Buriganga.

Keraniganj police identified them as Iqbal, 18, Shammi, 26, Parvez, 20, Arif, 20, and Alamgir.

The clash broke out when a group of cattle traders reached near Shoarighat by boat and a gang of hired *mastaans* on board a trawler chased them

asking them to bring their cattle to Killermore Shashanghat cattle market, police said.

At one stage the miscreants hired by lessee of the cattle market jumped into the Buriganga to escape the wrath of enraged traders. Five bodies were recovered by Fire Brigade personnel.

The bodies were sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

The traders were coming from Sadarpur in Faridpur to sell their cattle at Chankarpool market.

Three separate cases were lodged with Keraniganj Thana in this connection.

Two persons arrested from the spot are Mohammad Ali and Tuhin. They were produced before the CMM's Court yesterday. They gave confessional

statement under section 164. Cattle traders have also to pay toll at different points on their way to the capital from remote areas.

Individuals taking one or two cows and goats to the markets are also not spared.

Abdur Rahim who brought a cow from Tangail district told this correspondent that he had

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পরিবেশ অধিদপ্তর

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