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Eid Greetings



The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons and well-wishers a happy Eid-ul-Fitr.

Eid-ul-Fitr tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The Eid-ul-Fitr, the greatest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated in the country tomorrow on completion of 30 days of fasting in the Ramadan.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation yesterday evening with State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam in the chair.

The Committee announced that the Shawal moon was not sighted yesterday anywhere in the country.

The meeting also decided that the Shawal month of 1420 Hijri would be counted from tomorrow.

In a message, President Shahabuddin Ahmed said Eid-ul-Fitr is a symbol of equality and brotherhood.

Eid brings the sense of equality to all irrespective of rich and poor, as they embrace each other, he said.

The characteristics of Eid strengthen the social fabrics of fraternity, which is helpful for peace and prosperity, he added. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to extend their helping hands to the deprived and poor people of the society.

I urge the countrymen to share the happiness of Eid with all irrespective of rich and poor to make it universal, she said in her message.

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Announcement

The Daily Star is pleased to inform that its Senior Reporter Al-Amin will be in Sri Lanka to cover the Under-19 Cricket World Cup which begins on January 11.

He will be sending exclusive reports regarding the tournament with particular emphasis on the progress of the Bangladesh youth team.

The final of the tournament will be held on January 28.

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed for 3 days from January 8 to 10 on the occasion of Holy Eid-ul-Fitr. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper on January 9, 10 & 11.

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Iftar today

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftar
30	08	—	5.31

Prayer Timings

January 8		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:18	5:25	
Zohr	12:45	1:20
Asr	3:42	4:00
Maghrib	5:31	5:35
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Cold wave claims 40 lives, mercury may dip further

By Special Correspondent

The current cold wave may continue in the country for the next few days with a foggy morning on the Eid day.

Night temperature may fall slightly, the Meteorological Department here said yesterday.

The biting cold that began four days back so far claimed the lives of at least 40 people, according to reports reaching from districts.

Most of the deaths were reported from the northern and northwestern districts where temperatures continued to re-

main below 10 degree Celsius.

There was no disruption in airline flights yesterday as the sky remained clear over Dhaka. But dense fog disrupted ferry services and movement of motor launches, night coaches and trucks.

Yesterday, the country's minimum temperature was recorded at 5.6 degree Celsius at Satkhira and the maximum at 25 C at Cox's Bazar. The minimum temperatures in Dhaka and Chittagong were 10.2 C and

13.5 C respectively, the Met office said.

But the northern and the northwestern regions continued to reel under biting cold with temperatures ranging between 8 and 5.6 C. Jessore had 6.4 C, Rajshahi 7 C, Khulna 8.2 C, Rangpur 8.5 C, Dinajpur 8 C, Faridpur 8.8 C, Mymensingh 9.1 C, Barisal 9.8 C and Comilla 10 C.

A Met office forecast till 6 p.m. today said the weather will remain dry in the country with a partly cloudy sky over Chit-

tagong region.

There may be thick fog over Rajshahi division and river basins and moderate fog elsewhere till noon today.

The current moderate to severe cold wave over Khulna division, mild to moderate cold wave over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and in Srimangal and Barisal regions will continue.

Little change in the weather is expected during the subsequent five days, the Met office said in its extended forecast.

Promotions, changes in Army, Air Force

By Special Correspondent

Some promotions have been given and changes made in the Army and the Air Force recently, sources said.

Maj Gen Jalaluddin Ahmad has been appointed Military Secretary to the President. He would take up his new assignment on January 11. Ahmad who is serving as Quarter Master General (QMG) of the would replace Maj Gen A M Siraj, who is going on retirement on Jan-

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White papers in bundles of notes!

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 7: White papers in bundles of soiled Ten Taka notes were detected at the Khulna branch of Bangladesh Bank on Thursday.

A highly placed source in the bank said the bundles were sent from the Barisal branches of Sonali Bank in November last year for burning in the bank's incinerator.

The white papers were detected when a team of BB officials started burning the soiled notes. The burning was stopped.

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6 killed in Assam violence

Tripura rebels set ablaze 65 huts in 3 villages

GUWAHATI, Jan 7: Six people, including three securitymen and three ultras, were killed and another injured in separate incidents in Assam yesterday, reports PTI.

A lance naik of Assam police task force was shot dead by extremists in Balamgar Bazar area in lower Assam.

Two other policemen, who later went to investigate the killing were ambushed on a bridge in the area ultras blasted a bomb killing them on the spot.

Two hardcore NSCN militants were shot dead in an encounter with the police at Bhuban hill in South Assam's Cachar district.

In another encounter between suspected Bodo rebels and police at Batabol in lower Assam's Bongaigaon district one ultra was killed.

A report from Agartala adds: 65 huts of 38 tribal families were set ablaze by the insurgents of banned National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) in three villages of south Tripura district forcing about 50 people to take shelter elsewhere, police said today.

The ultras armed with so-

phisticated weapons raided Kashi Chandra Para, Rambhaktapara and Bhaktamohan Maluumpara and set ablaze 65 houses yesterday, police said adding the ultras also opened fire to scare the villages and threatened dire consequences if they tried to resist.

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Maoist rebels kill 9 cops in Nepal

KATHMANDU, Jan 7: Maoist guerillas in Nepal have killed nine policemen during an attack on a police post in Jumla district, police said yesterday, reports AFP.

Some 60 guerillas attacked the post in Rarali village where the police, including the officer in charge, sub-inspector Giri Raj Sen, surrendered after a short gunbattle on Monday, Deputy Inspector General of Police Rajendra Bahadur Singh said.

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Indian team due Jan 17 to sign MOU on goods train service

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Jan 7: A team of senior officials of Indian Railways will visit Bangladesh on January 17 for signing the MOU on movement of trains carrying goods between the two countries.

Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee yesterday also told newsmen the goods train would pass through Petrapole-Benapole border.

The work for laying of broad gauge tracks for this purpose has been completed on the Indian side, she said.

To begin with, the movement of trains across the border will be confined to goods traffic and could be extended to passengers if the two countries are willing, she said.

India is also in touch with Bangladesh to help connect Assam and Tripura with West Bengal through Bangladesh territory, according to Indian railway officials here.

Official and industry sources here are optimistic that introduction of goods train movement would give a big boost to trade between India and Bangladesh and help ease the current goods traffic congestion by road between the two countries owing mainly due to inadequate storage and godown facilities on both sides of the border at Petrapole-Benapole.

TSC incident

Police yet to arrest prime accused

By Special Correspondent

Police are yet to arrest the prime accused in the assault on a young woman at the TSC of Dhaka University on the New Year's night.

The accused, Russel, reportedly a leader of the ruling party backed Chhatra League unit at Shaidullah Hall of Dhaka University, managed to elude police. The DU authorities temporarily expelled him from the university. Chhatra League however disowned him.

Two youths—Mamun and Mokhtar—arrested by the Detective Branch of DMP earlier in connection with the incident, were taken on five days' remand yesterday for interrogation, police said. The two were book sellers at Nilkhet in the city.

Police however did not seek remand of Taher, another youth detained along with Mamun and Mokhtar. Police said Taher was detained last week when they went to the City Spe-

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Youth cricketers leave for Colombo today

By Sports Reporter

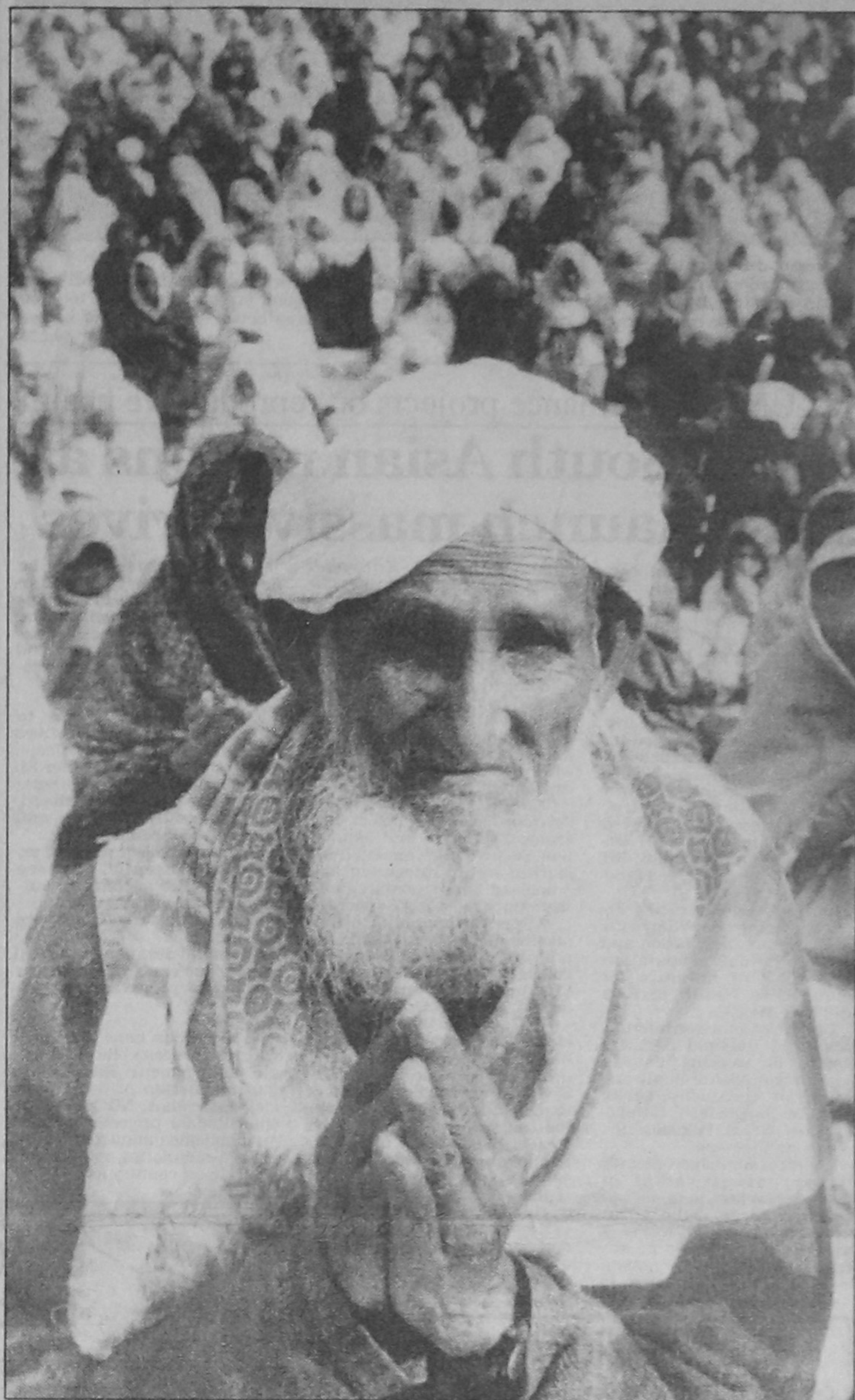
A 14-member Bangladesh team leaves for Colombo today to take part in the World Youth Cricket Championship, starting from January 10.

Hannan Sarker will lead the under-19 Bangladesh team in the mega meet, where the nine Test-playing nations along with seven ICC (International Cricket Council) associate-member countries will participate.

Placed in Group B, Bangladesh will play their first match against India on January 12. New Zealand and Holland are the other teams in the group.

The youth team, being coached by Dipu Roy Chowdhury, will be managed by Azmal Ahmed Tapan. The BCB (Bangladesh Cricket Board) sends Gavin Benzafel, the South African physio of the national team, at its own expense. Bangladesh, who performed credibly in the previous edition

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Tens of thousands of Muslims across the country joined Jumatul Wida, the last Friday prayers of holy Ramadan yesterday seeking divine blessings. The picture was taken from the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city.

— Star photo

House-to-house search in Colombo 2 Tamil rebels held with arms, 800 others rounded up

COLOMBO, Jan 7: Police arrested two Tamil rebels armed with bombs as security officials aided by anti-terrorist commandos raided suspected rebel hideouts, reports AP.

The rebels, each concealing a bomb, were arrested early today in the eastern district of Ampara, said Assistant Superintendent of Police H R Senaviratne.

Police said the rebels admitted that their targets were bus stations in the Buddhist temple town of Kandy, where Sri Lanka's majority Sinhalese Buddhist believe a tooth relic of Buddha is kept. Two years ago, days before Sri Lanka's independence celebrations in February, rebels bombed the temple, killing 22 people.

Ampara, 210 kilometers east of Colombo, has a large number of Tamils.

Meanwhile, authorities lifted the curfew shortly after noon to allow Muslims to offer

prayers ahead of the annual Eid festival. The curfew was imposed around midnight to allow security forces to conduct door-to-door searches for Tamil guerillas.

The state-run Roopavahini television network said the sweep was being done to ensure security in Colombo, where 50 people were killed in the three attacks blamed on Tamil suicide bombers.

In Colombo, police took in about 800 people for questioning, said Deputy Inspector General of Police Jagath Jayawardene.

The suspects, almost all from the Tamil minority, were taken to police stations for questioning. It was unclear whether they had links to the Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which has been blamed for three recent suicide attacks.

At Narahenpita district, police said they had arrested

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Jumatul Wida Divine blessings sought

By Staff Correspondent

Jumatul Wida, the last Friday of the month of Ramadan, was observed in the country yesterday.

Devotees participated in Jumatul Wida congregations in mosques across the country, seeking divine blessings.

Special prayers were offered for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the country and the Muslim Ummah.

The Jumatul Wida is very significant to the Muslim devotees as they bid farewell to Ramadan through the Jumma Khutba. Devotees yesterday prayed to the Almighty to accept their month-long fasting and prayers.

Tens of thousands of devotees yesterday attended the last Jumma prayers in mosques across the country. In Dhaka, a large number of devotees said their prayers on the roads around mosques in many areas. Nearly one lakh devotees participated in the Jumatul

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শোক সংবাদ



আমরা গভীর দুঃখের সাথে জানাইতেছি যে, মার্ট গ্রুপ অব ইন্ডাস্ট্রিজ এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এবং প্রাইম ব্যাংক লিঃ এর ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান জনাব এ. এফ. এম আমিনুল হক সাহেব গত ০৬/০১/২০০০ ইং তারিখ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার ওয়াশিংটন এডভান্সড হাসপাতালে চিকিৎসাধীন অবস্থায় শেষ নিঃশ্বাস ত্যাগ করেন ইনালিল্লাহে ওয়াইনাল্লাহে রাজেউন। মৃত্যুকালে তাহার বয়স হয়েছিল ৬৩ বছর।

আমরা তাহার বিদেহী আত্মার চির শান্তির জন্য সকলের দোয়া কামনা করিতেছি।

বিনীত

মরহুমের পরিবারের সদস্যবৃন্দ।

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