



President Iajuddin Ahmed exchanges Eid greetings with the diplomats at Bangabhaban in the city on Eid day.

## CARICOM summit begins in Havana

Leaders of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) nations gathered here Saturday for a summit to be hosted by Cuba's President Fidel Castro.

The conference, which opens Sunday, will commemorate the 30th anniversary of Cuba's diplomatic ties with Guyana, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados.

Castro Saturday welcomed the presidents of Jamaica and Antigua and Barbuda, as well as the Prime Ministers of Haiti, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Lu-

## 6 die in S Korea inn blaze

Six people were killed and seven were injured Sunday in a pre-dawn fire at an inn in South Korea's western port of Incheon, police said.

The blaze was brought under control in about 10 minutes after it gutted the two-storey wooden building, police said.

Police said a short circuit was believed to have caused the blaze, which also destroyed two cars parked at a nearby garage.

The injured included three firefighters who were buried under debris when the 60-year-old inn collapsed, they said. Most casualties were from the second floor.

## 100 Chinese students fall sick after eating breakfast

Nearly 100 students fell sick after eating breakfast at their school in eastern China and an apartment building janitor in Beijing was sent to hospital after eating a bag of chocolates laced with rat poison in two separate poisoning cases, state media said Sunday.

At the school in Danyang, Jiangsu province, nearly 100 students were struck with stomach aches and vomiting after they ate breakfast in the school's canteen on Thursday, the Beijing-based Xinhua reported.

The students were rushed to nearby hospitals. Four of them fainted, but none of them was in serious condition, the report said.

The school had subcontracted operation of the cafeteria to a man, who has been arrested by police, the report said.

Police officials on Sunday declined to comment, saying the incident was still being investigated.

In Beijing, an apartment building maintenance worker was found bleeding from the mouth and nose after he ate two pieces of chocolate from a bag of chocolates he found on a staircase in the building, Beijing Youth Daily said.

Police later found the chocolates had been tainted with "dushuqiang," a lethal form of rat poison and are investigating the case.

## Violence kills 23 in Colombia

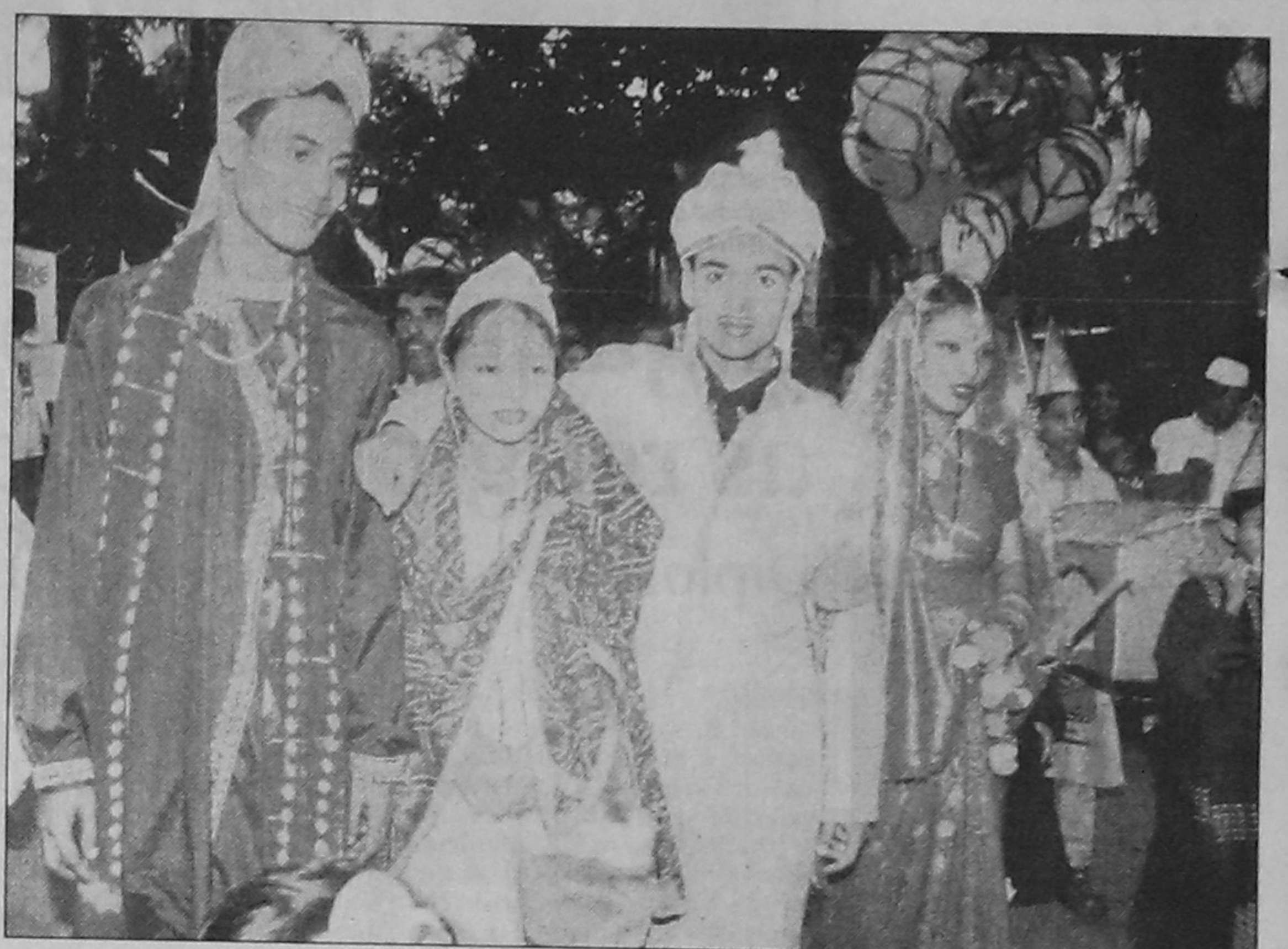
At least 23 people have died in a wave of violence around Colombia including seven rebels killed in a foiled bomb attack on a strategic oilfield, authorities said Saturday.

Two indigenous leaders, a teacher and a farmer were murdered late Saturday by unidentified gunmen, and another two indigenous people were kidnapped in Florida, southwest of Bogota, in one of the worst incidents.

And seven National Liberation Army (ELN) leftist rebels were killed as they attempted to bomb the Cano Limon oil field, one of the biggest in the South American



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia exchanges Eid greetings with people from all walks of life at Prodhanmontri Bhaban in the city on Eid day.



Amra Dhaka Basi took out a colourful procession in the city on Eid day.

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon Dhaka-1215

### Tender/Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local/foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers (for enlisted firm only) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army".

Ser No.	Nomenclature	Date of selling	Date of opening	Currency	Tender No.	
1.	Secondary Bty and charging Eqpt Qty-04 line	10-12-2002	07-1-2003	08-1-2003	Local currency	214/988/P-2
2.	Various Type of Signal Stores Qty-02 line	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	214/982/P-2
3.	Bauer 16 MM Portable Projector P-7 Universal TS, Complete with accessories (Including screen with stand) Qty-9 nos.	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	214/1060/P-2
4.	Spare parts for Fd Tel Set Type HCX-3 Qty-05 line	-do-	07-1-2003	08-1-2003	-do-	214/978/P-2
5.	Spare parts for Radio Set VHF PRC-1077 Qty-10 line	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	214/968/P-2
6.	Spare parts for Radio Set PRC-1099 Radio Set RT-100/MP & Radio Set PRC-1088 Qty-29 line	10-12-2002	07-1-2003	08-1-2003	Foreign currency	214/966/P-2
7.	Radio Set VHF-15-20 W Radio Set VHF PRC-1077 and Amplifier AM-1077 complete with accessories USA or Radio Set VHF AN/PRC-117A full band freq hopping complete with accessories+5% Fast and Slow mov spares of M/s Harries RF COMM, USA or Radio Set VHF PRC-1088 Full band freq hopping complete with accessories +5% Fast and slow mov spares of Datron World Communication Inc, USA. Qty-35 nos.	-do-	-do-	-do-	-do-	214/1055/P-2

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (non-refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the date specified above in presence of all tenderers (present if any).

ISPR/Misc/02/893  
DFP-29554-1/12/02  
G-2289

**Major**  
For Director General

## 3 teenagers flee Tigers

Three young women forcibly recruited by Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels have surrendered to the army, defence officials said Sunday.

The three, two aged 17 and one aged 19, fled a training camp of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and surrendered Saturday to government troops in the eastern town of Batticaloa.

"They told us that they had been fighting for a separate Tamil homeland in the north and east of the country, have faced continued accusations of recruiting children for their armed campaign.

Bowing to international pressure since the signing of a ceasefire agreement with the Sri Lankan government in February, the rebels have announced a programme to release their child recruits.

But a rights group, the University Teachers of Human Rights (UTHR), last week charged that the LTTE was continuing its conscription of child soldiers despite claims that many of them had been released.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the separatist conflict since 1972.

The Tamil Tigers have now opted for a federal form of power devolution, giving up their demand for a separate state.

## Tokyo assembly member held for raping bar hostess

Japanese police said Sunday that they had arrested a 43-year-old elected member of the Tokyo metropolitan assembly for raping a bar hostess.

Juichi Fukushima, whose real name is Hisakazu Fukushima, was arrested Sunday morning after being accused of raping the 26-year-old hostess in the early hours of November 20.

Police said at around 3:00 am (1800 GMT) after the hostess refused his advances at the bar in the trendy Roppongi district where she worked, he took an item she was holding and dashed outside.

When she chased after him, he forced her into a taxi and took her to a hotel in the Shinjuku area of the capital, where he threatened and then raped her in a two-and-a-half hour ordeal, police said.

"The victim suffered injuries to her private parts, both hands and wrists, as well as her calves, which required a week to heal," a police spokesman said.

The woman reported the incident to police immediately after it took place, police said.

Fukushima denied the charges, police said. "He admitted to having sex with her in the hotel, but denied that it was rape," the spokesman said.

## Nobel banquet trivia

Here are some amusing trivia about the Nobel Prize banquet, which takes place every year after the prize ceremony on December 10, the anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, the creator of the prestigious prizes.

A total of 118 guests attended the first Nobel banquet in 1901. Only men attended. At the 2001 centenary banquet, a record 1,600 people, including 200 students, were invited.

The first woman to attend a Nobel banquet was Marie Curie, the Polish-born French physicist who won the 1903 Nobel Physics Prize.

In 1991, the Nobel Foundation commissioned the creation of the Nobel chinaware for the prizes' 90th anniversary. The gold-rimmed set, which costs 6,000 kronor (665 dollars) per cover, is used only once a year at the Nobel banquet, and is kept under lock and key at Stockholm's City Hall.

In 2001, when 1,600 guests used the Nobel chinaware, only seven pieces were broken.

The delicate tableware is not washed until weeks after the banquet, in January, when the dishwashing staff is well-enough rested to handle it with care.

Nobel banquet meals from previous years can be devoured at Stadshuskallaren, the renowned

restaurant in the cellar of Stockholm's City Hall, for around 1,300 kronor (145 dollars, euros) per person.

More than 35,000 Japanese have ordered the Nobel dinner from 1994, when Japanese writer Kenzaburo Oe won the Literature Prize.

Fifty-three nations have been represented at Nobel banquets since 1901.

### DUAASIS scholarship

Dhaka University Alumni Association in Sweden (DUAASIS) has awarded a scholarship to Afroza Parveen, a second year BBA (Finance and Banking Department) student of the Dhaka University, says a press release.

She will receive Tk 1000 per month till she obtains masters degree subject to satisfactory results in yearly examinations. Afroza secured first place among girl students and sixth place in combined merit list in HSC examination under Jessore Board held in 2000. She is the eldest daughter of Liaquat Ali and Anwara Begum of Zhunzhampur area in Jessore town.

DUAASIS president Anisur Rahman handed over a cheque of Tk 6000 six thousand to Afroza through Prof Dr. Habiba Khatun, Provost of Shamsur Nahar Hall recently.

## Falling birth rates spell problems for EU

Falling population rates in eastern Europe ever since the fall of communism will aggravate the problem of an ageing population in the enlarged European Union, experts say.

Until the end of the 1980s the eight ex-communist eastern European countries due to join the EU in 2004 had higher birth rates than their western neighbours.

They now have large, mainly young workforces -- but the brutal transition to a market economy has brought with it falling birth rates, in a worrying development for the region's future.

Poland, which has the largest population in eastern Europe with 38.3 million inhabitants, has already lost one million inhabitants in four years, and is expected to have just 34 million population in 2050, according to the Population Reference Office, a United States demographic institute.

By that time, Estonia's population will have dropped by 36 percent and Hungary, which currently has 10.1 million population, will have lost a fifth of its inhabitants.

"The European Union will age even more quickly after the eastern countries are included, because the demographic drop is bigger there. These countries are seeing a process which will be visible here in 30 years," German demographic analyst Rainer Muenz told AFP.

All the countries in the region have birth rates of less than 1.5 children per woman, including strongly Catholic Poland, which still had 2.5 children per woman in the mid-1990s.

At the end of the 1990s Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Latvia had the lowest birth rates in the world.

Slovakia saw 55,400 births in 2000, compared to 80,400 in 1990 -- a drop of more than 30 percent. A study by the Centre for Demographic Research in Bratislava said the average age of the Slovakian population will climb from 36 in 2001 to nearly 48 in 2050.

In these countries, where unemployment is making new records, "bringing children into the world carries with it a very high risk of falling into poverty," explained Zsuzsa Karpati, a member of the Hungarian parliamentary commission on health.

"Under communism homes were distributed according to the number of children, women's employment was guaranteed, and there were plenty of creches and nursery schools" -- but social systems have collapsed during the economic transition, said demographic expert Heinz Fassmann.

In a report on the demographic consequences of EU enlargement he said that the ageing population will cause serious problems for pension systems and social security financing.

Paradoxically, the crumbling population is not worrying the general public in eastern Europe -- with the exception of Hungary, one of the few countries addressing the problem.

In autumn Hungary's Socialist government increased family grants by 20 percent and nearly doubled grants to help families with children build their own homes.

Elsewhere, worries about falling birth rates mainly affect conservative groups. Poland's Catholic Church regularly slams new western ways of life, which it blames for the decline.

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Tender Notice

1. Sealed tender in foreign currency is invited from all bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firms in DGDP only) for supply of the following stores/equipments required for the use of Defence Services:

Sl. No.	Description of Stores/Equipments	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No.
		From	To			
a.	Electro Medical Equipments/ Instruments (Various types) Double Envelope System (Total-98 items)	09-12-2002	19-1-2003	20-1-2003	Foreign	214/243/MED/ P-3

2. The tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available at the fixed rate (Non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hours to 1200 hours. The tender will be opened at 1005 hours on abovementioned date in presence of all available tenders.

ISPR/Misc/02/892  
DFP-29553-1/12/02  
G-2288

**Major**  
For Director General