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## Parcelled JMB explosives seized in Rajshahi

### 6 bombs, bomb-making materials recovered from Bandarban, Cox's Bazar

STAR REPORT

Police seized powerful explosives from a courier service parcel of the Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Rajshahi, while the Rab recovered six live bombs and bomb-making materials in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar yesterday.

In Rajshahi, police seized the consignment that came from Sylhet through Sundarban Courier Service three days ago with the explosives and a leaflet of the banned militant outfit JMB, reports our Staff Correspondent in Rajshahi.

The seized materials include one kilogram RDX (royal demolition explosives) white powder, 500



The bombs and bomb-making materials seized by Rapid Action Battalion in Bandarban and Cox's Bazar yesterday.

grams of ammonia and 500 grams of sulphur. Police said these substances are enough to manufacture several hundred powerful bombs.

Police also found a JMB leaflet headlined "Invitation for United Islamic Jihad" in the parcel. It contains the common JMB call for the government officials, judges, lawyers, common people, NGOs and other organisations to establish Islamic rule in the country.

Police arrested manager of the courier service Nazmul Hossain and two employees, Abdul Khaleq and Noor Hossain, but could not arrest the recipient.

The arrestees were handed over to Boalia Police Station and the recovered materials were sent to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Eid tomorrow if moon sighted today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Muslims in the country will celebrate their biggest religious festival Eid-ul-Fitr tomorrow if the crescent moon heralding the month of Shawal is sighted anywhere in Bangladesh today.

The new moon will end the month long fasting by the devoted Muslims during the month of Ramadan. The Muslims will offer Eid prayers seeking divine blessings and eternal peace, progress and prosperity of the Muslim Ummah during the Eid.

They would also pay visits to relatives and friends, exchanging greetings amidst a festive mood.

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in separate messages greeted the nation on the eve of the Eid. They have sought divine blessings and peace, progress and prosperity of the country and the Muslim Ummah.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Dhaka turns quiet for two weeks

### Eid, Saarc security to down business

SURANJIT DEBNATH

The bustling Dhaka city will remain quiet for the next two weeks due to public holidays on the occasions of Eid-ul-fitr, Saarc summit, and the government declared National Revolution and Solidarity Day. It is expected that life in the capital will not return to its usual pace until mid-November.

Most of the schools, colleges and universities including Dhaka University in the city will remain close till November 14. Most of the government offices, banks, insurance companies and business centres will not operate in full swing until November 15.

The government declared November 3 to 5 as public holidays for Eid-ul-Fitr, November 7 as a holiday for the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, November 11 and 12 as weekly holidays and November

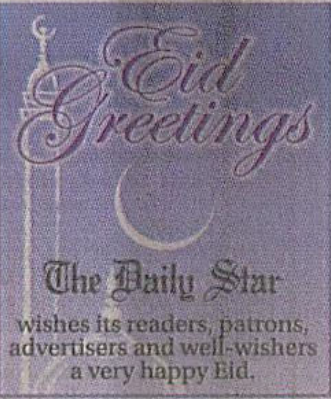
12 and 13 as the schedule for South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) summit.

Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on Friday or Saturday depending on the sighting of the Shawal moon (the first moon after Ramadan). November 6 will be a holiday if Eid-ul-fitr is celebrated on Saturday. In that case only three days from November 8 to 10 will be open between the two stints of vacations.

A large number of government and non-government employees have already taken three to five days leave especially for November 8 to 10 or for November 6 to 10.

Most of the students and unemployed women who are leaving town for vacations will not come back to the city before mid-November as almost all of the schools, colleges and universities have extended their vacations till

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5



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

## Hosts take care of finer details of Saarc summit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the countdown for the 13th Saarc summit began, the finer details of the seven-nation meet are now being worked out with an unprecedented security net planned for the capital.

"We are now having a closer look at every element...we are scrutinising each programme minute by minute," Foreign Affairs Adviser Reaz Rahman told the diplomatic correspondents at his

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Manmohan to discuss transit, transshipment

PTI, New Delhi

India is expected to raise transit and transshipment issue for transporting and trafficking passengers and materials between northeastern region and rest of the country through Bangladesh when Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visits Dhaka to attend the 13th Saarc Summit.

Bangladesh hosts the summit of South Asian Association for

Regional Cooperation (Saarc) in Dhaka from November 12 to 13.

Singh, during his recent visit to Tripura, had indicated this to Tripura Council of Ministers headed by Chief Minister Manik Sarkar, who submitted a memorandum to him.

The memorandum demanded including transit and transshipment through Bangladesh.

"I will go Dhaka to participate in the Saarc summit and hope this

summit will give a new fillip to economic and cultural integration of our northeast region," Singh had said.

Talking to newsmen in Agartala yesterday, the chief minister said Tripura could be the gateway for Southeast Asia in general and Northeast in particular.

The Chittagong Port in Bangladesh is just 75km from the South Tripura's sub-divisional

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 14-party asks govt to resign over failure to tackle Monga

UNB, Rangpur

The Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday said the government totally failed to tackle Monga (near famine situation) in the country's northern region and demanded its resignation.

"People are fasting by taking only water for want of food. Various foodstuffs, including rice, are available in the market but people cannot afford to buy," the alliance

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

MONGA

## Eid festivity eludes 20 lakh poor in North

RAFIQ SARKER, from Rangpur

Eid-ul-Fitr will bring no cheer to more than 20 lakh extremely poor people in the northern Rangpur, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Gaibandha and Lalmonirhat districts as monga, a near famine situation caused by joblessness, has gripped them for about one and a half months.

During the current lean season, most of the poor in the region can hardly have one meal a day, let alone hope for new clothes and yummy food to celebrate the festival.

Besides, recent flash floods have worsened the situation this year.

Food crisis during two months from mid-September to mid-November (Ashwin and Kartik in Bangla) is an every year phenomenon for the farm labourers along the Teesta, Brahmaputra and Dharla rivers in the districts but this year it became acute as the prices of all essentials including rice and vegetables went a great deal higher.

A large number of mud houses were damaged and transplanted aman rice submerged in the flood that made thousands of the farm

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



FACES OF MONGA: Hunger forces these two elderly women to beg for food in Kurigram town while the nation prepares for Eid celebrations.

## Poverty, economic issues to top summit agenda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Poverty alleviation and economic issues will come up as prime agenda of the next week's Saarc summit in Dhaka, Foreign Affairs Adviser Reaz Rahman said.

"If there is political, economic integration of South Asia could be made quicker as happened in the case of Asean," he told diplomatic correspondents at his office yesterday.

South Asia is the home of maximum number of the poor as well as maximum number of middle class

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Govt skirts liability for non-ballotee pilgrims

### Rejects ministry's plea for fare hike of Hajj flights

REAZ AHMAD

Thousands of prospective pilgrims to Makkah have been left to their own devices to bargain on the plane fares as the government yesterday declined to take any responsibility for over 50,000 non-ballotee pilgrims. The government also made it inevitable for the national flag carrier Biman Bangladesh Airlines to incur losses

to the tune of Tk 20 crore by forcing it to fly 4,000 ballotee pilgrims to Saudi Arabia in December and January at a previously fixed low fare of \$950 per passenger.

The cabinet yesterday rejected civil aviation ministry's plea for raising Hajj flight fares.

Official sources confirmed following yesterday's cabinet decision that unlike the past years, neither the civil aviation ministry

nor the religious affairs ministry would take any responsibility to bargain for a fair ticket price for non-ballotee Hajjis.

Following weeks of meetings with both the representatives of foreign and private airlines, the civil aviation ministry got quotations of \$1250 per passenger as the lowest plane fare from two private airlines, South Asian Airlines and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## Jail Killing Day today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The nation will pay homage to the country's four national leaders and Liberation War heroes on their 29th death anniversary today.

On this day in 1975, the four national leaders-Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and AHM Kamruzzaman-were gunned down inside Dhaka Central Jail. The day is known as Jail Killing Day.

A murder case was filed with Lalbagh Police Station the following day, but the then government halted the process of trial by

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**Eid Mubarak**

Maa, keep my payesh bowl safe

Bhaiya, Bhabhi, Hope this Eid be the happiest one for you!

Remembering your mischief Chingri, time & again

Apuni, this is your first Eid without us

Bulti, I'm free after three. What about you?

Greetings for beloved Putla

# Greet your list out!

Let it be unbound. Sit calm and plan whom to say, what to say. Then get back to sending SMS as many as you can - only 50\* Paisa / SMS

**Eid Greetings to you all from AKTEL ...**

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