



PHOTO: STAR

The Eid mood has already set in and customers flock to markets in the city. The salesmen photographed are busy displaying their array of collection to female customers.

It's time again for jostling, haggling

SABRINA KARIM

Think of Eid shopping? Brace for jostling of teeming buyers.

All shopping complexes are abuzz with the chaos of haggling between buyers and salespersons — sometimes at a high pitch.

Well ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr, a much-awaited religious festival of Muslims, the sight of city markets may make you feel agoraphobic.

Nuances of colours have just set themselves free from the confines of glass shelves, as most of the saree shops are flooded with visitors.

"The number of visitors has increased but not sales," said a salesperson at Eastern Plaza. The expected

shopping spree did not set in yet, he said in a glum mood.

His claim can be substantiated, if you thread your way through the labyrinths of the Dhanmondi Hawkers Market and see the customers keen to feast their eyes on sarees rather than go for a buy.

"Maybe there will be an increase in the sales after the fifteenth of Ramadan, said Nuruzzaman Khan of Saree Bazaar at the Eastern Plaza. Some traders at the Government New Market aired almost the same view.

"Buyers will turn up once they get their Eid bonus," said the owner of Raj Store at New Market, which always makes a good profit from sales of cosmetics before Eid.

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Hasina likens speedy trial tribunals to martial law courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League yesterday accused the government of setting up 'summary martial law courts' in the name of speedy trial tribunals to harass its political opponents.

Under the Speedy Trial Tribunal Act, 2002, the AL activists would be tried while the ruling party men, arrested in the ongoing army drive, would be exempted. Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina told a press briefing at the Sangsad Bhaban in the afternoon.

Earlier, she led an AL walkout

when the law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister tabled the bill.

The government, Hasina feared, would refer any case it wishes to speedy trial tribunals.

The former prime minister termed the new law discriminatory and said it was in violation of fundamental principles of equality and justice guaranteed by the constitution.

The government "is cheating" by deviating from the original wordings of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Ordinance, 2002, as promulgated by

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SHAZNEEN CASE

Hearing adjourned Latifur Rahman cross-examined for fifth day

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Hearing of the Shazneen case in the Second Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka has been adjourned till January 8.

Judge Kazi Rahamat Ullah gave the order yesterday following cross-examination of Latifur Rahman, second prosecution witness in the case and father of the victim, for the fifth day by the lawyers of three of the six accused. The three are Hasan, Minu and Parvin.

During the two and a half-hour cross-examination yesterday,

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Eve-teasers kill a father

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A father was killed by five teen-aged eve-teasers in front of his daughter as he protested their menace to her. The tragic incident took place on Sunday night at Khondakia village in Chikindondi union under Hathazari thana.

Jahangir Alam, 42, had returned home from mosque after Tarabih prayer and was brushing teeth to prepare for bed. Five boys who had been teasing his school-going daughter Moina for about one and a half years, came up to his house and started pelting stones and hurling abuses.

Annoyed over the teasing of his daughter for long, Jahangir chased the boys in a fit of rage, witnesses and the victim's family said.

As he reached a dark place at nearby Kazipara, about 200 yards from his house, the boys caught him

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Rickshaws rule the road



PHOTO: STAR

City roads now teem with thousands of rickshaws, mostly illegal, clogging traffic and making futile police department drive to streamline them.

JULHAS RIPON

Thousands of illegal rickshaws are still on the city roads and create traffic tailbacks despite an ongoing drive by police to rid the city roads of such three-wheelers.

No significant improvement is there although the Traffic Department of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) started the 'massive' drive on September 10. Only 8,000 illegal rickshaws have been seized and about 20,000 others fined for violating rules during the drive, sources in the traffic department said.

However, sources in the Traffic Department put down the poor success rate to non-cooperation by the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC). The DCC has experts in non-mechanised vehicles (NMV) to address the problem.

Due to shortage of public transport since September 1 following the ban on 12,500 two-stroke three wheelers, thousands of illegal rickshaws streamed onto the streets of the capital from its suburbs to fulfil the void.

The DCC and the Traffic Department at a meeting a few months back had decided to jointly execute the drive, but later the DCC stepped back 'mysteriously', according to DCC sources.

With Eid shopping picking up pace, traffic gets tangled at important city roads and thoroughfares for the best part of the day, especially in the evening. The traffic police often have a nightmare to clear the jams mostly caused by the illegal rick

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Dipjal leaves country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monwar Hossain Dipu alias Dipjal, ward commissioner of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), along with his family members left the country for Jeddah by a Biman flight yesterday evening.

An immigration official told The Daily Star last night he was allowed to leave the country as there was no embargo on it.

"We can stop one only if we get any objection about him or her," the officer said. Dipjal had proper travel documents and visa, he mentioned.

When told that the joint forces engaged in the ongoing anti-crime drive are looking for him, the official said, "There was no allegation against the ward commissioner."

The joint forces twice raided the

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Saifur salvos return mixed reactions from BB officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman's unscheduled visit to the Bangladesh Bank last Saturday and some of his comments have whipped up a controversy.

Some say that the criticism by the minister have demoralised the officials of the central bank and tainted the image of an institution that ensures discipline in the banking sector.

Others say the situation is so bad that the minister himself had to pay a surprise visit and speak out to improve the situation.

Officials at different levels of the bank, business leaders, bankers,

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Main accused in Goswami murder case nabbed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives on Sunday evening arrested Zillur, the principal accused in the schoolteacher Swapon Kumar Goswami murder case.

Zillur, who remained absconding since the schoolteacher was shot dead at North Road in the city's Bhutergoli area on October 26, was arrested on the eighth floor of the Eastern Plaza at 5:30pm on Sunday.

He was taken to the Detective Branch (DB) headquarters and held there in custody till he was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court, Dhaka, at 3:00pm yesterday with a prayer for a seven-day remand. Magistrate Mamun-al-Rashid granted a three-day remand for interrogation.

DMCH nurses go on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nurses at the emergency of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) went on a wildcat strike yesterday afternoon, after one of their colleagues was beaten up by the police at the entrance of the emergency.

The strike call was given when a constable of Mohammadpur police station, attending an injured patient, beat up an on-duty male nurse, who had failed to arrange a trolley for the patient.

The strike, however, lasted till 7:30pm. The director of the hospital Brigadier General Nazmul Huda and

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Swapon Goswami

Police said Zillur is wanted in a number of criminal cases including those involving three murders.

Police had earlier arrested six persons in connection with the killing of the schoolteacher Swapon of the Government Laboratory High School. Four of them — Swapan's two students SM Sabbir Rahman Shantanu and Tanvir Sharif Apon, and Rifat and Johnny — were remanded.

Police had also arrested the father of Shantanu, Moshir Rahman. He was later released on bail. Biplab, another accused in the case is still absconding.

According to the confessional statements of Apon, Rifat and Shantanu, the premeditated murder of Swapan was carried out by Zillur who fired three shots on the schoolteacher as he was on his way to school in the morning of October 26. Shantanu and Apon were also present at the murder spot.

Shantanu and Apon were students of class VII at the Government Laboratory High School while Rifat was a class X student at New Model School.

Programme to protest 'gas export move'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Committee to Protect Oil-Gas Resources and Electricity-Port (NCPOGEP) will take out processions across the country on November 21, 24 and 26 to protest possible gas export.

The committee will also hold a seminar at the Shaheed Tajul Auditorium at Purana Paltan in the city on November 22, says a press release.

Separate processions will be brought out from Muktangan in the capital on November 21 and 24, and

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Toll collection 2 Jubo League activists jailed in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two Jubo League activists were convicted yesterday in a criminal case under the Speedy Trial Act and awarded five years of rigorous imprisonment (RI) and a fine of Tk 5,000 each, or another year of RI in case of non-payment.

The convicted are Ahsan Habib and Babu. Magistrate Moinul Islam of the Speedy Trial Court handed down the verdict.

The prosecution case in brief is that the accused, on September 6 this year, demanded a toll of Tk 20,000 from the acting registrar of Khulna University Prof Amir Ali and threatened to kill him if he failed to pay. The following day on September 7, the accused went to the Khulna University to exact the money when they were caught and handed over to the police of Batiaghata Thana.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 19		5-12 pm
Nov 20	5-17 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 19		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-52	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-15	5-25
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation