

Tk 15 for iftar of Khaleda, Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

The government has fixed Tk 15 to buy iftar for detained former prime ministers Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina.

DIG (Prisons) Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui told the news agency yesterday that iftar of Tk 15 would be provided for each prisoner, including Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, now detained at makeshift sub-jails in Sangsad Bhaban area.

"If they (Hasina and Khaleda) want additional iftar items, they will have to pay for that," he said.

Major Siddiqui said Tk 7 was allocated for iftar in last Ramadan. Now it has been increased to Tk 15.

Rupali sale process might be cancelled

Govt to wait for Saudi prince's response until this month

STAR REPORT

The government is considering cancelling the lengthy negotiation process of handing over state-owned Rupali Bank if the bank's prospective buyer, a Saudi prince, does not give his final response about taking over the bank within this month.

Privatisation Commission sources said the government is against leaving the Rupali Bank issue uncertain for an unlimited period. The commission has frequently contacted the Saudi prince but he is yet to give his conclusive decision, they said.

The government may also apprise the Saudi prince of its stance within this month if he seeks further time for taking over the bank.

If the Saudi prince finally refuses to take over the bank, the government will go for alternative process to privatise the state-owned bank.

The visiting mission of International Monetary Fund (IMF) has meanwhile asked the government about its position on privatisation of Rupali Bank. The government has conveyed its present position to the IMF.

The BNP-led four-party alliance government had decided to sell the

Saarc finance ministers meet today in Delhi

REZAUL KARIM

Finance ministers from eight South Asian countries will begin a two-day meeting in New Delhi today to operationalise the \$300 million Saarc Development Fund (SDF).

Meantime, Saarc home ministers will meet next month in the Indian capital to forge a coordinated approach to tackling terrorism in the region, our New Delhi correspondent reports.

The SDF was created as the Saarc leaders pledged to support projects to alleviate poverty and improve status of life in the region.

Finance Adviser Dr Mirza AB Azizul Islam will head the Bangladesh delegation at the meeting, which is being hosted by Saarc's current chair, India.

The ministerial meeting will be

Delwar eyes grassroots meeting, Bhuiyan council after Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Khaleda Zia faction in the BNP plans a meeting with the grassroots level leaders while its rival faction led by expelled secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan looks to arranging a council after the Ramadan.

Central leaders and former lawmakers with allegiance to Bhuiyan will meet at a convention centre in the capital tomorrow. They are likely to discuss different issues including party reforms, their future plans and dialogue with the Election Commission (EC).

Leaders loyal to the detained chairperson, meanwhile, have been keeping close contact with those at the grassroots level in a bid to strengthen their position. They

60 killed in fresh Afghan violence

Bangladeshi aid worker slain

AFP, Kabul

Major clashes between Taliban and security forces in Afghanistan left 56 rebels dead while an Afghan soldier and a Bangladeshi aid worker were also reported killed, officials said yesterday.

The deadliest of the incidents on Wednesday was in the province of Uruzgan and kicked off with an ambush on Afghan and coalition troops who called in air support, the US-led coalition said.

"More than 45 insurgents were killed in the engagement," said the coalition, which operates alongside a separate Nato-led force to defeat an insurgency launched by Taliban after they were driven from government in 2001.

In the adjoining Zabul province meanwhile, militants attacked an

Coastal people back home as tsunami fear goes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several lakh people living in the coastal areas heaved a sigh of relief as the Met office lifted the tsunami warning through a special bulletin early yesterday, saying that Bangladesh coast would not be affected by the tsunami due to the earthquake in Indonesia.

Earlier, panic gripped the people living along the coastal belt following the Met office warning that a powerful earthquake that struck Indonesia Wednesday afternoon could send tsunami up to Bangladesh coast after Wednesday midnight.

People taking shelter at different cyclone shelters or high-rise

IV fluid prices spiral for supply dearth

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

The prices of different intravenous (IV) fluid and antibiotics have increased significantly following a decline in supply, adding to the sufferings of patients who are forced to pay more than the maximum retail price (MRP).

Drug traders claimed the supply of different types of IV fluid has fallen 50 percent as the two main IV fluid producing companies Beximco and Orion have reduced their production in the last three months. But the



PHOTO STAR

Price hike of intravenous fluids and antibiotics leads to sufferings of the patients, especially the poor. The photo was taken in front of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Coastal areas under risk of 'local tsunami'

PINAKI ROY

The country is under the threat of a local tsunami that may originate in the subduction zone of neighbouring Arakan coast near the Bay of Bengal and it could cause massive destruction in the coastal areas of Bangladesh.

However, there is very low possibility of a local tsunami while more frequent transoceanic tsunami is unlikely to do any serious harm here as the velocity of the giant waves would weaken when they reach the coastal belt, experts said.

According to the seismic gap theory, subduction zone located in the Bay at the juncture of Indian

plate and Eurasian plate may generate potential earthquake in near future.

The last tsunami in the region occurred in 1762 due to a 7.5 magnitude earthquake along the Arakan coast and now time is due for another massive undersea earthquake over there, they said.

At any moment, now or after several decades, a great undersea earthquake is going to occur that might generate tsunami in this region, experts said. But there will be little harm to the country's coastal belt if the epicentre of the undersea earthquake remains as far away as Java-Sumatra, a most

Tight security, smooth traffic planned for Ramadan

STAR REPORT

Around 4,000 additional law enforcers including police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) personnel will be deployed in the capital during Ramadan to ensure security and curb crime.

In addition, the government is contemplating a drastic cut in the bus routes through the capital to ease traffic congestion during the Ramadan.

The huge force is being brought in to the metropolis from different districts across the country that are

less crime prone, top police officials said yesterday.

Top brass of the law enforcement agencies in separate meetings with the inspector general of police and the commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday outlined plans for posting the forces at different city points, meeting sources said.

As per the decision, 429 police teams will be deployed for 'foot patrol' at different points in eight crime divisions in the metropolitan area. Moreover, 136 mobile teams

Get Prayer times from Warid Menu

Iftaar

Sehri

6.07 PM

4.24 AM

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
1	14		6-07
2	15	4-24	6-06
3	16	4-25	6-05

Prayer Timing		
September 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-24	4-34
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-07	6-22
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

ACC ready to file fresh cases against graft suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption commission (ACC) has completed preparations to file new cases against corruption suspects, the watchdog's secretary yesterday said.

ACC sources said former law minister Moudud Ahmed is likely to be implicated in a fresh case.

Mokhles ur Rahman, the ACC secretary, said at a press briefing that decision on the first information reports (FIR) for new cases and charge sheets for the already-filed cases will be taken after the ACC chairman returns home from abroad.

He, however, did not disclose the

names and numbers of the people likely to be sued on graft charges but ACC sources said Moudud could be implicated on a Tk 4-crore graft charge.

Meanwhile, the former law minister's lawyers yesterday furnished bail bond to Dhaka's second additional metropolitan sessions judge's court where the liquor case against him is pending.

The court, however, did not pass judgment on the issue.

The High Court (HC) on September 12 declared Moudud's detention illegal and ordered his immediate release.

The HC also granted him bail on

Mob beat up 2 Rab men

UNB, Dhaka

Two members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were injured in a mob attack in the city's Mirpur area yesterday morning.

The injured are ASI Kamran, 30, and Safayet Hossain, 30, of Rab-4.

Locals said a vehicle of the elite force hit the motorbike of one Ali Haq near BRTA at about 11:30am.

Haq locked in an altercation with the Rab men over the incident. At one stage, the Rab members beat up Haq, leaving him seriously injured.

Witnessing the incident, local people got infuriated and beat up the Rab personnel, Kamran and Safayet.

Injured Haq and the two men were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).