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Eid tomorrow
if Shawal moon
sighted today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country tomorrow if the moon heralding the month of Shawal is sighted anywhere in Bangladesh today.

The new moon will end the month-long fasting of Ramadan by Muslims. People will offer Eid prayers seeking divine blessings and eternal peace, progress and prosperity of the nation.

Islamic Foundation sources said the National Moon Sighting Committee had approved the deal.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Khaleda denies Gatco graft allegation

Says it's mere formality for a PM to sign a deal okayed by purchase committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday denied charges against her of corruption in awarding container handling contracts to local company Gatco and said she gave the nod only after the cabinet purchase committee had approved the deal.

During interrogation by an Anti-

Corruption Commission (ACC) team in a graft case against her, she said, "Neither me nor my son had any involvement in the deal."

"Earlier, I did not approve the contract as the committee had decided to send back the dossier to the concerned ministry," her tax lawyer Ahmed Aazam Khan quoted her as saying.

Khaleda argued that there is barely any instance of a prime minister rejecting a proposal that has received approval from the purchase committee.

The ACC filed the case on September 2 against the former premier, her younger son Arifat Rahman Koko and 11 others for

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

INDIAN RICE ISSUE
No reason for
adverse impact
on market

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday said there is no reason for adverse effect on the market if India stops rice export, as there is comfortable stock as well as imports in the pipeline.

A handout said any type of disaster or crisis can be tackled with the current stock and imported rice and wheat. Besides, rice can be imported from Myanmar, Thailand or Vietnam, if necessary.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

AL, BNP trash idea of consensus govt

Khaleda terms it premature

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposition for an agreement to form a national consensus government after election has failed to gather support as the two major political parties—Awami League (AL) and BNP—turned down the idea.

Termining the proposal for the 10-year consensus government "premature", both the parties yesterday said the next parliament will decide about future governance. They also stressed the importance

of holding the parliamentary elections first.

Former president and chief of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury spelled out on Monday the much-talked-about proposal for a government of national consensus for the next 10 years comprising all democratic and patriotic political parties that believe in common development programmes.

Detained BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

ACC receives 60,000 graft complaints

Trivial allegations to be forwarded to ministries for disposal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) decided to forward "trivial" allegations brought against officials and employees of different ministries to the ministries concerned for dealing the matter as around 60,000 corruption allegations have so far been submitted to the commission.

Several ministries have already started receiving these "trivial" allegations forwarded by the ACC.

If a ministry insisted the commission on investigating any cor-

ruption allegations, the commission would ask the ministry why it is not able to handle the matter itself.

The ACC decision came after it decided to reduce the number of its zonal offices to 20 from 54 and focus its drive against institutional corruption from December this year.

"We are forwarding allegations to different ministries as the ministries themselves can handle the issue well," said ACC Secretary Mukhles Ur Rahman during a

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

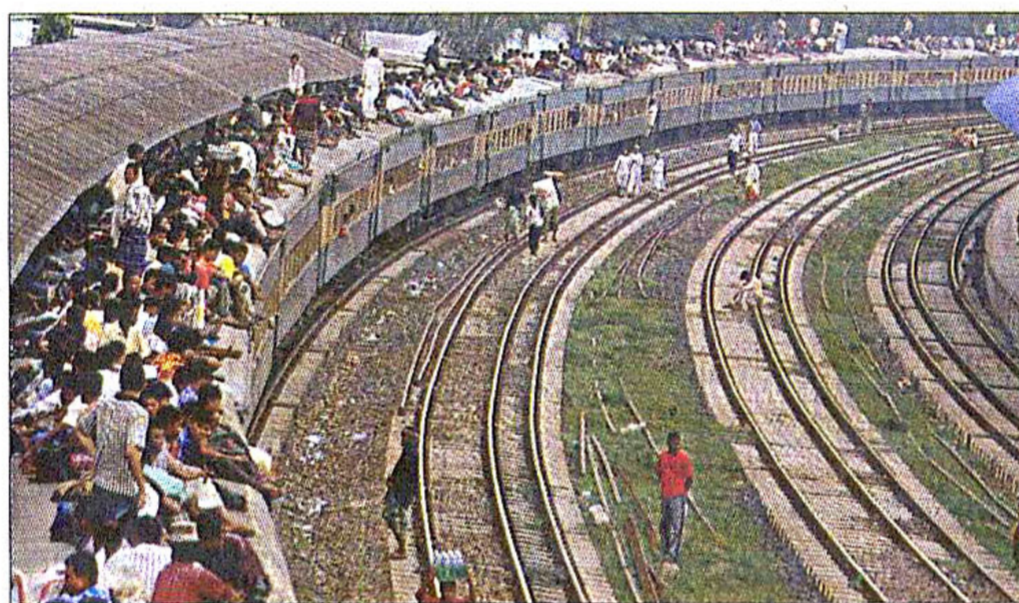


PHOTO: STAR

People desperate to go home and spend Eid holidays with their relatives climb on the roof of a train as the compartments are packed with passengers. The photo was taken at Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

FACING POST-FLOOD SITUATION CPD, Brac for OMS of fertiliser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

CPD and Brac recommended open market sale of fertiliser, replacing the existing card system to tackle the post flood situation with increased production of rice.

The two organisations -- Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (Brac) -- made the recommendation in a press briefing at CPD office yesterday based on a survey conducted in some of the flood-affected areas.

If necessary, both CPD and Brac urged the government to raise fertiliser prices for sale on the open

market and ensure sufficient supply of hybrid seeds for the farmers.

They recommended the government involve micro credit institutions for disbursing seasonal loans to the farmers.

About 9 lakh tonnes of rice have been damaged due to the recent floods, said Mahbub Hossain, executive director of Brac adding, "We made some recommendations in light of farmers' views in different flood affected districts so that damage of the yield of rice could be recovered in the next Boro season."

Addressing the press briefing, Debapriya Bhattacharya, outgoing

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4



HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on October 12, 13 and 14 on account of the Eid-ul-Fitr and there will be no issue of the newspaper on October 13, 14 and 15.

However, if the Eid is celebrated on October 14, the following day (October 15) will also be a holiday and in that case there will be no issue of the newspaper on October 16.

There will be no issue of Rising Stars this week due to the Eid holidays.

Banglalink fined Tk 125cr for illegal VoIP business

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's telecom watchdog has fined Banglalink Tk125 crore for its involvement in illegal VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) or call termination business.

Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) Chairman Major General (ret'd) Manzurul Alam yesterday confirmed Banglalink's involvement in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

যখন একই সুতোয় গাঁথি স্বপ্ন পাশাপাশি
কোটি মুখে ফোটে তখন নানা রঙের হাসি

এ আনন্দ জীবনের...
এ আনন্দ ঈদের...

smile
প্ৰিপেইড

Smile বিজ্ঞপনের সাউন্ডট্র্যাকটি আপনার ওয়েলকাম টিউন হিসেবে সেট করতে WT 101019 টাইপ করে পাঠিয়ে দিন 4000 নম্বরে।
চার্জ গ্রহণেজ্ঞ। শর্ত গ্রহণেজ্ঞ।

গ্রামীণফোন

The joy of life can only be felt at certain moments. May you enjoy one such moment during this Eid

Eid Mubarak

The Caring Bank

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