

PRAN
HOT Line
For any PRAN products at your IFTAR party.
Call : 0191 2256 723 & get the products at your door step

The Daily Star

Today's issue 24 pages plus
Star Literature & Lifestyle

THANISCOM
CARNIVAL
PHILIPS TRAMETIC THANISCOM
Customer Care Centre: 8855366-8, 01712 665463

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVIII No. 256

DHAKA TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

People's Right to Know

www.thedailystar.net

ASHWIN 15, 1415 BS • RAMADAN 29, 1429 HJRI • 24 PAGES PLUS STAR LITERATURE & LIFESTYLE PRICE: Tk 10.00

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 Shawal moon is sighted today.

If the new moon is not sighted today, the Eid will be celebrated on Thursday ending the month-long fasting of Ramadan.

Muslims in the country and the rest of the world will seek divine blessings, peace, progress and prosperity in Eid congregations.

Islamic Foundation sources said the National Moon Sighting Committee will sit at 6:45pm today to scour the sky for the Shawal moon. It will also collect information on moon sighting from the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

EXTORTION CASE

HC rejects Hasina's bail prayer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected a bail petition filed by Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in an extortion case filed by businessman Noor Ali.

A vacation bench of the HC comprising Justice Sheikh Rezwana Ali and Justice Md Rais Uddin rejected the bail prayer on grounds that the petitioner must be present in the country for seeking bail, but she has been abroad on parole for treatment.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star last evening, Additional Attorney General Mansur Habib in a surprising comment said, "The High Court's refusal to grant bail to Sheikh Hasina might have a negative impact on the current political situation, since the government has been trying to bring her and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia together for a dialogue."

But earlier in the day the same additional attorney general represented the government in opposing the bail prayer saying, Hasina

must be in the country for seeking bail in any case.

The former premier's counsel Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq said, "The petition for bail was filed in favour of Sheikh Hasina on medical grounds, but the court did not grant her bail. The High Court has every right to grant or reject any bail petition in any case. We will file an appeal with the Supreme Court, which will then take the decision."

Hasina's another counsel

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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

HOLIDAY
The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on September 30 and on October 1 and 2 on account of Eid-ul-Fitr and there will be no issue of the newspaper on October 1, 2 and 3. However, if Eid is celebrated on October 2, the following day (October 3) will also be a holiday and in that case there will be no issue of the newspaper on October 4.

CONSTITUENCY RE-DEMARCATON Petition off HC hearing list

Poll schedule with redrawn JS seats faces setback

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A High Court (HC) bench yesterday dropped from its cause list a writ petition challenging the Election Commission's (EC) re-demarcation of the parliamentary constituencies.

The decision that came from the vacation bench of Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice Md Rezaul Haque means an earlier HC order staying the constituency delimita-

tion remains in force.

It also represents a setback for the EC plans to announce schedule for the national election with redrawn constituencies by the first week of November with a gap of at least 42 days between the publication of timetable and the polling day of December 18.

Counsels for the writ petitioner prayed for the hearing to be deferred till October 18. They said

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Govt offices to remain open today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government offices will remain open today despite a daylong speculation about a holiday announcement at the secretariat yesterday.

Government officials and employees in the capital and elsewhere in the country were expecting the Eid holidays to start from today.

Since no notice was issued in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Stay in touch

During the Eid holidays, online edition of The Daily Star will continue to update readers about latest news.

AL unhappy at bail rejection

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday expressed disappointment over the High Court judgement that rejected party Chief Sheikh Hasina's bail petition in an extortion case.

AL will launch agitation programmes next month after Hasina's return, AL acting president Zillur Rahman said while addressing a discussion titled 'Democracy, humanity and non-communality from the view point of Islam' at a city hotel followed by an iftar party.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

AL undecided on joining Eid receptions of president, CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) has not yet decided whether they will join any Eid receptions hosted by the president and the chief adviser, party leaders yesterday said.

Acting party President Zillur Rahman and acting General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam will finalise the matter tonight.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Be Sure You Have Your
Literature Page Eid Special
Issue With Your Copy of
The Daily Star Today!
FREE
FOR OUR READERS!



A 32-Page Illustrated
Fiction and Non-Fiction
Bonanza Guaranteed To
Make Your Eid Holidays
More Enjoyable and
Happier!



PHOTO STAR

Failing to get inside the compartment, people climb onto the roof of a train in their desperate attempt to reach their families and spend the holidays with their families. The photo was taken at Tongi Railway Station yesterday.

CHINESE MILK POWDER Lab test confirms melamine presence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Traces of melamine have been found in the Chinese baby formula Yashili 2 that was earlier found available in markets in some parts of the country.

Plasma Plus, the private testing laboratory, yesterday confirmed this in its report to the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI).

The government is also taking steps to amend the breast milk substitute regulation of marketing ordinance-1984 in order to take sterner action against those who are importing unregulated milk powder that pose a threat to public health.

The testing laboratory found melamine in Yashili 2 milk powder's 8008 batch.

Director General of BSTI Azmal Hossain told The Daily Star, "The presence of harmful melamine in Yashili 2 milk formula has been found according to the report by Plasma Plus. The amount of melamine present is 72.77 milligram per kg of milk."

He said that BSTI, the Department of Chemistry of Dhaka University and Plasma Plus are scheduled to test melamine in different baby milk products following media reports of thousands of children being affected in China.

Dhaka University is now closed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Prices of bulk power go up by 16pc

Tariff for consumers unchanged for now

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Average bulk power tariff has been increased by 16 percent to Tk 2.37 per kilowatt, to be effective from tomorrow, which is Tk 2.04 right now.

The latest power tariff adjustment is the first by Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) since its formation.

BERC Chairman Golam Rahman yesterday formally announced the new rate at a media conference held in the commission's office.

The retail rate for consumers

will however remain unchanged for now.

"The distribution companies are required to formally apply to the commission for increasing the retail tariff," Golam Rahman said replying to a question of journalists.

Rahman hoped that the distribution companies will be able to adjust a portion of the tariff hike by reducing their existing system loss and high administrative cost.

Power Development Board (PDB) earlier had advised BERC to increase power tariff by 41 percent.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

EC unable to enforce poll code of conduct

Non-registration of political parties main reason, says CEC

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The new code of conduct for parliamentary polls officially took effect on September 18, but Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the Election Commission (EC) is unable to enforce the rules mainly due to non-registration of the political parties.

The CEC identified this as a "major problem" in enforcing the code of conduct, which was made for the registered political parties and candidates contesting the polls. As part of the sweeping electoral reform initiatives, EC has promulgated the code of conduct with stringent provisions including imposing restrictions on electioneering until three weeks before the start of balloting.

Now the political parties and prospective candidates are not

entitled to electioneering before November 27.

But CEC Huda yesterday said: "The new code of conduct will be enforced with announcement of the schedule for the parliamentary polls."

"Besides, we don't know who are the prospective candidates for the December 18 parliamentary polls," Huda told The Daily Star over phone.

The EC has already announced that the election schedule for the December 18 national ballots will be declared in first week of November.

This means the political parties and prospective candidates will not have to wait for November 27 to launch campaigns for electioneering unless the emergency power rules (EPR) prohibit those activities.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Mad rush for home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost all tickets for journeys out of Dhaka to other districts in the country have been sold as the Eid rush reached its peak yesterday. A few tickets that remain are being sold at incredibly high prices.

Despite the high prices of tickets, thousands of people heading home for the holidays were seen at bus terminals, the launch terminal and railway stations with their luggage. They take with them gifts for their family members, relatives and friends.

For most yesterday was the last working day before Eid. Government offices, however, will remain open today.

Jasmine Akhter Jenny, an NGO worker, was waiting for her husband who was trying to buy two tickets for Dinajpur at Gabtoli bus terminal yesterday afternoon.

"I do not know if we will get the tickets... but we have to go as parents are at home waiting for us to join them. I bought clothes for them..." said Jasmine.

"Maybe there will be trouble getting home but we are still happy. We are going after six months," she said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-ফিতরে
আমাদের অগণিত গ্রাহক ও শুভানুধ্যায়ীদের

ঈদ মোবারক

মার্কেটাইল ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
Mercantile Bank Limited
দক্ষতাই আমাদের শক্তি

প্রধান কার্যালয়: ৬১, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন: ৯৫৫৯০০৩, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮০-২-৯৫৬১২১০
www.mblbd.com

পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

জীবন বীমা শিল্পে একটি বিশ্বস্ত নাম

প্রধান কার্যালয়: পিপলস ইনস্যুরেন্স ভবন, ৩৬ দিলকুশা বা/এ (৪র্থ তলা), ঢাকা-১০০০

ফোন: ৭১৭৪১৫৭-৬০; ফ্যাক্স: ৯৫৭০৮৮০