



Outgoing Managing Director and CEO of Aktel Jefri Ahmad Tambi, 6th from left, its new Managing Director and CEO Michael Kuehner, 4th from left, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, 5th from left, and Managing Editor Syed Fahim Munaim, 6th from right, and other officials of both the organisations pose for photo at a reception hosted by The Daily Star at a city hotel on Sunday.

Advance bus-rail ticket for Eid now most sought-after item

HELEML ALAM

With Eid-ul-Fitr drawing nearer, city dwellers have started thronging ticket counters at railway stations and bus and launch terminals to collect advance tickets to visit their village homes during the biggest religious festival.

The railway authorities started selling advance tickets yesterday, but a small number of people collected tickets as only the tickets for September 14 were available.

Many others came to know when the tickets for other days, especially September 17, 18, 19 and 20, will be available. "We have sold 916 tickets, out of 12,151, for September 14 and will continue to sell these tickets until September 14," said MA Zinnah, station manager of the Kamalapur Railway Station.

The tickets for September 15 will be available on September 8, tickets for September 16 on September 9, tickets for September 17 on September 10, tickets for September 18 on September 11, tickets for September 19 on September 12 and tickets for September 20 on September 13.

Md Ahsan Habib, a resident of Mugda, came to the railway station to know about the advance tickets of Lamonirhat Express but went back disappointed, as only 14 tickets to Bogra for September 20 will be available.

There are only 440 seats in Lamonirhat Express and only 14 seats are reserved for Bogra-bound passengers, he said.

Station Master of Kamalapur Railway Station Samsul Haque said there will be high demand for tickets for September 17, 18, 19 and 20. So, most people will collect

their tickets on September 10, 11, 12 and September 13.

In those days, 24 inter-city trains will depart from Kamalapur Railway Station and four inter-city trains from Airport Railway Station.

Besides, eight to ten express, mail and local trains will also run on different routes.

"We will operate four special trains on four routes for three days from September 18 for the convenience of the home-bound people during Eid-ul-Fitr," said Samsul

Haque.

The routes are Dhaka-Rajshahi, Dhaka-Mymensingh, Joydevpur-Shantahar and Dhaka-Dewanganj. Extra three or five compartments will also be added to each train to ease the pressure of passengers, he added.

He also said there will be no scope of selling tickets in black market as Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), the police and railway officials will monitor the situation to check it.

Home-bound passengers



People stand in long queues for advance tickets ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr at Kamalapur Railway station in the city yesterday.

have also started collecting advance tickets of buses.

Although big bus services have already sold advance tickets, many bus services having bus counters at bus terminals have not yet started selling advance tickets.

SR Paribahan, a bus service for northern districts, have already sold advance tickets for September 18, 19 and 20. Many passengers who came to buy tickets returned empty-handed yesterday.

Shahrukh of Greenland Service said they would start selling advance tickets on September 15.

"We will fix the fare as per the decision to be taken by bus owners' association," he said.

Sayed of Shoukhin Paribahan operating on Dhaka-Khulna-Satkhira-Jhenaidah route said they have not yet started selling advance tickets.

Launch operators have started selling advance tickets a few days ago, but passengers complained that they have to buy tickets at a rate higher than the usual fares.

Ratan of Dipraj-2, a launch service operating on Dhaka-Bogra-Patuakhali route, said they have been selling advance tickets for the last few days.

He said they are taking Tk 800 for single cabin and Tk 1500 for double cabin and the rate is not higher than the government-fixed rate.

However, the fares are Tk 500 and Tk 900 respectively during normal time.

Badiuzzaman Badal, acting president of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Owners Association, said the launch operators will not raise the fares. They will charge the fares as per the rate fixed by the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA).

Daily Star hosts reception in honour of Jefri, Kuehner

METRO DESK

To bid farewell to outgoing Managing Director and CEO of Aktel Jefri Ahmad Tambi and to welcome its new Managing Director and CEO Michael Kuehner, The Daily Star arranged a dinner in their honour at a city hotel on Sunday.

Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Managing Editor Syed Fahim Munaim, Aktel Chief Commercial Officer Bidyut Kumar Basu and its Head of Corporate Affairs Segufta Yesmin Samad attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahfuz Anam highly appreciated Jefri's visionary leadership in bringing a positive change in Bangladesh and said that working with him was a rewarding experience.

Jefri also appreciated Mahfuz Anam for his dynamic role and whole-hearted support in his endeavours.

He also expressed his desire to see positive changes that have been initiated jointly by Aktel and The Daily Star throughout the country through the 'English in Schools' (EIS) programme.

Michael Kuehner also expressed his deep appreciation to both Mahfuz Anam and Jefri Ahmad and said that he will continue the joint project of Aktel and The Daily Star wholeheartedly with new innovations and enthusiasm.

Senior officials from Aktel and The Daily Star also joined the programme.

IBA admission test Nov 20

BSS, Dhaka

The MBA admission test of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), University of Dhaka will be held at 4:00pm on November 20.

The filled-in application form along with written documents must be submitted to the MBA programme office of IBA between 9:00am and 5:00pm on any working day from October 25 to November 16, said a DU press release yesterday.

Details about the administration are available on website: www.iba-du.edu.



President Zillur Rahman exchanges greetings with eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain at an Iftar party hosted by the president in honour of professionals, foreign diplomats and civil and military officials at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

শোক বার্তা

অত্র চেম্বারের প্রাক্তন সহ-সভাপতি ও দেশের অন্যতম বিশিষ্ট রাজনৈতিক ব্যক্তিত্ব ও স্বনামধন্য প্রাক্তন অর্থ মন্ত্রী জনাব এম. সাইফুর রহমান-এর সড়ক দুর্ঘটনায় মর্মান্তিক মৃত্যুতে আমাদের চেম্বারের সকল সদস্যবৃন্দ গভীরভাবে মর্মাহত।

আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি এবং শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের সদস্যবর্গের প্রতি সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।



মেট্রোপলিট্যান চেম্বার অফ কমার্স এন্ড ইণ্ডাস্ট্রী, ঢাকা
১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা ঢাকা - ১০০০

VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEOPLE

Call to introduce Braille system in all educational insttts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday urged the government to introduce Braille system in all institutions to ensure education for visually impaired people.

As most educational institutions, especially those in rural areas, have no such system the visually impaired children are deprived of education, they added.

The press conference was organised by Bangladesh

Visually Impaired Peoples Society (VIPS) in cooperation with Sightsavers International Bangladesh at Dhaka Reporters Unity ahead of the International Literacy Day today to draw the attention of the government to Braille system of education for visually impaired students.

The speakers said only four percent of visually impaired children get chance for education when the government is committed to ensure education for all by 2015 as per

Dakar summit of 2000.

Lamenting on the government's attitude towards the people with disabilities, VIPS President Golam Mostafa suggested that like all other children, the children with disabilities should be brought under the education ministry instead of the social welfare ministry.

In fact, the government itself believes like other people in the society that the people with disability especially the visually impaired are

not capable of being established in the society, he said, adding that the government believes that mercy and kindness are enough for them.

Executive Director of the Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) AHM Noman Khan said educational materials for the visually impaired children are produced in the country but there is no proper distribution system on behalf of the government.

If the education ministry takes a comprehensive plan to provide education to children with disability including the visually impaired children then the problem will be solved to a large extent, he added.

Country Director of Sightsavers International Bangladesh Dr Wahidul Islam said the non-government organisations can make a model for providing education to visually impaired children but it should be the responsibility of the government to implement the model across the country.

"Education for visually impaired children is a must if the government wants to ensure education for all," he said stressing coordination between the ministries of education and social welfare.

In a keynote paper, VIPS General Secretary Mosharraf Hossain Majumder put forward some proposals including training for the teachers at primary, secondary and higher secondary level to handle the students with disabilities.



Namaz-e-janaza of former finance minister and BNP leader M Saifur Rahman was held at Shahi Eidgah ground in Sylhet yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

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