



Tough time for home-goers

Thousands suffer from transport shortage, delayed trips, ticket crunch 3 days ahead of Eid

SHARIFUL ISLAM and KAILASH SARKAR

Thousands of home-bound people thronged launch, rail and bus terminals in the capital yesterday making it difficult for many to avail themselves of any transport.

Many along with family members were desperate for CNG-run auto-rickshaws or taxicabs in city streets. Those, who managed to find one, had to pay an exorbitant fare to reach destinations.

"I found a black taxicab after searching for about half an hour. The driver charged me Tk 150 for a ride from Science Laboratory intersection to Shyamoli while the usual fare is Tk 60," said Satkhira-bound passenger Farhana Ahmed.

Passengers bound for 23 south and south-western districts suffered terribly as movement

of launches and ferries got disrupted on some waterways due to a fall in water level in the Padma river.

Moreover, many passengers at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal had to wait for hours as launches scheduled to leave for various destinations under special arrangement reached the terminal around six or seven hours late.

"Barisal-bound Suravi-7 was scheduled to leave Sadarghat at 2:00pm on Thursday but it reached Sadarghat at about 8:30pm," said passenger Nazmul Alam, a student of Dhaka University.

Visits to different bus terminals revealed that tickets for long routes were available at almost all counters but the passengers were charged additional money.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Illuminated faces overwhelm a train at Tongi Railway Station as people continue to leave for their homes ahead of Eid ignoring the risk they are taking by travelling on the roof. Others failing to find even the smallest space on it watch with grim faces. PHOTO: STAR

City malls abuzz with shoppers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shoppers in the city went on a shopping frenzy yesterday taking advantage of the week-end. They had less hassle in shopping centres even though getting there was not any easier than on any other day.

Shoppers were busy buying mostly gifts for their dear ones. Many of them failed to shop due to tight schedules and found the Friday and Saturday weekend convenient. The streets were, however, congested as before.

"The timing of Eid this year is very interesting. The week-end has been added to the official holidays from Sunday. So we have two days to shop," said Alamgir Hossain, a resident of Moghbazar, who went to the city's Bashundhara Shopping Complex yesterday afternoon.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Mysterious fire burns down 11 CNG-run buses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fire at the depot of a luxury commuter bus service destroyed 11 CNG-run buses at Anandapur in Savar yesterday.

Fire Service and Civil Defence officials said two fire engines from Savar station at 8:15am were able to move 12 buses of Trans Millennium Company Ltd to safety and put out the fire after a two-hour effort.

No casualties were reported, the officials said.

Police termed the incident mysterious and locals claimed most of the buses that were destroyed were out of service. Wheels of five of the destroyed buses were missing while most of them had their engines removed.

Police and fire officials said the fire broke out around 6:30am and destroyed the 11 out-of-service buses.

"Cause of the fire could not be ascertained immediately," said a fire official. "Leakage in the gas line and a spark of a battery could have triggered the fire," the official said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5
PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Dipu Moni seeks duty-free access to US market

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said US-Bangladesh relationship had undergone a transformation--from aid dependence to an economic relationship that focuses on trade and investment.

In this regard, she emphasised on the importance of duty free, quota free access of the Bangladeshi products to the US market.

The foreign minister was speaking at a discussion in Washington DC on Thursday jointly organised by Paul H Nitze of Advance International Studies, John Hopkins University and US Bangladesh Advisory Council, said a press release.

Dipu Moni said Bangladesh is willing to play a complimentary role to the US efforts in handling the common challenges of today's world.

"Bangladesh could work with the United States in showcasing the progressive, liberal and democratic face of Bangladesh to the international community,"

She said that in the evolving global context Bangladesh could

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Jumatul Wida observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muslims across the country yesterday observed the holy Jumatul Wida, the last Juma (Friday prayers) in the holy month of Ramadan, with religious fervour.

A large number of devotees attended the Juma prayers at different mosques. Special munajats were also offered at all mosques in the country after Juma prayers, seeking divine blessings for peace and progress of Bangladesh and unity of the Muslim ummah.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

'Shootouts' kill 2 criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion in the city's Mirpur area while an unidentified snatcher was killed in a 'shootout' with police in Chawgachha of Jessore early yesterday.

In Mirpur, Mohammad Ali, 25, an associate of top terror Shahor Ali, died in a gunfight with Rab-4 near Mirpur Outer Stadium around 2:45am.

Rab sources said some suspected persons being challenged by Rab opened fire at the law-enforcers who also retaliated with gunshots in the stadium area. Mohammad Ali died on the spot.

However, other associates of Mohammad Ali fled the scene at one stage of the gunfight leaving a pistol with three bullets, a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Lightning kills five of a family

UNB, Lalmonirhat

A lightning killed five people of a family and critically injured another at Kamolabari village in Aditmari upazila here yesterday.

The dead were identified as Fatema Khatun, 28, her daughter Shamshunahar, 2, and siblings Sufia Khatun, 17, Samina Khatun, 15, and Ruhul Amin, 15.

Fatema's father Sobhan Mia was admitted to local

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Rajshahi 'landless' builds 2-storey house!

Wealthy leader took lease of govt plot meant for landless



ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

An Awami League leader of Bagmara, who possesses two small industries and ancestral property, managed to get lease of a piece of government land (Khas land), depriving the genuine landless people.

Abdur Razzak, AL general secretary of Gokandil union, obtained lease of a five-decimal plot of land for 99 years claiming himself landless and now constructing a two-storey building on it flouting the lease contract.

Locals said Razzak has long been trying to grab the land by living in a temporary house there. After Awami League came to power, he applied for a lease of the land.

The district administration approved his prayer

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Waterbuck for Rangpur Zoo dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A waterbuck (one species of deer) died when it was being carried on a truck from Dhaka to Rangpur Zoo Thursday night.

The autopsy was completed yesterday, but zoo officials said until they receive the autopsy report, the reason behind the death cannot be ascertained.

Abul Hossain, lessee of the main gate of Rangpur Zoo, was taking the waterbuck with four other animals from Dhaka Zoo in a bid to attract visitors in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Crackdown on sugar hoarders

29,000 bags seized in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Some 9,000 bags of sugar were seized from the warehouses of three businessmen in the city on Thursday during a joint drive conducted by Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and district administration.

The godowns were immediately sealed off and the seized sugar was put on open market sale at different places of the city yesterday morning.

With the seizure of these bags, a total of 29,000 bags of sugar have been seized in the drive launched Wednesday evening.

Two thousand bags of sugar were found at the godown of Haji Mohammad Amin, a director of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industry and proprietor of Baghdad Trading at Khulna

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Khagrachhari Probe finds proof of sugar swindling

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The investigation committees formed by deputy commissioner of Khagrachhari found the sugar swindling incident to be true and recommended stern legal action against the 12 government-assigned dealers.

The leaders sold government allocated sugar right at the mill gates depriving the targeted consumers of eight upazilas of the district.

DC Mohammad Abdullah

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

অসমিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক ও
শ্রদ্ধানুধ্যায়ীদের জানাই পবিত্র
ঈদ-উল-ফিতর এর শুভেচ্ছা

ঈদ মোবারক

পপুলার লাইফের বীমায় বর্ধিত হারে পলিসি বোনাস ঘোষণা

৩১ শে ডিসেম্বর ২০০৮ তারিখে সম্পাদিত এ্যাকচুয়ারিয়াল ভ্যালুয়েশন অনুযায়ী পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর চালু পলিসির উপর নিম্নে বর্ণিত পলিসি বোনাস ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে-

(ক) রিভার্সনারী বোনাসঃ

- * সম্পাদিত বীমা অংকের উপর বার্ষিক ৫% চক্রবৃদ্ধি হারে।
- * এবং ২০০৮ সালে চালু (লাভযুক্ত) পলিসির পূর্ণ বীমা অংকের উপর নিম্নে উল্লিখিত হারে রিভার্সনারী পলিসি বোনাস ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে।

খ্রিস্টাব্দ প্রদানের মেয়াদ	প্রতি হাজার টাকা বীমা অংকে বোনাসের হার	পূর্বের তুলনায় বৃদ্ধির পরিমাণ
৮ থেকে ১৪ বছর	১৫ টাকা	৫ টাকা
১৫ থেকে ১৯ বছর	১৭ টাকা	৫ টাকা
২০ বছর বা তার উপরে	২০ টাকা	৫ টাকা

উপরে উল্লিখিত বোনাসের হার ভবিষ্যতে অপরিবর্তিত থাকলে পলিসি চালু থাকা সাপেক্ষে সকল লাভযুক্ত সঞ্চয়ী বীমার পলিসিতে মেয়াদ শেষে এক লক্ষ টাকা বীমা অংকের জন্য পলিসি বোনাসের পরিমাণ হবে নিম্নরূপঃ

পলিসির মেয়াদ	সম্ভাব্য মোট বোনাস	পূর্বের তুলনায় বৃদ্ধির পরিমাণ
১০ বছর	৪৮,০০০ টাকা	৬,০০০ টাকা
১৫ বছর	৭৭,০০০ টাকা	৮,০০০ টাকা
২০ বছর	১১৪,০০০ টাকা	১০,৫০০ টাকা
২৫ বছর	১৫১,০০০ টাকা	১৩,০০০ টাকা
৩০ বছর	১৮৩,০০০ টাকা	১৫,৫০০ টাকা

(খ) অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন বোনাসঃ

২০০৮ সাল থেকে আগামী ভ্যালুয়েশন পর্যন্ত সকল লাভযুক্ত পলিসির উপর মেয়াদ পূর্তিতে অথবা মৃত্যুদাবীর ক্ষেত্রে একই হারে অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন বোনাস প্রদান করা হবে।

বোনাস বীমার দাবী প্রদানকালে পরিশোধযোগ্য। আশা করা যায় ভবিষ্যতে বোনাসের হার আরও বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

জীবন বীমা শিল্পে একটি বিশ্বস্ত নাম

পপুলার লাইফ ইনস্যুরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড