



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

28 PAGES PLUS STAR LIFESTYLE PRICE : Tk 10.00

## ICC SEEKS GADDAFI'S ARREST

A panel of International Criminal Court judges to decide whether to issue a warrant

PAGE 7

## MAMATA'S INDUCTION FRIDAY

She will become the first woman chief minister of West Bengal

PAGE 6

## DIEGO'S DUBAI ADVENTURE

Diego Maradona signs as the coach of Dubai-based club Al-Wasl

PAGE 18

# KL to legalise 3 lakh workers

*Relief for Bangladeshis without valid papers in Malaysia*

PORIMOL PALMA

Malaysia has decided to regularise an estimated three lakh undocumented Bangladeshi workers alongside other foreign labourers, bringing a relief to the migrants facing threats of arrest and deportation.

In an announcement yesterday, the Malaysian home ministry also said it will allow such workers to leave the country, if they want, without any penalty.

The regularisation will start shortly and will be completed in three months, said the ministry at a meeting with representatives of the labour-sending countries.

Mantu Kumar Biswas, labour counsellor at the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, who attended the meeting, said this when contacted over the

phone.

Representatives from six other countries--India, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia and Thailand--participated in the meeting.

The undocumented workers who live in constant fear of arrest have long been demanding that Malaysia regularise them, said Harun Al Rashid, coordinator for CARAM Asia, a regional migrants' rights NGO.

"However, the authorities must see that no workers are subjected to harassment in the process of regularisation," he told The Daily Star over the phone from Kuala Lumpur.

At present, there are around five lakh Bangladeshi migrants in Malaysia, which

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



The food department has not started buying rice yet. The field officers also do not know when the government will initiate the purchase. The middlemen are now the possible way out for the farmers in the north. The supply of rice is aplenty but the prices are low while there is almost no storage facility at homes. The photo was taken at Ronobagha Haat in Nandigram upazila of Bogra district yesterday.

PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

## Gen Moeen wanted to become Zia Says Khaleda

STAR REPORT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia blamed former army chief Moeen U Ahmed for the 1/11 changeover and alleged that he [Moeen] dreamt of becoming Ziaur Rahman with the support of a handful of unfaithful BNP leaders.

She also said BNP would move for tougher movement to compel the government to announce

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4 PHOTO ON PAGE 2

## Truth Commission illegal

*Declares SC; anti-graft body to go after clemency-seekers*

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and EMRAN HOSSAIN

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court verdict that declared illegal the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) the Fakhruddin Ahmed-led caretaker government had formed as part of its anti-graft crackdown.

A seven-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by outgoing Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque passed the ruling dismissing a leave-to-appeal petition against the HC verdict.

The petition was filed by Manzur

Ahmed Bhuiyan, an engineer of Roads and Highways Department, and two other civil servants who were pardoned by the now-defunct Truth Commission.

The SC ruling means those let off by the commission can now be tried for corruption.

"We will initiate legal proceedings against the listed graft suspects as soon as we get the copy of the judgment," Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Ghulam Rahman said.

A total of 452 people sought clemency from the Tac under the volun-

tary disclosure of information ordinance. Among them were 270 people listed by the ACC as graft suspects.

The anti-graft body halted proceedings against them midway as they went to the Tac, disclosing how they amassed wealth beyond their known sources of income.

"The proceedings will start from where they stopped," said the ACC chairman.

He said the ACC will initiate proceedings against all those who secured clemency from the Tac only by paying fines.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

## Target new formula for caretaker govt

*SC verdict spurs JS body to explore alternative model*

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary special committee on constitutional amendment is now looking for a new formula for the caretaker government system, for holding two more parliamentary elections.

The move came following the Supreme Court's recent verdict that the present provision for the interim government system is unconstitutional and void, but the system may be practiced for holding

two more parliamentary elections for the sake of "safety of the state and its people".

The special committee members are however facing tremendous difficulties in finding an appropriate fix.

The committee yesterday in a meeting in Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban asked all its members to think and come up with ideas and proposals for a new form of interim government at its next meeting on May 26,

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

# 30pc rise in fare

*Meeting decides to make it effective from May 19*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the backdrop of a recent chaotic situation over transport fares, the government yesterday increased bus fares by around 30 percent to be effective from May 19.

According to revised fares, buses and minibuses operating in Dhaka and Chittagong cities will charge each passenger Tk 1.55 and Tk 1.45 per kilometre instead of Tk 1.20 and Tk 1.10 respectively.

The minimum fare of this mass transport service has been raised to Tk 7 from

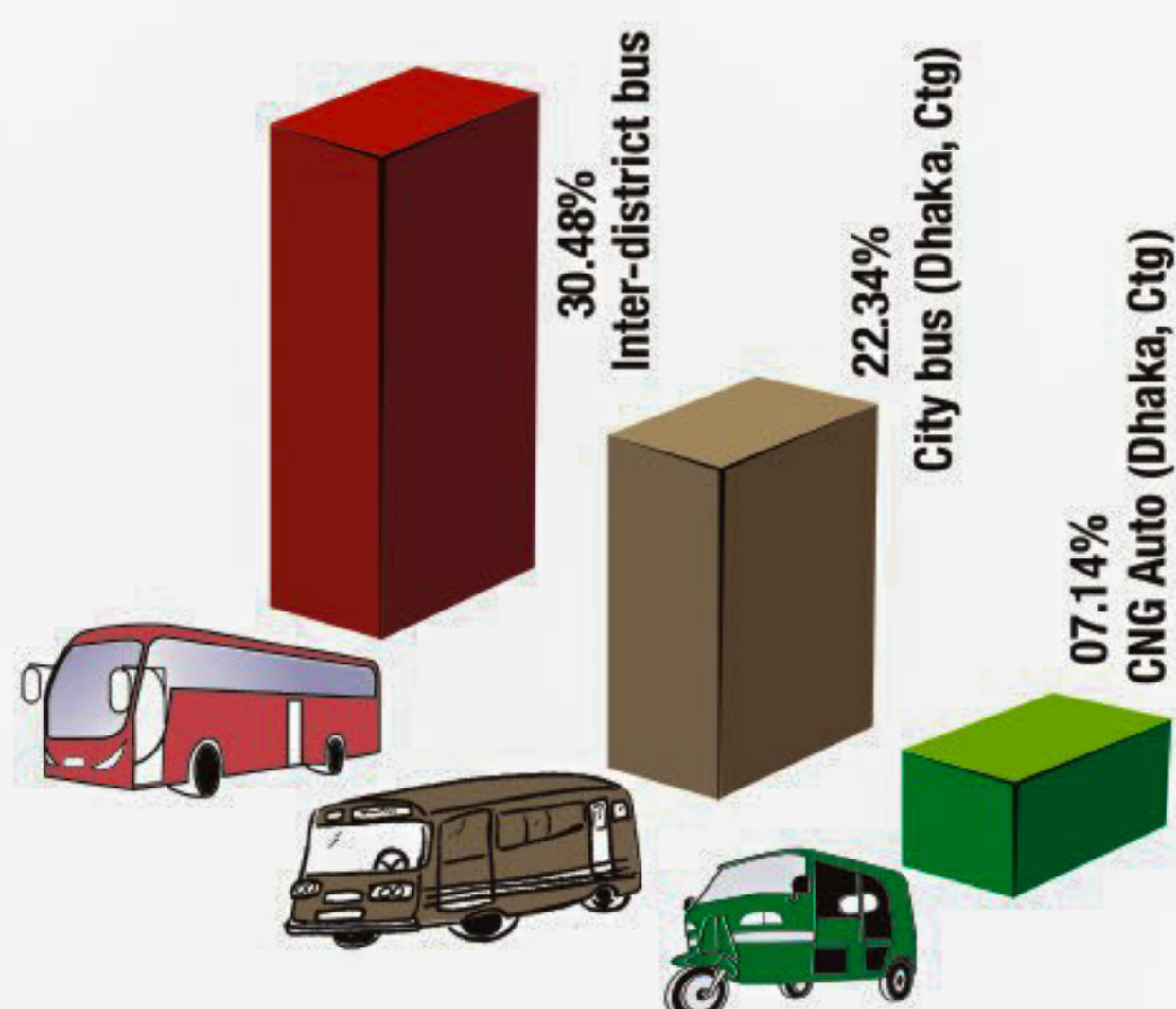
Tk5.

The fares of CNG (Compressed Natural Gas)-run three-wheelers have also been hiked by around seven percent from Tk 7 to Tk 7.50 per km while its waiting charge has been revised from Tk 1.25 to Tk 1.30, which is around four percent.

The new fares were finalised at a marathon meeting between the government and the leaders of transport owner and labour associations at the communications ministry.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

## Rate of hike



## Tax-free income limit to widen

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The limit of tax-free income will be widened in the national budget for the next fiscal year considering the rise in cost of living, said finance ministry officials.

Besides, tax on savings instrument may be lowered in the next budget, they said.

The finance ministry is working on the budget for the fiscal 2011-12 which will be placed in the Jatiya Sangsad on June 9.

The ministry held a series of meetings

2011-12

BUDGET



with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Gano Bhaban on the budget proposals before she went abroad.

The tax-free income limit, which is now Tk 1.65 lakh, may range between Tk 1.90 lakh and Tk 2 lakh.

Now individuals pay 10 to 25 percent tax at different levels of income. The ceiling of taxable income may be upped in the next budget. For example, an individual

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Engine boats are not allowed in Halda river now, during the breeding season of carp. An inter-ministerial body nonetheless visits the river on an engine boat yesterday. Inset, Another boat of the party.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



## High-powered nuisance

*Inter-ministerial body makes a mockery of its protect-Halda river job*

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, Ctg

Human intervention and unplanned government projects now pose an existential threat to the Halda river, one of the world's major natural sweet water fish breeding spots.

It is also the only natural source of carp fishes like ruhi, katol and sprigling in the country.

But the spawning ground of the river has declined over the years due to massive cutting of banks and sand lifting, dumping of industrial waste, setting up of brick kilns on both sides of the river, indiscriminate catching of mother fishes and the unplanned construction of 13 sluice gates, experts say.

A 12-member inter-ministerial team yesterday visited the river to survey its present state.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6