

**ICC SEEKS GADDAFI'S ARREST**

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

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MAMATA'S INDUCTION FRIDAY

She will become the first woman chief minister of West Bengal

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DIEGO'S DUBAI ADVENTURE

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

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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 counselor 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

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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 Ronobagh 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

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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

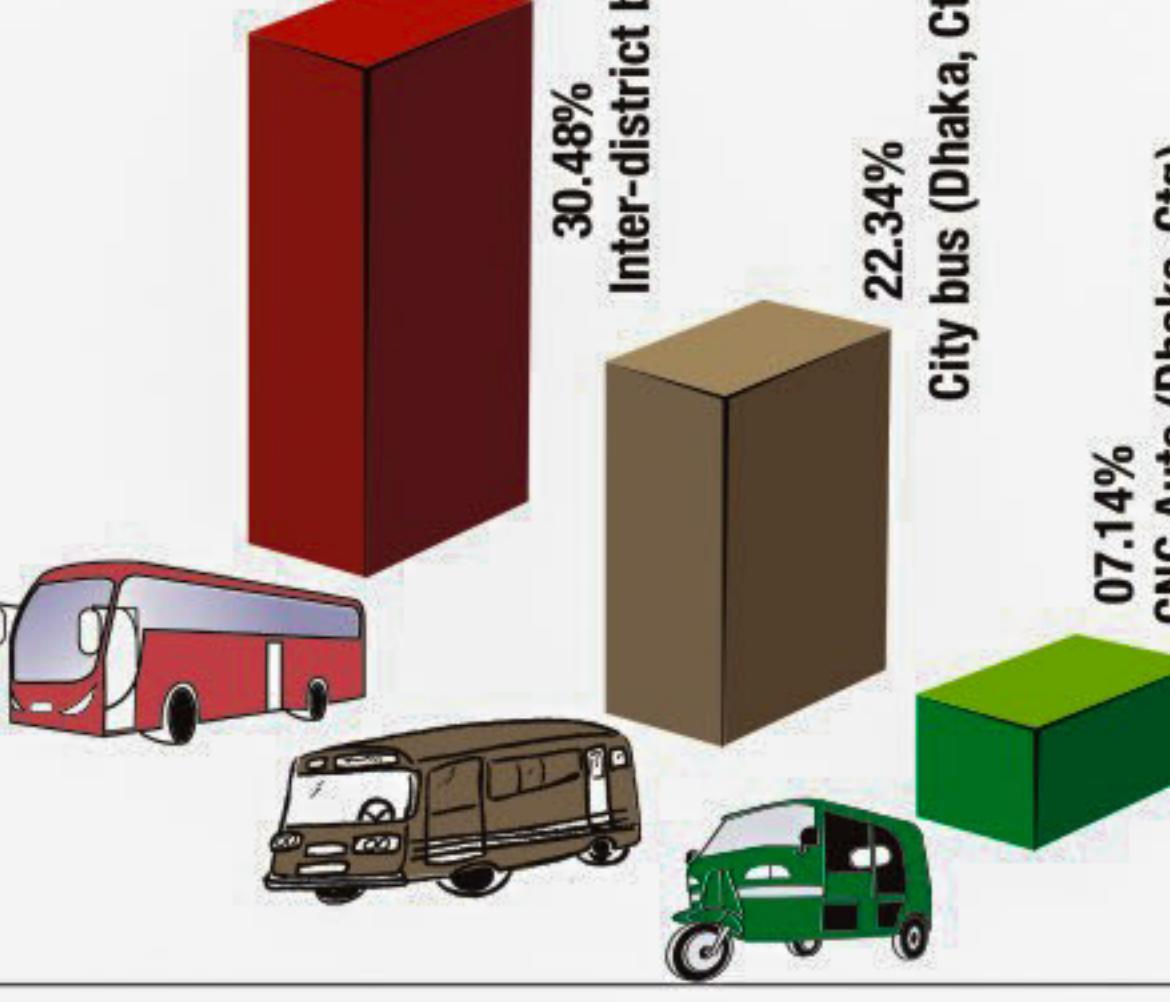
Tk5.

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.

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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

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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 mrigel 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.

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