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People start returning to city as Eid holiday over

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hanging on to their lives on the roofs of a train or crammed inside its generator room, holidaymakers are flocking back to the capital after spending Eid with loved ones.

Bus, launch and train terminals were abuzz with the arrivals yesterday as people beat the infernal travel conditions to get back to their lives.

The public holiday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr was followed by the weekend, giving people a long break from work.

"My office reopens Sunday so I had to return today," said sales manager Kamrul Hasan who just got to Gabtoli bus terminal from Rangpur yesterday.

Around 55,000 to 60,000 people returned to the city via Mohakhali bus terminal yesterday, said Abul Kalam, president of bus owners' association there.

A large number of people also arrived on waterways at city's Sadarghat

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7



The Eid vacation is over. People have started to get back to the capital. Many of them have to travel on the rooftops of trains, although the act is a punishable offence. The photos were taken at Kamalapur Rail Station yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

ROAD TO PEACE Indian govt signs deal with Ulfa

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Aiming to end violence in the troubled north-eastern state of Assam, the Indian government yesterday signed an agreement with Ulfa to set the ball rolling for peace talks.

The agreement, the Suspension of Operation pact, was signed by the Central and Assam governments and Ulfa -- an outfit of 600 insurgents -- to ensure the outfit will not carry out any subversive activities till the finding of a political solution to the vexed insurgency problem, while security forces will also not take any action against Ulfa cadres.

In the first formal peace talks between the banned Ulfa and government in the last 32 years, it discussed various aspects of the ground rules of suspension of operations and how to uphold peace in Assam.

"We had a very good round of talks. The first round spells out the road to political dialogue. It is the harbinger of future

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



RMG EXPORT TO INDIA EPB pushes for quota hike

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) has urged the commerce ministry to take measures to double garment exports to India under duty-free facility or lift the cap on quota, said a top official of the government agency yesterday.

The export quota of 10 million pieces of duty-free garments to India allocated for 2011 has already run out by July as the demand for Bangladeshi apparel is high in India, said EPB Vice-chairman Jalal Ahmed.

He said, now businessmen are asking the EPB to take measures to increase the quota by an additional 10.5 million pieces or eliminate the quota system.

"Recently, I have written a letter to the commerce ministry to take measures to double the quota or lift the cap on quota, as India is becoming a lucrative destination for Bangladeshi garments," Ahmed said.

"I hope the government will raise the issue with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during his visit to Bangladesh," he added.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

INVESTMENT Indian business team arrives next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high-profile business delegation from India is likely to visit Dhaka early next month to look for investment opportunities, said a leader of India-Bangladesh Chamber yesterday.

The seven-member team includes Airtel Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal, RPG Group chairman Harsh Goenka and Tata Steel Vice-Chairman B Muthuraman, said Abdul Matlub Ahmad, president of the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Visit of the three has already been confirmed. We are communicating

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Libya's new leaders set for Tripoli move

Order provincial fighters out of capital

AFP, Tripoli

Libya's new leaders moved to restore order to Tripoli yesterday, instructing fighters from the provinces to go home as they prepared to transfer to the capital from their wartime base in Benghazi.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon said the world body was ready to assist in re-establishing security after the nearly seven-month uprising that ousted Muammar Gaddafi, as Western governments that backed the rebels faced embarrassing questions about their previous complicity with his regime.

There was still no firm word on the whereabouts of the toppled strongman after he defiantly threatened to lead a protracted insurgency in audio tapes aired by Arab media on Thursday.

The victors extended until next week-

end an ultimatum for the surrender of his remaining loyalists but moved troops towards Bani Walid, a desert town south-east of the capital where they suspect Gaddafi may have taken refuge.

"Starting Saturday, there will be a large number of security personnel and policemen who will go back to work," interim interior and security minister Ahmed Darrad told AFP.

"Now the revolutionaries of Tripoli are able to protect their own city."

Darrad said that fighters from the provinces who were instrumental in ousting Gaddafi from the capital had orders to return home in a move aimed at defusing potential tensions with Tripoli residents who endured the ravages of the regime in its dying days.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

5 killed as bus hits microbus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Five people including three of a family were killed and five others injured in a road accident at Kalihati upazila in the district yesterday afternoon.

The accident occurred on Bangabandhu Bridge approach road around 3:15pm when a Rangpur-bound passenger bus from Dhaka collided with a Dhaka-bound microbus from Joypurhat, witnesses said.

Five passengers of the microbus died on the spot. They were identified as Rafi-al-Jabi, 46, of Joypurhat district, his son

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Iajuddin's condition improves

STAR REPORT

The condition of former president Iajuddin Ahmed improved early today, sources at Apollo Hospital said.

He was removed from life support as his condition improved, duty manager of the hospital told The Daily Star around 1:45am.

The former president

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



A seller at the city's Karwan Bazar takes a nap as hardly any customers show up yesterday. The market places were yet to get back the crowds as the city was still in the mood of Eid vacation.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Manmohan owns over Rs 5cr assets 72 Indian ministers' property made public

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's assets exceed Rs 5 crore including term deposits, two houses and a 1996-model Maruti 800 car as per his declaration made public yesterday.

His residential house in Chandigarh has current market value of Rs 90 lakh and a flat in Delhi's posh Vasant Kunj area Rs 88.67 lakh. He has no agricultural or non-agricultural land.

Manmohan Singh's wife Gursharan Kaur has over Rs 11 lakh in savings account in a state-owned bank. The prime minister also has term and bank deposits of around Rs 3.22 crore in various banks.


Out of 77 members of his council of ministers, assets of five of his ministerial colleagues were not given on the PM's website.

As per the website, Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee has assets worth Rs 1.25 crore including flats - one in Munirka in New Delhi and another in Kolkata. His moveable properties include a Ford Ikon car and savings accounts.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it's justified to let out the pavement on the premises of Jatiya Sangsad Bhawan to generate revenue?

Yes (15.9%)

No (82.5%)

No Comments (1.6%)

TOTAL VOTES: 813

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the Teesta water sharing will be done in equitable manner?

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PRAYER TIMING September 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:23	6:26
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation