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PHILIPS

SOUTH JATRABARI Endless woes of commuters

HELEMUL ALAM

A stretch of road in South Jatrabari is less than 500 metres but it is in such a bad shape that it is making life of people in the area miserable.

Popularly known as Kazla Power House Road, which connects Demra Road to Jatrabari Biswa Road, the road is so pothole ridden that businesses there are suffering as people are reluctant to go there.

The link road used to help ease congestion on Dhaka-Chittagong highway and Jatrabari-Demra Road in Jatrabari as vehicles could bypass the clogs during rush hours.

Rickshaws and auto rickshaws that have to cross the road charge higher fares while breakdown of heavier vehicles has become a regular phenomenon on that piece of road.

Motorists complain of having broken axles, ruined shock absorbers, smashed radiators, and dislodged prop shafts on a regular basis.

The holes are so deep at places that they go under knee-to-thigh-deep water after a shower, locals said.

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Construction of the flyover above and repairs on Jatrabari-Sayedabad road in the capital make it look like a mud pool. It is hard to imagine what sort of repairs are being done ahead of the Eid rush with flags warning of holes and iron rods sticking out, inset.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Two ladies push country behind Ershad uncertain about polls

STAR REPORT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said the "two women" have pushed the country backwards and now the next general election has become uncertain.

While launching of a local newspaper in Rangpur, Ershad, a key leader in the Awami League-led ruling grand alliance government, criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for the present "sorry state" of the country.



SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Work hard, steal a little

Indian minister asks officials

AFP, Lucknow

A provincial minister in India's most populous state has sparked a scandal after suggesting to bureaucrats that they could "steal a little" if they performed well in their duties.

Shivpal Singh Yadav, in charge of housing and construction in northern Uttar Pradesh state,

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High prices spoil Eid shopping

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

With Eid shopping at fever pitch in the capital, many shoppers complain high prices are taking the edge off their joy ahead of the festivities.

Despite the pressure on their purses, people continue crowding the shopping malls to make the best buys possible.

"Our budget is limited. In the past, people used to be happy shopping ahead of Eid. But now they come to markets with a lot of tension," Rafeza Zaman Khan, who works at a real estate firm, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The prices of garment items have gone up unexpectedly," she said while

shopping at the city's Mouchak Market. "It's mostly the problem of the middle class."

Delwar Hossain, a lawyer who came to the shopping mall with his wife and two children, said, "The shop owners are asking for very high prices, at least 30 percent higher over the last year."

While bargaining for a sari with a seller, Arifa Akhter, a housewife, said, "The price of every item has increased... shopping is tough nowadays."

The shop owners are not satisfied either; they say sales are not up to the mark this year.

"The sales have gone up compared to

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Huda floats new party

Plans to contest JS polls in all 300 seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP leader Nazmul Huda has floated a new political party, Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Front, and announced that his party would contest for all 300 seats in the next parliamentary election.

A founding member of BNP, Huda made the announcement at an Iftar party in a city hotel yesterday, about two months after his resignation from BNP on June 6.



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AHRC slams cop bribing in Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asian Human Rights Commission in a statement has criticised the police force of Bangladesh for taking a huge amount of bribe from citizens.

"People pay more to the police than to their government", headlined the statement of Hong Kong-based AHRC.

The rights body issued the statement Thursday on its website

www.humanrights.asia. It said policing in Bangladesh had become

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LAUNCH CABINS FOR EID TRIPS Tickets vanish days before sale starts

HELEMUL ALAM and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

With the Eid a week away, cabin tickets of private launches disappeared a day before the owners formally started selling those yesterday.

The ticket seekers who went to Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday had to return empty-handed as tickets of all launches, except for a handful, had been sold out earlier.

And those available were being sold at double or even triple than what the government has set for the Eid rush days, when around 8 to 10 million people leave

Dhaka on launches.

Visiting the terminal on Thursday evening and yesterday morning, The Daily Star correspondents talked to officials and staff of over 20 launches in the guise of passengers, but failed to get a single cabin ticket at a fair price.

Several staff offered them one or two "extra cabins" which are designated as rest rooms for launch master and other staff. Meanwhile, they were also offered tickets at much higher prices.

Allegations are there that only those having connection with launch owners,

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Teesta water deal soon

India pledges again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

India has assured Bangladesh that agreements on Teesta water sharing and land boundary demarcation will soon become a reality.

The assurance was given to Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by Indian Minister for Rural Development Jairam Ramesh, who visited Dhaka early this week.

Ramesh told Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency

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This is a portion of the first colour 360-degree panorama taken on Mars by NASA's Curiosity rover. The mission's destination, a mountain at the centre of Gale Crater called Mount Sharp, can be seen in the distance, to the left, beginning to rise up. Blast marks from the rover's descent stage are in the foreground.

PHOTO: NASA



Historic US town of two on auction

AFP, Los Angeles

A historic American town with a population of two people will be auctioned off on August 15, the auctioneers Williams & Williams said Thursday.

The northwestern town of Garryowen, Montana, little over 7.7 acres, includes houses, a grocery store, a fast food restaurant, a shop and a post office.

"The town has a population of two, making it one of the smallest towns in the United States," reads the auction house's website.

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MR. NOODLES

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

RAMADAN	DATE	SEHRI	IFTAR
22	11 Aug	4.07 am	6.39 pm
23	12 Aug	4.07 am	6.38 pm

PRAYER TIMING August 11

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-12	4-17
Zuma	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-39	6-49
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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