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Thousands start leaving Dhaka city

Homebound people suffer for shortage of transport

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

With the Eid-ul-Fitr on the horizon, many people are making a dash for their home districts while others are going shopping feverishly, aggravating the traffic congestion in the city. Yesterday, the last working day before Eid, was no exception.

Thousands of people thronged Kamalapur Railway Station, Sadarghat launch terminal and the bus terminals throughout the day. They had to negotiate a heavy traffic on their way to the terminal and stations.

"My family and I were stuck for over one and a half hours in Gulistan area on a bus. Later we alighted from

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Hundreds of people crowd the roofs of train compartments risking their lives while leaving Dhaka to share the joy of Eid-ul-Fitr with family members. This picture was taken at the Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Ershad meets Manmohan Dhaka again

assured of no-harm by Tipai project

STAR REPORT

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh yesterday reiterated his government's commitment to signing of the much-cherished Teesta Water Sharing Treaty with Bangladesh and pledged that India would not do anything regarding the Tipaimukh Dam, which could harm its neighbour.

He also said enclaves would be handed over to Bangladesh after ratifying the land boundary treaty to this end in the next session of parliament, reports our correspondent from New Delhi.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2

Zakir finally freed

HC orders accused cops to pay him Tk 20 lakh in compensation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Zakir Hossain, who had been wrongfully serving a life sentence for another Zakir, tried in absentia for murder, was freed yesterday on the orders of the High Court.

Ordering the authorities concerned to release him immediately, an HC bench also directed three police officers to jointly pay Zakir Tk 20 lakh in compensation for making him



offence of his.

The money has to be collected and handed to the victim in six months, said the bench, comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed.

The court also asked the authorities to take departmental action against the trio upon further investigation and to trace as possible the other Zakir, who was convicted in 1996

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

20 witnesses to defend Sayedee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday fixed the number of defence witnesses to 20 for war crimes accused Jamaat

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Biman in hajj trouble

Facing aircraft shortage, decides to manage operations by suspending important flights

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Failing to lease another aircraft to operate extra flights for hajj pilgrims, Biman Bangladesh yesterday decided to run hajj flights by suspending flights on some routes and reducing on some other.

The national flag carrier will now use a

582-seat aircraft leased from AVICO AIR during the hajj season between September 17 and November 30.

Biman board of directors took the decision at a meeting that reviewed tender schedules of five international aircraft leasing companies and found those either

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

One-point movement after Eid

Threatens BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir threatened to launch a one-point movement countrywide

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MR-NOODLES

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

RAMADAN	DATE	SEHRI	IFTAR
26	15 Aug		6.35 pm
27	16 Aug	4.10 am	6.35 pm

PRAYER TIMING August 15

	Asan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-14	4-19
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-35	6-45
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Muggers kill cloth trader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shahjahan Bhuiyan had his Eid shopping done and bought train tickets a week ago to celebrate the festival with his family in Akhaura, Brahmanbaria.

But his journey for home yesterday morning turned to be the eternal trip of his life.

A cloth trader in the capital's Islampur, Shahjahan, 55, was stabbed to death by a gang of muggers in front of his eldest daughter Yasmin Akhter Lovely and grandchildren in Mirpur.

Shahjahan had gone to his daughter's residence at Block-A of Mirpur-6 on Monday evening to take her and his grandchildren to his village home.

At around 5:40am yesterday, he came out of his daughter's apartment to hire a CNG-run auto-rickshaw in order to catch a Chittagong-bound train from Kamalapur Railway Station at 7:40am, said the victim's nephew

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

ILLEGAL WEALTH

ACC sues Mridha, minister's ex-APS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed two cases against the key figures of the railwaygate scandal, Yusuf Ali Mridha and Omer Faruq Talukder, yesterday afternoon in connection with earning wealth illegally.

Both the cases were filed with Ramna police, Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, ACC public relations officer, told The Daily Star.

ACC Assistant Director Rashedur Reja filed the case against Faruq, the sacked assistant personal secretary to former railway minister Suranjit Sengupta, while the commission's Deputy Director Rezaul Hassan Tarafder filed the other case against Mridha, the suspended general manager of Bangladesh Railway (eastern zone).

According to ACC officials, Faruq was sued for earning

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১৫ আগস্ট জাতীয় শোক দিবস

যতদিন রবে, পদ্মা, মেঘনা, গৌরী, যমুনা বহমান ততদিন রবে কীর্তি তোমার শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান।

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the finance minister to accuse Nobel Laureate and Grameen Bank founder Prof Muhammad Yunus of waging "an unnecessary and harmful campaign" against the country?

Yes (7%)

No (91%)

No Comments (2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 225

The Daily Star

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TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the government decision to enrol students in public and private medical colleges on the basis of their SSC and HSC results instead of any admission test?

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যতদিন রবে পদ্মা, মেঘনা গৌরী, যমুনা বহমান ততদিন রবে কীর্তি তোমার বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান।

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