



# 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 SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



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 muchcherished 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.

> **SEE PAGE 6 COL 4 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 immedi-

ately, an HC bench also directed three police officers to jointly pay Zakir Tk 20 lakh in compensation for making him serve time for nearly five years for no offence of his.

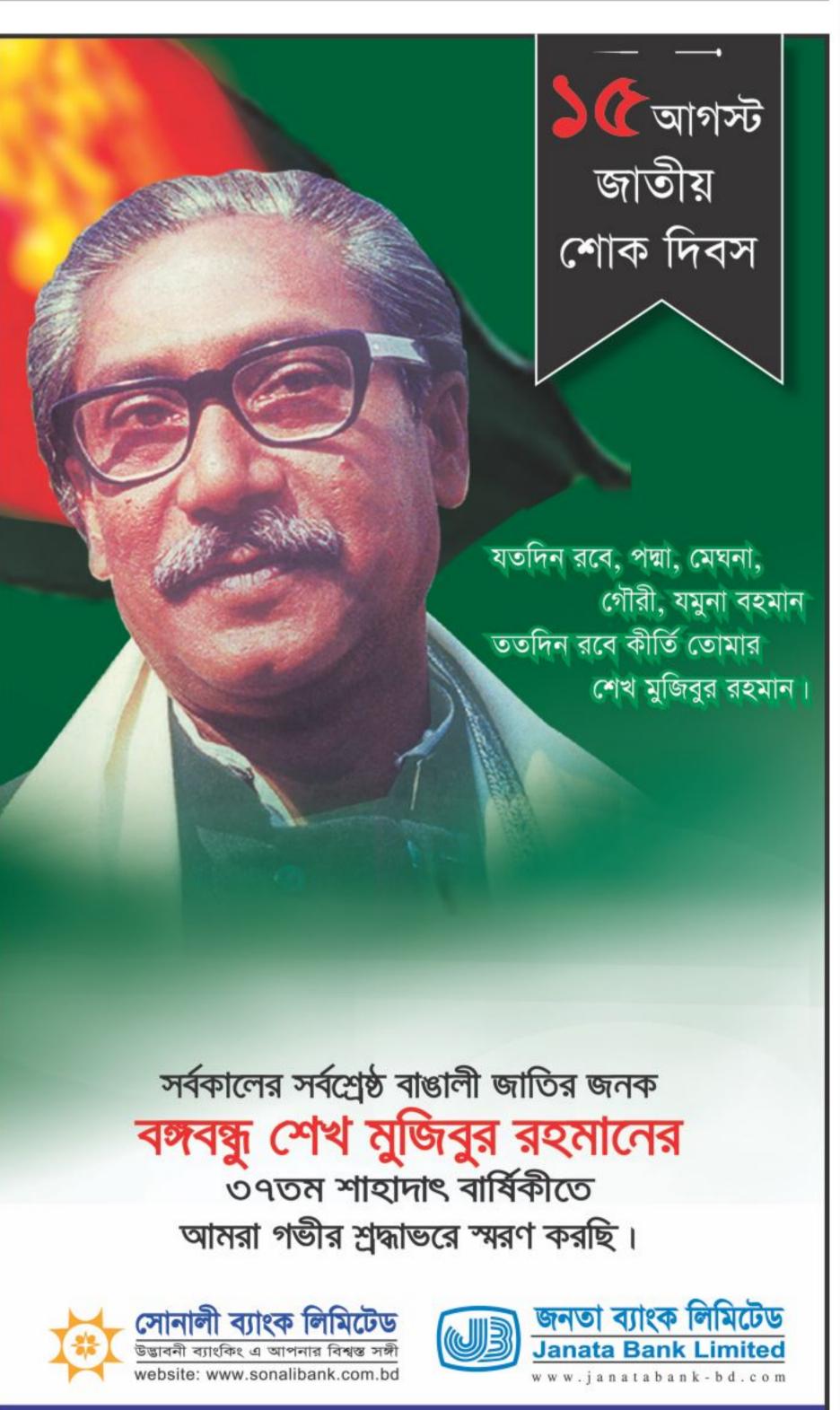
The money has to be collected and handed to the victim in six months, said the bench, comprised of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik and Justice Farid Ahmed.

The court also asked the authorities to take departmental

action against the trio upon further investigation and to trace as early 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

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

operations by suspending important flights 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,

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir threatened to launch a one-point movement countrywide SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

### 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

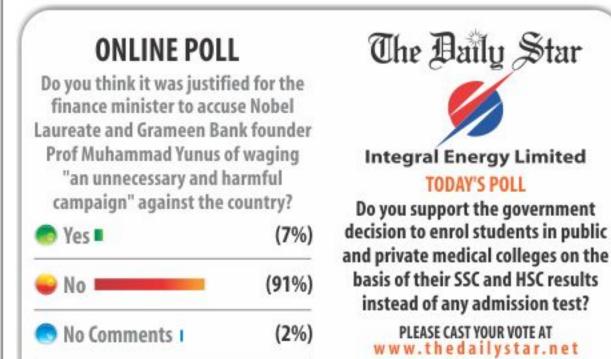
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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 **SEE PAGE 7 COL 8** 



TOTAL VOTES: 225



Biman in hajj trouble

Facing aircraft shortage, decides to manage

The Daily Star

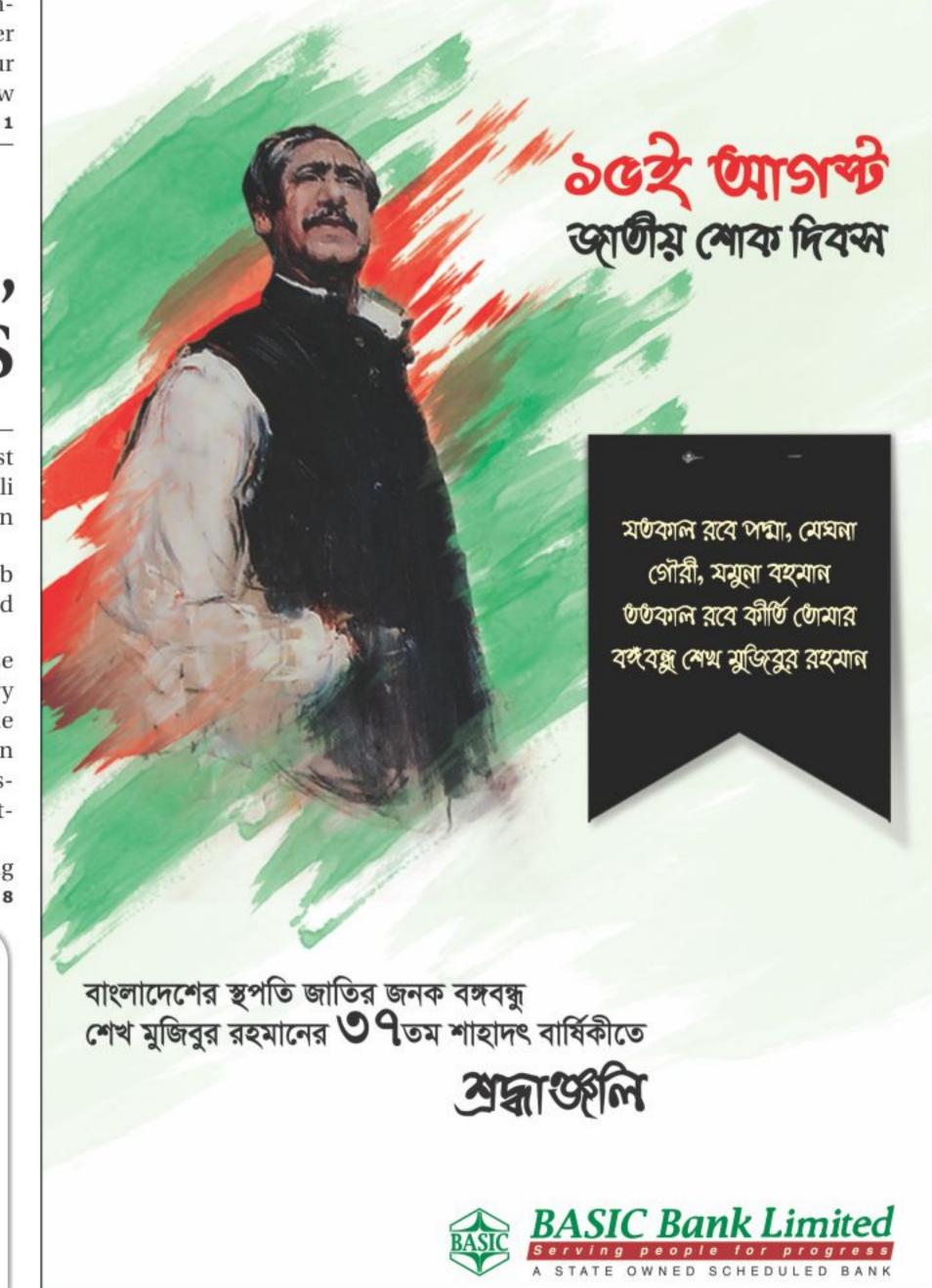
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