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The sprint king reclaims his world title in Moscow
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The 90th birthday of SM Sultan is observed in his home village
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Biman faces cash crunch

Unable to pay fuel bills regularly; arrears stand at Tk 724cr; Padma Oil threatens to stop fuel supply

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Cash strapped Biman owes so much money to Padma Oil for aviation fuel that the oil company has threatened to cut off fuel supply.

As of July 24, the national flag carrier owed Padma Oil Company Ltd, a subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC), an all-time high of Tk 724 crore.

Not getting paid for fuel, Padma Oil's Deputy General Manager (aviation) M Enayet Kabir Chowdhury in a recent letter to Biman said the company may not be able to ensure smooth supply of fuel during the hajj flights when fuel demand rises.

The Biman chief, however, reassured The Daily Star that the hajj flights would go smoothly.

Padma issued the warning after the Biman, which has been in the red for years, failed to keep its promise to pay fuel bills and the dues.

Officials in the oil company said Padma Managing Director Abul Khair had a meeting with Biman Managing Director Kevin Steele on May 8.

They said Steele had promised at the meeting that Biman would regularly pay all bills from then on and with every payment it would pay some of the previous bills to reduce the money it owed to the oil company.

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	FUEL BILL	PAID AMOUNT
May	Tk 58cr	Tk 37cr
June	Tk 56cr	Tk 36cr
July	Tk 47cr	Tk 30cr



Three young men on a motorbike with no helmets plough into a couple crossing a street in Hatirjheel in the capital yesterday at speed. While the three men fall on each other, the woman lands on her face and the husband on his back. The barely six months old child of the couple came off worst. The child, seen under the front wheel of the bike, was rushed to hospital with severe injuries.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Eyes on election

MPs, politicians warm up with informal campaign as they celebrate Eid with their voters

STAR REPORT

Although uncertainty looms large over holding of the next general elections on time, polls "fever" has already hit rural and urban areas, with Awami League and BNP MPs and leaders going on electioneering in several districts during the Eid vacation.

To woo voters and draw grassroots support, leaders of both the parties willing to contest the race conducted mass contacts, held meetings with locals and distributed money, clothes and food grains among the poor, report our district correspondents.

In Chittagong, three ruling AL lawmakers - Shamsul Haque Chowdhury,

Saifuzzaman Javed and ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury -- arranged free bus trips for many holiday makers, who went to their village homes from the upazila headquarters to celebrate Eid.

The three MPs hired 13 BRTC buses from the port city for Tk 9,500 per bus a day, BRTC sources told The Daily Star. Shamsul hired six buses for four days, Saifuzzaman hired three buses for four days and Fazle Karim hired four buses for two days.

Contacted, Shamsul said he had been giving such service for the past few years in public interest. Saifuzzaman and Fazle Karim said they followed Shamsul to ensure hassle-free journey for the home-goers.

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REPORT ON MAY CRACKDOWN Odhikar secy remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The detained secretary of rights body Odhikar, Adilur Rahman Khan, was placed on a five-day remand yesterday in connection with a case filed for publishing a "false report" on the crackdown on Hefajat-e Islam in the capital's Motijheel area in May.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested Khan from Gulshan around 10:30pm on Saturday shortly after DB Inspector Ashraf Islam filed a general diary with Gulshan Police Station complaining that Odhikar published a false report



Adilur Rahman Khan

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Row over death figure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It still remains a matter of discussion exactly how many were killed by law enforcers while flushing out Hefazat-e Islam members from Motijheel early May 6, with very recently rights body Odhikar putting the death toll at 61.

The NGO published a report titled "Assembly of Hefazate Islam and Human Rights Violations" on June 10 after "conducting a fact-finding drive" and concluded that 61 people were killed.

Terming the report ill-motivated, police arrested

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'SUCCESSSES' OF AL-LED ALLIANCE Govt set to launch massive campaign

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The billboards grabbed for inscribing success stories of the government are just the beginning of a massive countrywide campaign of the ruling Awami League ahead of the next parliamentary elections.

People are likely to see the massive publicity and campaign of the government from next month.

The campaign to be spearheaded by the information ministry under a project titled "Special Mass Awareness Campaign on Development Activities" is set to begin in mid-September through a weeklong fair in Dhaka.

Supported by all the ministries, the campaign would be launched in different forms like road show, fair, photo exhibition, documentary screening and cultural functions to make people aware of the four-year development work and the Vision 2021.

Unlike other schemes, there is no fixed budget this time as the project would be implemented by taking sponsorship.

The advertisements that have been slapped on the billboards in the city are not a part of the project but a part of the government's campaign, sources in the information ministry said.

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NBR cuts VAT on 3G spectrum fees for telcos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The revenue authority yesterday slashed the value-added tax (VAT) on 3G spectrum fees, in a bid to get mobile operators to participate in the 3G auction.

The carriers will now have to pay a VAT of 5 percent instead of 7.5 percent on the price decided for 3G spectrum in the next month's auction, according to a notice issued by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

The move comes a week after it waived the 15 percent VAT on the revenue the mobile operators are supposed to share, as per the 3G licensing terms, with the telecom regulator.

The waivers will go some way towards appeasing the telecom operators, who threatened not to take part in the 3G auction, scheduled for September 8, if their tax-related disputes were not resolved.

The disputes include an

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NOTICE
The **BUSINESS** does not come out today as the stockmarket was closed yesterday due to Eid-ul-Fitr holidays.



Many, who usually spend Eid holidays at the longest beach of the world in Cox's Bazar, skipped the trip this year fearing they would not be able to return as Jamaat-e-Islami has called for a 48-hour hartal from tomorrow. Considerably fewer holidaymakers were seen at the beach this year.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

GB chairman steps down

Cites 'health reasons'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a surprise move, the government-appointed chairman of Grameen Bank, Khondaker Muzammel Huq, has resigned from the microcredit organisation citing health reasons, a finance ministry official has said.

Huq's sudden resignation last Monday came as a shock to the government, which is accused of muscling in on the Nobel-winning bank.

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Nafis jailed for 30yrs

Father seeks diplomatic efforts for his release

STAR REPORT

A Bangladeshi man has been sentenced to 30 years in prison on Friday for plotting to bomb the US Federal Reserve in New York last year.

Quazi Mohammed Rezwanel Ahsan Nafis, 22, apologised to a judge, to his parents and to the city of New

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Eid joy marred by deaths

Reckless driving on highways kills 52 during holidays

STAR REPORT

At least 52 people were killed and over 122 injured in separate road accidents in and outside the capital during the three-day Eid holiday and yesterday.

Of the deceased, 10 people were killed in a head-on collision between two buses on Bogra-Rangpur highway in Boalia of Gaibandha on Saturday.

In the capital, four people died when they were run over by vehicles while trying to cross streets in Uttara, Rampura, Elephant Road and Mirpur.

In Gaibandha, two buses collided head-on at Boalia of the district leaving the 10 people, mostly women, dead.

Sub-Inspector Ashraf Hossain of Gaibandha Highway Police said around 4:30pm Saturday, a coach heading for Rangpur from Dhaka was trying to overtake a rickshaw at a curve when collided with an oncoming bus.

The coach then fell into a ditch.

Three people died on impact and 30 others were injured. Seven died on their way to hospital.

The driver and conductor of the coach fled the scene.

The accident suspended vehicular movement on the highway for two hours and triggered a traffic jam.

The dead were Shamsu Nahar Begum, 60,

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STONE THROWN INTO TRAIN Passenger killed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Considering it a safer mode of transportation, Priti Das and her husband opted a train journey to set off from Chittagong for a four-day trip to Dhaka on this Eid vacation. Tragically, she died on the way yesterday.

A piece of stone thrown by someone towards the moving train had cost the life of the 24-year-old.

Priti, an engineering student of Southern University, was married to Mintu Kumar Das, a banker, a year and a half ago and lived in Agrabad residential area.

Priti and Mintu boarded the Dhaka-bound Turna Nishita Express from Chittagong Railway Station at 11:00pm.

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Priti Das