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EID-UL-FITR

Bus tickets sold within hours

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Bus tickets for some particular days ahead of Eid were exhausted hours after private operators began selling advance tickets yesterday.

Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated on July 29 or 30.

The demand for tickets for July 24, 25 and 27 was very high and so all tickets to travel on these days were sold in a few hours, bus operators said.

Many passengers failed to get tickets for the days they had planned to travel, even after standing in long queues at different bus counters in the capital for hours.

Passengers said bus operators had intentionally stopped selling tickets, as they wanted to keep those for VIPs or sell those on the black market.

Besides, many passengers alleged that bus operators were charging them additional fare for travel during the Eid rush.

Bus owners refuted the allegations, saying they were charging passengers the government-set fares.

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People queue up at the ticket counter of an inter-city bus service provider at Gabtoli yesterday for get advance tickets for their Eid holidays home. They had been waiting in line since before dawn. Inset, a man shows off the tickets he got for the busiest travelling time of the year.

PHOTO: STAR

This year's fitra fixed at Tk 65

BSS, Dhaka

Fitra, charity gift for the poor before the Eid-ul-Fitr, has been fixed at minimum Tk 65 and maximum Tk 2,000 per head this year.

Sadkatul Fitra Committee fixed the amount at a meeting at Baitul Mukarram conference room, with the Khatib of the national mosque Prof Maulana Mohammad Salah Uddin in the chair, said a press

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SC clears way to save 4 rivers

All private jetties, other structures have to be removed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld its 2010 judgment that cleared the way for removing all structures, excluding the government ones set up to serve public interests, from the rivers around the capital.

The rivers are Shitalakhya, Balu, Turag and Buriganga.

The Appellate Division of the SC dismissed five separate review petitions filed by five commercial companies challenging its 2010 verdict that affirmed a High Court verdict directing the government to remove the structures.

Following yesterday's verdict, the jetties and other structures established by some private commercial

companies within the rivers' boundaries upon the government permission have to be removed.

The companies are City Sugar Industries Ltd, Heidelberg Cement Bangladesh Ltd, Kamal Vegetable Oil Ltd, Molla Salt Industries Ltd and Cimex Cement BD limited.

They submitted the review petitions on different days in 2010 so that their jetties established on Shitalakhya river are not removed by the government.

Earlier in May, the same year (2010), the apex court upheld the HC judgment which directed the government to demarcate the areas of the rivers and to remove all structures from these areas, excluding those established by the government to serve public interests.

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EU to increase aid for Bangladesh

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

The European Union has decided to increase the annual development assistance to Bangladesh to over 100 million Euros from 60 million Euros.

The decision was taken to boost the annual assistance for the next seven years starting from 2014, William Hanna, head of delegation of the European Union to Bangladesh, told The Daily Star in an interview at his office yesterday.

"These are only grants, not loans. So, these are the money that needs to be used very carefully," added the EU ambassador.

Hanna said the assistance would aim at three specific sectors of Bangladesh. Those sectors are: education and skill, food security and nutrition and democracy and good governance.

This amount of the annual aid, however, does not include the financial assistance being given to Bangladesh individually by the 28 countries which are the members of the organisation.

In fact, the annual aid from the EU to Bangladesh is some 500 million Euros, including 150 million Euros from the European Commission and the rest from several EU member states' bilateral programmes, according to the website of the EU delegation to Bangladesh.

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Govt slams Israel over Gaza killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday strongly condemned the killings of innocent Palestinian people by Israeli air-strikes over the last few days.

Terming the killings a serious violation of human rights, the cabinet urged the international community to mount pressure on Israel to immediately stop the heinous attacks on innumerable Palestinians.

The cabinet approved a condemnation motion protesting the attack, Cabinet Secretary M

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A Palestinian relative mourns during the funeral of four members of the Moamer family after they were killed in an Israeli air strike in southern Gaza Strip city of Rafah yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

BCL men beat up journos in DU during football match

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eight journalists were hacked and beaten up by a group of Chhatra League activists of Surya Sen Hall of Dhaka University during a football match on the campus last night.

Two of the journalists were in critical but stable condition and were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are Masudur Rahman of Somoy Television and Galib Ashraf, a former DU correspondent of daily Independent.

The lightly injured are Reza Akash of Manab Kantha, Monirul Islam of Jamuna TV, Arafat Sarkar of Asian Television and

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City sleeps at last

EMRAN HOSSAIN

In the semi-darkness of a city alley, where the only illumination was provided by flickering streetlights, five children ran about amid titters of laughter while imitating their footballing idols as if to mount a well-planned attack on their rivals.

With no home to go, the Mohammadpur urchins moved towards the nearby Shekhertek intersection, dribbling an imaginative soccer ball.

"Pass me the ball," shouted one of them, donning the trademark Argentine jersey -- number 10 etched unmistakably across the back. They love Messi.

At the same time, around 2 am yesterday morning, the real Messi was trying to breach the German wall in an effort to

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
16	15		6-53
17	16	3-50	6-52
18	17	3-50	6-52

PRAYER TIMING July 15

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	3-54 3-59
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	5-00 5-15
Maghrib	6-53 7-03
Esha	8-15 8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Jessore university shut after BCL clash kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

An activist of Bangladesh Chhatra League, the pro-Awami League student wing, was killed in factional clash at Jessore University of Science and Technology (JUST) yesterday afternoon.

The deceased was identified as Naimul Islam Riyad, 23, a fourth-year student of Environmental Science and Technology Department.

Riyad, son of Manirul Islam of Dhaka, was a resident of Mashiur Rahman Hall of the university.

Jelal Hossain Jewel, a BCL activist, said nine hired goons, arriving in three motorbikes, swooped on Riyad with sharp weapons near the university gate at around 2:00pm.

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Naimul Islam Riyad

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you believe that the government would be able to repair all the highways across the country by July 20?

Yes (07%) No (93%)

TOTAL VOTES: 292

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia that current parliament has become a club of clowns?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation

Paribahan Bhaban
21, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka-1000

Memo No. 35.04.0000.012.00.491.2014(Part-1)-166 Dated: July 13, 2014

Procurement of Training Car with Auto Transmission by BRTC

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) has procured 04 (four) Toyota cars with auto transmission to be used for the 1st time in driving training at Tongipara Training Institute, a Training Institute is being constructed under GOB Project namely "Construction of BRTC Training Institute at Tongipara". The trainees will be able to get quality driving training using these Training Cars.

A.S.M. Abdul Karim
GM (Tech)/I/C-Planning Division
BRTC, Phone: 9568739

GD-2808