

RAIN LIKELY



Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at a few places over Rangpur, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places over the country, Met Office said. Day and night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:48pm and rises tomorrow at 5:50am.

Country's highest temperature 36.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday in Faridpur and lowest 22.4 degrees in Srimangal.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in Celsius
Max: 34.7
Chittagong 32.7
Rajshahi 35.7
Rangpur 31.0

Humidity in percentage
Morning 73
Evening 66
Chittagong 85
Rajshahi 76
Rangpur 98

Temperature in Celsius
Max: 36.0
Barisal 35.3
Sylhet 32.0
Cox's Bazar 34.0

Humidity in percentage
Morning 25.8
Evening 76
Barisal 25.4
Sylhet 24.0
Cox's Bazar 25.5

EMBEZZLING SEIZED GOLD ACC quizzes nine cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday questioned nine witnesses, including two assistant police commissioners, in a case filed over embezzlement of 165 gold bars seized from a car in the capital's Banasree on March 13.

ACC Deputy Director Jatan Kumar Roy, who took statements of the nine policemen, said they got some important clues but they would not disclose those for the sake of investigation.

The assistant commissioners are Moinul Islam and Iqbal Hossain of Demra and Khilgaon zones in Dhaka Metropolitan Police respectively.

The case, filed by the ACC on April 7, accuses Rampura Police Station's sub-inspector Manjurul Islam, constables Wahiduzzaman and Akash Chowdhury, their informer Mahfuz Alam Rony and driver of a police-carrying vehicle Sojib Sikder.

On March 13, a group of smugglers abandoned 235 gold bars in the car in Banasree after being chased by the three policemen of Rampura Police Station. But the team recorded seizure of only 70 gold bars.

Surprisingly, the driver of the abandoned car, Samir Biswas, along with alleged smuggler Jahid Hossain went to Rampura Police Station to get their car back four days after the incident.

When police arrested the duo, Samir claimed that there were a total of 235 gold bars in the car, not 70.

Detectives held the accused five on March 31

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Schoolgirl raped in Sylhet

Teachers, fellows demonstrate seeking arrest of accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A local Awami League leader's son allegedly raped a 10-year-old schoolgirl in Sylhet's Sadar upazila Saturday prompting her teachers and fellows to demonstrate before the school in the area yesterday demanding the culprit's arrest.

The victim's father filed a case with Airport police accusing Ripon Ahmed, 25.

Ripon raped the girl at a graveyard near the school where she studies, said the case statement adding that he took her there from a nearby roadside shop where she came to buy fruits.

As the victim cried for help, locals rescued her while the culprit fled the scene, it said.

Around 500 demonstrators also rallied and blocked Sylhet-Bholaganj road there for an hour.

The victim was admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital's One Stop Crisis Centre, said Officer-in-Charge Md Shahjaman.

While talking to his father over mobile, Ripon denied the allegation of raping the girl, said the AL leader.

The OC said they were trying to arrest Ripon who was on the run.

JCD gen secy on 3-day remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal General Secretary Habibur Rashid Habib and six others on a three-day remand each in a case over vandalising vehicles on September 22.

With this case, JCD leader Habib is now facing 97 cases. The court granted the remand when they were produced before it with a request that they be taken on a 10-day remand.

Immigration police detained Habib while he was set to leave Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport for the USA on Friday night.

Police on Saturday showed him arrested in the case filed on September 22 in connection with vandalising vehicles on Dhaka University campus during BNP-led 20-party alliance's hartal.

Jayalalithaa

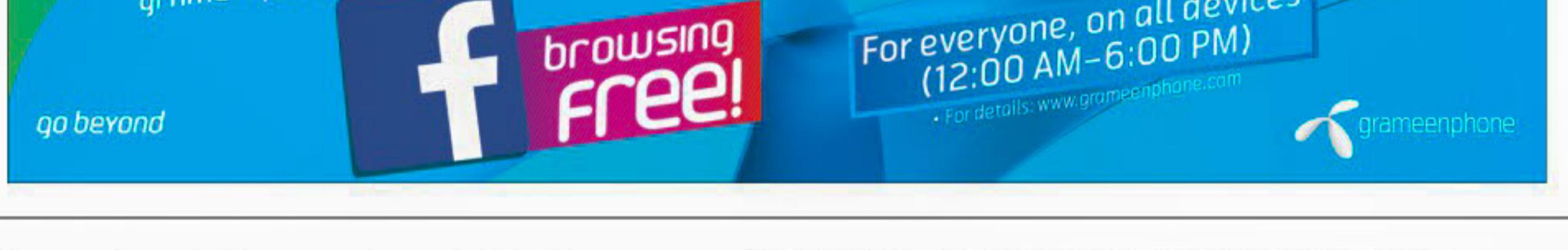
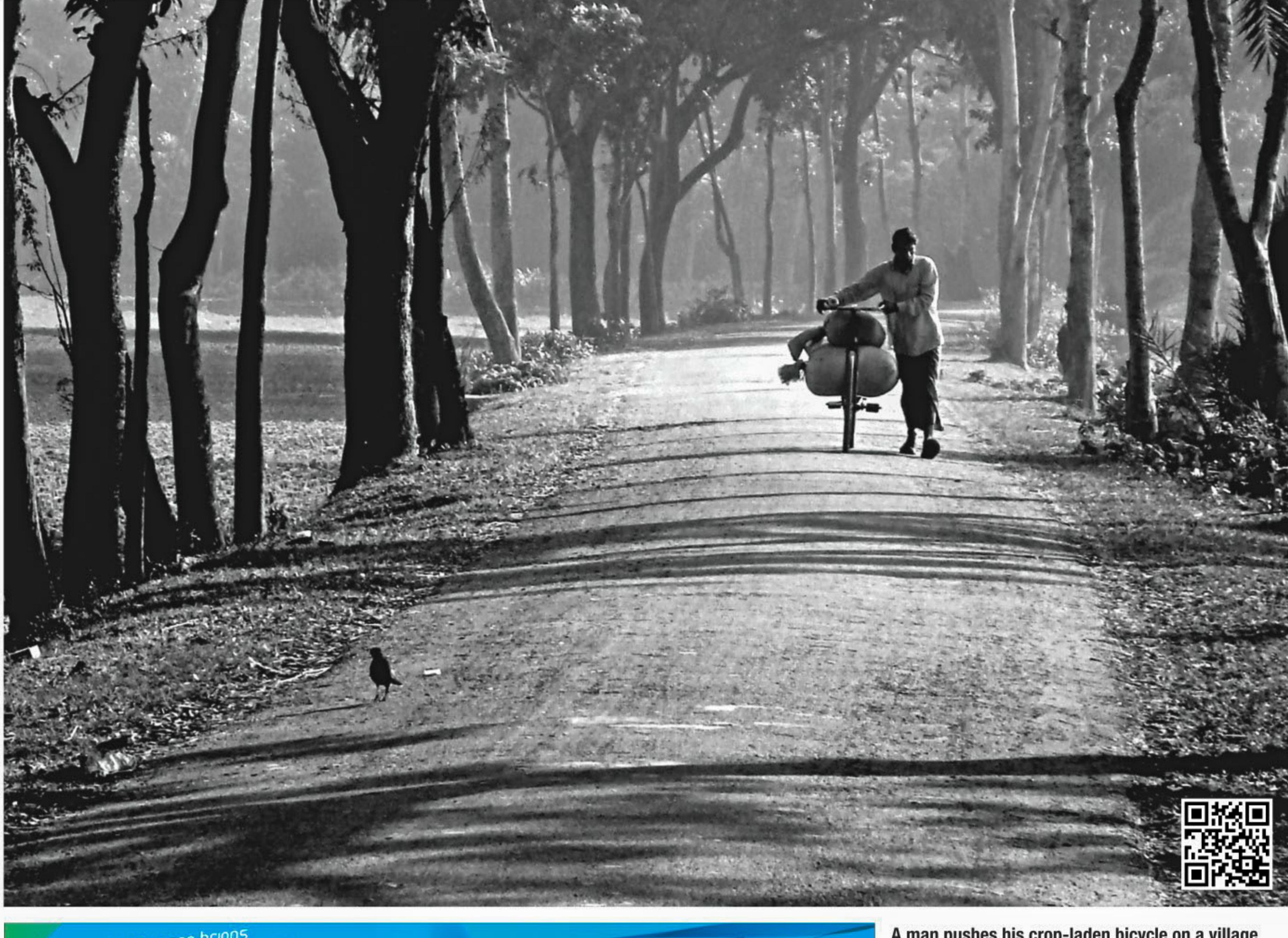
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Bangalore jail to arrange the handover, a party official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

"As our supremo, Jayalalithaa has advised cabinet colleagues and party leaders to convene a meeting of all lawmakers in Chennai later in the day and elect a leader to serve as our chief minister," he said.

Her lawyer yesterday said he would appeal to the Karnataka High Court, seeking her release on bail, and separately press the court to order a stay on her conviction -- a move that could overturn the ban.

Fresh protests broke out yesterday against the ruling in Chennai and Bangalore, where hundreds of mainly female supporters screamed, wailed and threw themselves on the ground.

The Daily Star PHOTO CONTEST in Pixel



A man pushes his crop-laden bicycle on a village road in Jessore. The photographer was among the nine finalists of The Daily Star photo contest, inPixel, with the theme 'Beautiful Bangladesh'. Scan the QR Code to like or share or comment on the image on Facebook.

PHOTO: TANMOY MISHRA

NEWBORNS TRAFFICKING RACKET

Two arrested
Two-day-old girl rescued in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion arrested two women in connection with stealing and selling newborns and rescued a two-day-old girl from their possession at a clinic in the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The arrestees are Bibha Biswas, 35, owner of Life Care Nursing Home, and Rabeya Begum, 50, a broker.

A team of Rab intelligence, pretending as customers, contacted the clinic on Babar Road for a newborn and made the arrest around 4:00pm while they were handing the baby over to them on a deal of Tk 1.5 lakh. "We had to pay them Tk 40,000 in advance," said Lt Col KM Azad, commanding officer of Rab-2.

One Bilkis brought the baby from a clinic at Nayabazar in the Old Dhaka, he added.

But Rab is yet to reveal the identity of the newborn as they could not detain Bilkis. They suspected that the baby was either stolen or abandoned by her family.

The Rab officials conducted the drive after collecting information that owners and staff of some unregistered clinics, including the one they raided, are involved in an illegal trade of newborns.

SUBHAN'S WAR CRIMES TRIAL

Prosecution's laxity annoys court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday spoke to the prosecution with reproach for providing two different birth dates of war crimes accused Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdus Subhan in their documents.

"You took matters so lightly," Chairman of the three-member tribunal Justice Obaidul Hassan told prosecutor Sultan Mahmud Simon before asking which one was to be accepted.

The issue came up during the cross-examination of the 31st prosecution witness, Noor Hossain, also the second investigation officer of the case, by defence counsel Mizanul Islam.

Asked how the date, September 1929, in one of the documents was obtained, Noor said it was from a leaflet distributed during Subhan's election campaigns.

Another document submitted to the prosecution by the investigation agency for the preparation of the charges mentioned it to be "1936".

The investigation officer brought the information relying upon a document of

Jamaat and the prosecution used it, said the chairman with disappointment apparent in his tone.

To another question, Noor said he did not know whether Subhan was an elected chairman of Goyeshwar Union of Pabna Sadar in 1958.

He also said he could not find the exact date of the formation of Razakar, Al-Badr and Al-Shams, the auxiliary forces of the Pakistani occupation army, in Pabna district.

However, he got to know that the Razakar force came about after the formation of the Peace Committee on the first week of May 1971, added Noor.

On Wednesday Noor testified to his investigations into the allegations against Subhan, the Ameer of Pabna Jamaat in 1971, stating that he submitted the probe report after finding "preliminary proof" of Subhan's alleged crimes.

Subhan, a nayeb-e-ameer of Jamaat, faces nine charges including that of genocide committed in Pabna during the Liberation War in 1971.

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No formalin found in fruits in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday found no formalin in 62 samples of 37 different types of fruits picked randomly from markets in the capital's Uttara.

Monir Hossain, field officer at Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI), and Shafiqul Islam Sarker, a forensic chemist at Rapid Action Battalion Headquarters, conducted the tests.

The tests were done on fruits from four fruit shops in BDR Bazar, two in Rajlaxmi Supermarket, one in Kushal Centre, and New Dedar Super Shop.

"The chemical tests have found no presence of formalin in the fruits," said Rab Executive Magistrate AHM Anwar Pasha, who led the mobile court.

"We hope the traders are not using formalin because of the recent anti-formalin drives," he added.

The mobile court used chemical test method of US-based Association of Analytical Chemists that is followed by the BSTI.

In this method, fruits are washed in chromotropic acid dissolved in water. Purple rings are seen in the solution if there is formalin in fruits, said BSTI Director Kamal Prashad Das.

Many return home

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yesterday to get advance train tickets to celebrate Eid with their families.

Many stayed at the station overnight, while others rushed there early morning.

"I came to the station right after Fazr prayers. Nevertheless, I had to stand behind about 35 people, and could not get any ticket as the railway staff claimed the tickets were sold out," said Jashim Uddin, seeking tickets for trains on the Dhaka-Khulna route.

However, Bangladesh Railway is rhetorically stating about the demand for tickets being extremely high compared to its supply.

"Our capacity is limited, but the demand for tickets is increasing. This is why ticket crisis is intensifying," said Syed Jahirul Islam, director (traffic) of Bangladesh Railway.

A total of 25 percent of tickets are sold online, 5 percent are kept for VIPs and 5 percent for railway staff. So, 65 percent of the tickets are sold from counters, he said.

Meanwhile, those having secured tickets were in a cheerful mood in contrast to the gloomy atmosphere surrounding empty-handed people.

"I had to suffer a lot to get tickets. But all my sufferings were worth it as I will be able to celebrate Eid with my parents," said Zahid Sourav, a Jagannath University student.

A person can purchase a maximum of four tickets from Kamalapur Railway Station. Around 20,000 advance tickets of intercity trains are sold daily.

Meanwhile, Government Railway Police held nine people on suspicion of selling tickets on the black market.

Private bus and launch operators have already sold out advance tickets, and will start running special services about three to four days before Eid depending on demand of the passengers.

Besides, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) will start special services on October 2.



Winners and finalists of The Daily Star photo contest "inPixel" with the theme "Beautiful Bangladesh" during the award giving ceremony at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. Pinu Rahman, third from right, clinched the first position while Abir Tanmoy, second from right, became second.

PHOTO: IFTAKHAR HUSEYIN