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# People crowd trains, launches

## Bus passengers suffer on Dhaka-Tangail highway

STAR REPORT

People in large numbers thronged the railway station, bus and launch terminals in the capital yesterday in a frenzy to reach home and celebrate Eid and puja holidays with their families outside Dhaka.

All trains and launches leaving Dhaka were packed like sardines but buses were less crowded. Even the roofs of trains and launches were crowded.

However, those who opted for road transport had to face hurdles on the way as the Dhaka-Tangail highway saw congestion throughout yesterday and vehicles moved slowly on the Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-Chittagong highways.

Cattle-carrying trucks heading for Dhaka from northern districts aggravated the situation on the 65km highway stretch between Chandra of Gazipur and Bangabandhu Bridge, reported our Tangail correspondent.

Vehicles heading for 26 districts -- 16 northern, five south-western and five of greater Mymensingh districts -- use the highway.

"I started from Mohakhali Bus Terminal at 7:00am and reached Tangail at 2:00pm due to traffic jams, especially at Chandra intersection," said bus driver Shyamol Saha.

Usually, it's a two-hour trip.

"We face untold sufferings going home every Eid due to the traffic jam. Things remained unchanged this year too,"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Desperate to go home before Eid, people at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday risk their lives trying to get on an already-overcrowded train. There was a potential of a stampede and police eventually had to charge truncheons on passengers to get them off a locomotive.



PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

# SIM buyers to face stricter verification

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a bid to check extortion by issuing threats over the phone, the government will verify the national identity cards of new mobile phone subscribers before activating their SIM cards.

Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu told this to journalists yesterday after a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order at the home ministry.

Once the NID is verified by the authorities concerned, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission will give clearance to cell phone operators for

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

# Doping gangs in city on the prowl

## More than 200 fell victim in one month

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

College student Sufian Kazi was returning to the capital from Narayanganj by a bus on Tuesday.

When the bus reached the Shanir Akhra area, a hawker got in and offered sweet pickles for free to some 10 passengers to taste those before buying.

As Sufian, aged about 20 years, tasted the pickles, he felt sick. Alighting from the bus at Jatrabari, he phoned his elder brother to inform him about his sickness.

He then hired a CNG-run three-wheeler to his brother's office at Motijheel. Minutes after reaching there, he fell unconscious.

Sufian's brother took him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where

he was nursed back to health 12 hours later.

"As I felt sick, I realised that what I ate was not safe," the victim told this correspondent at the hospital.

Physicians said the patient became unconscious from the poison in pickles. They suspected the hawker might have been a member of a drugging gang.

Sufian was lucky enough not to have lost his wallet and mobile phone to the gang. But many others even lost their Eid bonus along with other valuables to these gangs.

Several such gangs have been active in the capital in recent weeks, said officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Passengers on buses, trains and launches as well as cattle traders are the targets of the thugs.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

# Kumari Puja celebrated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindu devotees yesterday celebrated Maha Ashtami, offering obeisance to Goddess Durga, at different Puja mandaps (marquees) across the country.

The major attraction of Maha Ashtami is Kumari Puja, in which a pre-pubescent girl is worshipped as "Mother Goddess". During the five-day Sharodiya Durgotsab, Goddess Durga is worshipped in her different forms and one of those is Kumari, the virgin form of the deity.

Maha Navami began just after Kumari Puja yesterday to continue until early

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

# PROTESTS FOR DEMOCRACY I won't quit

## Hong Kong leader rejects calls to stand down as protesters remain defiant

AFP, Hong Kong

Hong Kong's embattled leader defiantly rejected demands to resign and sent his deputy to talk to pro-democracy demonstrators, as huge crowds rallied outside his government's besieged headquarters early today for a fifth consecutive night.

Huge throngs who have shut down central areas of the city with mass sit-ins all week had set a midnight deadline for Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying to step down and for Beijing guarantee the former British colony full democracy.

But moments before the deadline was set to expire, Leung appeared before reporters and flatly rejected those demands.

"I will not resign because I have to continue with the work for elections," he said, referring to upcoming polls in

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

# UK "MILITANT" Cops hunt for more suspects

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives are now on the hunt for those who met the alleged ISIS recruiter, arrested in Dhaka, after he arrived in Bangladesh in February.

"We could not arrest all of those who met the British citizen [of Bangladesh origin]. We need to arrest all of them to learn more about

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5

PRAYER TIMING October 3

Fazr	Azan	Jamaat
4:45	4:45	5:20
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:53	5:56
Esha	7:30	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Trucks with animals meant for sacrifice during Eid at Ashulia on the Dhaka-Tangail highway heading towards the capital yesterday.

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the BNP leader Tarique Rahman to say that Bangladesh's independence and sovereignty are not safe in Hasina's hand?

Yes (59%)

No (41%)

TOTAL VOTES: 275

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain that politics in the country has now turned into a profession where politicians use it to make quick bucks?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

# Cattle markets in city still dull

HELEMUL ALAM

The sale of sacrificial animals ahead of Eid-ul-Azha is yet to gain momentum due to a low turnout of customers in almost all the 17 cattle markets in the capital.

The traders, however, hope that the markets will be abuzz with customers from today as people will get two public holidays before the Eid holidays that begin from Sunday.

Meanwhile, fear and anxiety over a successful sale of the cattle still grips the traders since they suffered huge loss in last two years.

"I am very anxious as I could not sell any of the 13 bulls I have brought from Nature on Wednesday," said Anowar

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

# Hope for the sightless

## Special stem cell in human eye can cure blindness

THE TELEGRAPH ONLINE

Hundreds of thousands of people who are registered blind have been offered new hope after scientists discovered special stem cells in the human eye which can be altered to pick up light.

Researchers at the University of Southampton have discovered a reservoir of stem cells in an area of the eye called the corneal limbus.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আসন্ন পবিত্র ঈদ-উল-আযহা নিরাপদ ও নির্বিঘ্নে উদ্‌যাপনের জন্য সম্মানিত জনসাধারণকে নিম্নোক্ত পরামর্শ গ্রহণের অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে :

- ঈদের প্রাক্কালে যারা ঢাকার বাইরে যাবেন তাঁরা সময় নিয়ে ভ্রমণ পরিকল্পনা করবেন, যাতে শেষ মুহূর্তের ট্রেন, বাস, লঞ্চ ও ফেরীঘাটের মারাত্মক ভীড় এড়িয়ে নির্বিঘ্নে প্রিয়জনের সাথে ঈদের আনন্দ উপভোগ করতে পারেন।
- নিজের জীবনের ঝুঁকি নিয়ে অতিরিক্ত যাত্রী হয়ে ট্রেন, বাস, লঞ্চ বা স্টিমারে চলাচল করবেন না। ট্রেন/লঞ্চ/বাসের ছাদে/ট্রাকে ভ্রমণ করবেন না। যথাসম্ভব ভীড় এড়িয়ে নিরাপদে ভ্রমণ করুন।
- দ্রুতগতিতে গাড়ি চালাতে চালককে তাগিদ দেবেন না। চালক যাতে নিয়মতান্ত্রিকভাবে গাড়ি চালায় সে দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখুন।
- রেল স্টেশন, বাস ও লঞ্চ টার্মিনালে, যাত্রা পথে অপরিচিত কোন ব্যক্তির কাছ থেকে খাবার সামগ্রী ও পানীয় গ্রহণ করবেন না।
- কোন ব্যক্তিকে অজ্ঞান পাটি/প্রতারক চক্রের সদস্য সন্দেহ হলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে নিকটস্থ পুলিশকে জানান।
- মহাসড়কের উপর কোরবানীর পত্তর হাট বসানো থেকে বিরত থাকুন।
- ট্রাক, লঞ্চ, ট্রলার ইত্যাদি পরিবহনে অতিরিক্ত পত বোঝাই করবেন না।
- পত্তর হাটে অর্থ লেনদেনের ক্ষেত্রে সতর্কতা অবলম্বন করুন, প্রয়োজনে পুলিশের সহায়তা নিন। কোন নোট জাল সন্দেহ হলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে নিকটস্থ পুলিশকে অবহিত করুন।
- পত্তর হাটে নির্ধারিত হারে হাসিল পরিশোধ করুন। কেউ অতিরিক্ত হাসিল অথবা চাঁদা দাবি করলে নিকটস্থ পুলিশকে অবহিত করুন।
- অস্থায়ী চামড়া ভ্রম কেন্দ্রে পর্যাপ্ত নিরাপত্তা প্রদানে পুলিশ সচেষ্ট রয়েছে। পত্তর চামড়া যাতে পাচার না হয় সে ব্যাপারে সতর্ক থাকুন। কাউকে চামড়া পাচারকারী সন্দেহ হলে স্থানীয় পুলিশকে জানান।
- কোন ব্যক্তি/স্বাস্থ্য যাতে অমূলক ঘটনা/গুজব সৃষ্টির মাধ্যমে জনগণকে বিভ্রান্ত করে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা পরিস্থিতির অবনতি ঘটতে না পারে সে ব্যাপারে সতর্ক থাকুন। এ ধরনের পরিস্থিতি সৃষ্টি হলে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী বাহিনীর সদস্যদেরকে অবহিত করুন।
- প্রয়োজনে সহায়তার জন্য পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টারের কন্ট্রোল রুম- ৯৫৬১৯৬৭, ৯৫৬০৬৬১, ০১৭৬৯৬৯০০৩৩, ০১৭৬৯৬৯০০৩৪, ঢাকা মহানগর পুলিশ কন্ট্রোল রুম- ৯৫১৪৪০০, ৯৫৫১১৮৮, ০১৭১৩৩৯৮০১১, এসবি কন্ট্রোল রুম- ৯৩৩৩২১৭, ০১৭২০৯৯৬৪০৩, সিআইডি কন্ট্রোল রুম- ৯৩৩১০৪৩, ০১৭১৪৩৯৫৩৭১, র‍্যাপিড অ্যাকশন ব্যাটালিয়ন (র‍্যাব) কন্ট্রোল রুম- ৭৯১৩১১৭, ০১৭৭৭২০০২৯, ফায়ার সার্ভিস সেন্ট্রাল কন্ট্রোল রুম- ৯৫৫৫৫৫৫-৭, ০১৭৩৩৩৩৬৬৯৯ নম্বরে এবং জেলা পুলিশ সুপার ও থানার অফিসার ইনচার্জ (ওসি) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।

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