



Indigenous people show red cards from a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday, symbolising their rejection of the home ministry's recent 11-point rule restricting foreign visitors' entry into the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) and the 15th constitutional amendment which identifies them as "small ethnic groups". Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Hill Women's Federation, and Gonotantrik Jubo Forum jointly organised the protest programme.

PHOTO:  
ANISUR RAHMAN

## ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING Government starts three-year drive

Promises to work with international community

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry organised the programme with the assistance of USAID Bangladesh.

Realising the exploitations of men, women, and children under the modern-day slavery, the government is putting importance on the fight against trafficking by all means, said Mozammel Haq Khan, senior secretary at the home ministry.

"The national action plan... has focused on a consolidated framework for the national response to combat internal and cross-border human trafficking in Bangladesh," he mentioned.

Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Khandker Md Iftekhar Haider said his ministry was committed to working with the private sector to explore employment opportunities for migrant jobseekers. "Our involvement in combating human trafficking is a must," he added.

"Unfortunately, human trafficking is taking place in Bangladesh. It has become a country of origin. It is a transit country. It is also a destination country. That's why it has become difficult for Bangladesh to deal with human trafficking alone," said Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque.

There must be international cooperation, he said.

Mentioning the reasons behind Bangladeshis being victims of trafficking, the foreign secretary said the action plan should take into account individuals' desperation, social factors, and regular migration.

2 Bangladeshis,  
7 Myanmarese held in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven Myanmarese and two Bangladeshi men were arrested for their alleged involvement in a regional human trafficking syndicate from Malaysia's Kedah state on Monday, reports Malaysian daily The Star.

The suspects are being investigated, Tan Sri Khalid Abu Bakar, Malaysian police chief, told reporters after the closing ceremony of an anti-human trafficking seminar at the police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

He, however, did not reveal the details about the arrestees.

Contacted, Sayedul Islam, counselor (labour wing) at Bangladeshi High Commission in Kuala Lumpur, said they did not have any information about the Bangladeshis.

The issue of human trafficking in the Southeast Asian region mainly in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia came into the international media since the discovery of mass graves of the Rohingya and Bangladeshi migrants last month.

## Advance ticket sale for Eid travel starts Friday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private bus operators will start selling advance tickets on Friday to assist holidaymakers in reaching their destination ahead of Eid to be celebrated either on July 18 or 19.

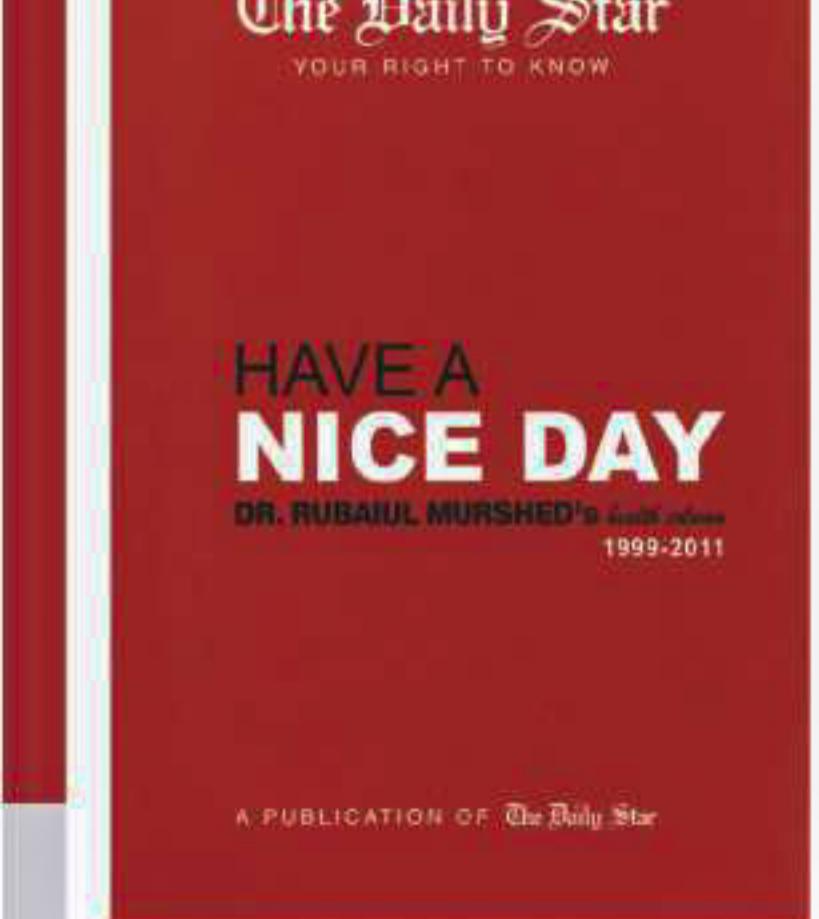
The state-run Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will start the sale on July 10 and Bangladesh Railway on July 9.

Launch owners do not sell

advance tickets through formal announcement. Most of the cabin tickets are booked by influential and privileged sections, while deck tickets are sold on board.

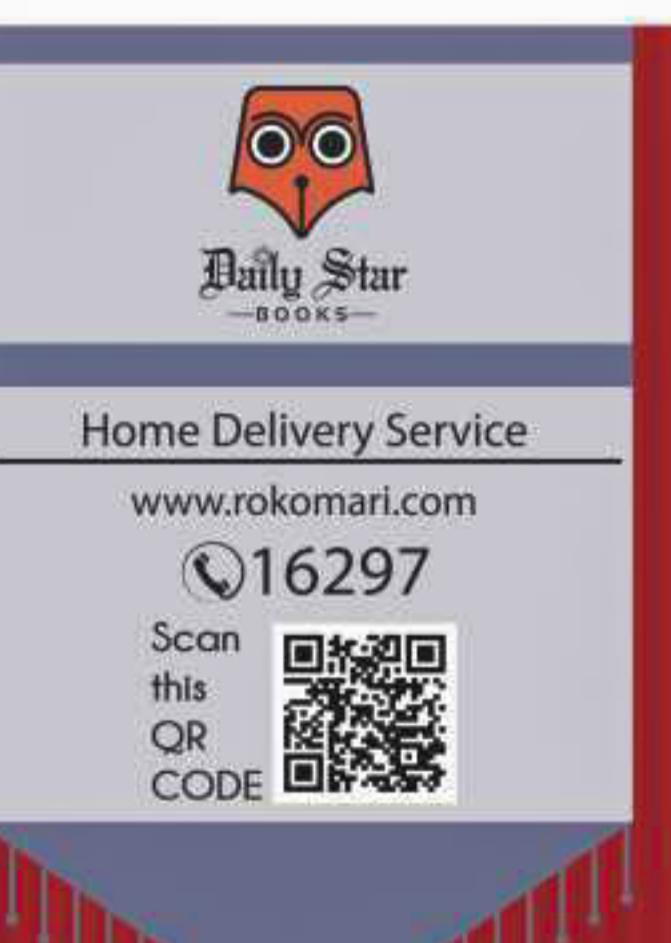
Talking to The Daily Star, officials of Shyamoli Paribahan said they would start selling tickets around 8:00am at three counters in the capital -- Asadgate, Kalyanpur and Darusalam. Hanif Paribahan will sell tickets at Balurmath counter in Gabtoli.

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