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Railway prepares for Eid rush

STAR REPORT

The Bangladesh Railway has been overhauling several inoperative coaches to enhance its capacity to cope with excessive rush of passengers ahead of Eid.

As many as 169 additional coaches are going to be incorporated in the service during the Eid rush across the country, according to officials.

In Dhaka, five additional trains will be added to the existing fleet of 64 trains that run every day. The additional trains will be operative on July 15-17 and July 20-26.

Of the existing 64 trains, 28 are intercity and the rest are local and mail trains. These have the capacity to carry around one lakh passengers daily.

The additional five trains will increase the capacity by

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Arrest big fish

CJ asks law enforcers at dialogue on human trafficking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha has advised law enforcers to arrest the big fish who are at the centre of various crimes, including human trafficking, and are well connected with the power structure.

"I am asking law enforcement agencies to investigate and arrest those who are millionaires and who remain out of the scene," he told a national dialogue yesterday.

These people may avoid arrest through establishing connections with politicians and influential people if the crime is publicised in the media beforehand, the CJ said, adding that they made huge black money through various criminal activities, including human trafficking.

If making of black money cannot be checked, corruption or crimes like human trafficking cannot be stopped, he noted.

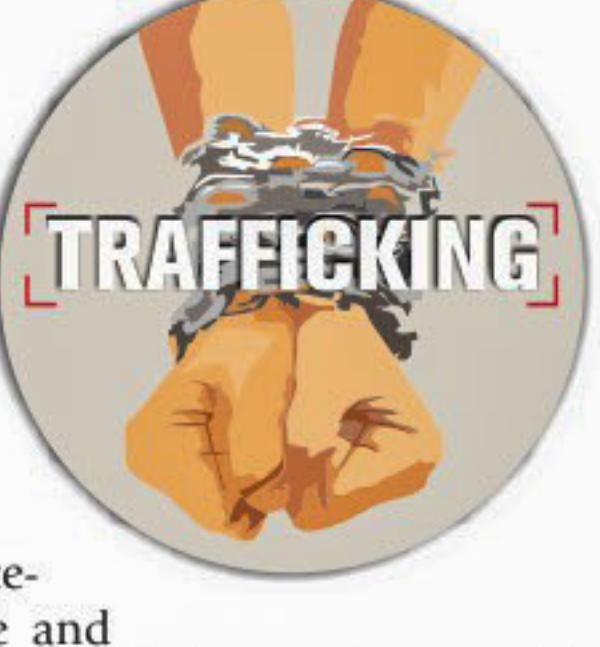
All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPG) on HIV/AIDS, Human Trafficking, Population and Migration, and Human Rights organised the dialogue on the recent human trafficking through sea at the city's Sonargaon Hotel.

Ministers, some two dozen MPs, secretaries, top officials of law enforcement agencies and civil society members were present at the programme and expressed concerns over the trafficking of Bangladeshi citizens.

The discovery of mass graves and human skeletons -- believed to be of Rohingyas and Bangladeshis -- in Thai and Malaysian borders since early May drew huge international attention.

According to the International Organisation of Migration (IOM), about 88,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis took the sea journeys from the coasts, and some 1,050 of them died or remained missing since January

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Workers are busy giving a facelift to wagons and rail tracks to ensure a smooth train service for the Eid holidaymakers. The photos were taken in Dhaka and Chittagong recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN/ANURUP KANTI DAS

Saudi saw 'political motivation behind war crimes trial'

MIZANUR RAHMAN KHAN



The then Saudi ambassador in Dhaka had stated that the ruling Awami League "is trying to establish one-party politics in Bangladesh." He included this assessment in a diplomatic cable sent to Riyadh on May 10, 2012.

Its embassy in Dhaka made no comments about the cable, one of the many released recently by the whistleblowing site WikiLeaks. The Saudi embassies in other countries and the country's foreign ministry have also remained silent over its leaked diplomatic cables.

Prothom Alo's analysis of the confidential diplomatic cables found in WikiLeaks indicates the Saudi government had sympathy for the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its key ally Jamaat-e-Islami, although it did not respond to Jamaat's request to stop the war crimes trial and to a request of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to mediate in

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WELL-BEING OF WOMEN, CHILDREN Disparities remain despite progress

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has made big strides in some areas towards ensuring well-being of women and children but large disparities in terms of wealth and access to education remain among different regions.

There has been progress in improving completion rate of primary education and ensuring better access to drinking water but areas such as children's health, early marriage and access to sanitation are still marked by disparities, revealed a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) survey.

Two out of five children under the age of five are stunted and three in every 10 are underweight, according to the study.

52.8 percent children from the poorest families suffer malnourishment compared to 27 percent from the richest group.

"Barisal division has the highest proportion of stunted children while Khulna has the lowest," said BBS Deputy Director Dipankar Roy presenting the key findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2012-13 at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, State Minister for Finance and Planning MA Mannan and Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Edouard Beigbeder were, among others, present at the programme.

Beigbeder said, "The results clearly show

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Wheat from Brazil edible

Claims govt report to HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wheat imported from Brazil is fit for human consumption since its quality is within the admissible parameters, the directorate general of food claimed in a report submitted to the High Court yesterday.

Director General Foiz Ahmed of the directorate and its Director (procurement) Ilahi Dad Khan handed over the report to Deputy Attorney General Tapos Kumar Biswas in compliance with an HC order.

On June 30, the court following a writ petition asked the food directorate to report in three days whether the wheat was suitable for consumption.

According to the report, it was prepared on the basis of result of tests carried out on wheat samples at laboratories of the food directorate, Bangladesh Agriculture Research Institute, Dhaka University and Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

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CYBER SECURITY ACT Review body formed to check draft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a review committee to scrutinise the draft of the proposed Cyber Security Act, 2015.

The move came in a consultation meeting at the government's communication and information Technology (ICT) Division office yesterday amid many stakeholders' fear that the proposed act, if approved, would significantly curb people's freedom of expression on the internet.

Shyam Sunder Sikder, ICT division secretary, was made the head of the committee while ICT expert Mostafa Jabbar the member secretary. The others in the body include professionals, lawyers, journalists and members of different trade bodies and law enforcement agencies.

The review committee was formed by State Minister for ICT Division Zunaid Ahmed Palak after he had a detailed discussion on the scrutiny of the draft law with industry stakeholders.

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WW2 tank found in basement

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Police searching in a villa in a wealthy German suburb have found a Second World War tank, a torpedo and other illegal weaponry in the basement.

The police found the huge wartime haul in the town of Heikendorf, a suburb of Kiel.

The search was ordered by Kiel prosecutors, who suspected that the owner's collection was breaking a law which controls the possession of weapons of war.

The Kiel officials were tipped off by Berlin prosecutors, who had searched the villa a month earlier for stolen Nazi art, The Local reported.

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
18	6	6-54	
19	7	3-45	6-54
20	8	3-45	6-54



PRAYER TIMING

JULY 6

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 3-44 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-17

JAMAAT 3-54 1-15 5-15 6-64 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



South Africa T20 captain Faf du Plessis might have let his bat fly after losing the grip, but he never lost his composure on way to scoring a match-winning unbeaten 79 in the first game against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The visitors won the match by 52 runs and took a 1-0 lead in the two-match T20I series.

PHOTO:
FIROZ AHMED