

FACTORY UPGRADES

IFC gives \$50m to local banks to help improve RMG workplace safety

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BRICS SUMMIT

Putin hosts the five-nation summit amid standoff with West

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No jam, so easy

Eid shoppers loving online shopping more; e-traders eye Tk 50cr sale

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Eid shopping in the capital has become a troublesome affair, as thousands of people swarm malls and markets to buy items for themselves and their dear ones on the big occasion.

But things are quite different for Sumaiya Hasan. She doesn't need to bother about the mad Eid rush or move from one shop to another, as she does most of her shopping online.

Sumaiya, a housewife from the capital's Gulshan area, recently ordered saris and salwar kameez on Akhoni.com, and hopes to receive those before Eid.

"I buy products online because it saves me the trouble of getting stuck in tailbacks for hours and haggling with sellers over price," she told The Daily Star.

Sumaiya started buying products online early last year, and never faced any

problems. She pays the bills on delivery. Sumaiya also encouraged her relatives to buy goods online.

She is one of many online shoppers who are buying goods through the internet. The rise in number of online shoppers has helped create new market in the country.

Shameem Ahsan, president of Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS), said Eid-ul-Fitr sales account for 40 percent and Eid-ul-Azha sales 20 percent of the Tk 100 crore online shopping a year.

He hopes e-traders would see sales of around Tk 50 crore during this Eid.

E-commerce sales are growing

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SENDING WORKERS TO KL UNDER G2G SYSTEM

Minister admits govt failure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday acknowledged that the government had failed to send the expected number of workers to Malaysia in the last three years.

Malaysia withdrew a four-year embargo on the recruitment of Bangladeshi workers in November 2012. Process to hire workers from Bangladesh under the government-to-government (G2G) mechanism was initiated in 2013. But Bangladesh could not cash in on the opportunity due to its failure to convince employers to hire Bangladeshi workers.

Only 7,000 workers had been sent to the Southeast Asian country since the resumption of the recruitment in April 2013, though there was a scope for sending a few lakh by this time.

Mosharraf, who had then told the media that at least 50,000 Bangladeshis would be sent to Malaysia within a year, admitted that the government had failed to ensure the demand for sending workers.

In private recruitment system, irregularities were discovered after some dishonest recruiting agencies had sent more workers than the demand in Malaysia, he said, adding that the government cannot go for collecting demand the way private recruiters do. It can only process the demand.

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TOP QUOTE

"Honourable Prime Minister, move outside in disguise ... See people's miseries and how they are living their lives. If you do this, you will be respected even more as the daughter of Bangabandhu."

OPPOSITION LEADER
RAUSHAN ERSHAD
TO PM SHEIKH HASINA AT PARLIAMENT

ADMISSION IN A MESS

No college for over 2 lakh yet

WASIM BIN HABIB

Although the government has completed the second phase of the class XI admission, more than 2 lakh students could not yet get admitted to any college, much to the frustration of these young learners and their guardians and teachers.

Officials of Dhaka Education Board, which is coordinating the admission, said they received 11,56,224 valid applications this year, and around 9.37 lakh students got admitted to various colleges so far.

Utterly disappointed and worried, many admission seekers said they obtained GPA-5, the highest feat, in the SSC examination

but could not make it to any college.

They also said they were uncertain about getting admitted to their preferred colleges as most of the reputed institutions do not have vacant seats.

Amid such realities, the third phase of the admission process begins today. In this phase, the students who did not get admitted even after being nominated in the first two merit lists or were not nominated in any of the two lists can apply online till tomorrow.

The students have to mention five preferred colleges, said Prof Abu Bakkar Siddiq, chairman of Dhaka Education Board.

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Khaleda to be tried in spl tribunal

Says PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A special tribunal would be formed for quick disposal of cases against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for instigating arson attacks during the BNP-led alliance's agitation for three months from January, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in parliament yesterday.

"There is a provision under section-27 of the



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NEWS ANALYSIS

Will Speaker do the right thing?

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Journey of the country's parliamentary democracy began with an astounding record of lawmakers losing their seats.

As many as 19 members had lost their parliamentary seats in 1972 following their expulsion from the then ruling Awami League. They had been punished for violating party discipline.

In 2014, the AL expelled its presidium member Abdul Latif Siddiqui from the party on charges of violating party discipline by making derogatory comments that hurt religious sentiments. He was also sacked from the cabinet.

Eight months after his expulsion, the AL in a letter on Sunday informed the speaker about it.

This move raises questions whether Latif would remain an MP after his expulsion from the AL.

Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury on Tuesday said she

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Pran founder passes away

STAR REPORT

Amjad Khan Chowdhury, chief executive officer of PRAN-RFL Group, passed away at a US hospital yesterday. He was 75.

The former army general-turned-businessman, who first took a Bangladeshi brand abroad and pioneered food processing

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RELATED STORY ON B1



The Mirpur Road near Gono Bhaban is packed with vehicles sitting idle in stand-still traffic just an hour before iftar. Many missed iftar at home due to poor traffic management and the lack of prior notice of traffic diversions and street closures. More photos on page 2.

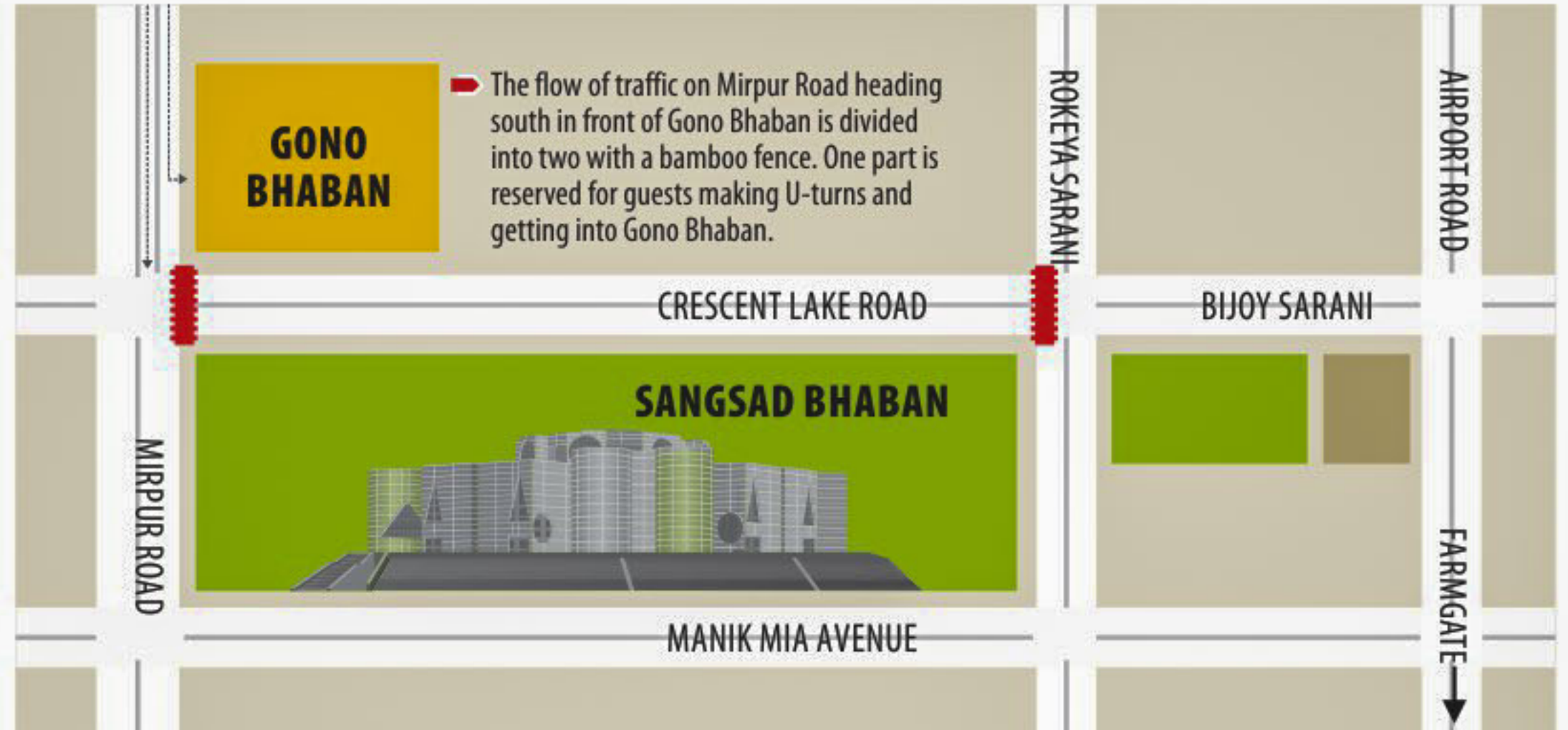
Couldn't traffic be managed better?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hours of traffic diversion and a few closed streets around Gono Bhaban create a traffic mess, causing thousands of city dwellers to miss iftar at home.

This is the picture when Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina hosts iftar parties at Gono Bhaban; whereas a prior notice and better

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