

## National moon sighting body meets Friday

BSS, Dhaka

A meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee will be held in the Islamic Foundation Baitul Mukarram in the capital on Friday.

The meeting will review reports on Shawal moon sighting and ascertain the date for the holy Eid-ul-Fitr of 1436 Hijri year.

Religious Affairs Minister Matiur Rahman will preside over the meeting, said a handout yesterday.

The committee has requested all to inform over the phone or fax number if they see the Shawal moon in the sky from anywhere in the country.

The telephone numbers are 9559493, 9559643, 9555947, 9556407 and 9558337 and the fax is 9563397.

## Govt appeals against HC bail orders for Anwar, Mintoo, Aman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday filed 52 appeals with the Supreme Court against the High Court orders that granted bail to BNP leaders MK Anwar, Abdul Awal Mintoo and Amanullah Aman in 52 arson and vandalism cases.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division may hold hearing on the appeals on Tuesday, Deputy Attorney General Amit Talukder told The Daily Star.

Following separate bail petitions, the HC on July 9 granted anticipatory bail to BNP's standing committee member Anwar in nine cases to party Chief Khaleda Zia's adviser Mintoo in one case and its Joint Secretary General Aman in 42 cases.

The HC granted the bail for four weeks after the leaders appeared before it with separate bail petitions.

The cases were filed during the countrywide blockade and hartals enforced by BNP-led 20-party alliance this year.



Foundation works for construction of a market by two brothers, involved with the ruling Awami League and the BNP, under way on the land of Rakhine Women's Market in Kuakata, Patuakhali. The siblings grabbed a portion of the land for the purpose, said the indigenous community. The local upazila administration halted the construction work following a complaint.

PHOTO: STAR

# AL, BNP men's joint grabbing of Kuakata Rakhine land protested

## Grabbers are siblings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two brothers who are leaders of the ruling Awami League and the BNP have allegedly grabbed a piece of land of indigenous Rakhine people in Kuakata tourist zone in Patuakhali, triggering protests.

The siblings are constructing a market encroaching upon Rakhine Women's Market, which is close to the scenic Kuakata beach in Kalapara upazila.

Luma Rakhi, president of Kuakata Rakhine Women's Market, said 25 Rakhine family donated 80 decimals of their land to the district administration on the direction of their Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in 1999 for the development of the livelihoods of the indigenous community.

Later the administration built 14 tin-roof concrete shops on the south of the land turning it into Rakhine

BNP, are erecting "Bhuiyan Market" on the Rakhine's land.

Representatives from different organisations of indigenous communities including Bangladesh Rakhine Students Union, Bangladesh Adivasi Union, Bangladesh Rakhine Student Council, and Metropolitan Hajong Welfare Samity joined the protest, organised by Adivasi Kalyan o Unnayan Sangstha (AKUS).

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Women's Market and a big concrete platform on the west, she said, adding that most of the remaining land was open, where different cultural programmes were organised.

Luma said the two influential brothers had long been trying to grab a part from the east side of the market. Early this month, they started building Bhuiyan Market on around five decimals of the market land, she added.

The Rakhine people filed a complaint with the district administration on July 7, she said.

Jahangir Hossain, upazila nirkabhi officer (UNO) of Kalapara, said there was a dispute over the ownership of the land as both the Rakhine and Monir Ahmed and his brother claimed the land to be theirs.

"After getting the complaint we

halted the construction work of Bhuiyan Market on July 8," he added.

The UNO said none could construct anything without the permission of Kuakata Development Authority headed by the deputy commissioner, and Monir did not take any permission.

"We will settle the matter after Eid-ul-Fitr measuring the land," he said.

Monir Ahmed claimed that it was their property and they took permission of Kaukata Municipality.

Luma Rakhi, however, feared that the two might resume the construction work.

The construction was halted when the foundation works were under way.

(Our Patuakhali correspondent contributed to the report)

## SCOURGE SPREADING



Just like Dhaka, Barisal city is also crippled with severe traffic congestion as people flock to markets to do their shopping ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken recently in Dutch-Bangla Intersection in the city.

## EXTORTION IN RAJDHANI SUPER MARKET Rab to probe fresh allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion will investigate fresh allegations of extortion at Rajdhani Super Market in the capital.

Jahangir Hossain Matubbar, commanding officer of Rab-10, said some traders alleged that illegal tolls were collected from street vendors in the last two days. He said they would soon send a team to verify the allegation, and take necessary steps if required. The allegation came after a mobile court on Thursday detained 10 ruling party men and seized extorted money around Tk 1.6 lakh from the detainees, said Rab. Meanwhile, local ward councillor Mainul Haq Manju yesterday alleged that Rab shut down the market committee's office after the raid on Thursday. Jahangir dismissed the claim saying they only detained those who were guilty of extortion.

## Special privilege for govt staff

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special benefits to public servants.

In criminal cases, there is no barrier even to arrest public representatives including parliamentary members or ministers, he said. "Besides, earlier the High Court in its judgment termed such benefits, included in 32 (ka) of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act (Amended) 2013, anti-constitutional," he noted, adding that the proposed Public Service Act also went against the High Court judgment.

However, Cabinet Secretary M. Musharraf Hossain

Bhuiyan said the new law would not be in conflict with the existing ACC act. "Everything will remain within the framework of the constitution and existing laws. It's an epoch-making step as the appointment and other activities of the civil servants have been in discussion for a long time," he said. TIB suggested that experts and stakeholders' opinions about the draft should be taken into account before placing the act in parliament. The draft was approved by the cabinet on Monday.

## HC asks Rana

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clients are innocent and there is no mention of their names in the first information report (FIR) of the case.

Bashir opposed the bail petition, saying the petition is not acceptable since the names of the petitioners were not mentioned in the FIR and they are not accused in the case.

Earlier, two people accused in the case gave confessional statements before a court about involvement of Amanur and Shahinur in the murder.

## আনন্দধারা এক্সক্রিপ্ট সেবা রেসিপি এখন বাজারে

টমি মিয়া, সোনারাঁও হোটেল, রিজেসি

হোটেলের রেসিপিসহ তেল ছাড়া রান্না,

ছেটেরে স্পেশাল রেসিপি,

পোলাও-বিরিয়ানি, সিফুড, দেশি-বিদেশি

অনেক রান্না এবং আরও অনেক কিছু

দাম ৩০ টাকা

আনন্দধারা রেসিপি সেবার সেটের

৬৪-৬৫ কাজি জাকুব ইসলাম অ্যাভিনিউ

চাকা-১২১৫, ফোন: ৯১৩১৪২, ৯১৩২০২৫

## আনন্দধারা

ARISTOCRAT

এক্সক্রিপ্ট

সেবা রেসিপি

১০০% নিয়ন্ত্রিত

পোর্ট অফিস রেসিপি

১০০% নিয়ন্ত্রিত

পোর্ট অফিস রেসিপি

১০০% নিয়ন্ত্রিত

## Eid travellers

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In road and waterway sectors, private transport operators are overcharging, while in railway sector, there is ticket scalping, the report said.

Around 48 percent of passengers, who will travel by train, have collected tickets from the black market, Mozammel Haque claimed.

He demanded strict government monitoring to check overcharging and ease passengers' sufferings.

Several politicians, academics, and rights activists attended the function.

## 15 note forging

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To curb the crime, Bangladesh Bank has recently handed over 200 fake currency detecting devices to the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry which are being used in several key spots where transactions are taking

## Don't allow overloaded vehicles on roads

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to four-lane ones.

While talking to Bandarban Deputy Commissioner's office through the videoconferencing, Hasina said construction of Thanchi-Alikadam Highway might have not been possible had the Bangladesh Army not been involved in the project as it has been built in one of the most remote, highest height and hilly areas of the country.

She hoped that the Thanchi-Alikadam road will play a very significant role in easing road communications and transportation of local products.

Speaking to Rangpur DC office also through videoconferencing, the prime minister urged the people to monitor the ongoing development activities across the country so that these are accomplished properly.

Meanwhile, Hasina said Eid holidaymakers might have been able to go home enjoying better comfort during the Eid-ul-Fitr had the BNP-Jamaat alliance not burned the buses, destroyed railway compartments and damaged the railway in the name of a movement.

"If they (BNP-Jamaat men) had not burned the buses, destroyed railway compartments and damaged the railway, people

might have been able to go to their homes more conveniently," she said.

Hasina made the remarks while inaugurating newly constructed state-of-the-art passenger ship "MV Madhumati" and two newly-built ferries of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) through another videoconferencing from Gono Bhaban.

The newly built 75.50-meter long and 12.50-meter wide vessel is capable of accommodating 750 passengers, and has been constructed at a cost of Tk 26.58 crore by Western Marine Shipyard.

Speaking on the occasion, the prime minister said it was very much regretful that some days ago in the name of the movement BNP-Jamaat burnt buses and trucks. "They set fire to railway compartments...even launches couldn't escape their destructive hands," she said.

Hasina said the attack on the launches was first time in Bangladesh's history. "BNP-Jamaat can only commit such destructive activities." She also said the losses of various sectors during the BNP-Jamaat movement cannot be described in words.

She mentioned that steps have been taken to introduce new ships and steamers to further improve the shipping sector.

## WAR CRIMES TRIAL

# Verdict on Forkan Mallik tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 is set to deliver a verdict tomorrow on Forkan Mallik, who was allegedly involved in several crimes committed in Patuakhali during the Liberation War.

The alleged Razakar from Patuakhali's Mirzaganj faces five charges including murder and rape. The three-member tribunal led by Justice Obaidul Hassan concluded the proceedings of the case against Forkan on June 14.

Wrapping up their arguments, the prosecution sought the capital punishment for Forkan, claiming that they had been able to prove all five charges brought against him. The defence on the other hand prayed for his acquittal, saying the charges could not be proved.

The tribunal-2 so far delivered 10 verdicts in as many war crimes cases, while the tribunal-1 passed nine judgments till date.

Forkan was an active supporter of the Muslim League, an anti-liberation party in 1971, joined the Razakar force, and carried out crimes under the local Razakar commander, says the prosecution.

Forkan was arrested in Barisal on June 25 last year. The tribunals' investigation agency completed the probe into the allegations against him on October 27 that same year, while the tribunal indicted him on December 18. The prosecution produced 14 witnesses including the investigation officer, while the defence produced four witnesses.

The five charges include the killing of four people including two local Awami League leaders in Mirzaganj on August 12; forceful religious conversion of three Hindu brothers in Subidkhali Bazar and their deportation; abduction, rape and subsequently death of a Hindu girl of Subidkhali Bazar on August 17 and 18; abduction and rape of two Hindu girls of Subidkhali Bazar on August 20 and 21 and deportation of their family; and abduction and rape of a Muslim woman and murder of another.

## NEWS IN brief

### House owner shot dead by tenants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A house owner was shot dead by his tenants at Mirdha Bari in the capital's Jatrabari early yesterday.

Mojibur Rahman, 55, of Nawabpur Road, was shot as soon as he stepped into the gate of his building around 3:00am, said police. Before shooting, the two tenants, who rented a room on the second floor of the building a few days back, confined the security guard to their room with his hand and legs tied, police quoted the guard as saying.

Mojibur with bullet wounds in his neck and back was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead. Police said they heard that the building had CCTV camera and the two were seen in the footage, but they could not ascertain the motive of the killing.

### Hawker killed being sandwiched between two launches

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A hawker was killed as he was sandwiched between two launches at Sadarghat launch terminal in the capital yesterday.

Mohammad Ibrahim, 20, standing on a rowing boat, was vending bread and biscuit to the launch passengers.

Fire service officials said Ibrahim sustained head injury as he was caught between MV Karnaphuli and MV Dighal and drowned in the river Buriganga around 1:00pm.

Fire service divers retrieved his body from the river around 4:00pm.