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Hassle-free return to city

No major tailback at key points

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Forgetting the usual hustle-bustle of city life, he played rural games, fished in the pond, planted trees, joined hours-long chitchats with school friends and cousins at his village home.

Mahamudul Hoque, a civil engineer by profession, passed some joyous days during the Eid vacation.

"The vacation has refreshed me. Sweet memories of the holiday will keep my mind cheered up for next couple of months and I will be waiting for next Eid," said Hoque, who returned to the capital yesterday.

Like him, thousands of Dhaka city dwellers returned to the capital yesterday to join their businesses.

Most of the travellers enjoyed hassle-free journeys, but the passengers heading for southwestern districts faced sufferings at the Daulatdia ferry ghat in Rajbari.

As there was huge pressure of vehicles, long traffic gridlock was created at the ferry ghat. Several hundred vehicles got stranded for hours to cross the Padma river since Saturday evening.

"I reached the ghat around 12:30am yesterday [Sunday]. I had to wait for around four hours to board the ferry," said Borhan Uddin, a private service holder.

Around 800 vehicles were in long queues and waiting to board the ferries.

However, passengers of private cars and minibuses got some relief as the ferry service authorities allowed them

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People stream back to the capital after the long Eid holidays. Thanks to weekends on both ends of the vacation, many enjoyed nine days of holidays. The photos were taken at Kamalapur Railway Station and Sadarghat Launch Terminal yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN AND PRABIR DAS



KUNIO HOSHI MURDER 8 JMB men charged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Police have pressed charges against eight members of banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) for the murder of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi in October last year.

Talking to The Daily Star, Kaunia Police Station Officer-in-charge Abdul Kader Zilani, also the investigation officer of the case, said he submitted the charge sheet to a Rangpur court on July 3.

He, however, declined to make further comments on the matter.

Rangpur Public Prosecutor Abdul Maleque would brief journalists on the matter today, said sources at the Rangpur court.

Three masked assailants on a motorcycle shot dead Kunio Hoshi in Kaunia upazila of Rangpur on October 3 last year. Police said all the accused in the case were JMB men.

Of them, four suspected militants, including Masud Rana, 33, Khoybar Hossain, 32, Ichhhhat Ali, 34, and Abu Syeed, 28, are in Rangpur jail, said police



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Iraq war illegal

Says Blair's former deputy; Corbyn backs motion declaring ex-PM guilty of 'contempt' over the war

AGENCIES

Tony Blair's deputy as prime minister when Britain joined the invasion of Iraq has said he believes the war was illegal, days after a long-awaited report excoriated Britain's role in the conflict.

John Prescott, number two in the Labour government when Britain took part in the US-led invasion in 2003, made the remarks in a piece to be published in the Sunday Mirror newspaper.

On Wednesday, the Chilcot report returned a damning verdict on Britain's role in the US-led war, finding it joined the conflict before all peaceful options had been exhausted and that judgments about Iraq's capacities were "presented with a certainty that was not justified".

It also disclosed Blair had written to then US president George W Bush that "I will be with you, whatever" eight months before the invasion.

Prescott, now a member of the House of Lords, wrote: "I will live with the decision of going to war and its catastrophic consequences for the rest of my life."

"In 2004, the UN secretary-general Kofi Annan said that as regime change was the prime aim of the Iraq war, it was illegal."

"With great sadness and anger, I now believe him to be right."

Blair this week voiced "sorrow, regret and apology" over mistakes made in the conflict. But he insisted the war was right and the world was safer without toppled Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, reports AFP.

Some 150,000 Iraqi people were killed in the six years after British and American troops invaded, plunging the country into chaos and creating fertile ground for jihadist groups like the Islamic State.

A total of 179 British troops also died. Meanwhile, Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn has backed a parliamentary



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BNP activist killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A BNP man was killed in a so-called gunfight with police in Satkhira yesterday.

The dead, Oliullah Mollah, 40, was the general secretary of Kashmiri Union BNP in Shyamnagar upazila, said his brother Habibullah Mollah.

The alleged shootout took place in Ganghati area of the upazila around 3:30am.

Sub-inspector (SI) Kamal Hossain of Satkhira SP office said a police team, led by SI Sudhangshu Kumar Mondal, was patrolling Ganghati Chorakhali Culvert area.

During the time, a number of people were speeding through the area on bikes.

Police asked them to pull over but they did not stop. Rather, they started to hurl bombs and open fire on the law enforcers.

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SYDNEY SCHANBERG

The man who first broke news of Pak atrocities to the world

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sydney H Schanberg, who was among the few who woke up the world to the 1971 atrocities of the Pakistani military in the then East Pakistan through his reporting, died yesterday.

Bangladeshis would remember him as a friend who reported extensively on the Liberation War despite facing obstacles by the repressing Pakistani regime.

The journalist let out his last breath in Poughkeepsie, New York, at the age of 82.

A correspondent from The New York Times, he was expelled by the Pakistani authorities after the march 25 crackdown in 1971. He was here in Dhaka to report on the outcomes of the victory of the Awami League led by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in the first-ever democratic election in Pakistan.

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BTRC to build capacity to block internet instantly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecom regulator yesterday decided to build the capability to block internet access in a certain area within minutes under special circumstances, like the July 1 Gulshan café attack.

It takes three to four hours to implement a decision about blocking internet in any specific area or block any content from the web, said BTRC Chairman Shahjahan Mahmood.

"We want to respond within an hour if possible within 10 minutes," he said, adding that they want to have the technical expertise and capability for this.

"Technically the BTRC is not well empowered even though people expect a lot from us," said Mahmood. He said the government needs to take massive programmes to overcome the cyber security chal-



Children captured this endangered Slow Loris on the Eid day from a bamboo grove at Dibir Haor village of Jaintiapur in Sylhet. Lilamay Biswas, a local, recovered the animal and informed the forest officials of the matter. However, as of yesterday afternoon, no official got in touch with him.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Proof found against JP MP Hannan, son

Say war crimes investigators

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal has found evidence of wartime crimes allegedly committed by Jatiya Party lawmaker MA Hannan, his son and six others, investigators said.

"We will brief the media tomorrow [today] on the outcome of the investigation and the roles the accused played in committing the crimes in 1971," Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the investigation agency, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The accused were "involved" in five incidents of crimes involving torture,

looting, killings and mass killings during the nine-month-long war, Motiur Rahman, investigation officer of the case, added.

Agency coordinator Hannan Khan said they would suggest that the prosecution bring charges of superior responsibility against lawmaker Hannan since he, as the general secretary of Mymensingh district Peace Committee, "led and directed" his associates to commit war crimes.

The JP leader is the second incumbent lawmaker arrested in connection with war crimes committed during the War. Executed war criminal Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was arrested in December 2010 when he was

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JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 7-00 8-45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION