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SHAH CEMENT

It's same old story

City traffic goes haywire after little rain; commuters, Eid shoppers suffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters suffered long delays as moderate rain caused gridlock on city roads yesterday.

The traffic situation worsened as a large number of Eid shoppers poured into malls at the weekend.

Rokhsana Khanam, a resident of Badda, had to endure traffic snarl ups to travel to and from Bashundhara City in Panthapath.

Rahat Abdullah from Malibagh said the road stretching from Malibagh intersection to Moghbazar intersection was packed with vehicles as shoppers thronged malls in Mouchak area.

"I walked to Moghbazar intersection from in front of Mouchak market. Then I took a rickshaw to Karwan Bazar. It took me more than an hour to reach Karwan Bazar," said Rahat.

Abul Hossain of Hatirpool said he hired a CNG-run auto-rickshaw to reach Farmgate early, but got stuck in traffic in Hatirpool and Paribagh.

"It took me around an hour to travel the distance which usually takes about 20 minutes on foot," said Abul.

Abdus Sobhan from Dhanmondi said he was stuck on Manik Miah Avenue and Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue for nearly an hour.

Both carriageways of Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue were seen clogged with vehicles, particularly during the rain.

Auto-rickshaw driver Rabbi Miah from Shantinagar said

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People wait for buses in the rain at Farmgate in the capital yesterday around 5:00pm. Rain amid the notorious late Ramadan traffic caused many to suffer.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

GRENFELL INFERNO May under fire as 58 feared dead

AFP, London

The presumed death toll from the London tower block inferno jumped to 58 yesterday as embattled Prime Minister Theresa May, accused of misreading the growing anger over the tragedy, pledged action after meeting survivors desperately seeking answers.

Dozens of people were still missing three days after the 24-storey Grenfell Tower was engulfed in flames, and worries over the safety of the apartment block's charred wreck has slowed the search for human remains.

Sixteen bodies have been taken to a mortuary, and the first victim formally identified was named as Mohammad Alhajali, a 23-year-old Syrian refugee.

Queen Elizabeth II said the disaster had cast a sombre pall over Britain, but insisted the country was showing resolve in the face of adversity.

But public anger has been swelling, with furious

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Boat has sunk, no one can salvage it

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday came down heavily on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for "carrying out election campaign" across the country in the name of inaugurating government's development projects.

"You [Hasina] are seeking votes in favour of boat. Can't you understand that your boat has sunk? No one will be able to salvage it," the BNP chief said addressing a discussion and doa mehfil organised by

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Malaysia to impose tourism tax

THE STAR, Malaysia

The Malaysian government is imposing tourism tax from July 1.

The country's Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who disclosed this on Thursday, said more funds were needed to support tourism promotion activities.

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No thanks to 15pc VAT

Study materials to get costlier



SADAT

SOHEL PARVEZ and WASIM BIN HABIB

Ezaharul Haque has been upset since he learned about the government's decision to impose a uniform 15 percent VAT this July. The thought of more money going out of his pockets to purchase necessary goods and services concerned him.

But last week when he heard that education materials like exercise books, ballpoint pens and pencils would also be within the purview of the new VAT system, he sat down to do a math to know how much more he would have to spend on the stuff for his two children.

An employee of a private firm in Jessore, Ezaharul has already been spending nearly half of his monthly salary of Tk 12,000 on the education of eighth grader daughter Atri and sixth grader son Beer.

Both the children study in public schools in Jessore town. Atri requires 17 exercise books and Beer needs 15, while they both use a dozen of pens and pencils every two months.

Ezaharul also buys colour pencils so that his children can participate in art class. The total expenditure on the items comes to around Tk 1,300 every two months. But from the next month, he will have to count an additional cost of Tk 200 as the new VAT and Supplementary Duty Act 2012 takes effect.

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ICT gets back website 3hrs after hack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Information Communication Technology (ICT) division's website was hacked yesterday and it was down for three hours before access to it could be restored.

"We've successfully recovered the website around three hours after the hacking. Hackers could not do any harm to the website," claimed Subir Kishore Choudhury, acting secretary of the ICT division.

He told The Daily Star that the hackers were yet to be identified. "We'll strengthen other websites soon."

The ICT division acting secretary said they would have to start a process to monitor all government websites.

Users were unable to access the site in the afternoon. The hackers wrote: "Hacked by Rahu. Did it for India. Your website is owned by us".

Sources said the ICT division discovered the hack around 2:00pm and was able to restore the site after 5:30pm.

A top official of the ICT division said some Bangladeshi hackers on Friday hacked some Indian websites and this could be a repercussion. The official

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Germany's first 'liberal' mosque



MAIL ONLINE

A "liberal mosque" where all Muslims can pray together regardless of their gender, sexuality or branch of Islam has opened in Germany.

The Ibn Rushd-Goethe mosque, which is housed inside a Protestant church in Berlin, is the first of its kind in the country.

Sunni and Shia believers are encouraged to preach alongside one another and women will not be allowed to wear veils.

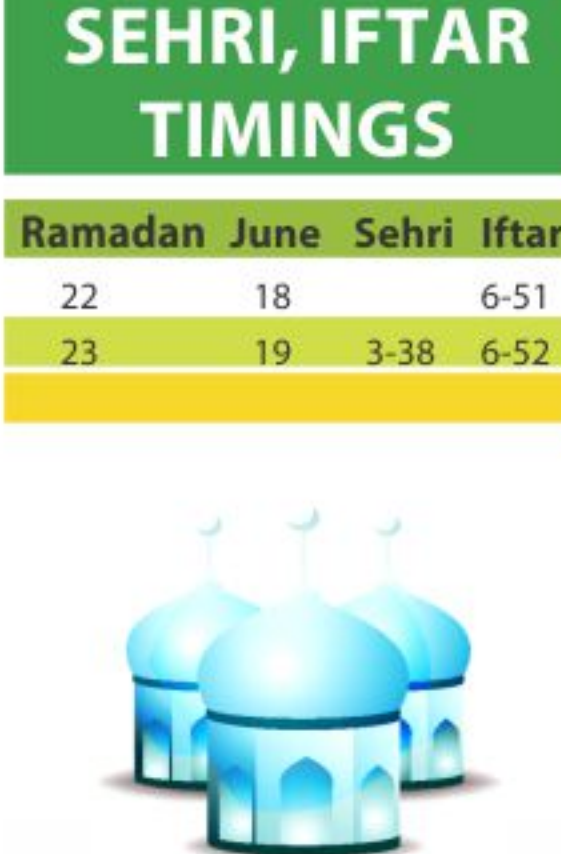
Women's rights activist Seyran Ates, who has campaigned for a progressive place of worship for Muslims in Germany for eight years, said: "I couldn't be more euphoric, it's a dream come true. This project was long overdue."

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan June	Sehri	Iftar
22	18	6-51
23	19	3-38 6-52



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 18

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	3-44	12-45	5-00	6-51	8-15
JAMAAT	3-54	1-15	5-15	7-01	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

In Loving Memory of Krystyna Rizvi



**Born: 31st May 1950
Died: 3rd June 2017**

Haider (Maharaj) & Nasir Rizvi



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