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SHAH CEMENT

New bridges to ease hassles for Eid homegoers

Two bridges on Meghna, Gumti set to open next week

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Two more bridges on the Meghna and Gumti rivers are all set to open to traffic next week.

With the newly built Kanchpur bridge already in operation, the two new additions are expected to bring relief to travellers on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway, especially during this Eid holidays.

A new overpass on the east end of Kanchpur bridge will also be opened before Eid, further easing traffic movement on the Dhaka-Chattogram and Dhaka-Sylhet highways, and boosting businesses as well.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the two four-lane bridges through a video conference on May 25, Abu Saleh Md Nuruzzaman, project director of the three bridges, told The Daily Star yesterday.

The new bridges will be an addition to the old two-lane ones.

Although some works will remain incomplete, the overpass on the east end of Kanchpur bridge will be opened to public on May 31 to ease Eid journey.

The otherwise dual carriageway between the port city and the capital shrinks to a single one at the Meghna and Gumti bridges. The old Kanchpur bridge is technically a dual carriageway but its width is not adequate.

Given this situation, traffic often crawls to a halt at the approaches to the bridges. The situation worsens ahead of

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The construction of the Meghna Bridge on Narayanganj-Munshiganj district line and Gumti Bridge, inset, in Cumilla's Daudkandi is complete. The bridges that are expected to ease congestion on Dhaka-Chattogram highway are awaiting inauguration on May 25.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

62 Rohingyas rescued from traffickers

They were waiting to board boats to Malaysia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Law enforcers rescued some 62 Rohingyas, including children and women, in two drives in Cox's Bazar's Pekua and Teknaf upazilas early yesterday while they were being trafficked to Malaysia.

At least 45 Rohingya refugees were rescued from Ujantiya area Pekua upazila, said Jakir Hossain Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Pekua Police Station.

Informed by locals, a police team raided Karimdad Mia's jetty around 1:30am and rescued at least 45 Rohingyas who had gathered there to board a Malaysia-bound vessel, the OC added.

All the rescued refugees confessed to the police that they had fled from the Kutupalong Rohingya camp, the OC told The Daily Star, adding that they were sent back to their camps.

Meanwhile, a coast guard team arrested 17 Rohingya refugees from St Martin's Island in Teknaf upazila.

Teknaf Station Commander Lt Fayeazul Islam Mandal told The Daily Star that they

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HOUSE RENT CONTROL HC verdict ineffective

Now rehearing required

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The landmark High Court verdict delivered in 2015 to prevent owners from arbitrarily raising house rents and collecting excess rents from tenants has become ineffective as its full text could not be released due to death of the judge presiding the relevant bench.

Now there must be a rehearing on the relevant writ petition to get the full text released and make the verdict effective, said petitioner's lawyer advocate Manzill Murshid.

The HC bench led by Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed has been assigned to rehear the petition, filed as a public interest litigation in April 2010 seeking directives over strict enforcement of the House Rent Control Act, the lawyer told this paper on May 6.

"The bench earlier could not start hearing the writ petition as it lied at the bottom of the cause-list. I will pray to the bench next month to start the hearing," he added.

Advocate Manzill said Justice Md Abdul Wahhab Miah, who was performing functions of the chief justice, assigned the HC bench led by Justice Refaat in January last year.

Justice Wahhab made the move as Justice Mohammad Bazlur Rahman, who had earlier heard the petition and delivered the verdict, passed away on January 1, 2017.

Justice Bazlur Rahman, who had been promoted as a judge of the Appellate Division, could not complete writing the full judgment.

After Justice Bazlur died, the then chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha assigned Justice Md Salim to write the judgment of the writ petition. Sinha went abroad on October 13, 2017 and sent a resignation letter to

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Five maunds of venison recovered

Forest guards, cops also seize deer skulls, skins

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

The forest department and police seized five maunds of deer meat, two deer skulls and two deer skins from a nameless fishing trawler on Padma Canal at Patharghata upazila in Barguna yesterday.

Hanif Sikder, officer-in-charge of Patharghata Police Station, said they conducted a raid in the area on information that smugglers gathered there to sell off those venison.

Bodiuzzaman Sohag, beat officer at Char Lathi Mara Forest Office, said the amount of venison they rescued suggested that at least eight deers were slaughtered.

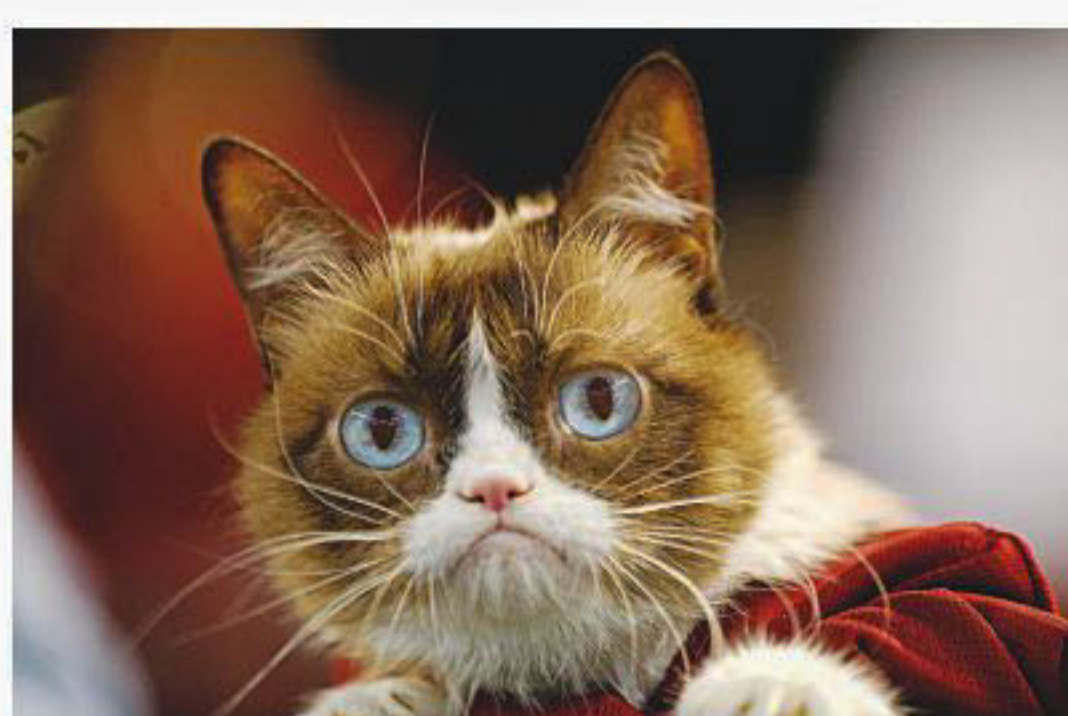
The smugglers, however, managed to flee the scene, Sohag added.

The seized venison and other parts of the deers were kept in police custody.

A case was also filed with the police station.

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Internet star Grumpy Cat dies at seven



AFP, Washington

She died just as she had lived, in a blizzard of memes, tweets and news reports celebrating her feline frown and distinctly unamused expression.

On Friday, the world learned that Grumpy Cat, the internet sensation whose scowl launched a thousand memes -- earning her 1.5 million Twitter followers and 8.3 million Facebook fans -- had died at the age of seven.

Grumpy Cat, whose pre-celebrity name was Tardar Sauce, burst to fame in 2012 when her owner's brother posted a picture of her mirthless mug on social media. Within 48 hours, her image had been viewed more than a million times.

A real-life Garfield on social media obsessed with cat pics: a star had been born.

Six months later, as her fame spread around the world, Grumpy Cat appeared at the South

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The bus flipped to its side and crashed into a tree which sliced the vehicle in Bagerhat's Fakirhat upazila yesterday morning. Six people were killed and 15 others injured in the crash.

PHOTO: PARTHA CHAKRABORTY

6 killed as bus crashes into a tree

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Six people were killed and at least 15 others injured as a bus crashed into a roadside tree in Fakirhat upazila of Bagerhat yesterday.

Five of them died on the spot and the sixth in Fakirhat Upazila Health Complex. The injured were sent to different hospitals, said police.

Witnesses said the accident took place in Kakdanga area of Fakirhat upazila around 9:15am after the driver lost control over the wheel.

Local resident Habibullah, who was walking to a nearby bazar at the time, said the bus was travelling at a high speed. First it hit a small tree and ran over a road construction worker before crashing into another tree.

Witness Hafizur said he suddenly heard a noise while working in his field. "We ran to the spot and saw the bus was flipped on one side and people were screaming."

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Students join jute demo

STAR REPORT

Students, teachers, cultural activists, and civil society members in Khulna yesterday joined the state-owned jute mill workers' demonstration demanding fair wages and arrears. In Chattogram, workers of Amin Jute Mills resumed their protests after a weekend break.

Workers in Khulna kept the roads and railways to and from the city blocked from 4:00pm to 7:30pm.

Around 5:00pm, over 500 students and teachers from Khulna University, Khulna University of Engineering and Technology, Khulna Medical College, and activists of Chhatra Federation, Chhatra Front, Chhatra Union, Udichi, Khulna Nagorik Forum, and Bangladesh Trade Union joined the workers at Natun Rasta intersection.

Addressing the demonstrators, Mohammed Fayeek Uzzaman, VC of Khulna University, said, "We cannot stay at home doing nothing while our workers have been starving for months."

Civil society platform Khulna Nagorik Samaj formed a human chain at Picture Palace intersection in solidarity with the workers while Udichi activists performed a street drama at Notun Rasta in the evening.

Workers of nine state-owned mills blocked Dhaka-Khulna highway in

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 19

	Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	3:51	12:45	5:00	6:39	8:00
JAMAAT	4:01	1:15	5:15	6:49	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BERGER
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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR	
13	19 6:39
14	20 3:44 6:40
15	21 3:44 6:40

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ALL IN

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CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

