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Online train ticket sale in a mess

Thousands log on slowing down servers as 50pc Eid tickets go on sale online; many throng rail stations in capital

Thousands of people tried to buy train tickets online yesterday, the first day of advance ticket sale for Eid, clogging up the servers.

Failing to buy tickets online, many of them rushed to the city's railway stations which saw long queues of ticket-seekers from early morning.

Bangladesh Railway decided to sell 50 percent of the total Eid season tickets online through app, SMS and railway website to ease people's sufferings at ticket counters. Last year, 25 percent tickets were sold online.

But a large number of people complained that they could not buy tickets using the Rail Sheba app or the website.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission got involved in the issue after receiving a complaint of possible corruption in the online ticketing process.

Railways Minister Nurul Islam Sujon said it would be their failure if the Computer Network Systems (CNS) could not provide ticketing services to the people properly.

Talking to journalists at Kamalapur Railway Station, he said the BR would sell tickets at counters from May 27 if any ticket remained unsold.

However, CNS Limited, which provides online services to passengers on behalf of the railway, claimed there was no technical glitch in their system.

Although hundreds of people went to ticket counters, some tickets remained unsold, a railway official said. Some people complained that they did not get AC coach tickets even after waiting for hours.

Besides, many people welcomed the authority's

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People wait in long queues to purchase advance Eid tickets at Kamalapur Railway Station. The queues grew longer after Bangladesh Railway's online ticketing service failed to deal with the large number of people trying to get tickets online. *Inset*, people sleep outside the counters, waiting for those to open. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Khalid Hussain no more

Staff Correspondent

Khalid Hussain, Ekushey Padak winner and one of the most prominent Nazrul exponents in the country, passed away while in hospital in the capital last night. He was 78.

He breathed his last at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar at 10:15pm, Mahmud Hussain, his younger brother, told the Daily Star.

The singer, who was known for singing Kazi Nazrul Islam's Hamd, Naat, Islamic songs and

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Get ready for difficult times

Xi tells people as US-China trade war simmers

REUTERS, Beijing

China must prepare for difficult times as the international situation is increasingly complex, President Xi Jinping said in comments carried by state media yesterday, as the US-China trade war took a mounting toll on tech giant Huawei.

The world's two largest economies have escalated tariff increases on each other's imports after talks broke down to resolve their dispute, and the acrimony has intensified since Washington last week blacklisted Chinese telecom equipment company Huawei Technologies Co Ltd.

The listing, which curbs Huawei's access to US-made components, is a potentially devastating blow for the company that has rattled technology supply chains and investors, and saw several mobile carriers yesterday delayed the launch of new Huawei smartphone handsets.

During a three-day trip this week to the southern province of Jiangxi, a cradle of China's Communist revolution, Xi urged people to learn the lessons of the hardships of the past.

"Today, on the new Long March, we must overcome various major risks and challenges from home and abroad," state news agency Xinhua paraphrased Xi as saying, referring to the 1934-36 trek of Communist Party members fleeing a civil war to a remote rural base, from where they re-grouped and eventually took power in 1949.

"Our country is still in a period of important strategic opportunities for development, but the international situation is increasingly complicated," he said.

"We must be conscious of the long-term and complex nature of various unfavorable factors at home and abroad, and appropriately prepare for

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COMPENSATION TO RUSSEL HC irked at Green Line over delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday said it would take appropriate legal action against Green Line Paribahan if the transport company does not comply with its order for compensating Russel Sarkar who lost a leg after a bus of Green Line Paribahan ran him over in April last year.

The authorities must pay the remaining Tk 45 lakh to Russel Sarkar by June 25, the court said.

It also warned Advocate Md Ozi Ullah, lawyer for Green Line Paribahan, not to consider its leniency as a weakness.

"We don't want to be harsh but don't compel us to become tough," the court said.

Russel, 26, who was a driver, lost his left leg from below the knee after he was knocked down by a Green Line bus near Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital on April 28 last year.

An altercation broke out between Russel and the bus driver over rear-ending his car. As Russel chased the bus, the bus driver ran him over.

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S'pore launches first 'smoking cabin'



AFP, Singapore

Smokers in Singapore will no longer have to sneak a drag on the street, with the launch of the city-state's first air-conditioned "smoking cabin", but the experience won't win fans among cigarette puffers yesterday.

The city-state has some of the world's strictest anti-tobacco laws and smoking is banned in most public places, with a fine of up to Sg\$1,000 (\$725) if caught. E-cigarettes are also banned outright.

The new cabins, which are fitted with a Danish filtration system that can purify cigarette smoke before it is released into the air, can reportedly fit up to 10 people at a time.

But tobacco enthusiasts appeared unimpressed, with many choosing to light up at a nearby open-air smoking corner instead.

"The atmosphere in there is stifling, honestly."

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 23

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3:49	12:45	5:00	6:42	8:00
JAMAAT 3:59	1:15	5:15	6:52	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAY	SEHRI	IFTAR
17	23	6:42	
18	24	3:42	6:42
19	25	3:42	6:42



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