



PHOTO: STAR

EASING EID HOMEGOERS' HASSLES

Clockwise from top, newly launched semi-nonstop intercity train "Panchagarh Express" on Dhaka-Panchagarh route ready to start its journey. Prayers being offered during inauguration of the much-awaited second Meghna bridge on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Munshiganj. Traffic on the four-lane bridge. Chandra flyover on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the train service and bridges through a videoconference from her official residence Gono Bhaban yesterday.



Shop owners' association fined Tk 1 lakh in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday fined Chattogram Shopping Complex Shop Owners' Association Tk one lakh for not attaching price tags to products in shops.

The mobile court led by Executive Magistrate and Assistant Commissioner of Kattoli Circle Md Towhidul Islam and Executive Magistrate Md Ali Hasan went to the market in guise of customers to monitor it in the morning.

To their surprise, the magistrates found that most of the shops had no price tags in their products, and they were charging exorbitant prices from customers ahead of Eid, said magistrate Towhidul.

Later they conducted a drive in the market and fined the shop owners' association Tk one lakh. They also asked the association to ensure that all products have price tags attached within 24 hours.

"If they fail to do so we will fine each shop individually in future drives," the magistrate added.

Earlier on Friday night, the same court also fined Mimi Super Market Shop Owners' Association Tk one lakh for charging extra prices.

BIWTC's special steamer service to southern districts from May 30

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) will start a 13-day special steamer services from Dhaka towards the southern region on May 30, ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr -- expected to be celebrated on June 5.

Under the service, five additional vessels will be added to the fleet of two steamers.

The Eid special service will continue till June 11, said Sheikh Md Nasim, deputy general manager (commercial/passenger) of BIWTC in Barisal.

The five steamers -- PS Maksud, PS Turn, PS Lepcha, MV Modhumoti and MV Banglaee -- will carry passengers from Sadarghat Launch Terminal

in Dhaka to Chandpur, Barisal, Jhalakathi, Hularhut in Pirojpur and Moreganj in Bagerhat.

According to schedule, PS Turn and MV Modhumoti will leave Dhaka at 6:30pm and 7pm on May 30 for Moreganj and Hularhut respectively.

MV Banglaee will depart from Sadarghat terminal on May 31, June 3, 5, 8 for Moreganj, Hularhut and Barisal ends.

PS Lepcha is scheduled to leave Dhaka on June 1, 3 and 8 for Moreganj, and Barisal.

MV Modhumoti will leave Sadarghat on June 1, 2, 4, 6 and 9 for Hularhut and Barisal. PS Turn will depart from there on May 30, June 4

and 7 for Barisal ends.

On June 7 and 9, PS Maksud will start from Dhaka towards Barisal.

BIWTC officials said the fares will remain as usual.

Accordingly, on Dhaka-Barisal or Barisal-Dhaka routes, a BIWTC vessel will charge Tk 1,050 for a class I cabin seat, Tk 630 for a class II cabin seat and Tk 170 for a deck seat, said Syed Abul Kalam Azad, assistant general manager in-charge of BIWTC in Barisal.

BIWTC stations at Barisal and Narayanganj were asked to provide special tug boats and be prepared to receive emergency calls during the service, said the official.

Three killed as truck crashes into auto-rickshaw in B'baria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Three people were killed and three persons injured as a truck crashed into a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Bijoynagar upazila yesterday.

Sarail Bishwa Road Highway Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Hossain Sarkar said the incident took place in Satbargo area after the Dhaka-bound truck rammed the auto-rickshaw from the opposite direction around 1:30pm.

The deceased are Shanta Roy Chowdhury, 30, from Adair village in Madhabpur upazila of Habiganj; Abu Taher, 60, from Haluapara village in the upazila; and Billal Uddin, 40, from the same area.

Auto-rickshaw passenger Billal died on the spot and Shanta and Abu Taher were declared dead at Brahmanbaria General Hospital.

The injured -- Faisal Mia, 25, Farzana Akter, 20, and Jumman Mia, 28 -- were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The victims were going to Madhabpur upazila in Habiganj, the police official said.

Police seized the truck but the driver and helper managed to flee, he added.

Our Dinajpur correspondent adds, an elderly man was

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PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

People lay nets near the banks of Halda to collect fish eggs. Broodfish released sample eggs, inset, in the river yesterday. Experts and egg collectors are hopeful that spawning will begin in full swing within days. The photos were taken from Hathazari upazila.

Ray of hope as broodfish release sample eggs in Halda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Broodfish released sample eggs in Halda, the lone source of natural carp breeding in South Asia, yesterday.

This is the second time the fish laid eggs in the river this month. The first time was on May 5. The sample eggs were released at various points at dawn.

The repeated releasing have made egg collectors hopeful for a big haul during spawning season.

"Following last night's [Friday] heavy shower and gusty wind, we went to the river at dawn on wooden boat and began our collection," said Mohammad Elias, an egg collector from Uttar Madarsha.

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BGB-BSF to work for curbing border crimes

BSS, Rangpur

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at a battalion commander-level flag meeting yesterday put emphasis on curbing cross-border crimes jointly to maintain peace on common international borders.

"Initiated by the BSF side, the event was held inside India near boundary pillar No. 893/7S opposite to Singhimari border outpost of BGB in Hatibandha upazila of Lalmonirhat under jurisdiction of Rangpur BGB-61 battalion," said a press release.

The two-and-a-half hour flag meeting was held among the officials of Rangpur

BGB-61 battalion and Gopalpur BSF-47 battalion of Cooch Behar in West Bengal from 10:30am.

Commanding Officer of Rangpur BGB battalion Lt Col Mohammad Shariful Islam led the 10-member BGB delegation. Acting Commandant of the Gopalpur BSF battalion Shudhank Raturi led his 10-member BSF delegation.

The BGB and BSF officials discussed bilateral border issues like cross-border crimes, conducting joint patrols, firing on borders, exchange of information, drug trafficking, smuggling of cows and identification of smuggling routes and other issues.

Bus driver arrested over harassing female passenger

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Police arrested a bus driver in Barisal yesterday over sexually harassing a female passenger a week ago.

A Barisal court sent the accused, Al Amin, to jail after police produced him before it, said Agailjhara Police Station Officer-in-Charge Afzal Hossain.

SI Tayeb Mia, investigation officer of the case, said a relative of the woman's friend filed the case on May 24.

According to the case statement, the 20-year-old employee of a shopping complex in Dhaka, was returning to the capital from her friend's Barisal house on May 18.

When the bus reached Gabtoli bus terminal, she was the only passenger inside. Taking advantage, the driver touched her in an inappropriate way. Somehow, she managed to get off the bus after crying for help. Afterwards, she informed the matter to the complainant, said the police officer.

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