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LAST WEEKEND BEFORE EID Home rush picks up momentum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With an unofficial holiday of over a week beginning today, thousands of city dwellers started leaving the capital yesterday for their homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr.

Bus terminals, railway stations and launch terminals were crowded with homebound people yesterday. The rush, however, is expected to intensify today and is expected to reach its peak two days before Eid.

Although the three-day public holiday will begin from Tuesday (May 4), a large number of government and non-government service holders left Dhaka yesterday, taking a leave for the only working day on Monday before the Eid, securing a nine-day holiday at a stretch.

Eid is likely to be celebrated on June 5.

Due to the long vacation, home-goers' trips are likely to be a little comfortable this year. Besides, most highways are in better condition while new bridges and flyovers have opened to public.

A good number of home-goers left Dhaka city yesterday through different trains, though some of those ran behind schedule.

Passengers had to wait half an hour to over two hours at the Kamalapur Railway Station due to delays.

Among the trains, Chilahati-bound Nilsagar Express was delayed by more than two hours, while the newly launched Rajshahi-bound Banalata Express left Kamalapur around 30 minutes after schedule. The Chattogram-bound

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India's President Ram Nath Kovind administers oath of India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi during a swearing-in ceremony at the presidential palace in New Delhi, India, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Modi sworn in as PM

Set to unveil cabinet today

AFF, New Delhi

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched his historic second term at a solemn ceremony in front of cheering supporters yesterday ahead of unveiling a revamped Hindu nationalist government.

Modi was the first of more than 50 cabinet ministers and deputy ministers to be sworn in at the presidential palace in front of 8,000 people including South Asian leaders, Bollywood stars and leading political figures.

Presidents and prime ministers from neighbouring Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and the Maldives were present, but arch-rival Pakistan was not among those invited.

President of Bangladesh M Abdul Hamid joined the ceremony at the Indian Rashtrapati Bhavan. Liberation War Minister AKM Mozammel Haque and president's spouse Rashida Khanam were also present there.

Modi's right-wing
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Stolen VGF rice found in private granaries

6 held in 2 districts for smuggling 78 tonnes of rice meant for vulnerable feeding

STAR REPORT

Local administrations and law enforcers have recovered 78.5 tonnes of relief rice, which were recently smuggled out of government storage facilities in two districts.

The recoveries were made in Sirajganj and Rangpur. Six people including a union parishad chairman and three rice traders were also arrested.

Officials said the food grain was stored under the Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme and meant for free distribution among the ultra-poor ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr. The market price of the total amount is about Tk 28.5 lakh.

Acting on a tip-off, Assistant Commissioner (AC-Land) Md Anisur Rahman of Sirajganj sadar upazila raided Janani Rice Mill in Barakandi village on Wednesday night, and seized 665 bags of rice (each bag carrying 30kg).

The rice was stored at the government-run Bhangura local supply depot and was supposed to be distributed in Chatmohar

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Rohingya crisis a lesson for world

PM tells conf'ce in Tokyo, says Dhaka preferred talks over discord despite provocation

UNB, Tokyo

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the Rohingya crisis is a lesson for other situations of crises in the region and elsewhere in the world to overcome chaos with the power of peace, humanity and development.

"We have sought dialogue and consensus over discord, even in the face of extreme provocation and crisis. We are not only responding to a humanitarian call, but we're also aware about not allowing the crisis to escalate into chaos and regional instability," she said.

The PM was delivering her keynote speech at the 25th International Nikkei Conference on Future of Asia at Imperial Hotel here yesterday with the theme "Seeking a New Global order - Overcoming the Chaos".

Hasina said despite having extreme limitations, Bangladesh offered shelter to over 1.1 million forcibly displaced Rohingyas as a responsible nation.

"The future of the world lies in convergence of interests common to humanity. As a member of the global community, Bangladesh will continue to work with all friends and partners to ensure a stable and sustainable world order for our future generations."

The PM shared some of her ideas with the Asian leaders to make a better Asia.

"Today's world is confronted with challenges and conflicts in many ways. We need to pledge to strengthen the world with greater openness, jointly address global challenges, safeguard fairness and justice and

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Teen killed by bus in front of her mother

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female student, who passed the Secondary School Certificate examinations this year, was killed as a bus ran her over in front of her mother in the capital's Farmgate yesterday morning.

Tanjila Akhter Hira, 16, was the daughter of Dulal Mia of West Nakhpara, Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Quoting victim's mother Saleha Begum, police said Tanjila and her mother were going to Bangla Motor. Tanjila fell while trying to get on a bus and the vehicle ran her over in front of Babul Tower around 11:00am. She died on the spot. Her mother was behind her.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver, said the OC.

Saleha last night filed

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Astronomers find 'Forbidden Planet'



CNN ONLINE

Astronomers have found an exoplanet so rare that they have deemed it "The Forbidden Planet," according to a new study.

Technically known as NGTS-4b, the planet is three times the size of Earth and 20% smaller than Neptune. It's also hotter than Mercury with a temperature of 1,832 degrees Fahrenheit. And the planet has its own atmosphere.

An international team of astronomers used the Next-Generation Transit Survey observing facility to spot the small rogue planet.

Its mass is 20 Earth masses and it whips around its star in a full orbit every 1.3 days. A study detailing the planet published Monday in the journal Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The announcement comes on the heels of last

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2 gang-raped in Habiganj, Narayanganj

STAR REPORT

Two women were allegedly gang-raped in Habiganj and Narayanganj in the last three days.

In Habiganj, a housewife was raped by Nazim

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 31

Fajr	Juma	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
3:45	12:30	5:00	6:45	8:00
3:55	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:30

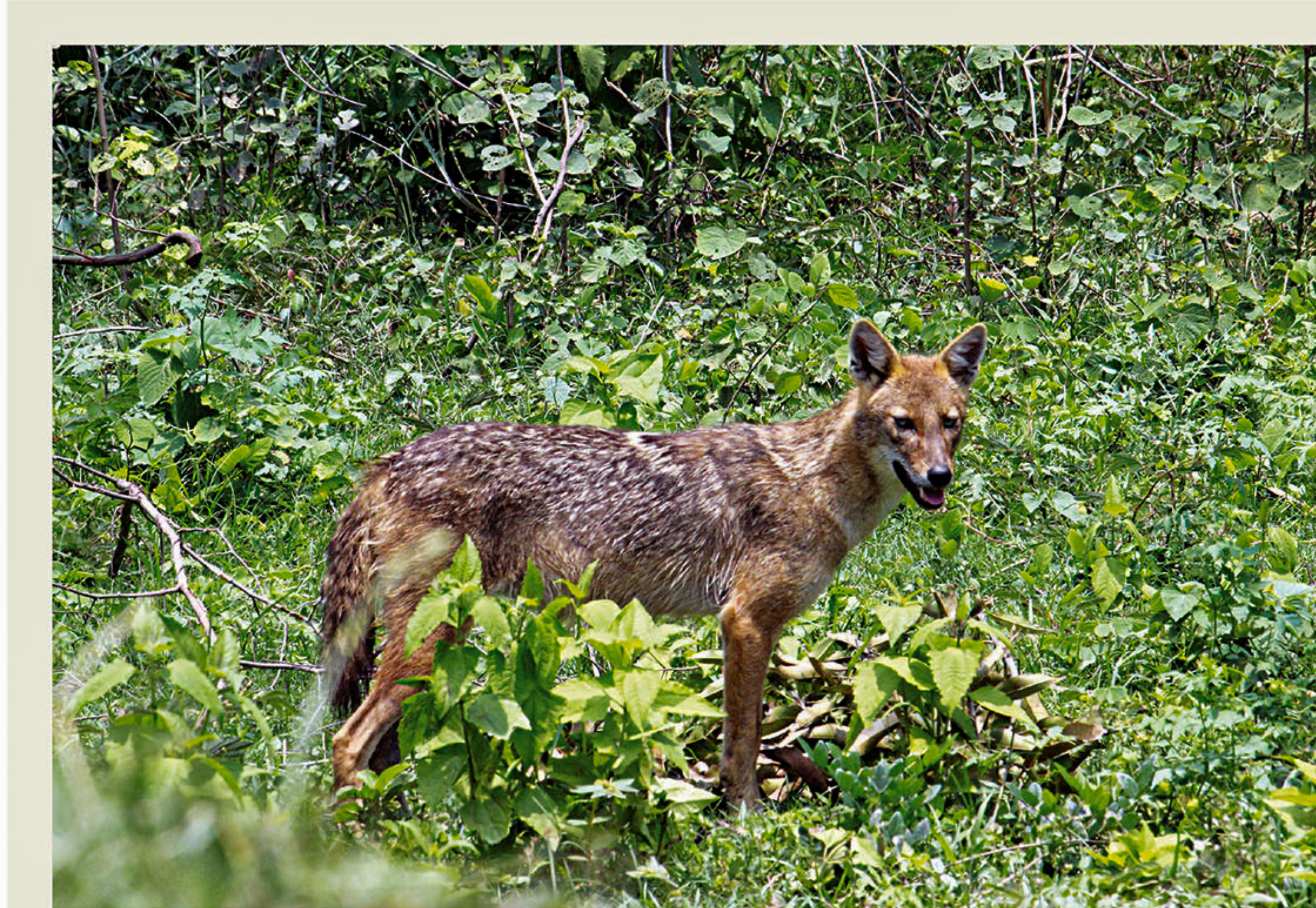
JAMAAT

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MAY	SEHRI	IFTAR
25	31		6:45
26	June 1	3:39	6:46
27	2	3:39	6:46



A Golden Jackal steps out of a forest in Chapainawabganj for a rare moment in the sun. The photo was taken a couple of days ago.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN



All gold everything

RABIUL HASAN, Chapainawabganj

There was something special about the morning of May 28. I was immersing myself in the mystic beauty of nature on a visit to Babudaying -- a hillock some ten kilometres from Chapainawabganj town.

Momentarily, I lost myself in the greenery, my feet nestled in the grass. Then suddenly, from the shrubs, emerged a flash of gold. It was an Asiatic Jackal, also known as a Golden jackal.

Although nocturnal creatures, this particular jackal had decided to make a surprise appearance,

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INDIA'S CONTROVERSIAL NRC War veteran made foreigner

AGENCIES

May 23, a day India celebrated its democracy turned out to be the darkest day of a retired honorary lieutenant of the Indian Army. Fifty-two-year-old Mohammed Sanaullah from Kolohikas village in Kamrup district of Assam was declared a 'foreigner' by the Foreigners' Tribunal that very day.

Having served the Indian Army for 30 years, the retired soldier could not believe that he was no longer considered a citizen of this country.

On Monday, Sanaullah, 52, spent the entire night at the Amingaon Police Station, and appeared at the Foreigners' Tribunal (FT) next morning, from where he was sent to a detention camp.

"He has been declared a foreigner, and we have taken him into custody. We will proceed as per existing rules and guidelines," said Kamrup Superintendent of Police, Parthasarathi Mahanta told CNN-News18.

The family of the retired soldier, who fought in the Kargil war two decades ago, approached the Guwahati High Court on Wednesday. They are hoping that he will get justice from the HC.

Sanaullah was arrested soon after he was summoned by the Assam Police Border Organisation, or the Border Police, in Guwahati on Tuesday.

Last year, a Foreigners' Tribunal in Boko served notice on Sanaullah and he appeared before it five times. At least six other retired personnel of the Army and paramilitary

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