



"MY HOME IS AS GREAT AS THE PADMA BRIDGE TO ME"

Whether for your home or the Pillars of Padma Bridge
We forge steels with the same expertise

COUNTRY'S NO. 1 STEEL EXPERT

BSRM
building a safer nation



SHAH CEMENT

AWARDED

ASIA RESPONSIBLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD 2015



Eid journeys hassle free, largely

People heading north on rail faced delays

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holidaymakers' journey on the highways and waterways have been relatively hassle-free, except those heading to the northern districts on trains.

Unlike previous years, long-haul buses left the terminals on time and faced no major tailback, thanks to better road conditions, transport operators said.

Launch services at the capital's Sadarghat were suspended for two hours due to yesterday morning's stormy weather.

The rush to village homes will reach its peak after offices and garment factories close for the Eid vacation today, transport operators said.

Visiting Dhaka-Chattogram highway yesterday, Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader said people were having the most comfortable and hassle-free Eid journey ever.

For the third consecutive day, holidaymakers going to the northern districts were subjected to long delays at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday, as at least five trains were behind schedule by 1-5 hours.

Nilsagar Express left for Nilphamari around 12:50pm, almost five hours behind its schedule. The train ran three-and-a-half-hour behind its schedule on Saturday.

"We reached the station around 7:00am from Mirpur. My child is suffering," private employee Shamim Rahman said pointing to his three-year-old daughter.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5



As Eid rush gains momentum, people heading home gather at the Sadarghat Launch Terminal to get on ferries yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

A wet Eid likely

Says the Met office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is likely to experience a rainy Eid-ul-Fitr this year, forecasted Bangladesh Meteorological Department yesterday.

According to BMD Director Shamsuddin Ahmed, rain and thunder might remain the same as yesterday until Wednesday.

Sunny weather will also persist over the cloudy sky and rain across the country, the BMD director added.

Speaking to The Daily Star over phone, he said, "This weather will continue during Eid if it is celebrated on Wednesday."

Amid such weather, the temperature may not rise high, he added.

This year, Eid-ul-Fitr is expected to be celebrated on Thursday if the moon is not sighted on Tuesday.

The BMD sources said the country's highest rainfall in the first six hours yesterday was recorded at 65mm in Naogaon's Badalgachhi upazila. In Dhaka, it was recorded at 12mm.

Besides, following the SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

3 workers killed in Rangamati landslide

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Rescuers yesterday recovered the bodies of three construction workers who were buried in the mud following a landslide hit in the Mohila College area of Rangamati town.

The dead -- Anfor Ali, 65, Muhammad Sentu Mia, 40, and Muhammad Pappu, 18 -- were from Sunamganj's Dharmapasha and used to live in a rented house in Rangamati's Reserve Bazar area, said Mir Zahidul Haque Rony, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station.

Another worker Sabuj Mia, 55, was seriously injured in the incident and receiving treatment at Rangamati General Hospital, the OC added.

Quoting locals, Station Officer of Rangamati fire service Udayan Chakma said some 11 workers were digging the soil for construction of a building on the bank of Kaptai Lake.

Suddenly, a large boulder from an adjacent hill rolled on them around 1:00pm, killing the three on the spot, he said, adding that the bodies were recovered after an hour-long effort of police, army, firefighters and local people.

They were working without any safety measures, the fire service official said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 6

Move on to control indoor air quality

Govt set to formulate standards to monitor workplaces, protect workers

JAMIL MAHMUD

The government is formulating a set of standards, which will impose limits on indoor air pollution, especially in workplaces, and empower itself to punish violators.

This is the first time there will be a legal instrument on maintaining indoor air quality. A set of standards is already there to combat outdoor pollution.

Officials said the new standards will enable the government to monitor air pollution inside workplaces and deal with workers' health issues.

Because of the absence of a legal framework on indoor air quality, the government earlier could not assess the level of air pollution at garment or cement factories, rerolling mills, medical facilities, and shopping malls.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) of the US Department of Labour, poor indoor air quality can cause headache, fatigue, trouble concentrating, and irritation of the eyes, nose, throat and lungs.

Also, some specific diseases have been linked to specific air contaminants or indoor environments like asthma in damp indoor environments, it says. In addition, there are some exposures, such as

asbestos and radon, which do not cause immediate symptoms but can lead to cancer after many years, it adds.

The Standards for Indoor Air Quality, the legal instrument which deals with air pollution inside homes and workplaces, is part of the government's effort to ensure clean air amid concerns over poor air quality in major cities of Bangladesh.

In a recent survey, Dhaka has been ranked the second most polluted capital city in the world after New Delhi.

SM Munjurul Hannan Khan, director of the Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (CASE) project on curbing outdoor pollution, said, "As we don't have any indoor standards, we can't say to what extent air pollution is happening inside the four walls. The new standards will help us understand this pollution."

The new set of standards complements the National Ambient Air Quality Standards, which deals with outdoor air pollution. The two sets of standards have been incorporated into the proposed Clean Air Act.

Md Ziaul Haque, director (air quality management), Department of Environment (DoE), said the environment, forest and climate

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Nasa plans to send equipment to Moon



AFP, Washington

For the first time since the 1970s, the United States is planning to send equipment to the surface of the Moon in 2020 and 2021, in anticipation of a crewed lunar mission in 2024, Nasa said yesterday.

The US space agency has chosen American firms Astrobotic, Intuitive Machines and Orbit Beyond to send instruments and other scientific equipment to the Moon as part of the Artemis program.

The administration of President Donald Trump has accelerated the timetable for putting humans back on the Moon with 2024 the new target date -- moved up by four years.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

Six held for raping two RMG workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Six youths were held in connection with the rape of two garment workers in Narayanganj's Bandar upazila on Saturday.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING JUNE 3

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 3-45	12-45	5-00	6-46	8-00
JAMAAT 3-55	1-15	5-15	6-56	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BERGER
Trusted Worldwide

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN JUNE	SEHRI	IFTAR
28	3	6:47
29	4	3:39 6:47
30	5	3:39 6:47

For a colourful home in Eid

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

With Eid-ul-Fitr just two days away, the markets in Chattogram are abuzz with customers. This year, however, customers were not busy buying only clothes, but many were seen focusing on home decorative items -- particularly artificial flowers, plants and vases.

During a visit to the city's market places yesterday, this correspondent saw customers thronging the stalls of such items.

One shopper at these stalls said the quality of these show-pieces were good. All she had to do was now see which would match the interior of her house.

Farjana Islam, a shopper in Afmi Plaza at the city's Prabartak intersection, was stroking her fingers on the petals of an artificial orange Gerbera.

"It is nice to give your house a new look during Eid. Besides, we can hardly manage any time for buying these [home decorative items]"

SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Home decorative items, including artificial flowers, are on high demand ahead of the Eid, and stalls like this are abuzz with customers in Chattogram. The photo was taken at Afmi Plaza in the port city yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN

Go for Brexit with no deal

Trump urges May's would-be successor on the eve of UK tour

AFP, London

US President Donald Trump yesterday waded once again into Britain's Brexit debate on the eve of a state visit to London, urging Theresa May's successor to leave the EU with no deal.

Whoever takes over as Britain's next prime minister should not be afraid to "walk away" from negotiations with Brussels and should refuse to pay the agreed divorce bill, he told the Sunday Times newspaper.

The intervention comes after Trump used another newspaper interview to declare that former foreign minister Boris Johnson would be an "excellent" replacement for May.

Britain is rolling out the red carpet for the president this week, starting with a private lunch with Queen Elizabeth II and a state banquet at Buckingham Palace today.

But large protests are also planned over what London Mayor Sadiq Khan described as Trump's "divisive behaviour", while opposition politicians are boycotting the banquet.

'I WOULDN'T PAY'

Trump embarrassed May with outspoken remarks on Brexit during his visit to Britain last year. Yesterday, he again urged the next government to follow his own negotiating rule book.

"If they don't get what they want, I would walk away... If you don't get the deal you want, if you don't get a fair deal, then you walk away," he said.

May has already agreed to pay £39 billion (45 billion euros, \$50 billion) to cover Britain's liabilities as it moves

SEE PAGE 5 COL 5