FLY ASH FREE
AKIJ CEMENT
bonding forever
100+ YEARS
ASSURANCE OF DURABILITY

DHAKA TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2019

The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXIX NO. 139 | JAISHTHA 21, 1426 BS | RAMADAN 29, 1440 HIJRI | 20 PAGES PLUS LIFESTYLE PRICE : TK12.00

ধুলো ময়লার সুপ্রিম সমাধান
BERGER
Weather Coat
ANTIDIRT
SUPREME

EID MUBARAK

The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a very happy Eid

It's holiday, Star's open!

We will serve our readers only through our digital platform (www.thedailystar.net) during Eid holidays from June 4 to 6. Though there will be no newspaper in the next three days, you will miss nothing if you stay tuned to our dynamic web coverage in English and Bangla.

Going home, mostly happy

Bus trips smooth; launches, trains delayed

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY, RASHIDUL HASAN *and* HELEMUL ALAM

With his seven-month-old nephew on his lap, Mohammad Shohag, along with his siblings, was seen waiting at the Kamalapur Railway Station to catch the Nilphamari-bound Nilsagar Express.

The joy of going home was written all over their faces. They had waited a long time for this.

In a rush to get home, Shohag and his family members, arrived at the station around 7:30am, half an hour before schedule. They, however, had to wait longer than expected.

Their train finally arrived around 12:30pm.

"It's very painful to wait for more than five hours at station with a child. But celebrating Eid with family makes up for this suffering," Shohag said before the train left at 1:00pm.

Like Shohag, thousands of people left Dhaka on railways, highways and waterways to celebrate Eid, defying all odds -- from collecting tickets in advance to facing long delays of trains and extra charges for buses, to fighting to get on trains and launches.

Holidaymakers, especially those who were heading for the northern districts, had to suffer as at least eight trains were behind schedule. Bus and launch terminals witnessed huge crowds, but no major tailbacks were reported.

Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest Muslim religious festival, will be celebrated across the country tomorrow if the Shawal moon is sighted today.

An estimated 1.47 crore people would leave Dhaka, Gazipur and Narayanganj before Eid, according to The National Committee to Protect Shipping, Roads and Railways.

Of them, 55 percent would use highways, 25 percent waterways and 20 percent railways, the non-government organisation said, based on official and private estimates.

THE WAIT AT KAMALAPUR STATION

Thousands of people thronged the country's premier station from morning while the rush gained momentum in the afternoon, as many people headed home after their

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

SCAN CEMENT
HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group
পাল্টাই ভবিষ্যৎ

পদ্মা সেতুর মূল কাঠামোতে ব্যবহৃত হচ্ছে শুধুমাত্র স্ক্যানসিমেন্ট
ভিত্তিসহ পুরো বাড়ি তৈরিতেই ব্যবহার করুন স্ক্যান সিমেন্ট
মজবুত হোক আপনার বাড়ির ভবিষ্যৎ

Extortion on rise ahead of Eid

Truck drivers, footpath hawkers forced to pay more to extortionists

SHAHEEN MOLLAH *and* MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

With a brinjal-loaded truck, driver Sabuj Mia came to the capital's Karwan Bazar kitchen market from Tangail's Madhupur early Sunday.

He generally takes Tk 6,000 to 6,500 from the goods owner for a trip. But at the end of Ramadan, he charges the owner Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,500 extra.

"What will I do? I don't take the money for my trips. I have to pay it to law enforcers, market lessee and labourers as Eid tips," Sabuj told The Daily Star.

Sabuj said he entered the Karwan Bazar kitchen market soon after midnight and it took only one and a half hours to unload the truck, but the toll collector still charged him Tk 200 as parking fees. The fees for parking a small truck for eight hours are Tk 120.

Asked about taking extra, Mohammad Alauddin, one of them who collects tolls from vehicles that enter Karwan Bazar, said they were collecting the additional toll as "Eid bonus".

Sabuj said he usually gave labourers Tk 400 for unloading goods from his vehicle. "But this time, I have to pay them Tk 200 additionally for this work as tips.

"I pay police Tk 3,000 a month to bring goods from Tangail to Dhaka. Ahead of Eid, I have to give them Tk 100 to Tk 200 at different points in addition to that," he claimed.

Humayun Kabir, former president of Bangladesh Truck and Covered Van Drivers' Union, alleged that their drivers were extorted heavily by the highway police on Dhaka-Tangail, Dhaka-Khulna and Dhaka-Chattogram highways.

"Most of the drivers give police a specific amount a month even after having all valid documents to avoid harassments in the name of checking vehicles."

Drivers said they pay Tk 3,000 for small trucks and Tk 5,000 for large ones.

Quoting his drivers, Humayun said highway and traffic police collected toll heavily from drivers at Daudkandi and Cumilla Cantonment

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

Mercurial Pakistan show England up

AGENCIES, *Nottingham*

Pakistan beat England by 14 runs at Trent Bridge yesterday as the World Cup's first centuries from Joe Root and Jos Buttler were not enough to help the hosts and pre-tournament favourites overhaul the huge target of 349 set for them.

England had won the toss and put Pakistan in to bat, banking on the pace of fast bowlers Chris Woakes and Jofra Archer for early wickets and no doubt hoping to recreate the way the West Indies skittled Pakistan out for 105 on Friday.

Instead, the visitors put that woeful performance behind them and racked up 348 runs for eight wickets, delighting their cheering fans in the stands with 29 fours and six sixes.

Mohammad Hafeez was his side's top scorer with 84 off 62 balls, while Babar Azam made 63 and captain Sarfaraz Ahmed belted a quickfire 55.

In reply, England steadily lost the wickets of their top-order batsmen Jason Roy, Jonny Bairstow, Eoin Morgan and Ben Stokes to leave the side on 118 for four and give Root and Buttler a mountain to climb.

The two did their best, each eventually reaching three figures. Root hit 10 fours and one six on his way to 107 before scooping an easy catch off Khan to Hafeez at third man.

Buttler smashed a four to notch up his own hundred a few overs later, only to fall to the very next ball.

As the balls-remaining count dwindled, Moeen and Woakes swung valiantly at everything they could. But after they were both caught out in successive balls, Mark Wood and Adil Rashid were left stranded at the crease as the target slipped beyond their reach.

Earlier, Mohammad Hafeez missed out on becoming the first century-maker of the World Cup but a vastly improved Pakistan batting display left England facing a record chase at Trent Bridge.

The highest total made by any team batting second to win a World Cup match is Ireland's 329 for seven against England in Bangalore in 2011.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

SEVEN RINGS CEMENT
FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE

Tigers gearing up for Kiwi challenge

SAKEB SUBHAN *from London*

Not far from The Oval, the scene of a stirring win in their World Cup opener against South Africa on Sunday, the Bangladesh team were enjoying a well-deserved rest day at their hotel yesterday. It may have seemed unlikely that the high spirits that characterised their build-up to the World Cup would continue through a tough opening match against a side ranked three places higher than them in the world rankings, but the 21-run win has served to lift spirits higher, which would no doubt have been boosted further by the fact that they will be celebrating Eid-ul-Fitr either today or tomorrow.

Skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was quick to remind all and sundry on Sunday that they should forget about the win because they had another tough match coming up on Wednesday against New Zealand. Even as most of the team were enjoying a day off out of doors, many with their families, the backroom engine gearing up for the Kiwi challenge has been in motion since Sunday night as Mashrafe said that team performance analyst Srinivasan

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Rejoinder, our reply

The company secretary of Khan Brothers Slipways and Engineering Works in a rejoinder claimed that three news reports on the grabbing of Meghna river carried by this paper between May 19 and May 21 were "false, fabricated and malafide".

The reports referred to are headlined as "Freeing the Meghna from grabbers: act or get sued", "Evicting Meghna grabbers: BIWTA drive stops halfway", and "Meghna grabber defies govt order".

"We started ship building dockyard after obtaining all necessary and essential approvals and licence from the concerned authorities," read the rejoinder.

The authorities concerned are "satisfied" with the company's activities for industrialisation.

OUR REPLY

The rejoinder sweepingly terms our three reports "false, fabricated and malafide" without any justification or proof of exactly how or which parts of the reports were false.

The company did not provide any documents

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Price support still eludes rice farmers

Successive governments bought very little from them, leaving them exposed to losses

SOHEL PARVEZ

Providing price support for farmers has always been a top policy goal of almost every government. In practice, however, successive governments procured very little paddy from growers in the last three decades.

Since 1991, the Directorate of Food bought only 15 percent of its total annual purchase of the staple in the form of paddy from growers when it procured the rest 85 percent in the form of rice from millers.

As a result, millers have gained more from the government's food grain procurement policy, the number one objective of which is to provide price support to farmers.

Even this year, when farmers are facing huge losses due to falling prices of paddy, the government is buying only 1.5 lakh tonnes of paddy from them. In contrast, it plans to procure 12.5 lakh tonnes of rice from millers.

"Historically, we have seen that the government has not been successful in giving price support to farmers," said Quazi Shahabuddin, former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

"But this is an extraordinary year and it calls for extraordinary measures," he said, suggesting that the government buy more paddy from growers.

Rice accounts for more than 70 percent of the total annual cropped area of 1.54 crore hectares, and 77 percent

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2