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# Airfare shoots up amid mad rush home

Domestic flight carriers charging up to 4 times the usual fare

RASHIDUL HASAN

Domestic airfares have shot up significantly ahead of Eid vacation as holidaymakers are rushing to get air tickets to avoid the hassles of a time-consuming journey by road and railway.

Ticket prices on Dhaka-Jashore and Dhaka-Barishal routes has increased by around four times due to high demands by people who are trying to avoid the long tailbacks at Mawa and Paturia ferry terminals.

Apart from the two routes, demand for Dhaka-Saidpur and Dhaka-Rajshahi tickets are also high as it takes around 14 to 15 hours for holidaymakers to reach their destinations in the northern region.

Officials of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, US-Bangla Airlines, Novo Air and Regent Airways said all tickets for August 9 and 10 from Dhaka to Jashore, Barishal, Saidpur and Rajshahi had already been booked or sold.

Dhaka-Saidpur ticket prices on August 11 is now Tk 8,200 to Tk 10,500, according to bdtickets.com. Usually, the ticket costs from Tk 2,600-3,000.

Dhaka-Barishal airfare is now Tk 8,800, which usually costs Tk 2,300 to Tk 2,700.

It will cost Tk 6,500 to Tk 8,000 to go to Jashore from Dhaka on tomorrow, up from the usual Tk 2,300 to 2,600.

Dhaka-Rajshahi tickets will cost around Tk 8,200 to Tk

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## WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY

Indigenous girls perform at a programme on the premises of Rangamati Municipality yesterday. Bangladesh Adibashi Fourm organised the event marking the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

## Ensure our land rights Indigenous people urge

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indigenous communities yesterday observed the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples at different parts of the country, demanding recognition as per the constitution and right to land.

Members of the communities brought out processions in different districts amid law enforcers' resistant stance against crowds.

In Khagrachhari, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum brought out a procession marking the day.

Starting from the Government Women's College, the rally headed towards the town's Shapla Chatter but faced a barricade of police at the Gate of Yongda Buddhist Biha Temple.

People who took part in the procession then stopped at the temple's gate and condemned the action of police.

Speakers of the procession also demanded constitutional recognition for their community from the procession.

In Bandarban, members of indigenous communities brought out another rally demanding execution of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord.

Speaker at the rally alleged that they were deprived of fundamental rights such as land, culture, education and language.

They also urged the government to take stern action against jhum land grabbers.

People of Marma, Chakma, Tripura, Tongchya, Khyang, Bawm, Mro, Lusai, Khumi and Chak communities also observed the day with different activities in Bandarban town.

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## SC DIRECTIVES No bail for accused of serious crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court has issued 16 directives to its High Court Division regarding granting anticipatory bail, saying that those accused in cases involving grave offences like murder and rape will not be granted anticipatory bail.

The HC can grant anticipatory bail only in exceptional cases, but not for more than eight weeks and such bail will not continue after the submission of the charge sheet of the case, the apex court said in the full text of its verdict delivered recently.

The SC said, "In the cases involving grave offences like murder, dacoity, robbery, rape etc where it is necessary to arrest the accused and bring his movements under restraint to infuse confidence among the terror-stricken victims, the accused should never be enlarged on anticipatory bail."

"The anticipatory bail granted by the court should ordinary be continued not more than eight weeks and shall not continue after submission of charge sheet, and the same must not be in connection

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## Anger builds in Kashmir

Friday prayers held amid tight security; India urges Pakistan to accept 'reality'; Pak FM visits China; US urges for calm

AGENCIES

Authorities in Kashmir eased some restrictions to allow people to attend Friday prayers but anger was still mounting against India's decision to revoke the special status of the Muslim-majority region, residents and officials said.

Seeking to tighten its grip on the region also claimed by neighbouring Pakistan, India this week scrapped the state's right to frame its own laws and allowed non-residents to buy property there.

Since Sunday telecoms links have been suspended, at least 300 political leaders detained and public gatherings banned, effectively confining residents to their homes.

Dozens of people walked on the streets of Srinagar, the region's main city, for the first time this week to offer prayers at mosques guarded by police.

"Every time we have embraced India, they have cut our throats," read a handwritten poster at one mosque, which also urged Kashmiris not to sell land and to hold protests after Eid prayers on Monday, reported Reuters.

Leaders in Kashmir had warned that scrapping the special status would be seen as an act of aggression against the people of the Himalayan state, where more than 50,000 people have been killed in a 30-year-old revolt against Indian rule.

Arch-rival Pakistan, which lays claims to Kashmir, has downgraded diplomatic ties with India and suspended trade in anger.

Yesterday, senior Chinese diplomat Wang Yi said China was gravely

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## AGARTALA AIRPORT Tripura seeks land stretching one kilometre into Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tripura Chief Minister Biplab Kumar Deb has placed a proposal for having a piece of land stretching one kilometre in Bangladesh's Brahmanbaria for the expansion of Maharaja Bir Bikram International Airport in Agartala, reported news agency TNN.

The proposal came as there was no space in the Indian side of the border to expand the airport that is situated on the 509-acre land right next to the barbed wire fence that separates Bangladesh and India.

"I have sent a proposal to the Centre to request the Bangladesh government to provide a piece of land, say less than 1 kilometre inside the border area to expand a runway of the MBB airport," Deb told reporters

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## Oldest fossil forest in Asia discovered



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The oldest fossil forest in Asia which existed between 359m and 419m years ago, has been discovered by scientists.

Dating back to the Devonian period, a geological era known as the age of fishes, it was found in the walls of clay quarries in China, near the town of Xinhang, in the country's Anhui province.

It is made up of 250,000 square metres of fossilised lycospid trees, an area as big as 35 football pitches.

Researchers said it is the largest example of a Devonian forest to ever be discovered. Two others have been found, in the US and in Norway.

The latest discovery is the oldest example of a forest in Asia, according to a study published in the Current Biology journal.

The trees which can be seen in the walls of

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### PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 10

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:25	12:45	4:45	6:41	8:00
JAMAAT 5:00	1:15	5:00	6:44	8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## FAMILY DISPUTE Woman tied to tree, tortured Brother-in-law, another held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A woman was allegedly tortured by some of her relatives over a family dispute in Rangpur's Gangachara upazila on Wednesday.

Quoting locals, police said the relatives tied the woman, 38, to a tree, beat her up, cut her hair and then placed a garland of shoes around her neck.

Two people, including her brother-in-law, were arrested on Thursday after a case was filed with Gangachara Police Station over the incident.

According to locals, daughter of the woman's brother-in-law and a youth from Rangpur Sadar upazila got married about a month-and-a-half ago. The youth, however, sent a divorce notice to the girl on July 21, accusing her of being a person of bad character.

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Defying a ban, a temporary cattle market has been set up along the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in the capital's Shanir Akhra area. Inset, a Tk 500 note is being checked with a fake note detector machine at the market. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## CITY CATTLE MARKETS Sales yet to pick up

Sellers spend lazy time

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

With the Eid-ul-Azha only two days away, sale of sacrificial animals at the capital's cattle markets is yet to pick up pace.

Visiting three markets yesterday, this correspondent found low presence of buyers. Sellers were seen spending time gossiping and wiping dirt off their cattle.

Yasin Ali brought 13 bulls to Kauartek cattle market from Pabna's Chatmohar upazila on Monday. But he could not sell one till yesterday afternoon.

The same is the case with Jinarul Haque. He was yet to sell any of his 45 cattle brought from Chuadanga on Wednesday.

He said his bulls weigh between two and 15 maunds. He was asking Tk 5 lakh for his bull of Australian breed, weighing 15 maunds.

Jinarul was hoping that all his cattle would be sold out by tomorrow.

A total of 24 Hasil (service tax paid by buyers) booths were set up at the temporary market, which occupied part of Dholaikhal road.

Bimal Saha, in-charge of a Hasil booth, said he collected Hasil for only one bull till 3:30pm.

"There are about 30,000 cattle in the market. I hope sale will pick up pace from this evening [last evening]," he said.

Although there were only a few buyers, crowds of children were seen asking sellers about their cattle.

"Children are roaming around the market, but their guardians are yet to be here," said Kazi Lutfor Rahman

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