

President, PM to greet countrymen on Eid day

Bss, Dhaka

President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will exchange greetings with people from all walks of life at Bangabhaban and Gono Bhaban on the day of holy Eid-ul-Azha (August 12), the second biggest religious festival of the

"The programme will begin at 10:30 am at Bangabhaban. The President will also deliver a short speech on the occasion," President's press secretary Mohammad Joynal Abedin told BSS yesterday.

The head of the state is also scheduled to exchange Eid greetings with people of all walks of society,



a day away, traders from across the country are bringing sacrificial animals to the capital hoping to make good profits. The photo of this livestock carrier on the Buriganga, inset, was taken from Postogola bridge in Jurain.

Capital's cattle markets still gaining momentum

Sellers apprehensive of losses; buyers cautious

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLIAH

As Eid-ul-Azha draws nearer, city dwellers have begun rushing to cattle markets to buy sacrificial animals of their choice.

Traders and buyers yesterday had mixed reactions over the price of cattle. Some buyers claimed traders were demanding high prices, while some traders said they are not getting just value for their cattle.

Yesterday, the correspondents visited five makeshift cattle markets -- Kochukhet, Bhashantek, Kauartek, Dhupkhola and Kamalapur -- and the permanent cattle market in Gabtoli.

Trader Al-Amin, who had brought 24 cows from Kustia to the Kamalapur haat, had already sold 22 till 4pm yesterday.

"If I calculate transportation, cattle feed and labour cost, we've so far incurred loss of about Tk 35,000," he said.

Pointing to one of his unsold red ox, he said, "I bought this big one at Tk 1.35 lakh last year and spent another Tk 40,000, but people are not bidding more than Tk 1.5

Last year, he sold 13 cows and went home with a loss of Tk 55,000, said Al-

However, trader Sanwar Mandal made profit last year. He brought 15 cows this

year at Kauartek cattle market. He bought a red Sindhi breed bull weighing about 15-maund, for which his asking price is Tk 5 lakh. "So far, the highest bid was Tk 3.5 lakh," he added.

Accompanied by his uncle and cousin, Jinnat Ali brought 12 mid-sized cattle from Chuadanga on Tuesday. Till yesterday afternoon, he could only sell about four of

"We've made some profit from the selling of four cows, but if we could not sell all of them we'll make a huge loss," he said, adding, buyers were yet to show up in full

This newspaper also talked to several buyers at the haats.

Fearing price hike, some were buying cattle whereas some were still waiting for further drop in prices.

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Fraudsters arrested with equipment, fake stamps worth Tk 1cr

DB nabs members of mugging gang

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police in a special drive yesterday arrested two people from the capital's Paltan area, allegedly for selling fake revenue stamps.

The arrestees were identified as Rasel Ahmed Shanto and Md Nayem

A team of DB (series crime investigation department) also recovered fake revenue stamps, plates and others equipment worth Tk 1.02 crore from their possession, said Abdul Baten, additional commissioner (DB) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

In primary interrogation, the arrestees admitted that they used to prepare fake stamps and used to sell those at different districts of the country, said Baten, while addressing a press briefing at DMP

At the same press where these used to be printed, supporters of Hizbut Tahrir also used to print their posters, leaflets and books.

The DB team also recovered huge stash of leaflets and books.

City corporations start using new insecticide

KILLING AEDES MOSQUITOES

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both city corporations of Dhaka have started using newly tested insecticides to kill Aedes mosquitoes, responsible for the recent outbreak of dengue.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) is using deltamethrin insecticide while Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) is using malathion. DSCC began spraying the insecticide yesterday and DNCC since Thursday, according to official sources of the city corporations.

In July, a meeting was held in Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission organised by the two city corporations, where four new insecticides were recommended for killing Aedes mosquitoes

Based on the decision, the samples of insecticides were brought from abroad. Three different tests were conducted on insecticides - field test using fogging machine directly on DENGUE OUTBREAK

Hospitals ready to deal with patients during Eid: Maleque

Hospitals across the country are prepared to serve patients with dengue fever during the Eid holidays, Health Minister Zahid Maleque has said.

"We have trained 2,000 doctors. Our medicine specialists helped us with that. We have prepared a protocol, which has been distributed everywhere, including at private hospitals. Trained doctors have been sent to districts and upazilas," he told the news agency on Thursday in an interview at his Secretariat office.

The minister said they have already allocated Tk 10 lakh for each district hospital and Tk 2 lakh for each upazila hospital to buy anything they need in order to locally manage

'We hope there will be no problem. Even then, any problem they (district and upazila hospitals) face, they will be able to directly contact us. We'll always be in office, even on Eid day," he said.

The mosquito-borne viral disease could spread in districts and upazilas with people leaving Dhaka to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with their dear and near ones.

"We have ordered upazila hospital authorities to make a separate dengue corner. I have visited some district hospitals and found that about 90 percent patients in those hospitals travelled back from Dhaka," health minister said.

"We have also prepared four

hospitals in Dhaka for any sudden spike: Sheikh Hasina Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute, Sheikh Russell Digestive Unit, new expanded site of Nitor (National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedic Rehabilitation) and Suhrawardhy Medical College and Hospital," he said.

"The burn unit opens on Friday, while the other three will be functional from Saturday. I hope those will not be needed but still we are prepared."

"We have also opened a hotline --6263," the minister added.

This year, mosquitoes are breeding 12 times more than before, Zahid Maleque claimed.

"Our mandate is to ensure medical

Homebound passengers being overcharged

Says Jatri Kalyan Samity, makes 12-point recommendation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatri Kalyan Samity yesterday alleged that additional fares are being charged from Eid holidaymakers bound for different districts by road, water and airways.

Fares are illegally being charged two or three times higher than usual, in routes including Feni, Cumilla, Noakhali and in northern parts of the country, claimed the passengers' welfare platform.

From a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity, the platform also made a 12-point recommendation to ensure safe journey for passengers for Eid-ul-Azha, to be observed

In a written statement there, the platform's secretary General Mozammel Hoque alleged that homegoers are paying extra fares on one hand, and remaining stuck for hours in jam on highways, as well as at rail stations due to schedule collapse. Quieting statistics of the Roads and Highways

300km of railways in the country are in poor condition due to un-repaired roads and risky bridges. Waterways have become extremely risky due to unfavorable weather and the burden of carrying about three to four times extra passengers beyond capacity, he

Department, he said 4,247km of roads and highways and

Mozammel demanded that the government repair highways affected by flood, and introduce long-term

measures to deal with the crisis of public transport. Mozammel recommended imposing a ban on vehicles without fitness like "nosimon-korimon" (locally-produced

three-wheelers), easy-bikes, auto-rickshaws, battery and pedal-run rickshaws, and restricting motorcycles on major

'An atrocious act of extortion'

TIB says about higher fare of domestic flights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has expressed shock and disappointment over the three to four-time hike in fare by domestic airlines, taking advantage of the higher demand on Eid holidays.

In a statement yesterday, the anti-graft watchdog termed the hike an "atrocious act of extortion" and demanded justice and accountability in public interest and for corporate integrity.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said, "We are deeply shocked and disappointed to see in media reports that some airlines of Bangladesh have brazenly involved themselves in an unprecedented atrocious act of extortion through taking advantage of the higher demand for travels during the Eid holidays".

This, he said, is a shameful example of noncompliance of national and international standards, which is unthinkable for SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

PHOTO OF THE DAY



DON'T WORRY LITTLE ONE, YOU'LL BE BETTER SOON... three-year-old Subarna lies next to her mother at Mugdha Medical College Hospital yesterday. She was admitted to the hospital with dengue fever on Wednesday.

An unshakeable duo

Father, son operate Biman flight together

RASHIDUL HASAN

From the day Eric Reja Khondker took his first flying lessons, was a dream for him: to fly an aircraft sitting next to his father. That dream came true for him on

Thursday, as chance brought the duo together in the same cockpit -- of a Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight. Captain Khondker Nazmul Islam and his son, first officer Eric together flew a

Boeing 737-800 aircraft to Bangkok and

back, said Tasnim Akhtar, public relations manager of Biman. "A lifelong wish fulfilled, a day I'll never forget!" Eric said in a Facebook post,

terming the experience "unreal". Tasnim said though they fly for different airlines -- Nazmul for Regent Airways and Eric for Biman -- the opportunity presented itself when Biman leased cockpit crews

from Regent. "This must have been a proud moment and a career highlight for both of them,



and Biman would like to congratulate

them on this epic flight," Tasnim said. "This marks the second time in Bangladesh a father and son were in the same cockpit crew," Tasnim added, quoting a senior pilot of the national flag carrier.

The first such incident was in 2016, when Capt Sarker Kamal Sayeed and his son Wazid Sayeed flew an airplane on the London-Sylhet and Dhaka route.

Five-tier security for nat'l mosque, eidgah

Says DMP chief on Eid preparations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken five-tier security arrangements for National Eidgah ground and national mosque Baitul Mukarram ahead of Eid-ul-Azha

DMP commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia disclosed the arrangements yesterday after inspecting security measures at the national Eidgah.

The arrangements include in-uniform and plainclothed law enforcers, SWAT and bomb disposal unit, watch tower, metal detector archways and real-time CCTV monitoring. People coming to National Eidgah ground for Eid

prayers can only bring prayer mats and umbrellas with them, said the DMP boss. Everyone will have to undergo three-tier screening before entering the venue, he said, adding that similar

security arrangement is in place for National Mosque. "Devotees will be allowed to enter after being screened through archways and metal detectors," said Asaduzzaman.







