



A memorial space set up by Sylhet District Administration at the Central Shaheed Minar was covered with wreaths -- paying respect to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, left. Barishal City Corporation Mayor Semiabat Sadiq Abdullah organised a drawing and writing competition on the occasion at Barishal Club yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR, TITU DAS

Rajshahi ticket scalpers active for lack of vigilance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

As holidaymakers started returning to the capital yesterday, ticket scalpers have become active in Rajshahi Railway Station area.

Although law enforcement agencies said they were monitoring ticket sales, commuters alleged they found a lack of vigilance by the authorities.

The station's booking counters and online ticketing service ran out of tickets before Eid, but the scalpers -- well-known faces in the locality -- are still selling tickets secretly.

They are selling the Tk 375 Shovon chair tickets at Tk 800, Tk 570 Snigdha AC chair tickets at Tk 1,200, and Tk 1,070 AC berth tickets at Tk 2,000.

Ticket-seekers said they witnessed a close supervision of ticket sales last year, but alleged that authorities were not vigilant enough regarding black marketing of train tickets this year.

Aynal Haque, a businessman from Horogram area, bought two Shovon chair tickets for Banalata Express from a scalper yesterday.

Each ticket cost him Tk 800 and he saw four others buying five Shovon tickets for different Dhaka-bound trains from the same scalper.

Aynal said, he purchased the tickets for his daughter and son-in-law who were visiting his family on the occasion of Eid.

"I had been trying to buy the tickets

since two days before Eid. The booking counters at the station and online service reported non-availability of the tickets but we desperately needed them," he said.

"I tried my luck at different stalls of the station and asked them directly who sells tickets in the black market. One of them took me to an individual who gave me the tickets, asking me to wait at the station for half an hour," he said.

"Buying tickets from scalpers is easy," he said while looking at the long queue in front of the booking counters where most people were waiting for hours and returning empty-handed.

"Almost everyone at the station knows the scalpers. But they would let you wait and run across the station to be certain that you're not a member of law enforcement agencies," Aynal said.

When contacted, the additional general manager of Bangladesh Railway's west zone, Ashim Talukder, said, the railway authorities this year sent letters to law enforcement and intelligence agencies, asking them to be vigilant and report irregularities.

"We haven't yet received any bad reports," he said.

When notified of Aynal Haque's experience, he said, they witnessed some locals collecting tickets in different queues and suspected they might be engaged in

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INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY BSF greets BGB with sweets at Hili border



UNB, Dinaipur

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Border Security Force (BSF) of India greeted their Bangladesh counterpart, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB), with sweets on the occasion of India's 73rd Independence Day yesterday at Hili Land Port in Hakimpur upazila of Dinaipur.

BSF Hili camp's Company Commander DS Sindhu said they greeted BGB members with sweets on their Independence Day with an aim to keep fraternity and solidarity between the two parties.

BGB Hili check post camp's Company Commander Md Altaf Hossain said, "We always exchange greetings on our national days and festivals."

Extending a helping hand Bangladeshi peacekeepers provide free medical services to people of South Sudan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People in South Sudan have lauded free medical care being provided by Bangladeshi peacekeepers in the civil war-torn African country.

"My child was sick with fever and cough and was unable to eat. I also have hemorrhoids and body pain. I have no money to buy medicine but they [Bangladeshi peacekeepers] helped us," said Hawa Daniel, one of the thousands of people displaced by the civil war.

Hawa, who returned to her original residence in Wau, said she was happy to receive free medical care, according to a statement issued by the UN Mission in South Sudan yesterday.

Luis Mungu, another Sudanese, said he was sick for a number of days with cough, but thanks to the peacekeepers, he got medicine. He also got eyeglasses to help with his vision. He said he is grateful to the peacekeepers for their support.

South Sudan's Health Minister Dr James Patrice in Wau acknowledged the support of Bangladeshi peacekeepers and urged for more assistance in treating malaria in the area.

"I wish to express my gratitude... and for standing by the government to support in the health field to provide some medicine and help our people," said the health



minister.

About 300 people mostly women, children and elderly turned up for the free medical service in the city of Wau.

Col Mazharul Haque, commander of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Wau, said they are part of the Bangladesh battalion running peacekeeping operation and humanitarian assistance programme.

Most patients are suffering from malaria, some from cough, diarrhoea and headache etc, he said. However, they only have some primary medicine and would continue the humanitarian support within their limited capacity, Col Haque added.

Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to the UN peacekeeping operations.

Hasan for commission to reveal Aug 15 plotters

Bss, Dhaka

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday proposed forming a commission to unmask the behind-the-scene plotters of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's assassination along with most of his family members 44 years ago.

"I firmly believe it is necessary to unmask those who hatched the plot of the August 15 carnage and bring them to justice," he told newsmen after attending a National Mourning Day programme in the capital.

Hasan said he assumed that the people of the country also want constitution of a commission to reveal the conspirators.

Bangladesh Film Archives organised the discussion and a film exhibition marking the 44th martyrdom anniversary of Father of the Nation at its seminar hall.

Hasan said the murder of Bangabandhu was "not just an assassination"; rather it was part of a conspiracy to destroy Bangladesh as an independent nation.

"It is not possible to ensure justice by trying only those who killed Bangabandhu. The masterminds should also be brought to justice," he added.

The minister said the nation wants to

know who were behind the conspiracy and therefore "a commission should be formed to reveal the culprits."

"It is now a public demand," said Hasan, also Awami League's publicity and publication secretary.

He said just after returning home from captivity in Pakistan, Bangabandhu devoted himself to building the nation but "the architect of independent Bangladesh could not materialise his dream."

Hasan said Bangladesh would have become a developed nation like Singapore and Malaysia many years ago if Bangabandhu were alive.

He said now the country is on the track of development under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Information Secretary Abdul Malek, Director General of the National Institute of Mass Communication Begum Shahin Islam, journalists Rafiquzzaman and Shyamol Sarker, and Bangladesh Film Director Association President Mushfiqur Rahman Guljer, among others, addressed the discussion with Bangladesh Film Archive Director General Bidhan Chandra Karmaker in the chair.

Detainee escapes from police custody in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A detainee escaped from police custody in Chalna municipality of Khulna's Dacope upazila.

The fugitive is, Ibrahim Khan, from Achabuya village of the municipality.

OC Shafiqul Islam Chowdhury of Dacope Police Station said Ibrahim was detained from Achabuya bazar for possessing two yaba pills on Wednesday evening.

Later, two police constables were preparing to take him to Khulna court by bus. When Ibrahim was about to get on the vehicle, he fled away, still handcuffed.

Police later arrested Ibrahim near his house while he was trying to break the handcuffs.



The remains of a plastic factory in Posta of Lalbagh, that caught on fire on Wednesday night. Some 16 units of firefighters doused the blaze after hours of efforts, although no casualty was reported since the factory was closed for Eid. Meanwhile, an electric transformer sits dangerously between two buildings in the narrow alley, inset, which locals say is posing a serious electrical and fire risk. The photos were taken yesterday morning.



ACC can be a symbol of trust Says its chief at event marking National Mourning Day

Bss, Dhaka

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Iqbal Mahmud yesterday said corruption must be uprooted from the country to build a "Sonar Bangla" as dreamt by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"We have to build a country free of corruption," Mahmud said. The ACC chief was speaking at a programme in the capital, organised in observance of the National Mourning Day and 44th martyrdom anniversary of Bangabandhu.

Like previous years, along with the government, different political and socio-cultural organisations, educational institutions and professional groups have taken elaborate programmes to pay utmost respect to the Father of the Nation on the

day of his martyrdom.

At yesterday's ACC event, Mahmud said corruption-related investigations should rise above all sorts of greed.

ACC can bring a positive change to the society, and people also believe that, he added.

"Over 31 lakh people lodged complaints through ACC's hotline (206) in the last two years as they have confidence in ACC, he said.

ACC can become a symbol of trust for people if its officials perform their duties properly and sincerely, the ACC chairman said.

All corruption-related investigations must be completed within the stipulated time, he said.

If this procedure is not maintained,

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Probe committee formed

Bss, Dhaka

A three-member committee was formed yesterday to investigate the fire that took place at a polythene factory in Dhaka's Lalbagh on Wednesday night.

The committee headed by Fire Service and Civil Defence Deputy Director (Operation) Dilip Ghosh has been asked to submit its report within seven working days, duty officer Ershad Hossain, Fire Service and Civil Defence headquarters, told the news agency.

The other two members of the committee are

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Lighter vessels anchor idly at the Chattogram Port, unable to go to the outer anchorage to clear goods due to bad weather and Eid vacation. The photo was taken yesterday from Shah Amanat bridge.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN