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ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES
Businesses assure prices won't rise in Ramadan

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City braces for crippling traffic jams

Schools, colleges being open in Ramadan to add to woes

MUNTAKIM SAAD *and* SHARIFUL ISLAM

Dhaka city dwellers fear that congestion on streets is going to be even more unbearable with the schools and colleges staying open for the better part of Ramadan.

Schools and colleges usually remain closed during the holy month, but this year, to make up for the learning loss amid the pandemic, they will stay open three week into Ramadan when business activities surge.

"Traffic congestion becomes ubiquitous in Ramadan. We have already been experiencing severe gridlocks for a week. If the authorities do not take any measures immediately, congestion will turn into nightmares," said Mahfuzur Rahman, a resident of Adabor.

The situation seems particularly concerning as school and office hours would coincide, he added.

Transport expert Prof Shamsul Hoque said it will be quite a challenge to control traffic in Ramadan.

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ANOTHER STORY ON PAGE 5

Students demonstrating for safer roads on a street beside North South University in the capital. One of their classmates, Maisha Momotaz Meem, who campaigned for road safety, died in a crash on the way to the campus on Friday. Story on page 3. PHOTO: STAR

Holy Ramadan begins

UNB, *Dhaka*

Muslims in Bangladesh have started observing the holy month of Ramadan, the lunar month of self-purification through fasting and abstinence, from today as the new crescent moon was sighted yesterday.

Lailatul Qadr, the night of divine blessings and benediction, will be observed on the night of April 28.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision at a meeting held at the Islamic Foundation's Baitul Mukarram office, with State Minister for Religious Affairs Faridul Haque Khan in the chair.

Muslims fast from dawn to dusk during this lunar month, a time of restraint and austerity.

The government has rearranged the office timing for Ramadan from

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SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	APRIL	SEHRI	IFTAR
1	3	4:27	6:19
2	4	4:26	6:19
3	5	4:24	6:20

TIPU MURDER

Strings pulled from Dubai

Rab claims his insistence on getting justice for killing of aide resulted in his own murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

His pursuance of a murder case filed after the killing of a close aide was one of the reasons behind Awami League leader Zahidul Islam Tipu murder, said Rab.

It also said long-standing feuds over exerting influence in school-college admissions, and kickbacks from extortion, illegal kitchen markets, and tender bid manipulation in Motijheel were among the other reasons.

Rab said this yesterday after arresting Omar Farooq, 52, AL general secretary of Dhaka South City Corporation Ward-10 unit. It claimed that Farooq was one of the masterminds.

It also held Abu Saleh Sikder, also known as Shooter Saleh, 38; Nasir Uddin aka Killer Nasir, 38; and Morshedul Alam aka Kayla Palash, 51, at Mirpur, Mugda, and Shahjahanpur.

The law enforcers also recovered a motorbike used for surveilling Tipu and Tk 3.30 lakh "blood money".

The rivalry between Tipu and Farooq and others began even before the 2013 sensational murder of Dhaka North Jubo League organising Secretary Riazul Haque Khan Milky in front of Shoppers World in Gulshan.

Tipu lost his post of AL Motijheel Police Station unit general secretary as he was arrested in the murder case. Even though he was later dropped from the charge sheet, Farooq and others held demos demanding Tipu be punished.

Zahidul Islam Tipu

Commander Khandaker Al-Moin, director of legal and media wing of Rab, at a press conference yesterday said Farooq with his cohorts killed Tipu's aide Rizvi Hasan in 2016 over establishing supremacy in the area and share of kickbacks.

The murder case that followed is now pending with a speedy trial tribunal and Farooq, Nasir, and Saleh, all accused in the murder case, believed that Tipu was backing the case.

They had tried to settle the case with Rizvi's father and had allegedly offered Tk 50 lakh but could not reach a settlement, said Moin quoting the arrestees.

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Brutality unbound

Child worker dies after air pumped into his rectum

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Gazipur*

A 14-year-old boy died yesterday after his co-worker in Anwara Mannan Textile Mill at Sreepur pumped air through his rectum.

Police arrested the co-worker, another 14-year-old-boy, who hails from Fulbaria upazila in Dinajpur, said Mahfuz Imtiaz Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Sreepur Police Station.

After the end of their night shift, the suspect and Apu Dewan, son of Palash Dewan of East Shiyandi village under Sirajdikhan upazila in Munshiganj, were cleaning cotton from each other's bodies with the high-pressure air pump at the ring department on the ground floor of the factory.

"All of a sudden, Apu fell to the ground... He was immediately rushed to the hospital," said a worker of the mill, seeking anonymity.

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'Citizens today, refugees tomorrow'

Bangladeshi photojournalist chronicles Ukrainians in flight

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Upon his arrival in the small town of Chop, located in western Ukraine, Ismail Ferdous witnessed first-hand the devastating consequences of war.

A Bangladeshi photojournalist, he had covered migration crises in many regions and has seen hundreds of thousands of people resigning themselves to their fate -- they have no home and are now refugees.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone on Wednesday, he said, "I am sitting in a railway station right now. There are so many people waiting for a train to take them to another country. They are citizens right now. Tomorrow, they will all be refugees.

"People are hugging their loved ones boarding the train for another country. Their cries of separation and an unknown future is really painful to watch. Never have I felt this emotional while covering conflicts over the last few years."

Ismail, who flew from New York to Warsaw on March 1, was assigned by French Magazine "Blind" to document the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine war.

"My editor sent a letter to the Ukraine authorities for a defence press accreditation... I got my visa from Ukraine's consular office in Lublin in Poland."

PHOTO: © ISMAIL FERDOUS/VU FOR BLIND

From Lublin, he hired a cab to Przemy47?l in South-eastern Poland and took seven hours to reach.

Once there, his fixer, who herself fled the war from Ukraine's Kyiv, took him to a temporary home in a mountain town.

After working for around a week in Przemy47?l, he reached Chop, a town right across Hungary, hosting over 5,000 internally displaced Ukrainians.

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