



Work for welfare of people: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to build a well-trained and educated police force which will work for the welfare of people.

“Our aim is to build a ‘police force of the people’ which was the dream of Bangabandhu,” she said.

Hasina said this while speaking at a programme on the occasion of inaugurating service desk for women, children, elderly and people with disabilities at 659 police stations of the country.

She also handed over 400 houses built by the force for homeless people.

The prime minister joined the programme, held at Dhaka Metropolitan Police Lines at Rajarbagh, virtually from her official residence Gono Bhaban.

PRAYER TIMING		APRIL 11	
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:24	12:45	4:45	6:22 7:45
JAMAAT 4:34	1:15	5:00	6:32 8:15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION			
SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING		APRIL	
RAMADAN	SEHRI	IFTAR	
9	11		6:22
10	12	4:18	6:23
11	13	4:17	6:23



In front of New Market yesterday, this photojournalist witnessed a precarious scene that one can only come across in a chaotic city like Dhaka. Despite a new foot-over bridge just near the presently closed one overhead, shoppers have decided to get across the traffic heavy road by squeezing through the dividers. Meanwhile, a traffic policeman who went there to control the situation, stares at the crowd gathered on the fence in dismay.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

METRO RAIL FARE

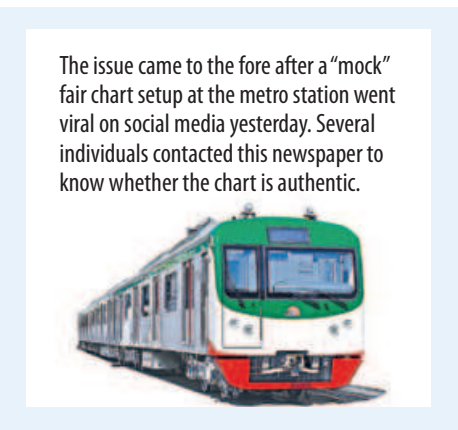
No decision yet

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Fare for the much-awaited metro rail service -- which is expected to be introduced in Dhaka in December this year -- has not yet been fixed even though a committee in this regard was formed more than a year and half ago.

The committee held only two meetings since September 2020 when it was formed, and both meetings ended seeking a “specific proposal” over the fare from the metro rail authorities.

Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), the implementing and operating agency of the metro rail project, took



The issue came to the fore after a “mock” fair chart setup at the metro station went viral on social media yesterday. Several individuals contacted this newspaper to know whether the chart is authentic.

around a year for submitting its proposal.

It proposed a fare of Tk 100 from Uttara to Motijheel and Tk 20 as the minimum fare, according to sources. However, the committee did not accept the proposal as it lacks specifications and details.

DMTCL has recently sent a fresh proposal to the committee, said officials.

Meanwhile, people’s curiosity regarding the fare has also increased after the authorities last year announced to start its commercial operation partially from this December.

The issue came to the fore again after a “mock” fair chart set up at the

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NID must to buy launch tickets

Says state minister for shipping on Eid rush

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without a copy of National Identity (NID) card, launch tickets will not be sold before Eid-ul-Fitr, State Minister for Shipping Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury said yesterday.

“Passengers will have to submit copies of their NIDs before collecting the launch tickets. Otherwise, it will not be possible to give tickets. This decision has been taken for the safety of the passengers,” he added.

The state minister came up with the information while talking to reporters. He also said launch fare will remain the same.

He said, “We all want to coordinate and ensure services to passengers. We will try with our 100 percent.”

“We urge passengers to follow the instructions,” he said, adding, “We have been facing some problems with the Padma Bridge. Several unexpected incidents have already happened centring the bridge.”

“There are restrictions on ferry movement under the Padma Bridge. That’s why we have withdrawn a lot of ferries. Currently, only six ferries have been operating on Shimulia-Banglabazar ferry route from 6:00am to 6:00pm. We hope that within four days there will be another ferry ghat,” he added.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Those who harass applicants to face music: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operative Minister Md Tazul Islam yesterday said action will be taken if applicants are harassed while trying to make or correct birth registration certificates.

He said this while talking to the media.

The minister said, “At any level, if people are harassed in any way, no one will be spared. Birth registration is now a burning issue for us. That’s why I’ll definitely take action if this happens. We met today to discuss how to make this process simpler and easier so that no one is harassed.”



With the prices of daily essentials soaring during Ramadan, lives of people are getting increasingly harder. Moreover, the fallout effect of pandemic has reduced their disposable income, which makes the brunt even heavier to bear. This photo was taken in Karwan Bazaar recently.

PHOTO: SAZZAD IBNE SAYED

A series of unfortunate trends

Price hike in Ramadan, shrinking disposable income throw people in peril

MEHRIN MUDDI CHOWDHURY

Zahed Sharif, an entrepreneur running an online jewellery store, will not be able to enjoy Ramadan as he did before. “Thanks to soaring prices of everyday commodities, in many households including mine, there will be simpler food on the table,” he said.

The ongoing price hike resulted in lifestyle changes for Zahed Sharif and his family, but for others less fortunate the situation is far more serious.

Market prices of essentials already reflect his worries, since prices of brinjals increased from Tk 40-50 last week to Tk 70-80 per kg this week, according to sellers.

Moreover, other Ramadan essentials, such as cucumber, also increased from Tk 70 to Tk 100 per kg, and sugar from Tk 80 to Tk 84

per kg even right before Ramadan.

People who once considered themselves to belong in the middle-income class, are now reflected as the nouveau poor, because of job losses and the incessant spike in prices of basic commodities. These people have no other way but to turn to the government mediation for survival.

Laiju Begum works as a temporary helping hand at four different apartments in Paribagh area. Her chores involve everything from cleaning the house to doing the dishes, for which she earns a sum of Tk 12,000 every month. Her husband, a van driver, earns about Tk 500-800 per trip, grossing around Tk 8,000-10,000 per month.

“Nearly one-third of our income is spent on the rent, which is Tk 7,000 for a single room in the

tin-shed shanty. At least Tk 3,000-5,000 is spent on essential food items,” said Laiju.

To ease the hardships of people like Laiju, the Trading Corporation Bangladesh (TCB) provides low-cost food items. However, there are challenges with that too.

“The TCB lines are huge! We have to withstand insufferable queues to get the goods. If we stand in the queue at 11:00am, we receive our designated goods by 2:00-3:00pm. Sometimes it takes even longer,” Laiju said.

“Everywhere around the world, prices of basic commodities decrease during Ramadan so that everyone can afford them. Only here you would see them sky-rocket instead,” said a retailer, wishing to remain anonymous.

Joyanal Miah, a trader at the

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SPEEDMASTER CHRONOSCOPE

With “Chronos” meaning time and “Scope” meaning to see, this timepiece reveals a precise insight into our world. Inspired by OMEGA’s chronograph wristwatches from the 1940s, the dial is printed with three timing scales, including a Tachymeter to determine speed, a Telemeter, which utilizes the speed of sound to measure your distance from a phenomenon, and a Pulsometer to count the beat of a heart. Vintage in its style and accurately powered by a manual-winding Co-Axial Master Chronometer movement, this Speedmaster is a fine example of tradition in motion.

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