



Hundreds of people waiting in queues at Kamalapur Railway Station to purchase home-bound tickets in advance ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. The photo was taken yesterday morning. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## EID TRAIN TICKETS Hundreds wait for hours in long queues

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even overnight waits could not secure advance Eid-ul-Azha tickets for many holidaymakers at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday.

"I have been waiting in a queue for over 12 hours before the rail authorities started selling the tickets. However, I could not purchase tickets," said Shahin Ahmed, a resident of Mugda.

Shahin, a private job holder, said he would manage an alternative transport for Tuesday.

Many like him returned home empty-handed from the railway station yesterday.

Meanwhile, this correspondent found some passengers who chose to stay back at the station for tickets for Wednesday.

Those tickets will be sold from 8:00am today.

"I did not visit home during Eid-ul-Fitr holidays for my newborn. My parents are eager to see his face. This time, I'll have to manage tickets at any cost," said another passenger who chose to stay back at the station.

According to a press release of Bangladesh Railways, it will continue to sell advance tickets for Eid-ul-Azha till Tuesday whereas the return tickets will be open from Thursday.

The total number of train seats departing from Dhaka each day during Eid will be 26,731.

Half of the tickets against the seat will be available at ticket counters. Rest will be sold through online and

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## Russian strikes kill 21 in Ukraine's Odessa

Two children among the dead, dozens wounded; Kremlin denies targeting civilians; fighting rages in Lysychansk

AGENCIES

Russian missile strikes killed 21 people and wounded dozens in Ukraine's Odessa region yesterday, a day after Russian troops abandoned positions on a strategic island in a major setback to the Kremlin's invasion.

Two children were among the dead and six others among the injured, Ukrainian officials said.

The missiles slammed into an apartment building and a recreation centre early yesterday in the town of Serhiivka about 80 kilometres south of the Black Sea port of Odessa, which has become a strategic flashpoint in the conflict.

Serhiy Bratchuk, spokesman for the Odessa regional administration, said 21 people had been confirmed killed and 38 people were wounded.

Authorities said earlier 41 people had been rescued from the apartment building where 152 lived. The strikes were

launched by aircraft that flew in from the Black Sea, said Bratchuk.

"The worst-case scenario played out and two strategic aircraft came to the Odessa region," he said in a TV interview, adding they had fired "very heavy and very powerful" missiles.

The Kremlin denied targeting civilians. "I would like to remind you of the president's words that the Russian Armed Forces do not work with civilian targets," Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The attack came just four days after Russia struck a crowded shopping mall in central Ukraine killing at least 19 people.

A Ukrainian general said that Russia may be trying to hit military targets but is killing civilians by firing inaccurate, obsolete missiles into populous areas.

In Kyiv, Ukrainian lawmakers gave a standing ovation as the flag of the European Union was

carried through the chamber to stand alongside Ukraine's own flag behind the dais, a symbol of Ukraine's formal EU candidate status granted last week.

Zelensky and lawmakers in parliament stood for a minute of silence for those killed in the attacks in Odessa, reports Reuters.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, four people died and three were wounded in shelling in Izium and Chuguiv, two districts of the Kharkiv region of north-eastern Ukraine.

Ukrainian officials also accused Russian forces of shelling relentlessly the city of Lysychansk in the eastern Donbas region. Sergiy Gaiday -- governor of the Lugansk region, which includes Lysychansk -- said evacuation from Lysychansk was not possible.

"The superiority in fire power of the occupiers is still very much in evidence," Zelensky said. "They

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## Ex-NCTB chief assaulted by mob over trifles

His house comes under attack; 200 unidentified people sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professor Ratan Siddique, former chairman of National Curriculum and Textbook Board, was assaulted by a mob in front of his house in the capital's Uttara yesterday afternoon over trifles.



Prof Ratan and his wife Fahmida Haq were returning home in their car, but they could not enter the house because a motorcycle was parked right in front of the gate, said Morshed Alam, deputy commissioner (Uttara Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

As the driver of the car honked, people coming out of an adjacent mosque after Juma prayers asked why they honked near a mosque and began an argument with Prof Ratan, said the officer.

At one point, the men hit Prof Ratan as he went inside his house and locked the collapsible gate, he added.

Police said the mob broke one of the locks of the gate and repeatedly demanded that Fahmida apologise to them.

Fahmida accused 200-300 unnamed people in a case filed last night with Uttara West Police Station.

Meanwhile, Prof Ratan's daughter Purnava

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## Scientist makes AI write academic paper about itself

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

With minimal external inputs, OpenAI's GPT-3 text generating algorithm has authored an academic paper about itself, resulting in a study that is being peer-reviewed.

When Swedish researcher Almira Osmanovic Thunstrom commanded the text generator to write an academic thesis in 500 words about GPT 3, she "stood in awe" as the AI algorithm wrote a paper within two hours, complete with appropriate citations and contexts in places.

"As it started to generate text, I stood in awe. Here was novel content written in academic language, with well-grounded references cited in the right places and in relation to the right context," Dr Thunstrom said in Scientific American.

"We find that GPT-3 can generate clear and concise descriptions of its own capabilities and features. This is a significant advance over

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## EVALY CUSTOMERS Payments held up over missing server password

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A missing server password is holding up all payments of Evaly customers and merchants and there is seemingly no way to retrieve it.

Only Evaly CEO Mohammad Russell knew the password, but he claimed to have forgotten it.

Such is the system that even the a2i, a special government programme, and the police's Criminal Investigation Department are not being able to retrieve the password.

The court-instituted Evaly board claimed this at a press conference at the beleaguered company's corporate office yesterday.

The server contains data of all buyer and seller transactions. Without that data, the worth and veracity of the claims cannot be estimated, said Evaly Managing Director Mahbub Kabir Milon.

Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik, who leads the board, said, "We contacted Amazon but they told us that they could not cooperate with us in retrieving the account and that they need the original account holder."

"I met Russell in jail. He said he cannot remember the

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PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Vehicles wait in long queues at the Dhaleshwari toll plaza to pay tolls for the Dhaka-Mawa-Bhanga Expressway around 1:30pm yesterday, the first day of collecting tolls on the 55-km expressway. Staffers said toll collection slowed down as many divers, who were unaware of the imposition of tolls, argued with them. Drivers had to wait for about an hour to cross the toll plaza. Story on page 2.

## AL suspends leader over assault on Narail teacher

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Akhter Hossain Tinku, a local Awami League leader and a teacher at Mirzapur United Degree College in Narail, has been suspended from the post of president of a local AL committee over the recent assault on the college principal.

He was also asked to show causes as to why he failed to act responsibly when college principal Swapan Kumar Biswas was assaulted by a mob on June 18.

Narail Sadar Upazila AL president Achin Kumar Chakraborty and General Secretary Omar Faruq signed the show-cause notice on Thursday, ordering Tinku to reply in three days.

Tinku, was the president

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