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Five-day Eid vacation, two-day holiday for Durga puja

Proposal to be placed before advisory council today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is considering extending the Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-ul-Azha public holidays to five days each and Durga Puja holidays to two days.

Currently, there are three day public holiday for each Eid and one day for the Durga Puja.

A proposal in this regard is likely to be placed at the advisory council meeting today, said sources at the Chief Adviser's Office and the public administration ministry.

Another proposal on raising the age limit for joining government jobs may also be put forward at the meeting, the sources added.

According to officials, the ministry has sent a proposal on extending the public holidays to the Cabinet Division. If the proposal is approved by the advisory council, an official announcement will be made

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Shakib to return today for his Test swansong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a lot of speculation and drama, ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan is set to return to Bangladesh today to play his final Test -- the first Test of a two match series against South Africa in Mirpur from October 21 to 25.

A Bangladesh Cricket Board official yesterday confirmed to The Daily Star that Shakib will start training alongside the rest of the squad tomorrow.

The former Awami League lawmaker had expressed his desire to play his final Test in Mirpur, prior to the Kanpur Test in India last month, but with a murder case filed against him with a Dhaka police station, there was not much assurance provided initially from authorities back home.

However, the environment changed considerably since a public apology from Shakib on Facebook last week, with both the youth and sports

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus looking at graffiti on a wall on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The graffiti, drawn by young artists, depicted the mass uprising of July-August.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

Diverse income streams needed for poverty alleviation

Say speakers at a roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Households with diverse income streams, both farm and non-farm, are more resilient and can escape poverty faster, said experts yesterday.

Research over the last 20 years on the impact of microcredit indicates, both nationally and internationally, that pure microfinance will not have a sustainable impact on poverty alleviation, said MA Baqui Khalil, professor and dean for the School of Business at the University of Asia Pacific.

This is because poor people need insurance, savings, health expenses and other non-financial services beyond credit, he said at a roundtable styled "Pathways to prosperity for extremely poor people (PPEPP)".

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), the European Union and The Daily Star jointly organised the event to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka.

"People with multiple income opportunities



"Poverty and inequality are two different things -- don't mix them up. What we are doing now is dealing with poverty, not inequality. Poverty is not only a lack of money -- it means many more things."

Zakir Ahmed Khan
PKSF chairman

Commonwealth
(FCDO) and the EU.

The project aims to eradicate extreme poverty for approximately 250,000 households (about 1 million people) in selected poverty-prone districts across the northwestern char areas, the southwestern coastal belt and the

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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are less vulnerable to poverty and can graduate out of it at a faster rate," Khalil said.

If a household has both farm and non-farm activities, it can absorb shocks, and income from multiple sources contributes to savings.

The creation of wage employment is important as an alternative to farm employment to reduce extreme poverty.

"These issues were reflected in the PPEPP project of the PKSF," he added.

In 2019, with lessons learned from various extreme-poverty projects, PKSF undertook a multi-dimensional initiative titled PPEPP with funding from the UK's Foreign, and Development Office

(FCDO) and the EU.

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Former DNCC
mayor Atiqul
arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Dhaka North City Corporation mayor Atiqul Islam was arrested at Mohakhali DOHS yesterday evening.

He is accused in many cases filed after the fall of the Awami League government, said Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Atiqul, owner of Islam Group of Industries Ltd, is also a former president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association.

After the death of Anisul Haq, the first mayor of DNCC, Atiqul was elected mayor with Awami League nomination in 2019. He was re-elected the next year.

Both the elections were fraught with allegations of irregularities.

After the fall of AL, Atiqul went to the DNCC office in Gulshan on August 18.

As protesters gathered in front of the building, he escaped through the fire escape stairs behind the Nagar Bhaban.

On August 19, the interim government removed all city mayors from their posts.

Israeli air strikes hit Beirut, south Lebanon

Mayor among 6 killed in Nabatieh; Hezbollah fires 50 rockets at Israel

REUTERS, Beirut

An Israeli airstrike yesterday destroyed the municipal headquarters in Nabatieh, a major town in south Lebanon, killing the mayor and at least five others as they met to coordinate aid for those suffering from war.

The attack raised fears that Israel's expanding air campaign, designed to crush Iran-backed Hezbollah, could increasingly include public officials and buildings, which so far have been spared.

The Israeli military said it struck dozens of Hezbollah targets in the Nabatieh area and dismantled underground infrastructure. Its navy forces, meanwhile, have struck dozens of Hezbollah targets in southern Lebanon, in cooperation with troops on the ground, Israel's military said.

Hours earlier at least one Israeli strike hit Beirut's southern suburbs, Reuters witnesses said, after the US said it opposed the scope of Israeli attacks in Lebanon's capital.

Reuters witnesses heard two blasts and saw plumes of smoke emerging from two separate neighbourhoods. It came after Israel issued an evacuation order early yesterday, which mentioned only one building.

Separately, the Israeli military said Hezbollah in Lebanon fired around 50 projectiles targeting sites in Israel early yesterday, without any reports of casualties.

Israeli military evacuation orders now affect more than a quarter of Lebanon, according to the UN refugee agency. The UN Special Coordinator for Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasschaert, said civilian suffering was reaching an unprecedented level after the Israeli strike on Nabatieh.

Egg prices dip slightly as supply goes up

SHAIKH MOLLAH

The prices of eggs dropped slightly yesterday after the supply increased in the capital's kitchen markets.

Brown eggs were sold for Tk 160-180 per dozen yesterday, down from Tk 180-200 the previous day.

However, the prices are still higher than those set by the government.

Under the pricing set by the government, each egg should be sold for Tk 10.58 at the producer level, Tk 11.01 at wholesale, and Tk 11.87 at retail.

This means the consumers should be able to purchase eggs for Tk 142.44 per dozen.

Visiting the capital's Tejgaon wholesale egg market yesterday afternoon, The Daily Star found that most of the shops were shut.

Wholesalers at this

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Fishing trawlers lie idle at the Fisheries Ghat in Chattogram city as this year's 22-day ban on hilsa fishing came into force on October 13. The ban has been imposed every year since 2007 to protect mother hilsas during the spawning season. The photo was taken yesterday.

147 die as fuel tanker explodes in Nigeria

50 hurt; cops say driver lost control of vehicle causing it to overturn

REUTERS

A fuel tanker overturned late on Tuesday in Nigeria's northern state of Jigawa after the driver lost control of the vehicle, spilling petrol which exploded and killed at least 147 people, police and state emergency services said yesterday.

The accident is one of the worst in recent times in Africa's most populous nation, which is battling with widespread security threats and a cost of living crisis.

Haruna Mairiga, head of Jigawa state emergency services, put the death toll from the accident at 147.

Local police spokesperson Lawan Shisu Adam said the tanker was travelling from the ancient city of Kano to Yobe State in the north, when the driver lost control near Majia town in Taura local government area, about 530 kilometers north of the capital Abuja, causing it to overturn and spill fuel.

Adam said that villagers attempted to scoop petrol from the spillage, resulting in a fire that engulfed the area, reportedly leading to many deaths.

Adam added that 50 others were wounded and have been taken to local hospitals, in Ringim and Hadejia towns where they were being treated.

A mass burial was held for the dead yesterday, Mairiga said.