

'Set aside differences, move forward together'

PM exchanges Eid greetings at Jamuna

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Tarique Rahman on Eid-ul-Fitr called for collective efforts beyond political differences and opinion to build a Bangladesh that meets people's expectations.



"Setting aside political differences, we must move forward together to build the Bangladesh people aspire for," he said after exchanging Eid greetings with people from different walks of life at the state guest house Jamuna on March 21, reports BSS.

"We pray to Allah this Eid that we can build the Bangladesh that meets people's expectations," he also said, adding that the government would continue its efforts to this end and sought cooperation from all sections of society.

He further stressed the importance of public support, saying the elected government would be able to move forward with full strength if it receives people's cooperation.

This was Tarique Rahman's first Eid celebration in the country upon his return to Bangladesh on December 25 last year after 17 years in London. He assumed office as prime minister after being elected in the 13th national election on February 12 this year.

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EID JOY SPILLS INTO STREETS, FIELDS, FAIRS

The Eid-ul-Fitr holidays saw people of all ages stepping out in groups and gathering at public spaces across the country, especially at tourist spots. In the capital, revellers in new clothes joined festive parades on Eid day, while families spent time outdoors. Meanwhile, popular tourist destinations, including Bhologanj's Sada Pathar, were crowded with visitors. Local fairs with fun rides and activities also saw heavy footfall. Many also took part in traditional outdoor games such as Dariabandha, adding to the festive spirit.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN, SHEIKH NASIR, AZAHAR UDDIN, TAFSILUL AZIZ

EID HOLIDAYS IN CAPITAL

Patient influx strains understaffed hospitals

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Around 4:45pm on Eid day, Mohammad Rubel and his wife were anxiously waiting in the emergency queue with their daughter, Fatema, aged two years and eight months.

The family had travelled from Tangail Sadar after local doctors suspected a gallbladder-related complication, along with fever and respiratory problems. According to them, the child had been vomiting after eating and her condition was not improving.

After waiting for about an hour, they managed to consult a doctor. Following examination, Fatema was admitted to a ward on the third floor for further treatment.

With many local hospitals closed or operating with limited services during Eid holidays, patients like Fatema were rushed to specialised and medical college hospitals in Dhaka. These hospitals, however, were running with limited manpower, mostly non-Muslim staff.

At the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (NITOR), the emergency department was busier than usual on Eid day (March 21), with a surge in



patients injured in motorcycle accidents.

Patients of all ages arrived with various injuries, including broken arms, broken legs, and minor wounds.

During a visit by this correspondent, a youth was brought in on a stretcher. His maternal uncle said the patient, Jubayer, an 18-year-old HSC student, had taken his elder brother's motorbike for a ride and met with an accident.

"His right leg is broken," he said, adding that they brought him from Narayanganj Sadar by ambulance.

Prof Abul Kenan, director of NITOR, said road accident cases usually increase at the hospital

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Inu, Menon secure bail in defamation case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haq Inu and Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday secured bail in a defamation case filed over derogatory remarks about former president Ziaur Rahman, marking the first instance of bail for both since their arrest in August 2024.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Raunak Jahan Taki granted bail to the two former ministers after their lawyers moved petitions in the case, defence

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Dhaka urges global unity to combat racism

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has called for stronger global unity to combat all forms of racial discrimination, particularly against migrant workers, at a high-level meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Foreign Minister Dr Khalilur Rahman made the call on Monday while addressing a commemorative session marking the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, according

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Eid without loved ones' embrace

In Agargaon's Probin Nibash, celebration is shadowed by the ache of separation

DIPAN NANDY

Eid-ul-Fitr is a celebration of joy, togetherness, and family. Homes are filled with laughter, and loved ones gather to share meals and special moments. But for the elderly living in nursing homes, the day often carries a different tone -- one of quiet reflection, memories, and longing.

On Eid morning, during a visit to Probin Nibash in Dhaka's Agargaon, this correspondent saw senior citizens wearing new clothes and preparing for prayers. Some joined small jamaats within the facility, while others walked to nearby mosques. After the Eid prayers, they exchanged greetings and embraced, yet the absence of close family members was clearly visible in their expressions.

In one of the rooms, 73-year-old Abdul Wakil Hakkani was listening to old songs on his phone. Initially reluctant to be photographed, he later agreed to speak to this correspondent. He said that none of his children had called him on Eid, and he was not expecting any calls.

"I have learned to control my emotions. I no longer think

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Bangladesh Air Force pilots soar through the sky in their jets, leaving trails of colourful smoke during the final day of rehearsals ahead of the March 26 parade. Inset, members of the Bangladesh Armed Forces rehearse drills at the National Parade Ground in Agargaon to ensure the Independence Day parade proceeds without a hitch.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN



Three raped in three districts

4 arrested, cases filed

STAR REPORT

At least three persons, including a minor, were raped in Moulvibazar, Habiganj, and Narayanganj districts since March 20.

A Moulvibazar court yesterday sent a man to jail after he was arrested in a case filed over rape of a four-year-old girl in Moulvibazar's Kamalganj.

The accused, Raju Gar, 23, was arrested and produced before the court which sent him to jail, said Md Abdul Awal, officer-in-charge of Kamalganj Police Station.

The incident occurred on March 20 when Raju took the child to his house in a tea garden of the upazila and raped her.

After she went home, family members took her to a local hospital as her condition deteriorated. As the matter came to light, the doctors informed police.

Police later arrested Raju after the victim's father filed a case with Kamalganj Police Station on March 22. The victim is currently undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

In Habiganj, a court sent a man to jail after he was produced before it in a case filed over the rape of a 24-year-old woman in a tea garden near Satchari National Park in Madhabpur on Monday.

The victim was visiting Madhabpur from Brahmanbaria with two friends during Eid. While she was strolling through a secluded area, two men abducted and raped her. They also stole her gold jewellery.

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DHAKA-BAHRAIN 2 special flights for expatriates

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has arranged two special Gulf Air flights for expatriate Bangladeshis needing emergency travel to and from Bahrain.

The special flights will be flying from Bahrain to Dhaka via Dammam on March 27 and April 3, and will return from Dhaka to Dammam on the same dates respectively.

"Those interested in travelling to Bangladesh or returning to Bahrain from Bangladesh via these two special return flights are requested to register using the Google forms," the Bangladesh embassy in Manama issued a notification regarding the matter on Monday.

The Google form to register for Dammam to Dhaka can be accessed using the link <https://forms.gle/Z8pUjJhTEZVFBrqC6>, and for Dhaka to Dammam using the link <https://forms.gle/Z8pUjJhTEZVFBrqC6>.

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