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*Eid Greetings*  
The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a very happy Eid.

### EID HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed for three days from today on the occasion of the Eid-ul-Azha. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper on January 22, 23 and 24.

### Tigers lose first ODI

AL MUSABBIR SADI

Bangladesh suffered a bump in the first of the five-match one-day international series when the Tigers were down by 22 runs at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

Fresh from a historic Test series victory, the home side's holidays were spoilt somewhat by man-of-the-match Douglas Hondo who captured three wickets while off-spinner Prosper Utseya and new ball bowler Tinashe Panyangara shared four wickets as Zimbabwe bowled out Bangladesh for 229 in 49.1 overs under lights while defending 251-8.

The victory ended the inexperienced southern Africans' 17-match

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## MPs for changes in constitution

Ensuring floor crossing; checking frequent House boycott, 'embarrassment' of SC judges main aims

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Five lawmakers from the ruling and opposition parties are going to table bills proposing a number of amendments to the constitution during the upcoming parliament session beginning January 31.

The proposed amendments include one that would allow floor-crossing of a member of parliament (MP) elected from any political party.

The lawmakers believe the amendments will help strengthen parliamentary democracy, promote

good governance and make the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) more effective.

The Parliament Secretariat has so far received 14 bills seeking amendments to several constitutional provisions, 11 of those may be tabled in the next session, sources said.

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## Five killed in crossfire

STAR REPORT

Three alleged outlaws and two criminals were killed in 'shootouts' during police actions in Kushitia, Satkhira, Bogra and Dhaka yesterday.

Of the outlaws two were top cadres of Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) while one was from Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML), the police said.

Nine policemen were also injured during the shootouts, the police claimed. The law-enforcers seized five firearms along with

ammunition from the spots.

According to press reports, 40 people were killed in the last three weeks in the ongoing anticrime operations carried out by Rapid Action Battalion, Cobra, Cheeta and the police throughout the country.

DHAKA

Two muggers stopped a rickshaw at Shantinagar at about 6:45am and snatched Tk 20,654 in cash from its passengers -- havilder Shahjahan Mia and lance nayek Abdur Rakib of Motijheel Police Station who were going to Titatuli in plain clothes.

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## SUBSIDY FOR DIESEL Finance ministry decision likely after Eid

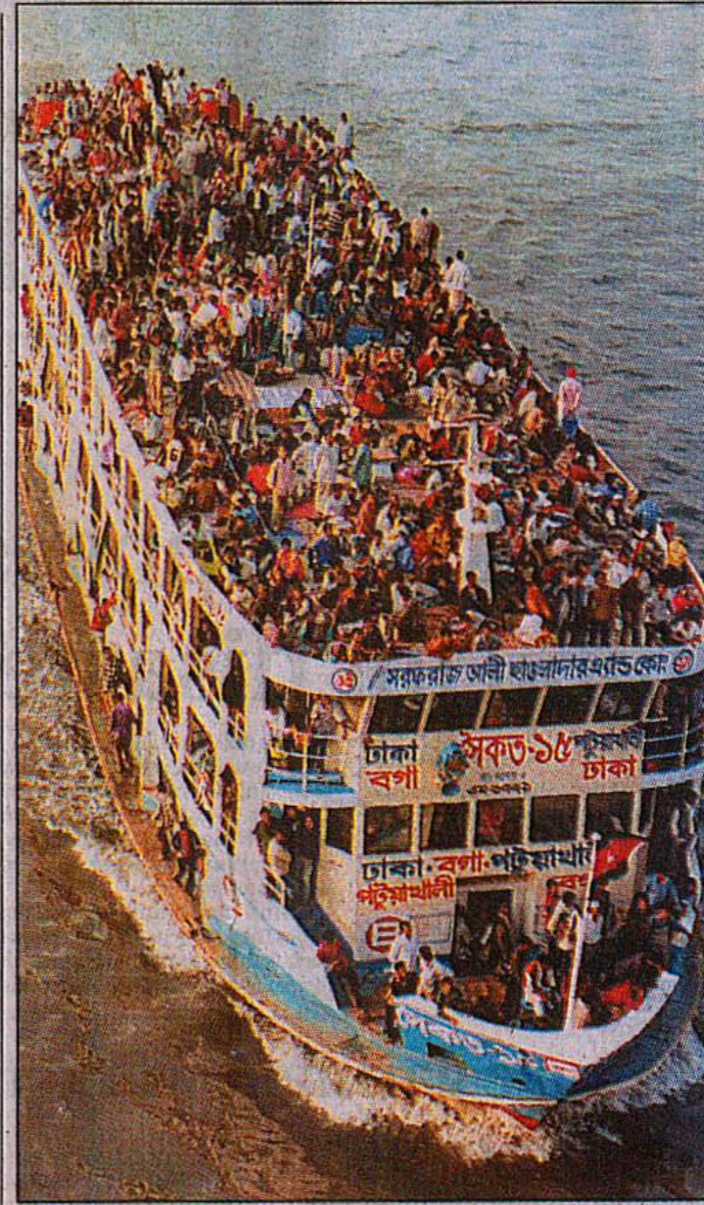
STAR REPORT

The finance ministry's decision on the agriculture ministry's proposal for a Tk 381 crore subsidy for diesel is likely to come by this month, sources in the ministry said.

"We will take a decision on the proposed subsidy within a week after the Eid-ul-Azha," a finance ministry high official told The Daily Star yesterday. He said Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman will sit soon with the officials concerned on the matter.

With irrigation getting costlier

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Homebound passengers crowd the upper deck of a launch departing Sadarghat in Dhaka yesterday, two days before the Eid-ul-Azha, proving once again that monitoring did not work to check overloading.

## Mad rush for home as Eid tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country tomorrow with due solemnity and religious fervour.

After the Eid prayers, well-to-do Muslims will sacrifice animals commemorating the readiness of Hazrat Ibrahim (A) to sacrifice his

son in the name of Allah about 3,800 years ago. They will share sacrificial meat with their relatives, neighbours and poor people under religious dictates.

The government has declared a four-day Eid holiday beginning on Thursday.

President Iazuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and

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## Jatra attacks instil new fears in rural life

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The recent spate of bomb attacks in traditional village fairs and cultural functions has added a new dimension to the crime landscape of rural Bangladesh.

The blasts, especially in the north of the country, have stamped terror on the faces of the people who barely witnessed such incident

before. Intelligence operatives probing the blasts suspect that Islamist militants, who all too often speak against jatra and variety shows featuring gambling and various amusements, might have been involved in the attacks, particularly those in the northern part of the country.

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