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## Bangladesh plans to launch satellite

Negotiates with leading countries for tech support

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Bangladesh plans to launch its own communications satellite within a year, Post and Telecommunications Minister Raziuddin Ahmed Raju said yesterday.

The cost of the programme will be between \$150 million and \$200 million, he said.

The minister disclosed the government plan to reporters during a media briefing.

"We've already started talking to different countries including the US, Japan and China, to help us launch our own satellite," the minister told The Daily Star over the phone.

The satellite would serve commercial pur-



poses including improving telecom services, helping to meet the booming demand for it. Telecom operators could subscribe to satellite services on a commercial basis, the minister added.

Television broadcasting, and meteorological data including disaster warnings would be available easily by the satellite. It might also be used for mapping natural resources, and to predict weather to help farmers, experts said.

"We are very serious. We hope to give the people the good news soon," said Raju.

He said the government is discussing the

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A devotee is offering prayers on the plains of Arafat, southeast of the holy city of Makkah, yesterday. Some 2.5 million pilgrims from more than 160 countries performed hajj this year.

PHOTO: AFP

Pilgrims pray for peace, forgiveness as hajj ends

AP, AFP, AL JAZEERA, Mount Arafat

An estimated three millions pilgrims gathered on the plains of Arafat in Saudi Arabia yesterday for a key rite of hajj, the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

Throughout the day, the faithful climbed up the Mountain of Mercy, a rocky hill at Arafat, and prayed for Allah's forgiveness of their sins in what Muslims consider the spiritual high point of the pilgrimage.

Pilgrims holding white umbrellas against the blazing sun clambered up a rocky desert hill for prayers following a day of deadly torrential

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## C'WEALTH MEET PM in London on way to Trinidad

UNB, London

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in London via Dubai yesterday morning on her long-haul flight to Port of Spain, the capital of Trinidad and Tobago, to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2009.

The Emirates flight carrying the prime minister and her entourage touched down at London Gatwick International

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## Winter sets in a little early

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Winter has set in two weeks earlier this year, the Met office reports.

In the capital many are already wrapping up and suffering from coughs and colds, which is in stark contrast from last year's mild winter during the same time.

During November rainfall was heavier than usual, says Ainun Nishat, senior advisor for climate change in Asia at the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

In some places, particularly around the riverbanks in Bangladesh's northern regions, moderate and heavy fogs have begun to set in at night.

Already some winter vegetable including cabbage, radish, bean, cauliflowers are available in the markets.

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## Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eid-ul-Azha, the second biggest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country tomorrow with due religious fervour and the spirit of sacrifice.

Well-off Muslims will sacrifice animals and share the sacrificial meat with their relatives, neighbours and the poor commemorating Hazrat Ibrahim's (AS) devotion to almighty Allah as illustrated by his readiness to give up his dearest son Hazrat Ismail (AS).

In separate messages,

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## Mad rush for home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shedding the usual hustle and bustle, the metropolis yesterday started showing signs of tranquillity in the coming days as thousands of people left the capital for their homes to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha with relatives.

The home-goers, however, faced difficulties in transportation as they crowded the bus and launch terminals and railway stations in the city.

The capital also witnessed huge traffic jams last evening mainly caused by the gatherings of people at the terminals and stations.

Yesterday was the last working day before Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims.

A three-day government holiday for Eid-ul-

Azha begins today.

Important government buildings in the capital will be illuminated and main streets and central reservations will be decorated with miniature national flags and banners inscribed with "Eid Mubarak".

Except for hospitals, fire service stations and a few media houses, almost all offices, commercial establishments and educational institutions will remain closed during the Eid vacation.

Bangladesh Railway, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation and private bus and lunch companies arranged a huge number of additional transports for homebound people.

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HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices will remain closed on November 27, 28 and 29 on account of Eid-ul-Azha. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper on November 28, 29 and 30. The December 1 issue of Star Lifestyle will be dropped due to the holiday.

Stay Close | grameenphone

Essence of love  
lies in sacrifice

that brings us

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Eid Mubarak!