

Did you know? According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the Palace of the Parliament in Bucharest, Romania, is the world's largest civilian administrative building, most expensive administrative building and heaviest building. It measures 270m by 240m, 86m in height, plus another 92m under ground.



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Home-goers hit by hartal

Sweat over rescuing Eid tour plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty haunts the millions of people who have packed their bags to travel today to join their dear ones to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha.

With the hartal coming out of the blue, many homebound passengers have been left to worry over whether the buses, trains and launches will operate today.

"Even if they operate on schedule, there will be doubt over passengers' safety," said Malibagh resident Motahar Hossain. "This is crucial, as most people will be travelling with family members and children."

With many bus counters closed down and train and launch tickets sold out weeks ago, home-goers are unsure about what to do.

"I'm really worried," said Saifur Rahman from Mirpur, "my bus service couldn't tell me what they'll do tomorrow [today]."

He said his entire plan for the Eid might have to be cancelled if the company does not allow him to travel on a later date.

Those planning to travel tomorrow have a more serious concern. As most offices and stores will remain closed today, thousands of workers and employees will not get their pay before going home.

"This shows that politicians don't have the least of concern

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The 1947 partition was a shock to many. They suddenly found their near and dear ones to be the citizens of a different country. But love knows no boundaries; villagers by the river Kulic in Thakurgaon started seeing their relatives and friends across the border every year on the first Friday after Kali Puja. The gathering is now called Pathar Kali Mela, an occasion when people standing on both sides of barbed wire exchange greetings and good wishes. This year they don't know what happened, Indian Border Security Force obstructed the meet.

More on page 13.

PHOTO: STAR

TILTED HIGH-RISE Rajuk starts demolition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk) team began demolishing the seven-storey Haider Asia Tower at Kathalbagan in the capital, five days after it tilted.

The team started knocking down the building at 9:00am with 20 labourers under the supervision of Rajuk authorised officer Aminur Rahman.

"We would be doing the work manually using tools like hammers and drill machine

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INT'L CLIMATE PLEDGE

PM seeks quick release of fund

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday pleaded for quick release of "International Climate Fund" as promised in COP-15 and sought UNDP's support to cope with climate change induced poverty and migrations in Bangladesh.

"We are anxiously waiting for operation of the "International Climate Fund" and hope COP-16 in December next would establish this fund with specific allocations for Bangladesh as the most vulnerable country (MVC)," she said.

Inaugurating the Asia-Pacific Regional Cluster Conference of UNDP at a local hotel, she hoped that the world leaders would reach a positive agreement based on the Bali Plan of Action with agreed cuts of greenhouse emissions to reduce climate change risk.

Listing her government's various programmes for socio-economic development, she said all efforts of the government are being adversely affected by the impacts of climate change although the country's share of carbon gas emission is negligible.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

51pc girl students stalked

Seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-one percent girls, aged between 11 and 20, are harassed by stalkers on their way to schools and colleges, said women leaders at a seminar in the capital yesterday.

Salma Khan, president of Women for Women, revealed the information at the seminar titled "Sexual harassment on women at workplace: Bangladesh perspective".

Bangladesh Federation of University Women (BFUW), a 56-year-old organisation, hosted the seminar at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Thirty-nine percent girls from middle income and 10 percent from higher income families are being harassed or become victims of stalking, she said referring to a recent study of Steps, a non-government organisation (NGO).

Women also often face harassment at their workplaces, including garments, NGOs and multinational companies, said the speakers.

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SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Kindergarten teacher jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sentenced a teacher six-months of imprisonment on charge of sexually harassing two 11-year old female students at a school in city's Jurain.

It was the first time a person was convicted for committing such offence by a mobile court in Dhaka.

Nazrul Islam, a teacher at Alor Mela Ideal School at Jurain was sentenced on charge of sexually abusing two of his female students of classes four and five, Executive Magistrate Mohammad Al-Amin told The Daily Star.

The victims approached the mobile court with their complaint against the teacher who had sexually assaulted them on several occasions during private coaching classes, he said.

A team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) along with teachers of the school and several locals held the accused teacher who confessed to his guilt after the allegations against him were read out at the court, said the magistrate.

The court was held inside the school premises at 6:30pm.

Amid the recent wave of sexual harassments and stalking, a gazette notification was issued yesterday to bring this court into effect empowering the executive magistrates to try assaulters.

This has been done by incorporating Section 509 of the Penal Code into the rules of the Mobile Court Act 2009.

The government amended the Mobile Court Act for the 93rd time to add the section.

The amendment has been brought about to rein in the alarmingly rising trend of stalking across the country. Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder told reporters that the mobile courts will conduct drives in the areas most prone to such offences.

Earlier, the government decided to operate mobile courts in every district against stalking of females that recently caused deaths to a number of people all over the country.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina receives her Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan, his wife and entourage at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Dhaka yesterday. Story on page 1.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

OnlinePoll

Do you think Bangladesh will be benefited through the exchange of enclaves and territories in adverse possession between Bangladesh and India?

Yes (43.5%)
 No (50.6%)
 No Comments

Total votes: 490

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think BNP's calling of hartal over Khaleda Zia's Dhaka cantonment house issue is justified?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

November 14		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star MOVED TO ITS OWN PREMISES

The Daily Star is happy to announce that it has shifted its offices to its own premises at 64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

In addition to our old telephone numbers 8124944, 8124955, 8124966 our new telephone numbers are 9102973, 9102974, 9102975, 9102976. Our Fax numbers remain unchanged: 8125155, 8126154 (News) & 9144332 (Advertisement), and our website is the same as before: www.thedailystar.net.

We request all concerned to kindly take note of the above and contact us only at the new address.

On this happy occasion we thank our valued readers, advertisers, patrons and well-wishers for their unstinted support which, we trust, will continue in the days to come.

The Daily Star
Management

Dear EIS Friends,

Due to Eid vacation, final exam and winter vacation, EIS page will take a break. You will receive this year's last issue of The Daily Star at your school on November 14, 2010. We will be back with The Daily Star on January 1, 2011 and from January 3, 2011 you will have your favourite EIS pages again.

EIS wishes you all
Eid Mubarak




