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Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holy Eid-ul-Azha, the second largest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country tomorrow with due religious fervour, solemnity and spirit of sacrifice. To commemorate Hazrat Ibrahim's (AS) devotion to almighty Allah as illustrated by his readiness to give up his dearest son Hazrat Ismail (AS), well-off Muslims will sacrifice animals and share the sacrificial meat with their relatives, neighbours and poor people. Braving many odds, including struggle for tickets and sufferings caused by Sunday's hartal, hundreds of

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10-year jail max for razing trees

Cabinet okays draft law to conserve forests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going for a tougher law to clamp down on rampant tree-felling in an effort to conserve forests. The cabinet yesterday approved in principle the draft of Forest Act (Amendment) 2010, prescribing longer jail terms and heftier fines for illegal logging and other related offences. When the first forest law was formulated during the British rule, forest was considered a means of collecting duties and levies. But things have changed over the years, observed

Mihir Kanti Majumder, environment and forest secretary. "Now we want to preserve forest instead of collecting duties out of it." The amendment will raise the jail term for minor offence to three years from the existing six months and fine to Tk 50,000 from Tk 2,000. For major forest plundering, the punishment is even tougher. The jail term is 10 years and fine Tk 100,000 if somebody denudes a vast tract of land. Section 26 and section 26 (1) of the proposed amendment say which offences are

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Pro-BNP ex-military officials slate ISPR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pro-BNP former army officials yesterday blasted the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) for misleading people through a "dirty political campaign" against former premier and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia. "The ISPR is now propagating in an audacious and indecent language," former army chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman said in a statement on behalf of some ex-army

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Eid travel runs into chaos

RIZANUZZAMAN LASKAR and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

This is the first time Sumaya Sharmin is going to spend her Eid holidays with in-laws in Dinajpur. The newly married banker was waiting at the Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday with her husband, on their train. "Both my spouse and me took early leave to avoid the mad rush on the day before Eid," said Sharmin. With the country's second biggest religious festival a few dozen hours away, tens of thousands of people started leaving Dhaka earlier this week. Sharmin's wait however lasted for an agonisingly long time. The Ekata Express, which was supposed to leave the station at 9:50am, finally left with its passengers at 5:15pm. Sharmin was not alone to endure the suffering. Moinul Islam with his three-year-old daughter Raisa was waiting at the Al Baraka bus counter in Sayedabad for the bus to Ramganj.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 16

Eid Greetings

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

HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices will remain closed on November 16, 17 and 18 on account of Eid-ul-Azha and there will be no issue of the newspaper on



Hajj pilgrims pray at Mount Arafat in Saudi holy city of Makkah yesterday, converging on the site where Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) gave his farewell sermon on this day in the Islamic calendar 1,378 years ago. More on page 5

KHALEDA'S 'EVICTION' Push for BNP MPs' quitting en masse

RASHIDUL HASAN and RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

An effort for an en masse resignation of BNP lawmakers from the parliament is afoot in the party in the face of heavy demoralisation among the organisation's rank and file following their Chairperson Khaleda Zia's departure from the disputed Dhaka Cantonment house. A small group of party leaders led by standing committee member also a lawmaker, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, are trying to unite all their lawmaker colleagues to convince the top leadership that they should resign from the parliament in protest at Khaleda's "eviction". Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Farroque however said yesterday that he did not know anything regarding the plan, and the issue had not come up for discussion in relevant party forums.

CABINET MEETING BNP slammed for 'politics with house'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday criticised BNP for seeking to make an issue out of the evacuation of Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence. At a weekly meeting at the Cabinet Division of the Secretariat, ministers said BNP lawyers adopted a tactic by not asking for stay on the High Court verdict upholding a government notice. They wanted to delay the matter to gain political advantage, said the cabinet ministers. In April last year, the government issued a notice to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia asking her to vacate the house. "The prime minister

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Missing boy found
Police suspect enmity between father, abductors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cousin comes to the rescue of the five-year old Sami who went missing on Sunday when his mother was racing to save her husband from an abduction attempt at Shyamoli in the city. Sami's cousin Nasima Begum found him alone crying in front of a shop at Kallayanpur and took him to

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3m Muslims perform hajj

AP, Mount Arafat

Nearly 3 million Muslims performing the annual hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia began making their way up the rocky desert Mount Arafat yesterday, chanting that they have come to answer God's call. The white-robed pilgrims began their ascent at the crack of dawn, covering the Mountain of Mercy at Arafat in an endless sea of white as their chants "Labbayek Allah," or "Here I am, God, answering your calling," reverberated overhead. The climb at Arafat is one of the cornerstones of the pilgrimage, which is required from every able-bodied Muslim at least once in their life time. It's the site where Islam's Prophet Muhammad delivered his farewell sermon and Muslims believe on this day the doors of heavens open to answer prayers and grant forgiveness. As they began their climb from the tent-city in the valley, many of the pilgrims looked tired from lack of sleep, having spent the entire night praying. Charities and vendors along the way handed out food packages and umbrellas to shield the climbers from the harsh sun. One of the pilgrims, Wassim Ahmad, from Mumbai, India, said this was his first hajj and that he felt like a child, reborn. "Today is like judgment day," said the 29-year-old. "We have come to pray to God... a new child has been born." Alone and obviously on her first hajj, 46-year-old Egyptian, Um Sayed, kept asking people for directions. "There is nothing greater than feeling that you are going to meet God," she said. "The whole body shivers." Mina, Arafat and Muzdalifa are the three stops on the pil

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WASTE MANAGEMENT PM unhappy with DCC mayor's role

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday came down heavily on Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka for his 'negligence' in running the affairs of the corporation. "The works of DCC are not

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Send SMS to complain to police

MEHDI MUSHARRAF BHUIYAN

After e-ticket and health service through cellular network, citizens are now offered filing complaints with police by texting on mobile phone and general diaries online. Under a joint initiative by the government's Access to Information (A2I) programme, mobile phone

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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

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