



The Daily Star

www.thedailystar.net

Plus 12-page Eid Special

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXII No. 214

BHADRA 3, 1419 BS

RAMADAN 29, 1433 HUIJI

Your Right to Know

24 PAGES PLUS STAR CAMPUS PRICE: Tk 10.00

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Law alone cannot check the spread of the "disease" at educational intuitions

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A review of "Freedom's mother", story of a generation and a war

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EID MESSAGE

Taliban leader Mullah Omar says talks do not "mean submission"

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GOVT BIGWIGS BEHIND AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

A test for investigators

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK with
CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

It was truly a test of character for the investigators probing the grisly August 21 grenade attack. A crime of this magnitude seldom occurs. For sleuths who can crack a case such as this, a place in history is assured.

However, that was not to happen to the ones originally tasked with unravelling the mystery behind the August 21 blasts at an Awami League rally at the capital's Bangabandhu Avenue in 2004.

Their assignment turned out to be the blush of their lives. Soon after they discovered, much to their shock and dismay, that their top bosses were "partners in the crime", the investigation stopped dead in its tracks, according to statements made by some high profile witnesses.

Shahedul Alam Bipul, an operative of the banned militant outfit Harkatul Jihad al Islami (Huji), first tipped off the investigators about Huji boss Mufti Abdul



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How an accused BNP shifts stance

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER

Nothing can make a much-hunted terror suspect feel more privileged than staying beyond law enforcers' reach and flying to a foreign country under foolproof security.

The investigation into the August 21 grenade attacks became a farce after key suspect Maulana Tajuddin had left for Pakistan in October 2006, thanks to some ruling party leaders and intelligence officials.

When the Rab was expecting help from the Directorate General of Forces Intelligence to arrest Tajuddin, some influential officers of the intelligence agency helped his safe passage out of the country.

The Rapid Action Battalion wanted to interrogate

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Slow trial frustrates AL ranks

Now sees no political link in Aug 21 attack

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The then ruling BNP in 2004 was quick to conclude that the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally was orchestrated by none other than AL men.

But now its leaders claim there was actually no political involvement in the attacks.

Some of the BNP leaders even say the field-level investigations into the gruesome attacks had shortcomings which would help the real culprits get away scot-free.

They strongly deny the allegation that the BNP government or the party leaders, including Tarique Rahman, had links to that incident.

The BNP leaders also have claimed to The Daily Star

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Slow trial frustrates AL ranks

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Many ruling Awami League leaders and workers, mostly victims of the August 21, 2004, grenade attack, are frustrated that justice has not been delivered even eight years after the incident.

It is the failure of the present government that it could not bring the culprits to book despite the party being in power

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Eid knocking on the door

BSS, Dhaka

Eid-ul-Fitr, the biggest religious festival of the Muslims, will be celebrated across the country tomorrow if the moon is sighted today.

The members of the National Moon Sighting Committee will sit in a meeting at the Baitul Mukarram auditorium of the Islamic Foundation this evening.

As per the decision of the meeting, Eid-ul-Fitr will be celebrated amid religious fervour and enthusiasm.

President Zillur Rahman, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia have greeted the countrymen and Muslims across the world on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

In separate messages, they wished peace, progress and prosperity for all.

All preparations for holding the Eid congregations have already been completed all over the country.

The main Eid congregation in the capital will be held at the National Eidgah, adjacent to the premises of the Supreme Court, at 8:30am if weather remains favourable.

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HOMEBOUNDED TRIPS Tailbacks on highways

Trains delayed

PANKAJ KARMAKAR and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Enduring gridlock, delay, overloading and overcharging, thousands of holidaymakers yesterday left Dhaka for village homes to celebrate Eid.

Railway passengers, especially those travelling to northern districts, had the worst of experiences yesterday as trains were delayed for two to seven hours due to derailment of an intercity train at Sardah station Wednesday evening.

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PADMA BRIDGE No headway in fresh bid to get fund

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

In more than two weeks since ADB and Jica have extended their loan validity deadline by a month, the government has made no progress to ease the bottleneck regarding the Padma bridge project.

It has also failed to make any headway in finding alternative funding from Malaysia, but decided to float fresh tenders for a supervising firm by this month and for the main bridge construction next month, said an official of the Bridges Division.

Malaysia's proposal to

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Ershad meets Pranab

Raises Teesta deal issue

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
New Delhi

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday told Indian President Pranab Mukherjee that the signing of Teesta water-sharing treaty would enhance Bangladesh people's trust in India.

As Bangladesh is getting water from Teesta, a formal agreement would institutionalise the arrangement, he also told Mukherjee.

Ershad was briefing the representatives of the Bangladesh media after a

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A husband tries to pull his wife to the roof of a train while a man tries to get their daughter on the roof at the Airport Railway Station in Dhaka yesterday. Risking their lives, people are rushing for their homes outside the capital to spend Eid holidays with their families. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A different Eid for Zakir, family

RASHIDUL HASAN

After five years of unfortunate separation from his wife and children, Zakir Hossain, who had been serving life term wrongfully for another Zakir, is now happy to celebrate Eid this year with them, outside the jail.

"This year, the Eid is going to be amazing for us. We will go to the [children's] parks and many other places with father," said Zakir's elder son Sazzad Hossain.

Sazzad and his 10-year-old younger brother Mohammad Shaon, and their mother Umme Kulsum all were delighted much this time to have their beloved and affectionate man beside them during the festivity.

Zakir said his wife and children used to meet him at the jail during the past Eid days, until this time, courtesy the High Court

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BUET, MEDICAL COLLEGES

Admission seekers left in uncertainty

WASIM BIN HABIB

Although the admission process for honours courses in all the major public universities is already underway, uncertainty plagues thousands of students willing to enrol for Bu et and medical colleges.

Over the years public medical colleges and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Bu et) remained the most sought-after institutions by the students. Admission to these institutions has been stalled recently, pending decisions from the High Court.

Teachers feared this delay in admission could have long-term adverse effect on the academic calendar of the institutions.

"Any delay in admission will automatically lead to session jam in the particular courses," said Prof Ashraful Islam, general secretary of Bu et Teachers' Association.

The admission-seekers, however, said they will be in deep trouble if the admission tests in Bu et, medical colleges and other public universities are held in quick succession.

Suspending the academic

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Eid GREETINGS

The Daily Star WISHES ITS READERS, PATRONS, ADVERTISERS AND WELL-WISHERS A VERY HAPPY EID.

HOLIDAY

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on August 18, 19, 20 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr and there will be no issue of the newspaper on August 19, 20, 21. However, if Eid is celebrated on August 20, the following day (Aug 21) will also be a holiday and in that case there will be no issue of the newspaper on August 22.

STAY UPDATED 24/7 Our online section will remain open during the Eid holiday. For latest



Eid Mubarak



Heartiest greetings to our honorable clients, patrons and well-wishers on the occasion of the Holy Eid-ul-fitr

