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# LAUNCH TRIPS BEFORE EID Fares high, no cabins available

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Many passengers were scrambling for cabin tickets at the Sadarghat launch terminal yesterday as some influential people in connivance with the launch owners have booked most of the cabins well ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha. Some launch staff told passengers that all the cabins for the trips for four days before the eid have been booked. The eid comes off on October 27. A few other staff, though, would offer tickets for higher fares than usual. Launch owners claimed that the privileged section of the society like the bureaucrats, politicians, lawmakers, businessmen and police officials had approached them for booking cabins well before the tickets were put on sale on Monday. "As they are influential, we can't turn them down. We have to book the cabins to make them happy," said a

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Traders have started bringing cows, goats and camels to cattle markets in the capital for the upcoming Eid-ul-Azha. For this cow at Kamalapur Haat, a seller yesterday was asking Tk 12 lakh, the highest there. Inset, Gabtoli cattle market authorities check notes with counterfeit money detectors. The machine is seen at almost every cattle market in the city.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



**Durga Puja from today**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid due religious fervour and festivity, Sharodiya Durga Utsab, the largest religious festival of Bangalee Hindu community, begins today across the country with Mahashashthi Puja.

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## CONSTITUENCY REDRAWING BNP, allies to skip EC talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led opposition is set to boycott the dialogue with the Election Commission on redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary constituencies and finding out ways to make the next election free and fair. The opposition leaders yesterday said they were agitating for the restoration of the non-partisan caretaker government and would not sit with the EC until their demand was met. Given the situation, a consensus among political parties through the EC's talks seems improbable. The electoral dialogue is scheduled to be held after Eid-ul-Azha. Ruling Awami League-led alliance leaders, however,

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## CHITTAGONG MARKETS Essentials' prices up

SHAHENOOR AKTHER URMI, Ctg

Prices of essential commodities like onion, garlic, ginger and spices have soared up in Khatunganj, the wholesale market of Chittagong, significantly, only a week ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, due to supply crunch. Onion was sold at Tk 22-24 per kg last week, now the wholesalers are charging Tk 30-33. Imported Indian onion like Nasika and South are being sold at Tk 26-28 and 30-33 per kg respectively. The price of Indian garlic has also

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## Biman ends hajj mission today

Success comes at the cost of regular flight schedule debacle

SHARIFUL ISLAM

Airport at 9:00am today. Biman was supposed to carry 56,500 pilgrims out of total 1,13,000 devotees going to Makkah. But now it will carry 54,200 pilgrims as around 2,500 will not be going to Saudi Arabia due to visa or health issues, said a top Biman official. The prime reason behind Biman's regular flight schedule

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## Breakfast skippers seek out fat

BBC ONLINE

Brain scans show that skipping breakfast makes fatty, high calorie foods appear far more attractive later in the day, according to researchers. Scans of 21 people

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PRAYER TIMING October 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-38	5-41
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousafzai lying in her bed at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham yesterday. Malala has been able to stand with help for the first time, according to doctors treating her.

## Malala back on her feet

AFP, London

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban, has been able to stand with help for the first time, doctors treating her at a British hospital said yesterday. She is unable to talk because a breathing tube has been inserted into her windpipe but she can communicate by writing, said Dave Rosser, the medical director at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, central England. Despite the news of Malala's progress, he warned that she is "not out of the woods yet", her doctors' chief concern being an infection in the bullet track through her head. Malala was shot on a school bus in the former Taliban stronghold of the Swat valley on October 9 as a punishment for campaigning for the right of girls to an education, in an attack which outraged the world. On Monday she was flown in an air ambulance from Pakistan to Birmingham, Britain's second city, where she is being cared for in the hospital that treats British soldiers seriously wounded in bomb blasts and shootings in Afghanistan. "Malala is still showing some signs of infection which is probably related to the bullet track, some

PHOTO: AFP

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## Petrol from air!

MAIL ONLINE

A British firm has produced the first "petrol from air", it emerged yesterday, in a pioneering scientific breakthrough that could end mankind's reliance on declining fossil fuels. Air Fuel Synthesis in Stockton-on-Tees, Teesside, claims to have made five litres of petrol since

August using a small refinery that synthesises the fuel from carbon dioxide and water vapour. Experts have hailed the incredible breakthrough as a potential 'game-changer' in the battle against climate change and solution to the globe's escalating energy crisis.



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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Finance Minister AMA Muhith that Bangladesh Bank had waked up late to Hall-Mark loan scam?

Yes (56%)  
No (37%)  
No Comments (7%)

TOTAL VOTES: 274

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the threat of a strong movement after the Eid-ul-Azha by BNP to force the government to restore the caretaker government is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

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