

MINI IPAD

Apple releasing a smaller version to compete Google
IT & TELECOM

BETTER SPENDING

ADP implementation rate rises slightly in the first quarter this fiscal year
PAGE B1

SWING STATE CAMPAIGNS

Obama sets second term policies, weighs in on Republican rape row
PAGE 7



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 October 26, 27 and 28 on account of Eid-ul-Azha and there will be no issue of the newspaper on October 27, 28 and 29.

STAY UPDATED 24/7

Our online section will remain open during the Eid holiday. For latest news, visit our website www.thedailystar.net.

TREE PLANTATION PROJECT

Tk 1,100cr gobbled up

Confess 2 Destiny bosses

STAR REPORT

Mohammad Hossain, chairman of Destiny-2000 Ltd, yesterday admitted to involvement in embezzling Tk 1,100 crore from the Destiny Tree Plantation project.

He also spoke of the role other top officials, including the group's managing director Rafiqul Amin, played in the embezzlement, said court sources citing a confessional statement Hossain made before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

On October 17, he and Rafiqul were placed on an 18-day remand in two money-laundering cases in the custody of the Anti-Corruption Commission.

"Hossain has admitted that he in league with Rafiqul Amin and some other top officials embezzled Tk 1,100 crore from the group's tree plantation project," said an official of the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1



Pilgrims perform noon prayers outside the Namera Mosque (background) on the plain of Arafat on the outskirts of the holy city of Makkah yesterday. Vast crowds of pilgrims flocked to Arafat to take part in the main rituals of the annual hajj.

Over 2.5m Muslims perform hajj

AFP, Mount Arafat

Vast crowds of Muslim pilgrims flocked to Mount Arafat yesterday to perform the main hajj rites.

Men, women, and children from 189 countries streamed from dawn to the site in western Saudi Arabia, some setting up small colourful tents in which they slept and prayed.

Beggars and street vendors also dotted the roads searching for generous souls among the 2.5 million believers expected to converge on the plain for the most important rituals of the five-day hajj.

According to Mecca Governor Prince Khaled
SEE PAGE 7 COL 6



Khaleda goes to India on Sunday

REZAUL KARIM

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will leave for New Delhi on Sunday on a week-long visit to tell its leadership that her party is not against India and wants to develop the best of relations with the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

EID-UL-AZHA Fridge most selling item

MD FAZLUR RAHMAN

Eid-ul-Azha is rarely a time or image of a shopping spree for fancy clothes and jewellery. It is not different this year either.

Shop owners and traders in the city's markets and malls said the number of shoppers was much less than during the Eid-ul-Fitr days when people spend the most.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

CATTLE MARKETS BNP accuses AL men of extortion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League leaders are extorting money from the cattle markets set up on different roads in the capital, BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir alleged yesterday.

Cattle markets have been set up haphazardly in the city, but neither the city corporation nor the government took action against it as the ruling party men are involved in extortion, he told a press

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

LOAN SCAM OF HALL-MARK, 5 OTHER COMPANIES

ACC to quiz over 100 bankers

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The Anti-Corruption Commission will quiz more than 100 bankers from 61 branches of 27 banks in phases starting from next month as part of its investigations into Hall-Mark and five other companies' loan scams, insiders say.

A probe by the central bank has already spotted irregularities in the dealings with the clients concerned of most of these

branches of the 27 state-owned, private and foreign banks. The inquiry has also identified the officials who approved fake acceptance bills submitted by those companies, and thus got involved in the irregularities, BB officials said.

"The total number of the bankers involved in the irregularities in those branches will exceed one hundred," said a BB official who has been through 61

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

Home rush at peak

Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow

STAR REPORT

With eid holidays starting today, a large number of people left the capital yesterday on buses, trains and launches making the city almost congestion free.

Eid-ul-Azha is tomorrow.

The hustle and bustle of the capital calmed yesterday evening due to the exodus.

There may not have been congestion in the capital but people heading home to celebrate eid faced minor traffic jams on highways.

PHOTO ON PAGE 20

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

CHANGES TO COMPANIES ACT Hasina allays businesses' fears

No amendment without consultation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will not proceed with the proposed amendment to the Companies Act without consultation with businesspeople, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

"There are justifications for the concerns of the businessmen," Awami League General Secretary Syed

SEE PAGE 19 COL 2



PHOTO: STAR

Aminul, Razzak and Nazma run this school for underprivileged working children in Patuakhali. The children get education, books and snacks absolutely free and all of it is paid for by the trio's earnings as home tutors.

Dreamers of our time

3 poor students set up free school for working children

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

He lives in a different time and he is not a Martin Luther King. Yet he has a dream. Dream to see all kids go to school.

But having a dream is one thing and living it is quite another. And he knew it. Himself being a masters student from a poor family, he realised he could not do it alone. So he shared his dream with two of his college mates who immediately joined hands.

Together they set up a school in January last year in Patuakhali town where they teach underprivileged, working children, mostly from slums, for free. The three friends -- Aminul Islam, Abdur Razzak and Nazma Akhter -- also provide books, notebooks and pens for all the 64 students. The money comes from

their income from private tuition.

Most of these children, aged between five and 14, are engaged in various kinds of work ranging from paper picking to hawking at launch and bus terminals to support their families.

In this poor neighbourhood, there are government schools within walking distance where primary education is free and education materials are also distributed for free. But the families of these children are too poor to afford even the examination fees or a decent garment for their kids. So they chose to send their children to seek a living instead.

"This struck me. And then I had this idea that if these children get a little education, they will be able to earn more," says Aminul Islam, "then I dreamt of

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

BOMB PLOT TRIAL Nafis to face grand jury by mid-Nov

STAR REPORT

Federal prosecutors have until mid-November to convene a grand jury and indict a 21-year-old Bangladeshi man who was living in the US when he allegedly tried to detonate a bomb outside the Federal Reserve Bank in Manhattan last week.

Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis was ordered held without bail Oct 17 as he was arraigned in Brooklyn federal court on charges of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and attempting to provide material support to the terrorist group al-Qaeda, the US attorney

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



NYPD paid Shamiur to 'bait' Muslims

AP, New York

Shamiur Rahman, a 19-year-old American of Bangladeshi descent

who used to work as a paid informant for the New York Police

Department's intelligence unit, said he was assigned to "bait" Muslims into saying provocative things.

He had been living a double life. He used to take pictures inside mosques and collect names of those who attended group-study on Islam, Shamiur told the

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Philosophy of Statesman Sheikh Hasina: A unique and universal document

UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova unveiled the book "Philosophy of Statesman Sheikh Hasina" at Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York recently.

Take Part in the facebook Quiz and Win Exclusive Prize!!
www.facebook.com/awameejuboleague

Online distributor **রকমারি**
For home delivery, please contact
+88015 1952 1971-5
or visit www.rokomari.com
(Pay after getting the book in hand!)

The book is published by Bangladesh Awami Jubo League Chairman Mohammad Omar Faroque Chowdhury.

Collect the book and request others to do so!

Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, 23 Bangabandhu Avenue, Dhaka. www.awamijuboleague.com