



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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**BALLET DANCERS' BRAINS**

Study on their adapting to spins may help patients with chronic dizziness

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STATE SURVEILLANCE

Hillary Clinton calls for a "sensible adult conversation" about spying

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Sundarbans threatened

Private entrepreneurs now setting up shipyards, RMG and other industries near the forest

PINAKI ROY

The government is virtually helping industrialists and businesspersons to transform villages around the Sundarbans into an industrial as well as commercial area, grossly violating environmental laws.

Government agencies like the Department of Environment and the district administration, which are supposed to be guardians of the forest, have been allowing industrialists to purchase land and providing site clearance to install hazardous industries.

All these activities in the buffer zone of the Sundarbans are posing serious threats to the already vulnerable mangrove forest, which acts as a natural wall, reduces intensity of cyclones and saves life and property.

As per the Bangladesh Environment Conservation Act, 2010, no one can set up industries or construct other establishments in the buffer zone, which is an area within 10 kilometres of the forest.

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This government grain silo being built at Jaymanirgol just across the river from the Sundarbans in Mongla encourages companies to buy land for industrial purposes at this ecologically sensitive area. *Inset*, a plot of land has a sign-board that says a shipyard will be built there.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Onion price shoots up

REAZ AHMAD

There is no let-up in onion price hike as consumers continue to pay through their noses for this essential commodity particularly at a time when its demand is the highest during the Eid-ul-Azha.

With the latest jump in prices of onion, the government yesterday asked the deputy commissioners of all the 64 districts to monitor and report immediately any artificial jacking up of the prices.

According to a market report of the state-run Trading

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PM seeks vote for AL

Asks Ctg people to help continue development, opens city's first flyover

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Chittagong residents to vote for Awami League in the next general election to ensure the continuation of development works initiated by her government.

Highlighting the development works in Chittagong done by the incumbent government, she pledged to undertake more projects here in the future.

The prime minister was speaking at a

rally of eminent personalities at the Jamiatul Falah mosque premises in the port city. Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) organised the rally on the occasion of the opening of the Bahaddarhat flyover.

Hasina opened the 1.4-kilometre flyover to traffic around 10:35am. She had laid the foundation stone of the project in 2010. Initially, the project cost was estimated at Tk 106 crore. But later it increased to Tk 144.18 crore, said CDA officials.

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HILSA CATCHING 11-day ban starts today

STAR REPORT

The fisheries department from today has imposed an 11-day ban on catching, marketing, selling and transportation of hilsa fish across the country to ensure safe spawning and protect mother fish.

It also urged the people not to buy or

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EID CATTLE MARKETS

Traders wait for sales to pick up

JAMIL MAHMUD and AKRAM HOSEN

With Eid-ul-Azha only three days away, selling of sacrificial animals was not upto traders' expectation till yesterday.

Customers at different markets said they would buy their sacrificial animals further observing the prices.

"I will see if the prices decrease in the next two days, and probably buy one before the Eid day," said Rimon Khan, who came to Gabtali market from Mirpur.

Alongside Gabtali, the only permanent cattle market in

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Bangladesh off-spinner and lower order batsman Shohag Gazi gets down on one knee to hammer a ball over the top while scoring his maiden Test ton on the fourth day of the first Test against New Zealand at the Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

EID RUSH FOR HOME

Long tailbacks delay trips

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second day of the weekend before the government holiday for Eid and Puja fared no better than the first, with day-long tailbacks blocking two major routes out of the capital yesterday.

Many decided not to work on the lone working day of the week today and go on a nine-day vacation.

People heading home and truckers on Dhaka-Mawa-Kawrakandi route got the worst, with holdups on the highway and on ferries.

The siltation of the Padma narrowed down the Lauhajung turn, reducing the

channel width to allow only one ferry to pass at a time. Ferries had to wait for up to an hour in queue as they took turns to cross the channel.

Besides, a queue formed on the highway, comprised mainly of over 500 trucks carrying sacrificial animals for Eid-ul-Azha next week.

Jasim Miah driving a cow-laden truck told The Daily Star that the ferries take too much time to cross.

Passengers choosing to skip the ferry and cross the river by launch complained of launches taking more load than they were allowed to.

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No potholes on highways

Claims Road Division

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Road Division of the Communications Ministry in a statement yesterday claimed that no potholes exist on the highways of the country.

The statement came in response to two reports of The Daily Star -- "Rough ride home" published on October 11, 2013 and "Home-goers suffer on

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ePayment of Dhaka WASA bills through DBBL Nexus Gateway

Now Dhaka WASA bills can be paid on the internet by using your Nexus Card.

Dhaka WASA and Dutch-Bangla Bank (DBBL) have recently signed an agreement for implementation of this service. Honorable State Minister for Science & Technology, Architect Yeafesh Osman graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Mrs. Zuena Aziz, Additional Secretary, Local Govt. Division of the Ministry of LGRD&C and Mr. Sayem Ahmed, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of DBBL were present as the special guests.

The agreement was signed by Engr. Taqsem A Khan, Managing Director of Dhaka WASA and Mr. K. S. Tabrez, Managing Director of DBBL on behalf of their respective organizations.

Under this agreement:

- Customers of Dhaka WASA can pay their bills through 3D secured Nexus Gateway
- DBBL Nexus cards can be used
- VISA & MasterCard can be used
- No need to stand in any queue for bill payments
- Can pay your bills any time anywhere at www.dwasa.org.bd



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