



The Daily Star

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WITH
TODAY'S
ISSUE
LIFE
style



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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 15, 16 and 17 due to Eid-ul-Azha holidays. There will be no issue of the newspaper on October 16, 17 and 18.

STAY UPDATED 24/7

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

SUNDARBANS

Wildlife in peril

Large vessels using channel thru' the forest creating disturbance; regular waterway silted up for long

PINAKI ROY

A temporary water transport channel through the Sundarbans has turned into a regular route over the last two years as the authorities concerned have yet to restore the navigability of the original route.

Subsequently, the ecosystem and wildlife of the forest are being seriously disturbed by the daily movement of around 150 motor cargo vessels coming from Chittagong, Dhaka and even India.

The temporary route was arranged for only three months to carry goods to Mongla Port and Khulna in April 2011 after Bangladesh and India had renewed their Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade.

Ships coming from Haldia Port in India have been using this channel under that protocol as the original Mongla-Ghasiakhal route was silted up.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) was supposed to dredge 15 kilometres of the channel to restore its navigability by June 2011.

The incumbent government allocated Tk 76 crore to restore the route, but the BIWTA has not yet begun the work. Insiders say they are about to

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Vessels operate on a channel through the Sundarbans, disturbing the ecosystem and wildlife of the mangrove forest. The photos were taken recently.



People in busloads leave Gabtoli terminal in the capital yesterday to enjoy the Eid vacation. They don't mind travelling on roofs, thinking that at the end of their journey they will meet their dear ones. Tomorrow is Eid-ul-Azha.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Joy of Eid all around

Holidaymakers head for village homes

STAR REPORT

Lit up faces were all around at launch terminals, and bus and railway stations. The people heading home for holidays were abuzz as they waited to be reunited with their loved ones.

As tomorrow is one of the biggest religious festivals of the country, thousands were heading home to celebrate Eid amid worry of suffering on the way and concern over reaching home on time.

As a large number of home goers have already left the capital in the Durga Puja

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Nutrition remains a major concern

FAO representative stresses sustainability of food security

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh can deservedly bask in the glory of tripling its rice output in a span of four decades, but its aspiration to become a middle-income country by its 50th birthday remains hard to achieve until nutrition concerns are addressed.

Speaking exclusively to The Daily Star ahead of the World Food Day, Mike Robson, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) representative in Bangladesh, said, "This country [Bangladesh] has demonstrated a good example on how to increase farm productivity.



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Muslims pray for end to divisions

1.5m perform hajj

AFP, Saudi Arabia

Some 1.5 million Muslim pilgrims thronged Mount Arafat in Saudi Arabia yesterday for the high point of the annual hajj, praying for an end to disputes and bloodshed.

Helicopters hovered overhead and thousands of troops stood guard to organise roads flooded with men, women and children.

Chanting "Labaik Allahum Labaik" (I am

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