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

HOLIDAY

The Daily Star offices will remain closed for three days from today for Eid-ul-Fitr. There will be no issue of the newspaper on July 18, 19 and 20. However, if Eid is celebrated on July 19, the holiday will be extended by a day and there will be no issue on July 21.

Due to Eid holidays, Showbiz (July 18), Lifestyle (July 21), Shout (July 23) and The STAR (July 24) will not be published.

STAY UPDATED 24/7

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

The Daily Star



People heading home for Eid holidays climb up to the already packed roof of a train at Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday. People embarking on such risky travels is almost a norm ahead of Eid. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Home-goers face less trouble

Eid likely tomorrow PANKAG KARMAKAR

Excited five-year-old girl Naima was waiting at a bus stop but she could hardly wait for a boat ride, which her grandfather promised to make it happen during her Eid holidays at their village home in Bogra.

"Dadu [grandfather] has told me over the phone that a boat is waiting for me. Dadu and I will get on it tomorrow [Friday] and be on it all day long," an enthusiastic Naima said.

She along with her parents was sitting in the waiting room of SR Travels at the capital's Kalyanpur for a bus to Bogra.

Their faces could not hide the happiness and joy of getting to spend the Eid holidays with their near and dear ones.

Like them, thousands were leaving the capital and heading towards their homes yesterday to celebrate Eid, which could be tomorrow, if the moon is sighted this evening, or on Sunday, if it was not.

An estimated 70 lakh

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A test of patience

FAHMIM FERDOUS

There aren't too many occasions in a year when almost the entire nation goes on a three-day vacation at once. The two Eids are, therefore, the time for many to connect with family to lay back and enjoy.

Even a decade ago, TV entertainment was a major element of Eid celebrations, but viewers' complaints of excessive advertisements interrupting the Eid programmes have been escalating in the last few years. But who really is to blame?

TV channel authorities, programme makers and advertisement agencies all agree that viewership of Bangladeshi channels is still at its peak during the Eids.

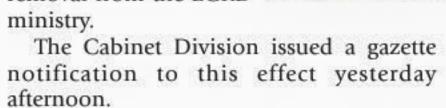
Noted TV and film director Mostofa Sarwar Farooki said, "Even the EID TV GUIDE -- PAGE 11 SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Ashraf now public admin minister

Meets PM for fourth time in a week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam has been given the public administration portfolio a week after his much-talked about removal from the LGRD



Ashraf was relieved of the LGRD ministry and made a minister without portfolio on July 9. Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandkar Mosharraf Hossain replaced him.

The latest development comes after a series of one-to-one meetings between Ashraf and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina over the last few days.

Meanwhile, Ashraf met Hasina at the Gono Bhaban after iftar yesterday. It was his fourth meeting with the PM since his removal from the LGRD ministry.

Earlier around 5:00pm, State Minister for Public Administration Ismat Ara Sadique and Senior Secretary Kamal Abdul Naser

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3 killed in 'gunfights' with Rab

2 brothers in Rangpur among the dead

STAR REPORT Three persons, including

two siblings, were killed in "gunfights" with Rapid Action Battalion in the capital and Rangpur yester-

Of them, Manik, 25, and Sumon, 26, were sons of Amir Ali of Rangpur city's Khalifatari area, reports our correspondent there.

According to the elite force, the two stood accused in a murder case filed with Kotwali Police Station. They were also facing several cases for extortion and mugging lodged with local police.

The "gunfight" took place after a Rab patrol team saw some youths gathering near Dhap Check Post area around 3:30am, said Atiqur Rahman, deputy assistant director of Rab-13.

> The moment the team SEE PAGE 17 COL 5







DIFFERENT • DEPENDABLE • DEFINITIVE

After the news at **10** pm On the day after Eid The **Eid special** episode of your favourite Programme **Hanif Sanket's** Will be broadcast **BTV and BTV World** A Fagun Audio Vision Presentation Courtesy **& Cosmetics Ltd**