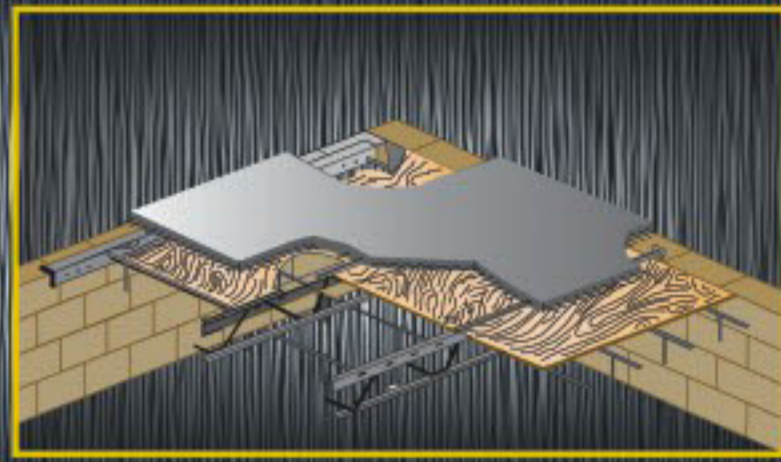


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EID CELEBRATION

Home-goers brave rain, hassles

PANKAG KARMAKAR

With Eid holidays beginning from today, the chaotic rush of holiday makers reached its peak yesterday as thousands streamed out of the capital defying the rain and overcrowding of transports to go home.

Heavy traffic on highways resulted in up to 10 hours of delays for people heading to the north.

However, most trains and launches were on time.

The city's bus, train and launch terminals dealt with the huge crowd of people heading home yesterday. Finding no space inside, many were seen travelling on the roofs of buses, launches and trains.

Transport operators claimed that the rush would continue until early tomorrow (Friday) because many factories and businesses would remain open until then.

Rain added to the woes of passengers.

Met office yesterday evening forecast that rainfall would keep on decreasing over the weekend.

Meanwhile, the hustle and bustle of the capital quieted down a little as many had left the city over the last few days.

HIGHWAYS

The congested Dhaka-Tangail highway had around a 10km tailback from Chandra intersection of Gazipur to Mirzapur of Tangail for three hours in the morning, reports our correspondent.

The jam eased off around 9:00am but vehicles had to move very slowly all daylong.

Additional law enforcers were deployed for traffic

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



ANYTHING FOR HOME ... With only a day to go before the Eid-ul-Azha, holidaymakers make frantic efforts to climb up to the roofs of trains as the compartments are already packed. The photos were taken at the airport and the Kamalapur railway stations yesterday.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ/PALASH KHAN



The Daily Star

ORION FOOTWEAR

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the BNP's allegation that the government is controlling the media through pursuing a secret policy?

Yes (75%)
No (25%)

TOTAL VOTES: 75

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think that the government would respond to the call of the visiting US delegation for trade unions in each EPZ?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net



PRAYER TIMING

SEPTEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-40 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-15 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Road crashes kill 18 in a single day

STAR REPORT

At least 18, including a woman and a child, were killed and 10 others injured in road accidents across the country ahead of Eid vacation yesterday.

The number of road accidents rises by 2 to 2.5 times around this time of the year, as roads and highways are packed with vehicles and people rushing home to celebrate the festival with their loved ones, experts said.

The accidents took place in Chittagong, Patuakhali, Sunamganj, Tangail, Jamalpur and Thakurgaon as the rush was at its peak on the last working day before Eid.

Of the victims, three were killed and four others injured when a city bus losing control hit a tempo, rickshaws and pedestrians at Dewanhat intersection of Chittagong.

The deceased are Nayem, 20, and Nizam Uddin, 22, of Laxmipur, and Joynal Abedin, 65, of Comilla.

Injured Mohiuddin Mahmud, 30, Ibrahim Khalil, 40, Jahangir Alam, 25, and Nur Mohammad, 55, received treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said Assistant Sub-Inspector Pankaz Barua of CMCH Police Camp.

The police seized the bus but the driver and staff managed to flee.

Meanwhile, 10-year-old Shahidul Islam Tuhin was killed and another Saiful Islam, 11, injured when a lorry hit their bicycle at Steel Mill Bazar of Chittagong city. Saiful was admitted to CMCH.

SUNAMGANJ ACCIDENT

A truck rammed an auto-rickshaw in Hasnabad under Chhatak upazila of Sunamganj leaving four dead on the spot and one injured.

The deceased are Mohibur Rahman, 35, of Vujna village; Joli Rani Das, 39, of Jagannathpur village; Haripada Das, 39, of Gangadhar, and Motilal Chakrawarty of Sunmganj.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Cattle sales in city gain momentum

Buyers happy as price reasonable

HELEMUL ALAM

Prices of sacrificial animals dropped yesterday at city cattle markets as traders sold their cattle at reasonable prices.

Traders said they lowered prices as the supply was sufficient and the demand was not showing any signs of increasing. The inclement weather also prompted them to sell their bulls and cows as they feared that the animals might get sick.

Medium-sized bulls were sold between Tk 50,000 and Tk 70,000, down by around Tk 10,000 from the previous day. For the smaller ones, traders charged the buyers between Tk 25,000 and Tk 40,000, down by nearly Tk 10,000 from Tuesday.

Although buyers were satisfied with the prices, traders were frustrated over their low profits. Many feared that they might have to incur losses today if the demand doesn't pick up on the last day before Eid.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Syria war causes withdrawal from 'doomsday vault'



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The Syrian war has brought about the first withdrawal from the "doomsday bank", a giant vault in an Arctic mountain that is meant to protect the world's food in the event of a huge disaster.

Researchers in the Middle East have asked for seeds including those of wheat, barley and grasses, all of which are chosen because they are suited to dry conditions. It is the first withdrawal from the bank, which was built in 2008.

Those researchers would normally request the seeds from a bank in Aleppo. But that centre has been damaged by the war — while some of its functions continue, and its cold storage still

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

SUMMIT NEXT WEEK World leaders to offer more peacekeepers

AFP, United Nations

World leaders attending a UN peacekeeping summit next week hosted by President Barack Obama will offer thousands of troops to shore up missions worldwide, a US official said Tuesday.

The pledges will "significantly exceed" the goal of 10,000 troops that US officials had set for the summit taking place Monday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, the official told reporters.

The new contributions will also include helicopters, engineering units and field hospitals that are desperately needed to bolster UN peace missions, said the official who asked not to be named.

More than 105,000 troops and police serve in the UN's 16 peacekeeping missions worldwide. Bangladesh, Ethiopia, India and Pakistan are among the top troop-contributing nations.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Pope Francis, accompanied by US President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama, greets children upon his arrival at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland on Tuesday on a three-day visit to Washington.

PHOTO: AFP

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