



It's time to unite, fight terrorism

PM says Saudi-led alliance creates scope for Muslim unity

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lauding the Saudi Arabia-led anti-terror alliance, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it has created an opportunity for the entire Muslim Ummah to get united and fight terrorism and militancy.

"Around 40 countries have already joined the alliance... Bangladesh also joined it," the PM said in reply to queries from lawmakers in parliament.

Hasina, also the leader of the House, reiterated her government's zero tolerance to terrorism and militancy.

"Bangladesh will do whatever is needed to root out terrorism and militancy. I have already conveyed this to the Saudi king, Muslim countries and the OIC [the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation]. We are firmly determined to prevent the recurrence of the incidents [militant acts] which are taking place now," she asserted.

Referring to her recent visit to Saudi Arabia, the premier said she told the Saudi king that Bangladesh would send troops, if necessary, to protect the two holy mosques in Mecca and Medina.



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RUSSIAN LOAN Debt burden won't rise much

Muhith on Rooppur nuke power plant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh's debt burden would not increase much even if the government borrowed \$12 billion from Russia to build the Rooppur nuclear power plant, Finance Minister AMA Muhith said yesterday.

"Still we will be able to borrow \$14 billion more thanks to the economy's sustainability," he told reporters at the secretariat.

The Economic Relations Division has carried out a debt sustainability study recently. It shows the debt burden would be \$36 billion in 2024 from \$24 billion now, if the current pace of borrowing growth continued.

Muhith said he had done his own calculations, and it could be \$40 billion in 2024.

He made the comments after a meeting with NN Spassky, deputy director general of Rosatom State Nuclear Energy

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Some sleep while others chat on the floor of Kamalapur Railway Station around 11:50 Tuesday night. They were all saving their spots in the queue to buy Eid tickets for July 1, which went on sale yesterday morning. Eager to be the first in line, a man, bottom, sleeps on the window ledge of a ticket counter.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Good news for govt employees

9-day Eid holiday begins July 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Eid-ul-Fitr, the largest religious festival of the Muslims, is a time of great happiness and rejoicing to be spent in the warm embrace of the near and dear ones.

But for the country's 13 lakh public servants, the upcoming Eid will be more joyous as they are going to have an extended holiday.

The government yesterday announced July 4, the only workday between the Eid holidays, as a public holiday, paving the way for a nine-day vacation starting from July 1.

The first two days of July are weekend, while the next day will be another holiday for Shab-e-Qadr. The next three days will be the official holiday for Eid followed by another weekend. It means the public servants will have their vacation from July 1 till July 9.

However, the government employees will have to

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Cannes Gold Lion for Grey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advertising agency Grey Dhaka's zero-electricity air cooler made from plastic bottles has won the prestigious Gold Lion award in this year's Cannes advertising festival.

This is the first Cannes award for any Bangladeshi advertisement firm.

The air cooler, which can reduce room temperature by up to five degrees Celsius, grabbed the accolade at the 2016 Cannes Lions International Festival of Creativity in the French town on Monday.

"The first-ever Cannes Lion for

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HARASSMENT OF COLLEGE GIRL Victim in jail, 'culprit' on bail

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

An alleged stalker and his mother tried to frame a family in an acid violence case for protesting the harassment of their college-going daughter at the capital's Lalbagh.

The four-member family had to spend a month in jail before they could obtain bail. The daughter, 23-year-old Suchona who goes to Begum Badrunnesa Govt Women College, is still in jail.

Getting out on bail, Suchona's mother Arona Begum told The Daily Star that she lives with her husband Abdus Sattar, their son Abdus Salam, 16, and Suchona a few doors down the alley from Chanchal and his mother Setara Begum on Duri Angul Lane of Old Dhaka.

She said Chanchal, a 30-year-old married man with a child, had been harassing Suchona over the phone for the last two years.

Suchona and other members of her family protested, but to no avail, as Chanchal and his family are influential in the neighbourhood.

They fought with Arona's family over the matter for months. "He [Chanchal] beat us up severely....," said Arona.

She said Chanchal's family did not stop there.

In the afternoon of April 27, Setara raised a hue and cry that her body was burning. Arona was cooking in her first floor home, around 20 yards away

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Celebration begins with Bata.

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