

EID RUSH FOR HOME Easy at exits, tough on highways

STAR REPORT
With a virtual five-day holiday beginning today, thousands of Eid holidaymakers left the capital yesterday without facing much trouble at the exit points, but they were caught in traffic snarls on different highways outside the city.
The exodus of Dhaka city dwellers started gaining momentum as bus and launch terminals and railway stations saw massive crowds of home goers.
The pressure of passengers increased in the afternoon as many government and non-government service holders left the city after the office hours yesterday. It was the last working day before the official Eid vacation beginning from Sunday following two-day weekend.
Almost all the buses left three major terminals on time but there were tailbacks at several points on Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Tangail and Dhaka-Aricha highways. The number of vehicles started increasing at Patuira ferry
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PHOTO: RASHED SHUJON
Not only this little kid, people of all ages leaving the capital to celebrate Eid with family members appear to have joy and fun despite the hassles they face before or during the travels. The photo was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital yesterday.

Ministers stand by Muhith

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Ministers and senior MPs from the ruling alliance yesterday in parliament spoke in defence of Finance Minister AMA Muhith and criticised the lawmakers who had attacked him over budget proposals including excise duty on bank accounts.
They said the way MPs, even members of the cabinet, had attacked Muhith since the placing of the budget in the House on June 1 was "unexpected and unacceptable as the finance minister placed the budget as per the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina."
Some senior AL MPs, however, drew a positive tone out of the debate on budget proposals, saying it only proved the present parliament is "vibrant and diversified".
Taking part in budget discussions in parliament since June 4, many opposition and treasury bench MPs including a number of cabinet members have lambasted Muhith for proposing higher excise duty on bank accounts, 15 percent uniform VAT rate and a slash in the interest rate of savings certificates.
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University VC, officials sued for hill cutting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, CG
The Department of Environment yesterday filed a case against the vice-chancellor, the registrar and a dean of Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (CVASU) for cutting hills in Cox's Bazar to build its new campus.
DoE officials visited Dariarnagar area of Borochora in Cox's Bazar Sadar on July 13 following a complaint by a local, said Inspector Momtunul Islam of Cox's Bazar in
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'MOUDUD'S HOUSE' A story of love, deception

SHARHAWAT LITON and MOHAMMAD AL-MASIM MOLLA
The house on Gulshan Avenue from where BNP leader Moudud Ahmed has recently been evicted has a unique story of love, deception and battle for ownership.
It all began in the 1960s when a man and a woman of two nationalities fell in love and eventually got married. Each of the couple - Inge Flatz, an Austrian, and Muhammad Ehsan, a Pakistani, had their own businesses.
Flatz had her own property and business in the then East Pakistan and she retained her family name and nationality even after her marriage.



Karim Solaiman

Dhaka Improvement Trust, now Rajuk, allotted her a one-bigha-and-13-katha plot on September 9, 1965, where she built a house without prior approval of the Trust, according to the Supreme Court verdict in the case involving the house.
In 1972, however, the house was declared abandoned after the couple left the country and its possession transferred to the government.
But Flatz launched a battle to regain her ownership, seeking assistance from the Austrian government, which apparently took the matter seriously.
Between 1972 and 1981, three Austrian
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Dual policy for tobacco

SOHEL PARVEZ
Unprocessed tobacco stays VAT-exempt
Contrary to its policy of discouraging tobacco cultivation, the government has retained the VAT exemption facility for unprocessed tobacco in the proposed budget for fiscal 2017-18.
Denouncing the government decision, anti-tobacco campaigners say the waiver on unprocessed tobacco, sold to processors mainly by traders, is inconsistent with the government's goal of freeing the nation from the tobacco menace by 2040.
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TOP QUOTE
"It's unfair that you praise the country's economic success, and at the same time, you say the finance minister has failed."
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
HASANUL HAQ INU
DEFENDING AMA MUHITH IN PARLIAMENT

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