



The Daily Star

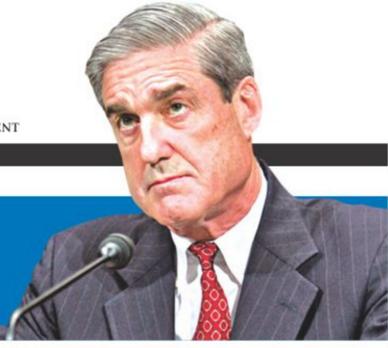
SECOND EDITION

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PLUS 8-PAGE IMPACT JOURNALISM DAY SUPPLEMENT

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Showbiz

ONLY ON MAP

Once a vibrant pond in Dhaka's south city corporation is now nowhere to be seen

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'BOTHERSOME'

Trump says of Mueller-Comey friendship; questions Mueller's integrity

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Heavy rush, slow traffic

Homegoers brave hassles; Dhaka-Ctg highway, connecting roads of Bangabandhu bridge see long tailbacks; trips delayed by 3-4 hrs

STAR REPORT

Traffic went haywire on some highways yesterday due to a huge rush of passengers, causing sufferings to the holidaymakers going home to celebrate this Eid with their loved ones.

Till afternoon, people boarded buses and left the capital without facing much trouble at the exit points. But an agonising ride awaited them on the highways.

Bus journeys to most of the northern districts took at least two to three hours more than the usual time due to long tailbacks on both sides of the Bangabandhu bridge.

Those heading for the south-eastern districts through the Dhaka-Chittagong highway also faced trouble near the Meghna bridge. They got stuck there for a long time with transport operators blaming it on the massive pressure of traffic.

The buses heading for the terminals in the capital to pick passengers also ran behind schedule due to the gridlock.

Despite a huge rush of homebound people, journeys by train and launch were fairly smooth as most of them left the Kamalapur Railway Station and the Sadarghat terminal on time.

However, a large number of people were seen travelling on the rooftops of the already overcrowded trains and launches, risking their lives.

The two ferry terminals -- Paturia in Manikganj and Shimulia in Munshiganj -- also saw an increased number of passengers and vehicles. The queues of vehicles waiting to cross the Padma river only got bigger with time.

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In their desperate bid to leave the capital to celebrate Eid with family members, people travel on bus roofs and even on a lorry at Chandra on Dhaka-Aricha highway as a virtual five-day holiday began yesterday. Below, a passenger is being pulled to the roof of a train at Tongi station and a jam-packed launch leaves Sadarghat.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/FIROZ AHMED

IMPACT Journalism Day

STORIES for a BETTER WORLD

Today, 50 of the world's leading newspapers are publishing stories of hope, innovation and change in collective observance of Impact Journalism Day. The Daily Star is part of this international movement that aims to highlight inspiring and concrete solutions to global issues. To observe this day, The Daily Star has brought out a special supplement, simultaneously published in 49 other newspapers reaching 120 million people, featuring incredible stories of change-makers from around the world.

READ AND FEEL INSPIRED!



Jumatul Wida observed

UNB, Dhaka

Muslims across the country observed Jumatul Wida, the last Friday of Ramadan, yesterday with due religious fervour and solemnity.

A large number of devotees attended Juma prayers at mosques and offered special munajat, seeking divine blessings for the peace and progress of the

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Wheat import triples in 5yrs

Bangladesh set to become 5th top wheat importing country; rising domestic demand, growth of baked food industry key reasons

REAZ AHMAD

Bangladesh has emerged as a leading wheat importer in the world with its import volume hitting a record high in the current fiscal year, mainly due to a shift in consumers' diet preference and flourishing baked food market.

In this fiscal year, wheat import stood at 5.4 million tonnes till mid-June, show government statistics.

A world grain market report released last week by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) projected that the import volume would hit six million tonnes.

According to an estimate by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Bangladesh's wheat import rose by 24 percent in fiscal 2016-17 compared to that in the previous fiscal year. The UN agency attributed the rise to an increased domestic demand for high-quality wheat for milling.

The country's wheat import tripled in five years to 5.4 million tonnes in FY 2016-17 from 1.8 million tonnes in FY 2012-13.

Market sources said the country has so far spent at least Tk 8,000 crore to foot the huge import bills in the current fiscal year.

The imported wheat is not entirely

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SUICIDE BLASTS 26 killed in Pakistan

AFP, Peshawar

Multiple blasts killed at least 26 people and wounded dozens in two Pakistani cities on the last Friday of Ramadan, Islam's holiest month, as officials warned the toll could rise.

Authorities said 13 people were killed and 124 wounded when twin blasts tore through a market in Parachinar, capital of Kurram district, a mainly Shia area of Pakistan's tribal belt.

Local official Nasrullah Khan told AFP that the first blast detonated as the market was crowded with shoppers preparing for the Eid-ul-Fitr festival marking the end of Ramadan.

"When people rushed to the site... to rescue the wounded, a second blast took place," he said, adding that he could not give further details of the attack but that officials fear the toll will increase.

Sabir Hussain, the medical superintendent at Parachinar's main hospital, said it had received 13 bodies and 124 wounded.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for security to be beefed up across the country as he condemned the attack, saying that no Muslim could ever imagine committing such

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MOSQUE ATTACK London police confirm victim was a British-Bangladeshi

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The man, who was killed in a terror attack in front of the Finsbury Park Mosque in London



Makram Ali

four days ago, was a British-Bangladeshi, London police confirmed yesterday.

The victim, 51-year-old Makram Ali, was originally from Sylhet. He died from multiple injuries Bangladesh High Commission in London said in a press release.

His family issued a statement saying it wanted

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Library on wheels

UP member walks the extra mile to serve constituents, works tirelessly to enlighten them

DIPANKAR ROY with ANDREW EAGLE

Travel the Khulna to Bagerhat Road and in the vicinity of Nohati in Khulna's Rupsha upazila you might see the curious sight of a man pedalling a rickshaw van laden with books. Likely he'll be dressed casually, with laptop by his side, as he trundles village to village from about three of an afternoon until nine at night.

"Some people mock me," says said gentleman, thirty-three-year-old, Masters-in-history graduate SM Alamgir Hossain Shrabon. "But I'll never lose my determination to enlighten people." Shrabon's unwavering dedication to his mobile library is a surprise to many: wandering village roadsides isn't typically what local council members do.

"I want to eradicate poverty through education," explains Shrabon, whose sole income source is from his modest event management company. School and college students, housewives and villagers of various occupations, many have joined his library.

"I don't have the means to buy books apart from text

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SM Alamgir Hossain Shrabon runs a mobile library on a rickshaw van that he personally pedals from village to village. He has also set up two training centres for women, wi-fi hotspots and an IT club.

CHANGE MAKER



PHOTO: STAR