



EID MUBARAK
The Daily Star WISHES ITS READERS, PATRONS, ADVERTISERS AND WELL-WISHERS A VERY HAPPY EID

HOLIDAY

The Daily Star office will remain closed on June 25, 26 and 27 due to Eid-ul-Fitr holidays. Therefore, the newspaper will not be published on June 26, 27 and 28. However, if Eid is celebrated on June 27, The Daily Star office will remain closed on June 28. In that case, the newspaper will not come out on June 29.

Due to the holidays, Star Lifestyle (scheduled for June 27), Shout (June 29), STAR Weekend Magazine (June 30) and Star Showbiz (July 1) will not be published.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



People even climb onto the roof of the locomotive as the mad dash for home reaches its peak. The photo of the train leaving Dhaka was taken at Airport Railway Station yesterday. PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

All for a blissful Eid

Holidaymakers journey on despite hassles on the way

STAR REPORT

Little Raihan looked restless. While waiting at Gabtoli Bus Terminal for around three hours, the five-year-old was asking his father the same question over and over again. "When will our bus arrive, Baba?" His father Mosharrif Hossain was

assuring him that the bus would be at the terminal soon. It was scheduled to depart for Rangpur at 9:00am. Mosharrif, a private service holder, came to Gabtoli with his family members from Azimpur around 8:00am. But the bus, which was making a round trip, was not there even at 11:00am.

"It's extremely distressing to wait for such a long time with family members at the terminal," he said. "Every year we go through this. But we just have to grin and bear it only to celebrate Eid together. My other family members are waiting for us, and when I see their smiling faces, all

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Adult literacy rate hits 12-year high

WASIM BIN HABIB and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Adult literacy rate in the country rose to a 12-year high of 72.3 percent last year.

The rate was 51.6 percent in 2004 and 64.6 percent in 2015, says a report titled "Sample Vital Registration System (SVRS)" prepared by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

From 2004 to 2015, the average yearly increase in the literacy rate among people aged above 15 was between 0.2 and 3.3 percentage points.

The report, released in the last week of May, defines literacy of a person by the ability to write a simple letter.

Talking to The Daily Star, noted educationist Rasheda K Choudhury said, "I'm not clear about how literacy is defined here. If adult literacy is defined as someone's ability to write a simple letter, then what about the global definition of literacy?"

"The Unesco's definition of literacy incorporates three

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YEAR	ADULT LITERACY RATE
2004	51.6
2005	53.5
2006	53.7
2007	56.3
2008	56.9
2009	58.4
2010	58.6
2011	58.8
2012	60.7
2013	61.0
2014	61.4
2015	64.6
2016	72.3

PROPOSED VAT, TAX MEASURES

Major changes likely

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and SOHEL PARVEZ

Unlike previous budgets, which were passed by parliaments with minor changes, this year's proposed budget could have major changes to tax measures.

The measures proposed for fiscal year 2017-18 were scheduled to be passed on June 28 but the government might seek to defer implementation of the much-talked-about new VAT law.

The new VAT law, which the government

took five years to get ready, was supposed to come into effect on July 1.

Holders of bank accounts were also likely to see cuts in the proposed rate of excise duty for the coming fiscal year, said officials of the finance ministry.

Officials involved in the budget preparation said the finance minister places budget proposal in early June every year and minor changes are made during its passage.

This year, Finance Minister AMA Muhih

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Truck crash kills 16 home-goers

Victims were travelling on cement-laden truck bound for Lalmonirhat; helper was at the wheel with driver taking a nap

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A helper filling in for the driver of a cement-laden truck lost control and flipped the vehicle in Pirganj of Rangpur early yesterday, leaving 16 Eid holidaymakers, including two women and a girl, dead.

The victims were travelling on the truck and it appears that they died after cement sacks fell on them, said Rezaul Karim, officer-in-charge of Pirganj Police Station. Eight others were also injured.

The tragic accident took place around 5.45am on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway near Kalabagan village just two days before the festival.

Most of the deceased were garment workers. They were heading for their homes in Kaliganj and Aditmari upazilas of

Lalmonirhat from Gazipur, said the OC.

The dead were identified as Rabiul Islam, 40, Azizul Islam, 35, Suporna Begum, 10, Kohinur Begum, 30, Jhantu Mia, 35, Moznu Mia 29, Nasida Akter, 40, Alamgir Hossain 27, Delwar Hossain 25, Jashim Uddin 26, Anisuzzaman, 35, Shahiduzzaman 30, Saddam Hossain 24, Munir Hossain 24, RafiqulIslam, 24, and Khalil Mia 32.

The injured were being treated at Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH), said its director Moudud Ahmed.

Failing to get seats in already overcrowded buses and trains during every Eid rush, many holidaymakers, especially those from the low income group, travel on trucks, although there is a government ban on the movement of the vehicle on high

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