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EID MUBARAK

The Daily Star wishes its readers, patrons, advertisers and well-wishers a very happy Eid

Holiday notice

The Daily Star offices will remain closed from Aug 11 to 13 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha and so there will be no issues of the paper on Aug 12-14. Our three weekly publications -- SHOUT, Star Weekend and Star Showbiz -- will also not come out. However, our online team will work round the clock to serve both our Bangla and English readers. Please visit our website (www.thedailystar.net) for the latest on national and international developments.



ENSLAVED in Oman

3 women share their horrific experience on return home; 20-25 women still trapped

BISHAKHA DEVNATH

Shaheen Alam heard his mother's voice crack on the other end of the phone, as she pleaded with him to rescue her from the torture by a trafficking network in Oman. She had gone there in May after being promised a decent job as a hospital cleaner. It was a trap.

"I cannot take in anymore. I will die if you don't get me out of here fast," said Fahima Akter, 45, during a recent call she secretly made using a social media platform.

Utterly disturbed and worried, Shaheen approached the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), on August 5 with a record of the conversation for immediate action. An official of Ovbashi Karmi Unnayan Programme (OKUP), a migrant rights organisation, accompanied him.

This was the second attempt to bring Fahima back home. More than a month ago, her sister filed a complaint with the District Employment and Manpower Office (DEMO) in Shariatpur, from where Fahima is.

Shaheen came to the capital after another victim of the network, Shafia, returned

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Homegoers' plight just won't let up

Trains run late for up to 15 hours; gridlock worst on Dhaka-Tangail highway

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY with MIRZA SHAKIL

To spend Eid back home in Dinaipur, Sultan Mahmud and his family members started from the capital's Gabtoli around 10:00pm on Friday.

Their bus was already an hour behind schedule and then it got stuck in severe traffic jam on the Dhaka-Tangail highway. It could make it to Bogura, just over halfway into the journey, 15 hours later at 1:00pm yesterday.

The vehicle finally reached the northern district around 6:30pm, Sultan said over phone.

The journey usually takes eight to 10 hours.

"I'm diabetic. I hardly found any washroom anywhere. You can understand what I went through," said Sultan, a 50-year-old service holder.

Like Sultan and his family, tens of thousands of holidaymakers suffered immensely yesterday on their way home to celebrate Eid-ul-Azha tomorrow. They remained stuck in seemingly never-ending agonising tailback on highways and near ferry terminals.

Like on Friday, the schedule of trains to the north-western and southern districts

collapsed again yesterday.

Passengers spent hours at different terminals in the capital as buses arrived late getting stuck on the highways. Annoyed at a huge tailback on the Dhaka-Tangail highway, some passengers demonstrated on the road and vandalised two minibuses.

On the other hand, Bangladesh Railway rescheduled train timing after Friday's derailment of a Khulna-bound train, but many people, unaware of the new schedule, thronged the Kamalapur and other railway stations much earlier.

People, heading for the south-western districts through Paturia-Daulatdia ferry route, also suffered due to a three-kilometre tailback near the terminal, amid a huge presence of vehicles.

SUFFERINGS ON HIGHWAY
Like the previous day, holidaymakers had to spend hours on Dhaka-Tangail highway in Tangail and from the western end of Bangabandhu Bridge to Hatikumrul in Sirajganj.

At one point, some angry passengers started demonstration placing logs at different points on the Dhaka-bound lane of the highway and vandalised two

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Quader sees no tailbacks

Says traffic slow on highways

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday said there were no long tailbacks on the highways during the rush of holidaymakers.

Vehicles are moving slowly, he said.

"Today [Saturday] I didn't get any information about suffering on roads," Quader told reporters while visiting Mohakhali Bus Terminal in the capital around 11:00am.

"Vehicles are moving slowly near Tangail, but there is no information about long tailbacks anywhere. We are monitoring the situation from a control room at the BRTA."

"We have no information from anywhere that traffic congestion occurred due to poor condition of roads."

He said vehicular movement on Dhaka-Chattogram and Dhaka-Sylhet highways was smooth while the situation

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EID FESTIVITIES

Dampened by dengue

HELEMI ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Emon Hossain, a seventh grader, will be missing out on Eid celebrations with his family in his grandfather's Shariatpur house. This year, his festivities will be restricted to the hospital where he has been admitted since being diagnosed with dengue on Wednesday.

Though the child's condition is improving, doctors are not ready to release him as his condition is still risky.

Meanwhile, Emon's mother too has been diagnosed with the disease.

"I was diagnosed with dengue along with my son, but I was not admitted as my condition is a little better," said Hasina Begum, mother of Emon.

She said her husband was also suffering from high fever for the last few days.

With almost his whole family suffering from illnesses, Emon knows this won't be an Eid holiday to relish.

"I had hoped to enjoy Eid this year, but I have lost that chance due to dengue," said a frustrated Emon, who now has no other choice but to lie on his bed in Mugda Medical College and Hospital in the capital and reminisce about past Eids.

Emon and his mother, however, are not the only ones whose celebrations have been cut short due to the mosquito-borne virus.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), at least 2,176 dengue patients were admitted to hospitals across the country in the last 24 hours since 8:00am Friday, taking the total number of dengue patients to 38,844 this year.

Around the country, 9,420 patients are still undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile, two people died yesterday after being diagnosed with dengue yesterday. One was in Mugda Medical College and Hospital and the other in Barishal, taking the unofficial death toll to 79. The number of official deaths is now 29.

A doctor at the medicine ward of Mugda Medical College and Hospital said though they were releasing some patients who were risk free,

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BEFORE LEAVING FOR EID VACATION

Keep water storage containers and kitchen utensils upside down

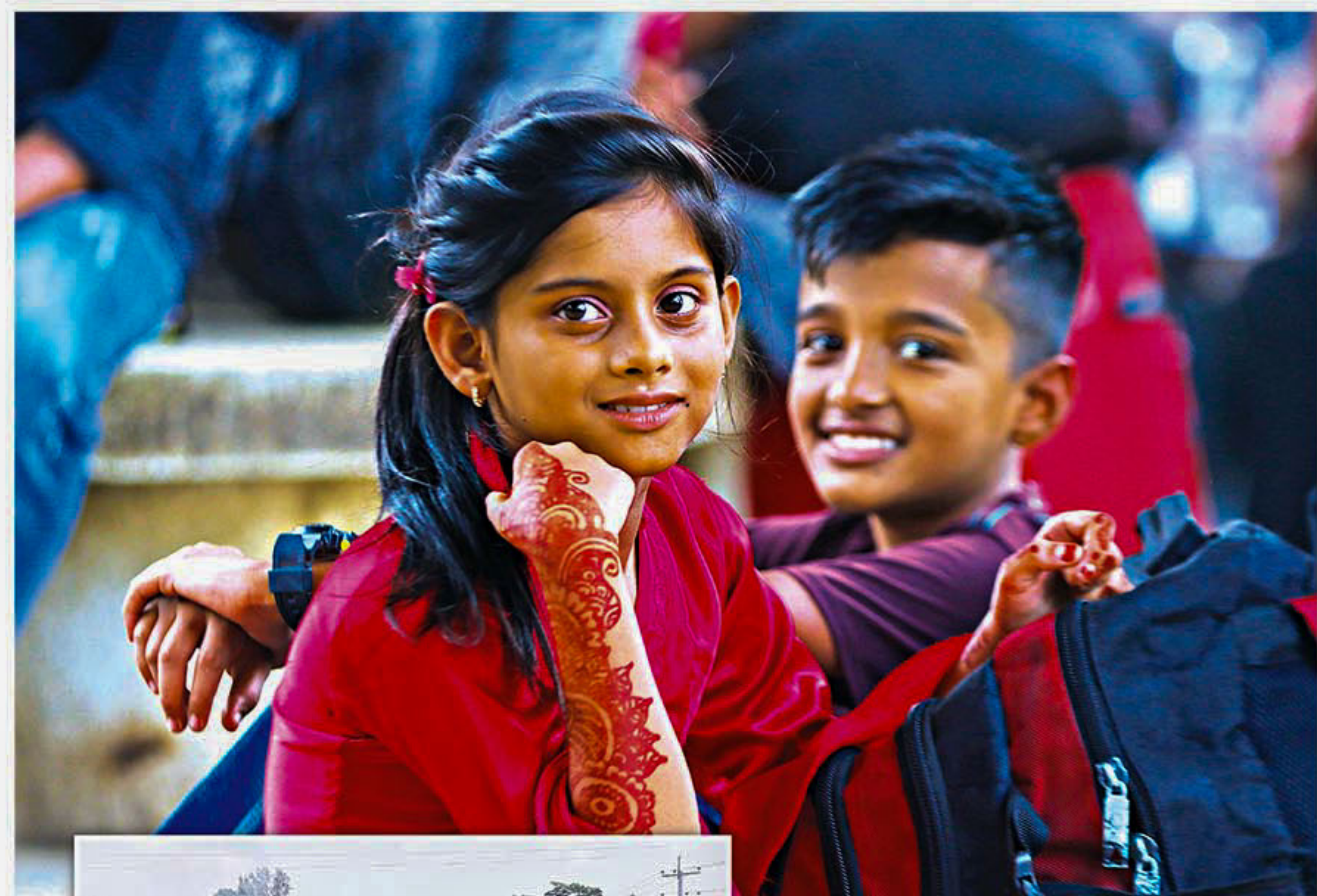
Cover both low and high commodes

Drain water from empty flower pots and turn those upside down

Clean water from air conditioner pipes and other places

Clear and dry the refrigerator tray

Cover rooftop water tanks



Two smiling siblings wait for their train to Rajshahi at Airport Railway Station in the capital yesterday. Ignoring heavy traffic, congestion, overcrowded trains and launches, people are leaving Dhaka to spend Eid holidays with their loved ones. Inset, passengers stuck in the huge traffic jam on Dhaka-Tangail highway demonstrate in Rubna Bypass area around 11:00am. West-bound Eid holidaymakers were stuck in the 40km long tailback since morning.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/MIRZA SHAKIL

Advertisement

Fridge Market Scenario: Best Quality and Facilities Customers prefer Walton

Tomorrow is Eid-ul-Azha. On the occasion, consumers purchase best quality products. In purchasing, they prefer the brand that provides most facilities. Walton fridges are best in all aspects of affordable prices, international standard, extra facilities in purchase and after sales service. For which the Bangladeshi brand Walton is posting booming sales of refrigerators and freezers just in the eleventh hour of Eid. Traders and sales executives say, this year they are having bumper sales.

Cows and fridges are prime attractions for consumers on Eid-ul-Azha or Qurbani Eid. People purchase cows to sacrifice and refrigerators or freezers to preserve the meat of those sacrificial animals. That's why customers are thronging Walton showrooms across the country. The local brand Walton is enjoying bumper sales. Another local brand Marcel is also having remarkable sales of refrigerators and freezers.

Visiting various markets of electronic products, it was seen; while hardly any customer is found in showrooms of other brands but huge number of customers throng Walton and Marcel showrooms. The sales executives of those two brands

serving customers happily in a festive mood. Many customers came to buy fridge with their family. They are seen to burst in enjoyment with their chosen product.

Walton everyday gives at least one customer Tk. 10 lakh under the campaign



'Who will be Millionaire today'. Besides, there are scopes of getting Tk. 1 lakh, other free products including fridge, TV or sure cash voucher. A vast number of customers have already got Tk. 10 lakh each and Tk. 1 lakh each. Walton has over two hundred models of refrigerators and freezers.

Meanwhile, another local brand, Marcel also providing its customers with the scope of getting Tk. 1 lakh everyday

which have been already received by a vast number of people. Marcel customers may also get other free products or sure cash voucher. This brand has more than one hundred and fifty models of refrigerators and freezers.

Sales representatives and businessmen all over the country including Dhaka, Chattogram, Sylhet, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Khulna and Barisal, said, this year they are having bumper sales of fridge. According to them they haven't seen such kind of booming sales on previous years. Small and middle size refrigerators of 163 to 312 liters are being sold widely while the demand for 145 to 205 liters freezers is high.

According to experts, Walton has created revolution in the technology products manufacturing industry of the country. The Bangladeshi multinational brand is producing and marketing products maintaining all kinds of international standards. Walton has received various certificates from home and abroad for quality control.

World-class Walton products are widely exported to different countries of the world. Besides saving foreign currency, Walton is creating employment, increasing export earnings along with branding the industrial developed Bangladesh.

3 More customers become Millionaire buying Walton fridge



Md. Sayem Molla gets Tk. 10 lakh buying Walton fridge from M.S. Tamim Electronics, Saltha Bazar, Faridpur
 Md. Shakib gets Tk. 10 lakh buying Walton fridge from M.R. Electronics, Paba, Rajshahi
 Mrs. Shilpi Akter gets Tk. 10 lakh buying Walton fridge from Udayan Electronics and Social Marketing, Rajpur, Kishoreganj