

Pvt airlines to carry non-ballottee Hajj pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has decided to allow other airlines to carry Hajj pilgrims through non-governmental channels this year.
Earlier, Bangladesh Biman and Saudia, royal Saudi airlines, jointly carried all the Hajj pilgrims from Bangladesh.
However, Biman will carry all the Hajj pilgrims going through government channel. The government has targeted 4,000 pilgrims this year.
On the other hand, the number of pilgrims travelling through non-government channels will be around 56,000.
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OVER EXPENDITURE, IRREGULARITIES
Ecnec refers two projects to ACC for investigation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government has decided to place two projects -- on electricity supply to 16 towns and the construction of Mymensingh Bypass -- under investigation of the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) for over expenditure of Tk 280 crore and other irregularities.
The decision was taken yesterday by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) at a meeting chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman.
After the meeting, Saifur said money taken from one project has been spent for another without approval of the proper authorities. "We have set up the ACC...They have got experts and now they will investigate the irregularities," he told reporters.
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Durga to be immersed today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Devout Hindus will take the Durga idols to the riverbanks in processions for immersion today.
The devotees celebrated Mahanabami and Bijoya Dashami at Puja mandaps in the city with great festivity yesterday. According to the lunar schedule, Bijoya Dashami was also celebrated yesterday, the Puja Udjapon Committee said.
Devi Durga, the Hindu goddess of supreme power, was offered the Nabami Bhog of food and fruits yesterday. The Bhog was later distributed among the devotees visiting the Puja mandaps.
Bijoya Dashami is the special ceremony to reaffirm peace and good relations among the people. Families visit each other to share sweets during the Dasami festivity.
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A devotee receives prasada (food with blessing) from the priest at Ramna Kali temple during Nabami of Durga Puja yesterday.

Quake relief reaches some in Pakistan

REUTERS, AP, Bata Moral Muzaffarabad
Four days after Zarabe Shah's home crumbled on her, rescuers pulled the dust-covered 5-year-old out of the rubble yesterday, a shot of good news as hopes faded of finding other earthquake survivors. "I want to drink," the girl whispered.
The day before, Zarabe's neighbours recovered the bodies of her father and two sisters. Her mother and another two sisters survived Saturday's quake.
Helicopters flying in clear skies delivered aid to victims yesterday, a day after rain and hail grounded relief efforts. Relief supplies poured into Pakistan from about 30 countries, including longtime rival India.
However, the Indian effort was not without a glitch, as a plane from
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Hasina says govt has no right to cling to power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the ruling alliance has no right to stay in power anymore as the prime minister in her address to the nation on Monday admitted failure of her government to deliver.
"The prime minister categorically confessed that her government has failed to tackle deteriorating law and order and unabated corruption, and any failed government has no right to cling to power to increase people's sufferings," she said.
Hasina, also president of the Awami League (AL), gave this
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Bar body to shun function if 19 HC judges attend

BDNEWS, Dhaka
The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will boycott the annual get-together of the Supreme Court on October 17 if the "politically appointed" 19 High Court judges attend the function.
The SCBA specially mentioned the name of Justice Faisal Mahmud Faizee, whom they termed a "controversial person."
The decision was taken at a closed-door meeting of the SCBA executive committee on Tuesday. A copy of the resolution has already been sent to the chief justice.
As per the Supreme Court tradition, the chief justice organises a get together of the judges and lawyers on the opening day after the long annual vacation of the court every year, which the SCBA attends.
SCBA Secretary advocate M
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DEEP-SEA PORT
Govt to hire consultancy firm shortly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government will appoint a reputed international consultancy firm shortly for conducting a techno-feasibility study on a deep-sea port in the country.
An inter-ministerial meeting yesterday finalised the terms and conditions for appointing a consultancy firm, which will be selected
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TCB to beef up open sale of essentials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The government at a taskforce meeting on the market situation yesterday decided to increase ongoing trading of essentials through the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) to reign in spiralling prices.
The meeting, chaired by Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury, decided to increase the manpower and selling points from next week for the convenience of the buyers, said meeting sources.
The meeting increased the maximum limit of a buyer for the four essentials sold at open markets, fixing the maximum quantity of sugar to five kgs from the previous two kgs, and onion, pulse and gram to two kgs from the previous one kg. It also decided to continue the sales after Ramadan.
Due to limitations of TCB, the government had engaged the anar and VDP personnel in the open market operation of the TCB from October 7 and will now incorporate more of them in the activity.
The government had selected 40 specific locations in the capital to market four essential commodities--sugar, pulses, onion and gram--under the TCB from the opening day of Ramadan.
The commerce ministry divided the city into 10 zones to run the operation from 10:00am to 3:00pm six-days-a-week except Fridays.
The operation has also started in Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi.
The participants at the meeting said the open market sale, which has remained suspended since 2002, has had a positive impact on market prices.
Experts, however, described the move as "positive but a limited one" against the prevailing and volatile price situation prior to Ramadan. They expressed doubts about the success of the operation.
Earlier last year, the same
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Diarrhoea breaks out in Rangpur

Gaibandha flood situation still grave
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha
Fresh areas of Fulchhari, Shaghata and Gaibandha Sadar upazilas have gone under water as an onrush of floodwater rolled down from upstream yesterday.
The situation of badly affected Gobindaganj and Palashbari upazilas is still serious although the water level along the Karotoa river basin slightly receded.
Meanwhile, a 200-foot stretch of the Karotoa flood protection embankment has been washed away at Namapara under Darbastha union of Gobindaganj upazila.
Plying of vehicles on Gobinda-ganj-Naldanga road stopped as the road breached at three points. Local
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Sehri-Iftar

Ramadan	Oct	Sehri	Iftar
8	13		5-38
9	14	4-35	5-37

Prayer Timing

October 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	4-41
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-38	5-53
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Nepal king orders for elections by 2007

AFP, Kathmandu
King Gyanendra has issued orders for parliamentary elections to be held in Nepal by April 2007, state-run radio said Wednesday, in line with his pledge when he seized power earlier this year.
"His majesty the king has ordered the election commission to conduct the parliamentary elections before April 2007," the radio reported.
Gyanendra, who sacked a
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