



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Bapa) forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding separate lane for rickshaws.

\$1.5m Dutch support for governance activities

UNB, Dhaka

An agreement was signed between the Netherlands government and Brac yesterday to support two sets of inter-linked governance activities at Brac University for three years.

The Netherlands Development Cooperation Programme will provide 1.5 million US dollar over three years to support the projects—delivering the Master's in Governance and Development (M&D) programme to civil servants who will use their learning for problem-solving and innovation in government.

The second project will support the capacity development of the Centre for Governance Studies (CGS) for addressing the governance needs of Bangladesh.

Dutch Ambassador Kees Beemsterboer and Brac Executive Director Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury signed the agreement at the Brac Centre on behalf of their respective side.

A press release of the Netherlands embassy here said the M&D and other activities of the CGS will contribute to the poverty reduction goals of the Bangladesh government.

Hajj flight begins December 11

UNB, Dhaka

Biman Bangladesh Airlines will start operation of its Hajj flights to Saudi Arabia for the ballottee and non-ballottee pilgrims from December 11 and December 15 respectively.

On the other hand, the return Hajj flight will begin January 14.

The monitoring committee, involved in renting houses at Makkah and Madinah for the Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims, was told at a meeting yesterday.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharref Hossain Shahjahan presided over the meeting at the ministry.

Biman will carry all the ballottee and non-ballottee Hajj pilgrims. Some 2,634 ballottee and 54,130 non-ballottee pilgrims will perform Hajj this year, says a press release of the religious affairs ministry.

The meeting was told that the Hajj management authority has hired houses within the fixed distances from the 'Haram Sharif' at comparatively affordable and low rental charges.

The ministry has already completed all necessary preparations

for smooth performance of the Hajj by the pilgrims.

The government has sent adequate medicines to Saudi Arabia and set up medical centres beside the houses rented for Bangladeshi pilgrims.

The number of ambulances has also been increased and a number of volunteers engaged for providing help to the pilgrims round the clock.

Leaflets with necessary information will be distributed among the Hajj pilgrims, who will be able to send fax messages from Makkah to their relatives in Bangladesh.

The meeting also decided to open a control room at the Haji Camp at Ashkona near Zia International Airport.

Religious Affairs Secretary Rafiqul Islam, Joint Secretary Chowdhury Md Ziaul Haque, Director General of Islamic Foundation of Bangladesh Md Fazlur Rahman, Director at the Prime Minister's Office Dr Mohammad Abu Yousuf and high officials were present at the meeting.

Steps taken to keep power supply normal in summer

UNB, Dhaka

The government has taken all-out measures to keep power supply normal across the country in the coming summer, especially for cultivation of IRRI-Boro paddy.

State Minister for Power Iqbal Hasan Mahmud gave the directive at a meeting yesterday with the chief executives of power stations to ensure maximum generation of power in all power stations.

The meeting at the conference room of Power Division also emphasised on completing all repair and maintenance work of the power stations within the winter season so that each unit of power stations remains active in the next summer.

The meeting was told that the government and the World Bank would provide special allocations for repair and maintenance work.

A three-member committee, led by joint secretary of Power Division (development), has been formed in the meeting to supervise the maintenance work.

Power Division Secretary Nazrul Islam, DG of Power Cell BD Rahmatullah and high officials of the Power Development Board were present at the meeting.

One killed, two shot in city

DMCH CORRESPONDENT

A young man was killed by unknown assailants in the city yesterday.

The victim Abul Berek Hawlader, 20, was a CNG mechanic at Khilgaon.

After killing Berek in front of a house behind Ulon mosque in the morning, the killers left the body on the road there.

On information, Khilgaon police recovered the body and took it to Dhaka Medical College morgue.

According to morgue sources, the miscreants first stabbed Berek in the throat and then shot him in the chest to confirm his death.

Victim's father Kashem Hawlader filed a case with Khilgaon Police Station where he mentioned the name of his son's three friends Babul, Selim and Babu as suspected killers.

Police said Berek had four cases including two filed for murder against him.

Meanwhile, extortionists shot at a businessman and his employee at Nababpur in the city as the businessman had lodged a complaint with Rab against them.

Bullet-hit Mohammad Liton, 32, owner of Mim Hardware Store, and employee Shyamol Barman, 35, are being treated at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH).

"An extortionist called me over my mobile phone during mid-Ramadan and introduced himself as Johnny. Claiming himself to be a local mastaan, he demanded toll from me," Liton told reporters at the DMCH.

As Liton refused to pay the toll, the caller threatened him with dire consequences.

"I contacted Rab-3 and told them about Johnny who stopped calling me after this," he added.

The incident took place when Liton and Shyamol were sitting at their shop at 2:45pm. Three to four miscreants opened fire on them from outside the shop.

Liton received two bullets while Shyamol one as the attackers fired about six to seven shots.

Jalil leaves for Kolkata for health check-up

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil left Dhaka yesterday for Kolkata for his regular health check-up.

During Jalil's absence joint secretary Obaidul Kader will act as general secretary, says a press release.