

Hajj money deposition date extended to July 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday extended the date to deposit Hajj money including airfare and moallam fees until July 12 for both government and non-government managements.

The decision was taken considering the benefit and in the wake of demands from Hajj agencies and of this year's prospective Hajj pilgrims, says a press release of Ministry of Religious Affairs.

Earlier, the last date of depositing the money was July 7.



People arriving in Dhaka had to keep waiting at Sadarghat Launch Terminal, as no vehicles were found available nearby during yesterday's hartal.



Matlub Anam's 1st anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first anniversary of death of Matlub Anam, a language movement veteran and columnist.

He was the third son of renowned litterateur and politician late Abul Mansur Ahmad and elder brother of Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

Matlub Anam was born at Dhanikhola village of Trishal upazila in Mymensingh on December 25, 1933.

He was jailed for taking part in the historic language movement in 1952. In his colourful professional career, Matlub Anam served at different renowned multinational pharmaceutical companies, including Pfizer, Searle, SK&F and Social Marketing Company (SMC). He went into retirement after serving as the managing director of Ganoshasthya Pharmaceuticals.

Matlub Anam used to write regular columns in different national newspapers on contemporary issues.

On this occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his residence after Maghrib prayers tomorrow (Friday), and offerings will be distributed to local orphanage on Saturday.

DU launches tree plantation

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University (DU) launched tree plantation programme on the campus yesterday.



Discussion

Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific will organise a discussion; Venue: its auditorium; Time: 5:30pm.

Discussion

Bangabandhu Academy will hold a discussion; Venue: Dhaka Reporters'

'Give importance to fine art'

PALASH RAHMAN

The study of fine art has been given less importance in the latest education policy for which the nation faces the possibility of falling behind the contemporary world, said a number of fine art connoisseurs.

They demanded inclusion of fine art as a compulsory subject in schools and colleges of the country to produce creative and dedicated human beings.

The Daily Star on Tuesday went to some of the fine art experts of the country to get their views of the pros and cons of the strategies in the National Education Policy 2010 to promote fine art.

"To make a nation civilised and culturally oriented, the government

must come forward to patronise the study of fine arts, with proper emphasis," said noted sculptor Prof Hamiduzzaman Khan.

But the students of our country are being deprived of these facilities for lack of government efforts and public awareness, Prof Hamiduzzaman added.

The education policy approved on April 29 last year says fine art will be taught at primary and high schools as an optional subject.

"It is disappointing that the government did not declare the study of fine art as a compulsory subject," said Prof Emdadul Haque Md Matlub Ali, dean of Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

The government should make fine

art a mandatory subject from class one to 11 in educational institutions, he said.

Just as fine art began to flourish in the country, some religious bigots tried to physically and mentally harass artists. These bigots have not stopped, he added.

"Unless the government directly patronises this branch of education and refrains from being influenced by them (religious bigots), the nation will surely fail to keep pace with the modern world," he said.

Dhaka Collegiate School Headmaster Mohammad Fariduddin also supported the demand that the government should make fine art a compulsory subject to make children efficient in the arts and crafts arena.

The experts said fine art helps in learning mathematics, science, engineering and many branches of education.

Fine art not only helps children to be more oriented towards culture, it also helps them to be punctual, efficient and disciplined, commented artist Shishir Kumar Bhattacharya.

The fine arts faculty students and teachers demanded creation of more posts of fine art teachers, inline with the education policy, which says the government would appoint efficient fine art teachers in all educational institutions.

They also expressed dissatisfaction at the fact that there are only two posts for Arts and Crafts at Teachers' Training College, which is insufficient compared to the number of students.

Two sisters drown while having bath in Buriganga

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two sisters yesterday drowned in the river Buriganga while having bath in Swarighat area.

Dead are Keya Akter, 11, and Riya Akter, 9, daughters of Moslem Uddin of Moulvibazar in Old Dhaka.

Keya was a class III student of Armanitola New Government High School and Riya was a class I student of Moulvibazar Government Primary School.

The victims' family sources said Keya and Riya went to the river around 10:30am with a girl of a nearby house.

Around 12:00noon, locals found the two sisters drowned and took them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

The two girls did not know how to swim.

Ban Ki-moon condoles death of Bangladeshi peacekeeper

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon expressed his deep shock at the death of Mohammad Abdul Dorji, member of Bangladesh police.

Dorji died while serving at the police unit of UN Peacekeeping Mission in Ivory Coast on May 6.

In a condolence letter sent to Bangladesh's Permanent Representative to UN Dr AK Abdul Momen, the UN secretary general conveyed his sympathy to the Bangladesh government as well as the deceased's family.

Ban Ki-moon also expressed his deep gratitude to Bangladesh for continued contribution to the UN Peacekeeping Mission.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Rickshaw-van workers go off to day sleeping as the city turns lifeless on the first day of the opposition party's 48-hour non-stop hartal yesterday. The photo was taken from in front of DCC market at Gulshan-1.

BUSINESSMAN MURDER 3 arrested in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Three people were arrested on charge of killing a hotel businessman in Keraniganj.

Police recovered the body of Nazir Hossain, 28, from under the earth of the floor of a house at about 9:00am on Wednesday and sent it to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police said Razia, wife of Oli, called Nazir over cellphone at her rented house at Chandipur under Taranagar Union on June 28.

Later, Razia aided by Oli, Shaheed and Didar killed him and put the body under the earth apparently to hide the incident.

Police arrested Razia and Didar after victim's uncle Moktar Hossain on July 2 filed a case with Keraniganj Model Police Station. Shaheed was arrested from Cox's Bazar.

11th DEATH ANNIVERSARY



Today is the Death Anniversary of our beloved father **Mr. Musharraf Hussain Chowdhury**. He was a vanguard soldier of language movement of 1952 and in recognition of this contribution he was awarded Ekushe Padok. He was also the former Managing Director of Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co. Ltd.

The family members of late Musharraf Hussain Chowdhury have requested all his relatives, friends, former colleagues and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Rume, Jamee, Sadee
07 - 07 - 2011

Amend vested property return act bill

Demand eminent citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some noted personalities yesterday demanded inclusion of some provisions in Vested Property Return (amendment) Act-2011 bill, placed in parliament on Tuesday.

Thousands of the minority community are suffering for the last four decades as they have been deprived and subjected to social injustice regarding the issue of vested property. So necessary provisions should be included in the amendment bill, said a statement signed by academicians, human rights activists and cultural personalities.

Their recommendations include removing the properties, which the government acquired after 1978, out of the

acquired list and ensuring the right of partnership apart from successors claiming the vested properties, irrespective of gender.

They also called for scrapping the word "continuous" from "continuous citizen of Bangladesh" in the act to describe those claiming ownership of vested properties.

The signatories include Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad President Maj Gen (retd) CR Dutta, Ain O Shalish Kendra Executive Director Sultana Kamal, noted economist Dr Abul Barakat, former director general of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Kamal Lohani and human rights activist Khushi Kabir.

Call to reinstate '72 constitution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Ekattarer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee, New York branch, demanded to reinstate the 1972 constitution.

They also warned of tougher movement to press home their demand.

The demand came at a human chain in New York on Saturday with its President Shafi Chowdhury was in the chair.

They claimed that keeping Islam as state religion and allowing religious based politics in the 15th amendments to the constitution is similar to "an axe-hit" on the spirit of independence.

They warned of tougher movement taking all progressive-minded people if the government does not reinstate the 72-constitution if their demand is not met.

They also demanded to speed up the trials of war criminals of liberation war.

Different like-minded organisations joined the programme while Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad President Khorshed Anwar Bablu, Convener of Progressive Jote Khorshedul Islam, film personality Kabir Anwar also spoke.

NABILA

Introduces

The Royal

On the 8th of July 2011 at 4:30pm, Nabila will inaugurate 'The Royal'. Gen (Retd) HOSSAIN MOHAMMAD ERSHAD, MP, Former President of Bangladesh & Chairman of Jatiya Party has kindly consented to grace the occasion being the Chief Guest for the inauguration ceremony.

It will be a star-studded evening with the presence of renowned celebrities such as Razzak, Elias Kanchan, Moushumi, Ferdous, Habibul Basher, Joya Ahsan, Shafique Tuhin, Rizia Parveen, Akhi Alamgir, Tisha, Monalisa, Mim, Tanisha, Tishma, Sohana Saba, July, Mehzabeen Chowdhury, Shararei Debi Shanu, Mahbuba Islam Rakhi, Poroshi, Orin & Mithila. The event will also be glamorised with a Live Fashion Show, with the country's top models displaying Nabila's exquisite collection.

Venue: NABILA Shopping Mall
Date and Time: 8th July 2011, 4:30pm

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