

NEWS IN *brief*

**President performs Umrah**

BSS, Dhaka  
President Zillur Rahman yesterday performed Umrah Hajj in Makkah after attending an Islamic summit in Saudi Arabia.  
He was accompanied by his family members, secretaries and officials of Bangabhaban in the pilgrimage, according to a message received from Saudi Arabia yesterday.  
Earlier, the president attended the 4th Extraordinary Session of Islamic Summit Conference held in Makkah Al Mukarramah on Tuesday and Wednesday.  
Zillur Rahman left on a five-day official visit to Saudi Arabia on Sunday at the invitation of Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud to attend the summit.  
He is scheduled to return to the country at

**Buying house staff found dead**

UNB, Savar  
Police recovered the body of a buying house employee from near Beribandh in Birulia union of Savar on Wednesday.  
The victim was identified as Monirul Islam Jewel, 28, son of Shamsul Haque of village Shernagar at Belkuchi upazila in Sirajganj. He was a quality controller of Padma Buying House.  
Locals said unidentified miscreants shot dead Monirul in the area Tuesday night.  
Savar police said, being informed, they recovered the body from the area around 4:30pm on Wednesday. The body was sent to a hospital morgue for autopsy.  
Victim's father filed a case with Savar Police

**Housewife 'kills herself' in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
A housewife allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong yesterday morning.  
The deceased was identified as Roksana Akter, 20, wife of Md Alam alias Baset, hailing from Udalia village in the upazila.  
Hathazari Police Station Sub-Inspector Abdur Razzak, quoting the neighbours, said Roksana had an altercation with her husband over a trifling matter yesterday morning.  
Following the altercation, she hanged herself from the ceiling of their house around 9:00am, added Razzak.

**Body of indigenous man recovered in Ctg**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg  
The decomposed body of an unidentified indigenous man was recovered from a canal in Patiya upazila in Chittagong yesterday.  
Aminur Rashid, officer-in-charge at Patiya Police Station, said they recovered the body from Kharna Sinai Khal in Muzaffarabad area around 2:00pm.  
Police suspect that the victim drowned in overflows of hilly water about five or six days ago.  
No sign of bruise was found in the body, OC Aminur Rashid said.  
The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Time: 4:00pm.  
Samajik Paribesh O Manabadhikar Discussion  
Bastabayan Sangstha will hold a discussion; Venue: Jatiya Press Club; Time: 11:00am.

**Prayers meeting**  
National Awami Party (Bhashani) will organise a discussion and prayers meeting; Venue: Jatiya Press Club;

**Rally**  
Workers Party of Bangladesh will

**WEATHER TODAY**

**Change in temperature unlikely**

UNB, Dhaka  
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet divisions with moderately heavy falls at places over the country in 24 hours till 6:00pm today.  
Day and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.  
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:30pm and rises tomorrow at 5:35am.  
Country's highest temperature 35.6 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 23.8 degrees at Cox's Bazar.  
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max:	Min:	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.9	28.3	77	63
Chittagong	32.5	26.0	79	83
Rajshahi	34.8	27.6	79	97
Rangpur	35.2	28.6	69	77
Khulna	34.8	27.8	82	74
Barisal	34.0	27.6	73	70
Sylhet	35.3	26.7	79	70
Cox's Bazar	32.0	23.8	73	89



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addresses a memorial meeting, organised by the Awami League at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday, marking the National Mourning Day. PHOTO: PMO

**Obituary**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Shoibal Kumar Kanungo, head of operations of Prothom Alo Jobs, died of heart disease at the capital's Birdem hospital yesterday morning at the age of 44.  
He left behind his wife, a son, and a host of relatives to mourn his death, said a press release.  
Shoibal had been working with Prothom Alo Jobs for the last two years. The Prothom Alo family expressed deep shock at his death.

**12 killed in road crashes**

METRO DESK  
Twelve people were killed and 30 others injured in road accidents in Comilla, Chittagong, Netrakona, Chapainawabganj, Pabna and Natore on Wednesday and yesterday.  
UNB from Comilla reports, three unidentified people were killed and 20 others injured as a bus fell into a roadside ditch after hitting a covered van in Laksam upazila yesterday morning.  
Witnesses said the bus collided with the covered van from the opposite direction and plunged into the ditch at Chandana Krishnapur, killing the three instantly.  
Our staff correspondent from Chittagong reports, two motorcyclists died as a covered van rammed their vehicle on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Sona Pahar area yesterday.  
The deceased are Nazim Uddin, 31, and Sultan Mahmud Rana, 26; both hailing from Mirsarai.  
Our Netrakona correspondent reports, Ahsan Mia, 35, was killed and 10 others injured after a truck knocked a human hauler near Lepsia Bazar in Khaliyajuri yesterday morning.  
Meanwhile, Juma Akther, 10, daughter of Abdur Rashid, died instantly as a tractor hit her at Alobag square in Iswardi upazila yesterday.  
Our Chapainawabganj correspondent reports, Sakhina Begum, 40, died as a 'trolley' hit her at Alinagar in the town yesterday.  
In Pabna, Ankhi Khatun, 30, died instantly as a tractor hit her at Alobag square in Iswardi upazila yesterday.  
BSS from Natore reports, Abdur Rashid, 40, a health inspector, died when a bus hit his motorbike in Tebaria Palpara area of the town yesterday.

**Power will be handed over constitutionally**  
Says prime minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that the change of power would take place through democratic and constitutional process in the future.  
"The democratic process will continue in the country, and the change of government will happen through democratic and constitutional process," she said while addressing a discussion at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.  
"We are ready to give all-out cooperation if those who are in parliament seek assistance to this end," Hasina, also president of ruling Awami League, said indicating that the next parliamentary elections would be held under the present administration.  
Saying that they want democracy to continue in this country, she dismissed speculations that the election under a partisan government would not be held in a free, fair and credible manner.  
Referring to more than 5,200 elections held under the present government, she said all the elections were held in a free and fair manner and none could raise a single question about any of it. "So why the national elections won't be free and fair?"  
The ruling Awami League organised the discussion marking the National Mourning Day on August 15 when Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of his family members were assassinated

by a disgruntled group of army officers in 1975.  
Addressing the discussion as chief guest, Hasina, also the eldest daughter of Bangabandhu, said, "From now on, we will not allow anyone to play with the fate of the country's people."  
The constitution has been amended to give back people's power to them as stipulated in the national charter, she said, calling on the people to remain alert and careful about those "players" who want to play with the fate of the masses and build their own fortune.  
The AL chief said those, who had no capacity to get public mandate and failed to form political party but had desires to cling to power, looked for illegal, undemocratic and unconstitutional ways to assume power.  
Referring to the 2001 elections, Hasina said she was barred from assuming power as she did not agree to sell gas to the western powers.  
The premier claimed that her government in last three and a half years had been able to reduce 10 percent poverty in the country.  
"About five crore people have been uplifted to middle class from lower class, and many have been self-sufficient economically," she said. "Bangladesh will be graduated to a middle income country by the year of 2021."  
AL leaders Matia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, Mohammad Nasim, and Prof Durga Das Bhattacharya, among others, spoke on the occasion.

**MANPOWER EXPORT FRAUD**  
Rab arrests two swindlers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet  
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has arrested two men in Sylhet and Sunamganj on charge of swindling Bangladeshi expatriates in the Middle East by offering them jobs in European countries.  
Rab arrested Nehar Ali of Sunamganj district with Tk 5.37 lakh at a courier service office in Sylhet city yesterday. He went there to withdraw the money sent by a job aspirant's family from Faridpur, Rab officials said.  
Nehar was sent to jail custody.  
Kazi Bazle Maola, assistant superintendent of police (ASP) of Rab-9, said Nehar's son Faisal Ahmed living in Malaysia and brother Asad Ali staying in Iran and some others allured people with jobs in Greece and other European countries in exchange for money.  
The gang convinces people to make payment in Bangladesh through their families, he added.  
In a separate drive, Rab caught Khorshed Mia of Habiganj as he was receiving Tk 1.8 lakh at a courier office in Moulvibazar town on Wednesday.  
The money was sent by one Aklima Begum of Keraniganj, whose son Riaz Hossain, living in Dubai, had asked her to courier the money to Khorshed.  
Khorshed was sent to jail custody.  
ASP Kazi Bazle Maola said Khorshed had been collecting money through courier services while the other members of his gang were engaged in alluring Bangladeshis staying in Gulf countries with jobs in European states.  
The gang members go untraced after receiving money in Bangladesh, he said.  
Khorshed's gang has collected about Tk 50 lakh from the families of 20 persons living abroad during the last three months, he said. Rab recovered Tk 3,28,510 in cash from Khorshed's possession, he added.  
During primary interrogation, Khorshed said some of his relatives including his nephew Rubel living in Dubai had asked him to collect the money.



Due to a shortage of passenger vessels, an overloaded launch is set off on a hazardous trip from Chittagong to Hatia-Swandip. During the Eid rush, launches on this route have been carrying at least 300-400 extra passengers in each trip. The photo was taken at Chittagong Sadar Ghat yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DASH