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Biman 'ready' for hajj flights

Agencies sceptical about preparations, worried over fate of 22,000 pilgrims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Biman yesterday claimed to have enough preparation to smoothly ferry pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, though hajj agencies have expressed concern that 22,000 devotees might miss their flights.

Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab), at a press conference yesterday, said it was worried that 22,000 out of a total of 112,568 devotees might not be able to perform hajj as the government had allowed only Biman and two Saudi Arabian airlines to ferry the pilgrims.

"The hajj agencies may not be able to provide the devotees with flight schedules owing to complexities in getting tickets from the airlines. So, 22,000 devotees may not perform hajj [this year]," former Haab general secretary Eyaqub Sharafati told reporters.

He urged the government to permit other airlines operating on the Dhaka-Jeddah route to carry the pilgrims. Eyaqub said six hajj agencies had so far received 2,400 visas from the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka. But they were yet

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A passerby narrowly escaped when this heavy construction equipment fell yesterday morning from a 10-storey under-construction building of Baytech Real Estate at Dewanji Pukurpar of Chittagong city.

PHOTO: STAR



Law doesn't permit Noor's extradition

Says Canada's provincial lawmaker

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Canadian member of a provincial parliament yesterday dismissed the possible extradition of Noor Chowdhury, a convicted fugitive killer of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under Canadian law to face execution in Bangladesh.

"Canadian law is very clear and it cannot extradite people to a country to face the death penalty,"

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

JP names 100 candidates

To contest next polls 'independently'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party yesterday announced the names of its top 100 prospective candidates who will independently contest the next parliamentary election. The move was made at a closed-door meeting at a hotel in the capital.

Although a key partner in the Awami League-led ruling grand alliance, the JP yesterday reiterated its decision to take part in the elections alone. The elections will be held between late 2013 and early 2014.

The JP becomes the first of the parties to declare its leaders' names in public in a battle for votes.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 7

EC for more independent candidates

Mulls RPO amendment to make their way easier

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Individuals aspiring to contest the next parliamentary polls independently may not have to face the electoral provision that makes it hard for many to qualify as independent candidates.

The Election Commission is considering scrapping the Representation of the People Order provision that currently requires a prospective independent candidate to submit signatures of one percent of the voters of the constituency, along with the application for candidacy.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 5

Jamaat leader Yusuf formed Razakar first

Shahriar Kabir tells war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Moulana AKM Yusuf formed the Razakar force, collaborators of the Pakistan occupation army, first in Khulna during the Liberation War, eminent war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir told International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday.

"We came to know of this during a field-level investigation in the 1980s in connection with the writing of a book titled 'Ekattorer Ghatak Dalalera Ke Kothai'," said Shahriar during his cross-examination at the tribunal for the fifth day.

After the Liberation War, Yusuf surrendered before a court, said Shahriar, who is executive president of Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Tribunal accepts formal charges against Azad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday took the formal charges into cognisance against expelled Jamaat member Abul Kalam Azad for his alleged involvement in crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War.

The three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman Justice ATM Fazle Kabir also issued arrest warrant, for the second time, against Azad and directed the prosecution to submit the execution report on September 23.

The court said it had taken the charges into cognisance against Azad, known as Bachchu Razakar, after finding prima-facie evidence of crimes against humanity while examining the formal charges, investigation reports and other documents submitted by the prosecution.

On September 2, the prosecution submitted the formal charges against the former leader of Islami Chhatra Sangha (ICS), the then student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami, accusing him of 10 types of crimes against humanity.

In the formal charges, the prosecution said the



GAZIPUR BNP FEUDS District leaders complain about central figures

Exchange views with Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Gazipur district BNP have complained to party chief Khaleda Zia about the involvement of four central leaders in grouping and internal feuds.

BNP Standing Committee Member ASM Hannan Shah, former state minister MA Mannan, district unit President Fazlul Haque Milon and central leader Hasan Uddin Sarkar are forming different unit committees according to choices of their own

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

PRAYER TIMING		September 10
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Spate of blasts kills 58 in Iraq

Vice president sentenced to death for murder

REUTERS, Baghdad

At least 58 people were killed in attacks across Iraq yesterday, including a car bomb outside a French consulate.

Iraq's conflict has eased since its height in 2006-2007 when sectarian slaughter killed thousands. But Sunni Islamists and an al-Qaeda affiliate still launch about one major attack a month in an effort to reignite tensions between Shia and Sunni Muslims following the US military withdrawal in December.

And fuelling the sectarian division, an Iraqi judge yesterday sentenced fugitive Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi, a top critic of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, to death by hanging for the murder of a lawyer and a brigadier general, an AFP correspondent reported.

Hashemi, tried in absentia, has dismissed all charges against him as politically motivated. His secretary and son-in-law Ahmed Qahtan was also tried in absentia and sentenced to death.

The trial, which began in May, covered the first of around 150 charges levelled against Hashemi, one of Iraq's most senior Sunni officials, and his bodyguards, who have been accused of running a death squad.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Salary for Indian homemakers

Govt mulls proposal

PTI, New Delhi

Housewives may soon start getting monthly salaries from their husbands with the government mulling a proposal which would make it mandatory for men to share a certain percentage of their income with their wives who stay back and do household chores.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

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ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with Dr Akbar Ali Khan that free and fair polls are not possible without dissolving the incumbent parliament?

Yes (92%)

No (5%)

No Comments (3%)

TOTAL VOTES: 449

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government will resume providing gas connection to industrial units in a month?

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শুভ উদ্বোধন

বেসিক ব্যাংকের ৫৩ তম শাখা

চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ

প্রধান অতিথি: শেখ আবদুল হাই বাচ্চু, চেয়ারম্যান, বেসিক ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

০৯ সেপ্টেম্বর-২০১২ রবিবার

পদ্মা-মহানন্দার কোল ঘেঁষে গড়ে ওঠা প্রাচীনতম জনপদ ও ব্যবসা কেন্দ্র চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জে বেসিক ব্যাংক-এর ৫৩ তম শাখার মুদ্রিত্ব করা হয়েছে।

বেসিক ব্যাংক চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ শাখার শুভ উদ্বোধন করেন ব্যাংকের চেয়ারম্যান জনাব **শেখ আবদুল হাই বাচ্চু**।

ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব কাজী ফখরুল ইসলামের সভাপতিত্বে অনুষ্ঠিত এ উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানে বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত ছিলেন চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ জেলা পরিষদের প্রশাসক ও জেলা আওয়ামী লীগের সাধারণ সম্পাদক জনাব মো: মইনুদ্দিন মন্ডল, স্থানীয় সংসদ সদস্য জনাব আ. ওদুদ বিশ্বাস, বেসিক ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদের সদস্য জনাব প্রফেসর ড. কাজী আখতার হোসেন ও জনাব মো. আনোয়ারুল ইসলাম (এফসিএমএ), চাঁপাইনবাবগঞ্জ পৌরসভার মেয়র মাওলানা আব্দুল মতিন। এসময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন ব্যাংকের অতিরিক্ত ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক জনাব শেখ মনজুর মোর্শেদ ও উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক শ্রীযুক্ত কনক কুমার পুরকায়স্থ। এছাড়া উপস্থিত ছিলেন ব্যাংকের মহাব্যবস্থাপকবৃন্দ, গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিবর্গ, স্থানীয় উদ্যোক্তা এবং ব্যবসায়ী ও গুণ্ডানুধ্যায়ীরা।

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