

Hajj pilgrims free to choose airline: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order which ruled that pilgrims intent on going to Saudi Arabia to perform hajj could choose any airline.
 Chamber judge Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain passed the order after hearing a petition filed by the government seeking stay on the HC order.
 On April 24, the civil aviation ministry decided that only Biman Bangladesh Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines would carry Bangladesh's 1.27 lakh hajj pilgrims this year.
 Challenging the decision's legality, Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) Vice-President Abdul Kabir Khan and Secretary General Sheikh Abdullah and one pilgrim, Rezaul Islam, filed a writ petition on July 29.
 That day the HC heard the petition, passed the order and issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why the decision should not be declared illegal.
 Yesterday, Haab President Md Ibrahim Bahar at a press conference in Haab's office urged the ministry not to challenge the HC directive.

CID gets 45 more days to finish probe into Rana Plaza collapse

COURT CORRESPONDENT
 A Dhaka court granted 45 more days to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) to complete the investigation in two cases filed over the Rana Plaza collapse as the department failed to submit the reports yesterday.
 Senior Judicial Magistrate Kazi Shahidul Islam asked CID to submit the probe report by September 15.
 Meanwhile, the court rejected the bail petitions of seven accused in the two cases.
 The accused are: Abdul Khalek, father of Sohel Rana and also owner of Rana Plaza, Refayet Ullah, suspended Savar municipality mayor and BNP leader, engineer Rafiqul Islam, Rana's relative Abdul Hassan, Bazlus Samad, chairman of New Wave Bottoms, Mahmudur Rahman Tapash, managing director of New Wave Bottoms, and engineer Rakibul Hassan Russel.
 On the other hand, Rana is yet to get any lawyer to defend him as per decision from Dhaka Bar Association, Additional Public Prosecutor Anwarul Kabir Babul told The Daily Star yesterday.
 The court, however, placed BNP leader Refayet Ullah on a one-day remand for interrogation in the case filed for violating building code.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN
 This manhole without its lid on the road in front of Tuberculosis Control and Training Institute in Chankharpool of the capital may cause accidents at any time. The photo was taken yesterday.

Workers set fire to Gazipur factory for arrears, bonus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur
 Some workers of Libas Textiles Ltd of Nishchintapur in Gazipur's Kaliakoir set fire to the factory after a meeting with owners over payment of their wages and festival bonus ended fruitlessly in Gazipur.
 The workers claimed that they were protesting peacefully inside the factory when some of them locked the factory's main gate and carried out the arson attack.
 Firefighters from Gazipur and Kaliakoir doused the fire. No casualty was reported till filing of this report yesterday evening.
 Over 2,000 workers went on strike on Wednesday over demands, including payment of outstanding overtime of May, June and July; of July's salaries; and of 60 percent of their wage as festival bonus.
 The workers said usually they received 60 percent of their gross salary as festival bonus but the authorities announced that 20 percent bonus of it would be given this year.
 "Workers ransacked the factory in the morning. They also threw pieces of bricks and broke windowpanes," said Gazipur Industrial Police Inspector Md Swakat Kabir.
 "The demands are completely unfair but we are holding discussions with them to maintain peace," said the company's Executive Director MA Mannan.

SC refuses to receive Gonojagoron Mancha memorandum

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The Supreme Court authorities yesterday refused to receive a memorandum prepared by Gonojagoron Mancha demanding that the SC's Appellate Division continues hearing appeals against war crimes case verdicts during its vacation from tomorrow.
 The SC can not receive such memorandums as per its rules, SC Registrar AKM Shamsul Islam told The Daily Star.
 The memorandum also urged the chief justice to hold hearings on appeals of more than one case at a time.
 Five Gonojagoron Mancha representatives led by Imran H Sarker placed copies of the memorandum at the offices of Attorney General Mahubey Alam and State Minister for Law Qamrul Islam.
 The Appellate Division heard appeals of the defence and prosecution against the life sentence of Jamaat leader Abdul Quader Mollah. The appeals against the death sentences for Delawar Hossain Sayedee and Muhammad Kamaruzzaman have been filed. The SC has a total of 49 working days in 2013.

Experts for comprehensive law on right to food in South Asia

UNB, Dhaka
 South Asian experts and policymakers on food security yesterday stressed immediate enacting of a specialised and comprehensive law on right to food in the South Asian countries to address the region's prevailing chronic hunger.
 Although each country has more than two dozens to hundreds of legal provisions relevant to food security, none of them directly addresses people's right to food, they said at a two-day regional consultation on food-related legislations in South Asia held in Kathmandu, Nepal, said a message received in Dhaka yesterday.
 "The South Asian governments are investing a lot in terms of direct and indirect investment in food and agriculture. Many laws, rules, regulations, policies, and administrative measures have been introduced, but these are not coherent and comprehensive," said Information Minister and Chairperson of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Food, Agriculture and Rural Development Hasanul Haq Inu.
 It is hard to find poor people having three meals everyday with the existing legal loopholes and many related issues missing, Inu said adding that the right to food bill in India could be an inspiration for other countries.
 Lilian Mercado, deputy regional director of Oxfam Asia, said though South Asia has experienced the second fastest rate of economic growth in the world, poverty has gotten worse as inequality has risen and become more severe.
 "Studies showed it could grow at the steady rate of around 5.5 percent in the next 25 years. But, factors such as climate change, inequality, food price hike, population growth, rapid urbanisation as well as competition for natural resources could hamper or reverse the progress. It reflects a need for the South Asian governments to transform their political pledges on food security into immediate action," she said.
 During the meeting, about 50 representatives from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka discussed the findings mentioned in the Regional Synthesis Report on food-related legislations in each of the country.

LONG-STALLED ELECTIONS TO DCCs Why EC, govt will not be asked to declare dates: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 The High Court yesterday asked the government and the Election Commission to explain in four weeks why they should not be directed to take necessary steps and to announce a schedule for holding the long-stalled elections to the two Dhaka city corporations.
 The HC bench of Justice Mirza Hussain Haider and Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Khan came up with the rule after hearing two separate writ petitions, filed by four Supreme Court lawyers on Sunday, seeking the court directives regarding the elections.
 Golam Nabi and Mostafa Ahmed filed a petition for the Dhaka North City Corporation election, while Md Alamgir Hossain and Mirza Al Mahmood for the election to the Dhaka South City Corporation.
 The petitions say the city elections should have been held within 180 days from the date of their establishment on December 1, 2011, as per the Local Government (City Corporation) Act 2009 (Amended in 2011).
 Bodrudozza Badal appeared for the petitioners, while Attorney General Mahubey Alam opposed the petition.

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Embassy of Switzerland in Bangladesh

The Embassy of Switzerland and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in Bangladesh will move to new premises at **Bay's Edgewater, 8th Floor, Plot 12, North Avenue, Gulshan 2, Dhaka 1212** after August 03, 2013. For the purpose of relocation, the Embassy and SDC will remain closed on 4-8 August, 2013. The telephone, fax and post office box number(s) of the Embassy and SDC will remain unchanged.

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রেডি ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়
 পবিত্র ঈদ-উল ফিতর উপলক্ষে বিশেষ ছাড়!!! গুলশান লেকের পাশে (উত্তর বাড্ডায়) গ্যাস, বিদ্যুৎ সুবিধা সম্বলিত দক্ষিনমুখী রেডি ফ্র্যাট বিক্রয়। যোগাযোগ # ০১৯২৯৯১০৩৩২

CORRIGENDUM
 This is to notify all concerned that the information given in "Price Sensitive Information" published in "The Daily Star" & "Prothom Alo" dated July 30, 2013 was not correct.
 The actual statement of fact is that the Board of Directors of MJL Bangladesh Limited, in its 65th meeting held on July 29, 2013, has decided to raise the paid up capital of Omera Petroleum Limited (in accordance with the shareholders agreement between BB Energy (Asia) Pte Ltd. and Omera Petroleum Limited), a fully owned subsidiary company of MJL Bangladesh Limited, from existing BDT 10,000,000 (One Crore) to BDT 60,000,000 (Six Crore). We are extremely sorry for the inadvertent printing mistake.
 Sd-
 Company Secretary
 MJL Bangladesh Limited
 Date: Aug 01, 2013

Request for Proposal (RFP)
for USAID/CREL Organizational Capacity Assessment
 Winrock International, A US based International non-governmental organization (INGO), is soliciting proposals from experienced consultants/firms to conduct an assessment of the capacity of Bangladeshi Organizations using the USAID's Organizational Capacity Assessment (OCA) Tool.
 Winrock is implementing USAID/ Bangladesh's Climate-Resilient Ecosystems and Livelihoods (CREL) project which promotes co-management to conserve ecosystems and protected landscapes in Bangladesh. Winrock will strengthen the organizational and Financial Management capacity of Selected Bangladeshi NGO's civil society organizations, research/policy centers, and Business Associations interested in increasing their ability to prepare and manage grants received directly from USAID. The organizations will be selected through independent assessments.
 For details TOR to submit a Proposal, please send an email by **14 August 2013 COB** to mrahman@field.winrock.org. Please include Organizational Capacity Assessment TOR on the subject line.

MEMO No # FPAB/2707/2013 Date: 31.07.2013

INVITING PROPOSAL FOR SMALL GRANT

FPAB is inviting proposal (both technical and financial) from organizations for providing Small Grant to implement the following interventions:

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2. Advocacy for enabling environment to increase SRH-HIV integrated service

To know details about FPAB, please visit www.fpab.org.bd

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- Organizations working on SRH
- Organizations working on HIV
- Positive People's network
- Youth led organizations
- Organization with experience on advocacy especially on SRH HIV integration
- Organizations with experience on gender equality
- Women led organizations with experience on SRH/HIV/gender equality.

Interested NGOs are requested to submit proposal by post based on the guidelines of Small Grant to Executive Director, FPAB, 2 Naya Paltan, Dhaka-1000 by 22nd August, 2013.

Dr. A F M Matur Rahman
 Executive Director
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