

NEWSIN brief

Return Hajj flights start today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A plane of Biman Bangladesh Airlines with 411 Hajj pilgrims is scheduled to land at Shahjalal International Airport at 3:45pm today, Biman officials said.

The return Hajj flights will continue till November 18. This year 89,187 devotees were to perform Hajj from Bangladesh, but finally 87,213 of them travelled to Saudi Arabia with Biman carrying 42,784 and Saudi Arabian Airlines carrying the rest.

2 die as train rams pick-up truck

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

Two people were killed and two others injured when a train rammed into a pick-up truck at an open level crossing near Tejer Bazar area in Nangalkot upazila of Comilla on Thursday morning.

The dead are the pick-up's driver Momin Miah, 20, of Feni and Abdul Makel, 35, of Nangalkot.

Police said the Sylhet-bound Paharika Express rammed into the pick-up which was carrying rawhide, leaving the driver dead on the spot.

Malek was declared dead at the upazila health complex. The bodies were sent for autopsies and a case was filed.

Cattle trader robbed in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Robbers took away Tk 1.2 lakh from a cattle trader when he became unconscious after eating food at the Moulvibazar bus stand early Tuesday.

The trader, Anker Ali, came from Brahmanbaria to sell his cattle ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

Anker Ali said he had a late dinner around midnight from one of the nearby restaurants and then fell unconscious.

Azizur Islam, officer-in-charge of Moulvibazar Police Station, said the trader suffered from food poisoning.

Man arrested for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A man was arrested for killing his wife in Satbaria village in Bheramara upazila of Kushtia on Thursday night.

Police said Gias Uddin Mondol strangled his wife, Amena Khaun, during an argument and then hung her body from a tree on the compound of his residence. He left the house that same night, they added.

Locals found Amena's body yesterday and informed police. The body was sent for an autopsy.

Police later arrested Gias who admitted to the killing during interrogation.

A case was filed.

12,000 metres current net seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Fishery officials in Rajbari of Kushtia in a drive seized 12,000 metres of illegal current nets worth about Tk 12 lakh from the Padma river on Tuesday.

Safiqur Rahman, district fishery officer, said the nets were burned the same day.

The drive was carried out as a part of the 11-day ban on catching Hilsa.

Criminals destroy chilli field

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Unidentified criminals destroyed a 15 decimal field of chilli in Pukuria village under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah on Monday night.

Minto Hossain, the plot owner, claimed the damage was worth Tk 3 lakh.

If a case is filed, they will take necessary action in this regard, said Liakot Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kaliganj Police Station.

MMCH patients moved to corridors after discovery of crack in building

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Some 80 patients were shifted to the corridors of the five-storey 500-bed Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) after cracks were noticed on the ceilings of four wards on the evening of October 14.

Patients of wards 10 and 11 on the first floor first noticed some cracks and panic spread. They were moved to the corridors followed by patients of ward 1 and 20 on the ground and third floors respectively, said witnesses.

MMCH Director Brig General Md Fashiur Rahman told The Daily Star that there was nothing to be concerned about as only some plasters had come off and there were no cracks. The repairs will be done after Eid, he said.

Four bodies recovered in three districts

CITY DESK

Police recovered four bodies from Chapainawabganj, Bogra and Kishoreganj on Thursday.

Bodies of two missing persons were recovered from Mohananda river in Halubandha and Kumar Para areas of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila, reported our Chapainawabganj correspondent.

The dead are Nayan Kumar, 30, of Chaknarendra village and Mohammad Rifat, 9, son of Aminur Rahman of Miyapara.

Bazlur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Chapainawabganj Sadar Police Station, said Nayan had been missing since Monday and his father, Dilip Kumar, had filed a general diary on the same night.

Locals saw his body floating on the river in Kumar Para area and informed police.

Several injury marks were found on the body, said police,

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PHOTO: STAR, PID, BNP

EID-UL-AZHA IN CAPITAL

(Clockwise from top left) President Abdul Hamid greets foreign diplomats at Bangabhaban in the capital while observing Eid-ul-Azha on October 16. During this time, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanged Eid greetings with wounded veterans of the Liberation War while meeting people from all walks of life at Gono Bhaban. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was also exchanging greeting with the masses at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Two children embrace each other after Eid prayers at Baitul Mukaaram National Mosque. Children enjoy the day after Eid at Dhaka Zoo.



12,000 families in Barisal celebrated Eid on Tuesday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

More than 12,000 families in 10 upazilas of five districts in Barisal division celebrated Eid-ul-Azha and sacrificed animals on Tuesday in accordance with Saudi Arabia.

Residents of those areas said they were the followers of Kaderia, Jahangiria and Chistia Tarika and Pir of Elahabad Sufia Darbarsharif at Kanchan Nagar and Pir Shaheb of Mariachi Darbar Sharif of Satkania upazila under Chittagong district.

Abdur Rashid, a member of this sect, said they usually celebrated all religious festivals and performed other rituals following the calendar of Saudi Arabia.

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3.14 lakh live as modern day slaves in Bangladesh

Says Australia-based Walk Free Foundation index

UNB, Dhaka

Over 3.14 lakh people in Bangladesh are today living in conditions that can be described as modern day slavery, states Global Slavery Index of the Australia-based Walk Free Foundation.

The index that gives the comprehensive measure of the country by country extent and risk of "modern slavery" revealed that 29.8 million people are living in conditions of "modern slavery" across the world.

India has the highest number of enslaved people, approximately 14 million people, which is almost half the total number worldwide.

China follows with an estimated 2.9 million and Pakistan comes in third with an estimate of over two million, the survey claimed.

Nigeria, Ethiopia, Russia, Thailand, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar and Bangladesh make up the top 10 in the ranking.

Taken together, these countries account for more than 22 million of the 29.8 million enslaved people, said the survey, revealed on Thursday.

In another ranking of the index showing the ratio of enslaved people to population, Mauritania comes at the top.

The West African country, with its deeply

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Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Nurjahan Begum, mother of former BNP lawmaker Zahiruddin Swapan, died at 2:20pm on Tuesday in a private clinic in Barisal due to old age complications. She was 73.

She left three sons, three daughters and a host of relatives and well-wishers to mourn her death.

Mujibor Rahman Sarwar, city BNP president, Ebaidul Huq Chan, district BNP convener, Talukdar Muhammad Yunus, district AL secretary, Shawkat Hossain Hiron, city AL president, Prof Mohsin Ul Islam Habul, district Jatiya Party president, Balaram Poddar, AL leader and Sadek Abdullah, Jubo League leader, had rushed to the clinic to pay their respects.

Nurjahan Begum was laid to rest at the family graveyard in Sharikal after a namaz-e-janaza on Sharikal School grounds on Tuesday night.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the first death anniversary of Alhaj Shafiuddin Ahmed, a Liberation War organiser, politician and social worker.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil was held yesterday at his village, Khaishakhali, in Shibpur upazilla of Narsingdi. Food was also distributed among the poor and orphans.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers of the deceased are requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



Tannery workers at Water Works Road in the capital's Postogola process rawhide with salt on Thursday, the day after Eid-ul-Azha, when a huge number of animals were sacrificed.

PHOTO: STAR

Heavy rains halt Dinajpur-Panchagarh rail communications for three days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The rail communications on the Dinajpur-Panchagarh route were restored yesterday following three days of suspension after an under-construction rail bridge was damaged by heavy rains in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur.

At least five local trains running between several districts in Rangpur division had been stuck at Parbatipur since Tuesday night, while two intercity trains on the route could not come to Panchagarh and Thakurgaon. The intercity trains however ran between Parbatipur and Dhaka.

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Holiday mood lingers in Chittagong

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Chittagong city still wore a deserted look yesterday as most of its residents who went to their village homes to enjoy the Durga Puja and Eid-ul-Azha holidays are yet to return.

This year, Muslims and Hindus enjoyed an extended four-day holiday with Monday being declared a holiday for Durga Puja and three days from Tuesday for Eid.

With yesterday, Friday, and today, Saturday, being the weekend, most residents got another two days added to their holidays and so were able to spend more quality time with their near and dear ones.

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HILSA CATCHING BAN 39 violators snatched from coast guard custody, 8 others jailed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bhola

Local fishermen and traders of a fish market in Bhola's Charfashion upazila snatched 39 out of 48 fishermen from the custody of Bangladesh Coast Guard yesterday after they were arrested for violating an 11-day ban on catching Hilsa.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer Md Rezaul Karim jailed eight of the arrestees for one year around noon and let the remaining go for being a child.

The fisheries department imposed the ban on catching, marketing, selling and transportation of Hilsa from October 13 to ensure uninterrupted spawning. It also urged people not to buy or consume Hilsa during this period.

An eight-member Bangladesh Coast Guard team arrested

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