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SHAH CEMENT

70 hajj aspirants conned by agency

After receiving money from them, agents go into hiding

RASHIDUL HASAN

Seventy aspirant hajjis from Mymensingh and Jamalpur districts have become victims of fraudulence by a hajj operator who has gone into hiding with their passports and money.

"Mawna Travels and Tours" at Mawna Chourasta in Sreepur upazila, Gazipur, which received more than Tk 1.79 crore to make all arrangements for them to perform hajj -- from visa, flight tickets to food -- in Saudi Arabia, has remained closed for at least a week.

Its proprietor Ali Ashraf could not be contacted for around the same time, said Momtaz Uddin, a muallim who communi-

cated with the hajj agency on behalf of 27 would-be hajjis from Trisal upazila, Mymensingh.

Ruhul Amin, a friend of Momtaz, took the charge as hajj guide of the other 43 people from Sarishabari, Tangail, Modhupur and Jamalpur areas.

Many of the aspiring pilgrims, while talking to The Daily Star, accused the muallims of tricking them in league with the hajj operator.

Momtaz said he and Ruhul had collected the money and handed it to the agency for pre-registration with the government of hajjis, tickets, accommodation and food at Makkah and Madina and other necessary

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A novel trick to lift cattle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Cattle rustlers in bordering upazilas of the district are resorting to innovative means for selling the stolen cattle.

Ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha these criminals are changing the skin colour of stolen animals, in a sense, giving makeovers to them.

They use hair dye, mehendi and various other colouring agents to turn a white or a red cow into black ones overnight, locals said.

Finally, they shampoo and brush the animal to give it a vibrant and healthy look so they can sell it the next day in a hurry, before the original owner of the animal is able to track down and identify it in the local cattle market, they added.

On August 12, Nazrul Islam of Lalarchak village under Kulaura upazila lost his cow, a red one, to the thieves.

After five days' vigorous search, he found the cow

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Poet Shahid Qadri passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Have no fear, darling I'll have it all arranged The army will carry rose-bunches On their shoulders, March past and salute Only you, darling." A resolute poet, who wrote such verses, commanded Bangla poems for decades even after passing a great span of his life abroad.

Shahid Qadri, a leading name in contemporary Bangla poetry, breathed his last in New York around 7:00am (local time) yesterday, his wife Neera Qadri told newsmen.

He was 74.

Earlier, the poet was admitted to North Shore

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Youngest pilot to fly solo around the world

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An Australian teenager has become the youngest person to fly solo around the world in a single aircraft.

Lachlan Smart, who is 18 years, seven months and 21 days, beat the previous record holder Matt Guthmiller, who was 19 years, seven months and 15 days old, by almost an entire year.

Smart touched down in 24 locations across 15 countries on his way to breaking the Guinness world record. He landed along the Sunshine Coast at Maroochydore Airport on Saturday, having departed from the same airstrip on 4 July.

"The support I have received from family, friends, the local Sunshine Coast council and community and people around the world that I have never even met has been incredible from the first moment we spoke about this journey," Smart said.

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Turkish army thrusts deeper into Syria

40 villagers killed in shelling, air strikes as territory controlled by Kurdish-aligned forces seized in cross-border campaign

AGENCIES

Turkey's army and its allies thrust deeper into Syria yesterday, seizing territory controlled by Kurdish-aligned forces on the fifth day of a cross-border campaign that a

monitoring group said had killed at least 40 villagers.

Turkish warplanes roared into northern Syria at daybreak and its artillery pounded what security sources said were sites held by

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

DEMAND FOR HALLS BCL men 'beat up' agitating JnU students

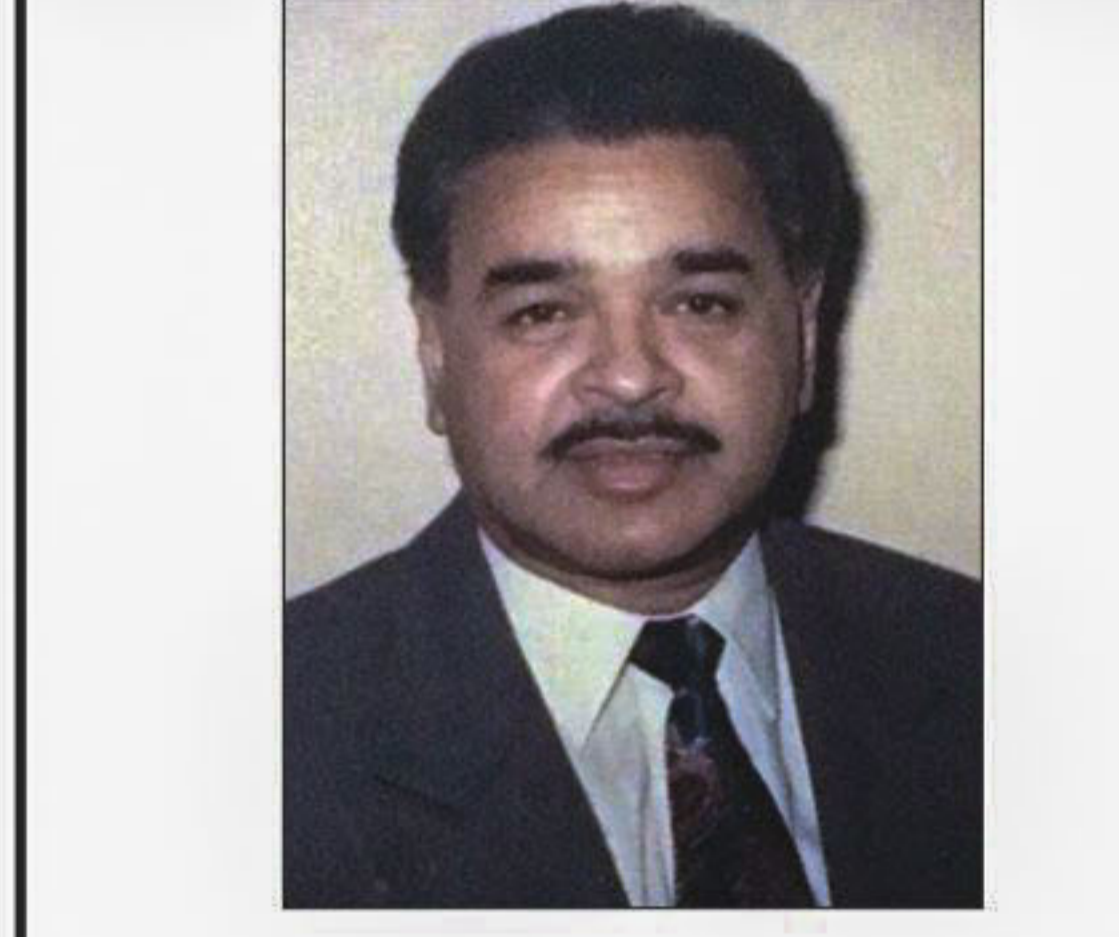
STAR REPORT

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday allegedly attacked the agitating students of Jagannath University (JnU) during their sit-in for residential halls.

In the attack, several students, including Animesh Roy of Law department and Runia

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OBITUARY



We are deeply grieved at the sad demise of Mr. Habibur Rahman FCMA (UK & Bangladesh) senior member of Dhaka Club and Past President of the ICMAB who breathed his last on 27-08-2016 at 2:30pm at his residence in Dhanmondi, Dhaka (innalillaha rajeun). He was also the Finance Director of Pfizer Bangladesh Ltd. and national football and tennis player of Bangladesh. He also served as the President of SAFA (South Asian Federation of Accountants). May Allah rest his soul in peace and grant him Jannat. Ameen.

His Namaze Janaza was held on 27-08-2016 after Esha prayers at Takwa Masjid, Road 12A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka. His 2nd Janaza was held on 28-08-2016 at ICMAB premises after Zohar prayers. He was buried at his baganbaree in Gazipur after Asr prayers yesterday. He left behind two sons Tanwir Habib Rahman and Faisal Rahman. He was married to Late Farida Rahman, Whip and MP Bangladesh Parliament. His Qulkhiani will be held on 31 August, 2016 (Wednesday) after Asr prayers at his Dhanmondi residence, House-28, Road-13/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.

RU student leader held for FB posts

RU CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested Rajshahi University unit Biplobi Chhatra Moitri leader Dileep Roy on the allegation of making derogatory comments about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in his Facebook status updates.

In one of his two Facebook status updates between 9:00am and 10:00am yesterday, he made derogatory comments on Bangabandhu and Hasina.

In the other one, he

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PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 29
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00
JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

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