



## Good job done, bad job too

### Biman sends all hajj pilgrims; cancels flights on three other routes without prior notice

RASHIDUL HASAN

It was indeed a job well done by Biman Bangladesh Airlines -- sending all would-be hajjis to Saudi Arabia by the deadline. But the success story was marred by sufferings of around 300 other passengers, specially women and children.

Biman cancelled flights to Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur and Muscat to SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Passengers crowd a Biman sales counter at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport after their flight was cancelled without prior notice. PHOTO COURTESY: SHAHIDUL ALAM



Bangladesh captain Krishna Rani (R) was simply unstoppable throughout the AFC Under-16 Women's Championship's Group C Qualifiers. She struck twice against UAE as the hosts completed a perfect campaign with a 4-0 win at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Girls raise the bar

SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh ended their brilliant AFC U-16 Championship Qualifiers campaign with a hundred per cent record after thrashing United Arab Emirates 4-0 in their last Group C fixture at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. Skipper Krishna Rani Sarkar scored at the start of both halves -- taking her tally to eight goals in the campaign -- before Anuching Mogini added the third and substitute Tohura Khatun put the icing on the cake with a fourth three minutes before the end of play.

Having already sealed their spot in the final round of the championship after victory against Chinese Taipei on the previous match-day on Saturday, the hosts were not at their lethal best on a soggy pitch yesterday, yet they had enough SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Six-day Eid vacation for public servants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen lakh public servants of the country will enjoy an extended vacation during Eid-ul-Azha, though not as long as the last Eid, since the government has declared September 11 a public holiday.

Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated here on September 13 and the official holiday is of three days if not followed by weekend or other government holidays.

September 11 is the only workday before the Eid vacation begins. The announcement paved the way for a six-day vacation beginning next Friday.

However, the government employees will have to work on September 24, a Saturday, to make up for September 11.

The decision came hours after the weekly cabinet meeting at the secretariat discussed yesterday the prospect of declaring September 11 and 15 holidays to make a straight nine-day vacation for civil servants.

Next Sunday has been declared holiday through an executive order, according to the public administration SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

## DEBATE OVER RAMPAL POWER PLANT



The Sundarbans, a magnificent and unique ecosystem of the world, faces an existential crisis today with the coal-fired power plant to be set up at Rampal. It has been a content of discord between environmentalist and those who are pushing the plant. Both sides are giving out their own arguments in favour of and against the plant to be set up within 14 kilometres of the mangrove forest. The Daily Star wants to bring to the public the arguments and the counterarguments that the protagonists and antagonists of the plant have to make. Syeda Rizwana Hasan, a leading environmental attorney and chief executive of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association (BELA), talks with Pinaki Roy.

## EIA grossly faulty

The Daily Star (TDS): If we go through the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Rampal, we see it answers everything. I mean, it mentions coal-transportation, management of fly ash and toxic chemicals. Then why should we distrust the company or why should we be anxious about the Sundarbans?

Hasan: I do not agree the EIA report has answers to every question. The EIA of Rampal is very evasive and vague on a number of crucial issues. I shared the EIA report with my peers in India who regularly monitor environmental implications of development projects and challenge the same when appropriate through legal platforms. The analysis that I received from the EIA Resource and Response Centre of India clearly records that the EIA is grossly deficient and faulty

on major accounts that include cumulative impact assessment, study on radiation, quantitative assessment, proper and effective public consultation, site selection, coal source and so on. It mentioned the fact India's EIA Manual on Thermal Power Plants (TPP) suggests location of TPPs to be at least 25 kilometers from the outermost periphery of Ecologically Sensitive Areas.

The analysis also cited example of suspension of a Thermal Power Plant for its close proximity to mangrove. This order for suspension came from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) relying on the SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Big cheer for war heroes

### Govt doubles allowance, benefit

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The freedom fighters decorated for valour and the injured freedom fighters would get more than double their monthly allowance from January 1.

A total 669 awarded freedom fighters as well as the families of seven Bir Shreshthas and around 12,500 injured freedom fighters would get the benefits.

A cabinet committee on freedom fighters' allowance and benefits made the decision yesterday at a meeting at the finance ministry with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair.

In July 2015, the government increased the allowance of freedom fighters to Tk 8,000 from Tk 5,000. It was increased to Tk 10,000 from Tk 8,000 in January this year.

There are some 2.12 lakh freedom fighters already listed. The SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

## Bangladeshi, her ex-partner found dead in Sydney

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

A woman of Bangladeshi origin and her ex-partner were found dead on Sunday in a house in Smithfield, a suburb of Sydney in Australia.

The deceased were Tasmin Bahar, 35, and her partner Dave Pillay.

Tasmin Bahar had recently separated from her partner of six years, Dave Pillay, and moved out of SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

## QUASEM EXECUTION Dhaka reacts sharply to Ankara's statement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Expressing dismay over Ankara's reaction to the execution of war criminal Mir Quasem Ali, Dhaka yesterday said that such reactions were tantamount to interference in the matters of a sovereign state.

"This also does not help foster bilateral relations that exist between the SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

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