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SHAH CEMENT

47 Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims died this year

Return hajj flights from today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-seven Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims died of age-related and various other illnesses in Saudi Arabia between August 7 and September 15.

Of the dead, 36 are males and 11 females, said a bulletin of the Hajj Management Department of the religious affairs ministry yesterday.

Thirty-three of them died in Makkah alone. Eight others passed away in Madina and one each in Jeddah and Mina.

Meanwhile, 23 others are taking treatments at different hospitals, the bulletin added.

A total of 1,01,797 Bangladeshi pilgrims, 5,183 under government management, performed hajj this year.

Return hajj flights begin today.

The first return hajj flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines is scheduled to depart Jeddah at 11:00am local time (Bangladesh time 2:00pm). The flight is expected to arrive in Dhaka at 8:40pm, said Masudur Rahman, a hajj counsellor.

As in the past, the Biman authorities have opened "City Check-in" facilities in Makkah and Madina to ensure a convenient journey of the returning hajjis.

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BACK TO BUSINESS

After enjoying Eid holidays with family members in village homes, people have started to come back to the hustle and bustle of the capital. In a photo taken yesterday, the Kamalapur Railway Station is seen heavily crowded as passengers are getting off a train. Top right, people struggle to climb down from the train roof at Tongi station. Passengers also travelled in a locomotive, bottom right.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN/PALASH KHAN



Woman held over torturing minor girl

The house help's treatment to take weeks

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

The woman who allegedly tortured her nine-year-old house help in Gazipur was arrested at Badda in the capital last night.

A joint team of Joydebpur and Chandpur police arrested Moni Begum from one of her relatives' house, Khondakar Rezaul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Joydebpur Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Police had arrested her husband Omar

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3 road accidents take 16 lives

Three brothers among 8 dead in Brahmanbaria collision

STAR REPORT

The groom to be and eight members of his family were killed in a road accident in Brahmanbaria yesterday when they were going to the bride's place for the wedding ceremony.

They were among 16 people who were killed in three separate road crashes in Brahmanbaria, Madaripur and Tangail yesterday. At least 31 others were also injured.

The microbus carrying groom Abu Sufian and his family collided head on with a bus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway around 11:00am near the Brahmanbaria intersection.

The other deceased were: Habibur Rahman, his two sons Kamran and Abu Sufian, and their relatives Ali Hossain, Murshidur, Muktar Miah and Abdul Hannan. Identity of another person who died at a hospital could not be known.

Two injured were treated at Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital and Madhabpur Upazila Health Complex.

Officer-in-Charge Humayun Kabir of Sorail Biswaroad Highway Police Station said the accident happened at Shashai area when the bus crashed into the microbus.

Confirming the identity of the deceased, their relative Faisal Ahmed said the victims were going to Brahmanbaria from Kamolganj of Moulvibazar for Abu Sufian's wedding.

The crash disrupted vehicular movement on the highway for around an hour.

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Rickshaw puller shot, injured by League man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Jubo League leader in the capital early yesterday allegedly shot and injured a rickshaw puller who just wanted him to pay for the trip he made on the rickshaw.

Police arrested the Jubo League man, Yusuf Sardar Sohel alias Sundori Sohel, from a hotel in Banani area around 2:00pm and recovered a gun and 22 bullets.

Sohel, joint convener of Banani Thana Jubo League, was drunk at the time of the incident, according to police.

Rickshaw puller Abdul Kabir, 35, took treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He filed a case with Banani Police Station in this connection.

Kabir told reporters that he carried two passengers from Gulshan to Banani-2 around midnight. As the rickshaw reached the destination, the passengers got down and just began to walk away.

"Kabir demanded Tk 40. But Sohel, instead of paying the fare, shot him in the left thigh," said Md Wahiduzzaman, officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station.

"He [Sohel] was drunk," the OC said, adding that they were looking for the other passenger.

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"Kung Fu" nuns bike Himalayas

Campaign against human trafficking

REUTERS, New Delhi

Clad in black sweatpants, red jackets and white helmets, the hundreds of cyclists pedaling the treacherously steep, narrow mountain passes to India from Nepal could be mistaken for a Himalayan version of the Tour de France.

The similarity, however, ends there. This journey is longer and tougher, the prize has no financial value or global recognition and the participants are not professional cyclists but Buddhist nuns from India, Nepal, Bhutan and Tibet.

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The mangled wreckage of a microbus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Bijoynagar area of Brahmanbaria yesterday. A head-on collision between the microbus and a bus left eight people dead.

PHOTO: STAR

Man beaten to death in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

A man died early yesterday after he was allegedly beaten up just for claiming his payment for a construction work from a house owner in Raozan upazila of the district.

Construction labourer contractor Mohammad Hanif, 50, died around 3:30am yesterday while he was being taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), police said.

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 17
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-30 6-09 7-45
JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-45 6-12 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Trump finally acknowledges it

Ends debate over whether Obama was born in US; Clinton accuses her rival of spreading ugliness, bigotry as race tightens

AGENCIES

Republican Donald Trump acknowledged for the first time yesterday that President Barack Obama was born in the United States, reversing himself on a controversy that he helped launch but that has become a distraction to his White House bid.

The admission came as Hillary Clinton returned to the White House campaign trail seeking to regain the momentum lost to Trump during her battle with pneumonia, especially in the country's key battleground states.

"President Barack Obama was born in the United States. Period," Trump, who has questioned Obama's citizenship for years, said at a campaign event at his new hotel in downtown Washington. "Now we all want to get back to making America strong and great again."

Trump accused Democratic rival Hillary Clinton of starting the so-called "birther" controversy during the 2008 primary campaign against Obama, an accusation that independent fact-checking sites have rated as false.

The New York businessman led the birther movement aimed at Obama, who was born in Hawaii to an American mother and a Kenyan father.

The issue has not been a factor in the campaign for the Nov 8 presidential election, but it resurfaced again in recent days, taking the focus of Trump's campaign away from

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