

Pilgrims suffer for flight delay

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 shared their bitter experiences and sufferings with this correspondent. Several pilgrims said they had to spend almost an entire night at the Jeddah airport without food and sleep. "We were ready to face sufferings while performing hajj in the name of Allah as it was a huge congregation and it's tough to manage everything during hajj. But it's so painful that our hajj guide didn't take us to the airport [in Saudi Arabia] on time for which we had to suffer for many hours," said Amanat Karim aged 70. "Actually we don't want to complain about the mismanagement and irresponsibility of hajj tour operators and the government hajj officials in Saudi Arabia as it [the journey] is something religious. We went to perform hajj to please the Almighty," he said. Ayesha Momena, another hajji said she had to wait for nine hours in Jeddah airport as the hajjis of her flight did not reach the airport on

time. "I don't know who to blame for this mismanagement. We didn't complain earlier when we were not served food on time and when we were not provided accommodation as promised by the government hajj operator. But it's really unbearable when you wait for hours on end and you don't know when it will end," she added. Several hajjis wishing not to be named alleged that although they went for the pilgrimage under government management, with the hope of better and quality service and accommodation, they were let down in Saudi Arabia. "The promise was not kept even by the government let alone the private hajj operators," said a haji. Another haji told this correspondent that the staff of the Bangladesh hajj mission in Jeddah did not cooperate with hajjis. The haji refused to elaborate. "It's a holy pilgrimage. We have accepted all the sufferings and pain

while performing this holy ritual," the haji added. Another haji said at Mina in Saudi Arabia they were served breakfast at 3:00pm and many elderly hajjis suffered due to the delay. Besides, the accommodation and transport facilities provided by the hajj mission were of poor quality, the haji added. A haji said their hajj agency did not live up to its promise of quality accommodation in Makkah and Madina. Another haji said in many cases Bangladeshi hajjis were also responsible for delays for several reasons. Some carried more and heavier luggage than they were supposed to, which wasted time at the check in. Asked, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Golam Moshir said there was a lack of coordination and planning between the religious affairs ministry and Biman. He, however, refuted the allegation that hajj officials of the mission were not carrying out their duties properly.

Payra rail link to bring \$7.5b FDI

FROM PAGE 1
 The shipping ministry primarily shortlisted the British firm as eligible, the rail ministry official said. On Saturday, Finance Minister AMA Muhith told a programme at The Daily Star Centre that British private investors would build a rail line from Dhaka to Payra. "Payra is becoming a much better port in Bangladesh, which will be one of the best in the region. It is going to be really a good seaport," the minister said. Muhith later told The Daily Star that the money would come as Foreign Direct Investment. Earlier in August, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed told the media that the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Alison Blake, said that the UK was keen to invest in Padma Bridge-Kuakata railway link and Payra port. Talking to this correspondent yesterday, the rail ministry official said the British company in the proposal mentioned that it would do the job together with China Railway

Construction Corporation Ltd. The DP Rail's proposal includes construction of an Inland Container Depot and a landing port at Payra, the official added, asking not to be named. The rail link between Dhaka and Payra is crucial, as the government plans to build it as the main seaport of the country by 2022. Payra sits on the Bay of Bengal and has all the potential to become an international seaport, but its road and rail links with Dhaka and other parts of the country are poor at the moment. According to the DP Rail's website, the company is working to finance, design, build, operate and maintain the Dhaka-Payra based upon FDI. It said the DP Rail encompasses the investment, engineering, operations, planning and programming management expertise required. Interport BD Limited has 50 percent share in DP Rail. The company wants to develop a freight railway linking Dhaka with Payra and the rest of Bangladesh, and a possible link to the Seven Sisters region of India.

Interport is a specialist transport and logistics company, based in Shropshire, England, although most of its activities are currently in Bangladesh. The company has recently completed a technical and economic feasibility study of the proposed Payra port as a sub-consultant to British firm HR Wallingford, and has recently secured further consultancy studies in Bangladesh, according to the DP Rail website. The Payra seaport became operational on a limited scale in August, after it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Earlier, HR Wallingford & Consortium prepared a techno-feasibility study of the Payra port, having 19 components with a total investment of \$16 billion. A shipping ministry official said the \$16 billion include government to government funding and FDI. Already, the shipping ministry has sent a proposal to the planning ministry for the Payra seaport project.

Mobilise public opinion for extradition

FROM PAGE 16
 The PM was addressing a reception accorded to her at Centre Mont-Royal in Montreal by Bangladesh expatriates on Saturday. Canada unit president of Awami League Golam Mohammad Mahmud Mia presided over the programme attended, among others, by Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali, Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Haque and AL Office Secretary and PM's Special Assistant Abdus Sobhan Golap. "So far the government knows that one convicted killer of Bangabandhu is hiding in the USA, one in Canada, two in Pakistan while two others remain traceless. How could a civilised country give shelter to a convicted killer?" she said. Hasina said Bangladesh government has already asked the US and Canada why they are nurturing and giving shelter to the killers. She said it has been mentioned in the Canadian constitution that the country will not deport anybody if death sentence is given against him or her. "What type of provision is it?" she questioned. Hasina said the killers of Bangabandhu are the citizens of Bangladesh and their punishment will be ensured as per the law of the country.

"Why are efforts being made to save the killers?" She said why the countries will give shelter to those who had committed crimes like murder. It could be a different matter if the killers were their citizens. "If they want to give shelter to the killers, then all murderers will seek shelter from those countries." Hasina said it means the countries without having the provision of death sentence would be a safe haven for killers. She said her government has been working to bring back the fugitive killers of Bangabandhu since 1996. "Our efforts will continue to execute the court verdict against the killers by bringing them back home." In a bilateral meeting between the prime ministers of Bangladesh and Canada on Friday, both countries agreed to find out a solution about the extradition of the self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu living in Canada, Noor Chowdhury, through discussions. About the trials of war criminals, she said the government faced obstructions and she received many telephone calls from "big places" during the trials and execution of verdicts against the culprits. "I replied that our judiciary is independent, and there are laws in our coun-

try, and verdicts would be implemented as per the laws," she said. Talking about terrorism and militancy, Hasina said these are now not a problem for any particular country rather aglobal issue. She also urged the expatriate Bangladeshis to remain alert so that their children do not get engaged in militancy. "I would like to tell you to stay alert about your children and keep eyes on them to know what they do, where they go and with whom they get close to...it's a responsibility of everybody -- guardians, teachers and imams." Referring to the attack on Holey Artisan Bakery at Gulshan in Dhaka, Hasina said those who carried out the attack studied in Canada, Malaysia, Australia and other places. "All expect that those who study abroad would be liberal minded. But question arises in public mind how these youths got engaged in fanaticism undermining Islam," she said. The PM said the intensified anti-militancy drive by her government yielded results as those who planned further attacks were arrested. "We're taking tough action and it'll continue...the law enforcement agencies have been working with utmost sincerity and integrity to this end," she said.

Juvenile court

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 when his mother, Abedatul Fatema, 35, was injured and later arrested for suspected militancy. In the remand prayer police said mysteries surrounding the Azimpur militant hideout might be unravelled if Tahrim is placed on remand as he knew the suspected militants who frequented the house and he is aware of their motives and objectives. Judge Ruhul Amin of the juvenile court passed the order after Ahsanul Haque, assistant commissioner of counterterrorism unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), produced the accused before the court with a 10-day remand prayer. The DMP in the case statement said Tahrim was arrested immediately after he assaulted members of the police force with a knife as they entered the 1st floor rented flat of the five-storey building at Azimpur in the capital. A case under the Anti-Terrorism Act was filed in this connection, accusing five named and 4 to 5 unnamed suspected militants. Wanted militant suspect Jebunnahar Shila - wife of Maj (ret'd) Jahidul Islam who, according to DMP officials, was the military commander of "Neo JMB" and trainer of the Gulshan and Sholokia attackers - was a resident of the Azimpur flat. She is thought to have left the flat with her one-year-old daughter only four days before the raid. Jahid was killed in a police raid in the capital's Rupnagar area on September 2.

'Lucky to be alive'

Says Norwegian hostage freed by Philippine militants
 AFP, Indanan
 A freed Norwegian hostage said he was "lucky to be alive" Sunday, after being kidnapped by Islamic militants and held in the southern Philippine jungle for more than a year. Kjartan Sekkingstad appeared gaunt and frail as he was handed over to a government envoy along with three Indonesian seamen who had been held captive with him. "I am so very happy and lucky to be alive," Sekkingstad, heavily bearded and wearing a camouflage jacket, told reporters in the town of Indanan on Jolo island before being flown to meet the Philippine president. Sekkingstad was abducted from a high-end tourist resort he managed in September 2015 by notorious kidnapers-for-ransom the Abu Sayyaf. Two Canadians taken hostage at the same time, John Ridsdel and Robert Hall, were later beheaded by the group after a ransom demand of about 300 million pesos (\$6.5 million) was not met. Sekkingstad showed press his backpack with his rubber slippers,

Black voting for Trump a personal insult: Obama

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
 Barack Obama has said it would be a "personal insult" if black voters don't turn out to support Hillary Clinton in the US presidential elections. During an impassioned speech to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, an organisation that carries out research on issues affecting African-Americans, Obama said it would be an "insult to his legacy" if the black community voted for Donald Trump - or refrained from voting at all - in the upcoming election. Addressing the foundation for the last time as president, Obama said: "If I hear anybody saying their vote does not matter, that it doesn't matter who we elect - read up on your history. "It matters. We've got to get people to vote. I will consider it a personal insult - an insult to my legacy - if this community lets down its guard and fails to activate itself in this election. "You want to give me a good send-off? Go vote."

Obama's ardent speech came less than two months before election day and marked his most forceful plea to the black community to get behind Clinton in the presidential race. During the speech the President also joked about Donald Trump's admission to British firm HR Wallingford, and has recently secured further consultancy studies in Bangladesh, according to the DP Rail website. The Payra seaport became operational on a limited scale in August, after it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Earlier, HR Wallingford & Consortium prepared a techno-feasibility study of the Payra port, having 19 components with a total investment of \$16 billion. A shipping ministry official said the \$16 billion include government to government funding and FDI. Already, the shipping ministry has sent a proposal to the planning ministry for the Payra seaport project.

World's oldest

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 island's population is known as one of the longest-living people in the world, with 34 centenarians per 100,000 people. That's more than three times the rate of mainland Japan.

Accused killed

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 Habibur Rahman from Dashami village under Damurhuda upazila in Chuadanga, was abducted by Rakib and his gang from an agricultural fair in the same upazila. The abductors demanded Tk 20 lakh in ransom from Sajib's family for his release the following day, Maj Munir of Rab said. Although Sajib's family agreed to pay the ransom, the captors killed the boy two days later and concealed the body inside a septic tank of a house located in C&B area of the upazila. The house was rented by Rakib, he added. On August 30, Rab recovered the corpse from the tank in that house.

UP chairman

FROM PAGE 2
 Fanatics attacked the Buddhist houses and temples in Ramu, Ukha, Teknaf and Sadar upazilas of Cox's Bazar following a fake Facebook post demeaning the holy Quran. Nineteen cases were filed with different police stations in the district in connection with the attacks. The police pressed charges in 18 cases with different courts. The other case was withdrawn following a settlement between the complainant and the defence.

Traffic snarled up on

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 "Our bus was scheduled to leave for Dhaka from Satkhira at 8:00pm [Saturday]. But we got the bus around 1:00am," the passenger said, adding that the bus finally crossed the river after 2:00pm. Another passenger from Jessore said, "We are waiting for around three hours to get a ferry since 2:30pm. But we don't know when they will reach the ferry ghat." He was talking to The Daily Star around 5:45pm. While visiting the spot yesterday, our Manikganj correspondent saw around 1,000 vehicles stranded at Daulatdia terminal. "The [ferry] landing station-4 was closed around 1:00am today [yesterday] as its approach road to Rajbari highway was damaged by river erosion while the service of landing station-2 was suspended earlier due to the damage by the erosion," said Shafiqul Islam, manager (commerce) of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) at the terminal. Abdus Sattar, manager (marine) of

BIWTC at Aricha office, said 13 of 19 ferries were in operation. The other six were being repaired. On the other end, a two-kilometre tailback was created at Paturia ferry terminal in Shivalaya upazila in Manikganj. "I have been waiting for a ferry at Paturia terminal for nearly three hours," said Shyamal, a youth who was travelling to Faridpur. A correspondent from Madaripur adds, many bus operators of some districts in Khulna division also tried to get their buses crossed the river through Munshiganj's Shimulia and Madaripur's Kawrakandi route. Nearly 500 vehicles were stuck there as the ferry service was hampered due to mismanagement in ferry operation. Besides, two ferries out of 17 went out of service. Some passengers alleged that law enforcers and the ferry services authorities prolonged their sufferings by preventing their buses only to allow the some VIP's vehicles to get onto ferries. The authorities, however, denied the allegation.

AL MP's son lands in jail

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 Debdash Paul, a resident of Sultanpur in Satkhira town, said Rashed looted valuables and took away 13 cows from his Magura house between Sept 13 and 15 when his son Milan Paul was in jail as a suspect in a smuggling case. Locals beat up Rashed when he was trying to drive Milan's car away, said Debdash, adding that the car was later smashed in revenge. Refuting the allegations, Refat Amin said she had been doing business in partnership with Milan Pual and that valuables had been taken away from Milan's house informing the OC of Satkhira sadar police. The OC, however, said he knew nothing about the matter. On April 15 last year, Bakhtiar Alam Rony, son of acting Mohila Awami League general secretary Pinu Khan, allegedly fired random shots in the air from his jeep with "frustration over post-midnight traffic" on New Eskaton Road, leaving a rickshaw-puller and an auto-rickshaw driver dead.

The magistrate said no one obstructed their drive, but the "unfortunate incident" took place when they were returning from the spot. Kabir said he informed the secretary of the environment and forest ministry, the chief conservator of forests and the deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar of the incident. Ali Hossain, the deputy commissioner, said police and magistrate helped the forest department demolish the illegal structures from the land of the forest department. Chief Conservator of Forests Yunus Ali said the lawmaker took the law into his own hands and obstructed the government officials from discharging their duties. "He did not do the right thing," Yunus told The Daily Star last night over the phone. Meanwhile, a rally was held near Himchari tourist spot around 4:30pm, protesting the drive. The rally was attended, among others, by the MP and Riaz-ul Alam, chairman of Ramu upazila, also president of the upazila unit Jubo League. They demanded removal of and punitive action against Kabir. Contacted, Mabud told The Daily Star that the drive was "illegal". He claimed the land where the shops were set up was not owned by the forest department; rather it is government Khas land.

AL MP intercepts

FROM PAGE 16
 Ali Kabir, divisional forest officer of Cox's Bazar forest department (South), said some people with the help of Abdul Mabud, a local AL leader and chairman of Khuniapalang union in Ramu, set up nine to 10 illegal shops on the forest department land near Himchari tourist spot a week ago. A mobile court, led by Mozammel Haque Russell, executive magistrate of Cox's Bazar district administration, and assisted by police and staff of the forest department, evicted the illegal structures around 2:00pm, Kabir said. When they along with the seized materials, including corrugated iron sheets, in two trucks were returning to the depot of the department in Cox's Bazar town, the team was intercepted at Darianagar around 4:00pm, he said. Kamal, who was on his way to Himchari, stopped there and asked Kabir who took down the structures and why, he added. At one stage, Kamal asked his men to take the goods to Himchari and they did that, said Kabir. Besides scolding him, followers of the lawmaker vandalised several establishments of the forest department and one of the two trucks used in the drive and beat up a truck driver, Kabir said. Law enforcers later rescued one of the five staffers of the forest department who took shelter under a nearby bridge after being attacked by the MP's men, he added.

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Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)
 BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
 Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) is going to offer a "Workshop on Research Methodology" The Workshop will be started from December, 2016. (Tentative) at BMRC.
 Applications are invited through proper channel from the interested Post Graduate Doctors (All level of Professors/Consultants) & Post Graduate Medical Students (Thesis Part). Applications along with copies of relevant certificates, detailed bio-data and one copy of passport size photo should reach the undersigned on or before 31st October, 2016.
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Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC)
 BMRC Bhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212
Research Grants for Researchers & Post Graduate Medical Students
 Bangladesh Medical Research Council (BMRC) invites Research Protocol on Health Systems Research, Clinical Research & Basic Medical Research. The project shall be for a duration of six months. The Researchers (maximum budget 5.00 lacs) & Postgraduate Medical Students (maximum budget 35,000/-) are eligible to submit the project with relevant document. Four (4) copies of the completed Project along with a soft copy are to be submitted with an application mentioned to the undersigned on or before 31st October, 2016.
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