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SHAH CEMENT

Hajj mess yet to be over

12 agencies couldn't complete visa procedure; Biman loses Tk 40cr revenue for flight cancellation

RASHIDUL HASAN

Twelve hajj agencies are yet to complete visa procedures of around 2,400 pilgrims, creating uncertainty over their pilgrimage this year, said top officials at the Ashkona Hajj Camp.

"The religious affairs ministry has sent letters to the 12 hajj agencies and warned them of tough action if they fail to complete all formalities and apply for the visas by tomorrow," Saiful Islam, director at the camp, told The Daily Star at his office.

He said so far 84,418 pilgrims got visas. Of them, 50,217 had left for Saudi Arabia until yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday expressed "serious concern" over being able to send all pilgrims to Saudi Arabia. It had to cancel several flights due to inadequate number of pilgrims.

Since the hajj flights began on July 24, Biman failed to carry 9,887 passengers and incurred a loss of Tk 40 crore for cancellation of 19 hajj flights as hajj agencies could not ensure visas or tickets for the pilgrims, said AM Mosaddique Ahmed, Biman chief executive officer and managing director.

In the last three days, the national flag carrier was forced to cancel seven hajj flights, two of them yesterday, he told reporters at a briefing in Biman's Balaka office. Biman has so far flown some 70 flights and sent 24,115 pilgrims, which is 38 per cent of total pilgrims the national flag carrier is supposed to carry, the Biman MD said, adding that they would have carried 54 per cent of the pilgrims by now if the complexities had not been there.

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In an exuberant display of music, colour, and joy, adivasis celebrate the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples in a cultural programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

GRAFT CHARGES Permanent bail granted to Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted permanent bail to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Raheem and Justice Shahidul Karim delivered the verdict after holding the final hearing on a petition filed by Khaleda in 2008 seeking bail in the case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that the trial court has the liberty to cancel her bail if she misuses it. Meanwhile, Zakir Hossain Bhuiyan, a lawyer for the BNP chief, told this correspondent that his client was accused in 37 cases and she was on bail in all of them.

The ACC filed the case on July 3, 2008, accusing Khaleda, her elder son Tarique Rahman and four others of misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for the case.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Teacher damages student's eye

Arrested, sent to jail

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

A JSC examinee of BEPZA School and College in the port city may lose the use of his left eye after a teacher allegedly caned him on July 29.

Student Masraful-Al-Karib, 14, was found lying at his home with a bandaged left eye after taking preliminary treatment at two hospitals in Chittagong and Dhaka. According to doctors, the left eye's lens has been damaged badly and he needs to undergo a surgery immediately.

Md Kamruzzaman, the student's father, said mathematics teacher Aziz Billah "canned" his son at school as he failed to draw a geometrical shape.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

WATERLOGGING

Mega project okayed to save port city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to take up a massive project to address the waterlogging in Chittagong city at a cost of Tk 5,616 crore. Yesterday, the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved the project for re-excavation, expansion and development of canals in the port city to be completed by 2020.

The Ecnec also gave the nod to another mega project under which Tk 1,325 crore would be spent for acquiring 5,580 acres of land in Moheshkhali of Cox's Bazar to build a coal- and LNG-based power hub.

After the Ecnec meeting, Planning Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal said the prime minister directed LCRD Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain to implement a more effective and extensive project to remove water from Chittagong city by forming a committee consisting of other institutions concerned.

He said the main objective of the project was to quickly drain rain water through excavation and expansion of concrete gutters connected to canals. According to the planning ministry proposal, in 1995 Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) prepared a master plan for the commercial capital of the country. An important part of the plan was a modern drainage system and Chittagong City Corporation was responsible for implementing it.

In the last 20 years, the CDA proposal for the drainage was not implemented resulting in the complete collapse of the system.

After rain, most of the city streets go under knee-to-waist-deep water. During the high tide, low-lying areas of the city also become waterlogged. Under the project, about 5.28 lakh cubic metres of dirt and 4.20 lakh cubic metres of sludge would be removed from 36 canals. About 11km of connecting drains would be built and 107 acres of land would be acquired.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

Woman, her unborn child die during C-section

Doctor flees, angry locals ransack private clinic

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A doctor fled soon after an expecting mother died during a caesarean operation at a private clinic in Rajshahi's Puthia upazila last night, said police.

As the news spread, angry locals ransacked the clinic - Al Mahdi Islami Hospital - in Puthia. The upazila Nirbahi Officer with the help of police sealed off the clinic.

The law enforcers took the woman, Panna Begum, 28, of Dhopapara village in the upazila, to Puthia Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared both the mother and her unborn child dead.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Microchip can heal wounds



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have invented a "breakthrough" technology they say will help heal wounds, blood vessels, nerves and damaged organs.

The technology, called Tissue Nanotransfection (TN) uses nanotechnology to turn skin cells into a range of other types of cell that can be used to repair damaged tissues.

The cells are converted by a small microchip, similar in size to a penny, which injects genetic code into skin cells, transforming them into other types of cell.

The chip is simply placed onto the skin and can begin to create new specialised cells in "less than a second", scientists said.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

End nuke drive or face the 'fury'

US warns as Pyongyang threatens to attack Guam

AFP, Washington

The United States yesterday warned North Korea that the pursuit of its nuclear drive could lead to the collapse of Kim Jong-il's regime, as President Donald Trump brandished America's nuclear might as a deterrent.

The further escalation in Washington's war of words with Pyongyang came a day after Trump stunned the world with a bold-faced

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:25 12:45 4:45 6:41 8:00

JAMAAT 5:00 1:15 5:00 6:44 8:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



A no trash sign and a fence by Savar Municipality cannot stop dumping of trash and filling up of a canal beside the Dhaka-Aricha highway. The picture was taken Wednesday near Bank Town on the outskirts of the capital.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ইন্টারনেট সেবা গ্রহণ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সকল ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহারকারীগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে,

ক) কেবলমাত্র বিটিআরসি'র লাইসেন্সধারী আইএসপি প্রতিষ্ঠান (ওয়েবসাইটে পূর্ণাঙ্গ তালিকা বিদ্যমানঃ <http://www.btrc.gov.bd/list-licensees>) ব্যতীত অন্য কোন সংস্থা/প্রতিষ্ঠান/ব্যক্তি'কে ইন্টারনেট সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের ইন্টারনেট সেবা গ্রহণ হতে বিরত থাকার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

খ) জাতীয় নিরাপত্তার স্বার্থে এবং গুণগত মান সম্পন্ন ইন্টারনেট সেবা পেতে লাইসেন্সবিহীন বা অবৈধ ইন্টারনেট সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিষয়ে কমিশন এবং আইনশৃঙ্খলা বাহিনী-কে তথ্য প্রদানের জন্য সকল ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহারকারীগণকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

গ) ইন্টারনেট সেবার মান নিশ্চিত করতে আইএসপি লাইসেন্সধারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বিরুদ্ধে প্রয়োজনে বিটিআরসি'র কলসেন্টার ২৮-৭২ নম্বরে (কেবলমাত্র অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে) সরাসরি অভিযোগ দাখিল করতে ইন্টারনেট ব্যবহারকারীগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে (তবে প্রাথমিক অভিযোগ অবশ্যই সার্ভিস আইএসপি'কে করতে হবে)।

জনস্বার্থেঃ

বাংলাদেশ টেলিযোগাযোগ নিয়ন্ত্রণ কমিশন