

www.bsrm.com

ONLY WHEN YOU'RE SAFE, CAN YOU DEFEY GRAVITY

BSRM building a safer nation

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

SHAH CEMENT

# 2,500 hajj pilgrims yet to get visa

- ▶ 80,000 flown to Saudi Arabia in last 26 days
- ▶ Rest 47,000 will have to be there in 9 days
- ▶ Extended visa application deadline ends today

RASHIDUL HASAN

Around 2,500 pilgrims are yet to get visas as the extended deadline for completing the visa procedure expires today, according to Hajj Camp sources.

The Saudi government had extended the August 17 deadline by two days upon request from the Bangladesh religious affairs ministry, said Saiful Islam, director at the Hajj Camp in the city's Ashkona.

"All but about 2,500 aspirant hajjis have got their visas. For the rest of the pilgrims, we have one day left to complete the processing of visas," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He, however, couldn't confirm whether the visa processing for the pilgrims could be completed in a day.

"We are trying our best. We are always in contact with the respective hajj agencies. The hajj office has instructed the agencies to submit visa applications of the rest of the pilgrims by tomorrow [today] without fail," Saiful added.

Shahadat Hossain Taslim, secretary general of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB), said they were working round the clock at the Hajj Camp office to ensure visas for all the pilgrims by today.

About the allegation that a section of hajj agencies were making delay in completing the visa processing, Shahadat

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



**SAFETY VS SPEED ...** For a faster crossing, many prefer the speed boats on the Shimulia-Kawrakandi route of the Padma. It is only a 15 to 20 minute ride on the boat while it takes two and a half hours by ferry and one and a half hours by launch to cross the distance. However, the convenience of speed comes with considerable risk on the mighty river especially when the current is strong. Not all boat operators have life jackets for passengers and some boats are piled with more passengers than they are designed for. Around 200 such boats ply the route.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Stabbing spree kills 2, hurts 6 in Finland

One arrested, hunt on for more

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Two people were killed and six were injured in a stabbing spree in the Finnish city of Turku yesterday, police said, after officers shot one suspect and warned several others could still be at large.

"There are eight victims in the stabbing. Two dead and six injured," Turku police tweeted after the assault in a market square.

Police shot one suspect in the legs and arrested him. Security forces wrote on Twitter that police were "looking for other possible perpetrators".

"They ask the population to leave and avoid

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

# 'Bigger attacks were planned'

Say Spanish police as they reveal lorry bomb plot; second attack foiled hours after Barcelona carnage, 5 suspects shot dead



AFP, THE INDEPENDENT

Suspects in Spain's twin terror attacks had been planning for an even bigger assault than the deadly car rampages they carried out, police said yesterday, as distressing details emerged of families torn apart in the double tragedy.

A 35-year-old Italian man was among 14 killed in the attacks, mowed down in front of his wife and young

children Thursday in Barcelona when a driver rammed his van through crowds on the busy Las Ramblas boulevard, before fleeing on foot.

Police said they shot dead five "suspected terrorists" who had knocked pedestrians down in the Catalan seaside resort of Cambrils in a second attack in the early hours of yesterday, and arrested four others as Spain reeled from the deadly violence.

### TWO VEHICLE ATTACKS IN SPAIN



SEE PAGE 12 COL 1  
MORE ON PAGE 8

## EID TICKET

# Bus operators charging high

Long lines, delay at bus terminals; train tickets 'easily available' for all routes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dilruba Yeasmin was scared the moment she arrived at Hanif Paribahan's bus counter in Gabtoli Balurmath area around 9:00am yesterday.

There had already been long queues before all ticket counters with no separate line for women.

Upset, she first queued up with men amid the heat and eventually made a separate line with a few other female ticket seekers. After waiting for more than three hours, her turn came.

"I was very disturbed as there was no separate line for women and that I had to stand for such a long time. But all my pain disappeared as soon as I got my ticket. The thought of celebrating Eid with the family members is something very special," said Dilruba who lives in Khilgaon.

Like Dilruba, hundreds of people thronged the bus counters and Kamalapur Railway Station as sale of advance tickets for the forthcoming Eid-ul-Azha began yesterday. Many of them came to the counters in the very early morning.

Many passengers complained that they had to pay extra Tk 50 to Tk 250 per ticket. They alleged that some transport

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

## SC verdict cites Zia's grabbing state power

Says Quader, slates BNP's silence about it

BSS, Saidpur, Nilphamari

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday claimed the BNP's silence on the 16th amendment verdict proved that the party acknowledged the illegal grabbing of power by its founder Ziaur Rahman.

"The Supreme Court verdict mentioned that Ziaur Rahman had illegally usurped the state power. But the BNP didn't make any comment about the judgment. So, it seems the party has admitted Zia seized state power illegally," he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, said this while handing out relief materials to the flood victims in Saidpur upazila stadium area.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

People queue up for train tickets at Kamalapur Railway Station in the capital around 9:00am yesterday, about two weeks ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.

## Climate change costs India \$10b a year

TNN, New Delhi

Extreme weather events are costing India \$9-10 billion annually and climate change is projected to impact agricultural productivity with increasing severity from 2020 to the end of the century.

In a recent submission to a parliamentary committee, the agriculture ministry said productivity decrease of major crops would be marginal in the next few years but could rise to as much as 10-40% by 2100 unless farming adapts to

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

**SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center**

**PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 19**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-25 12-45 4-45 6-38 8-00

JAMAAT 5-00 1-15 5-00 6-41 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Fortress of data in the Arctic



MAIL ONLINE

The world's largest 'fortress for data' is being built in the Arctic, and it will be powered by 100 percent sustainable energy.

Located in the northern fringes of Norway, Kolos will be the largest green data centre in the world - relying entirely on hydropower and wind.

The cool, stable climate of northern Norway and the site's proximity to water will provide natural cooling for the centre's vast servers.

Internet companies such as Facebook use huge 'server farms' such as this, to store and manage data.

High-power computer equipment generates huge amount of heat so most data centres use chiller systems to stay cool.

Nordic countries now sell plants on the basis that their frosty locations will help cool computer equipment.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4