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SHAH CEMENT

Hajj for 2,000 still uncertain

Agencies yet to apply for their visas; only a day left for them to do so

RASHIDUL HASAN

The pilgrimage of over 2,000 Bangladeshis still remains uncertain as their hajj agencies are yet to apply for visas, Hajj camp sources said yesterday.

"So far 1, 24,424 intended hajjis have got their visas. There are around 2,000 pilgrims who are yet to complete their visa procedures due to irresponsibility of their respective hajj agents," Saiful Islam, director, Hajj Camp told The Daily Star last night.

Saiful said they have asked the respective hajj tour operators to submit visas of the remaining 2000 pilgrims today.

Saiful said due to the religious ministry's request, the Saudi government has extended the deadline for submitting visas by one more day.

The original deadline for submitting visas was August 17. The Saudi government at first extended the deadline by two days till August 19 following the religious affairs ministry's request.

Saiful Islam last night informed this correspondent that following the ministry's latest request, Saudi government has agreed to extend the August 19 deadline by another day to August 20.

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

Asked, he said the Hajj Office has all the records which show the agencies' negligence and delay in completing visa applications of pilgrims.

"Due to strategic reasons, for now we are not taking harsh action against the responsible hajj agencies that caused

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A recent aerial view of villages submerged by the overflowing Jamuna near Gaibandha. Floods have already reached record levels in Bangladesh with major rivers like the Jamuna surpassing levels set in 1988—the deadliest flood the country has ever faced. PHOTO: COLLECTED

A sickening punishment

Teacher 'makes students drink sewer water'

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Twenty-eight students fell ill and were traumatised as a schoolteacher reportedly forced them to drink drain water as punishment at Zajira in Shariatpur on Wednesday. The teacher refuted the allegation.

The parents of the students staged protests in front of Gangaprashad Govt Primary School yesterday.

The parents said Shahnaz Parvin, assistant teacher and daughter of the president of the school managing committee, was checking homework of class-IV students on Wednesday.

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'DRUG ABUSE' IN JAIL Tufan moved to Kashimpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Suspended Sramik League leader Tufan Sarkar, accused of raping a college girl in Bogra, has been moved to Kashimpur High Security Jail from Bogra Jail yesterday amid allegations that he abused drugs in prison.

Mozammel Hossain, superintendent of Bogra Jail, told The Daily Star that Tufan was moved to Kashimpur around 1:00pm.

The jail authorities moved him following media reports that he had been taking Phensidyle in his cell.

According to the reports, Tufan, who has been in

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BNP doing 'excesses' over verdict

Says Quader; Fakhru says 'AL illegal if Zia's rule illegal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that a vested quarter was drawing up a plan abroad to put the country in a severe political turmoil and grab state power.

"Who is going where from London and Bangkok and what they are talking about ... I know everything about those maintaining key mediating role for this purpose. Just be careful," Quader said apparently hinting at BNP

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SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

Set your own rules

Sheltech-The Daily Star roundtable urges companies to take the lead in absence of effective govt monitoring

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Recruitment of workers through informal process, poor government monitoring system and lack of awareness among workers and contractors are among the major barriers to ensuring safety in the construction sector, experts say.

Speaking at a roundtable, they also said the construction firms should put in place their own safety measures and monitoring mechanism at the construction sites, instead of depending solely on the government.

They called upon the authorities concerned to follow a formal recruitment process and train workers to use safety equipment properly, saying the rights of the workers, including their safety, would not be ensured unless they were recruited in a formal manner.

Sheltech (Pvt) Ltd and The Daily Star

jointly organised the roundtable, titled "The Way Forward to Ensure Construction Safety in Bangladesh", at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday.

Citing a study, Sheltech Director Saamiya Seraj said the construction industry saw deaths of 147 workers last year. On an average, 100 workers die, either falling off buildings or being electrocuted, every year. Many other workers suffer injuries and respiratory or skin diseases.

But the designated government bodies could not properly monitor safety measures at construction sites due to a lack of manpower, she said, adding that in many cases the bodies seemed confused about their roles in enforcing safety rules and ensuring accountability after death of workers.

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7 hurt in 'IS knife attack' in Russia

Finland opens terror probe; hunt on for Barcelona attacker

AFP, Moscow

The Islamic State jihadist group yesterday claimed responsibility of a knife attack that injured seven people in a remote far northern Russian city after terror incidents shook Spain and Finland.

"The executor of the stabbing operation in the city of Surgut in Russia is a soldier of the Islamic State," IS propaganda outlet Amaq said in a statement, after the jihadists also claimed responsibility for twin attacks in Spain

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Is coconut oil healthy?

CNN

Despite popular health claims about coconut oil, a report from the American Heart Association recently advised against its use, stating that it increases LDL cholesterol (a cause of cardiovascular disease) and has no known offsetting effects.

"There are many claims being made about coconut oil being wonderful for lots of different things, but we really don't have any evidence of long-term

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 20

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



DUMPED CARELESSLY

Medical wastes dumped by the street near the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation. The hazardous objects need proper disposal and such haphazard dumping threatens health and environment and breaks laws. Locals say recyclers collect the waste materials for sale to plastic factories.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

At least 23 killed as train derails in India

AFP, New Delhi

At least 23 people were killed and dozens injured after an express train derailed in north India yesterday, officials said, as rescuers clambered across mangled carriages to pull passengers from the wreckage.

Emergency workers and crowds of local people rushed to the site where 14 coaches derailed near Muzaffarnagar district in Uttar Pradesh state, some 130 kilometres (80 miles) from New Delhi, the latest deadly disaster on the country's creaking rail network.

"Twenty-three people have died and 64 others are injured in the accident. Rescue and relief operations are continuing," G S Priyadarshi, Muzaffarnagar district magistrate, told AFP.

A police officer at the accident spot said 50 people had been taken to hospital.

Photographs and television footage showed twisted and upended coaches lying sideways as hundreds of people try to pull the passengers out.

"We are trying to take out the trapped

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চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ
পরিচালক (ট্রাফিক) এর দপ্তর

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ৬৫/২০১৭ তারিখ- ১৮/০৮/২০১৭ ইং

বিষয় :- চট্টগ্রাম বন্দরে আমদানীকৃত এফসিএল কন্টেইনারসমূহ বন্দর অভ্যন্তর হতে দ্রুত ডেলিভারী নেয়া প্রসঙ্গে।

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকল আমদানীকারক/সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট ও সংশ্লিষ্টদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, সম্প্রতি বন্দর অভ্যন্তরে এফসিএল (আমদানীকৃত) কন্টেইনারের সংখ্যা অত্যধিক হওয়ায় বন্দর অভ্যন্তরে স্থান সংকটসহ স্বাভাবিক কর্মকান্ড পরিচালনায় বিঘ্ন সৃষ্টি হচ্ছে। এর মূল কারণ হিসেবে আমদানীকারক/সিএন্ডএফ এজেন্ট কর্তৃক বন্দর হতে দৈনিক কন্টেইনার ডেলিভারীর ক্ষেত্রে কিছুটা ধীরগতি পরিলক্ষিত হচ্ছে। তাই অনতিবিলম্বে বন্দরে আমদানীকৃত এফসিএল কন্টেইনারসমূহ বন্দর অভ্যন্তর হতে ডেলিভারী/সরিয়ে নিয়ে যাওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে। এ বিষয়ে চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর ও কাস্টম কর্তৃপক্ষ ১৪৪৭ ভিত্তিতে সার্বক্ষণিক প্রযুক্তি রয়েছে। উল্লেখ্য, অবস্থার উন্নতি না হলে অচিরেই এফসিএল (আমদানীকৃত) কন্টেইনারের স্টোররেট শুরু হওয়ার দিন অর্থাৎ ০৪ (চার) দিন ফ্রি টাইমের পর থেকে Regulations for Working of Chittagong Port (Cargo & Container), 2001 এর ১৬০ নং ধারার আলোকে আমদানীকৃত এফসিএল কন্টেইনারের উপর স্বাভাবিক ভাড়ার উপর বর্ধিত হারে রেন্ট আরোপ করা হবে এবং পরবর্তী দায়-দায়িত্ব ও খরচ সংশ্লিষ্ট আমদানীকারকের উপর বর্তাবে। যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের অনুমোদনক্রমে ইহা জারী করা হলো।

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তারিখ- ১৮/০৮/১৭
GD - 1673

পরিচালক (ট্রাফিক)
চট্টগ্রাম বন্দর কর্তৃপক্ষ