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SHAH CEMENT

Biman gets nod for 12 extra hajj flights

Saudis also stretch deadline for sending hajj pilgrims till Aug 28

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday got permission to operate 12 additional hajj flights paving the way for trips of all intending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia, a top official of religious affairs ministry said.

Religious Affairs Secretary Abdul Jalil last night told The Daily Star that the Civil Aviation Authority of Saudi Arabia has also extended the deadline for sending hajj passengers till August 28.

The Saudi authorities earlier had fixed August 26 as the deadline.

Sending all pilgrims to Saudi Arabia became very much uncertain due to frequent cancellations of hajj flights of Biman due to shortage of pilgrims.

The national flag carrier was forced to cancel 24 hajj flights through which around 11,000 pilgrims could have been sent to Saudi Arabia.

Hajj of those pilgrims became uncertain as the Saudi authorities were "dilly-dallying" over giving permission to operate additional flights and extending deadline for carrying pilgrims, sources at the Hajj Camp in capital's Ashkona said.

"It's good news for us that the Saudi authorities finally gave Biman the permission to operate 12 additional hajj flights. They are allowing Biman to operate the additional

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Vehicles start crossing a Bailey bridge after it was opened to traffic on Chittagong-Rangamati road in Rangamati's Sapchhari yesterday. The diversion road for light vehicles next to it was built days after the June 13 landslides wiped off this part of the road. The bridge was built by the Roads and Highways Department in Shalbagan area.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

N'GANJ 7-MURDER HC set to deliver its verdict today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All eyes are on the High Court today as it is set to deliver the verdict on the death references and appeals in the sensational Narayanganj seven-murder cases.

The HC bench of Justice Bhabani Prasad Singha and Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam is expected to start announcing the verdict at 10:30am, according to Assistant Attorney General Bashir Ahmed.

After hearing arguments from the prosecution and defence counsels over 33 days, the HC on July 26 had fixed August 13 for delivering the judgment.

But the judges on August 13 deferred delivery of the verdict to August 22 as they could not prepare the judgment on that day.

If a lower court sentences an accused to death, the judgment is examined by the HC for confirming the sentence.

During the hearing on the death references and appeals, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam prayed to the HC to uphold the trial court verdict.

Lawyers Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury, SM Shahjahan, SM Abdul Mobin and Ahsan Ullah defended the accused.

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COLLEGE STUDENT MURDER Accused killed in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A key accused in a college student abduction case was killed in a "gunfight" with police in Shibpur village of Kushtia Sadar early today.

Enamul Haq, 33, was accused of abducting and killing college student Sagar Saha. Sagar, 19, son of Pradeep Saha, was abducted on Wednesday. Police recovered his body in an abandoned toilet at Harinarayanpur village on Saturday.

Ratan Seikh, officer-in-charge of Islamic University Police Station, said they arrested Enamul on Saturday.

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Woman raped in Nilphamari

Rapist abducts her from home tying her mother to a bamboo pole

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A 27-year-old mother of three was allegedly abducted from home and raped in Dimla upazila of the district Saturday night.

The victim's father filed a case accusing nine with Dimla Police Station Sunday night. The prime accused Abdur Rahim, 33, is a farmer.

"About nine of them broke into my daughter's house late in the night and tied me up to a pole outside the house and then disappeared," the victim's mother told The Daily Star.

She added that she recognised some of the men including Abdur Rahim, Mister, Delwar and Chetona.

Resident Medical Officer Asad Alam of the hospital, where the victim is being treated, said they found evidence of rape.

"I was raped and left in a deserted shoal in a field with my hands and legs tied," the grieving woman said.

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Mayor Annisul's condition improving

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation Mayor Annisul Huq, who was admitted to a hospital in central London after falling ill, is still at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) though his condition is improving slowly.

The dose of sedative administered to Annisul is being reduced gradually, AKM Mizanur Rahman, assistant personal secretary of the mayor, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Rare solar eclipse captivates US

REUTERS, Oregon

Millions of Americans looked skyward in awe through protective glasses, telescopes and cameras yesterday as the first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in a century marched from the US Pacific Northwest to the Atlantic seaboard.

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center
PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 22
 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



Holding on to the "relief tokens", these flood-hit people had waited for nearly two days on the premises of Dinajpur Zilla School since Sunday before they got a bag of essentials Monday evening. They said the slip of paper was handed out by some Awami League men ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to the district on Sunday. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER

BARCELONA TERROR ATTACK

Police shoot dead suspect

AFP, Subirats, Spain

Spanish police yesterday shot dead Younes Abouyaaqoub, the suspected driver of a van that mowed down pedestrians in Barcelona, in a dramatic end to a massive manhunt for the Moroccan national who was wearing a fake suicide belt when he was killed.

"We confirm the death of Younes Abouyaaqoub shot in Subirats," police in Catalonia tweeted.

The Moroccan was the last remain-

ing member of a 12-man cell suspected of plotting last week's deadly vehicle rampages in Barcelona and the seaside resort of Cambrils that were claimed by the Islamic State organisation (IS) -- its first in Spain.

Four men have been detained, while the others have been killed, either by police or in an explosion believed to have been accidentally detonated by the suspects themselves in their bomb factory in the seaside

town of Alcanar.

Among those killed in the explosion was a Moroccan imam at the heart of the cell, Abdelbaki Es Satty, Catalan Police Chief Josep Lluís Trapero confirmed yesterday.

Four days after his van rampage on the tourist-packed Las Ramblas boulevard, police gunned down the 22-year-old Abouyaaqoub in the village about 60 kilometres west of Barcelona.

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TRUMP AFTER VACATION

A complicated return to a White House in disarray

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump returns to the Oval Office yesterday after a two-week vacation rife with chaos -- and the dark clouds plaguing his fledgling presidency show no signs of clearing up.

Seven months after taking office the real estate magnate's approval rating has plunged to a record low. And far from striking a more unifying tone, Trump's words and actions continue to feed the sense of a rudderless presidency, lurching from one self-generated crisis to the next.

In perhaps the worst to date, he dealt a crushing blow to his own embattled administration by saying "both sides" were to blame for the bloodshed in Charlottesville, Virginia following a rally by neo-Nazis and white supremacists.

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33rd Death Anniversary of Habibul Kabir (Nizam)

On this Occasion a Milad Mehfil will be held today, 22-08-2017 (Tuesday) after Maghrib Prayers at Union Centre, 68/1 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-1, Dhaka. Relatives, friends and all well-wishers of the deceased are requested to kindly join the Milad Mehfil and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Family Members

WELCOME TO AL-ARAFAH TOWER

Al-Arafah Islami Bank Head Office shifted to own premises at **Al-Arafah Tower** -the new building of the Bank.

New Address: Al-Arafah Tower, 63, Purana Paltan (Dainik Bangla Mor), Dhaka 1000. Phone: +88-02-44850005

Old Address: Peoples Insurance Building, 36, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka 1000

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