

# At taxpayers' expense!

Govt spending Tk 11.33cr to send 254 for hajj; AL supporters, those close to state minister given priority, sources say

RASHIDUL HASAN

A total of 254 people are going to perform hajj this year at government expense.

According to sources, the government will have to spend around Tk 11.33 crore from the public exchequer to meet the expenses.

Because of religious considerations, the government gives this opportunity to people of different levels every year. But people belonging to the ruling party or those close to the state minister for religious affairs are being given the priority, sources, involved in preparing the list, told The Daily Star.

At least 33 people from Jamalpur-2, electoral constituency of the state minister, Faridul Haque Khan, are in the list.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Religious Affairs released the list of pilgrims who are performing hajj at government expense. They are under the government's hajj package 2.

However, as per instruction of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, this year, the selected persons will have to pay Tk 1,40,000 as airfare, a ministry official told this correspondent. According to the ministry's circular, everyone performing hajj at the expense of the government will have to pay and submit a pay-order of Tk 1,40,000 for airfare.

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In the busy Sayedabad area, where many large vehicles ply, this bus was seen trying to overtake a rickshaw that was going across the road. The rickshaw, carrying a family with two children, could've fallen under the bus due to the driver's aggressive manoeuvre. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## 18 hospitalised with dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 18 people were hospitalised with dengue in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Among the new cases, five are from outside Dhaka. Seventy-eight dengue patients, including 72 in the capital, are now receiving treatment at hospitals.

This year, the DGHS recorded 589 dengue cases and 511 recoveries so far. It has not yet reported any death from the mosquito-borne viral disease.

Warning the city corporations of a major outbreak of dengue virus this year, experts suggested the corporations take extensive measures immediately to control the Aedes mosquitoes.

Dhaka is at risk of a major dengue outbreak this year compared to the last couple of years, as clear, stagnant water, the breeding ground for Aedes mosquitoes, at under-construction buildings is abundant this time.

## Govt working on solving Teesta issue Says state minister for water resources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing concern over the delay in completing the Teesta deal, State Minister for Water Resources Zaheed Farooque yesterday said the government is working to solve it.

He made the comment at a "Meet the Press" organised by Bangladesh Secretariat Reporters' Forum (BSRF) at the secretariat.

In 2011, India agreed to share 37.5 percent of Teesta waters while retaining 42.5 percent during the lean season between December and March.

The Teesta river flows through Sikkim and West Bengal before entering Bangladesh.

The issue has been mired in conflict since 1947, when the Teesta's catchment areas were allotted to India.

At the event, Zaheed also said illegal sand extraction should be completely stopped as many people lost their homes and land due to river erosion.

The state minister suggested that sand extraction be done from 6:00am to 6:00pm. This way everyone, including the locals, can oversee the matter, he added.

BSRF President Tapan Biswas and BSRF General Secretary Masudul Haque presided over the event.

# EVOLUTION OF CYBERCRIME (PART 1) Patterns have evolved, so have criminals

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

They met on a social media site for something that soon turned out to be an intimate relationship of sorts.

They would often share private photos, in continuation of which, the woman offered to have a private video chat with him.

Little did he know that he was soon to fall into a trap. She tricked him into a recorded video chat, which she threatened to release on the internet if the man failed to pay her the amount she asked for.

Family members of the 40-year-old expatriate living in Qatar sought unofficial help from the cybercrime unit of Counter

## DATA OF CYBER CASES LODGED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

|          | Digital Security Act 2018 | Pornography Control Act 2012 | ICT Act 2006 | Telecommunication Control Act 2001 | Total | Increase |
|----------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-------|----------|
| Nov-2021 | 1,227                     | 892                          | -            | 20                                 | 2,139 | 5%       |
| 2020     | 1,335                     | 683                          | 3            | 11                                 | 2,032 | 35%      |
| 2019     | 871                       | 563                          | 11           | 62                                 | 1,507 | 29%      |
| 2018     | 172                       | 384                          | 528          | 81                                 | 1,165 | 11%      |
| 2017     | -                         | 280                          | 735          | 30                                 | 1,045 | 13%      |
| 2016     | -                         | 206                          | 673          | 44                                 | 923   | 45%      |
| 2015     | -                         | 232                          | 365          | 41                                 | 638   |          |

SOURCE: CTTC

| COMMON CYBER THREATS                |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Facebook account, email, website hack                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Online financial frauds                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Sharing false propaganda, fake news, video on social media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ATM, POS, online banking frauds                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Pornography  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Crimes on chat engines like imo, Viber, WhatsApp           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | E-commerce, mostly online shopping                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Leaking of question paper on social media                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Online terrorism, propaganda                               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Online gambling, cryptocurrency                            |

Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) in February. No case was filed in this regard.

Cybercrime investigators have termed this "sextortion", and claimed that this is not an isolated incident. Crimes such as this have become a common pattern in the country.

According to the CTTC database, around 15 percent of cybercrime victims have faced sextortion in 2021. Of whom, 23 were male and 117 female.

This, however, is just a glimpse into the wide range of cybercrime that the country finds itself faced with. With advanced technology, easy access and new platforms every day, cyber crimes have seen an alarming rise and evolution, with newer patterns of crimes.

Crimes have evolved, and so have the criminals.

A recent presentation conducted by CTTC shows that an average of 169 cyber cases were filed every month in 2020 under four different acts, while the figure rose to 194 in 2021.

Mishuk Chakma, deputy commissioner of CTTC, said the pattern of cybercrime has been changing. So have the numbers, with a sharp increase. "This has been possible due to easy access to the internet and lack of monitoring," he observed.

Even foreign nationals were also found involved in such criminal activities.

For instance, on April 21, Detective Branch of police arrested 11 Nigerian nationals for fraudulence and embezzlement.

Along with their Bangladeshi counterparts, these foreign nationals would target individuals on Facebook and promise them presents after befriending them.

After a few days, a local syndicate member calls the target, pretending to be a customs official, and says a certain amount of duty has to be paid to collect the package. Upon receiving the amount, they would cut off all sorts of communication with the target.

In many cases, the criminals were found pretending to be a woman working in the US military, claiming to be stationed in Syria.

"I have to deposit a huge sum of money

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## 'Inefficiency main weakness' Speakers on health sector

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unless the inefficiency of officials is addressed, no progress is possible in the health sector even by increasing the budget allocation, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

Ensuring the availability of all types of medicines and diagnosis services for every patient in public hospitals can reduce their out-of-pocket expenditure immediately. This can be done by ensuring proper utilisation of the existing budgetary allocation for the health sector, they said at the seminar titled "Health Budget Evaluation 2022-23".

Health Economics Study Alliance (HESA) -- an association of the students of the Institute of Health Economics (IHE) at Dhaka University -- organised the seminar on the DU campus.

For long-term impact, however, they stressed increasing the managerial capacity of health officials at all levels.

"Inefficiency is the main weakness of the health sector. There should be a mechanism

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## Why only 25 Bangladeshi agencies allowed Malaysian MP, 2 migrant rights groups ask its human resources minister

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A Malaysian MP and two migrant rights bodies have urged Human Resources Minister M Saravanan to explain his decision for allowing only 25 Bangladeshi agencies to recruit workers for Malaysia, reported Malaysian daily Malay Mail yesterday.

Klang MP Charles Santiago said he wanted Saravanan to spell out the reasons for the specific number of agencies and how they would help solve the problem of migrant worker exploitation.

The query comes just more than a week after Saravanan's visit to Bangladesh where, after meeting Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmed, he said it was up to Malaysia to decide on which agencies will be allowed to send workers to Malaysia.

The recruitment is likely to start by June, four years after the recruitment from Bangladesh was

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## SC stays case against Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday stayed for two months the proceedings of a case filed against Nobel laureate and Grameen Telecom Chairman Dr Muhammad Yunus on charge of violating labour law.

The apex court also asked the High Court to hear and dispose of the rule in two months. The rule was issued on December 12 last year over scrapping the case proceedings.

A full bench headed by Justice Md Nuruzzaman passed the order following a petition filed by the state.

On December 12 last year, the HC stayed for six months the case



As soon as the school's out, street food vendors get busy preparing savoury plates of fuchka and bhelपुरi as children eagerly wait to devour them. Although these kinds of snacks are quite popular due to their affordability, concern still remains about the way they are prepared. This photo was taken in front of Gabtoli Government Primary School.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

We are still thankful that crimes depending on advanced technology are still not taking place in the country on a large scale.

SM Ashraful Alam  
Special Superintendent, CID

PRAYER TIMING  
JUNE 14



|        | Fazr | Zohr  | Asr  | Maghrib | Esha |
|--------|------|-------|------|---------|------|
| Azan   | 4-05 | 12-45 | 5-00 | 6-50    | 8-15 |
| Jamaat | 4-40 | 1-15  | 5-15 | 6-55    | 8-45 |

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

"The Pride of Narail S K Kamrul has been elected Council Chairperson; the Highest Position of Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 315 Bangladesh"

Ln. S K Kamrul has been elected as the Council Chairperson of Lions Clubs International, Multiple District 315 Bangladesh for Lionistic year 2022-2023. He will serve the highest post of Lions Clubs International, Bangladesh for the following year. He was elected for the position in the 35th Convention of Multiple District which was held at Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon Dhaka on 11 June. International Third Vice President Endorsee of Lions Clubs International PID A.P. Singh as the Chief Guest, Imm. Past International Director Qazi Akramuddin Ahmed PMJF, Past International Director Sangeeta Jatia, Past International Director Sheikh Kabir Hossain PMJF, Past International Director Moslem Ali Khan MJF were present as the Special Guests in the convention.