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## PM performs Umrah in Makkah

UNB, Makkah

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina performed Umrah in Makkah yesterday morning.

The premier, along with her younger sister Sheikh Rehana, performed Umrah and offered Salah at the holy mosque of Masjid Al Haram.

They prayed for the continued peace, prosperity and progress of the Muslim Ummah including Bangladesh and its people.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen, Prime Minister's Adviser on Private Industry and Investment Salman F Rahman, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrar Alam and State Minister for Women and Children Fazilatunnesa Indira as well as other members of the entourage also performed Umrah.

Later, Hasina offered Fajr prayers joining the congregation at Masjid Al Haram.

Earlier, the PM left Madina by air and reach Jeddah from where she travelled to Makkah by road.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana performing "tawaf" around the holy Kaaba Sharif. The premier performed Umrah and offered Salah at the holy mosque of Masjid Al Haram yesterday morning.

PHOTO: PID

## Stand by Bangladesh for smooth LDC transition

UNOPS Executive Director Jorge Moreira da Silva urges developed countries

PORIMOL PALMA

UN Under-Secretary-General Jorge Moreira da Silva has called for developed countries to bolster support for developing countries like Bangladesh that are disproportionately affected by global crises.

The Russia-Ukraine war came on the heels of coronavirus pandemic and climate change challenges, sending economic shock waves across the globe. Besides, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and climate targets are becoming increasingly challenging.

"This is more so for Bangladesh, as it is a highly vulnerable country due to its high population density, which is not as much as in other countries," said Silva, also executive director of the UN Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

During his two-day visit on

October 28-29, since taking office on April 17 this year, Silva — a former Portuguese politician — called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, senior government officials and UN officials to strengthen partnership between UNOPS and Bangladesh.

Sharing his thoughts in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star on October 28, he said given that Bangladesh is graduating out of LDC by 2026, the climate vulnerable country needs not only funding, but also capacity for climate resilient and sustainable infrastructure.

He said 82 percent of the world's poor population live in the 21 countries most affected by climate change, which means there is a correlation between poverty and climate impact. Still, these countries are not the ones that emit the most.

Developing countries need

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## After 2yrs of legal battle, a mother gets her child back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After going through legal battle for over two years, a mother will finally be able to reunite with her son.

Sadika Sheikh, who is an Indian citizen, managed to get her five-year-old son's custody for the time being, following a Supreme Court Order yesterday, from the child's father Saniur TIM Nabi, a businessman in Dhaka.

However, the Appellate Division of the SC said Sadika cannot leave the country with the child without permission from the family court concerned, where two cases over the custody issue are still pending.

The apex court also granted bail to Saniur in a contempt of court case in which the High Court sentenced him to six months imprisonment, on the condition that he must submit his passport to the authorities concerned.

It said Saniur can see the child for two days every week at a residence in Banani where Sadika has been living.

A three-member bench, headed by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, passed the order after hearing of a bail petition filed by Saniur in connection with the case.

During the hearing, Sadika's lawyer Fawzia Karim Firoze informed the court that Saniur's family members had handed over the child to Sadika in compliance with its earlier directive.

Advocate Fawzia told The Daily Star that Sadika and Saniur got divorced in August 2021, and Sadika filed a petition with the HC seeking custody of the child.

The HC issued an order for Saniur to hand the child over to Sadika by November 16, 2021, but the order was not complied with. Instead, Saniur left the country with the child on November 16.

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### LABOUR MIGRATION SECTOR

## Making the middlemen visible

Amended act recognises roles of sub-agents, experts urge to begin their registration process

JAMIL MAHMUD

After years of advocacy from migrant rights groups, the government amended the Overseas Employment and Migrants Act by publishing a gazette on September 21, recognising roles of sub-agents in labour migration sector.

A bill was passed in the parliament in this regard on September 4.

Experts are now urging the government to immediately formulate rules to begin registration of sub-agents.

The act states that rules must be formulated to determine the registration process of sub-agents or representatives and determine their roles and responsibilities.

**WHO ARE SUB-AGENTS?**

According to the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), sub-agents, known as intermediaries or middlemen,



**The Overseas Employment and Migrants (Amendment) Act-2023 defines a "sub-agent" or "representative" as a registered person who collects migrant workers for overseas employment as per the recruiting agent's demand.**

play a crucial role in recruiting migrants from the grassroots.

RMMRU, in its e-book "Making Dalals Visible: Towards Transparency in Recruitment", published in 2019, identified 18 types of services provided by sub-agents to migrant workers in three stages, from providing information on migration to accompanying them to the airport during departure.

However, they had been invisible in the whole migration cycle until the law's amendment, leaving a loophole to address fraudulence effectively.

An average of 6.56 lakh migrant workers have gone abroad annually in the past 10 years, according to the data of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

Contacted, Senior Secretary Ahmed Munir Salheen of the Expatriates' Welfare Ministry said they have been working on the

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## AL to kick off polls campaign from Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will officially start the party's campaigning for the upcoming national election through a rally in Sylhet, said party General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

"Sheikh Hasina acknowledges the contribution of Sylhet's expatriates to the country's economy," Quader said while visiting the party's office at Tejgaon in Dhaka.

"For the development of Sylhet, the Awami League government has extensively constructed roads, bridges and culverts. People of Sylhet also love Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said.

However, he didn't say exactly when the rally will take place.

Referring to BNP, Quader said those who carry out arson attacks in the name of movement will inevitably fall. "BNP wants to oust the government in the name of blockade..." he said.

Referring to the European Union's statement over the arrests of BNP leaders and activists, Quader said the EU is not well-informed.

"They [EU] are our friendly countries and that is why we cannot condemn their statement. However, they have a lack of information..." he said. "Our home ministry has provided a definite count of the arrested people. Can't someone be arrested for killing the police? Won't there be justice? Who will voice that concern? We expect the EU to investigate, issue a statement on this matter, and revise its previous statement. We don't want to engage in a dispute with them..."



A few cars and other vehicles were seen around Motijheel's Shapla Chattar, a city spot that is usually crowded with buses, amid the country-wide blockade yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

### CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION

## SC to hear Jamaat's appeal Nov 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday set November 12 for holding the hearing on an appeal filed by Jamaat e-Islami, challenging a High Court verdict that scrapped its registration with the Election Commission.

The SC will also hold hearings on two petitions that day, including a contempt of court petition against Jamaat.

The other petition was filed seeking the apex court's injunction order restraining Jamaat from carrying out any political activities.

Yesterday, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Obaidul

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## 14th Death Anniversary of Mir Zahir Hossain

Today marks the Death Anniversary of **Mir Zahir Hossain** (1947-2009) former Managing Director of Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd., Mir Cement Ltd., Mir Concrete Products Ltd., Mir Real Estate Ltd. & Mir Telecom Ltd. He was also the former Chairman and one of the founders of NCC Bank Ltd., former president of Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry (BACI) and General Secretary of International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractor's Associations (IFAWPCA).



His hard work, vision, work ethics, perseverance and philanthropic sense has set the path of establishment for Mir. May we all strive to achieve the standard of success that he was able to.

On this occasion we mourn this loss and we remember him at his element: an enthusiastic perfectionist in business and general people welfare. May the Almighty Allah bless him with eternal peace and a place in Jannah.

On behalf of Mir Family