DHAKA WEDNESDAY MARCH 20, 2024 CHAITRA 6, 1430 BS The Daily Star

Bangladesh will be role model for others Says religious affairs minister on Hajj management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is trying to make Bangladesh's hajj management a role model in the world, said Religious Affairs Minister Faridul Haque Khan yesterday.

The minister said this during a discussion and iftar ceremony organised by Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) at Dhaka Officers Club.

The minister said the government is determined to take all possible steps for the welfare of hajj pilgrims.

Faridul also said if there are any weaknesses in the hajj management, the government will identify and resolve them. The minister said many positive changes have occurred in Hajj management over the years.

"Hajj and Umrah management policies and regulations have been formulated. E-Hajj management has been launched. Bangladesh Plaza has been established at Jeddah Hajj Terminal. A record 13.90 lakh pilgrims have performed Hajj in the last 15 years," he said.

HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, Additional Secretary of Hajj Division of the Ministry of Religious Affairs Md Motiul Islam, and HAAB Secretary General Farooq Ahmed Sardar, among others, also spoke at the programme.

Rain offers brief respite,

Dhaka residents experienced a welcome break from the

persistent heat yesterday afternoon as light rainfall swept

The Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD)

recorded a modest one millimetre of rainfall from 3:15pm

to 6:00pm, according to meteorologist AKM Nazmul

Haque said that March through May is the pre-

"Light to moderate rains are expected to continue over

However, pedestrians and commuters faced challenges

as parts of roads and sidewalks were flooded, complicating

monsoon season, a time when approximately 18 percent

but affects commute

through the city, offering a cool reprieve.

of the annual rainfall occurs.

the next three days," he added.

UNB, Dhaka

Haque.

travel plans.

Youth for Bangladesh organised an iftar sharing programme for underprivileged children at Orchard Convention Hall in Dhanmondi-7, Dhaka yesterday, celebrating its 15th anniversary. More than 1,000 children participated in the iftar. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

FORCED LABOUR **\$236 billion illegal profits** annually: ILO study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forced labour within the private economy is generating a staggering US \$236 billion in illegal profits annually, according to a new study report by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

This marks a significant increase of US \$64 billion since 2014, driven by both a rise in the number of individuals forced into labour and higher profits from their exploitation, the report said.

The findings of the report were presented at a global high-level conference titled "Profits and Poverty: The Economics of Forced Labour" held at the Résidence Palace in Brussels yesterday.

Michaëlle De Cock, head of the Research and Evaluation Unit, ILO, and Francesca Francavilla, senior economist, ILO, presented the key findings. Valdis Dombrovskis, executive vice-president of the European Commission was the keynote speaker.

The report highlighted that traffickers and criminals are now making close to US \$10,000 per victim, up from US \$8,269 a decade back.

Annual illegal profits from forced labour are highest in Europe and Central Asia (US \$84 billion), followed by Asia and the Pacific (US \$62 billion), the Americas (US \$52 billion), Africa (US \$20 billion), and the Arab States (US \$18 billion). Forced sexual commercial

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DEATHS OF 6 OF A FAMILY Locals block Sylhet-Tamabil highway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Several hundred people blocked Sylhet-Tamabil highway in Sylhet's Jaintiapur upazila yesterday morning protesting the deaths of six members of a family in an accident on the road.

They gathered around 10:00am, demanding public apologies from transport owners and workers for the accident, and insisted that vehicles without licenses or goods would not be permitted on the highway.

Due to the blockade, there was a long tailback of vehicles on both sides of the highway. Protesters however allowed emergency service vehicles to go through.

The crowd lifted the blockade at 2:30pm following requests of police, said Officer-in-Charge of Tajul Islam Jaintiapur Police Station.

Sheikh Radek, a local who has been leading the blockade, said, "The highway has become a death trap. We demand a safe highway.'

Six of a family, including two children, were killed and several others injured in a head-on collision between a human hauler and a lorry in Darbasta area on the highway at Jaintiapur on Monday morning.

15 skeletons go missing from Pabna graveyard

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

At least 15 skeletons went missing from graves at the Khas Aminpur Central Graveyard in Pabna's Aminpur area.

Family members and relatives rushed to the graveyard yesterday morning, prompting deployment of additional police personnel in the area.

"I went to hold prayer for my relative at the graveyard on Tuesday morning. I was surprised to find the grave opened with no skeleton in it," said Masud Rana, a local resident.

Md Harunur Rashid, officer-in-charge of Aminpur Police Station, said police are investigating.

Forced commercial sexual exploitation accounts for more than 73 percent of illegal profits, despite representing only 27 percent of victims of forced labour.

	STAFF CORRESPONDENT,			And the state of the			
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh	Ctg		Corrigendum of Local Tender Notice				
Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Upazila Engineer Laksham, Cumilla.	Prof Mohammad Abu Taher has been appointed as the new	Memo No.44	4.01.0000.024.01.004.202	3-401		Date: 19 March 2024	
www.lged.gov.bd Memo No: 46.02.1972.902.14.187.23.926 Date : 18.03.2024	vice-chancellor of Chittagong University.	Invi	ation for national ten	der published in d	ifferent national dailies	as per Memo No-	
e-Tender Notice No: 13/2023-24	President Mohammed Sahabuddin appointed				is hereby amended only	for Purchase of goods	
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GPS under PEDP4 Laksham Upazila, Cumilla. This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies are allowed. To	CU's Department of Management, as the	10	Tender Selling last date	19 March 2024	03 April 1	2024	
submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<u>http://www.eprocure.gov.bd</u>) is required. Any others conditions for this tender is stated in TDS. Interested Tenderers may communicate with the undersigned during office hours.	new VC, according to	11	Tender closing date and tir Tender opening date and ti			2024 at 12.00 pm 2024 at 12.30 pm	
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(Misuk Kumer Datta)	Education yesterday. Prof Taher is replacing					. 4	
Upazia Engineer Laksham, Cumilla. Phone: +880 2334407367	Prof Dr Shireen Akhtar.				19181	29	
GD-452 ue.laksham@lged.gov.bd					(Sarwar Murshed Shami		
হিন্য হয় বিষয়িয়খাতে একমাত্র নন-লাইফ বীমা ও পুনঃবীমা প্রতিষ্ঠান	1				BP 7401020793 Addl. DIG (Transp		
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(অর্থনৈতিক নিরাপন্তার প্রতীক) প্রধান কার্যালয়, ৩৩ দিলকুশা বা/এ ঢাকা।							
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বিষয়ঃ সাধারণ বীমা কর্পোরেশনের 'উচ্চমান সহকারী (শ্রেড-১৪)' পদে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচিত প্রার্থীদের তালিকা।		Memo No-1986 Date: 18.03.2024					
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Prof Abu Taher new VC of CU

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh **Bangladesh** Police Police Headquarters, Dhaka.