



## MUSLIM NATIONS Unity can ease Palestinians' woes: PM Hajj flights start

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked all not to do anything that goes against religious sentiments.

The premier said this while opening the hajj programme 2024 (1445 hijri) in the capital's Ashkona area. The first hajj flight is scheduled to depart Dhaka airport for Saudi Arabia today.

She said Islam is a sacred religion that has ensured the rights of people of all classes.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

## NADIM MURDER HC refuses to grant bail to prime accused

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday refused to grant bail to suspended UP chairman Mahmudul Alam Babu, the prime accused in the Jamalpur journalist Golam Rabbani Nadim murder case.

The court, however, issued a rule asking the state to explain in two weeks why Mahmudul should not be granted bail.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth Hossain issued the rule following a petition filed by Mahmudul, now in jail.

Mahmudul's lawyer Mohammad Zaglul Kabir said his client filed the bail petition on the ground of having no knowledge about Nadim's killing and has been made accused in the case from personal grudge.

Nadim, who was the Jamalpur district correspondent of Banglanews24.com and also the Bakshiganj upazila correspondent of Ekattor TV, died on June 15 last year, a day after allegedly being attacked by Babu's supporters.

Nadim's wife Monira Begum filed the case with Jamalpur's Bakshiganj Police Station on June 17 against 22 named and 20-25 unnamed persons.

Mahmudul, the then chairman of Sadhurpara Union Parishad in Bakshiganj, is the main accused in the case.

## No cattle markets at Aftabnagar HC issues rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the process for setting up cattle markets at Aftabnagar in the capital on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

The court also issued a rule asking the authorities concerned of the government to explain why the notifications issued by Dhaka north and south city corporations on April 4 for setting up cattle markets at Aftabnagar should not be declared illegal.

The bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Kazi Zinat Hoque issued the order and rule following a petition filed by Md Alamgir Hossain Dhali, a resident of the area.

Petitioner's lawyer Shah Monjurul Hoque told reporters that Aftabnagar is a residential area.

If cattle markets are set up in this residential area its environment will be polluted, he said.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5



Two schoolgirls carefully walk on Motijheel-Tikatuli road, where DPDC is working on an underground power cable project for around a month. As a result, people are having difficulties commuting across the narrow road due to it being cut and frequent traffic jams. Besides, there are not much safety measures other than a flimsy yellow tape separating the project, posing risks to pedestrians and vehicles. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

# A road to suffering

DPDC underground cable work turns commuting into a nightmare on Motijheel-Tikatuli road

DIPAN NANDY

Sajjadul Kabir, a private company employee, has to commute to Motijheel's Shapla Chattar area every day from Old Dhaka's Dhalkanagar.

talking to The Daily Star.

The story is the same for anyone travelling between Motijheel and Tikatuli areas in the capital.

Their agony has been caused by the construction work of

The work on the project was started soon after Eid-ul-Fitr, as part of which the road has been dug to connect underground power lines, causing immense suffering to office-goers, students, and pedestrians, who have to

buses use the route to get on the flyover, causing traffic congestion in the area," said Sabikun Nahar, a resident of Gopibagh area.

On Tuesday, this correspondent took a rickshaw from Motijheel to the entrance



**The distance that used to take me 10-15 minutes on a motorcycle earlier, now takes 45 minutes. But when my wife covers the distance on a rickshaw, it takes over an hour.**

MONOWAR HOSSAIN  
Resident of Swamibagh

While this commute earlier took him around 15 to 20 minutes on a rickshaw, it currently takes at least 45 minutes to cover the distance. Returning home in the evening becomes even more daunting, sometimes taking more than an hour and a half.

"If I am late at work for three days, the company deducts my salary for one day. In the last 15 days, I was late to work for five days. I would have walked the distance instead to get to work early, but the heatwave made that nearly impossible," he said while

the underground power line on Hatkhola road in Motijheel, conducted by Dhaka Power Distribution Company Limited.



commute through Motijheel, Tikatuli, and neighbouring areas.

Monowar Hossain, a resident of Swamibagh, said, "I take my daughter to Motijheel Ideal School every morning. The distance that used to take me 10-15 minutes on a motorcycle earlier, now takes 45 minutes. It still takes me a little less time since I ride a motorcycle, but when my wife goes to pick up my daughter from school on a rickshaw, it takes over an hour."

"The situation becomes more horrible at night when long-haul

of Mayor Hanif Flyover at the Tikatuli intersection. The rickshaw ride took 42 minutes for a distance that shouldn't take over 10 minutes. It took the correspondent 17 minutes when he walked the same distance while returning.

From his experience, the extent of suffering the locals are being subjected to became apparent.

It was seen that the ongoing work on metro rail from Motijheel's Shapla Chattar to Kamalapur has already left the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

## Clean energy goal a far cry

Bangladesh generates only 1.5pc from renewables, says Ember report

MD ABBAS

Although renewable energy saw a significant growth last year, accounting for more than 30 percent of the world's electricity for the first time last year, Bangladesh generates only 1.5 percent of electricity from renewables.

UK-based Global energy think tank Ember mentioned this in a report titled "Global Electricity Review 2024".

It provides the first comprehensive overview of the global power system in 2023, based on country-level data, covering 80 countries as well as taking historic data for 215 countries.

**It is important to implement the conversion, and the most challenging issue is to procure land for the projects along with the enormous cost of the long transmission lines, for which it sometimes gets tough to feasibly implement the project.**

SHAFIQU ALAM,  
Lead energy analyst at IEEFA

Since 2000, renewable energy has expanded from 19 percent to over 30 percent of global electricity, primarily driven by an increase in solar and wind energies – from 0.2 percent in 2000 to a record 13.4 percent in 2023, the report said.

This resulted in the CO2 intensity of global power generation reaching a record low in 2023 – 12 percent lower than its peak in 2007.

While the global picture has improved,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

## CUSTODIAL DEATH

# 7 cops, 5 others sued in Dhaka

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Seven police personnel and five others have been sued under Torture and Custodial Death (Prohibition) Act on charge of torturing a man to death.

They are DMP's Jatrabari Police Station former officer-in-charge ABM Forman Ali, sub-inspectors Chanchal Kumar Biswas and Mizanur Rahman, assistant sub-inspector Delowar Hossain and constables Habibur, Jonab Ali and Mobarak, and police informers Sabuj and Shah Alam, Dhaka Medical College lecturer Farhana Yeasmin, Dhaka Central Jail deputy jailer Mahub and its jail super.

Sonia Begum, wife of the victim Mohammad Rana, filed the case with the Metropolitan Sessions Judges' Court of Dhaka yesterday, said additional public prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal.

Judge Mohammed Ash Shams Joglul Hossain recorded statements of the complainant, he said.

According to the case statement, on March 17, Rana was called by accused Shah Alam and Sabuj from his Fatullah's house. Identifying themselves as detectives, they took him to Jatrabari Police Station in a car and tortured him.

The case statement said both his legs were broken. Besides, there were injury marks on his head and chest. The complainant heard the sound of beating and the victim's cry for help. Accused Sabuj told her [complainant] if she could pay Tk 50,000, the beating would stop. It also said police asked the complainant to go to the court when she went to the police station.

On March 20, the complainant received a call that said her husband Rana died at DMCH.

## MULTISTOREY CAR PARK

# Tk 6cr Rajuk building lies vacant for 3yrs

DIPAN NANDY

Constructed at an expense of Tk 6 crore, the 10-storey Hatirjheel Car Parking and Management Building of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha has been lying vacant for three years.

The building, connected to the Hatirjheel project, became ready to be leased upon construction by the end of 2020. However, Rajuk could not get the lease granted, and as such, it is being deprived of revenue worth crores of taka.

The first floor of the building has space for Rajuk's Hatirjheel project management office. From the second floor to the eighth floor, there is an arrangement for parking 210 cars.

The ninth and tenth floors have 9,380 square feet of space for a convention hall, alongside 2,139 square feet for coffee shops and 2,139 square feet for restaurants.

The building also has two elevators, alternative stairs, and ramps for car access. Besides, there is 915 sq feet of space for a super shop on the ground floor of the Hatirjheel building.

According to Rajuk sources, they had leased out the building to Bengal Group for Tk 5.01 crore for five years, but they later cancelled the lease, leaving it unused since then.

A seven-member committee has been formed to begin the auction process for leasing out different



Constructed in 2020, the 10-storey Hatirjheel Car Parking and Management Building of the Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha has been lying vacant for the last three years.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN