

Primary reg for hajj till November 30

STAR REPORT

The primary registration for next year's hajj will continue till November 30, according to a special notification issued by The Hajj-1 branch of Ministry of Religious Affairs yesterday.

Previously, according to a notification issued on October 13, pre-registered individuals wishing to go for hajj were requested to deposit Tk 3 lakh in the bank by October 23 and complete the primary registration.

Now, the deadline will be November 30.

Pre-registration and primary registration can be completed simultaneously during the period.

Meanwhile, Environment, Forest and Climate Change Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan yesterday said no one will be allowed to perform hajj with the government finance this year.

"Those involved in hajj management will go (with the government finance)," she told a press briefing at Foreign Service Academy.



Abdul Gofur and Dolly Akhter tend to their two children in the dengue ward of Mugda Medical College Hospital yesterday. Maimuna, 5, and Tamzid, 3, tested positive four days back and have been in the hospital since. Both parents are now staying in the hospital to look after their children.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Step up for dolphin conservation

Rizwana urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Approximately 1,352 Ganges river dolphins, living in 636 pods, could be found in the rivers and waterbodies around the country, as per a survey.

The survey was unveiled at a discussion held in the capital's forest department yesterday, marking International Freshwater Dolphin Day 2024.

Addressing the event as chief guest, Environment Adviser Syeda Rizwana Hasan said, "It is essential to prevent water pollution and ensure the natural flow of rivers and wetlands to protect dolphins."

Local communities need to get involved for effective conservation efforts, she added.

She called for increased public awareness and effective implementation of government initiatives



A Gangetic river dolphin (Platanista gangetica) in Halda River.

FILE PHOTO

to this end. Additionally, she emphasised the need for forest officials to work with courage and speed in protecting forests, mentioning plans to introduce risk allowances for forest officials.

Rizwana officially launched a website for the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) Certification Process at the event. Besides, a dolphin exhibition and screening of a documentary were also organised.

Two DU BCL leaders held during exams

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two leaders of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) were caught by students and handed over to police while they were sitting for their exams at Dhaka University yesterday.

The students, Hasan Saïdy of the Finance department and Kazi Shihabuddin Taimur of the Anthropology department, both residents of Bijoy Ekattor Hall, were apprehended by a group of students at the Institute of Leather Engineering and Technology.

Hasan Saïdy is an activist of Bijoy Ekattor Hall unit of BCL, while Taimur is the deputy office secretary of the DU unit of BCL.

The two students, whose role in the violence carried out during July and August is being investigated by the DU's four-member fact-finding committee, had requested the authorities to allow them to sit for their final exams, said DU Proctor Saifuddin Ahmed.

Their exams were arranged on the premises of the university's Institute of Leather Engineering and Technology in Hazaribagh for their safety, said the proctor.

However, near the end of their exams, students at the institute got wind of the fact that the BCL leaders were there and surrounded them.

A DU proctorial mobile team was at the scene already to provide security for the examinees.

The students surrounded the BCL leaders and called the police, who detained the two individuals.

Shahabuddin Shaheen, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station, confirmed the detention, saying, "We

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CYCLONE DANA

14 coastal districts may face tidal surge, inundation



STAR REPORT

Low-lying areas in 14 coastal districts may be inundated by tidal surge under the impact of the severe cyclonic storm "Dana".

The districts are Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Barguna, Barishal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Bhola, Laxmipur, Noakhali, Feni, Chattogram and Cox's Bazar, according to Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

The offshore island and shoals of the districts are also likely to be inundated by wind-driven surge of 2-3 feet height above normal astronomical tide, said a BMD bulletin yesterday.

Maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal-3.

All the fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay and deep sea have been advised to remain in shelter till further notice, it said.

"The cyclone is expected to make landfall between India's Odisha and West Bengal at around midnight today [Thursday]," Dhaka office's Meteorologist Omar Faruk said last evening.

Meanwhile, costal people have been passing time amid fear and panic.

"We have no embankment in our area. Our home goes under water even during monsoon. We don't know what will happen tonight when the cyclone passes along the coast," said Tuhin Sheikh,

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ARMY CHIEF'S CANADA TOUR

Defence ties, visa key agenda

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Canada have discussed ways to explore new horizons to enhance the bilateral relationship in multifarious aspects.

Bangladesh highlighted the importance of "facilitating and expediting" student visas as well as visas for both serving and former military officials.

The discussions also paved the way for "enhanced" defence cooperation, particularly in expanding training exchanges between military institutions. The issues were discussed during army chief General Waker-Uz Zaman's visit to Canada.

He was received by Ajit Singh, director of the Privy Council Office of Canada and High Commissioner-designate of Canada to Bangladesh, upon his arrival in Ottawa on October 23.

The army chief met with Lieutenant-General Stephen R Kelsey, vice chief of the Defence Staff of Canada, and Salma Zahid, vice-chair of the Canada-Bangladesh Parliamentary Friendship Group and Member of the Standing Committee on Citizenship and Immigration, in Ottawa.



Four more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least four patients died of dengue in the last 24 hours while 1,029 were hospitalised till yesterday morning. Of the deaths, three were recorded in Dhaka city and in Barishal division.

According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the total number of deaths rose to 268 while total number of cases rose to 54,225, of which 31,337 are from outside Dhaka.

Currently, 3,833 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals. A total of 50,124 patients have been released till yesterday.

ACC summons Taposh over graft allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ACC has summoned Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh, former mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation, over allegations of amassing wealth worth crores of takas through corruption and irregularities.

The summons was issued in a letter signed by ACC Deputy Director Monirul Islam yesterday.

Taposh has been asked to appear at the ACC's head office in Dhaka at 1:00pm on November 3 to provide a statement regarding the allegations.

"If you fail to appear and provide your statement at the appointed time, it will be considered that you have no statement regarding the said allegations," the letter stated.

Swechchhasebak League leader held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police's detective branch arrested a member of the central committee of Swechchhasebak League, who is also a journalist, in Moghbazar early yesterday.

A police team apprehended Sheikh Jamal during a raid around 2:00am, said Additional Commissioner of DB Rezaul Karim Mallick.

Jamal was wanted in multiple cases, according to the official. Following the fall of the Awami League government, Jamal had been posting various critical comments on social media, supporting the AL and opposing the interim government.

Jamal previously served as the organising secretary of Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

6 DIGs made additional IGs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday transferred and gave new postings to six deputy inspectors general after promoting them to the post of additional inspector general.

The home ministry issued a circular in this regard.

As per the circular, DIGs at the Police Headquarters Md Akram Hossain, Abu Naser Mohammad Khaled and Mosleh Uddin Ahmed have been made additional IGs at the Police Headquarters, while Gazipur Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khondaker Rafiqul Islam has been transferred to Special Branch as its additional IG, DIG Md Mostafa Kamal of Police Bureau of Investigation and DIG Md Sibgatullah of Industrial Police have been made additional IGs of their same respective units.

With the postings, the SB, PBI and Industrial Police have got new chiefs.

PROTESTS AT SECRETARIAT

Arrestees are linked to BCL: police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent 26 students to jail in a case filed in connection with their protest at the Secretariat in Dhaka on Wednesday demanding a re-evaluation of their Higher Secondary Certificate examination results.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Belal Hossain passed the order after investigation officer Ekramul Haque, also a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station, produced them before the court showing them arrested in the case, said a court staffer.

Meanwhile, in a press statement, the media wing of DMP said the arrestees are activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, which was banned by the government on Wednesday.

Earlier, Raihan Uddin, a sub-inspector, filed an attempted murder case with the police station accusing the 26 students.

On Wednesday, some students who failed or performed poorly in the HSC exams, entered the Secretariat and staging a protest in front of the main gate of building 6, where the Ministry of Education is located, around 3:00pm demanding re-evaluation of their results.

A large contingent of police officers and army personnel were present at the scene. At one point, police chased and dispersed the students, detaining 54 of them.

Among the detainees, 28 were later released under custody of their guardians, while the rest were sued, said Khalid Mansur, officer-in-charge of Shahbagh Police Station.



With umbrellas in hand, a group of friends strolls through the monsoon rain, while sharing laughter and moments of joy. Due to the impact of the approaching cyclone "Dana" -- expected to make landfall in India early today -- many parts of Bangladesh, including the capital, experienced rainfall and gusty winds yesterday. The photo was taken in the TSC area on Dhaka University campus.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN