



Hope and Hardship Mark HAJJ DEPARTURE

78,500 pilgrims from Bangladesh set to perform Hajj this year

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The Hajj pilgrimage is one of the most significant spiritual milestones for a Muslim. Every year, millions of people from across the globe gather in Makkah to perform rituals that require immense physical strength and unwavering mental resolve. Bangladesh remains one of the largest contributors of Hajj pilgrims in the world. According to reports from the Ministry of Religious Affairs the Hajj quota for Bangladesh in 2024 was set at 127,198 pilgrims. Although the numbers fluctuate slightly each year based on bilateral agreements with the Saudi government, approximately 1.2

to 1.3 lakh Bangladeshis prepare for this journey annually. For many Bangladeshis, this journey is the culmination of a lifetime of prayers and financial planning. While the journey is physically demanding due to the heat and long walks, the spiritual reward keeps the pilgrims moving forward.

STORIES OF FAITH AND DEVOTION

The journey is often fueled by personal stories of sacrifice. For some, it is about fulfilling the dreams of loved ones who are no longer there. Rabeya Khatun, a 68-year-old pilgrim, traveled to Makkah with her younger sister this year. Her husband had passed

away three years ago, leaving behind a dream they had shared for decades.

"My husband always dreamt of us walking through the gates of the Haram together. He didn't live to see it, but being here with my sister feels like I am finally fulfilling his final wish. The heat is intense, and my legs ache, but my heart is at peace," Rabeya said.

For others, Hajj is a gift of love from the next generation. Ahmed Ullah, a retired school teacher, was able to perform Hajj because of his son's persistence. His son, working a modest job, saved a portion of his earnings for seven years to surprise his father.

SEE PAGE S2

WHAT YOU MUST DO

Keep official documents in waterproof neck pouches.

Bring enough medicine and translate doctor prescriptions.

Wear soft, comfortable sandals for long walks.

Drink water frequently to avoid heat exhaustion.

Only use transport provided by Hajj agencies.

WHAT YOU MUST NOT CARRY

Do not carry zarda, betel leaves or dried fish.

Do not carry any raw ginger or garlic.

Limit hand luggage liquids to under 100ml.

Avoid loose tablets without valid medical prescriptions.

Do not pack lighters or flammable sprays.



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