

7,000 will perform Hajj this year

The Government has decided to allow 7,000 persons from Bangladesh to go for Hajj during this year as against 5,000 allowed last year, reports BSS.

Out of the total number, 3,368 persons will be transported by air. The Hajj is expected to be held around November 10, 1978 depending on the sighting of the moon.

The Government has also decided to send a 25-member medical team consisting of doctors and medical staff to look after the Bangladeshi pilgrims during their stay in Saudi Arabia. A welfare-cum administrative team will also be detailed to look after the pilgrims during Hajj.

The number of seats in each class and the fare for return journey is shown below:—

BY SHIP

Class	Number	of seats	Return fare
Deck class	2,824	(in two trips)	Tk. 3,900/-
Second class	412	(in two trips)	Tk. 7,000/-
First class	392	(in two trips)	Tk. 9,000/-
Delux class	4	(in two trips)	Tk. 10,000/-
By Biman	3,368		Tk. 9,550/-
		including Saudi royalty of Taka 750/-	

Persons going by ship will have to stay in Saudi Arabia for about 50 days and those going by air will have to stay there for about 40 days. In order to meet their expenses and compulsory dues in Saudi Arabia persons going by ship will be allowed a foreign ex-

change quota of Taka 11,785/- and for those going by air Taka 10,885/-. Applicants for Hajj will be selected by ballot in proportion to the districtwise population.

Five per cent of the total number of seats by ship as well as by air will be reserved for Hajj-e Badl. Persons who performed Hajj earlier will not be eligible to apply for Hajj except for Hajj-e Badl or as Mehram.

Application for Hajj must reach the concerned authorities by August 14, 1978. Applications for going to Hajj by ship in Deck Class will have to be submitted to the Deputy Commissioner of the district of which he is a permanent resident or the district in which he is ordinarily resi-

dent. Applications for going to Hajj by ship in Second Class First Class and Delux Class and those for going to Hajj by air shall have to be submitted to the Port Hajj Office, Pahartali, Chittagong.

Applications for going to Hajj-e Badl also will have to

be submitted to the Port Hajj Office, Pahartali, Chittagong.

Application forms along with instructions and addressed envelopes will be available with all scheduled banks throughout Bangladesh and in the office of the Deputy Commissioners of all districts, in the office of the Department of Shipping (Sultan Building 147 Motijheel Commercial Area, Dacca) and the Port Hajj Office, Pahartali, Chittagong.

Ballot for selection of pilgrims will be held on August 15, 1978 in the office of Deputy Commissioners and in the Port Hajj Office, Chittagong.

It is expected that the first flight of ships will take place around September 18, 1978 and the air flights will commence from October 14, 1978. The selected applicants will have to report at Hajj camp in Chittagong and Dacca approximately seven days before their departure date. Details will be intimated by the Port Hajj Office to individual applicants.

Each applicant will have to deposit the amount shown below to any of the scheduled banks and attach the original bank receipt with their applications:—

By ship Total amount required to be deposited Deck Class Tk. 15,688/- (including pilgrim pass fee of Tk. 13/-) Second Class Tk. 18,788/- First Class Tk. 20,788/- Delux Class Tk. 21,788/- by Biman Tk. 20,438/-