

# Saudis to hire more docs, engineers

RAFIQ HASAN

Saudi Arabia will hire more skilled and semi-skilled workers and professionals from Bangladesh, particularly doctors, nurses, engineers and teachers.

The visiting Saudi delegation disclosed this at an official discussion between Dhaka and Riyadh at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. This is the first time a high-powered Saudi delegation has come to Bangladesh to explore the possibility of hiring people for various sectors.

The five-member Saudi delegation was led by Labour and Social Welfare Minister Ali Ibrahim Al Namla, while State Minister for Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Mohammad Quamrul Islam led the Bangladeshi side at the discussion.

Secretary-in-Charge Dalil Uddin Mondal and Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sarjil Hasan were also present for the home side.

Around 1.3 lakh people go to Saudi Arabia for employment annually, mainly to work in cleaning,

construction and household jobs.

Now the Saudi government is expressing a strong desire to hire workers with technical knowledge and professional efficiency.

At the discussion, the Saudi delegates urged Bangladesh to train people in different sectors and send them to the Kingdom for meeting its employment requirements, meeting sources said.

Currently around 13 lakh Bangladeshis are working in the Kingdom and the demand for workers continues to grow. The

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# Splash out billions to rebuild Iraq

US, Iraq plead donors

AP, Madrid

US and Iraqi officials pleaded for billions to rebuild Iraq at a donors conference that opened yesterday with calls for generosity and warnings that they might not get all they need right away.

Despite the approval last week of a UN resolution setting out Iraq's future course, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan acknowledged that lingering divisions over Washington's role in running the country might deter some donors.

But in his opening remarks

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# Anthem glitch probe report submitted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A three-member body to probe the national anthem glitch during the conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) submitted its report to the speaker Wednesday night.

Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar told reporters yesterday that he has not read the report yet and that it would be made public in a week.

The national anthem could not be played at the inaugural of the 49th CPA conference at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on October 7.

The prime minister formed a three-member committee headed

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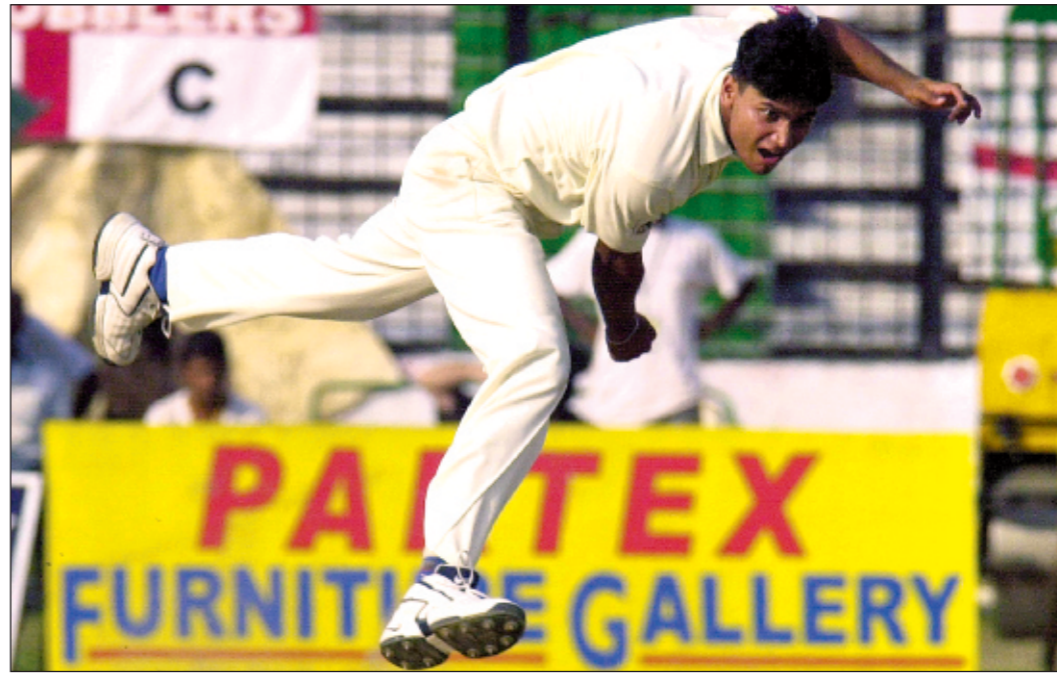


PHOTO: AFP

HANDLE THIS IF YOU CAN.. Bangladesh tearaway Mashrafe-bin Mortaza sends down a thunderbolt during the third day's proceedings of the first Test against England at Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

# India has 35 Nukes

US body says region in threat of germ warfare

PTI, Washington

Claiming that India has 30 to 35 nuclear weapons with yields varying between 5 to 25 kilotons, a US Congressional body has said there is now danger of India and Pakistan developing a dreaded biological weapon or weapons.

As of 2002, India has 30 to 35 nuclear weapons with yields varying between 5 to 25 kilotons "despite an

Indian claim that it had detonated a nuclear device on May 11, 2002 with a 43 KT yield," the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which advises the US Congress, claimed in a report.

It puts the number of Pakistani nuclear weapons at 24 to 48. Despite Pakistani claims of higher yield weapons, seismic measurements from Pakistani nuclear detonations on May 28 and 30, 2002

suggest weaponised yields more along the order of 9 to 12 KT and 4 to 6 KT respectively.

"It is possible that Pakistan has higher yield weapons that have not been tested," it said.

The report said there was a danger that nuclear-armed India and Pakistan may now develop biological weapons.

"India, a 1973 signatory of the

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# BSF hands over list of 78 'militant camps' to BDR

PTI, Shillong

The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) has handed over a list of 78 militant camps operating from Bangladesh to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR), which has agreed to cooperate in 'liquidating' them.

The United Liberation Front of Assam (Ulfa) with 27 camps, followed by NSCN (IM) with 14 camps top the list, which was handed over yesterday to BDR Deputy Director General Brig Gen Md Ibrahim Khalil during a coordination meeting between the two border forces in this Meghalayan capital.

"This list prepared by the Assam Meghalaya-Manipur-Nagaland frontier headquartered in Shillong is a part of the main list given by our Director General Ajai Raj Sharma to his Bangladesh counterpart earlier,"

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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 24		5-25 pm
Oct 25	5-59 am	

Prayer Timings		
October 24		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-30
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-30	5-35
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

# Rumsfeld challenges US terror war gains

AP, Washington

In sharp contrast with the Bush administration's upbeat progress reports, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld is questioning whether the United States has failed to take

"truly bold moves" in Iraq and Afghanistan and asking the Pentagon to rethink its strategy.

In an internal memo, Rumsfeld said the US-led coalitions would win in Afghanistan and Iraq, but so far have had mixed results. He wrote

that the United States "has made reasonable progress in capturing or killing the top 55 Iraqis" but has made "somewhat slower progress" tracking down top Taliban leaders who sheltered al-Qaeda in

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# From fun ride to confines

Teenager spends 14 months in correction centre for police-court fault

SHAMIM ASHRAF

She set out simply to have some fun but the teenage girl ended up in custody at the Juvenile Correction Centre in Tongi, all for the callousness of the law enforcers and a mistake by a Dhaka court.

But, at last there is light at the end of the long, dark tunnel for 13-year-old Moyna Begum, who thanks to Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) hopes to get back to her widowed mother after more than 14 months detention.

On August 13 last year, Moyna along with a friend boarded a Dhaka-bound train from their shanty at a slum at Akhaura Railway Station on a fun ride. At the end of the trip, she was sitting at Kamalapur Railway Station, fatigued and undecided about her next course, when another train, Jayantika Express, arrived from Sylhet.

She had no idea that officials of the Department of Narcotics

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# Vandals raid temple, set Shiva's image on fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Unidentified vandals attacked a temple and set fire to the image of Shiva in Manikganj town in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said the gang entered the temple in Dassara Kalikhola area of the town at about 3:30am, set the idol afire and left the spot. The idol was partially damaged before the neighbours rushed to the temple and extinguished the blaze.

Protesting the sacrilege, Manikganj District Puja Udjapan (celebration) Committee took out a

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