

UN DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION FROM SEPT 15

Dhaka to focus on visa trading, labour standards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government delegation will attend the United Nations High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development beginning in New York on September 15.

The delegation members will focus on the issues of visa trading, global labour standards and the rights of the migrant workers.

The four-member delegation led by State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad will leave for New York on September 12, said Joint Secretary Amir Hossain of the expatriates' welfare ministry at a discussion yesterday.

Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (Warbe), will also attend the dialogue as a civil society member. Warbe organised the discussion at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium.

This is the first time that the UN is going to hold such a dialogue where the member countries and regional associations will discuss the issue of international migration and development to identify the ways to

maximise benefits and minimise negative impacts.

Amir Hossain said visa trading has been a longstanding issue, which is making the migration cost too high. As a result, migrant workers sometimes have difficulty earning the money they spent on visa and travel.

Rigid visa regime of the developed countries also led to human trafficking, he said, adding that they will raise the issues at the dialogue.

The delegation will also demand recognition of domestic work as labour so that the workers are given due facilities and equal payment for equal work, he said.

In many countries, separate salaries are fixed for different nationals for the same work, he added.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Regional Representative Shahidul Haque said this is the first time the developed countries agreed to hold a dialogue on migration and development.

A UN forum is also likely to be established as an outcome of the dialogue, he said, adding that global

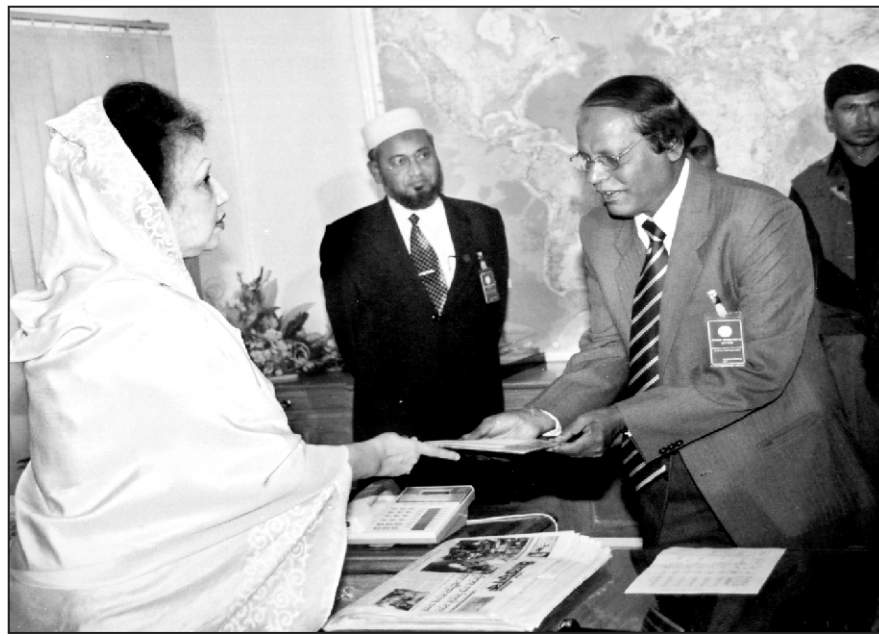
labour standards should be established in all countries to protect the rights of workers.

Dr Tasneem Siddiqui, chairperson of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, Dhaka University, said after the 9/11, migrants are seen as a threat to security, which should be countered by highlighting the development aspects of migration.

The developing countries must raise their voice for establishing the rights of migrant workers with regard to health, wages and decent work conditions, she said.

Moderating the discussion, Syed Saiful Haque said he would demand a UN mechanism so that the sending and receiving countries ratify the UN and ILO conventions on the migrants, prosecute abusive migrant recruiting agencies and form a national commission on migration and development.

Association for Community Development Executive Director Salima Sarwar also spoke.



4th int'l confce of Asian political parties begins in Seoul

UNB, Dhaka

A four-day 4th International Conference on Asian Political Parties began in Seoul, South Korea yesterday.

Some 300 representatives from different political parties of Asian countries, including Bangladesh, are attending the conference.

Leader of the Awami League delegation Abdul Jalil MP, who is attending the conference, will address the first plenary session of the 4th ICAPP on Friday.

He will be the first speaker from Bangladesh at the ICAPP, said a press release.

Meanwhile, AL International Affairs Secretary Syed Abul Hossain MP has been elected vice-chairperson of the Committee on Regional Security and Political Stability.



Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), speaks at a press briefing at its office in the city yesterday after Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment (BoI) Mahmudur Rahman withdrew his defamation case against five eminent citizens. Story on page 1.

ROW OVER BUS FARE AT MIRPUR 25 students hurt in clash with Rab, cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 25 students of Mirpur Government Bangla College were injured in a clash between law enforcers and students yesterday.

Following the clash, the angry students vandalised 10 vehicles and the office of a CNG Filling Station on Darussalam Road in the city.

Witnesses said over one hundred students took to the street and attacked Darussalam Police Box after members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police confined two of their fellow students inside the police camp when they tried to forcibly take a bus helper to the college over altercation on bus fare.

As the students went on rampage, police charged baton on them. The students also pelted stones on the police leading to an hour-long clash. They said five of the injured were admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital.

A number of students alleged that Rab members severely beat the two students, Sabuj and Luthfor, after picking them up. However, an official of Rab-4 denied involvement of their force.

Locals said police hauled the two students from a group when they were forcibly taking the helper of a double-decker bus of BRTC into the college campus following a brawl with two of their fellow students over payment of bus fare.

Students said two of their college mates, Mustafizur Rahman and Jahangir Alam, got in a BRTC double-decker bus from Gulistan and locked in an altercation with a conductor over payment of bus fare.

Helper of the bus Mohammad Sumon said the altercation began as the students insisted on giving only Tk 4 as fair instead of regular fair of

Tk 16. "We demanded half of the regular fair, but the students scolded us leading to the altercation," he alleged.

Witnesses said following the incident, the students informed their friends in the college of the incident over mobile phone. As the Gabtoli bound bus reached Technical crossing, a group of students attacked the bus and tried to take its helper forcibly to the college. They also beat him mercilessly.

Police and a Rab motorcycle patrol team rescued the bus helper. They also caught two students and beat them severely after confining them at Darussalam Police Box.

Early Childhood Dev Centre opens

Nari Unnayan Shakti (NUS), an NGO, has opened an Early Childhood Development Centre at Banasree, Rampura, in the city, says a press release.

Kamal Uddin Ahmed, secretary to the Ministry of Women & Children Affairs, inaugurated the centre on September 4.

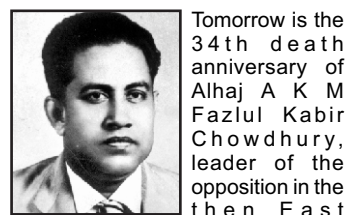
The centre has been opened under the child development project of NUS with a view to ensuring security of children and providing a better environment for them. The centre will have a doctor, child psychologist and teachers.

Afroja Parvin, executive director of NUS, presided over the inaugural ceremony. Later, a cultural function was also held.



Sajib Wazed Joy, son of Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina, visits AL leader Saber Hossain Chowdhury at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday. Saber was injured in a police action during its Election Commission besiege programme on Wednesday.

Death anniversary



Tomorrow is the 34th death anniversary of Alhaj A K M Fazlul Kabir Chowdhury, leader of the opposition in the then East Pakistan

Assembly, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil and Qurankhwan will be held at Gohira under Raozan thana in Chittagong. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Kabir Chowdhury passed away due to a cardiac arrest on September 9 in 1972 at his residence in Dhaka.

Md Abdul Mazid Khan

The 28th death anniversary of Md Abdul Mazid Khan, a social worker of Nandail and founder of Khanbari Darul Quran Madrasa, will be observed tomorrow, says a press release.

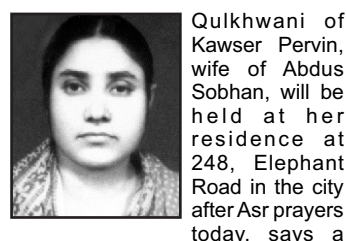
On the occasion, Qurankhwan and milad and doa mahfil will be held at his home at Achargaon in Banasree, Rampura, at the residence of his children in Mymensingh town. Foods will also be distributed among the destitute.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of SM Shamsur Rahman, a freedom fighter and leader of city BNP, will be held at all mosques at Khilkhet in the city after Juma prayers today, says a press release.

He passed away due to cardiac arrest at a city hospital on September 5 at the age of 55.

Kawser Pervin



Qulkhwani of Kawser Pervin, wife of Abdus Sobhan, will be held at her residence at 248, Elephant Road in the city after Asr prayers today, says a

press release. On the occasion, a doa mahfil will also be held at her residence. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the doa mahfil and qulkhwani and pray for salvation of her departed soul.

Pervin passed away at her residence due to prolonged diabetic ailment on September 6 at the age of 65.

She left behind her husband, two sons and one daughter. She was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-e-janaza at Kataban Mosque.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receives the results of HSC and other equivalent examinations from the chairmen of nine education boards at her office in the city yesterday (top left) while HSC examinees who came out successful with flying colours celebrate on their school premises following the publication of their results yesterday. (1) Dhaka College, (2) Viqarunnisa Noon College, (3) Amrita Lal Dey College, Barisal, (4) City College, (5) Chittagong College, (6) Holy Cross College and (7) Rajshahi New Degree Govt. College.

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
A discussion titled 'Know about holy Hajj' will be held. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 4:30pm.

Human chain
Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon will form a human chain demanding realisation of Pulbari deed. Venue: In front of National Museum. Time: 10:30am.

Cyber Games
The opening ceremony of 'd'juice World Cyber Games 2006- Bangladesh Championship' will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Discussion
Suhrawardy Smriti Rakkha Committee will hold a discussion commemorating the 114th birth anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy. Venue: Suhrawardy Mazar premises. Time: 8:30am.

Sept 10 university exams postponed

DU CORRESPONDENT

All the examinations of Dhaka University (DU), National University (NU) and Jagannath University scheduled for September 10 have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, press releases said.

A DU press release said that fresh schedule for the postponed examinations will be declared soon while the schedule for other examinations will remain unchanged.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Sangram Parishad, an alliance of opposition student bodies, called a strike at DU on September 11, protesting appointment of a teacher at Department of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology.

DU sources said the examinations scheduled for the day might also be postponed due to the strike. However, office of the examination controller is yet to take an official decision in this connection.

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

NU authorities also postponed all the examinations scheduled for September 10. In a press release NU authorities said according to a fresh schedule, examinations of second year honours - 2005 will be held on October 7 and examinations of BSc honours in Computer Science part-3 will be held on September 11.

Examinations of MBM first year term-2 and second year term-5, 2006 will be held on September 19.

JAGANNATH UNIVERSITY
The postponed examinations of Jagannath University scheduled for September 10 will be held on September 11.

A university press release said classes on September 11 have been postponed to hold the examinations property.

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Chudanga and lowest 25.0 degree Celsius at Rangamati and Sitakunda.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at 5:43am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.2	27.8	76	66
Chittagong	32.7	26.9	76	80
Rajshahi	35.0	26.8	82	74
Khulna	34.8	27.0	77	70
Barisal	34.3	26.4	76	75
Sylhet	31.7	26.7	92	83
Cox's Bazar	32.4	25.8	79	76