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QATAR LABOUR LAW REFORM

4 lakh Bangladeshis to reap benefit

Minimum wage likely to rise by 25pc

JAMIL MAHMUD

The situations of about four lakh Bangladeshi expatriates, mainly migrant workers, in Qatar are set to improve as the Gulf country recently made some major changes to its labour laws for workers' protection.

As per the changes, there will be a rise in the minimum wage by 25 percent to 1,000 riyals (\$275) a month and workers would not be required to have the employer's permission to change jobs, according to media reports.

They are the latest in a series of labour reforms by the 2022 FIFA World Cup host, which in the lead up to the tournament has faced accusations that migrant workers are exploited, reports Reuters.

The new minimum wage, which comes into effect in six months and is 250 riyals more a month than the old one, is non-discriminatory and applies to all workers, the report added.

Amnesty International has lauded the changes and said those are "a significant step towards protecting migrant workers" and that the amendments could strike at the heart of the abusive kafala (sponsorship) system.

The global rights group, however, said full implementation of the laws remains key if the country aims to truly end labour exploitation.

"For too long, laws that ban workers from changing jobs without their employer's permission, along with widespread low pay, have left migrant

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Risking lives, people crossing the Padma by launch, trawler and speedboat as ferry services were suspended on the Shimulia-Kathalbari route due to navigation problems yesterday. The photo was taken from Shimulia ghat in Munshiganj.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

COVID CASES

Positivity rate falls to 14.96pc

32 more die, 2,158 infected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The positivity rate for Covid-19 testing in the country has come down to lowest 14.96 percent in more than three months as the health directorate reported 2,158 new cases in 24 hours till 8:30am yesterday.

A total of 14,422 samples were tested across the country during the 24-hour period.

Positivity rate or detection rate is the percentage of positive cases against the total number of tests carried out in a day.

A positivity rate less than five percent means the transmission of the virus is under control.

Earlier on May 19, the positivity rate was 14.81 percent against 8,449 tests. Since then, the rate kept on rising and it reached highest 25.33 percent on July 17, according to data of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

The positivity rate was hovering over 20 percent till the last quarter of August when it started to go down.

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Star staffer dies from Covid-19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shyamal Biswas, assistant officer, store of The Daily Star, died from Covid-19 yesterday. He was 53.

He passed away at the Holy Family Red Crescent Medical College Hospital around 1:30pm.

Shyamal, from Madaripur's Kalkini upazila, had developed lung infection. On August 20, he tested positive for Covid-19 positive and was admitted to hospital on August 23, said his son Meghnad Biswas.

He was cremated at the Postagola Cremation Grounds later in the day.

Shyamal left behind his wife, a son and a host of well-wishers to mourn his death.

In a condolence message, The Daily Star said, "Let us all pray to the

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

War criminals' trial justified

September 4, 1972

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH ISSUE TO BE RAISED AT ARAB FM'S CONFERENCE

Three Arab countries -- Egypt, Iraq and Syria -- will place Bangladesh's point of view before the ensuing Foreign Ministers' Conference of the Arab countries commencing in Cairo from September 9, 1972. This is disclosed to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in Dhaka today.

The foreign minister has been able to dispel the misgivings about Bangladesh in the three Arab countries he visited. All the three countries, of which only Iraq has accorded recognition to Bangladesh, have shown their eagerness to establish relationship with Bangladesh. They have also assured their support to Bangladesh for its membership of the United Nations.

WORLD JURISTS' VIEW ON WAR CRIME TRIAL
Eminent international jurists on criminal law are of the view that since genocide had been committed in Bangladesh by the Pakistani army, the offenders are liable to be tried and punished under the international law. This consensus is found among the jurists of international repute who are now

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Online media policy another 'black law'

Says BNP

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP yesterday described the National Online Media Policy 2017 (Amendment 2020) recently approved by the cabinet as another black law to "gag the media". "This anti-people government has constantly been making such laws so that the opposition's voice is not heard in any way. The National Online Media Policy was endorsed for making it a law. This means TV channels and newspapers need separate registration to run their online news portals," said party senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi.

He said, "The main motive behind such a black law is just to suppress people's voice and regulate the media. We strongly condemn and protest this move."

Rizvi made the remarks while speaking at a doa mahfil at the BNP's

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ROHINGYA GENOCIDE CASE AT ICJ

Canada, Netherlands join Gambia in legal battle

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Canada and the Netherlands have decided to intervene in the matter of the Rohingya genocide case filed by the Gambia at International Court of Justice (ICJ) in November last year.

"Canada and the Netherlands consider it our obligation to support these efforts

which are of concern to all of humanity," said a joint statement posted on the Netherlands government website late on Wednesday.

As part of this intervention, Canada and the Netherlands will assist with the complex legal issues that are expected to arise and will pay special attention to

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 4

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:30 12:30 4:45 6:23 7:45
JAMAAT 5:05 1:15 5:00 6:26 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Nests of babui (baya weaver) birds are spotted on a palm tree in Mahmudkathi village of Khulna's Paikgachha. The birds, which had been common in the rural area, have now become almost rare.

PHOTO: PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Covid death toll in Asia tops 100,000

India reports record 83,833 new cases

AGENCIES

Asia has registered more than 100,000 deaths linked to the coronavirus since it first emerged in December, according to an AFP tally based on official sources yesterday.

A total of 100,667 deaths have been attributed to the coronavirus in the region out of 5,420,803 officially declared cases, with 4,255,760 people considered to have recovered.

In terms of fatalities, India is the most affected country with nearly three-quarters of total deaths in the region -- 67,376 deaths from 3,853,406 cases. The country reported another record daily jump of 83,883 infections yesterday.

India has also recorded the biggest surge in the world in a week, with more than half a million new cases (up 15 percent in seven days) and more than 6,800 new deaths (up five percent).

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Bangladeshi man shot dead by BSF

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

A Bangladeshi citizen was shot dead allegedly by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Pakhiura border in Nageshwariupazila of Kurigram early yesterday.

The deceased is Chhobil Uddin, 36, of Airmarichar village in Narayanpur union in the upazila.

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