

## Malaysia to deport illegal immigrants after June 30

KUALA LUMPUR, June 26: Malaysia will next week notify all countries whose nationals are illegally working in the country that Kuala Lumpur would be deporting all illegal immigrants who fail to register by Tuesday, a top official said today, reports AP.

Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Malaysia's Foreign Minister, said he would be meeting more than 20 ambassadors and envoys by Monday or Tuesday to notify them of the impending deportation.

"I have to meet them before Wednesday's weekly cabinet meeting," Abdullah told reporters.

Malaysia is to deport those illegal immigrants working in the various sectors of the economy who missed the June 30 deadline for the nationwide registration exercise.

"I am surprised to find peo-

ple from Botswana and even Zambia working illegally here. But the bulk of them are still from our neighbouring countries, mainly Indonesia," Abdullah told reporters.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba on Thursday said the registration exercise was not only confined to Indonesians but also covered Filipinos, Bangladeshis, Thais and Pakistanis and others as well.

Malaysia's booming economy has drawn a flood of illegals in search of work, thousands of these illegals are believed to be holding false identity cards which officials suspect are distributed by networks in Indonesia and Thailand.

Since the registration exercise commenced in November more than 145,000 illegals have registered.



Rabya along with her baby is one of the new Rohingyas to come into Bangladesh. — Star photo

## Indefinite curfew in 3 Tiger-held dists

COLOMBO, June 26: The military announced an indefinite curfew effective 6 am (0030 GMT) Saturday in three Tamil rebel-held northern districts, reports AP.

The curfew, which usually precedes a military offensive, will be imposed in Jaffna, Mullaitivu and Kilinochchi districts, a military statement said Friday.

There will be no curfew in some northern islands held by the security forces, the military said.

Tamil sources said the military has been planning a major offensive against Tiger Guerrillas in the north. The military declined to comment.

AFP adds: Two more soldiers wounded in a Tamil guerilla ambush died in hospital, raising to eight the overnight military losses in Sri Lanka's embattled northeast, a military spokesman here said today.

Four soldiers were killed instantly when rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) firing heavy machine guns ambushed an army patrol in the eastern village of Sinhapura Thursday, the spokesman said. He said two soldiers

wounded during the attack died in hospital, while two more soldiers were killed in a separate confrontation in the northern Vettalaikerni region on the same day.

Press reports here said some 30 LTTE fighters were also killed when troops retaliated with helicopter gunships. The spokesman said Tiger casualties were believed to be high but they had no exact figures.

## Tender for rubber bullets, tear gas

The government will procure 10,000 rubber bullets, 4,000 tear gas shells and 200 shot guns and other items for the police force, reports UNB.

An international tender for procurement of these items was floated in Dhaka Friday.

The tender also includes 20 gas guns, 200 pieces of gas mask, 4,000 gas cartridges of different categories, 1,000 pairs of handcalves, 800 poly carbontite riot shields and 15,000 No 10 cartridges.

## Wood price

The increase in the newsprint price to the proposed level would not still cover the losses of the KNM, an official of BCIC told The Daily Star.

If the price of wood is enhanced to Taka 15 per cubic foot, the KNM will have to bear an additional cost of Taka seven crore annually. Sources said that in such case newsprint price will have to be raised further.

## Opposition

The resolution said, "the Prime Minister and Leader of the House, Begum Khaleda Zia, could not play the desired role in all the six sessions of the present parliament. Her absence in all the past sessions was acutely felt reflecting the indecision of the ruling party in every step in the House."

Even the Prime Minister did not give her winding up speech as the Leader of the House in any of the past five sessions according to the accepted parliamentary convention, it said.

The resolution further accused the Prime Minister of promulgating ordinances one after another by avoiding the elected parliament which sits every two alternative months.

It said before presentation of the national budget in parliament, the government through executive orders enhanced the gas, electricity and railway tariff.

The ruling party is running the parliament in autocratic style, the resolution alleged, ignoring parliamentary norms and practices. It also pointed out the "untrue" statements by the Ministers in the House, obstructing the microphone of the Leader of the Opposition and implementation of various programmes by ignoring the opinion of the local MPs.

Referring to the Golam Azam issue raised by the opposition in the last session of the parliament, the resolution said the Prime Minister did not deem it necessary to give a speech on the vital national issue. Instead, she left the House as soon as the opposition had raised the question.

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Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynebe Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

## Tinbigha corridor

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Bangladeshi counterpart.

"I am happy to see it done... it will strengthen on the relation between the two friendly neighbours," said the young Indian civil servant.

For some 15 thousand people of Dahagram it was a dream-come-true story. The event apparently ends a decades-long dispute.

Fifty five-year-old Akram Hossain, a resident of Dahagram was seen saying prayers in gratitude. "My feeling is like the one just freed from an undue detention," said an emotion-choked Shabbir Rahman (50).

Enclave residents—grateful, and tearful as they were—shouted: Bangladesh Zindabad, Ailahu Akbar.

Later, the Lalmonirhat DC advised the slogan-chanting people of the enclave to lead a peaceful life with neighbours.

Speaking to the crowd, Dahagram Union Parishad chairman Tazul Huq Sarkar, with tearful eyes, thanked the governments of India and the West Bengal.

The officials of Lalmonirhat and Coochbehar districts, mandated by the understanding reached at the political level, handled the formal hand-over.

Today's occasion only formalises the "lease in perpetuity" of the narrow strip of land, measuring 170 meters by 85 meters, fenced by barbed wire with Indian flags flying at the four corners. The corridor is lighted by Indian power.

A 150-meter by five meter road constructed by the Indian authorities runs through the land that touches Dahagram from Bangladesh. The newly-constructed road intersects an Indian highway where an West Bengal police constable controlled the traffic.

As agreed between the officials at Thursday's preparatory meeting, the iron gate of the corridor on both sides were closed for the day at 12 pm.

Many Dahagram residents, completely unaware of the arrangement, were caught off-guard as they found themselves stranded in the mainland after 12 noon.

It was evident that the officials who dealt with the affairs did not let the Dahagram people know about today's schedule.

Asked how they would communicate with the Dahagram people or if they took steps to keep the people informed about the decisions, Lalmonirhat district officials said that they communicate with the UP chairman. But the UP chairman Sarkar was seen roaming about in the Patgram upazila headquarters in the evening. The upazila headquarters is nine kilometers off Panbari border adjacent to Tinbigha.

Bangladeshi nationals will be allowed to use the corridor thrice a day from tomorrow (Saturday) — from 0730-0830 hours Bangladesh Standard Time (BST), from 1330 hours 1430 hours (BST) and from 1730 hours-1830 hours (BST)— one hour each time.

This arrangement will be in effect for six days from Saturday onwards and the officials of the two countries are to sit again on the second of next month to review the situation.

Two mouzas (wards) of Dahagram and the Angarpota mouza comprise the Dahagram union with an estimated 16,000 populace.

The 1981 census showed some 12 thousand residents in the 7.21 square-miles area with about 4000 eligible voters, according to the officials.

The 1991 census could not take place at Dahagram.

Talking to this correspondent, the Dahagram residents, particularly the elderly people, pointed out poor health care facilities in the area, which was their main grievance.

## Indian jute production to fall by 30 per cent

NEW DELHI, June 26: The production of raw jute during 1992-93 has caused fear here because it will be lower by about 30 per cent over last year's production of nine million bales, reports Xinhua.

Local press reports quoted up country sources as saying that in Coochbehar district and lower Assam, jute was cultivated in about 75 per cent of the fields that grew jute last year.

## Dhaka pleased

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the Tinbigha corridor.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that the government was committed to strengthening and consolidating bilateral relations with Dhaka.

In an apparent reference to the rivers water dispute with Bangladesh, the spokesman said "the government is equally committed to the resolution of outstanding issues through a process of closer interaction and dialogue."

In Calcutta, Treasury bench members in the West Bengal Assembly hailed the implementation of Indira-Mujib agreement.

They thanked the Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, for playing a glorious role in implementing the agreement.

The members belonging to the CPI-M, RSP, CPI and FB criticised the role of the BJP and a section of the Congress-I leadership for trying to "sabotage" the implementation programme.

The members were Subhas Bose, Rabin Mandal, Mrs Maharani Konar and Manab Mukherjee of the CPI-M, Sakti Basal of the CPI and Soumen Das of the FB.

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## Drug abuse: PM

From Page 1 Col 7  
human race. She said it had shattered traditional values and destabilised socio-economic sectors. The development and security have been hampered because of drug abuse, she said adding international terrorism had emerged due to the relationship of mafia ring with drugs and illicit transactions.

Begum Zia said in fact the drug abuse had started in our country from colonial period but it had increased remarkably during the eighties. Holding the autocratic regime responsible for this increase the Prime Minister said the autocrats kept silent on the widespread drug addiction to cling to power by stupefying the youth through addiction.

She said the nation was now experiencing the dire consequences of drug addiction. She said though it was regrettable but the drug traffickers were using Bangladesh as a transit route. As a result the image of the nation was being tarnished though it was not a drug producing country, she said.

The Prime Minister said this situation could not be allowed to continue anymore. Detailing the steps taken to resist the drug abuse and trafficking Begum Zia said Narcotics Control Act had been made stricter by keeping provision for awarding death sentence as the highest punishment under it. Four regional narcotics control departments have been set up through ordinance and circle offices have been functioning at each district, she said.

The Prime Minister said one treatment and rehabilitation centre was functioning in the capital for the drug addicts. She said the government was actively considering setting up a similar centre to meet the requirement.

She said provisions had been made for the treatment of drug addicts in the prisons.

The discussion was the part of the day-long programme of the Narcotics Department. It had held a walkathon from the Shishu Park premises to the Jatiya Press Club in the morning.

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## Rohingyas

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rains is heightening the miseries of more than 2 lakh 70 thousand refugees living in 19 flimsy camps along Cox's Bazar-Teknaf region.

They said with about 300 new arrivals reported in past three days the total number of refugees have swelled to 2,70,685. Of them 1,78,879 have got shelter in the 19 camps with five more camps planned to provide shelter to the remaining refugees, who are still living in the open.

Heavy monsoon rains have already choked many makeshift latrines in the camps and relief officials fear an epidemic of diarrhoea and dysentery. Relief workers are, however, working round the clock to repair the latrines and set up new ones.

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## The Midnight File

### EC states nearing deal on sites for institutions

LISBON (Portugal), June 26: The 12 European Community nations edged nearer to a deal Friday on finding permanent homes for key EC institutions, an issue that has languished on the Community agenda for years. At an EC summit meeting, officials said a proposal to base the community's future central bank in Bonn and its itinerant European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, was gaining ground, reports AP.

### Rebels Agree to leave gutted Afghan ministry

KABUL, June 26: Iranian-backed rebels agreed to leave the gutted Interior Ministry after a clash with government forces that left at least 20 fighters dead, a senior military commander said Friday. The 25 guerrillas left "so that officials can resume their work," Gen Abdul Momin said. Momin would not say whether the gunmen would be taken prisoner, reports AP.

### Saifur urges Opposition to join budget session

By Staff Correspondent

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at a seminar on the proposed national budget Friday said political stability and favourable law and order situation were the preconditions to attract foreign investment in the country.

"We are feeling the absence of opposition in the budget session acutely," he said, adding that if anyone intended to destabilise political atmosphere for pressuring a particular party to be doing wrong as that he would affect the whole politics.

Referring to the recent political atmosphere created over the Golam Azam issue, he said, "We have become bonded to our past, whereas the people of the whole world is running forward with great speed."

Organised by the Alumni Association of the Economics Department of Dhaka University Friday at the Engineers' Institution, the seminar was attended by the Finance Minister as chief guest while State Minister for Finance Mojiur Rahman was present as the special guest.

The Finance Minister stressed the need for labour-intensive industries in the country and said the government was encouraging the investors to invest in the unexplored areas.

Speaking on the criticism on the proposed national budget the minister said, "Nothing can be changed overnight. We inherited a shattered economy left by the autocratic regime."

The budget session would continue up to 20 to 22nd of the next month and the scope for making the budget more acceptable by bringing amendments as per the suggestions from the economists and other political parties was still there, the Finance Minister said.

The Finance Minister, called upon the opposition political parties to join the budget session saying, "We have destroyed the autocratic regime. We did it unitedly. We should not be divided."

The seminar presided over by Prof. Mamtazuddin Ahmed, chairman of the Economics Department of Dhaka University was addressed among others by Dr Quazi Kholikuzzaman Ahmed, chairman of the Bangladesh Development Council, Prof AHM Mahbulul Alam of Dhaka University, Dr. Abdul Gafur, Research Director of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies and ATM Alamgir MP. Prof Ayubur Rahman read out the keynote paper at the seminar while Prof Harun-or Rashid Khan, General Secretary of the Alumni Association made the welcome address.

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