

DV-1 rules clarified

By Staff Correspondent

Over 6,800 Bangladeshi citizens were registered for the DV-1 programme undertaken by the US government, but all of them may not get the visas, says a press release issued by the USIS yesterday.

Counting spouses and children, about 14,500 Bangladeshis are registered for the visa programme at this second stage of the application process, the press release said.

Under the provision of the programme no more than 3,850 persons can receive a visa from any one country. The total number of the visa recipients from Asian countries excluding China, India, South Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines, will be only 6,837.

Therefore, the majority of the people who have already received letters from the National-Visa Center will not reach the next stage of the programme, which is the visa interview, it added.

The recipients of the letters, however, have been advised to return all the paperwork to the National Visa Center as soon as possible.

The USIS press release also said having a visa interview does not guarantee visa issuance. The applicants must have to meet all requirements of the US Immigration and Nationality Act as well as special requirements of the DV-1 programme concerning education or work experience.

According to the Press re-

lease, the competent applicants will have to have a high school education or its equivalent, or within the past five years, have two years of experience in any occupation requiring at least two years of training or experience. Evidences of the education, work experience, or training have to be sent to the National Visa Center along with the prescribed forms.

The applicants will have to send all the four forms sent to them by the National Visa Center by including the case numbers on all the pages.

The applicants do not, however, need to send their passports or photocopies of the passports with the forms.

The applicants must present a birth certificate for all unmarried children under the age of 21, even if they will not accompany the visa recipient at this time. Evidences of education or work experience of the children or wife/husband do not, however, need to be sent, the USIS press release says.

The applicants must show, to the satisfaction of the Consular Office, that they will not become a public charge in the United States.

If sponsorship documents would help prove this, the applicants may wish to obtain an Affidavit of Support from a friend or relative in the USA with supporting documents.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the country-wide voluntary blood and posthumous eye donation campaign week '94 organised by 'Sandhani' in the city yesterday.

PM

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can save an invaluable life by donating blood," she said.

The Prime Minister asked the members of the Sandhani to contact those interested in voluntary blood and posthumous eye donation. "There are many who want to donate their blood to save a dying man. But they don't know where to donate blood."

Talking about transplantation of posthumously donated eyes, she said restoration of eyesight can bring new spectrum in the lives to visually impaired people who are usually dependent on others.

While calling for a concerted campaign to encourage voluntary blood and posthumous eye donation Begum Zia said all service-oriented and voluntary organisations should take part in the campaign.

Presided over by Sandhani President Tattini Das Chowdhury, the function was also addressed by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Major General (ret'd) Abdul Mannan Siddique and Sandhani General Secretary Samirul Islam Babu.

Earlier, the Prime Minister inaugurated a tele-skid of Sandhani on blood donation.

US for 'constructive ties' with Myanmar junta

BANGKOK, Nov 2: The United States has offered the Myanmar junta "constructive relations" but will further restricts unless Yangon improves its record on human rights, political reform and anti-narcotic enforcement, a senior US diplomat said today, reports AFP.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Thomas Hubbard, who led the first high-level US delegation to Yangon in nearly five years, said a three-hour meeting with military intelligence chief Lieutenant-General Khin Nyunt had been "serious and business-like."

"We indicated we would like to see more constructive relations with Myanmar," Hubbard said during a stop-over news conference here. But he maintained that the meeting did not signal a shift towards "constructive engagement" with the junta, a policy adopted by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations which the United States has previously criticised.

"We made clear that significant movement on issues of concern is necessary if there is to be meaningful progress in

bilateral relations," he said. Failure to move towards a genuine national reconciliation, "will lead to further restrictions on our political and economic ties," he did not elaborate.

The United States removed its ambassador to Yangon in 1988, following a bloody crackdown on Myanmar pro-democracy movement in which thousands were killed.

Armed miscreants kill one in Moheshkhali

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 2: A group of five to six miscreants broke into a house and killed the houseowner in village Majpara under Marchara union of Moheshkhali thana late last night.

Police said the victim, Mohammad Abu, 40, who was attacked with sharp weapons died on the spot.

According to local people, Abu had a quarrel with his neighbours for a long time over fixing the boundary of his house.

Press Council finds daily Lal Sabuj guilty of slander

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Press Council, by a judgement dated October 10, 1994, found the vernacular daily Lal Sabuj guilty of publishing a "baseless and untrue" report against Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan.

The judgement, a copy of which was made available to the press yesterday, said the paper, in its Falgun 5, 1401 BS (February 18, 1994), issue had carried a "baseless, untrue" report by Syed Borhan Kabir insinuating that corruption charges were filed by certain people against the minister.

The Press Council censured the paper, its editor Sheikh Mohammad Nazrul Islam, publisher Selma Islam Sheikh and reporter Syed Borhan Kabir for maliciously maligning the minister and attempting to blackmail him and belittle him in the eyes of the public and tarnish his political image.

The Press Council, after hearing the matter, reprimanded the respondents and cautioned them to refrain from such irresponsible behaviour in future. It also ordered the daily to prominently display the Council's verdict on its front page.

Senior Counsel T.H. Khan, assisted by Abdul Wahab Mia and Faisal H. Khan, appeared for Zahiruddin Khan.

Restaurant, grocery shops gutted in city

By Staff Correspondent

A restaurant and two grocery shops were gutted in a big fire in the city's east Rampura early in the morning yesterday.

Two department stores and a boarding house were also partially damaged in the blaze which is believed to have originated from an electrical short circuit in the restaurant.

A Fire Service spokesman said, they were informed of the fire at 5:50 am. The Khilgaon unit of the service rushed to the spot and brought the flame under control within half an hour.

Special VGF

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All 535 unions under 58 thanas of the eight districts — Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Kurigram and Gaibandha — will be covered.

The wheat for this programme was specially arranged by diverting a part of the wheat earlier sanctioned for the canal digging programme scheduled for the winter.

Officials said besides the special VGF, the regular VGD (vulnerable group development) programme will continue all over the country, for which about 150,000 tonnes of wheat will be required this year.

About four lakh destitute women benefit from this programme, each getting 31kg of wheat a month. They are also provided with some vocational training.

Hasina

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She said the government was committed to revoking the 'black law' after the establishment of parliamentary democracy, but they breached their commitments.

The Leader of the Opposition said the commitment of the three alliances, during the anti-autocracy agitation, was the elimination of killing, coup and conspiracy.

But the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and four leaders has not been arrested, she said and called upon all patriotic people to gear up the agitation on the demand for resignation of the 'vote-dacoit and corrupt government' and for free and fair elections under a non-partisan caretaker government.

Another report adds: More than 500 leaders and workers from different political parties, of Jamalpur district yesterday joined the Awami League.

Suspected dacoit beaten to death in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 2: Angry people beat one person to death and seriously injured four others suspecting them to be dacoits at the Lamchhari Bazar under Kotwali Thana at around 8 last night.

Kotwali police said, a group of fishermen earlier caught these five persons from the Kirtankhola river suspecting they were dacoits.

The five persons were heading for Barisal on a trawler when the fan of their vessel got entangled in a fishing net at around 4 pm. The five men then started abusing the fishermen.

All fishermen in the river then picked up the five men along with the trawler and took them to the Lamchhari Bazar forcibly.

The Midnight File

12 die in Algiers shootout

ALGIERS, Nov 2: Twelve people died in a shootout between police and Muslim militants in downtown Algiers on Wednesday, witnesses said, as the military-backed government maintained a hard line against insurgents. The government also rejected two top leaders of the Muslim fundamentalist movement after they called on militants to continue their nearly 3-year-old rebellion that has left more than 11,000 dead, informed sources said, reports AP.

Israel to establish new settlements in Arava

JERUSALEM, Nov 2: In wake of the peace treaty with Jordan, Israel announced plans on Wednesday to establish two new settlements in the Arava desert and the Israel Antiquities Authority reported fresh excavations of Roman milestones there. The quasi-governmental Jewish Agency, responsible for settlement in Israel, said it hoped the two new communities and increased financial support would attract 5,000 more Israelis to the desert by the year 2000, reports AP.

ECNEC okays projects involving Tk 381.5cr

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved 10 projects involving a total cost of Tk 381.5 crore, reports UNB.

The approval was given in a meeting of the ECNEC held with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

Of the projects, the Communications Ministry is implementing five road and bridge projects at a cost of Tk 269 crore.

The projects are reconstruction of five bridges, damaged during the Liberation War, at a cost of Tk 26 crore, construction of 19 kilometre-long Tongi-Ashilia-Zirabo-EPZ road at a cost of Tk 40.5 crore, 43 km Lalmai-Laksham-Sonamuri road at a cost of Tk 38 crore and of 18 other roads in various parts of the country at a cost of Tk 165 crore.

The ECNEC meeting approved another project aimed at developing infrastructure, and other facilities at five post-graduate colleges of the country at a cost of Tk 30 crore.

These are Eden Girls' College, Comilla Victoria College, Barisal BM College, Mymensingh Ananda Mohan College and Sylhet Madan Mohan College.

The second phase of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology project in Sylhet at a cost of Tk 23 crore for opening four more faculties was also approved in the meeting.

The faculties — School of Physical Science, School of Applied Science, School of Life Science and School of Social Science — will enable the university to enroll additional 1800 students.

The ECNEC also gave go-ahead to creation of a small, medium and long-term information bank (data bank) by using modern computer technology at a cost of Tk 18 crore.

It sanctioned Tk 10 crore in the form of breach financing for the Pabna Sugar Mills, being set up by the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC).

The finance minister asked the industries ministry to take speedy steps to make the sugar mills a public limited company by floating shares to generate its own resources to meet its various expenditure.

Another project for improvement and expansion of pure drinking water system of 23 towns of the country at a cost of Tk 31.5 crore was also endorsed by the meeting.

Royal Bengals

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region, the jungle attracts a good number of illegal wood cutters, honey collectors and others who move about in engine boats.

"Because of the engine boats, people can go deep into the forests and often see one or two of the Royal Bengals," Khasru said.

The Royal Bengals like to live alone. Each of them maintains a personal territory covering an area of three to 10 square kilometres. In that case, 800 tigers would simply over crowd the Sundarbans and many would die from starvation. But it is also possible to increase the tiger population through planning.

"Firstly, tigers should not be disturbed during the breeding season when they may break into each other's territory and engage in deadly fights. If they are left in peace, there will be lesser territorial fights and better matings," Khasru pointed out.

"In our swamp forest, mortality of cubs is very high. A tigress with her cubs has to spend most of the time feeding and defending its offspring. Initially after the birth of its cubs, the tigress can not go out for hunting to guard the offspring against attacks by other predators of the forests. This may lead to starvation for both the tigress and the cubs and sometimes the cubs die," he said.

The southernmost part of the Sundarbans facing the Bay of Bengal has some open grassland which supports a good population of deer and wild boars. Naturally, the number of tigers is also high there. Some spots of the forest can be turned into grasslands for the deer and wild boars which may also benefit the tiger population, Khasru said.

Meanwhile, the time and venue of the next meeting between the ruling party and Opposition negotiators are yet to be announced by Sir Nihari.

Dialogue

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that the scope for accommodating Opposition members of Parliament remains.

The main task of the interim cabinet would be to hold the next general elections, the government-proposed formula said, and added that there would be no bar on the members of the interim cabinet from contesting the elections.

The interim cabinet, according to the formula, would hand over power to the Leader of the House of the next elected Parliament, the outline concluded.

A member of the BNP standing committee — the party's highest policy-making body — told this correspondent yesterday that the ruling party could not think of any other concession to the Opposition.

"Constitutionally, we are not bound to share power with the Opposition before the next general elections, yet we have offered the compromise formula only to avoid a possible conflict with the Opposition," the BNP leader said.

In her public speech Tuesday, Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, however, announced that nothing short of a non-partisan caretaker government would prevent her from launching an agitation for the unseating of the Khaleda Zia administration.

Meanwhile, the time and venue of the next meeting between the ruling party and Opposition negotiators are yet to be announced by Sir Nihari.



Awami League leader Begum Zohra Tajuddin speaking as chief guest at a discussion on the 'Jail Killing Day' at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institute in the city yesterday. The Jatiya Char Neta Parishad organised the discussion.

Jail Killing Day

From Page 1 Col 4

tural bodies have taken programmes to observe the day.

AL programmes include hoisting black flags at the Bangabandhu Bhawan and party offices, garlanding the portrait of Bangabandhu, offering fete at the mazaars of the late leaders at the Banani graveyard and a discussion meeting at the central office. Sheikh Hasina will preside the meeting.

Meanwhile, speakers at a meeting yesterday said the spirit of the Liberation War cannot be established without trial of the 'killers' of Bangabandhu and four national leaders slain in jail.

The 'anti-liberation forces' killed them to destroy the values of the Liberation War and the independence of the country, they told the commemorative meeting held at the Engineers' Institute to mark the 'jail killing day'.

Awami League presidium member Syeda Johra Tajuddin, Justice Debesh Chandra Bhattacharya, poet Shamsul Huq, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir took part in the discussion.

The Four National Leaders Council organised the discussion, chaired by its Member-Secretary Syed Ahmed.

Johra Tajuddin said the anti-liberation forces in a planned way created a vacuum in leadership by killing Bangabandhu and four of his followers.

This was not a killing of some people, it was the destruction of national values, ideals and spirit, said the widow of the former Prime Minister.

The discussion was punctuated by recitation from poems, dedicated to the national leaders.

ID cards to ensure fair polls, says CEC

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice Abdur Rouf said in Dhaka yesterday that a modernised electoral process could be introduced by registering all eligible voters throughout the country and providing them with identity (ID) cards to ensure free and fair elections.

Justice Rouf, in an exclusive interview with BSS, said with this end in view the Election Commission planned to appoint six lakh trained volunteers for introduction of ID cards to estimated six crore eligible voters through registration. Each of such trained volunteers will cover 100 voters who themselves will fill up three copies of prescribed forms giving all necessary data, he said.

Each computer designed identity-card (laminated) with 'geo-code' number and photograph will cost Taka fifty only per voter, totalling Taka 300 crore, he said.

The CEC said the introduction of ID cards for the first time in the history of the country through registration of eligible voters would help institutionalise democracy. "Our plan is to ensure that the voters can exercise their right of franchise and protect it," he said, expressing the hope that it would help curb muscle and money power.

Justice Rouf said the voters' list, inherited required to be improved and the proposed data-based registration of voters would eliminate the possibilities of getting entry of fictitious voters or more than one time of any single voter.

Mugger

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area chased the muggers, firing shots, all the way up to the Kamalapur railway station where three of the muggers fled, leaving their dead accomplice in the damaged autorickshaw.

Police believe, crackers exploded inside the autorickshaw when a police bullet hit one of the muggers who was carrying the crackers.

Police also recovered 31 partially burnt Tk-500 notes from the autorickshaw.

Detective police, who took up the case, managed to arrest one of the escaped muggers — Abdul Mannan — from the Janaseba Nursing Home at Shyamoli at four in the afternoon.

A hunt to nab the two other accomplices is on.

Export performance

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cent in Malaysia, and 27 per cent in Indonesia.

Bangladesh's exports of labour-intensive manufactured goods, with the exception of readymade garments, is rather limited for a country with relatively large manpower, 51 million in 1990," he noted.

Landell-Mills, who succeeded Christopher Willoughby, pointed out that the country does have the potential to compete because of the relatively low cost of labour and favourable macro-economic indicators.

However, he said, the success of the export drive would critically depend on a number of factors, including access to raw materials at competitive prices, export financing and credit schemes, reduction of the high transaction costs for exports by streamlining customs and duty drawback procedures, removal of infrastructural constraints and improving technological and marketing skills.

In order to help the government carry out its export development programme and to address the non-labour factors, Landell-Mills said, the World Bank is currently preparing a second export development project of 50 million US dollars aimed at promoting exports.

He also underscored the need for labour cost competitiveness, particularly in the post-GATT era.

He cited a recent World Bank assessment study of Bangladesh's labour cost competitiveness in comparison to other competing countries, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, in three sectors — garments, textiles and leather.

"We have found that while Bangladesh generally has competitive labour costs in garments vis-a-vis its rivals, Vietnam is a close competitor and has lower costs for some categories of garments. Bangladesh's labour costs in both spinning and weaving are much higher than those of the efficient producers, notably Pakistan. In leather, Bangladesh has among the lowest labour costs, but West Bengal and the rest of

24 US warplanes arrive in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Nov 2:

Twenty-four A-10 Thunderbolt warplanes arrived in Kuwait today to join forces which were rushed to the emirate last month to counter an Iraqi military build-up near the border, military officials said here, reports AFP.

The A-10 tankbusters flew into Ahmed Al-Jaber airbase north of Kuwait City.

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Computer Workshop and Education Fair '94
 The 2nd, 3rd and 4th November
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 Bangladesh Computer Association, Chittagong
 Computer Workshop and Education Fair '94 and general meeting of
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 All members are invited Subject to Pay of their Annual Subscription
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Editor: Mahfuz Anam
 Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel CA, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrai, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No 11, Road No 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. FAX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

QULKHWANI
 Quikhwani of Nasiruddin Ahmed, Member (Customs) National Board of Revenue will be held on Thursday, 3 November '94 after Asr prayers at House No 11, Holy Cross College Road, Farmgate, Dhaka.
 Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Quikhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.
 D-1102 **Family Members**