

# Manpower export to Malaysia uncertain

Kuala Lumpur wants to settle illegal workers' issue first

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The prospect of large scale manpower export to Malaysia has become somewhat uncertain as Kuala Lumpur is considering legalisation or deportation of around half a million illegal foreign workers staying in that country.

Kuala Lumpur has informed Dhaka it will resume fresh recruitment after legalising or deporting illegal workers, according to sources in the Ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment.

"If Malaysia legalises or gives work permit to illegal workers, the possibil-

ity of large scale manpower export to it is very poor. In that case, not more than 50,000 workers can be exported there," said a high official of the ministry.

Earlier, the government had estimated several lakh workers would get employment in Malaysia once fresh recruitment started.

Malaysia however is likely to send a list of training centres through which manpower recruitment will be allowed, the official said.

Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur signed an agreement on manpower recruitment from Bangladesh in October last year.

Meanwhile, private recruiting

agencies and overseas job seekers have become frustrated over the delay in recruitment even after the signing of the agreement. "We have been preparing to export manpower to Malaysia since October last but it is yet to start. Many job seekers already deposited money with recruiting agencies and have been waiting for long," said a recruiting agent.

Expatriate welfare ministry sources however said Kuala Lumpur has not yet resumed manpower import from any of the countries with which it signed agreements last year. They however ruled out any

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## Bomb threat to Sylhet radio this time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

An anonymous bomb threat phoned in yesterday to the Sylhet Centre of Radio Bangladesh left officials and employees panicked.

The Assistant Controller of News at the centre received the call at 10:40am. The caller warned the centre would be blown away by 11pm yesterday.

The matter was immediately brought to the notice of law enforcers, who later beefed up the security measures there. The DIG of police and officials of other agencies visited the centre.

## Free graft body may get chief, members tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Appointment of chairman and two commissioners of the Independent Anti-corruption Commission is likely tomorrow, officials said.

Chairman of the selection committee Justice MA Aziz of the Supreme Court along with members Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury (High Court), Asif Ali (Cmptroller and Auditor General) and Z N Tahmida Begum (Chairman of Public Service Commission) called on president Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday and recommended names to him for appointment.

Cabinet Secretary Sa'adat Hussain accompanied the selection committee, said a Bangabhaban press release.

The president thanked the chairman and members of the selection committee for duly completing the task assigned to them.

## AL firm on Aug 15 hartal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) reaffirmed an earlier decision to enforce a six-hour countrywide hartal on August 15, called to demand state recognition of the day as a national mourning day.

The hartal would be observed Saturday from 6:00am to 12:00 noon, AL general secretary Abdul

Prayer Timing		
August 13		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-25	5-00
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-41	6-44
Esha	8-00	8-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		



Bicyclists parade through a Dhaka road yesterday, demanding a separate lane for their environment-friendly vehicles. Dhaka Cycling Club, the Hunger Project, Jubo Academy and Ushika Prottyasha staged the rally.

## 13 hurt as JCD, Shibir clash at Chhatak

UNB, Sunamganj

At least 13 people were injured, three with bullets, in a clash between JCD and Shibir over admission to Govindaganj college at Chhatak yesterday.

Shibir activists Rubel, Zubair and Sohel Ahmed were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital in Sylhet with bullet injuries. Ten others are undergoing treatment at Chhatak Health Complex.

College sources said the clash erupted at about 4:00pm when the JCD activists demonstrating against

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## Rob murder convict surrenders to court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A Khulna City Corporation (KCC) ward commissioner yesterday surrendered to a local court, two days after a Rajshahi tribunal sentenced him to death for killing an Awami League leader.

Golam Mawla Sanu, commissioner of ward No. 26 of the KCC, submitted himself before the Court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohammad Mosharef Hossain in the A w a m i J u b o L e a g u e

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## Zidane quits int'l football

AFP, Paris

France's inspirational playmaker and captain Zinedine Zidane on Thursday announced his retirement from the international team after an illustrious career in which he won 93 caps a World Cup winner's medal and a European Championship.

"I think that at a given moment you must say 'stop'," Zidane said in a statement on his website www.zidane.fr.

"I have thought long and hard over this decision," he said. "It's the end of my international career with the French team."

## Rab nabs Ctg arms dealers with AK-47, Sten guns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in a special raid on Katirhat in Hathazari upazila on Wednesday night arrested two persons including an alleged arms dealer and recovered a number of arms and ammunition.

## Khulna Ahmadiyya Mosque Cops on alert for bigots' siege plan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Prospect of a bloody face-off looms large over Khulna city in the wake of the threatened siege of an Ahmadiyya

mosque by International Khatme Nabuwat Movement Bangladesh (IKNMB).

Khulna police administration, however, has beefed up the security to avert violent confrontation.

The local chapter of IKNMB on August 10 declared that it will lay siege to Ahmadiyya mosque at Nirala Residential Area after jum'a prayers on August 13. They announced the programme demanding government statement declaring Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim.

Meanwhile, in response to prospective IKNMB action, Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat has taken all-out preparations.

Tension mounted further in Khulna city as IKNMB in a fresh statement has expressed its

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# Olympics start today in its birthplace

REUTERS, Athens

Modern Greece told the world on the eve of Athens 2004 that the Olympics will be as spectacular as any Games put on by their ancient forefathers.

With a nation's adrenalin flowing, Athens put the finishing touches to its first Olympics for more than a century and Games supremo Gianna Angelopoulos boasted: "Our people are ready."

"The whole world will discover that modern Greeks have the same ambitions and abilities as the ancients who gave us the Olympic Games," she said as the final countdown began for the six billion euro (7.34-billion-dollar) extravaganza.

The organisers have faced a torrent of criticism for years over construction chaos, budget overruns, security

concerns and profiteering.

Now, with everything from traffic to ticketing falling into place at the very last moment, a defiant Angelopoulos said: "When Greeks make a promise, we keep it."

But Greek pride did take one dent in this country of 10 million determined to take centre-stage as an "A-Nation."

A top manager in Greece's state broadcaster handed in his resignation after the station went off air during its Olympic debut on Wednesday, losing the signal for 25 minutes during the soccer qualifiers.

Viewers across Greece watching the ET-1 channel were left with a blank screen midway through the national team's opening evening match against South Korea, due to what the station said was a short

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## POST-FLOOD REHABILITATION Tiny sanction for fishery, livestock

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Against the gigantic loss of Tk 3,100 crore in fishery and livestock sectors during the current devastating floods, the government has taken separate rehabilitation programmes of Tk 293 crore only.

A report of the fishery and livestock

ministry, placed before a meeting of parliamentary standing committee on the ministry yesterday revealed livestock sectors alone has incurred a loss of about Tk 2100 crore.

The meeting was informed that government has taken up a

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