

## More illegals to leave Malaysia next week

ANN/THE STAR

More illegal immigrants are expected to take up the amnesty offer from next week after receiving their salaries, Malaysian Deputy Home Minister Tan Chai Ho said.

He said from next week onwards, about 7,000 to 10,000 illegal immigrants were expected to return to their home countries in a day. Until Saturday afternoon, more than 30,000 illegal immigrants left the country while the target was some 400,000, he said after launching the Rumbang Charis Community Centre here.

The amnesty programme, which began on Oct 29, will end on Nov 14. Immigration Department enforce-

ment director Ishak Mohamed said in a statement that most of the illegal immigrants left the country using the exit points in Stulang Laut, Malacca Port, Port Klang and KL International Airport.

In Kepala Batas, Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Government had agreed in principle to extend the deadline for the amnesty period to illegal Indonesian workers following a request by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

However, the matter would have to be referred to the Cabinet for a final decision, he added after presenting Raya goodies to the poor on Saturday.

## Eid passengers

FROM PAGE 1

staffers said no ticket is available.

After a short negotiation, Sumon, the ticket clerk of Parabat2, a Dhaka-Barisal launch, directed this correspondent to a black marketer who demanded Tk 2,000 for a double-berth cabin and Tk 1,000 for a single-berth one.

During yesterday's visit to Sadarghat launch terminal the ticket clerks were also found to be charging almost double the normal fare from the deck passengers.

A number of passengers said if the government does not take corrective measures, the launch crews would charge many times higher than the normal fare during the couple of days immediately before the Eid.

### AT BUS COUNTERS

Staff of most of the passenger bus services said all tickets from November 9 to November 13 have been sold out. Many passengers however alleged transport workers have hoarded most of the tickets and would charge almost double the fare as the passengers would have no alternative to buying them at any price.

Contrary to the claim by most of the bus staffers that they are not charging more than the usual fare, a number of passengers told The Daily Star transport workers are charging Tk50 to Tk60 more a ticket.

Though the Hanif Paribahan staffs told The Daily Star correspondent that there were not a single ticket left for November 11 for Rangpur, moments later a staff at the counter sold a ticket to a construction contractor at Tk250, which is Tk50 more than the normal fare.

"We are charging Tk 250 per ticket for Rangpur at the directive of our owner," said Mohammad Dulal, counter master of Hanif Paribahan at Shyamoly.

Alauddin Al Azad, general manager of an insurance company, said the staffs of Sathkira Express at its Shyamoly ticket counter charged him Tk330 for a ticket for November

13 against the actual fare of Tk260.

To evade any legal consequences, he said, the bus services are writing the authorised fare on the tickets.

"The transport workers and owners are really forcing us to pay higher, taking advantage of the lack of government monitoring," Azad remarked.

### RAILWAY

A large crowd was queued up yesterday morning in front of the ticket counters at Kamalapur Railway Station well ahead of their opening to buy advance tickets. But many of them would be returning empty-handed.

"I came here at 7:00am. After waiting for over five and a half hours in a long queue I managed to buy a ticket of Parabat, a Sylhet-bound express train," Rahim Mian said.

Ashraf Hossain, however, is not as fortunate as Rahim. "I don't know whether I will be able to go home in Noakhali as I could not get a ticket standing in queues here for the last two days," said Ashraf in visible anger.

During the visit to the railway station yesterday The Daily Star correspondent found a befeed up security at the station, with a mobile court, Government Railway Police, Bangladesh Rifles and police contingents deployed to check any unwanted situation. Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) were also patrolling the station frequently.

"Apparently no irregularity is taking place. But from my experience I can say that brokers have already grabbed a good number of tickets, which they would sell at much higher rates just before the trains' departure," said Tushar, a Sylhet-bound passenger.

"The homebound passengers have repeatedly complained of not getting tickets. But they have not yet complained of any irregularity," said the magistrate of the mobile court on duty at the station.

## F28 crash probe

FROM PAGE 12

recovered all valuable parts including two engines from the plane. The fuselage of the plane will be salvaged after Eid.

After the incident, the civil aviation ministry formed a three-member probe body headed by Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) Zahed Qudus while Biman formed another six-member committee headed by Chief of Flight Safety Captain Selim.

Members of both the probe committees visited the crash site several times, talked to the officials and staff of the control tower and other officials at Sylhet airport and collected documents related to the landing system.

The investigation, however, did not proceed further. The probe committees are still waiting for clues from the black box recovered soon after the crash.

The black box contains conversations of the crewmembers that could reveal a strong clue to the accident. The black box also records information about the plane's engine, weather and other conditions of a flight.

Talking to The Daily Star, Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary Akhtar Hossain Khan yesterday said the probe committee is working hard to find out the cause of the crash. "The probe report will be available after decoding of the black box."

He said the decoding process of the black box, which includes cockpit voice recorder and flight recorder, takes some time.

A source, however, said the probe bodies are in a dilemma over giving reports fearing possible repercussions. The detection of any technical problem in the crashed F28 aircraft will surely put the Biman management in an embarrassing situation as Biman has long been defending purchase of outdated F28s.

The day after the crash, pilots went on a wildcat strike in protest at State Minister of Civil Aviation Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin's reported

comment that the crash had occurred due to fault of the pilots. So the probe bodies also fear pilots' rage.

Earlier, the pilots blamed bad condition of the runway for the crash. But sources said the probe committee of Caab, which maintains country's airports, is unlikely to point at bad condition of the runway, which may damage Caab's credibility.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines meanwhile received \$2.65 million from the Lloyds Aviation Insurance Company Ltd of the UK as insurance coverage of the crashed aircraft. According to the settlement agreement, Biman also retained the aircraft.

## Bangladeshi businessman abducted in W Bengal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Bangladeshi businessman named Nazrul Islam was abducted in the Indian border town of Maldain West Bengal on Thursday.

Nazrul Islam, 32, was on a two-week business tour in India and was staying at a hotel in Malda before being kidnapped on the outskirts of the town.

His relatives in Bangladesh told police that they received a \$17,400 ransom demand from the abductors, reports AFP.

"One has been arrested in connection with the abduction. We hope to make a breakthrough in a day or two," local police chief Sasikanta Pujari told AFP.

Traders in the export-import zone of Malda have called strike in protest against the abduction.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata told The Daily Star last night that they are yet to get any information on the incident.

## Harkatul Jihad again threatens to kill Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Outlawed Islamist outfit Harkatul Jihad has again threatened to assassinate Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina and two local leaders of its Kotalipara chapter.

Two separate letters containing the death threat reached Kotalipara Upazila AL Joint Secretary Lal Mohon Biswas and Radhaganj UP Chairman Bhim Chandra Bagchi on November 5. The letters were written on behalf of the principal of Harkatul Jihad Central Command.

Bhim Chandra Bagchi mentioned in the general diary (GD) filed with the Kotalipara Police Station that Harkatul Jihad threatened to kill Sheikh Hasina at any cost in the third attempt, although two previous attempts failed.

They also asked Lal Mohon Biswas and Bhim Chandra Bagchi to get ready for death.

In the middle of this year Harkatul Jihad threatened twice through letters to blow up the tomb of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Abscending leader of Harkatul Jihad Mufti Hannan who was awarded life term for threatening to kill Sheikh Hasina when she was prime minister, often enters his native village Hiron under Kotalipara Upazila along with some companions at night, Lal Mohon Biswas said.

When asked about the death threats, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotalipara Police Station said,

"We have taken all necessary security measures in this regard."

## Concern founder passes away

Raymond F Kennedy passed away peacefully on November 3 at Princess Royal Hospital, Sussex, UK, after a short spell of illness. His wife Dr Yasmin Khan, son Raymond and daughter Miriam were by his side.

Kennedy was born in California in 1926 and brought up in Dublin, Ireland. Well known as one of the founders of Concern, an Irish NGO, and later of Concern Universal and Concern USA, he devoted his life to alleviating human distress and poverty and promoting education across the world.

He worked in Nigeria during the Biafra war and in Bangladesh, Malawi, Ireland, UK and USA. He will be remembered by many in Bangladesh for his work as the director of Concern during and after the Liberation War. Later, he returned to Dhaka to work for Dhaka Ahsania Mission (DAM) and continued to support the DAM and Nijeri Shikhi from the UK.

A requiem mass will be held at 12noon on Friday followed by his burial in Clayton churchyard, Sussex. There will also be a memorial service in Dublin in early December.

## 93 boys rescued from Dublar Char

UNB, Bagerhat

Coast Guard yesterday rescued 93 boys engaged in forced labour by fishermen at remote Dublar Char.

Commander Abdul Matin of Coast Guard told UNB that his force raided the fishermen's hamlets in the island and rescued the boys aged between 7 and 12.

Engaged in forced labour in drying fishes, these boys were kidnapped from poverty-stricken areas of the country. More others have been held hostage in some other hamlets, he added.

Dublar Char is located in the Bay of Bengal, far across southern side of the Sundarbans.

The rescued boys were being brought to Mongla. They will soon be sent to their homes.

Earlier on October 25, Coast Guard rescued 36 boys from Dublar Char.

## N'ganj fire guts 60 shanties

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

A fire Saturday burned down 60 shanties in a slum, a furniture shop and bamboos in Banshpatti in Mandolpara, leaving some 200 people homeless.

Locals alleged some people set fire to the slum to evict its dwellers and grab the land.

Eight units of firefighters from Haziganj, Demra and Postogola rushed to the spot and put out the fire at around 12:00 midnight.

There were different versions on the origin of the fire. However, a witness claimed to have seen two youths setting the fire at around 10:30pm.

Joyanal Khan, a class four employee of Narayanganj municipality and slum dweller, said the youths ran away when he challenged them.

He alleged Jabbar Ali, Mujibar and Nazma in connivance with a locally influential person have been trying to evict them and blamed the incident on them.

Fire service sources said the fire damaged valuables worth about Tk 10 lakh.

## Kashmiris cautiously welcome India offer

REUTERS, Srinagar

Kashmiri separatists gave a cautious welcome yesterday to India's offer to allow them to visit Pakistan and said it could help to restart a stalled dialogue process.

Home Minister Shivraj Patil, visiting India's only Muslim-majority state, said on Saturday he was ready for unconditional talks with separatist leaders, and had no objection if they wanted to visit Pakistan before talks were held.

Most Kashmiri separatists have either not been given passports or have had them impounded by Indian authorities, but Patil said they could apply for travel documents.

"It is definitely a welcome step," said Moulana Abbas Ansari, a senior leader of the moderate wing of the separatist All Parties Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference. "But if they are sincere, they should first issue our passports."

Pakistan, which disputes Indian rule over Kashmir, also welcomed the offer.

"This is a step in the right direction," foreign ministry spokesman Masood Khan told Reuters in Islamabad. "It will enhance interaction between the Kashmiris and should ultimately facilitate their dialogue with Pakistan and India."

Moderate separatist leaders held two rounds of talks with the Indian government this year, for the first time since an insurgency broke out in Kashmir in 1989. But talks stalled after Patil's Congress-led government took power in May.

Patil's ministry had initially insisted any talks should take place "within" the Indian constitution, which says Kashmir is an integral

part of India. But on Saturday the minister insisted there was "no condition from outside".

Moderate separatists had been under pressure not to talk to New Delhi from hardline groups, who broke away from the Hurriyat alliance last year.

Before a third round of talks, separatists have demanded the right to visit Pakistan and talk to Kashmiris on the other side of the Line of Control dividing the troubled Himalayan region.

## Rab nab Tokai Mizan's aide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) last night arrested an infamous gang-leader and associate of Tokai Mizan with a revolver and five rounds of bullet in the city's Palashi area.

A team of Rab-2 held Abdul Jabbar, chief of 'Jabbar and Gandhi Anwar' gang operating in Lalbagh and Kamrangirchar, at around 7:30pm. Jabbar is accused of several murders, extortion and possession of illegal arms and explosives.

A Rab contingent later took him to Kamrangirchar area in search of hidden arms and were in action till filing of this report at 1:00am today, sources at the Rab said.

The Rab team nabbed Jabbar acting on information given by Tokai Mizan under interrogation. Mizan died in a 'crossfire' between Rab and his accomplices at Kamrangirchar last Tuesday, eight hours into his arrest.

Local sources said Jabbar's gang operates under protection of a law-maker.

## Solidarity Day

FROM PAGE 1

In Dhaka, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said November 7 would always inspire the nation to foil any conspiracy, protect the sovereignty and democracy in the country.

He said on this day in 1975 Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman united the nation, put the country on the path of development, restored law and order and became the architect of a modern Bangladesh.

The LGRD and cooperatives minister termed Zia the symbol of unity, development and independence. "Zia restored democracy and freedom of press," he told the discussion organised by BNP at Mahanagar Natya Mancha.

BNP leaders Oli Ahmed, Khondker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, KM Obaidur Rahman, Akbar Hossain, Tariqul Islam, Nazmul Huda, Mirza Abbas and Selima Rahman, Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Jubo Dal President Barkatullah Bulu and Sramik Dal General Secretary Jafrul Hasan also spoke at a meet-

ing.

In Sylhet, the district administration organised a discussion at the conference room of the deputy commissioner's office.

The speakers at the discussion called upon all to unite the nation with the spirit of the 7th November to make the country a prosperous one.

In Narayanganj, a discussion meeting was held to mark the day. State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Rezaul Karim, local MPs and political leaders took part in discussion. Essay and art competitions for children were also arranged.

In Mymensingh, the district administration organised a discussion meeting on the day. State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain and Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu, MP, were present at the meeting.

In Faridpur, Food and Disaster Management Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf was present at a discussion organised by the district administration. Local BNP leaders and professionals addressed the meeting.

## BB sees poor FDI show

FROM PAGE 1

figures are based on calendar year.

Although Bangladesh continues to be an under-performer in attracting foreign direct investment, the survey data show that actual flows of FDI are remarkably higher than earlier reported data collected through the banking channel, says quarterly economic update of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for September this year.

Last year, the BoI started publishing data of FDI inflows and said Bangladesh Bank figures are less than the actual inflow. It suggested that the central bank publish FDI data only after carrying out a survey.

The central bank sources said to accurately measure the FDI flows, the Statistics Department of Bangladesh Bank started conducting a semi-annual survey on FDI flow for a number of years on a test basis.

Over the years, it has become apparent that these data did not fully capture the FDI inflows, missing out on elements such as intra-company loans, re-investments and in some cases, non-cash equity flows in the form of imports.

The method for measuring the inflow is in conformity with the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments (BoP) Manual and the methodology adopted is in line with standard international practice.

In line with international practice, the central bank incorporated the FDI survey data in preparing its BoP statistics. The BB published the FDI inflow data for the first time under the new system in its quarterly update for April-June this year.

It shows actual FDI flows are substantially higher than data reported in earlier BoP statistics, but the survey data show a declining trend in FDI during FY03 before it slightly improved in FY04.

The BoI's second half-yearly survey shows a staggering 71 per cent increase in the FDI inflow between January and June last year compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. Its third survey put the increase at 34 per cent for the whole year.

## BSF close to pushing in 250 Indians

BSS, Rangpur

The Border Security Force (BSF) has detained some 250 Bangla-speaking Indian Muslims in the villages along the northwestern frontiers to push them into Bangladesh at an opportune moment.

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources and locals said the BSF on Thursday and Friday failed to push in those Indians. The Indian border guards on Saturday night halted their push in bid in the wake of patrols by the BDR, Ansars and VDP and villagers, they added.

The BSF detained about 50 such victims, mostly women and children, in a primary school near Lokma village in Dakshin Dinajpur in West Bengal near the pillar No. 277 along the Jyopurhat border.

The BSF also assembled over 200 Bangla-speaking Muslims in villages in India along Dinajpur, Thakurgaon, Panchagarh, Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Naogaon borders.

The Indian border guards are, in fact, moving the victims along the northwestern borders from one place to another almost every night to serve their purpose, sources said.

The BDR, Ansars and VDP and villagers are on high alert to thwart any push-in bid, the sources added.

## 2 abducted freed on ransom

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Two persons have bought their freedom from hefty sums after several days of their abduction in Kushtia and Chuadanga on Saturday night.

In Kushtia, Rabiul 10, son of Nazir Uddin of Sadarpur village in Mirpur upazila was freed after his family paid the captors a ransom of Tk 35,000, family sources said.

Salam, son of Sattar Ali of Hogokandi in Daulatpur upazila and also a relative of the family, came to Nazir's house on October 3 and took Rabiul, a student of class six of Sadarpur Madrasa to an unknown place.

Later Salam and his gang demanded Tk 10 lakh for the boy's release.

"They will kill us if we disclose whereabouts of the criminals as they are staying around," a relative of Rabiul said.

In Chuadanga, some Indians picked up Abdur Razzak, a Bangladeshi garment trader, from bordering village Hariharanagar in Jibonagar upazila on Thursday night and demanded Tk 20 lakh as ransom.

They released him when Razzak's family allegedly paid the ransom.

As many as 108 people including 43 school and college students were abducted in the district in last ten months.

Of them 13 victims including three school students were killed, 12 are still missing and the rest bought their freedom.

## US Dy Asstt Secy

FROM PAGE 12

and opposition parties work together to resolve present crisis.

He also said that the two largest political parties, ruling BNP and main opposition Awami League, should not take democracy for granted and that as the head of government, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia should arrange a dialogue between them in the interest of democracy.

Patterson also expressed serious concerns over the August 21 grenade attacks on the AL and the May 21 grenade attack in Sylhet on British High Commissioner Anwar Chowdhury.

Patterson, who has extensive experience in Asian affairs, is likely to bring up the issue of a possible US-Bangladesh joint working group on counter-terrorism.

US embassy officials, however, did not say anything about the purpose and itinerary of Patterson's visit due to "unavailability of any planned schedule".

## Tk 35cr

FROM PAGE 12

The complex includes a memorial built at a cost of Tk 8.19 crore, a floating bridge at Tk 16.62 crore and a memorial block at Tk 4.72 crore. Landscaping and others involve Tk 5.6 crore. Housing and public works ministry started the construction work in 2002.

After the opening function both the president and the prime minister placed wreaths at the tomb of Zia marking the 7th November, the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

They paid respect to the late president standing in solemn silence for some time. A smartly turned-out contingent of the army gave state salute to the memory of Zia.

A munajat was offered seeking divine blessings for the salvation of Zia's soul as well as the peace and prosperity of the country.

Ministers, parliament members, political leaders, diplomats, representatives of development partners who attended the function also paid respects to the late leader.

Leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations thronged into the memorial complex to pay respects to Zia, the founder of BNP, by placing wreaths.

## Iraq declares emergency

FROM PAGE 1

Kurdistan for a period of 60 days," Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's spokesman Thaeir al-Naqib told a news conference.

He said the state of emergency, equivalent to martial law, was intended to ensure security ahead of elections in January.

The government gave itself emergency powers soon after replacing Iraq's U.S.-led administration on June 28, but it has not yet used them despite a raging insurgency.

Moments after the announcement carried on live Iraqi television, a car bomb exploded near the house of Iraq's finance minister in central Baghdad. It was not immediately clear if Adel Abdul Mahdi or anyone else had been hurt.

Insurgents have launched a wave of violence in central Iraq to show their muscle before US-led forces assault Falluja and Ramadi. The Americans say they are only awaiting the word from Allawi, who returned from Europe on Saturday, to attack.

Police said gunmen killed 23 policemen in three attacks in Iraq. The bloodiest assault was in Haditha, 200 km (125 miles) northwest of Baghdad, where insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades and

mortars attacked a police station at dawn.

After a 90-minute battle in which six policemen were wounded, the attackers took 21 captured policemen to the K-3 oil pumping station area and shot them dead execution-style.

Brigadier Shaher al-Jughalifi, security chief in western Iraq, died in an attack on a police post in nearby Haqlaniya.

Gunmen killed another Iraqi police officer and wounded one in the town of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, police said. A suicide car bomber attacked a US convoy on the highway to Baghdad airport. A US spokesman could not confirm the report.

In Falluja, residents said fighting erupted on the eastern edge of the city near the highway leading to Baghdad after intense overnight air strikes and artillery shelling.

On Saturday, bombings and attacks on police stations killed 34 people, mostly police, in the restive city of Samarra, some 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad. Allawi's office said 49 people were also wounded. All the casualties were men.

US troops enforced a round-the-clock curfew in Samarra and nearby villages yesterday, paralyzing normal life.

## AL, allies to stoke up anti-govt move from December

UNB, Dhaka

The main opposition Awami League and its allies at a meeting last night decided to further intensify their anti-government movement from December.

The decision came from a closed-door meeting at the residence of AL Presidium Member Abdur Razzak. Key leaders of the AL, Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), Gono Forum and other left-leaning groups attended the meeting.

Following their parleys, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "We sat informally and discussed various issues relating to prevailing situation of the country at which all parties expressed their concern."

He said, "We have reached at a consensus to further intensify the anti-government agitation