

Bangladeshi workers in Jordan get 'ill-treatment'

BDNEWS, Dhaka
 Owners of a garments factory in Jordan are allegedly ill-treating more than a hundred Bangladeshi workers, giving them inadequate food, water, and accommodation and depriving them of due wages.
 Kabir Hossain, a worker of Al Shaded Garments, who was recently sent back home, narrated the tale of inhuman torture in a press conference at the Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association office yesterday.
 "After 48 hours of work at a stretch, the authorities used to give us two pieces of bread. We were bound to work without salaries. As we demanded our salaries, they beat up us mercilessly," he said, adding, "We informed the Bangladesh Crime Reporters' Association office yesterday."
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Jalil again rules out polls without reforms

Urges for political consensus to free politics from black money holders, godfathers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Main opposition Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil has again said the upcoming parliamentary polls would not be held without reforms to the caretaker government system and Election Commission (EC).
 "The BNP-led coalition government would be forced to bring reforms to the caretaker government," the AL leader told the 'Meet the Reporters' programme organised by the Dhaka Reporters Unity

at its auditorium yesterday. Jalil said discussions are on with like-minded political parties about the reforms and a proposal would be placed before the nation by the month-end.
 He urged the ruling BNP and other political parties to reach a consensus to free the parliament and its politics from the grip of corrupt bureaucrats, black money holders and godfathers of criminals.
 "Expulsion of godfathers and black money holders has to be reciprocating. If the Awami League

expels all black money holders and the BNP does not take a similar measure, then we (AL) will be in trouble."
 He said the AL does not sell party tickets to business magnates depriving the politicians.
 The AL leader observed that the parliament was supposed to be the meeting place of politicians, but it has turned to be the house of businesspeople and godfathers of criminals.
 "What can the people expect of
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Pro-govt lawyers warned not to act against SCBA

BDNEWS, Dhaka
 Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Advocate Mahbubey Alam yesterday warned pro-government lawyers of the Supreme Court (SC) that their membership would be cancelled if they acted against the SCBA.
 Pointing to the pro-government lawyers, Alam said, "Benefit from the ruling four-party alliance, but do not act against the SCBA."
 "The SCBA will cancel membership of those who act against its decisions on the Faizee issue," he added.
 Alam was addressing a rally following a human chain organised by Sammilita Ainjibi Samannay Parishad to protest 'the politicisation of the judiciary and a conspiracy of destroying the image
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Indian Border Security Force Deputy Inspector General RK Chaudhari, right, discusses the border situation with Bangladesh Rifles Director General Maj Gen Jahangir Alam Choudhury, left, in Agartala, India yesterday.

Fisherman survives tiger attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira
 A fisherman yesterday bravely survived an attack by a man-eating Royal Bengal Tiger, fighting a half-hour battle with the predator in the deep forest of the Sundarbans.
 Sources said Abu Taleb, 50, son of Faizullah Sardar of Tengrakhal village of Shyamnagar upazila, went along with his two brothers to the river Kalindi in the Sundarbans for catching fish fry on April 26, after securing permission from the Forest Department. Finishing their job, the three were attacked by a Royal Bengal Tiger when they reached near their boat.
 Abu Taleb struggled with the tiger for half an hour as the two others escaped the scene. Later, however, the tiger abandoned the fight when the victim's two brothers, Abdullah Sardar and Abdul Malek, returned.
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Fix law and order, cut graft to boost FDI

Japanese envoy also speaks against hartal



Matsuhiro Horiguchi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Matsuhiro Horiguchi yesterday advised Bangladesh to improve its law and order and cut down on corruption to boost development and foreign direct investment (FDI).
 "There used to be good reasons for hartals—reasons like the language movement...but these days there are too many hartals. The national economy is suffering," Horiguchi said while talking to the press on "Next steps for Japan-Bangladesh relations" at the National Press Club yesterday.

He observed that serious injustices are being inflicted upon the people who do not sympathise with hartals. It is not only Bangladeshis who suffer the consequences of hartals, but also foreigners, especially the business people.
 The Japanese envoy also called for improving governance, infrastructure and regulatory frameworks to achieve pro-people growth and development.
 Japan's new Country Assistance Programme for Bangladesh, to be finalised by September, identifies governance as one of the three major pillars, the two others being
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PM to visit Japan

UNB, Dhaka
 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will be visiting Japan on an official tour this summer at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi.
 "Preparations for her visit are at the final stage. We'll announce the dates soon," Japanese Ambassador Matsuhiro Horiguchi told reporters at the Jatiya Press Club where he delivered a lecture on Japan-Bangladesh relations yesterday.
 He said her visit will consolidate mutual understanding, enhance political and economic relations between Dhaka and Tokyo.
 Horiguchi said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit will pave the way for a return visit by the Japanese prime minister to Bangladesh.

Rupali privatisation hits the road again

REJAUL KARIM BYRON
 The government has finally come up with a preliminary information memorandum (PIM) for privatisation of Rupali Bank, five months behind the schedule due to a protracted wrangling with

International Monetary Fund over the mode of privatisation.
 The Privatisation Commission at a meeting today will discuss and finalise the PIM. The meeting will also decide a timeframe for the privatisation of the bank including
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BDR, BSF agree to maintain peace on border

High-level meet in Agartala
UNB, B'baria
 Director General of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Major General Jahangir Alam Choudhury yesterday met the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) RK Chaudhari in Agartala when the two sides agreed to maintain peace
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Prayer Timing		
May 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-31	6-35
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation