

'Ensure minimum standard of migrants' rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Secretary Hemayetuddin yesterday called on the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) to create a global recognition of the need for a minimum standard of the migrants' rights in the host countries.

people.

The precise boundaries of Mode-4 that allows overseas employment only of the skilled manpower are not well defined and this lack of definitional clarity poses challenges for migration officials, he said, adding that identifying the scope of Mode-4 remains a major task.

stand much to gain from proper implementation and broadening of the GATS negotiations, he said.

While globalisation continues to spur the free flow of goods, services and capital, the marginalisation of labour mobility has created asymmetries and distortions in the global economy, he added.

Govt alienated from people: B Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the four-party alliance government has been alienated from the people due to its autocratic activities.

He was speaking at a function organised in connection with the joining of some leaders and workers of different parties to BDB at the party office at Segun Bagicha in the city.

Prof Chowdhury said the government has paralysed the administration and it has no policy to curb crimes and violence and reduce poverty.

He urged honest and patriotic people to join the BDB to strengthen the united movement against the government.

Presided over by BDB Publicity Secretary Advocate Shah Ahmed Badal, the function was also addressed by party Joint Secretary General Prof Nurul Alam Bepari, Engineer Altaf Hossain, Obaidur Rahman Mridha, and Nabab Bahadur.



A minibus crashed into a footpath after hitting a three-wheeler at Kakrail intersection in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

FAZILATUNNESA MUJIB HALL

Ensure security of students: Duta

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) has demanded that the university authorities immediately ensure the security of the female students at Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Hall, saying that the dormitory has been running without any administration since July 18.

On July 18, the provost and house tutors of Fazilatunnesa Hall resigned over a deadlock with the students.

The Duta leaders yesterday met Vice Chancellor Prof SMA Faiz and told him to take measures to bring back normalcy at the hall, Duta President Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique told The Daily Star.

In response, the VC said the authorities will take steps to this end after receiving the interim probe report on the incidents that led to the deadlock. A seven-member committee formed to probe the incidents will submit the interim report today.

The committee took interviews of the 15 students of the hall yesterday.

Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, yesterday called on the university authorities to meet the female students' demands and termed the Duta's demand for action against the students ill-motivated.

At a rally, JCD President Azizul Barea Helal said the female students of Fazilatunnesa Hall were demonstrating to press home their logical demands.

He also urged the authorities to withdraw all the allegations against the students of the hall.

DU JCD President Hasan Mamun presided over by the rally, Saiful Islam Firoz, Jayanta Kumar Kundu, Mostafa Khan Safori, Ekramul Islam Biplob, Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel, Atiqur Rahman and Abdul Matin also spoke.

Manzoor Ul Karim retires as Scouts president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manzoor Ul Karim, president of the Bangladesh Scouts, has retired recently after his 26 years' involvement in scouting.

In a letter to President Iajuddin Ahmed, who is also the chief scout, Karim formally informed him of his decision to retire from the post.

His retirement has shocked and surprised many associated with the organisation. His tenure was due to expire eight months later.

"However, I shall watch the Scouting activities from the sidelines," Karim told The Daily Star.

As per the constitution of the Scouts, there is no provision for the president of the Scouts to resign, he added.

Widely known as an honest, dedicated and efficient organiser throughout the Scouts world, Karim has received the highest award, the Bronze Wolf, from the World Scout Organisation.

Obituary



Professor Muhammad Fazlul Karim, former principal of Khulna BL College, passed away due to heart attack at Suhrawardy Hospital in the city on Monday at the age of 78, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

He was laid to rest at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals graveyard in Dhaka yesterday.

His kulkhwani will be held at House No 15/1, Prominent Housing, Pisciculture Housing Society, Mohammadpur in the capital after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Relatives, friends, admirers and students are requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Mirza Ohiduzzaman

Mirza Ohiduzzaman, a retired principal officer of Rupali Bank, died of lung cancer yesterday morning at the Combined Medical Hospital in the city at the age of 58, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

His kulkhwani will be held at the Central Masjid of Dhaka Cantonment (Allah Masjid) after Juma prayers on Friday.

Rokeya Hoque

Rokeya Hoque, wife of HAM Shirajur Hoque, died on Monday at Apollo Hospital in the city, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, one son and four daughters.

Her kulkhwani will be held at 87/k, Shyamoli Pisciculture Society in the city after Asr prayers on Friday.

Abdul Jalil

BSS, Dhaka

Retired flight sergeant Mohammad Abdul Jalil passed away due to old-age complications at his residence at Charkuria village under Homna upazila in Comilla district on Monday at the age of 86.

President of BCS Information Association Mohammad Abdul Mannan and Secretary General Mohammad Inamul Haque expressed deep shock at the death of Jalil.

They expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Three murdered, one shot

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two were beaten to death and one was shot while a body was recovered in the city in last two days.

Locals found the body of a youth, aged around 30, in front of a garage at Tajmahal Road in Mohammadpur at 5:45am yesterday.

On information, police recovered the body and sent it to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

The neck of the body, clad in green trousers and brown T-shirt, was tied with a scarf and had a handkerchief in the mouth.

Morgue sources said the killers strangled the youth.

None came to receive the body at the morgue as of 6:00pm.

A gang of four goons including

one Khorshed shot Mohammad Mahub, 25, in his mouth from close range when he went to a local bazar at Senpara Parbata at 9:00am.

Mahub, son of a Titas Gas employee Abul Bashir of Gopalganj, was admitted to the DMCH.

Bashar told reporters that Khorshed attacked his son due to previous enmity.

Police said Mahub, who went to Rapa Clinic at New Market from the DMCH without informing them, is also a goon and they brought him back to the DMCH.

Meanwhile, a mob beat Mohammad Zaman, 28, son of Jummat Ali Bepari of Daudkandi, to death when he was allegedly stealing a pair of shoes from North Maniknagar Jame Mosque on

Monday night.

He died on the spot, said police.

In another incident, Iqbal Hossain allegedly beat his wife Sultana Begum, 22, to death at his residence at Kafira in Khilkhet on the same night.

Sultana's brother-in-law Shamsuddin filed a case with Khilkhet Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

In the FIR (first information report), Shamsuddin said Iqbal used to torture his wife for dowry.

On that fateful night, he was locked into an altercation with his wife over dowry and at one point, he beat her to death.

Police arrested Iqbal's mother Majida Begum while Iqbal was on run.

Tk 25 lakh cell phone sets seized at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday seized 433 cellphone sets worth around Tk 25 lakh smuggled into the country.

Assistant Commissioner of Customs Kazi Muhammad Ziauddin yesterday morning directed the inspectors to keep an eye on the passengers of two flights arrived from Abu Dhabi and Bangkok.

The inspectors, being suspicious of two passengers, scanned their luggage and found the mobile sets of different brands.

The seized sets were deposited in the warehouse of the airport and two cases were filed in this connection.



PHOTO: STAR

Krishak Samik Janata League leader Bangabir Kader Siddiqui speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

'IT-based accounting system a must'

BSS, Dhaka

Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Asif Ali yesterday said a total Information Technology (IT) network-based accounting system is a must to ensure better financial management in the country.

Quality and credibility of an accounts or audit report should be maintained to make it acceptable to all, he added.

He was addressing a seminar on "Wide Area Network (WAN) Presentation" in the auditorium of Public Works Department, organised by the office of the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

The Financial Management Reform Programme (FMRP) has developed the "Wide Area Network (WAN) Presentation".

Controller General of Accounts Faruq M Siddiqi also spoke. Engr Ayubur Rahman presented the WAN, an IT-based coordinated accounting system.

Accountants and auditors of different levels from different offices participated in the discussion on WAN.

Asif said taxpayers have got every right to ask the AG office for providing any statement of accounts for their own professional consumption.

Reminding the consequences of avoiding IT in accounting system, he said, the government might think alternative measure if the concerned accounts officials fail to introduce the technology in their work.

Faruq said introduction of IT will help stop corruption and mistake in the accounting system of government offices. The computer will reject a document if the figures in a bill and in a cheque differ with one another, he added.

BASIC EDUCATION

Bangladesh ranks 7th among Asia Pacific nations

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh ranked seventh among 14 developing countries of the Asia Pacific region in a survey on "how countries fare in their support for basic education" conducted by the Asian South Pacific Bureau of Adult Education (ASPBAE).

Thailand topped the list while Malaysia ranked second, Sri Lanka third, the Philippines fourth, China fifth, Vietnam sixth, Cambodia

eighth, India ninth, Indonesia tenth, Nepal 11th, Papua New Guinea 12th and Solomon Island 13th. Pakistan hit the bottom.

Bangladesh scored 50 out of 100 marks, earning a grade E on an A-F scale.

Bangladesh ranked 11th in the category of complete basic education, second in state action, 12th in quality inputs, eighth both in gender equality and overall equity.



Fall in day temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places with moderately heavy to heavy falls over the country till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office. Highest temperature 35.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 25.3 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:44pm today and rises at 5:26am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Newly elected MP meets PM

BSS, Dhaka

Newly elected four-party alliance MP from Sunamganj-3 constituency Shahinoor Pasha Chowdhury yesterday called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office.

BNP-led four party alliance nominee and IOJ leader Shahinoor was elected parliament member in the by-election of the Sunamganj-3 constituency held recently.

Extending her greetings to the new MP, she urged him to accelerate the pace of development in his locality to fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people.

Shahinoor thanked the Prime Minister and sought her cooperation for ensuring development of his constituency.

CPB announces month-long programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday declared a month-long programme to realise its 11-point demand.

The demands included reforms in electoral and caretaker government system, price reduction of essentials, and supply of seed, fertiliser, electricity and other agricultural inputs to farmers at fair price.

The party also demanded reopening of all closed mills and factories, and full production in jute and textile mills, said a press release.

The programme for agitation was announced at a meeting in the party office in the city with party President Manjurul Ahsan Khan in the chair.

These included procession, street meeting, rally, sit-in, and human chain.

Speakers at the meeting urged the people to oust the BNP-led coalition government for its failure to fulfil its election pledges.

Presidium members, central and local leaders of the party were present at the meeting.

Death anniversary

Salahuddin Faroque



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Md Salahuddin Faroque, managing director of M o d h u m i t a Group, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

BOU to introduce Junior School Certificate course

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Open University (BOU) in collaboration with the Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) is going to introduce Junior School Certificate (JSC) course for the first time in the country.

Students who have passed the primary level of education can enrol for the JSC programme from January 2007, said the BOU and Campe officials at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The programme is mainly aimed at the students from non-formal schools run by non-government organisations (NGOs) and drop-out students of different schools who could not continue their education for various reasons.

Students of any age can have access to the three-year course, but they should complete it in five years' time. The learners will be given certificates after their completion of the course equivalent to class VIII.

The programme will run under the distance education system of the BOU.

"This would be a milestone in the country's education history," said BOU Vice Chancellor Prof Ershadul Bari.

Campe Director Rasheda K Chowdhury said the school drop-outs and students of non-formal schools would benefit most from the programme as the certificate will help them continue education in the future.

This programme would also help enhance the competence of the learners and increase literacy rate, she added.

The enrolment and course fee will range between Tk 500 to Tk 800 while the university will provide necessary learning materials, said the officials.

Canada-based Commonwealth of Learning and a Swiss organisation will provide funds for the programme, they said, adding that the two organisations have already given Tk 20 lakh, out of a total of Tk one crore.

Training course on disaster risk management

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A daylong training course on 'Disaster Risk Management in Bangladesh' was held at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research Auditorium at Dhaka University yesterday.

Minister for Food and Disaster Management Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf inaugurated the training course, organised by the Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme supported by the UNDP.

Pro-Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AFM Yusuf Haider was present as special guest.

Speaking at the inaugural session, the minister emphasised the coordinated efforts of the government and non-government organisations, including the academic institutions, to strengthen the comprehensive disaster management programme.

Dr ASM Atiqur Rahman, director of the Institute of Social Welfare and Research, said the institute will introduce a curriculum on disaster risk management.

Director General of Disaster Management Bureau Rafiqul Mohamed and Director Nishit Kumar Sarker also spoke.

One hundred students of the institute took part in the training course.

MoU signed with Cyprus tourism college

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) for affiliation between National Hotel & Tourism Training Institute (NHTTI), Bangladesh and College of Tourism and Hotel Management (COTHM), Cyprus was signed at the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) conference room in the city recently, says a press release.

COTHM Director Savvas Adamides and NHTTI Principal M Alamgir Khan signed the MoU on behalf of their respective side.

Under the MoU, all students from NHTTI will be entitled to have deduction on their first year tuition fees in COTHM.

Besides, the students, who have completed the National Certificate Course (NCC) from NHTTI, will be able to transfer their credits for further studies in COTHM.

Students during studying in COTHM will be given opportunity to paid work training for four months every year.

The COTHM will also assist the NHTTI for upgradation of its curriculum as per international standard including training of the faculty of NHTTI and exchange of students.

Advertisement for 'DHAKA TODAY' featuring various events: Discussion, Asiatic Society, Consultation, Memorial discussion, Seminar, NAP discussion, Conference, Musical evening, and Drama.