

## RAID ON RECRUITING AGENCY Forged passports, documents seized, four officials arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in a drive arrested four officials of a recruiting-cum-travel agency at Fakirpool in the city and seized several hundred forged passports and documents, including emigration clearance and fake medical certificates, yesterday.

The arrestees are Manager Belayet Hossain, Assistant Manager MA Masud, Accountant Mizanur Rahman and Office Assistant Humayun of Win International.

A team of police of the Special Branch (SB) and Immigration led by Special Superintendent (Immigration) Shah Alam launched the drive at around 7:00pm in connection with a case filed with Airport Police Station on November 17 after the immigration police rounded up 31 women workers who were about to fly to Lebanon with fake documents.

The seized documents include composed copies of emigration clearance certificates and a number of

formats for medical certificates, which were prepared by the agency illegally, said Shah Alam.

The officials could not provide any satisfactory answers with regard to the passports and documents, he told reporters.

Many passports also do not have the security features, which are mandatory for the passports to be genuine, he added.

More than 200 passports were marked with departure seals, but no marks of arrival seals were found in those passports, which proves that the passport holders dodged the immigration police in the airport, he added.

Such agencies extort the workers both at home and abroad, Shah Alam said, adding that the amount they realise from each worker is much greater than that fixed by the government and they also collect money from the workers in the foreign lands before their deportation.

The police also showed a number of papers on agreement between the

aspirant migrant workers and the agency, which states that the agency cannot be held responsible if the workers fail to go abroad for any reasons. In such cases, the workers will also not get back the money they paid to the agency, the paper reads.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment suspended the four officials of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) who were detained by the police following the November 17 incident.

BMET Director (immigration) Manjur Rahman was also made OSD (official on special duty) for his alleged involvement in issuing emigration clearance certificates to the 31 workers.

A committee led by the BMET additional director general was formed on November 19 to investigate the case. The committee is expected to submit its report in three days, according to an official handout.

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## Chinese envoy discusses election issue with CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chinese Ambassador in Dhaka Chai Xi paid a courtesy call on President/Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed at the CA's office here yesterday and discussed various issues, including the coming elections in Bangladesh.

The Chinese envoy greeted the president for assuming office of the Chief Adviser of the non-party caretaker government and assured of his government's support and cooperation in this regard.

Iajuddin told the Chinese envoy that he was trying his best to hold a peaceful and violence-free election in the country.

The president underscored the need for establishment of Chittagong-Kunming-Myanmar road link.

The envoy informed the president/CA that the Chinese government has already taken initiatives to introduce air link between Bangladesh and China, and hoped that Bangladesh would take initiatives to establish road link between the countries.

The president/CA said China could import increased quantity of goods from Bangladesh and told the envoy that ceramics, melamine and leather goods of Bangladesh are good in quality and cheap in rate.

Both of them underscored the need for enhancing cooperation between the two countries in transport, business and tourism sectors.

Issues relating to women empowerment, girl education and micro-credit also came up at the meeting for discussion.

## 2 graft cases

FROM PAGE 16 and October 30 showing "personal reasons."

On the other hand, the prosecution could not produce witnesses except one since the charges were framed against Ershad on April 3, 1995 and April 18, 2003, court sources said.

In the first case filed with Tejgaon police station, it was alleged that Ershad, while in power, directed the authorities concerned to purchase electronic news gathering equipment worth about Tk 2.93 crore for use of his wife Rawshan and himself, though all types of broadcasting facilities were available in his secretariat.

Later, Ershad directed the authorities to set up the equipment in his secretariat and create eight new posts for the purpose, the prosecution said.

An official of the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case against Ershad on February 29, 1992 and the investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against him on September 15, 1994.

According to the second case filed with the same police station, Ershad directed the authorities concerned to accept donation from France instead of Finland for setting up microwave telephone lines in 49 upazilas in 1989 that caused delay in release of the funds.

Due to the delay, work on setting up of the lines could not be implemented and the government had to pay Tk 28 crore interests to France from the date of receiving the money.

Upendra Chandra Das, an official of BAC, filed the case against Ershad and two others on September 5, 1992. The IO pressed charges against him and six others on July 31, 1995.

Earlier, Ershad was acquitted in four graft cases in a month when he announced that he might join the BNP-led four-party alliance.

## MIDAS training for retrenched RMG workers

With financial assistance from the European Commission under the Small Projects Facility (SPF) Programme, MIDAS has been implementing a one-year programme to impart Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Training to retrenched women RMG workers in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions, says a press release.

Under the programme, MIDAS has been organising a series of two-week training for 520 participants in 26 batches. Each training course comprises two parts: (a) Entrepreneurship development training for six days and (b) Skill development training for six days focusing on tailoring.

The main objective of the programme is to encourage and help retrenched women workers to set up and run businesses on their own, thereby creating employment opportunities for themselves and others.

The 16th training course concluded at the Training Hall of MIDAS in Dhaka on November 16. Abdul Karim, managing director, MIDAS, was present at the closing session and awarded certificates to the participants.

Two more courses will be held in Chittagong and Rajshahi this month.



14-party alliance activists block a road at Kanchpur yesterday as part of countrywide blockade programme.

## BNP to protest AL's blockade today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP-led four-party alliance will hold rallies and bring out processions today in the capital and in all district and upazila headquarters protesting blockade of Awami League-led 14-party.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday called upon all leaders and activists of four-party alliance to make the programme a success.

## Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khandakar Abu Taher, former lawmaker of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), passed away due to old age complications at his residence at Dhanmondi in the city on Friday at the age of 76, says a press release.

He was buried at the Intellectuals Graveyard in Mirpur after a namaz-e-janaza at Dhanmondi Baitul Mamur Mosque on Saturday.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter to mourn his death.

He was elected a member of the parliament as BNP candidate in Tangail-6 (Nagorpur) in the fifth parliamentary election in 1991.

His qulkhani will be held at his residence after Magrib prayers on November 24.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday in a condolence message expressed his deep shock at the death of Taher.

## Kazi Nuruddin Jahangir

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Nuruddin Jahangir, an eminent radio actor in the 60s, passed away at his home at Gulshan in the city yesterday at the age of 69, says a press release.

He was the most popular actor of the then Pakistan Radio during the period from 1959 to 1968. He was highly acclaimed for his roles in radio dramas 'Raktakarabi', 'Raja' and 'Oedipus'.

He left behind his wife, two sons, eight brothers and sisters and a host of admirers to mourn his death. He was buried at Banani graveyard.

His qulkhani will be held at the residence of his brother Kazi Shahabuddin Shahjahan at House # 5, Road # 104, Gulshan # 2 after Asr prayers on November 24.

## Dr Asadur Rahman

Dr Asadur Rahman, adviser to the president of Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) and a former parliament member, yesterday passed away due to cardiac arrest at a city hospital at the age of 65, says a press release.

Asad, also sister-in-law of JP Chairman Ershad, left behind his wife, one daughter, one son and a host of relatives.

In a condolence message, Ershad expressed deep shock and sorrow at his death. JP Secretary General Ruhul Amin Hawladar also expressed deep shock at the death.

## Death anniversary

Today is the 1st death anniversary of Syed Noor Hossain of Dhulia in Baufa in Patuakhali district, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme.

## People lost trust

FROM PAGE 1  
Barbara Richardson of Canada and Douglas Foskett of Australia.

Adviser CM Shahi Sami was also present during the hour-long meeting held at the finance ministry office at the secretariat.

Quoting the envoys, Akbar Ali Khan said the election would be credible abroad if there were a big shakeout in the EC.

The envoys welcomed the caretaker government's latest move to have an understanding with Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz with a view to resolving the ongoing crisis. They pledged continuing support for the interim government.

The ambassadors also said they are ready to extend all-out cooperation, if need be, to ensure a free and fair conduct of the forthcoming polls," added the finance adviser.

Asked about the result of the caretaker government's latest efforts to reconstitute the EC, Akbar said, "I am cautiously optimistic that I might give you a good news by the next 24 or 48 hours. However, we won't go beyond the constitution," he added.

Referring to the BNP-Jamaat-led alliance's call for an immediate announcement of the election schedule, the veteran bureaucrat said, "I don't think the election schedule will be announced before resolving the present crisis."

Both Patricia A Butenis and Anwar Choudhury told the reporters that the meeting was a routine one. They praised the caretaker government's initiative to break the deadlock.

## Armed Forces Day today

FROM PAGE 1

Armed Forces who sacrificed their lives for independence of the motherland.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U Ahmed, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Fakhrul Azam will also place wreaths at Shikha Aniran on behalf of their respective services.

The chiefs of the three services will pay courtesy call on the president at Armed Forces Division at Dhaka Cantonment.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will host a reception and meet the family members of Bir Sreshta and other gallantry award winners of the three services will attend the reception.

Similar programme will also be organised at Savar, Bogra, Chittagong, Ghatail, Comilla, Jessore, Rangpur and Rajendrapur cantonments.

Different programmes have also been taken up at other army garrisons, navy ships and establishments and air force bases on the occasion.

Specialty decorated ships of navy will remain open for people at Dhaka Sadarghat, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Khulna, Barisal and Mongla from 2:00pm to 4:00pm.

Bangladesh Television and other private TV channels will telecast special programme while the newspapers publish special supplements on the occasion.

## Writ petition filed against Iajuddin

FROM PAGE 1

The President did not follow all the provisions before assuming the office.

"... Under the provisions of the constitution the President ought to have approached the chief justice who retired before Justice KM Hasan and if he was unavailable then the constitution provided that he was to approach the other former retired chief justice who retired immediately before Justice KM Hasan.

The petitioner also asked the HC bench to verify "... whether the Chief Adviser is legally holding the office as it is apparent that his appointment as the Chief Adviser has violated not only the constitutional provisions but also his neutrality having been elected by a political party whose shadow looms large on his horizon."

Explaining the political turmoil centring the appointment of CA and the constitutional provisions on appointing CA, the petitioner said

"There is nothing on record to show that he made any approach to them and that they declined to take up the job," reads the petition.

Moreover, "the president did not bother to have any meaningful dialogue or constructive consultation with all major parties to find a qualified person to be the Chief Adviser and in an unusual haste he appointed himself to the Chief Adviser under

tight security," it reads.

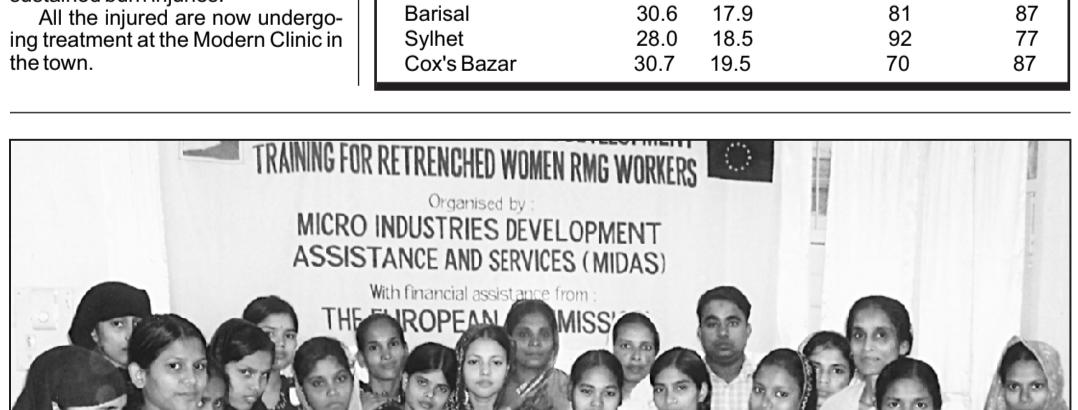
"The President, without following the mandatory provisions of the constitution, in choosing the person to lead the country in a crucial period has violated the constitution which he has taken oath to uphold, defend and protect," reads the petition.

The petition was filed as public interest litigation.

Counsel for the petitioner Barrister Masood R Sobhan at a press briefing at his office yesterday evening said he would place an application to the chief justice asking him to arrange an immediate hearing since the court activities are not functioning due to the blockade programme.

Petitioner Adnan, once a Young Labour Party activist in Britain, said he has no political motive for filing the writ and he is not involved with any party in the land.

"I just like to have a constitutional interpretation of the matter," he said, "Since a section opined for the President taking the office of the Chief Adviser was just, while another opposed it."



Participants of the 16th course on 'Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Training for Retrenched Women RMG Workers' pose for photograph at the concluding session of the course held in Dhaka. MIDAS has been organising a series of training courses with financial assistance from the European Commission.