

Documents to cheat migrant workers detected

PORIMOL PALMA

Police have detected documents for cheating hundreds of male and female workers who went to different countries for jobs, but were either deported or failed to find jobs.

Those who work abroad without legal status undergo various forms of abuses and exploitation, said the police of Special Branch (SB) and Immigration while investigating the case in connection with holding up of 31 Lebanon-bound women at Zia International Airport on November 17 last year.

The case was filed with Airport Police Station against 38 persons allegedly involved in the process of sending 31 women to Lebanon illegally.

Police arrested four officials of the welfare desk of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), while its former director Manzur Rahman was made official on special duty for his alleged involvement in issuing fake emigration clearances to 31 women.

A team of SB and Immigration police arrested five employees and seized more than 300 passports, composed copies of emigration clearance certificates and a number of formats for medical certificates from recruiting-cum travel agency Win International at its Fakirapool office on November 19.

The court however gave bail to all the arrestees, while the charge sheet of the case will be submitted to the court in next two weeks, Special Superintendent of Immigration Shah Alam told The Daily Star.

Quoting cheated returnee migrant workers, police said Win International charged Tk 2 to 5 lakh for sending them abroad with fake emigration clearances or forged passports that caused their deportation.

"We are convinced that Win International was about to send the 31 women to Lebanon," he noted.

An SB police said they have already checked most of over 300 seized passports and found many of those fake as persons concerned were not found according to

the names and addresses.

Alam said they found a number of passports without arrival seals proving that the passengers with those passports dodged the immigration police at the airport and the airlines had a hand in it, he said.

According to laws, the airlines are supposed to handover the passports of the deported passengers to the immigration police. "So, why should the passports of the deported passengers be kept at the Win International's office?" he asked.

The police, who documented statements of a number of returnee male and female migrants, were convinced that those who work abroad at irregular status undergo inhumane living conditions, as they cannot go to any authorities for protection, Alam said.

"Many such returnee female migrant workers said they could not see the sun for two to three years while staying abroad," he added.

Alam said a good number of sponsors in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) send photocopies

of visit visas to Bangladesh giving scopes to some recruiting agencies for forgery.

Consequently, the workers who go with forged employment visas, have to work there illegally.

He said the immigration authorities last year stopped UAE's faxed or photocopied visas, but the home ministry then said a policy should be formulated before stopping it.

The immigration authorities then submitted a policy proposal, but with no effect as of today, he added.

The recruiting agencies in most cases do not care about salaries and other facilities as if sending workers out of the country is something very important.

Even the workers, who pay large amount for migrating, do not get the returns by doing regular jobs, Alam said, adding that they have to do extra jobs illegally if they are to save some money.

"Only a small portion of the overseas workers have good jobs with satisfactory salaries and job conditions," he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Rajuk demolishes the illegal structures at Meena Bazar at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka City Corporation builds a shade over the foot-over bridge in front of Baitul Mokarram Mosque in the city. Locals, however, said DCC has taken the initiative only to attract advertisements.

6 killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least six people, including two children and Awami League leader, were killed and 29 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Baridhara and Sirajganj yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nargis Akhter Rubi, 42, president of Dinajpur town unit Mohila Awami League.

Local sources said Nargis sustained severe injuries when the bus, she was travelling, collided with a microbus at about 5:00am.

Nargis was first admitted to a local clinic. Later, she was shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as her condition deteriorated. She succumbed to her injuries at the DMCH at about 7:00am.

Our Staff Correspondent reports: Two children met a tragic end when a taxicab ran them over while they were playing on the embankment at Mirpur in the city yesterday.

The dead identified as Shamima Akhter, 5, and Farzana Akhter, 7, are cousins.

The incident occurred at around 10:00am on the Baribadh (embankment) at Nababberbagh when a speedy black taxicab hit the girls while they were playing on the embankment adjacent to their house, said the witnesses.

They died on the spot.

The driver, however, managed to flee away.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Shamsul Islam Khan, former Industries minister and lawmaker, says a press release.

He was elected member of the parliament four times consecutively in Manikganj-4 constituency since 1991 till his death.

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

Relatives and friends have been requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Azizul Hoque Bhuria

Today is the first death anniversary of Azizul Hoque Bhuria, former convener of the Steering Committee of the Action Committees for the Liberation of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the United Kingdom in 1971 and former editor of the daily *Sukhabor* and weekly *Charampatra*, says a press release.

His family members have requested his relatives, friends and admirers to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

autopsy.

UNB adds: A leader of Dinajpur Mohila Awami League was killed in a road accident at Balaripur in the outskirts Savar early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Nargis Akhter Rubi, 42, president of Dinajpur town unit Mohila Awami League.

Injured and witnesses said the accident occurred when a tomtom collided with a bus coming from opposite direction at about 10:00am.

The bus left the scene immediately after the accident.

Local people recovered the bodies and rushed the injured to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Nasreen Begum Ruby, general secretary of Dinajpur District Mahila Awami League, fatally wounded in a road accident at Amin Bazar on Saturday died in the hospital yesterday. Advocate Wahidul Alam, another leader of Patuakhali District Awami League, died of old-age complications at DMCH yesterday.

Sources said the Kazipur-bound bus from Sirajganj collided with the truck at about 11:00am, leaving its driver Shafiqul Islam dead on the spot and 17 passengers injured.

Of the injured, eight were taken to Sadar Hospital.

One of the dead was identified as Shoshikanta Ojha, 60, while the other could not be identified immediately.

Of the injured, Proshanta Biswas, 30, Sushil, 75, Kalpona Begum, 25, Dolan, 30, Russell, 25,

WEATHER TODAY

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till early morning, Met office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period.

Highest temperature 28.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 8.4 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:37pm today and rises at 6:42am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature	Humidity in celsius				
		percentage	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka			25.6	12.6	56	48
Chittagong			27.5	12.5	77	58
Rajshahi			26.3	10.4	75	60
Khulna			26.5	12.3	87	61
Barisal			26.9	10.6	78	70
Sylhet			23.4	13.2	74	69
Cox's Bazar			27.4	13.2	67	45

Hasina visits ailing Wahidul Huq at Birdeem

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited ailing Wahidul Huq, a veteran journalist and exponent of Tagore song at Birdeem Hospital in the city.

Earlier, she paid her last respect to two party leaders who died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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Hasina offered special prayers for eternal peace of the departed souls and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved families.

BRTC special bus services for Bishwa Ijtema devotees

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) will operate special bus services for the convenience of devotees of Bishwa Ijtema to be held from February 2 to 4 on the bank of the river Turag at Tongi.

The special bus services will start on January 28 and will continue till February 6 with operating as many as 115 BRTC buses, including 66 double-deckers, on Gulistan-Kalyanpur-Tongi route, said a press release.

Besides, BRTC's another 262 buses on different routes will provide 'extended service' to the devotees besides the normal service. The buses will make stoppages at places like Aricha, Manikganj, Paturiaghata, Mawa, Tongi, Narsingdi, Bhairab, Kularchar, Sayedabad, Gulistan, Victoria Park, Kamalapur and Gabtoli towards their last destination at Turag congregation.

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For smooth operation of the special service, the BRTC authorities will open a control room at Joarsahara bus depot (phone number 8911778 and 9551985), added the release.

UNO Nawab Aslam Habib led the drive that continued from Saturday afternoon to midnight. The recovered fertiliser was kept at the BADC godown to distribute among the farmers at a fair price.

Sources said the traders collected the fertiliser from Ashuganj Fertiliser Factory and

Illegal bus stands removed from Ctg city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) removed all the illegal bus stands from the city centres to ensure smooth traffic movement in the port city.

According to sources, most of the illegal bus stands of the city centre were shifted to the city outskirts before the expiry of the notice issued by CMP traffic department on Saturday night.

The notice issued on January 10 gave 10 days' time for shifting the illegal bus stands from the city centres.

As some of the buses tried to depart the city from their previous bus stands after the expiry of the notice yesterday, the CMP traffic department seized them.

"Some fifteen buses were seized while trying to leave the city from the previous bus stands in violation of the notice order," said CMP DC (Traffic) Abu Sufian.

"Besides, an equal number of

trucks were also held during this time as they were found to ignore the changes made in the routes for their movement," he said.

The move for making the city streets congestion free and eviction of illegal occupants from the footpaths was hailed by the city dwellers.

However, the removal of bus stands from the city centres created resentment among some bus owners who had their own and separate parking lot beside the bus stands.

"We are leaving the buses from our own parking lot," defended an officer of a transport service plying buses in Dhaka-Chittagong highway from the city's Dampara area.

In this regard, CMP DC said there are some rules and regulation for every transport service to follow and so one cannot establish a bus stand in the city centre and disrupt smooth traffic movement.

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UK AL team meets Hasina

A delegation of Awami League (AL) UK unit made a courtesy call with AL President Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The expatriate leaders urged the AL chief to play an effective role in ensuring people's right to franchise and security of the Bangladeshi expatriates in other countries.

They also discussed the ongoing law and order situation in the country.

The leaders also reiterated their cooperation in consolidating the party.

Former chief whip Abdus Shahid, Vice President of AL UK unit Jalal Uddin, General Secretary Abul Hashem, Information and Research Secretary MA Rahim and other leaders were present in the meeting.

STAMFORD UNIVERSITY Admission date extended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stamford University has extended the time for distributing admission forms for its Bachelor and Master's programmes for Spring 2007 session, says a university press release.

Accordingly, the last date for submitting forms for Bachelor programme is February 6, and Master's programme February 13.

Each form will cost Tk 200.

For further details, applicants are requested to contact Dhamondi campus at 744, Saath Masjid Road, or Phone: 8156122-3, 8155834, 9124161, and Siddeshwari