

Flood-affected Bangladeshis in Oman to get free passports

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to give passports free of cost to the Bangladeshis workers affected by recent floods in Oman.

Country's embassy over there will identify the affected workers and their family members who lost their passports during the calamity, for issuing them "gratis" passports.

The mission will also issue passports for the workers whose passports were damaged and became unusable.

The Bangladeshis workers can take the opportunity within 45 days from the date of notification to be issued by the embassy.

Validity of the passports will be for five years, said a Home Ministry release yesterday.

CTG LANDSLIDES

Rehabilitation of 8,000 families in 6 months

UNB, Chittagong

The District Disaster and Relief Rehabilitation Committee yesterday decided to allocate khas lands in Hathazari upazila for the rehabilitation of some 8,000 families living at foothills in the port city.

The committee at a meeting at the local Circuit House decided to provide three decimals of khas land to each of the families who lost their homesteads in the June 11 landslides that killed around 128 people.

It said the government will construct houses for the families on the allocated khas lands.

Chaired by Chittagong Divisional

Commissioner M Mukhlesur Rahman, the meeting was attended by Relief and Disaster Management Secretary Dhiraj Malakar, Deputy

1,362 more held

UNB, Dhaka

Police, in separate drives, arrested 1,362 people on various charges across the country in 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

During the drive, they also recovered 17 firearms, seven other weapons and ammunition and also filed five cases under the Arms Act.

Besides, 49 motorbikes were seized for not having valid documents.

Commissioner M Ashraf Shamim and representatives from the institutions involved with the relief and rehabilitation work at the district and divisional levels.

Emerging from the meeting, Dhiraj said the family members of those who lost their lives in the June 11 landslides will get the first preference in the land allocation while those who lost their homes by the landslides will get the second preference and those who are vulnerable to landslides will get the third preference.

He said the rehabilitation work would be completed by six months.



Garbage left on the bank of the river Buriganga pollutes water and the environment. The picture was taken in the Sawarighat area in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

HASINA'S US VISIT

CG urged to withdraw restriction

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central committee members of Shadhinota Chikitsok Parishad urged the caretaker government to withdraw restriction on Sheikh Hasina's going to the United States, says a press release.

In a statement, they said the restriction should be lifted on the humanitarian ground so that Hasina could stay beside her pregnant daughter Salma Wajed, who lives in the US.

They expressed hope that the caretaker government would lift the restrictions on her planned US visit.

DRIVE OF JOINT FORCES AT KMCH

Irregularities found

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Joint forces conducted a drive in different departments of Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH) yesterday and found irregularities in providing treatment to patients of outdoor and emergency wards.

Besides, most of ECG and x-ray machines were found inoperative. Date-expired medicines were also found in the store room.

According to eye witnesses, joint forces were dissatisfied seeing unhealthy atmosphere in the hospital where patients are being neglected and deprived of proper

medical services.

According to joint forces, superintendent of KMCH Dr Hame Jamal has been given seven days deadline for improving condition of all departments.

Two people were picked up from there on charge of brokering in favour of some physicians to send patients to private clinics.

The arrested people were identified as Security Guard Hashmat and Head Sweeper Akhter Hossain.

The three-hour drive was led by commanding officer of joint forces Lt Col Israt.

Dialogue with writers tomorrow

A dialogue with writers, translators and readers organised by The Reading Circle Dhanmondi will be held at Omni Books, Genetic Plaza, Level 3, House 16, Road 27 at Dhanmondi in the city from 4:30 to 6:30pm tomorrow, says a press release.

Dr Radha Chakravarty, editor of 'Crossings', will be present on the occasion. Bangladeshi writers included in the anthology are Shawkat Ali, Jyotiprakash Dutta, Rasheed Haider, Syed Shamsul Haq, Selina Hossain, Hasan Azizul Huq, Hasnat Abdul Hye, Rahat Khan, Rizia Rahman and Manju Sarkar.

Dhaka to increase cooperation with Yangon: Iftekhar

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury yesterday said Bangladesh has been broadening cooperation with Myanmar in a number of areas, including trade and agriculture.

In July the government is planning to send a delegation to be led by the power secretary to Myanmar, followed by a team from the Agriculture Ministry, he said while talking to the media after a meeting with Myanmar Ambassador in Dhaka Nyan Lynn at his office in the city.

Foreign Office Consultations between the two countries would be held in Dhaka shortly, he said.

The Myanmar ambassador said they discussed ways and means to further deepen the bilateral political and economic relations following the foreign adviser's visit to Myanmar last April.

FIRST SEDITION CASE

Trial of 8 JMB men begins

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Trial of the first sedition case against eight Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leaders and activists of Dhamrai area began with deposition of the complainant at a Dhaka court yesterday.

Judge Mohammad Golam Murshed of the Additional District Judge and Bankruptcy Court recorded statement of Sub-Inspector Zehad Hossain and another prosecution witness Abdul Mannan and fixed June 23 for next hearing of the case.

The accused are Mohammad Rafiqul Islam alias Sentu, 22, Mohammad Wahab, 26, Yaqub Ali, 21, Anwar Hossain, 23, Faruq Hossain alias Kosai Faruq, 25, Mohammad Wahiduzzaman alias Pintu, 20, Abdus Salam, 22, and Nurul Islam, 23. Of them, Sentu is now in custody while the others are still on the loose.

Sub-Inspector (SI) Iqbal Hossain, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet on December 27 last year against the accused to a first class magistrate's court in the city, showing 25 people as prosecution witnesses.

On February 20, 2005, Dhamrai police arrested Sentu, Wahab, Yaqub, Anwar, Faruq and Salam with nine bomb making manuals and other contraband materials on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway.

Dhamrai police showed the six men arrested under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code and produced them before a first class magistrate's court in Dhaka on February 22, 2005 with a prayer for a seven-day remand to interrogate them. The court granted a two-day remand.

Thirteen days into their arrest, the arrestees were released on bail.

Probing the case, Dhamrai police found the activities of the accused seditious.

With approval from the home ministry, SI Zehad Hossain filed the sedition case against the accused on September 11 last year.

Sentu was re-arrested in November while the others have been fugitive.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Anwarul Kabir Babul appeared for the state while Advocate Akbar Hossain defended the accused Sentu.



PHOTO: PID

Outgoing US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia A Butenis pays a farewell call on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at his office in the city yesterday.

FAKE DU STUDENTS

Probe body finds 10 more involved in enrolment

DU CORRESPONDENT

A fact-finding committee formed to investigate the incidents of enrolment of fake students at Dhaka University (DU) yesterday identified 10 more people involved in the cheating.

It found that seven or eight student leaders mainly from the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), two university employees and a teacher of Mirpur Bangla College in the city are involved in enrolling students at the university through fraudulent means, committee sources said.

The authorities filed a general diary against the teacher, Haifuzur Rahman, with Shahbagh Police Station.

The sources, however, declined to disclose the names of student

leaders and DU employees for the sake of investigation.

One of the two DU employees involved works at international relations department.

At a meeting yesterday, the committee received documents of nine more fake students of the international relations department of 1999-2000 and 2000-01 sessions from the department authorities who identified the students last week.

The committee, headed by Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof AFM Yusuf Haider, has identified a total of 170 fake students since it was formed on October 10, 2006.

On June 5, the DU Syndicate cancelled studentships of 77 fake students.

Expulsion of Col Oli demanded

UNB, Dhaka

Twenty-seven national executive committee members of Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) yesterday demanded expulsion of Executive President Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed and Shahadat Hossain Selim.

In a statement they said Oli had on his own prepared constitution of the party and sent it to the media offices claiming that it was approved by the party. In fact, the so-called constitution was never discussed in the party forums nor approved.

They urged the party President AQM Badruddozza Chowdhury to expel Oli, his close associates Selim and others in an immediate purging drive against dishonest leaders and suspected corrupt people.

Signatories to the statement include Joydul Abedin Khan, Dr Abu Muzaffar Ahmed, Ebadat Hossain Mondal, Dr Shahadat Hossain and Advocate Joyrul Abedin Zayed.