

Kuwait may regularise Bangladeshi illegal workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait is likely to regularise the irregular Bangladeshi workers following persuasion by the Bangladesh government and various industries in Kuwait, especially the construction sector.

"The Kuwaiti government seems to be more flexible on the issue of illegal foreign workers now as the industries there believe that a vacuum in workforce will be created if these workers are deported," a foreign ministry official told The DailyStar yesterday.

The two-month amnesty period declared by Kuwait in April allowing the irregular foreign workers to leave the country without penalty ended on June 30, but not many Bangladeshi irregular workers returned home, he said.

Foreign ministry officials say that there are some 5,000 Bangladeshi illegal workers in

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Britain on 'critical' terror alert level

Several homes searched in Glasgow after flaming jeep crashed into a Scottish airport

AP, Glasgow

Three terrorist suspects were in police custody yesterday and a fourth man was under guard in a hospital after a flaming jeep crashed into a Scottish airport and two car bomb plots were foiled in central London.

Meanwhile, authorities searched several homes near Glasgow International Airport "as part of the ongoing inquiry into the incidents in Glasgow airport and London," police said in a brief statement.

Britain has raised its terror alert to "critical" the highest possible level and the Bush administration also has announced plans to increase security at airports and on mass transit in the United States.

"This weekend's bomb attacks signal a major escalation in the war being waged on us by Islamic terrorists," Lord Stevens, terrorism adviser to Britain's new prime minister, Gordon Brown, said in a column in Sunday's News of the World newspaper.

"Now al-Qaeda has imported the tactics of Baghdad and Bali to the streets of the UK," said Stevens, who is London's former police chief.

London police said extra officers were being deployed at landmarks, airports, train stations and bus terminals across the capital Sunday, and had been ordered to step up the use of stop and search powers. Armed police would patrol at major rail stations, it said.

At least 450 officers would

monitor a rock concert at London's Wembley Stadium on Sunday to mark the 10th anniversary of Princess Diana's death, police said.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown said Sunday that Britons must realize that the terrorist threat their country faces is "long-term and sustained" and that that they must remain "constantly vigilant" about security.

In a nationally televised interview on British Broadcasting Corp. TV, Brown said that Britain's message to the terrorists must be: "We will not yield, we will not be intimidated, and we will not allow anyone to undermine our British way of life."

The Jeep Cherokee rammed into Glasgow's airport terminal on

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Birdem doctors' strike postponed for a month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In-patient department doctors at Birdem Hospital put off the strike until July 31 yesterday following an assurance of meeting their demands by the Diabetic Association of Bangladesh.

The doctors launched the strike on June 25 demanding regularisation of their jobs and unified service rule for the hospital.

Director General of Birdem Hospital Maj Gen (retd) Ziauddin Ahmed and Clinical Director Nazmun Nahar, on behalf of the association, pledged to the doctors yesterday that the decisions taken in the national council meeting on Saturday night would be implemented within this month.

The council meeting decided to renew the job contracts of indoor medical officers and take immediate steps for regularising them. It also decided not to harass or punish the agitating doctors.

Specific guidelines would be followed for the doctors' training and their higher education, read a press release issued after the council meeting.

Following the assurance, the doctors resumed their jobs and said they would again go for strike if the demands are not met by July 31.

DANIDA STAFF KIDNAP Danish detective in Bandarban

A CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A detective official from Denmark arrived in Bandarban yesterday to investigate the abduction of Hossain Shahid Sumon, project officer of Danida (Danish International Development Agency).

First secretary of Danish embassy, Christian Krone Jørgensen, has also been staying in Bandarban for the last five days.

Sumon was abducted seven

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CONCEALING WEALTH ACC sues ex-Jamaat MP Shahjahan Chy

UNB, Chittagong

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case with Bandar Police Station against former Jamaat MP Shahjahan Chowdhury, a fugitive, accusing him of concealing wealth of Tk 50.49 lakh in the statement of his wealth.

ACC Deputy Director Abul Kalam in the case said Chowdhury had shown the value of his car as Tk 2 lakh and claimed that his brother living in USA had given it.

But, the complainant said, investigation showed that Chowdhury himself imported the car worth around Tk 60 lakh.



Binat Bibir Masjid, one of the oldest mosques of Dhaka, faces ruination as it has remained without any renovation work since its partial demolition by the authorities two years ago.

University for armed forces on cards

SURANJITH DEABNATH

A university is going to be set up at the Dhaka Cantonment to properly run the educational institutes of the Army, Navy and Air Force and facilitate professional degrees to the armed forces personnel.

Twelve educational institutes of the armed forces across the country will be incorporated into this proposed university named Bangladesh University of Professional, said UGC Secretary and committee member Mohammed Mufakker.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star, "This proposed university fulfils all the

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a committee comprising representatives of the three forces, University Grants Commission (UGC) and the ministries of defence, finance, establishment, law and education has been formed to prepare a proposal for the university.

The committee led by Maj Gen Abdul Wadud has already finalised the draft proposal for the university and named it Bangladesh University of Professional, said UGC Secretary and committee member Mohammed Mufakker.

UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star, "This proposed university fulfils all the

4 hurt in mortar shell blast in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Four people of a family sustained injuries as a mortar shell blasted at a bordering village in Zakiganj upazila yesterday afternoon.

Three of them, Shabbir Ahmed, 35, Mahbub, 11, and Mina Begum were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital while Zakaria, 22, was given first aid locally.

As Shabbir Ahmed was cutting a betel nut tree with an axe in his house at Salehpur, he hit an abandoned mortar shell at about 2:00pm.

The shell blasted with a huge

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Ex-AL minister Talukder Khaleque freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Former state minister Talukder Abdul Khaleque and seven others were released from prison after a Khulna court yesterday granted them bail.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate Shafina Begum granted the bail.

All the eight arrestees were released from Khulna district prison at 3:00pm, said Ataur Rahman, superintendent of prison.

The former state minister for

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Redwan sued again for extortion

UNB, Comilla

An extortion case was filed yesterday against former state minister and LDP leader Redwan Ahmed, his wife Begum Montaz Ahmed and three relatives.

Quaiyum Khan of Dhansiri village in Chandina upazila filed the case against Redwan Ahmed and four others, including his brother-in-law Siddiqui Rahman and nephews Sujon and Suman, with the local police station.

In his complaint, Quaiyum alleged that the then state minister for liberation war affairs Redwan demanded Tk 5 lakh as toll for allocating a shop in the poura market in his name.

Redwan called Quaiyum and his brother at his house several times and created pressure on them to deposit Tk 5 lakh with the bank account of his wife. Quaiyum Khan deposited the money on July 3, 2005 but did not get the shop.

Joint forces arrested Redwan on June 26.



Unscrupulous people continue to set up illegal structures, encroaching the already endangered Buriganga River. The photo was taken from Keraniganj on the other side of the capital yesterday.

Forest boss Gani, DCF Kabir on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Osman Gani, the detained chief conservator of forests, was placed on a fresh remand for four days while Dhaka division conservator of forests (DCF) Ali Kabir Haider was placed on a seven-day fresh remand.

The court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka yesterday placed Gani on a fresh remand of four days after Sub-inspector Abdul Baten Mian, investigation officer (IO) of the case, produced

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Iran rules out nuke freeze

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday again ruled out a freeze to its uranium enrichment programme, despite the threat of tougher UN sanctions over its defiance.

"Suspending enrichment is not on the agenda," foreign ministry spokesman Mohamamd Ali Hosseini told reporters.

He was responding to media reports about a "time-out" proposed to Iran by world powers, which would halt a third set of UN sanctions against Tehran if it stopped expanding its uranium enrichment work, in a bid to restart talks.

"Some media and European officials have talked about a plan which includes suspending our nuclear activities. This is nothing new, it was brought up by the (International Atomic Energy) Agency chief," he said.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei had earlier proposed a plan, which would lift sanctions against Iran if it froze all its enrichment activities.

Hosseini said that different aspects of the "time out" plan were

discussed in meetings between Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani and EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana.

"No decisions have been made no far. If it is necessary, the plan will be further discussed," he said.

Iranian leaders vowed to press on with the country's nuclear programme, which is feared to be a cover for secret weapons development. Iran denies the allegation, insisting its atomic work is aimed at peaceful ends.

Khamenei backed the defiant policy of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who has vowed Iran will not back down on its nuclear work in the face of international pressures.

"Iran's foreign policy has always been offensive. Unfortunately at certain times there was a defensive policy, which was a mistake," Khamenei said in a ceremony marking the second anniversary of Ahmadinejad's election.

"The policy of resistance to defend Iran's (nuclear) right will continue without any faltering," said the president.

The UN Security Council has already imposed two sets of sanctions against Iran after it failed to heed ultimatums to suspend uranium enrichment, the process that makes nuclear fuel but in highly extended form can also produce the fissile core of an atomic bomb.

The West suspects that Iran's nuclear programme is a cover for a push to develop the bomb, although Iran has said repeatedly that it is for civilian purposes only.

The Security Council could toughen Iran sanctions, which now target people and institutions involved in its nuclear and missiles programmes, and impose travel bans, freezing of bank accounts and inspections of Iranian cargo ships and aircraft.

But in comments published on Saturday, Ahmadinejad brushed off the threat saying: "They cannot hurt us, not that they don't want to but because they are incapable of doing so as they are in a difficult situation."

Ahmadinejad added, "The

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The joint forces seize corrugated iron sheets meant for relief from a market at Alinagar intersection in Kamrangirchar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.