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President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed pay homage to the martyred intellectuals at the Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur in the capital yesterday. Members of the Sector Commanders' Forum and others, third right, observe a two-minute silence at Rayer Bazar Martyred Intellectuals' Mausoleum on the day, while students march towards Mirpur demanding trial of the war criminals.

LDCs should upgrade IP frameworks

Debapriya tells WIPO forum in Geneva

STAR REPORT

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Bangladesh should actively upgrade their legal and institutional frameworks in intellectual property (IP) in order to take advantage of the flexibilities expected to be offered by the WTO.

The international community also needs to support the efforts of LDCs, said Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations office in Geneva.

"Once flexibilities are offered by the WTO, LDCs would have to comply with international IP standards," he said, adding, "Using IP

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Signs of compromise as Bali talks miss deadline

AFP, Nusa Dua

US and European officials voiced optimism Friday that they could break through a logjam in how to fight global warming, despite missing a first deadline at a major UN conference in Bali.

Top negotiators from both the United States and Germany, which has made climate change a key issue of its Group of Eight presidency, said they were hopeful they could eventually thrash out a deal.

I am "always optimistic," Harlan Watson, US President George W. Bush's senior climate negotiator, told AFP on the sidelines of the meeting on the tropical Indonesian island.

Asked if an agreement would be

reached Friday, Watson said: "These things tend to go on, but I'm hopeful."

The unofficial target of noon (0400 GMT) had been set by Yvo de Boer, head of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change organising the conference, in a bid to spur events.

Delegates said there had been good advances on some technical matters and financial questions, but no breakthrough on the key dispute dividing the United States from the European Union and developing countries.

The Bali summit's task is to launch negotiations for a new pact that will slash greenhouse gas pollution after 2012, when current commitments under the Kyoto Protocol run out.

The European Union and developing countries want the text to mention an ambition that developed nations would cut by 25-40 percent by 2020 from 1990 levels their greenhouse gas emissions blamed for global warming.

The United States is opposed, however, and delegates said its position was shared by Canada, Japan and Russia. The United States is the only major economy to reject the Kyoto Protocol, with Bush arguing it is too costly.

German Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel said the conference had reached agreement on a variety of issues including the transfer of green technology to developing nations, but that talks were going down to the wire on an emissions reference.

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Release teachers, students without delay: Duta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday reiterated its demand for withdrawal of cases against the detained teachers and students of the university and their immediate release.

The Duta renewed its demand at a discussion marking the Martyred Intellectuals' Day at Dhaka University Club in the evening. A one-minute silence was observed at the meeting to pay homage to the martyred intellectuals.

The teachers' body also demanded trial of the war criminals who killed the intellectuals at the flag end of the Liberation War in 1971.

The Duta urged the government

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Fraud claims by opposition already cloud Pak election

Musharraf to lift state of emergency today

AP, AFP, Islamabad

Less than a month before Pakistan's election, the opposition is already claiming it will be rigged, pointing to a stacked judiciary, media intimidation and ballot papers that have allegedly been pre-marked.

A flawed election could dash Western hopes for a stable government committed to battling

Islamic extremism. President Pervez Musharraf determined to show that he is sincere about bringing democracy to Pakistan has tried to blunt the opposition's criticism by promising to lift a state of emergency ahead of the January 8 vote.

He is also considering granting opposition demands that he suspend mayors to prevent them from influencing the vote and scrap a

two-term limit for prime ministers, Attorney General Malik Muhammad Qayyum said Friday.

The Pakistan government insists basic rights will be fully restored for all people Saturday when President Pervez Musharraf lifts the controversial emergency rule he imposed last month.

Musharraf drew international criticism for imposing a state of

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SSKOP welcomes move to review wage board

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the government move to form a review committee on the just-declared Sixth Wage Board Award, Sangbadik-Sramik-Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) yesterday said they had sent a memorandum to the chief adviser and the information secretary on Thursday to remove anomalies in the award.

In a joint statement, the oikya parishad expressed the hope that the government will remove anomalies in the Wage Board Award

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POST-SIDR SUNDARBANS Fear of loan sharks haunts fishermen

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, back from Sundarbans

Fishermen in the chars of the Sundarbans region anticipate insufficient catch this year as many have not returned to the trade following the devastation of cyclone Sidr.

They fear this will ultimately leave them unable to pay their loans taken from local fish traders on high interest.

Cyclone Sidr washed away almost everything, including houses, nets, boats and other necessary belongings, of these fishermen on nine islands. But they are beginning life afresh, building houses and repairing boats and nets.

Talking to The Daily Star, fishermen and fish traders demanded that the government build permanent houses for the fishermen and nets.

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বিদেশে গমনেচ্ছু কর্মীদের জন্য সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা চাকুরী নিয়ে বিদেশে গমনেচ্ছু কর্মীদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অনুমোদিত রিক্রুটিং এজেন্ট ব্যতীত অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান চাকুরীর জন্য বিদেশে কর্মী প্রেরণের জন্য ক্ষমতাপ্রাপ্ত নয়। সুতরাং বিদেশে চাকুরী পেতে ইচ্ছুক কর্মীগণকে সরাসরি বিদেশে কর্মী প্রেরণের অনুমতি প্রাপ্ত রিক্রুটিং এজেন্টদের সাথে যোগাযোগের পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। এক্ষেত্রে, নিম্নোক্ত বিষয়াদির প্রতি সতর্ক দৃষ্টি রাখার জন্যও সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে:

- সংশ্লিষ্ট রিক্রুটিং এজেন্সীর হাতে কোন বিদেশী নিয়োগকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের বৈধ চাহিদাপত্র আছে কিনা।
- সংশ্লিষ্ট চাহিদাপত্রের ভিত্তিতে কর্মী বাছাই ও নিয়োগের জন্য প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় এবং জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরোর (বিএমইটি) যথাযথ অনুমোদন আছে কিনা।
- ইউরোপ ও কোরিয়া ছাড়া মধ্যপ্রাচ্য ও মালয়েশিয়া গমনের জন্য ভিসা, বিমান ভাড়া, মেডিক্যাল টেস্ট এবং অন্যান্য সব আনুষ্ঠানিকতা সম্পাদনসহ অভিবাসন ব্যয়ের পরিমাণ সর্বোচ্চ ৮৪,০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকা। কোন অবস্থাতেই কোন রিক্রুটিং এজেন্সী এর চেয়ে বেশী দাবী করতে পারবে না।
- অভিবাসন ব্যয় তথা সার্ভিস চার্জ পে-অর্ডার বা চেকের মাধ্যমে সংশ্লিষ্ট রিক্রুটিং এজেন্সীকে পরিশোধ করতে হবে এবং অবশ্যই এজেন্সীর নিকট হতে চেক/পে-অর্ডার গ্রহণের রশিদ সংগ্রহ করতে হবে।
- বৈধ রিক্রুটিং এজেন্সী ব্যতীত অন্য কোন ব্যক্তি বা দালালের সাথে অর্থ লেনদেন করা যাবে না।
- দক্ষিণ কোরিয়াসহ ইউরোপ ও অন্যান্য উন্নত দেশে কর্মী প্রেরণের জন্য প্রযোজ্য সার্ভিস চার্জের পরিমাণ আলাদাভাবে নির্ধারণ করা হবে এবং তা টেলিফোনসহ বিভিন্ন জাতীয় পত্র-পত্রিকায় যথাসময়ে প্রচার করা হবে।

কোথাও উপরে বর্ণিত শর্তসমূহের কোন ব্যতিক্রম দেখা গেলে সে সম্পর্কে প্রবাসী কল্যাণ ও বৈদেশিক কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় অথবা জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো (বিএমইটি) কিংবা নিকটস্থ আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থাকে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে অবহিত করতে হবে। সরকার অনুমোদিত এবং বিদেশে কর্মী প্রেরণের জন্য নিয়োগের অনুমতি প্রাপ্ত সকল রিক্রুটিং এজেন্সীর নাম ও ঠিকানা জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো অফিস (৮৯/২, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা) হতে জানা যাবে। যারা ট্যুরিস্ট অথবা ভিজিট ভিসায় বিদেশ যাবেন, তারা ভিসার মেয়াদ শেষে অবৈধ অভিবাসী হিসেবে কোন অবস্থাতেই দেশে অবস্থান করবেন না।

প্রচারে,

জনশক্তি, কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো
৮৯/২, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা

জিডি-৪৫৬৬

Agonising tale of a husband's brutality

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

It was love that parted school-teacher Mahbuba Khanam from her parents. With high hopes disregarding her parents' opinions she got married to a man six years ago, and they had a happy conjugal life until recently.

Now she lies on a hospital bed in the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with third degree burns on a quarter of her body, inflicted by the very man she had tied the knot with so lovingly.

"Mahbuba will have to undergo treatment here for a long time," according to Project Director of the Burn Unit of DMCH Dr Samata Sen.

Lying on the hospital bed, Mahbuba told The Daily Star that her husband doused her with petrol and set fire to her as she tried to stop him from having an extra marital affair with another woman.

She said five months ago

Anwar, her husband, resigned from the army where he used to work as a non-commissioned soldier, and settled at Borhanuddin in Bholia. The couple managed to set up a phone-fax centre which doubles as a stationeries shop, named after their four-year old son



Mahbuba Khanam

Fahmudi, at the local bus stand. They had to sell off Mahbuba's jewellery to gather the required capital.

Over the last few months Mahbuba had been noticing a change in Anwar. After her own investigation, she found that her husband had been in an extra marital affair with another woman living in Jessore, Mahbuba said. Since the startling revelation, the couple had been quarrelling most of the time.

Speaking about her experience of the last five months, Mahbuba said, "On November 23 night, Anwar beat me mercilessly leaving me badly bruised. And then he put salt on my bruises."

In the morning of November 24, Mahbuba went to their shop

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Swiss, ROK aid for cyclone, flood victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Switzerland Thursday provided an additional \$3.6 million for emergency cyclone assistance and post-flood rehabilitation programmes, while South Korea donated \$300,000 as immediate lifesaving assistance for the Sidr victims.

SOS Children's Village International in Bangladesh donated Tk 68.05 lakh for the

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Prayer Timing

December 15

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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