

Track your shipment any time from any where...

Simply log on to www.fedex.com/bd



FedEx
Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

Every Package Matters

TRANSTEC
Split & Window AC

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

Sadar Road, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1206



MANPOWER EXPORT IRREGULARITIES

Govt cancels licences of 32 agencies

Involvement in human trafficking alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has cancelled the licenses of 32 travel and recruiting agencies in the last two months for irregularities in manpower business and involvement in human trafficking.

The facts were disclosed at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the Home Ministry yesterday afternoon.

The licenses were cancelled after law-enforcing agencies in an investigation found the agencies illegally sending manpower abroad, which in most cases led to trafficking of women and children, meeting sources said.

Police and the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) are at present investigating the activities of some other agencies and their licenses

could also be revoked on the same grounds, the meeting was told.

Attended by representatives of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), the meeting evaluated the overall situation of human trafficking in the country and renewed a call to the 2500 travel and recruiting agencies operating in the country to adhere to government rules and maintain transparency in their businesses.

The meeting also ordered the concerned authorities to ensure that the licenses of the 32 agencies are forfeited and they stop all business activities within 15 days of the cancellation of their licenses.

The meeting also discussed the Draft Policy prepared by the Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry to bring more transparency and account-

ability in manpower recruitment to prevent human trafficking.

The government officials and NGO representatives agreed to work further on the draft, making it more effective so that recruiting and travel agencies can be prevented from indulging in any irregularities or illegal activities.

The meeting also expressed dissatisfaction over the slow disposal of cases filed in connection with women and children trafficking and requested the law ministry and the police headquarters to take necessary steps to ensure that cases are disposed of quickly.

At present 603 cases remain pending, of which 571 are under trial while the others are under investigation, the meeting was informed.

POWER PLANT CASE

ACC official cross examined during trial of Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cross-examination in the barge-mounted power plant graft case against former premier Sheikh Hasina and seven others continued yesterday for the third day.

The defence cross-examined SM Sabbir Hasan, an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) deputy director and the investigation officer (IO) of the case, on the First Information Report (FIR) and investigation of the case yesterday over a three-hour trial at the special court set up on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises.

Detained Awami League chief, Sheikh Hasina, was brought to the court around 10:10am. Another accused, former power secretary Dr Toufique-e-Elahi Chowdhury, was also produced before the court.

The judge adjourned the trial at 1:15pm and fixed today morning for further proceedings after Hasina's lawyers filed a petition seeking adjournment for the day.

Before adjourning however, Judge Firoz Alam reminded the defence that they have to complete



Students of Asian University in Uttara chase students of Shanto-Mariam university (out of frame) after the latter attacked Asian University.

CEC for holding JS, UZ polls together

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday reaffirmed the Election Commission's (EC) commitment to holding a credible parliamentary election that will ensure a good government in the country.

"We will be relieved if a good government is installed through the next parliamentary election. We are tired of the mud slinging," CEC Huda told The Daily Star in his office.

The election chief also favoured holding the long overdue upazila polls simultaneously with the parliamentary election, which is scheduled for the third week of December this year.

He said the country will be able to save up to Tk 100 crore if both elections are held simultaneously.

"Now we are looking at the capacity at field levels for holding both elections together," he said



A large number of Hilsa being offloaded from trawlers yesterday morning at Fishery Ghat in Chittagong as fishing in the Bay of Bengal bounces back after the recent cyclone scare.

US envoy hopes for credible polls on time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty yesterday expressed hope that the Election Commission would be able to hold a free, fair and credible election with participation of all political parties as per its roadmap.

"I'm hopeful that the caretaker government will take all necessary steps to arrange poll as soon as possible," Moriarty told journalists after receiving the shipment of 45,700 tonnes of wheat at Chittagong Port.

American flag carrier the Liberty Eagle arrived at the Chittagong Port last week with the wheat provided under the US food aid programme, part of which will be used to assist Sidra-affected people in Barguna and Bagerhat.

While receiving the aid, Moriarty said strong democracy, sustainable development and denial of space for terrorism are the hallmarks and three most important goals of the bilateral partnership and cooperation between the US and Bangladesh.

Asked if the US Embassy would play any role in bringing all political parties to the ongoing dialogue with the government, he told reporters that the embassy does not have any such plan.

"I think there is no need of any outsider to do anything after what the caretaker government is doing for it," he said.

ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH

DAB leader Dr Zahid gets 13yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ADhaka court yesterday sentenced Dr Zahid Hossain, secretary general of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB), a pro-BNP doctors' association, to 13 years' imprisonment for amassing wealth illegally and concealing information about his actual wealth in the wealth statement submitted to the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

The court also sentenced Zahid's wife Rifat Hossain to three years' imprisonment for abetting her husband in amassing wealth worth

Tarique files petition for quashing bribery case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tarique Rahman, elder son of former premier Khaleda Zia, yesterday filed a petition with the High Court (HC) for quashing the proceedings against him in the case of Tk 21-crore bribery following the murder of Humayun Kabir Sabbar, a director of Bashundhara Group.

Meanwhile, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed filed a petition with the HC for anticipatory bail in the Barapukuria coal mine corruption case.

Hearings of both the petitions are likely to be held today.

2 jail guards punished for attacking Star reporter

STAR REPORT

Two guards of Tangail Jail were stand-released Saturday night in connection with attacking Mirza Shakil, the Tangail correspondent of The Daily Star.

But the authorities are yet to take any action against Jailor Nazrul Islam who allegedly ordered the jail guards to beat up Shakil.

The authorities formed a probe committee led by Jail Superintendent Saeed Ali to investigate the incident.

Local journalists, however, questioned the neutrality of the probe body, alleging that following the incident Saeed initiated moves to save the jail guards.

They submitted a memorandum to the home secretary yesterday through Tangail Deputy Commissioner Akhtar Ali Sarkar.

25 injured as private university students clash in Uttara

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between students of two private universities in Uttara left 25 students and policemen injured yesterday.

Students of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology in Sector-7 vandalised the building of Asian University of Bangladesh in Sector-7 and torched its furniture and equipments. Students of Asian University ransacked the building of Shanto-Mariam University and torched its furniture and equipments in return.

Police had to fire six teargas canisters and charge truncheon in their attempt to disperse the clashing students.

Both universities were declared closed for five days to avert further untoward incidents.

According to sources, the clashes started following the spread of a rumour that Mehedi Hasan Rana, a student of fashion designing department of Shanto-Mariam University who had been beaten up by the students of Asian University on May 20, died.

Sources said Rana was beaten up when he went to the Asian University campus to protest against the assault on his sister Rumana, a first semester student at Asian University.

According to witnesses, several hundred students of Shanto-Mariam University marched towards the Asian University campus around 11:30am yesterday and vandalised the building and torched furniture in rooms on two floors.

They also ransacked the residence of Asian University vice-chancellor, several neighbouring buildings and business establishments in the area.

DIALOGUES

Quader optimistic about AL, BNP participation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communications Adviser Ghulam Quader yesterday expressed his firm optimism about Awami League's (AL) and BNP's participation in the ongoing dialogues between political parties and the military backed caretaker government.

He said the two parties are 'already convinced' that they should participate.

"All efforts are on to convince them. In fact, they are already convinced," the adviser told reporters at his ministry secretariat when asked about the government's move to persuade the parties in joining the talks.

Saying that he is sure about the two parties' participation, he added, "They are aware that the nation needs their help at this hour."

US envoy hopes for credible polls on time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty yesterday expressed hope that the Election Commission would be able to hold a free, fair and credible election with participation of all political parties as per its roadmap.

"I'm hopeful that the caretaker government will take all necessary steps to arrange poll as soon as possible," Moriarty told journalists after receiving the shipment of 45,700 tonnes of wheat at Chittagong Port.

American flag carrier the Liberty Eagle arrived at the Chittagong Port last week with the wheat provided under the US food aid programme, part of which will be used to assist Sidra-affected people in Barguna and Bagerhat.

While receiving the aid, Moriarty said strong democracy, sustainable development and denial of space for terrorism are the hallmarks and three most important goals of the bilateral partnership and cooperation between the US and Bangladesh.

Asked if the US Embassy would play any role in bringing all political parties to the ongoing dialogue with the government, he told reporters that the embassy does not have any such plan.

"I think there is no need of any outsider to do anything after what the caretaker government is doing for it," he said.

Powerful aftershock hits China: 1 killed 70,000 homes collapsed

AP, AFP, Chengdu

One of the most powerful aftershocks to hit quake-ravaged central China killed one person, left dozens more injured and levelled homes yesterday, as soldiers carrying explosives hiked to a blocked-off river to alleviate the threat of floods.

Some 260 people were injured in the aftershock Sunday afternoon, the government-run China News Service said, with 24 in serious condition. The agency said many homes had collapsed and roads were damaged, but gave no specific figures.

More than 70,000 homes collapsed in southwest China on Sunday after a strong aftershock rattled the region, devastated by a

BARAPUKURIA CASE

Mojahid seeks anticipatory bail from HC

UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed yesterday filed a petition with the High Court seeking ad-interim anticipatory bail in the Barapukuria corruption case.

Advocate Habibur Rahman filed the petition for Mojaheed, who was the social welfare minister of the BNP-led coalition government.

The hearing on the petition will be held before the division bench comprising Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and M Ataur Rahman Khan.

The Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case against detained former premier Khaleda Zia, and 15 others including 10 former ministers of her cabinet on February 26 for causing loss of

Fortune-seeker returns as broke, ends up in hospital

PORIMOL PALMA

Monir Hossain went to Malaysia in July last year with high hopes of earning a lot, but after his return on Thursday, he was hospitalised yesterday for severe weakness caused by over work and lack of adequate food.

He could not send a single penny to his family in Daudkandi in Comilla; rather he had to survive on little food as the employer paid him lump sum salaries after four months and none at all for the rest five months.

Monir is one of the 65 Bangladeshis, who went to Malaysia on July 25-26 last year through recruiting agency Sunbeam Travels Ltd to work at JN Power Construction SDNBHD.

However, after their arrival in Malaysia they were divided into a few groups and employed in different companies.

Earlier, several hundred workers returned home under similar circumstances from Malaysia, while thousands still are reportedly facing similar or worse fate there.

Failing to cope with 12-hour work a day, Monir and 21 others fled their workplace and stayed in a shelter house of migrants' rights organisation Tenaganita in Kuala Lumpur.

Eighteen others are still living at the shelter home, while four returned home recently and are suffering from various physical problems.

"I am too weak to tell you what happened to us in Malaysia. My legs have swelled and I cannot stand up for more than five minutes. I also got gastric," said Monir who is now undergoing treatment at Gouripur Health Complex in Daudkandi.

His father Mohammad Habib said he had spent over Tk 3 lakh to send his son abroad who brought back not a single penny.

"Now he has lost one year and become so weak that he cannot even stand," he told The Daily Star over phone.

"We demand punishment to

UNHCR chief arrives today

To talk with govt on Rohingya issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) António Guterres is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka today on a two-day visit that will highlight the need to find a lasting solution to the issue of around 27,000 Rohingya refugees living in the country.

During his first visit to Bangladesh as high commissioner, Guterres plans to discuss with the government the long-running plight of the Rohingya refugees as part of the high commissioner's initiative to place a spotlight on the issue and to resolve some of the world's most protracted refugee situations, said a press release.

These refugees who fled Myanmar have been staying in two refugee camps—Nayapara and Kutupalong in Cox's Bazar—for more than 16 years.



An eight-year-old babysitting her three-year-old sibling at Nawabganj Park in Old Dhaka yesterday while their mother stands in queue to buy rice from a BDR fair price outlet.

BRIBERY CASE

7 engineers of RHD to be released

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered to release seven engineers of Road and Highways Department (RHD) and an official of a construction firm in connection with a Tk 14 lakh bribery case.

The court delivered the verdict after the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) submitted the final report (FRT) of the case.

After scrutinizing the case dockets and other relevant documents, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court accepted the FRT and ordered to release the accused.

The accused are additional chief