

32 BANGLADESHIS AT KUALA LUMPUR AIRPORT DEPOT

Malaysian agency refuses to receive stranded job seekers

UNB, Dhaka
Malaysian recruiting agency Sawas Link finally refused to receive the 32 Bangladeshi workers stranded at a depot of Kuala Lumpur airport on the allegation that the Bangladeshi recruiting agency, Shikha Trade International, did not pay them more than 70,000 Ringgit under the deal.

A representative from the Sawas Link visited the workers at the depot after publication of reports in Bangladeshi and Malaysian newspapers on the plight of the 32 Bangladeshi job seekers, but the agency declined to accept them.

without paying their dues worth more than 70,000 Ringgit, and even "without prior notice", said a report received in Dhaka yesterday.

It is alleged the officials of Shikha Trade International are still misbehaving with the relatives who inquired about their sons or brothers passing through ordeals. They had to pay more than Tk 2 lakh for each worker to get a job in Malaysia.

2 security guards held for helping smugglers at ZIA

The customs officials at Zia International Airport (ZIA) arrested two security guards of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) on charge of helping smugglers in smuggling out various electronics goods through the green channel on Sunday night.

A case was filed in this connection and the arrested security guards Golam Kibria, 23, and Salauddin Ahmed, 32, were handed over to Airport police.

The customs officials identified the smugglers and the CAA employees by scrutinising the video footage of the closed-circuit television (CCTV).

During the scrutinising, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Naim Ahmed and personnel from the joint forces working at the airport were present.

The customs officials alleged that a section of CAA officials and employees are involved in smuggling and helping the smugglers.

An assistant commissioner of the Customs at ZIA said they identified three security guards.

Two of them were arrested, but the other one Titu Hawlader yet to be arrested, he added.

Naim Ahmed told The Daily Star that the case has been shifted to detective branch for further investigation.

Schoolboy missing in city

A class nine student of Ideal School and College has been missing since June 14. Sources said Shariar Rahman Tanvir, 14, did not return home from the Banarsi branch of the school on the day and since then he has been missing.

A general diary was filed with Khilgaon Police Station in this regard on that night.

Tanvir's father Mafizur Rahman Mazumder, an assistant engineer of Construction and Maintenance unit of Health Ministry, sought the help of the law enforcers to find out his son.

Tanvir used to play billiard in 'Enjoy in Shahjahanpur, 'Wega' in Shantinagar and he went to play billiard on June 14, too.

His family fears that criminals had kidnapped him for some evil purposes.

Bangladeshi ship with iron rod sinks in Hooghly river

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi
A Bangladeshi barge 'MV Neelam' with 695 tonnes of iron rod on board sank in the Hooghly river after it ran aground near Raichak, about 62 km off Kolkata, on way to Narayanganj port from Budge Budge yesterday.

The two pilots and 13 crewmembers either swam to safety or were rescued by locals with the help of a fishing trawler, officials said.

The barge left Kidderpore dock on Sunday and was berthed at Budge Budge at night.

It ran aground hours after it sailed for Narayanganj in the morning. Sources said the accident occurred after the barge's steering ropes snapped.

Director of Inland Water Authority of India (IAWI) Arun Roy said efforts were on to salvage the barge which might pose danger to vessels on the narrow channel.

"We are trying to pull out the barge," he added.

Wanted criminal dies in Rab 'shootout'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A wanted criminal was killed early today in a shootout between Rapid Action Battalion members and his accomplices in city's Jigatola area.

The dead, identified as Shahiduzzaman Babu alias Bilal Babu, is wanted in a number of murder and criminal cases. He was an accomplice of top terror Sanjidal Islam Emon, law enforcers said.

Rab-2 officials said that acting on a tip-off, a Rab team raided a place near Jigatola post office where some criminals were said to be holding a clandestine meeting at around 2:00 am.

When Rab challenged some men in the area for suspicious behaviour, they opened fire on the law enforcing team. Rab retaliated with gunshots and the ensuing gunfight lasted for around 15 minutes.

All the gangsters fled the scene except Babu who was found dead. Rab recovered a pistol and three bullets from his possession.

Babu's family however disputes Rab's statement regarding the gunfight. Talking to The Daily Star at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), they claimed that Rab

New British HC Evans arrives

UNB, Dhaka
Newly appointed British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Stephen Evans arrived here yesterday evening to take up his new assignment.

Evans who replaces Anwar Choudhury has served as British Ambassador to Afghanistan, High Commissioner to Sri Lanka and Head of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's South Asia Department.

"The relationship between the UK and Bangladesh is special one. There is a broad and positive engagement on a wide range of common interests - development, democracy, security, education, trade, and migration. Our futures are inter-linked in so many ways," Evans said in his pre-arrival statement.

Bakery shop owner found dead in his room

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Police recovered the body of a bakery shop owner with his hands and legs tied from his residence at East Goran at Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

The dead identified as Tipu Sultan, 27, was owner of two bakery shops in Meradia and Goran areas.

Police said they found the body hanging with a ceiling fan and recovered it at around 5:00pm from his residence.

Victim's cousin Billal Hossain said police entered the room unlocking the door and recovered the body.

He suspects that he might have been killed and later hanged with the ceiling fan. His wife was not at home during the incident, he said.

Sheikh Mohammad Abu Zahid, officer-in-charge (OC) of Khilgaon Police Station, said he is not sure whether it is a suicide or murder.

Kalyan Party's dialogue with CG on June 25

UNB, Dhaka
The caretaker government's dialogue with Bangladesh Kalyan Party, scheduled to be held yesterday, will now be held to June 25.

Kalyan Party Chairman Maj Gen (Retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim said the dialogue was deferred as Law Adviser Hasan Arif and Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury are outside the country.

"We didn't like to have an incomplete dialogue in absence of the two advisers," he said, adding that it has been now rescheduled for 3:00pm on Wednesday.

Unite to elect honest candidates: GF

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Gono Forum (GF) leaders yesterday called on the people to unite to elect the honest and competent candidates in local government and national elections to be held as per the electoral roadmap announced by the Election Commission.

They also called on the people to remain alert so that the corrupt people, plunderers of public property and those who politicised all the institutions cannot use any tactics to return to power.

The leaders made the call at a meeting of the party's presidium meeting at its Baily Road office in the capital. Gono Forum President

Dr Kamal Hossain presided over the meeting. The party has also formed a nine-member committee to unite people and like-minded groups in order to help get the honest and competent candidates elected.

The members of the committee include Gono Forum presidium members Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mofizul Islam Khan Kamal, Commander (retd) Abdur Rouf, former whip Mohammad Abdur Rouf, Mohammad Shamsuddin, advocate SM Altaf Hossain, Mokabbir Khan, General Secretary (acting) advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Organising Secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu.

Contributions can be sent to Md Akbar Ali, A/C No. - 2906, Uttara Bank, Eastern Plaza branch, Sonargaon Road, Dhaka 1205. Interested people can call at 01710-501184 to contact the family.

Appeal for help

Aklima Khatun, a student of class eight in a school at Sirajganj, has been suffering from brain tumour, says a press release.

She is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

According to doctors, she needs to undergo an operation immediately, which involves a huge amount. But her poor family cannot afford it as they have already spent a lot of money on her treatment.

Aklima's father Md Akbar Ali has appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save his daughter.

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Fahima Begum, wife of a construction worker, has been suffering from a chronic disease called 'myasthenia gravis', a condition that causes muscles to become weak, says a press release.

She is undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

According to doctors, she needs to undergo an operation immediately, but her husband cannot manage a sum of about Tk 5 lakh, the cost of operation.

Fahima, a mother of a six-year-old boy, now appeals to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life.

Contributions can be sent to Fahima Begum, A/C No. 12276/6, Agrani Bank, Foreign Exchange Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka. Interested persons can call at 01721-868724 or 01714271783 to contact her family.



Awami League leaders place wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of Awami League's 59th founding anniversary at Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

WHO launches initiative to reduce maternal mortality

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The World Health Organisation (WHO) yesterday launched an initiative to strengthen the Menstrual Regulation (MR) programme to reduce maternal mortality in Bangladesh.

The objectives of this programme are to ensure quality of MR and to share the knowledge of safe motherhood. WHO has invited interested NGOs working on MR and research institutions to submit concept notes and project proposals. Independent experts will be awarded grants through a competitive process.

A fund of \$2.73 million, which was established with funding from the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation and in partnership with the government of

Bangladesh and NGOs working on MR, will support such projects over a four-year period starting from 2008.

WHO will provide technical support as the lead agency. Speaking at the launching ceremony at a city hotel, AKM Zafar Ullah Khan said, "The death of every fifth woman who dies as a consequence of pregnancy and labour is due to complications of unsafe abortion."

The goal of this initiative is to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity in Bangladesh with an emphasis on equity issues to achieve millennium development goal, he added.

WHO Representative Dr Duangvadee Sunghobol said WHO as a technical agency will continue

its support to the government in the analysis and generating the evidence and subsequent development of norms, standards, policies and strategies related to MR and broader reproductive health issues.

Dr Fritz Meijndert, head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of the Netherlands, said that the government of Netherlands provided funds for the initiative as a reflection of its commitment and support to Bangladesh in its prioritised endeavor to address the leading causes of maternal morbidity and mortality.

Dr Mohammed Abul Faiz, director general of Directorate General of Health Services, also spoke at the programme chaired by Quamrun Nessa Khanam, director general, Directorate of Family Planning.

Sanitation in tea gardens very poor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Safe water supply and sanitation in the tea gardens of the country is very poor, said the speakers at a consultation yesterday.

Moreover, the administrative barriers make it hard to carry out development programmes there, they added.

The stakeholder consultation on 'Promotion of total sanitation in tea gardens' was organised by NGO Forum for Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation at the conference room of the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE) in the city.

The speakers urged both the government and the garden owners to carry out holistic approach for carrying out development programmes in tea gardens.

They said people of the tea gardens are living inhuman life due to lack of safe drinking water.

Speaking as chief guest Sheikh Khurshid Alam, secretary to Local Government Division, said water supply and sanitation in tea gardens is not that good, but it is not that the scenario cannot be improved by taking holistic approach.

"The owners employ workers in their gardens and it is their duty to provide them with safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities. The government would help them if they undertake projects for the betterment of sanitation in the

Speakers tell consultation

area," he added. The secretary called for creating awareness among the people of tea gardens for taking safe water and using sanitary latrines.

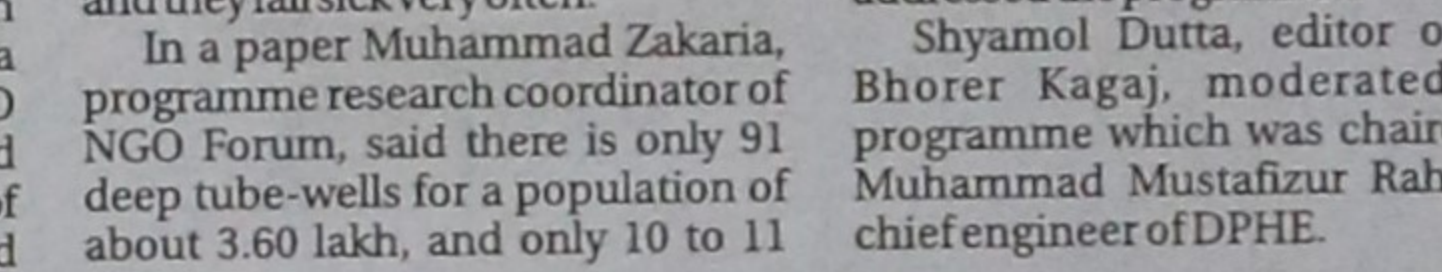
Reeta Goshami, who resides in a tea garden, said they use the water of same Chhara (hilly stream) for drinking, bathing and defecation, and as a result the water becomes polluted and they fall sick very often.

In a paper Muhammad Zakaria, programme research coordinator of NGO Forum, said there is only 91 deep tube-wells for a population of about 3.60 lakh, and only 10 to 11

percent of them have been brought under the coverage of sanitation when the government vows for hundred percent sanitation by 2010.

Muhammad Lokman Hakim Talukder, joint secretary to LGED, Jan Mollar Hansen, counsellor of Royal Danish Embassy, and Glenn Pearce-Oroz, senior water and sanitation specialist of the World Bank, also addressed the programme.

Shyamol Dutta, editor of the Bhorer Kagaj, moderated the programme which was chaired by Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman, chief engineer of DPHE.



Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman speaks at a consultation at the DPHE conference room in the city yesterday. On his right is Jan Mollar Hansen and on his left is Abu Bakar Siddique.

BSF returns 33 more Bangladeshis

A CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) handed over 33 Bangladeshi citizens, who were detained in Indian jails after being trafficked across the border, to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) through Benapole check post yesterday.

The returnees include 12 women and seven children. With this, BSF has returned a total of 68 Bangladeshi citizens in the last three days.

Police said the returnees had been trafficked to India through different borders by manpower brokers who deceived them by saying they would be getting better jobs.

Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity brought them back by contacting the jail authorities. Among yesterday's returnees, 16 people are from Satkhira district, 14 from Khulna district, two from Habiganj district and one from Dinajpur district.

About 1,038 Bangladeshi citizens are still languishing in 53 jails and sub-jails in West Bengal, said a source. Of the detainees, 852 are male and 186 female.

A total of 221 Bangladeshi people were returned to Bangladesh through Benapole check post in four phases from June 9 to June 12 by the BSF.

BSF handed over 68 others in three phases on June 19, 22 and 23. The process of returning the Bangladeshi people will continue, said sources.

21 frauds held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested 21 frauds of four gangs at Badda in the city on Sunday night.

DB officials said they had been cheating the people in different ways like providing with fake notes of foreign currencies.

The arrestees are Abdul Karim, 34, Mohammad Ashu, 45, Sukur Ali, 27, Liakat Ali, 25, Ripon Sheikh, 22, Polash Molla, 20, Oli Poran, 22, Abdur Rahman, 20, Osman Sikder, 22, Mohor Ali Sheikh, 25, Enayet Kabir, 20, Hafiz Khan, 30, Kamrul Hasan Talukder, 22, Uzzal Khan, 18, Murad Sheikh, 40, Ashraf Sikder, 25, Enayet Hossain, 25, Mohammad Alam, 35, Belayet Sheikh, 30, Daud Hossain, 28, and Mohammad Churnu, 29.

DB officials said the frauds had been cheating the innocent people in various ways.

Village doctor held for killing wife, 2 children

UNB, Pirajpur

Amiddle-aged man slaughtered his wife and two children at village Patakata in Mathbaria on Sunday night.

The police arrested Alamgir Hossain, a village doctor, after his neighbours informed them of the incident.

Alamgir killed his wife Hafiza, 30, son Ashraf, 12, and daughter Jamila, 3, at about 11:00pm on Sunday, the police said.

According to the police and locals, Alamgir and his wife often quarrelled as he has an illicit affair with a widow in the neighbouring village.

On Sunday night when everybody was asleep, Alamgir slaughtered the three with surgical blades.

Tk 7.5cr Aussie grant for vulnerable communities

The Australian government will provide Tk 7.5 crore in additional humanitarian assistance to meet the emergency needs of vulnerable communities, says a press release.

Tk 4.4 crore will go towards meeting food aid needs for communities still suffering in the wake of cyclone Sidr while Tk 3.1 crore will provide emergency assistance for remote indigenous communities in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region, suffering from severe food shortages.

Condolence meet on Khaleda Edib today

DU CORRESPONDENT

A condolence meeting commemorating the death of noted writer Khaleda Edib will be held at 5:00pm at the Central Public Library seminar room in the city today, says a press release.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury will attend the meeting as the chief guest while poet Saiful Bari, poet Asad Chowdhury, poet Mahadev Shaha, Panna Kaiser, poet Nasir Ahmed, REHAB President Tanvirul Haque PAHAL and actress Shami Kaiser will be present as special guests.

Noted cultural personality Atiqul Haque Chowdhury will preside over the meeting organised by Bangladesh Writers Unity.

DHAKA TODAY Seminar: Getco organises a seminar on 'Safety of using CNG cylinder'. Venue: Engineers Institution. Time: 4:00pm. Workshop: The World Bank and Save the Children-USA jointly organise a workshop on 'School health, nutrition and HIV/AIDS prevention in Bangladesh'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 9:00am. Roundtable: Research and Development Collective (RDC) organises a roundtable on 'Allocation for advasis in the ADP - a macro analysis'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am. Map launching: HSBC organises a map launching ceremony to celebrate 400 years of Dhaka as a capital city. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 10:30am. Scholarship awarding: DBBL scholarship awarding ceremony for meritorious and needy students those who passed HSC 2007 will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 10:45am. Graduation ceremony: The graduation ceremony 2008 for GCE ordinary and advanced level classes of Bangladesh International Tutorial will be held. Venue: Red Brick School. Time: 5:45pm.

WEATHER TODAY No change in temperature likely UNB, Dhaka Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy rainfalls are also likely at places, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country. Highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 23.3 degrees Celsius at Cox's Bazar. The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:13am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage Morning Evening Dhaka 32.9 27.8 76 72 Chittagong 30.7 26.3 81 80 Rajshahi 34.4 26.5 88 84 Khulna 32.0 26.0 79 73 Barisal 31.2 24.8 89 82 Sylhet 33.7 25.0 82 81 Cox's Bazar 32.0 23.3 79 80

Aklima Khatun, a student of class eight in a school at Sirajganj, has been suffering from brain tumour, says a press release. She is now undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. According to doctors, she needs to undergo an operation immediately, which involves a huge amount. But her poor family cannot afford it as they have already spent a lot of money on her treatment. Aklima's father Md Akbar Ali has appealed to the generous people to extend a helping hand to save his daughter. Contributions can be sent to Md Akbar Ali, A/C No. - 2906, Uttara Bank, Eastern Plaza branch, Sonargaon Road, Dhaka 1205. Interested people can call at 01710-501184 to contact the family. Fahima Begum, wife of a construction worker, has been suffering from a chronic disease called 'myasthenia gravis', a condition that causes muscles to become weak, says a press release. She is undergoing treatment at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital. According to doctors, she needs to undergo an operation immediately, but her husband cannot manage a sum of about Tk 5 lakh, the cost of operation. Fahima, a mother of a six-year-old boy, now appeals to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her life. Contributions can be sent to Fahima Begum, A/C No. 12276/6, Agrani Bank, Foreign Exchange Branch, Motijheel, Dhaka. Interested persons can call at 01721-868724 or 01714271783 to contact her family.

Truckload of urea seized

UNB, Faridpur

A truckload of fertiliser was seized and five people, including the fertiliser dealer, were arrested yesterday from Ujirpur for alleged smuggling.

Saltha police said fertiliser dealer Abdul Halim Biswas illegally sold 153 bags of urea to traders of Chuadanga border for smuggling across the border. The truck was seized and Halim, Chuadanga traders Atiar and Saidur Rahman, driver Laskar Sheikh and his helper were taken to custody.

GB cultural programme ends

A two-day inter-departmental cultural programme of Gono Bishwabidyalaya (GB) concluded at the PHA building of Gonoshasthya Kendra yesterday, says a press release.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Abul Kashem Chowdhury was present on the occasion as the chief guest while Registrar Mohammed Delwar Hossain presided over the programme.

Kalyani Ghosh, eminent artist of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra, Prof Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and Prof Mahmud Shah Koreshi were also present.

CU CURRICULUM Inclusion of biographies of controversial leaders condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 yesterday strongly condemned the inclusion of biographies of controversial religious leaders, including founder of Jamaat-e-Islami Abul Ala Maududi, in the syllabus of a subject at Chittagong University.

"We are shocked to come to know from a newspaper report that the biographies of Moududi, Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini and Bosnian leader Alija Izetbegovic have been included in the curriculum of philosophy department," the forum leaders said in a statement.

"The Alem community of the sub-continent has never treated Moududi as an Islamic thinker of a philosopher. Rather, they termed him an enemy of Islam on different occasions," they said.

"During the liberation war in 1971, Jamaat-e-Islami led by Moududi and Golam Azam abetted the Pakistani forces in the genocide and took part in the killing, looting and torture," they added.

Inclusion of biographies of such leaders in the curriculum of universities will be tantamount to patronising war crimes, militancy and communalism, the forum leaders said and demanded stern action against those who are involved in such act.