NEWS

Ratify UN, ILO conventions to ensure migrant workers' rights

Speakers urge govt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, CIR

Speakers at a discussion on Social Action (YPSA) at the total of 37 countries have already Thursday called on the government to immediately ratify the UN and ILO conventions to protect the rights of migrant workers who are contributing to the country's as the chief guest while WARBE economy.

They also underscored the need in the chair. for decentralising formal sources of information about the recruiting procedures or international labour market so that intending workers UN Convention on 'Protection of can get correct information from the rights of all the migrant workers different parts of the country and and their families' and ILO convenavoid exploitation by fake sources.

The speakers said this at the discussion on 'Streamlining the framework on labour migration. labour migration from Bangladesh with ratification of UN and ILO Association for the Rights of migrantworkers. Bangladeshi Emigrants (WARBE),

'Tax-sticker' for

UNB, Dhaka

taxpayer or not.

taxes.

for such wealth.

car owners likely

National Board of Revenue (NBR) is

likely to introduce 'tax-sticker' for

car owners to promptly identify if

the owner of a particular car is

on the windshield of a car," NBR

chairman Muhammad Abdul

Mazid said the NBR will ask the

BRTA to provide a list of car owners.

"We'll then go through the list to

check how many car owners are

taxpayers... the number of taxpay-

ers having cars is very insignifi-

cant," he said without specifying

the number of car owners who pay

car is a wealth and one must pay tax

the eligible taxpayers to pay taxes

in due time to avoid trouble in the

Fire in textile

mills in N'ganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Fire damaged six lakh yards of cloth

and machinery at two textile mills

the fire originated from an electric

short circuit in the dyeing section

of Dhaka Textile mills at around

2:30pm and soon engulfed the

machinery were gutted in the fire,

received injuries while they were

trying to bring the blaze under

the adjacent Samsuddin Dyeing

factory, gutting one lakh yard cloth.

rushed to the spot and extin-

Removal of CA's

special assistant

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

eign companies.

Tamim demanded

The National Committee to Protect

Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources,

announced a countrywide agita-

tion programme on September 29

with a call not to lease out the

country's oil and gas fields to for-

Bhaban at Paltan in the city, they

also demanded removal of Chief

Adviser's Special Assistant for

Power and Energy Ministry Dr M

Tamim, accusing him of serving the

hold a protest rally at city's

Muktangan at 11:00am on

September 29 and then they will

take out a procession towards the

will also lay siege to the energy

ministry and hand over a memo-

randum to the chief adviser and to

Protest rallies and processions

will be held across the country on

the day and the copy of the memo-

randum will be handed over to the

Convener of the committee

Engineer Sheikh Muhammad

Shahidullah, Workers' Party

Hasan, Communist Party of

Bangladesh leader Morshed Ali,

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal

nator of Gono Sanghati Andolan

Zonaed Saki and Engineer Enamul

Haque were present at the press

leader Bazlur Rashid Firoz, coordi-

General Secretary Bimal Biswas,

deputy commissioners.

conference.

the office of the energy ministry.

energy ministry. The committee

The national committee will

purpose of the foreign companies.

At a press conference at Mukti

guished the blaze at around

At one stage, the fire spread to

On information, fire fighters

claimed the owner of the mills.

Over five lakh yards of cloth and

He said ten workers of his mills

other sections of the unit.

control.

4:30pm.

Witnesses and fire fighters said

at Shastapur in Fatuallh yesterday.

About the new system, he said

The NBR chairman has urged

Mazid told the news agency.

"The tax-sticker will be pasted

Foundation and Young Power in 20 countries, he said, adding that a Chittagong Press Club.

Additional Deputy Commissioner (revenue) Jafar Bangladesh signed the convention Alam was present on the occasion Chairman Syed Saiful Hoque was

government to highlight the campaign for the ratification of 1990 tion related to migration no 143, 97 and 181 with the adaptation of its

Presenting his keynote paper, Saiful Hoque termed the UN conconventions on migration rights' vention the most important interjointly organised by Welfare national instrument regarding

The convention came into force ing the rules and procedures

Brac and Development in June 2005 with the ratification of ratified the convention.

> He further said although on October 7 in 1998, the country has not yet ratified it.

In the fiscal 2007-08, Bangladesh received \$8.0 billion as The speakers also urged the remittance from the migrant workers, he said, adding that the amount is double of the total foreign aid and is equivalent to 48.5 percent of the country's total export earnings.

> They have become vulnerable section of our labour force since they are facing many hardships both at home and in the destination countries, he added.

> Pointing to the importance of mass awareness about migration,

regarding passport, visa and recruitment in the academic curricula so that students from their early ages can be educated with these procedures.

Chittagong Press Club General Secretary Ejaz Eusoofi said as the population is increasing day by day and the country is failing to create new jobs, people have no alternative but to go abroad in search of their livelihoods.

Underscoring the need for bringing the activities of the recruiting agencies under the rules and regulations and monitoring their activities, he urged the government to bring the fake recruiting agencies under trial.

Tapan Datta of Trade Union Centre, Khondoker Rezaunul Karim of Manusher Jonno Foundation and YPSA Director Jafar Alam stressed on incorporat- (field operation) Mahbubur

Call to save Rupnagar canal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local residents and Save the Environment Movement formed a human chain in the city's Rupnagar area yesterday demanding immediate steps to protect Rupnagar-Duaripara canal from land grabbers.

The canal has now turned into a narrow drain due to continued earth filling by the encroachers, said Md Touhidul Bashar, general secretary of Rupnagar Abasik Janakalyan Samity.

He said the land grabbers started filling the canal again on the roads 20, 21, 27 and 28 of Rupnagar residential area.

The grabbers already filled up 70 percent of the canal on roads 20 and 21 and about 50 percent on roads 27 and 28.

If the authorities concerned fail to recover the canal from the encroachers, Rupnagar, Arambagh, Arifabad and Pallabi extension areas will be submerged even after a light shower, he added.

Due to its importance the government has included the canal into its priority list of recovering 26 canals in the city, he said.

National Housing Authority has already handed over the canal to the Wasa for maintenance, he said.

Abu Naser Khan, chairman of Save the Environment Movement, urged the authorities concerned to take immediate steps against the land grabbers and demanded the canal is recovered from their grip immediately.

Two workers injured falling from Rangs Bhaban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two workers were injured after falling from the sixth floor on to the second floor of the Rangs Bhaban in the city yesterday.

The workers, engaged in demolition work of the building, were identified as Muhammad Bhutto, 35, and Mizanur Rahman, 25.

They were rushed to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital and later admitted to Pangu Hospital.

Rajuk started the demolition work on August 3, 2007. At least 13 workers were killed and several others injured since then.

Mahalaya on Monday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hindus will celebrate Mahalaya, the auspicious occasion heralding the advent of goddess Durga, on Monday.

This auspicious ceremony is observed seven days before the Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of Hindus.

Devotees will gather at different puja mandaps, including Dhakeswari Temple and Ramkrishna Mission, in the early morning on Monday to take part in various religious programmes.

On the occasion, special puja will be held at Ramkrishna Mission at 5:00am on Monday and at Dhakeswari National Temple at 5:00pm on Sunday where devotees will chant mantras and sing devotional songs.

Official sources said around 20,000 puja mandaps, including 162 in the capital, will be set up to celebrate the Durga Puja.

The five-day long festival will begin on October 5, amid wispy autumn clouds in the translucent blue sky and fragrance of Sheuli flowers that will mark the arrival of the goddess.

One kg heroin seized, 1 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Officials of the Department of Narcotics Control seized one kilogram of heroin and held one person from a hotel in the city on Thursday night, says a press release.

A team of the department led by Director (operations) Safat Ahmed Chowdhury raided a five-storey residential hotel near Fakirapul kitchen market and seized the heroin from a room at around 11:00pm.

The arrestee was identified as Abdus Salam of West Gonodondi Moillarbari at Boalia in Chittagong.

The team seized heroin in 10 polythene bags with 100 grams of each inside a bread. Salam primarily told the team

that the heroin was brought to the country from India through Benapole border in order to send it to Chittagong. A case was filed with Motifheel Police Station in this connection.

livelihoods. The project will place specific focus on poor and marginalised people of the communities.



PHOTO: STAR

Members of the Rupnagar Abasik Janakalyan Samity form a human chain at Mirpur in the city yesterday demanding immediate steps to protect Rupnagar-Duaripara canal from the land grabbers.

Anti-poverty summit raises \$16b: UN chief

AFP, United Nations

A UN summit called to rev up the war on global poverty raised a total of roughly 16 billion dollars, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said here Thursday.

"We have full commitment from many countries in pledges to help the world's poor, around the 16 billion dollars mark," he told reporters at the close of the daylong summit called to review implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

He said the exact total from pledges from world leaders, the private sector and civil society still had be tallied, but noted that "that expression of global commitment would be all the more remarkable because it comes against a backdrop of financial

"This is exactly the kind of broad, global coalition we need to nership of government, private goals to ensure implementation of reach all of our Millennium Development Goals," Ban said.

The gathering was called to galvanize world support to ensure that eight poverty reduction goals agreed by world leaders in 2000 are met by all countries by 2015. Africa to fund a Malaria Vaccine Initiative Africa, but feed beyond Africa with is lagging the rest of the world in for research on a new generation of its exports. meeting the ambitious goals.

The MDGs include eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, improv-

ing maternal health, combating diseases such as HIV/AIDS, ensuring environmental sustainability and creating global partnerships for development.

announced Thursday in four key areas: malaria control, education, and maternal health. health and food security. On the malaria front, partici-

pants committed around three billions dollars for a programme to save more than 4.2 million lives between 2008 and 2015. Malaria affects half of the

world's population -- 3.3 billion people in 109 countries -- and causes nearly one million deaths per year, according to UN officials.

The malaria funding includes 1.1 billion dollars from the World Bank and 1.62 billion over two years from the Global Fund to Minister Gordon Brown stressed sector and non-governmental the Millennium Development

organisations. Billionaire and Microsoft founder Bill Gates said his Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation was civil society "to invest ten billions also providing 168.7 million dollars malaria vaccines.

billion dollars' worth of new Africa," the British leader said. "In pledges and commitments were future, if we do things right, we will made to get 24 million children into do best by enabling Africa to feed school by 2010, as a milestone the world."

toward universal primary education by 2015.

In the health sector, commitments totalling nearly two billion dollars next year and rising to seven Major commitments were billion by 2015 were made for the MDGs relating to child mortality

Ban said a Global Campaign for Health also aimed to mobilize an extra 30 billion dollars by 2015, including to train over one million health workers, saving 10 million lives by 2015.

The UN chief said 1.6 billion dollars was also pledged to boost food security, including a new initiative to help poor farmers in sub-Saharan Africa and central America gain access to rich mar-

Meanwhile, British Prime Fights AIDS, Tuberculosis, and the need to spark a green revolu-

Goals (MDGs). He urged world leaders and top figures of the private sector and in Africa so it can help feed not just

"In the past, feed the world On education, Ban said 4.5 meant that we helped to feed

GP launches 'Tathyo Tori' to provide livelihood information

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameenphone in association with Care Bangladesh has launched 'Tathyo Tori' (Information boat) with an aim to provide information about livelihoods to the riverine communities in the country.

The boats, which will move from one place to another on a fixed schedule, will work as an information hub to meet the communication needs of rural communities. especially in the Char and Haor areas, who have limited access to up-to-date livelihoods and other information due to their remoteness, said a press release.

The first information boat was launched at Dhirai in Sunamganj on September 22. Grameenphone hopes to launch three such boats by the end of the year.

Shuvashish Priya Barua, head of corporate social responsibility (CSR), Debashis Roy, deputy general manager (DGM Projects and Partnership, CSR) and Shafquat Hossain, DGM (Social Communication, CSR) of Grameenphone and Stav Zotalis, assistant country director, and Asif U Ahmed, program director of Care Bangladesh were present at the launching ceremony.

The Tathya Tori will be equipped with digital contents, such as livelihood and agricultural information, suited for the specific areas. A typical Information Boat will have computers, Internet and email facilities, photocopiers, fax machines, printers, TV cameras and video machines, scanners, and more, depending on the needs of the community.

The main objective of this project is to both educate and empower the rural people with the necessary information for their



Awami Shilpi Goshthi members, on behalf of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, distributed new sarees among destitute women yesterday on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo shows AL leader Amir Hossain Amu handing out a saree to a woman on the Silver Dale High School premises at Wari in the city.

Luxurious Flat at GULSHAN |Road # 06; 3 bed apartment THE PARTY OF THE P Size: 2100 sft. 2000 sft. BUILDING FOR FUTURE LTD. (01914496667)Corporate Office: Gagan Shirish, 76 & 76/1, Panthapath, Dhaka Website: www.buildingforfutureitd.com

Advertisement

Bangladeshi Gastroenterologist Awarded Internationally

The largest conference of Gastroenterologist, Asia Pacific Digestive Week 2008 (APDW-2008) recently held in New Delhi (13th-16th September). APDW committee awarded Dr. Hafeza Aftab Rosie with "Journal of Gastroenterology and Hepatology Foundation Award 2008" for outstanding career development and research works. Earlier she was the first Bangladeshi Gastroenterologist who received "JSGE Research Fellowship 2004" in Asia and got training opportunity on advanced Gastroenterology in Japan. Currently she is working as Assistant Professor (Gastroenterology) in Dhaka Medical College Hospital. C-2620

Vehicles on a road near Sadarghat launch terminal in the city get stuck in a gridlock yesterday as holidaymakers rushed to the terminal to go to their village homes to celebrate Eid with their near and dear ones. Impose ban on activities of anti-liberation forces'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Tariqat Federation (BTF), a political organisation, yesterday demanded ban on the activities of political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, which are ineligible to get registered as per the registration act for political parties introduced by the govern-

Electricity and Port yesterday BTF leaders placed the demands at a roundtable at the National Press Club in the city moderated by its President Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari.

Veteran leaders, lawyers, teachers, writers and Islamic scholars expressed their solidarity with the constitution. demands.

established unless the antiliberation forces, including Jamaat-e-Islami, are uprooted socially and politically.

declaration at the discussion where they called upon all the political parties to boycott militant organi-

It alleged that Jamaat is now

BTF also demanded ban on the The speakers said the ideology activities of Jatiya Muktijoddha

of the liberation war cannot be

BTF also placed a nine-point

hatching conspiracy against the registration act and trying to foil the next general polls, as it knows that it would be declared ineligible for getting registered as its constitution goes against the basic structure of the country's

Parishad and Hizb ut-Tahrir. Awami League Presidium

Member Amir Hossain Amu said mobilisation of greater public support is a must to try the war criminals and imposing ban on Jamaat.

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said the anti-liberation forces are hatching conspiracy against the country since its independence and it is disgraceful that they ruled the country for a long time after the independence.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal Chairman Hasanul Haq Inu, Barrister Tania Amir, Prof Harunor-Rashid, Prof Abul Barakat and Bangladesh Jaker Party Secretary General Munshi Abdul Latif also spoke at the programme.

WORLD TOURISM DAY TODAY

Call to boost tourism industry in sustainable manner

BSS, Dhaka

its politburo member Nurul | Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed

The World Tourism Day will be observed in the country today as elsewhere in the globe in a befitting manner.

This year's theme of the day is Tourism responding to the challenge of climate change' President Iajuddin Ahmed and

In his message, President added. lajuddin said Bangladesh is a land of immense potential for tourism, and the glorious history, culture and heritage and the innate beauty of the country are the rich compo-

gave separate messages on the

nents of this industry.

He said the tourism sector, therefore, could be more flourished by presenting these attractively at home and abroad and developing the country's infrastructure.

The president said global warming and climate change are imposing negative impact on the environment and biodiversity. The archeological sites, the main attractions of the tourism industry, are not free from this impact, he

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin

Ahmed in his message said this

manner.'

existence of our mother planet.

can contribute immensely to the promotion of tourism industry of the country. The chief adviser also calls upon all to keep voting for Cox's Bazar year's theme of the day is very and the Sundarbans in the run-up

appropriate and timely as climate of selection of the seven natural change poses a great threat to the wonders of the world.

He said unlimited and non-ecofriendly tourism developments greatly contribute to the climate. change. "We have to boost the tourism industry in a sustainable The chief adviser said

Bangladesh is gifted with the

bounty of nature and abundance of

beauty and these natural resources