

Call to stop harassment of migrant workers in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded an end to harassment and corruption in sending workers to Malaysia.

They demanded punishment to the corrupt government officials and recruitment agencies for their treacherous activities to the hapless migrant workers.

The speakers placed a 6-point demand at the press conference organised by Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

They also urged government to take an effective initiative to return the illegal migrants and trafficked people who are confined in different jails and detention camps in Malaysia for carrying forged documents.

Brig Gen Moqbul Hossain made IG-Prisons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brig Gen AHM Moqbul Hossain was made the new Inspector General-Prisons yesterday.

Brig Gen Moqbul, who hails from Bogra district, has been deputed to the post from Bangladesh Army's supply corps, sources said.

The immediate past IG-Prisons, Brig Gen Zakir Hassan, was called back to the Army on January 27 after his deputation for three years and three months.

Additional IG-Prisons Dr Col Md Ashraful Islam Khan, who has been serving as the acting IG-Prisons, told The Daily Star last night, "I heard of the appointment of new IG-Prisons but did not receive any official order."

Sources said the establishment ministry issued the order of appointment yesterday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the government on Monday brought changes to the posts of the deputy inspector general in three prison divisions.

In an instant order, Major Shamsul Haider Siddiqui of Dhaka division was transferred to Barisal-Khulna division, Major Sheikh Saiful Alam of Chittagong-Sylhet to Dhaka division and Mohammad Fazlur Rahman of Dhaka to Chittagong-Sylhet division.

Jail sources said the three DIGs handed over the charges to new DIGs yesterday afternoon.

Future Group starts journey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Future Group, an education-based group of companies, was launched in the city yesterday with a view to providing different types of courses for the students, especially language and computer-based training courses.

Top officials of the group said they would offer a number of courses, including English foundation, English fluency development, basic grammar and writing, IELTS preparation, spoken English, radio jockey, cabin crew course, call centre agent training, basic computer, networking, website development, programming learning and fair handwriting.

They said this at a press conference at its Dhanmondi office in the city.

"Efficiency of English language and expertise of computer are required for getting any standard jobs. For this purpose, we have prepared different language and computer-based courses so that students can enter the job market easily," said Prof AMM Hamidur Rahman of Institute of Modern Language at Dhaka University and honorary chairman of the group.

They will spend their 10 percent profit of the company for providing stipend and free courses to poor students, he added.

Managing Director Yeasir Ahmed said they will also hold National Essay Writing Competition on the occasion of the 21st February.

"We will also hold a National Spelling Bee and IQ and a National Hand Writing Competition every year," he pointed out.

Future Group will also set up a standard school in every upazila so that meritorious students can come out, he added.

BDPC Director Sharif A Kafi said several recruiting agencies in connivance with some corrupt government officials of both the countries are engaged in forgery of passports and other documents.

These unscrupulous groups are also competing for securing job demand letters from Malaysia, he added.

He demanded withdrawal of the officials of Bangladesh high commission's labour wing from Kuala Lumpur due to their inefficient handling of migrant workers there.

Sharif said, "Withdrawal of these officials from the spot is very essential, otherwise they can easily mislead investigations."

He emphasised the importance of forming a task force and more investigation to wipe out such corrupt people from the sector.

He said, "Plight of cheated

Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia long-standing and the corrupt and responsible officials are still operating their unholy business smoothly."

BDPC conducted an investigation on the status of illegal migrants in Malaysia. In most cases, the probe body found these hapless workers, either cheated by recruiting agencies or manpower agents at home or employers abroad, he mentioned.

He further said that a good number of these poor job seekers lost everything in the process. On many occasions, they were landlocked in jails mainly due to fraudulent activities of the manpower agents.

Shahriar Rahman, Akhtarin Khayer Tanim and Ruma Das of BDPC and labour leaders Amirul Haque Amin and Jahangir Alam took part in the programme.

Two robbers lynched in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Two robbers died in a mob beating at Dighi Barabu at Rupganj in the district on Monday night while they were taking preparation to commit robbery.

The dead were identified as Al Amin and Sumon. Two machetes were seized from their possession.

Police said sometime between 7:00pm to 8:00pm armed robbers were taking preparation to commit robbery.

Being suspicious, the security guards raised alarm and the dacoits took shelter at Ekhlasudin High School.

An announcement was made using the loud speakers of the local mosque to alert people who soon chased the dacoits and nabbed two of the gang. However, the other dacoits managed to escape.

Al Amin died on the spot after the beating while seriously injured Sumon succumbed to his injuries at Rupganj Upazila Health Complex.

'Save Titas canal'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the killers have now been threatening to kill the family members if the murder case is not withdrawn.

She also demanded the arrest of Zahir's accomplices Amir Hossain, Nazrul, Mohsin, Rubel and Johnny.

Eva said Zahir has been trying to mislead the law enforcers by giving false information only to divert the case toward a direction in favour of the killers.

Zahir and his three brothers are listed criminals in Lalbagh area and there are several cases against them, she said.

She said Zahir and his men killed Asgar as he refused to jointly run a cable television business in the area.

Eva's brother-in-law Nazim Uddin Badsha, mother-in-law Masuma Begum and her uncle Mohammad Ali were also present at the press conference.

At least 25 people, including five policemen, were injured in a clash between the students of Daffodil International University (DIU) and local traders at Shukrabad in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday.

The police lobbed tear gas canisters and resorted to baton-charge to bring the situation under control as the students were also locked into clashes with the police.

They also hurled stones at the law enforcers.

The clash that erupted



PHOTO STAR

Workers' Party President and lawmaker Rashed Khan Menon visits a stall on the National Press Club premises in the city yesterday after inaugurating a 10-day honey fair. Apiculture Association organised the event.

CG 'MISDEEDS' Moudud for nat'l enquiry commission

UNB, Dhaka

Former law minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday urged the government to constitute a national enquiry commission to probe the "unlawful and unconstitutional acts" of the immediate past caretaker government.

"It's necessary to constitute such an enquiry commission as the unaccountable caretaker government exercised unlawful acts, including persecution and torture," Moudud told reporters at the Supreme Court annex building.

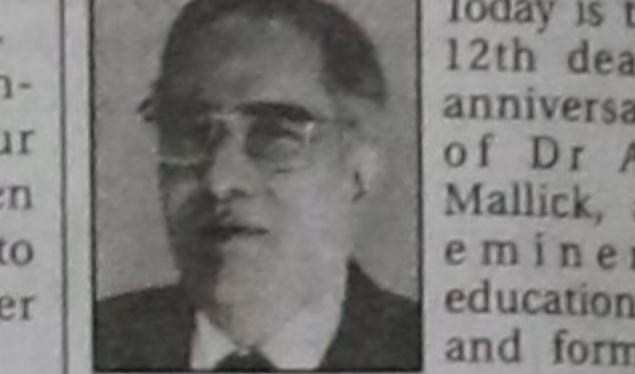
Accused in five graft cases, the BNP leader, now on bail, said that the perpetrators should be brought to justice and that is why the constitution of such commission is necessary.

"The perpetrators should be punished for their misdeeds," Moudud added.

According to him, it is possible to constitute such a commission if the new government wants to do so.

AR Mallick's anniversary of death today

METRO DESK



Today is the 12th death anniversary of Dr AR Mallick, an eminent educationist and former finance minister, says a press release.

Dr Mallick was a professor of South Asian Regional Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, USA, in the early sixties, and the founding vice-chancellor of Chittagong University where he built up a resistance during the War of Liberation. He was the president of the Liberation Council of Intelligentsia in 1971.

Dr Mallick, also first High Commissioner to India and first education secretary, was the chairman of Asian Development Bank.

His publications include 'British Policy and the Muslims in Bengal' and 'Amar Jonno Kotha o Bangladesher Mukti Sangram'.

On the occasion, foods will be distributed among the orphans and underprivileged children at Deepshikha Centre (Rampura), Bhashante and Badda orphanage. A discussion and mela-mahfil will also be held at his ancestral home at Rajapur (Dhamrai) and on the RKB Mallick School and College premises.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

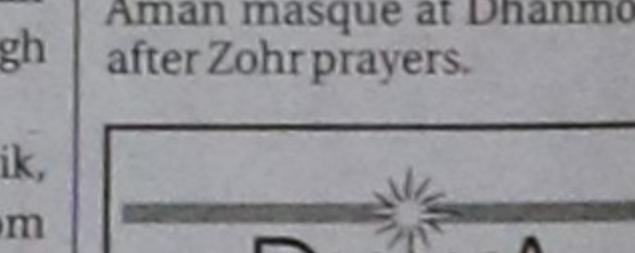


Maleka Samad, wife of former PWD engineer Md Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, passed away at her Dhammondi residence due to cancer on Monday at the age of 52, says a press release.

Maleka, also sister of Probe News Magazine Chief Editor Irtiza Nasim Ali, was daughter of former joint secretary late MA Samad.

Her body has been kept in the Birdeem mortuary as her only son Foyal Hasan Chowdhury Ziko is staying in Australia.

She will be laid to rest at Azimpur graveyard today after namaz-e-janaza at the Baitul Aman mosque at Dhammondi after Zohr prayers.



English in school

The launching ceremony of the programme English in School will be held. Aktel and The Daily Star jointly initiated the programme. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Rally

Diganta Memorial Cancer Foundation will hold a rally marking the World Cancer Day. Venue: In front of National Press Club. Time: 8:00am.

Roundtable

Nagorik Forum organises a roundtable on 'India-Bangladesh transit, national security and trade imbalance'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Laptop fair

The inaugural ceremony of the Zoom Laptop Fair 2009 will be held. Maker Communication will organise the fair. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

5 extortionists caught red-handed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Locals caught five extortionists red-handed and gave a good thrashing that left them injured in the city's Pallabi yesterday.

They extortionists were identified as Yousof, Arif, Taleb, Bappi and Shidhu.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Police Anwar Hossain of Mirpur zone said when the criminals went to trader Bashir at around 6:00pm at Balu Ghat in Pallabi area to realise extortion money, locals caught them and handed them over to the police after beating them up.

The extortionists were demanding extortion money from the trader for the last few days over a cellphone, he added.

Meanwhile, DB Police recovered two revolvers and 21 bullets and arrested an extortionist from the city's Tantibazar area in this connection.

The arrestee was identified as Pandab Chandra Barai, 30, a son of Mohadev Chandra Barai, of Tantibazar area.

Police said Pandab and his gang shot at Sub-Inspector (SI) Harun, leaving him injured when a police teamed by the SI challenged Pandab and his gang who were escaping from Uttar Ashkuna where they committed a snatch on January 22.

On the other hand, a team of Rab-4 arrested Mohammad Milon and seized a pistol and a round of bullet yesterday from the city's Kafrul area.

According to the detainee's information, Rab recovered the pistol and the bullet from a dustbin at Sagarika slum in the area.

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Dry weather is likely to continue over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the country during late night till morning. Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 29.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundo and lowest 8.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:47pm today and rises at 6:38am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage		
Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	27.3	13.4	59	42
Chittagong	26.6	14.0	56	49
Rajshahi	26.2	10.5	83	53
Khulna	27.5	14.0	67	71
Barisal	28.0	12.5	72	72
Sylhet	27.8	13.0	58	45
Cox's Bazar	28.6	14.5	46	45

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