

# PM's help sought to bring back 80 workers from Saudi Arabia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives of Bangladeshi migrant workers in Saudi Arabia yesterday urged the prime minister to help bring back 80 workers who have been waiting for return in a cell in Jeddah for around six months after serving different terms in jail.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, they said the workers were sent to jail by the Saudi police in various times for violating very common rules or for expiry of visas.

When Saudi police presented them in the court, the workers had no scope for self-defence that ultimately led to sentences rang-

ing between six months and five years, said Mosharraf Hossain, one of the relatives, of Feni.

Mosharraf said those having passports, collected money from home and submitted it to the jail authorities to buy tickets, while those who do not have passports are issued special travel passes by the Bangladesh mission there.

"Sometimes the officials from Bangladesh embassy went there and assured the workers of sending them home in a week, but that week is yet to come," said Harun Or Rashid of Chittagong.

By this time, one of the victims, Mohammad Yusuf of Noakhali, also died in the cell, while others are having very bad times in frustration and diseases, he said.

Gordon greets Muslims ahead of Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

British Prime Minister Gordon Brown greeted the Muslim communities across the world on the occasion of the holy Ramadan.

"Today I wish you, your family, and all Muslim communities in the United Kingdom and throughout the world, my sincerest best wishes for the sacred month of Ramadan," he said in a message received here yesterday.

As you come together everyday for the next month to break the fast, thoughts will be of faith, families and togetherness. It will also be a time for prayer, contemplation and reflection; a time to remember those who are less fortunate today.

The message of compassion and justice is strong in the Islamic faith, not just in the holy month of Ramadan. It is a universal message that unites us all," he added.

In a separate message yesterday, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs David Miliband also greeted the Muslims across the globe ahead of the holy month of Ramadan.

## 3 killed in road crashes

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Narsingdi and Barguna yesterday.

A correspondent in Narsingdi reports: Two people were killed and 30 others injured when a passenger bus collided head-on with a truck on Dhaka-Sylhet highway near Narayanpur Bus Stand at Belabo in the district yesterday.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately.

The injured were rushed to different hospitals at Bhairab and Narsingdi.

Our correspondent in Barisal adds: A schoolboy was killed in a road accident in Barguna yesterday.

The victim was identified as Sabuj Reza, 16, son of Selim Molla and a student of class ten of Itabaria Charakgachia School and College.

The accident took place near Sonakhal Girls School crossing at about 9:00am when a speeding bus

knocked the bicycle he was riding on while he was returning home from school. He succumbed to his injuries on the way to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

## Shishu Park timing for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has reshuffled the visiting hours of Shaheed Zia Shishu Park at Shahbagh in the city during the Ramadan.

The park will remain open from 11:00am to 4:30pm on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It will remain closed for half an hour from 2:15pm to 2:45pm for Juma prayers.

On Wednesday, the park will remain closed from 11:00am to 2:00pm for repairing purpose and from 2:00pm to 4:00pm the park will remain open for the poor and unprivileged children.

## Burglary at secy's flat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Burglars stole valuables, including gold ornaments and foreign currencies, from the government residence of secretary of the local government division at Dhanmondi in the city on Tuesday night.

Police said that the burglars entered into the flat of secretary Monzur Hossain cutting window grill on the first floor. None was at the flat on that night as family members went to Chittagong.

Burglars took away 25 tolas of gold ornaments, Tk 16,000 and US\$ 15,000, three mobile phone sets and two digital cameras from breaking open almaris at the flat, police said.

Police detained lifeman of the building Masum Billah, a driver Walilullah, and brother of pump operator Shah Alam for interrogation.

A case was filed with Dhanmondi Police Station in this connection.

## Flt Lt Matiur's anniversary of death observed

METRO DESK

Bangladesh Air Force observed the 38th death anniversary of Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matiur Rahman Bir Shrestho with due solemnity yesterday, says an ISPR release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil was held at the central mosques at all BAF Bases.

In the morning, Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Admin) Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Enamul Bari visited the grave of Matiur Rahman at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard at Mirpur and offered munajat for the salvation of the departed soul of Matiur Rahman.

The worst sufferers were the dwellers of low lying areas like Chwakbazar, Bakalia, Kapashgola, Sholoshahar Gate No 2, Agrabad Access Road and Badurtola went under knee-deep water creating serious gridlock in those areas at around noon.

The court gave the order when the matter came up on the cause list for hearing yesterday.

Hasina's lawyer Barrister Rafique-Ul Haq told reporters that they would move the petition to another bench of the HC for vacating the stay order, so that the case against Sheikh Hasina can be withdrawn from the trial court.

The HC bench on July 7 last year, following a petition seeking quashing proceedings of the case, stayed all proceedings of the barge-mounted power plant case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC).

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