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Dhaka pushes for more jobs in KL

Seeks 'source country' status in Malaysia for regular manpower export

M ABUL KALAM AZAD, back from Malaysia

Bangladesh is negotiating with Malaysia to obtain "source country" status within a few months to export manpower there on a regular basis through a transparent system, according to the Bangladesh High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur.

Bangladesh has been sending workers to Malaysia since the late 80s under special arrangements but it is yet to receive Malaysian "source country" status already obtained by India, Pakistan and Nepal.

Workers are now sent to Malaysia on calling visas. This arrangement is hardly

favourable as they often get deprived of their rights and return home spending more money than what they earned there.

But once Bangladesh gets the "source country" status, the cost of migration to Malaysia will fall drastically and the workers will enjoy more rights than ever, said Bangladesh High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur AKM Atiqur Rahman.

He said the human resources ministry of Malaysia has requested Bangladesh to follow a guideline "on the implementation of induction course and issuance of certificate of eligibility to foreign workers intending to work in Malaysia."

"It indicates that the Malaysian

authorities are positive about giving Bangladesh source country status," said the diplomat.

He also said the Malaysian government has been assessing the overall situation to decide on the matter.

A number of workers said a syndicate of Bangladeshi and Malaysian manpower brokers does not want Bangladesh to obtain "source country" status.

Over four lakh Bangladeshi workers are now living legally in Malaysia.

"Workers from source countries get better facilities than their Bangladeshi counterparts. Those workers hardly face

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A kid sprints to the shore after collecting water lilies from a lake in the capital's Keraniganj. Water lilies are seen in full bloom in most water bodies during the rainy season.

PHOTO: SHAFIQU ALAM

Obama leads tributes for 9/11 victims

AFP, Washington

US President Barack Obama led a moment of silence yesterday to mark the eighth anniversary of the September 11 attacks in 2001 when 3,000 people perished in the world's deadliest terror strike.

At exactly 8:46 am (1246 GMT) when the first plane piloted by al-Qaeda hijackers hit the North tower of the World Trade Center, Obama and First Lady Michelle

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Poor flock to city for work ahead of Eid

AMENA KHATUN

A large number of seasonal migrants are flocking to the capital ahead of Eid in search of work, contributing largely to the worsening traffic situation in the city.

The poor people come from different parts of the country in desperate bids to earn some extra money before the biggest religious festival.

Most of them are from low-income generating areas including Kurigram, Rangpur, Dinajpur, Jamalpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Barisal, Sylhet, Kishoreganj -- all areas where

there is not enough work for the poor.

The migrants mostly work as rickshaw-pullers or drive autorickshaws and cabs. With little knowledge of different city streets and routes, and sometimes poor understanding of traffic rules, they end up deteriorating the city traffic.

Beggars of all ages have also poured into the city to make the best of Ramadan, when the faithful are more generous with their charity and the rich give out large sums from their Fitra or Zakat dues.

Shukur Fakir arrived from Dhunupur upazila of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Police camp besieged over torture by ASI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

People of Babukhali village at Mohammadpur upazila here besieged a local police camp after a police team led by camp-in-charge Assistant Sub-Inspector Lutfur Rahman allegedly tortured an innocent villager yesterday.

They however withdrew their siege at around 11:00am after Assistant Superintendent of Police of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

OBSTRUCTING TENDER PROCESS 60 BCL, Jubo League men sued in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

An assistant engineer of Rangpur Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) lodged a case with Kotwali Police Station against 60 activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League for preventing contractors from dropping tender schedules Thursday.

Police arrested two BCL activists--Rubel and Ratan--immediately after the clash and they were sent to Rangpur Central jail yesterday.

Meanwhile, police yesterday arrested seven other activists of BCL, Jubo League and Swachhchasebak League on charges of extortion and drug peddling.

Detective Branch (DB) police arrested Hasanul Sarker Tuhin,

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

People to trash Sep 14 hartal Says state minister

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

State Minister for Home Shamsul Haque Tuku yesterday criticised the call of hartal by the national committee on protection of oil, gas, mineral resources, power and ports and said that people will reject it.

"Without ever talking to anybody, they have called the hartal on September 14. It is absolutely a wrong decision. The people will not accept it in this Ramadan," the minister said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Hundreds of people crowd onto Elephant Road in front of Gausia Market in the capital for Eid shopping yesterday, a weekly holiday. Other markets and shopping malls also witnessed huge crowds that contributed to long tailback in many city streets.

Indian ministers revolt over air travel in economy class

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has backed down after his cabinet revolted against an austerity drive that would have forced ministers to fly in economy class, reports said Friday.

Singh faced a barrage of complaints when he chaired his weekly meeting on Thursday over a series of cost-cutting steps outlined by the finance ministry on Monday, the Hindustan Times and other media reported.

The strategy includes cuts in funds earmarked for travel, furnishing for ministers' offices and residences, publicity work, as well

as seminars and workshops in luxury hotels.

The measures were imperative given a drought in large swathes of the country, which has pressured government revenues, a finance ministry statement said.

While ministers have heeded calls to cut down on foreign travel, the idea of taking economy class proved too much for many, the reports said.

Agriculture Minister Sharad Pawar said previous attempts to fly in coach had proved confusing, citing protocol problems when Russian officials in Moscow were alarmed that they were unable to find him in business class.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



GRAFT CASE Ex-president of Taiwan jailed for life

AFP, Taipei

A Taiwan court yesterday sentenced ex-president Chen Shui-bian to life in jail after a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

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Do you think Bangladesh will benefit from the agreements reached between India and Bangladesh during Foreign Minister Dipu Moni's visit to India?

☐ Yes (43.2%)

☐ No (52.5%)

☐ No Comments (4.3%)

Total votes: 692

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the half-day hartal called by National Committee to Protect Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports for September 14?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Sehri, Ifar timings

| Ramadan | Sept | Sehri | Ifar |
|---------|------|-------|------|
| 21 | 12 | | 7-09 |
| 22 | 13 | 5-23 | 7-08 |
| 23 | 14 | 5-24 | 7-07 |

Prayer Timing

September 12

| | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|------|--------|
| Fajr | 5-23 | 5-33 |
| Zohr | 1-45 | 2-15 |
| Asr | 5-30 | 5-45 |
| Maghrib | 7-09 | 7-20 |
| Esha | 8-45 | 9-15 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

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