

Irregular migration likely to tarnish country's image

Speakers tell IOM training programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a programme yesterday said when cross-border migration of people has become an inevitable part of today's globalised world for their livelihood, irregular migration could seriously affect the country's image.

To ensure safe migration, cross-border security and combat terrorism, there is no alternative to modern immigration management, they said at the training programme of immigration officials.

International Organisation for Migration (IOM) organised the training on 'Document analysis and examinations of fake travel documents' for 20 immigration officials of the Special Branch of Police at a city hotel on October 27-28.

It was part of an ongoing technical cooperation programme funded by Australia.

Home Secretary Abdus Sobhan Sikder said, "Modern immigration management is today a global demand for safeguarding national secu-

urity and combating cross-border crime and terrorism."

"The government is committed to working together with all actors concerned to combat such crime and irregular migration."

IOM Regional Representative Rabab Fatima said the phenomenal growth of legal movement of people from Bangladesh is a cause to celebrate, but the large number of irregular travel negates the country's image abroad as well.

Additional Inspector

General of SB Police Mohammad Javed Patwary said, "Crossing border is a livelihood option for the countrymen, but if it is not managed well, regular migration and movement can adversely affected."

IOM expert Sjeef Broekhaar, who led the course, said the workshop taught participants about different techniques of intelligence gathering and investigative methods after the detection of a fraudulent document.



Prime Minister and Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina speaks at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: PID

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mustaq Ahmed Qureshi, an expatriate leader in the UK and a philanthropist, passed away at a London hospital yesterday at the age of 75, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, three daughters, grandsons, granddaughters and a host of friends and well wishers to mourn his death.

Mustaq Ahmed Qureshi left the country in 1956 and spent the rest of his life in the UK doing restaurant business and social welfare activities.

He was also a veteran of the Language Movement and a freedom fighter.

His body will be flown to Sylhet on October 31.

After a namaz-e-janaza at the shrine of Hazrat Shah Jalal @, he will be laid to rest at his family graveyard at Sheikhpara in Sylhet.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith has expressed deep shock at the death of Qureshi.

In a condolence message, the minister prayed for salvation of the departed soul and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 4th death anniversary of M M Rezaul Karim, a diplomat and columnist, says a press release.

On this day, he breathed his last in Cairo.

His family members have requested his friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Turjya Ghosh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 3rd death anniversary of Turjya Ghosh, son of Jagannath Ghosh, owner of Purabi Jewellers, says a press release.

On the occasion, special prayers will be held and food will be distributed among the destitute at different temples in the city today.

In 2006, some miscreants kidnapped Turjya and demanded Tk 10 lakh as ransom.

Although his family paid the ransom, he was killed and RAB and police recovered his decomposed body from Rampura 42 days after he was kidnapped.

Later, the law enforcers arrested five culprits in connection with the killing, who were sentenced to death on January 23, 2008.

However, the verdict is yet to be executed.

In a statement, Jagannath Ghosh demanded the culprits be immediately put to death.

Kohinoor Azam

METRO DESK

Today is the 9th death anniversary of Kohinoor Azam, wife of eminent dermatologist late Prof Dr Shamsul Azam, says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held and food will be distributed among the destitute at her younger daughter's residence.

All are requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

'People foiled BNP-Jamaat blueprint on Oct 28 in 2006'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday said people of the country came out on the streets on October 28 in 2006 to foil the blueprint of BNP-Jamaat to hold an election.

But the Jamaat-Shibir cadres opened fire on the spontaneous procession of the people and killed Jubo Maitree leader Russell Ahmed Khan and others, he said.

He was speaking at a discussion to mark the Shaheed Russell Day at Shaheed Tajul auditorium in the city.

Unless the communal and fundamentalist forces are not fully defeated, the sacrifices of the October 28 martyrs would bear no fruit for the country, he said.

Conspiracies against the country are on and BDR carnage, fire at NCB warehouse and bomb attack on lawmaker Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh are not sporadic incidents, he alleged.

Juba Maitree President Sadakat Hossain Khan Babul presided over the meeting while Workers' Party General Secretary Bimal Biswas and General Secretary of Dhaka city unit Kamrul Ahsan spoke.

BNP's return to JS becomes slim

Says Delwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday said the possibility of their return to parliament is becoming slim due to autocratic attitude of the present Awami League-led government.

"The government is showing such a hostile attitude towards opposition leaders and workers that it is spoiling the atmosphere in and outside parliament and making slim the possibility of our lawmakers to return to the House," he said at a press briefing at the chairperson's Gulshan office in the city.

Delwar said BNP attended parliament form the first day accepting the result of a stage-managed elections but the government did not allow his party lawmakers to be there.

BNP, the main opposition in parliament, is boycotting parliament session demanding its 8-point demand including rearrangement of seat plan of the House, he added.

"Conspiracy, torture and

fascism can never bring welfare to anyone. Time is still there and I hope good sense of the government will prevail. Don't force us to go for movement," BNP secretary general warned.

Lambasting the government for deteriorating law and order situation and filing cases against BNP leaders, he said the war-like attitude of the government towards the opposition proves that it has no faith in democracy.

"The government wants to create a panic situation by increasing torture and repression on the leaders, workers and supporters of the opposition," he added.

Delwar also blamed the prime minister for giving false information in her speech given at the anti-poverty rally held in the capital recently, saying that she is trying to create confusion to hide the failure of her government.

Party leaders MK Anwar, Osman Farruk, Abdullah Al Noman and Barkat Ullah Bulu were present on the occasion.

DEFAMATION CASE Amar Desh acting editor summoned to court Nov 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued summons upon the acting editor, publisher, chief reporter and a reporter of the daily Amar Desh asking them to appear before it on November 30 in a defamation case filed by Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC).

The accused are acting editor Mahmudur Rahman, Publisher Alhaj Md Hasmat Ali, Chief Reporter Syed Abdal Ahmed and Reporter Oliullah Noman.

BTRC Deputy Director Tarek Hassan Siddiqui filed the defamation case against the accused with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court for running defamatory reports and cartoon on October 2, 3 and 8.

The complainant appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against the accused for committing the offences.

After a long hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate AM Zulfikar Hayat recorded statement of the complainant, took the charges into cognizance against them and passed the order.

In his complaint, Tarek mentioned that the accused had published two reports titled 'Bharatio Kabjai BTRC' and 'BTRC Bharatio Nagorik Nioegy Bishistajander Udbeg: Rastrio Nirapatta Humkitye Parbe' on October 2 and 3.

The reports were false, fabricated, concocted, distorted, baseless, defamatory, journalistically unethical, unfair, unjustified and politically motivated and these were not only against the complainant but also against the government.

The complainant also said the reports were published with an intention to harm the reputation of the complainant as well as the government in the public eyes nationally and internationally.

The complainant sent a rejoinder on October 3 dismissing the allegations but the accused published an edited version of the rejoinder in the last page in simple and unnoticeable column and claimed that what was published against the complainant was true.

On October 5, the complainant sent a legal notice through his lawyers asking the accused to publish the notice and to apologise for publishing the false, fabricated, concocted, baseless, distorted and defamatory reports.

But the accused did not pay heed to the legal notice and with an intention to mislead the general public, create hatred against the government and agitate political unrest, they published another satirical cartoons on October 8.

However, on October 14, Advocate Muhammad Salahuddin gave a reply to the legal notice on behalf of the accused in which the lawyer stated that the accused are honest and published the rejoinder without proposing any apology to the complainant.

Advocates Syed Rezaur Rahman, Mokdesur Rahman, Gazi Shah Alam and Abul Kalam Azad appeared for the complainant.

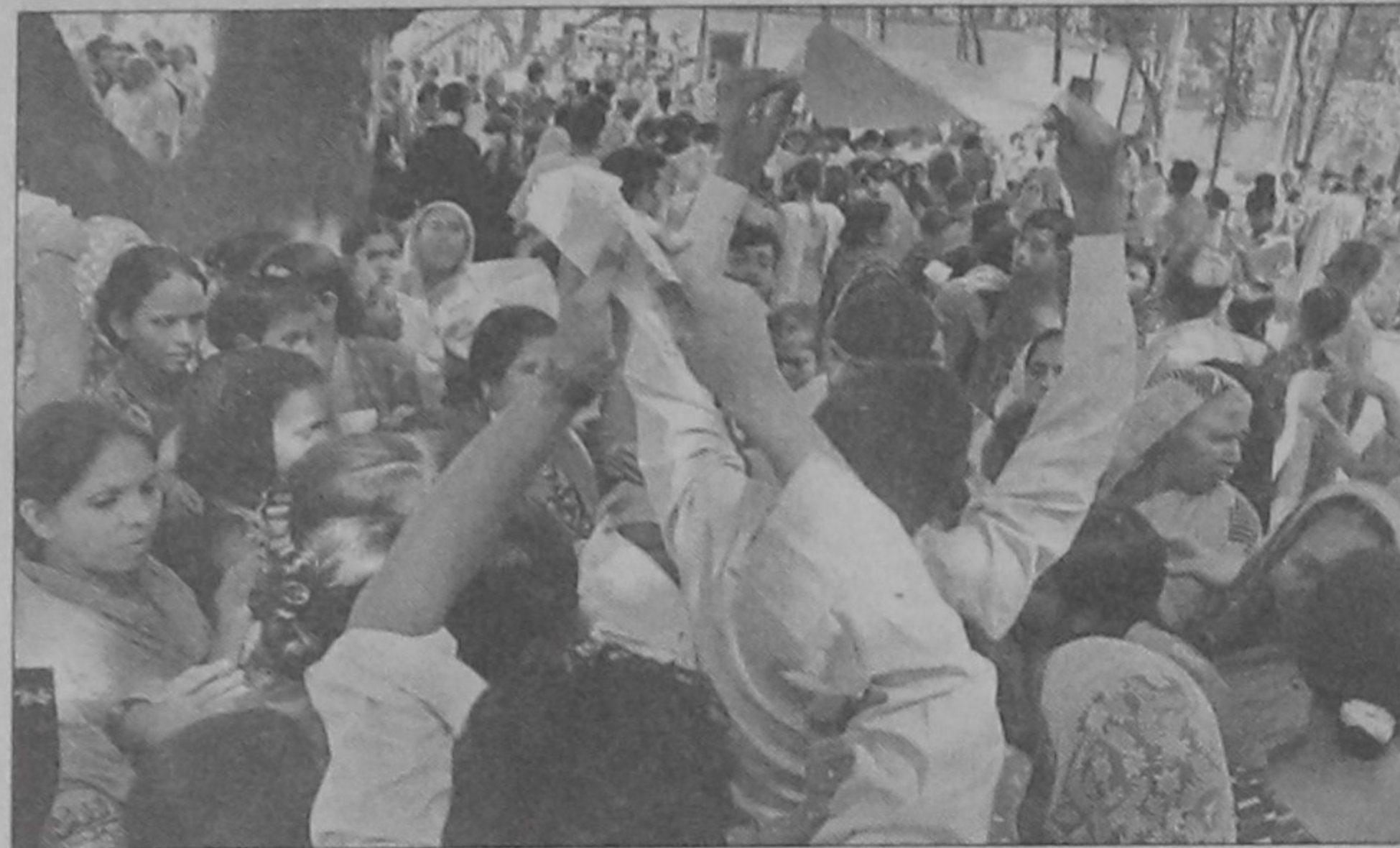


PHOTO: STAR

Urdu-speaking people of Mohammadpur Geneva Camp queue up in lines at Mohammadpur Model School and College in the city yesterday to get their names registered in the voter list as new voter listing is going on for the left-out people.

RP Saha's anniversary of birth today

METRO DESK



press release.

Elaborate programmes have been taken to celebrate the day at Ranada's village home at Mirzapur in Tangail.

All service centres and educational institutions under Kumudini Welfare Trust, founded by Ranada, at other places will also observe the day.

Programmes at Mirzapur include paying respect to Ranada and a musical show at his paternal house at 6:00am.

Students of Bharateswari Homes, Mirzapur, will participate in a march past and physical exercise. It will be followed by a session of prayers. A cultural show will be held at 7:00pm at Ananda Niketan Hall.

Special food will be served at all hospitals, medical and nursing colleges, including Bharateswari Homes.

'Conspiracy on to root out religious edn'

DU CORRESPONDENT

A conspiracy is going on to root out religious education in the name of formulating a secular education policy, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

As most of the Bangladeshis are Muslims, no education policy will be successful by ignoring Islamic sentiment, they said at the roundtable on the proposed National Education Policy 2009 organised by Khelafat Majlis at the National Press Club.

They called upon the government to cancel the draft national education policy and form a new committee with acceptable people of all quarters to present a new proposal that would preserve interests of all people in the society.

Lawyer AKM Badruddoza, Secretary General of Islami Oikya Andolan Azizul Haq Murad, Secretary General of Khelafat Andolan Zafarullah Khan, Prof Muhammad Mujahidul Islam, Dr Shahjahan Khan Mukul and Prof ATM Hemayet Uddin, also spoke at the roundtable with Khelafat Majlis Amir Principal Mohammad Ishaq in the chair.

Five JMB men get 20 years

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

A Bogra court yesterday sentenced five members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 20 years' rigorous imprisonment in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act.

Judge Golam Ahmed Khalilur Rahman of the Special Tribunal Court - 3 handed down the verdict to Shish Mohammad and Mohammad Abdul Manan of Bogra, Mamunur Rashid of Gaibandha, Ashrafur Islam of Nilphamari and Md Jahangir Alam of Rajshahi.

The court also fined them Tk 20,000 each. If they fail to pay, they will have to serve two

more years in jail.

Of the convicts, Shish Mohammad is now at large.

According to the case statement, law enforcers seized explosive substances, including 6.5 kgs of sulphur and one kg of gunpowder, during a raid on the residence of Shish Mohammad at Uttar Shahapara in Sherpur Upazila on January 1, 2006.

The law enforcers conducted the raid acting on information from Mohammad Ashrafur, a close aide to Siddiqur Rahman Bangla Bhai and Abdul Mannan who were arrested earlier.

Two other convicts, Mamun and Jahangir, were arrested later.

Huge polybags seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DoE) confiscated 400 kilograms of illegal polythene shopping bags during a mobile court raid at Banani kitchen market in the capital city yesterday.

The mobile court, led by DoE Director Jamshed Ahmed and Executive Magistrate Babul Mia, realised Tk 48,500 from 25 stores in the market for selling or storing banned polybags.

The court also lodged cases against the stores.

On January 1, 2002, the government imposed a ban on production, marketing and use of polybags in Dhaka city (below 100 micron), followed by a nationwide ban on April 8 of the same year because as a non-

biodegradable environmental hazard, polythene wreak havoc on public sanitation.

Despite the government ban, production, marketing and use of hazardous polythene shopping bags continue across the country at an alarming rate.

Maximum penalty under the Environment Conservation Act 1995 for manufacturing and marketing polythene shopping bag is 10 years' rigorous imprisonment, or a maximum fine of Tk 10 lakh, or both.

Paribesh Adalat (environment court) is the only jurisdiction to sentence this punishment.

The fine for using polythene shopping bags for purposes other than export trade is Tk 500.

WEATHER TODAY				
No change in temperature				
UNB, Dhaka				
Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.				
Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.				
The sun sets in the capital at 6:21pm today and rises at 7:03am tomorrow.				
Country's highest temperature 33.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 17.2 degrees Celsius at Jessore.				
Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:				
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	22.6	55	65
Chittagong	31.0	20.8	67	73
Rajshahi	31.6	17.4	72	79
Khulna	31.5	20.5	67	79
Barisal	31.5	20.2	76	91
Sylhet	32.7	20.8	62	68
Cox's Bazar	33.0	23.0	72	67



PHOTO: STAR

Micronutrient Initiative President Venkatesh Mannar, Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque and Canadian High Commissioner Robert McDougall hold copies of a new report 'Investing in the Future: A United Call to Action on Vitamin and Mineral Deficiencies' at its launching ceremony at a city hotel yesterday.

Tie HIV programmes

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sexually transmitted infection and poor uptake of voluntary counselling and screening centres.

He pointed out that existing social stigma about HIV, lack of male partner participation, lack of information pose major challenges in addressing HIV related issues.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, AIDS has claimed more than 28 million lives worldwide. Around 42 million are now living with HIV and AIDS. In 2008, about 2.5 million new HIV infected were detected while 2.1 million died of the same year.

The first HIV case in Bangladesh was detected in 1989. Since then, about 1,495 cases were detected among which 476 people developed AIDS. So far the deadly syndrome claimed about 165 lives in the country.

Although the number is still low, Bangladesh must not wait until it becomes prevalent in the country, the speakers emphasised.

The speakers also pointed out that the youth are the most vulnerable. Lack of information or misinformation increases their vulnerability. Topics on HIV and related issues should be incorporated in the ac-

demic curricula, they added.

Salil Panakadan, country coordinator of UNAIDS, pointed out that in the policy level linkage between sexual and reproductive health services and HIV programmes are gradually becoming a necessity in addressing HIV. However, integration in terms of services is posing a big challenge.

Arthur Erken, UNEPA Representative to Bangladesh, summarised the roundtable and said the Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres (VCT) should play a vital role in containing HIV instead of just screening for the virus.

He also placed emphasis on a comprehensive national strategic plan that should be formulated by the National AIDS and STD Programme (NASP). Long-term goals should be determined for education system and in addressing risky male sexual behaviour, he said.

He added that the government should think about the sexual behaviour of the youth and incorporate the topic in formal education, as ignorance makes them most vulnerable.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said one of the basic problems is that we suffer from an idea that we are lucky

since the rate of HIV infection in Bangladesh is still low.

HIV related issues require dealing with a very private human behaviour, which is not discussed in public in Bangladesh. This poses a difficulty but we have to understand that HIV is as serious as life and death, he added.

Shale Ahmed of Bandhu Social Welfare Society stressed inter-ministerial coordination among different ministries concerned, including health, education and home affairs, to prevent HIV.

Tanvir Hasan of Brac University urged to stop discriminatory behaviour with the people living with HIV (PLHIV). He referred to a survey, which stated that even the health service providers treat PLHIV badly.

Shamsul Haque Gazi, deputy programme manager, NASP, DGHS, Bridget Job Johnson, HIV specialist for Unicef, Farhana Haque, lecturer of Public Health, Independent University, Samir K Howlader, national programme officer, International Organisation for Migration, Kalpana Rani, project coordinator, Care Bangladesh, spoke at the roundtable among others.