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300 Bangladeshis stuck in visa glitch

Face no-job or arrest in KSA as Saudi authorities deny any error

PORIMOL PALMA

At least 300 Bangladeshi workers staying in Saudi Arabia on "duplicate visas" are now stuck between a rock and a hard place as they have either to work illegally or get arrested and then deported anytime.

Bangladesh mission in Riyadh said Saudi embassy in Dhaka had an error in the computerised visa issuing process and some recruiting agencies took the advantage of it and had work visas stamped by the Saudi embassy for the second time to send workers to the Kingdom.

Saudi Ambassador in Dhaka Abdullah Nasser Al Bussairy, however, outright denied any error in the visa issuing process.

The computerisation of the visa issuing process of Saudi Arabia was made six months back. The Saudi authorities included the previous manually issued visas in the newly developed computer database, said a letter written by the Bangladesh mission in Riyadh.

"But the visas, which have already been stamped by the Saudi embassy in Dhaka were not marked in the database," said the letter to the ministries of foreign and expatriates' welfare on June 20.

Some recruiting agencies took its advantage, the letter said. Bangladesh mission in Riyadh came to know that 300 workers were there on such duplicate visas, but recruiting agency sources said the number would be several thousand.

"If workers come to Saudi Arabia on duplicate visas, they will be in trouble and

subjected to harassments," it noted, adding that those workers will not get work permits and have to stay there in irregular status and may be arrested and repatriated anytime.

It said recruiting agency Maha International was alleged to have sent workers on such visas.

In another letter on August 12 this year, the Saudi Embassy citing complaints of 21 Bangladeshi workers said they went to Saudi Arabia in July and were sent to Jeddah to work for a company--Al Initial.

But, when they wanted work permits or Iqamas, the company asked the workers to contact Al Riyadh Maintenance and Contracting Establishment Company in Riyadh for Iqamas saying they were originally employees of that company in Riyadh.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Jean-Louis Borloo, French minister for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Planning, holds talk with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

PM to lead delegation to CHOGM

Meet on Nov 27-29 in Trinidad

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lead a delegation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Trinidad and Tobago from November 27-29 where the global challenges of climate change, poverty and financial crisis will be discussed.

The 3-day summit will be held in the city of Port of Spain with the participation of 53 member states to discuss the current global and Commonwealth issues and the collective policies and initiatives.

Speaking at a roundtable titled 'Modernisation and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

DMP plans special anti-crime drive

KAILASH SARKAR and MUKHLESUR RAHMAN

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday decided to launch a three-day special drive against criminals from last night following a rise in criminal activities in the capital.

The decision came at an emergency meeting between the DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque, and deputy and assistant commissioners and officers-in-charge of all police stations at the DMP headquarters.

Sources said they admitted that law and order has deteriorated in the capital and voiced concern over the rise in criminal activities in and around the capital.

The senior officials at the meeting reprimanded their subordinates for failure in improving the situation and putting criminals behind bars, sources added.

The DMP commissioner has already sent letters with 11-point directives to officials at crime and intelligence divisions for taking stern action against criminals.

The letter signed by the DMP Commissioner reads, "Activities of illegal arms holders, drug peddlers and other criminals have increased recently resulting in deterioration of law and order in the capital."

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque told The Daily Star that the special drive would be conducted across the capital to recover illegal firearms and arrest criminals.

Some recent incidents including the bomb attack on Taposh, threats to blow up the Indian High Commission and National Board of Revenue building and death threats against the Indian high commissioner and the attorney general were discussed at the meeting, said sources.

Replying to a query on the recent bomb attack and the threats, the DMP commissioner said, "We are investigating all incidents."

The DMP commissioner in the letter directed police officials to increase vigilance and patrol across the city and set up round-the-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

FLAG MEETING BDR, Nasaka agree to maintain peace

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Bangladesh and Myanmar have agreed to maintain peace on the border of the two countries at any cost.

At a sector commander level flag meeting between Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Myanmar border security force Nasaka at Maungdaw in Myanmar yesterday morning it was resolved that all kinds of problems would be solved through discussion.

Bangladesh team leader Col Didarul Alam Chowdhury told journalists the meeting was fruitful.

Replying to a question Didarul said the situation on the border with Myanmar is now normal and the news

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Commute death penalty of Huda, Mohiuddin

Counsel urges SC

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A counsel for convicts in Bangabandhu murder case yesterday pleaded with the Supreme Court to commute his clients' death sentence to life imprisonment.

Abdullah-al Mamun, the lawyer for Bazul Huda and AKM Mohiuddin, however maintained the two were not involved in the August 15 bloodbath.

He said they have been suffering agonising pain in the condemned cell for around 14 years due to delay resulting from some judges' feeling embarrassed to hear the case.

Citing a constitutional provision, he said executing them after all these years in jail would be inhuman and cruel.

Mamun was making submissions for AKM Mohiuddin before the five-member Appellate Division bench hearing appeals by five convicts.



SC HEARING DAY 18

He said the convicts have long been on death row for something they have nothing to do with.

Citing article 35(5) of the constitution and precedents of the Privy Council of England, Jamaica and Trinidad, Mamun said the death sentence should not stand.

Article 35(5) states that no person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment.

The court said the argument does not apply to Mohiuddin because he has not been in the condemned cell for that long a period.

He had been on the run before the trial court delivered the verdict, and brought back to Bangladesh in 2007, added the bench.

Mamun replied that he meant Bazul Huda, who has been in the condemned cell since the verdict was delivered in 1998.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

FLU VACCINE Americans get priority

AFP, Washington

The United States will not donate swine flu vaccine to poor countries until at-risk Americans have been inoculated against H1N1, an official said Wednesday.

"As vaccine becomes more available, I think evaluation will be made as to when it's appropriate for donation to begin, but I can tell you at this point the priority is getting the vaccine to citizens in this country, and that's what we're working on 24/7," US Health Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said.

"It has always been the president's intention that the safety and security of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

61 security personnel held over Iraq blasts

AFP, Baghdad

More than 60 security force members including 11 officers have been arrested over twin bombings in Baghdad that killed 153 people, army spokesman General Qasim Atta told AFP on yesterday.

Those arrested were deployed in the Salhiya section of the capital where the devastating suicide blasts on Sunday targeted government buildings and wrought havoc in the streets, said Atta, spokesman for Baghdad military command.

"The commission of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



The two three-storied buildings are on the proposed ring road of Hatirheel development project in East Ulan near Rampura Bridge. A Rajuk team, during a drive yesterday, could not knock them down as the owners showed High Court stay orders.

Iran set to respond to IAEA uranium deal

Ahmadinejad says conditions ripe for N-deal

AFP, Vienna / Tehran

The UN atomic watchdog said yesterday it had received an "initial" response from Iran to an UN-brokered plan to supply nuclear fuel to a research reactor in Tehran.

International Atomic Energy Agency "Director General Mohamed ElBaradei has received an initial response from the Iranian authorities to his proposal to use Iran's low-enriched uranium for manufacturing fuel for the continued operation of the Tehran Research Reactor, which is devoted mainly to producing radioisotopes for medical purposes," the

watchdog said in a statement.

"The Director General is engaged in consultations with the government of Iran as well as all relevant parties, with the hope that agreement on his proposal can be reached soon."

Iran will propose two amendments to an UN-drafted deal under which most of Tehran's low-enriched uranium will be sent abroad for conversion into nuclear fuel, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Firstly, Iran will offer its stock of LEU "gradually" in several batches rather than sending out the full 75 percent in one go, the newspaper said

quoting an unnamed informed source.

Secondly, Iran wants to receive highly enriched uranium fuel at the same time as it hands over its LEU stock "as per a formula to be calculated by the IAEA based on the need of the Tehran reactor."

Meanwhile, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said on yesterday that conditions were now ripe for a deal on Iran's nuclear programme as a result of a change in Western policy from "confrontation to cooperation."

Iranian media said the government was likely to seek some changes to the proposals

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

UN inspectors return from 'good trip'

AFP, Vienna

A team of experts from the UN atomic watchdog returned to Vienna yesterday from a four-day trip to Iran where they inspected for the first time a newly-revealed second uranium enrichment plant.

"We had a good trip," said Herman Nackaerts, head of the four-member mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

Prayer Timing		
October 30		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-50	6-25
Juma	1-30	2-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-32	6-35
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

EVICION DRIVE Stay order halts Rajuk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rajdhani Unnayan Kartipakhya (Rajuk) could not demolish two three-storey building within the alignment of Hatirheel development project during its ongoing demolition drive yesterday, as the owners produced High Court stay orders.

The stay is valid till December.

Sources said the two buildings are built on the proposed ring road of the project in east Ulan near Rampura Bridge.

But the eviction team, led by executive magistrate Rokon

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

Do you think the current security situation in the country is so alarming to have all the 67 jails on red alert?

☐ Yes (54.3%)
☐ No (41.0%)
☐ No Comments (4.7%)

Total votes: 939

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government should go directly for e-passport instead of continuing with machine-readable passport project and then switch to e-passport?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Piles, Constipation, Dysentery, Cancer

To know about most modern treatment of diseases involving Colon, Rectum and Anus like, Piles (bleeding in toilet), Longo operation (Piles opn. without cutting anus), Cause of failure of operation around anus, pain after passing stool (Fissure), Swelling, Discharge around anus (Fistula), Constipation, Chronic dysentery (IBS), Blood dysentery (Ulcerative colitis), Colonoscopy, excess gas in stomach, Bowel (Colon & Rectum) Cancer, most modern stapling rectum cancer operation without artificial stool collecting bag (Colostomy), Children's bleeding in toilet (Polyp), you may read the book written by:

Pioneer Colorectal Surgeon of the Sub-Continent
Prof. Dr. AKM Fazlul Haque
 International Scholar (USA); Fellow, Colorectal Surgery (Singapore)
 Founder Chairman (Retd.), Dept. of Colorectal Surgery
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