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CTG, MONGLA PORTS

Bill placed in JS to curb TU rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government placed a bill in parliament yesterday seeking to amend the Bangladesh Labour Act 2006 to limit the number of trade unions at the Chittagong and Mongla ports for ensuring better management.

Labour and Employment Minister Eng Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain placed the bill, which was sent to the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry concerned for scrutiny and placing report in parliament.

Once the proposed law is enforced, employees of the ports will be allowed to collectively form only one trade body at their work places.

Similarly, other workers and employees appointed by different berth-operators, ship handling operators and other organisations concerned to the two ports can collectively form one trade union at each port of Chittagong and Mongla.

Employees appointed by owners of different authorities at the two ports will be allowed to form one trade union at each port.

"Trade union must be formed in line with

the provisions of the act within six months since the date of enforcement of the law," a provision of the bill said.

With the formation of the new trade unions under the new law, all the existing trade unions will be dissolved, according to a provision of the bill.

The bill also proposed to make provision on qualification of workers to be enrolled as members of the trade unions saying one can be registered as member of the trade union on completion of one year's service.

A provision of the bill empowered the government to control the activities of the trade union and it may cancel registration of a trade body for violation of the law.

Despite dissolution of the dockworkers management boards at Chittagong port and Mongla port, all officials and employees of the boards will be engaged as officials and employees of the Chittagong port authority and Mongla port authority under the same terms of reference of their job.

Their provident fund, gratuity and welfare

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Child dies of swine flu

Another person tested positive

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

An infant is suspected to have died of swine flu and one person was tested positive with the pandemic in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur, according to the district health official sources.

Another pregnant woman is feared to have contracted swine flu.

The child was Shohag, 10, son of Mazed Rahman of village Radhanagar-Lal

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Alternative submarine cable route proposed

PMO urged to consider Mongla-Chennai route

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecommunications ministry recently has urged the Prime Minister's Office to consider Mongla-Chennai route for connecting Bangladesh with an alternative submarine cable line.

The alternative undersea cable line from Mongla, Khulna to Chennai in India has been given preference as international submarine cable consortiums are available on the route.

"The proposed undersea cable line will connect Bangladesh with other parts of the

world using the government's own fund," Sunil Kanti Bose, secretary of the ministry, told The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

He, however, said the donors may finance for this alternative submarine cable line.

The secretary said the private sector initiative would also be considered along with the government initiative.

"We also prefer the Mongla-Chennai route as it is more secured than other undersea cable routes," he said.

At present, three international submarine

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Tax return deadline now Nov 12

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for submitting individual income tax return has been extended up to November 12.

The time limit has been extended following demands from different quarters, National Board of Revenue Chairman Nasiruddin Ahmed told The Daily Star yesterday.

The NBR has decided to keep its offices open on Saturdays also to facilitate submission of tax return.

It had repeatedly said it

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

DU MOHSIN HALL REPAIRS

Toll-seeking BCL leader hauls work

DU CORRESPONDENT

A hall unit leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) demanding toll forced yesterday the construction firms to stop repair works of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Hall building at Dhaka University.

Two construction firms last year jointly won the Tk 1.29-crore contract for repairing a vulnerable part of the DU hall through bidding. The firms, under the title Mamun-Niaz JV, started working in the first week of October.

Over 500 students are accommodated at the

vulnerable part of the building where a number of cracks have been noticed. The authorities last year decided to shift students from that part.

Mamun Ahmed, a partner of the joint venture and the owner of Mamun Enterprise, said followers of BCL Mohsin Hall unit general secretary Mohiuddin at noon prevented them from working.

Kawser Mollah, who monitors the work, alleged that Mohiuddin asked them to pay him Tk 5 lakh as extortion money.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The photo, taken from the footbridge, shows vehicles are in a gridlock on the Station Road at Tongi yesterday morning.

Dhaka Wasa starts canal cleaning drive

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authorities launched a drive yesterday to clean up canals under Wasa in efforts to destroy the breeding places of Aedes mosquito.

Managing Director Taksim A Khan and Chairman of the Board of Wasa Dr Golam Mostafa visited Kallyanpur main canal adjacent to Kallyanpur Bridge to see the cleaning activities.

The next move is to clean

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Pak girls school blown up

7 militants killed in fighting

AFP, AP, Peshawar/ Islamabad

Islamist militants blew up a girls school in Pakistan's lawless Khyber tribal district yesterday, destroying the building and wounding four people in neighbouring homes, officials said.

Two explosions ripped through the 18-room government high school for girls at Kari Gar village and a boy who watched the premises is missing, possibly kidnapped by the militants, local administration officials said.

"The militants have blown up the school with two blasts and all rooms were demolished," said administration official

Shafeer Ullah.

"Four people in neighbouring houses were also wounded and their homes slightly damaged. We're still trying to find out what happened to the office boy," Ullah told AFP.

Another of Khyber's administrators, Farooq Khan, confirmed the incident.

Islamist militants, who have carved out a strong presence in Pakistan's semi-autonomous tribal belt on the Afghan border, have destroyed hundreds of schools, mostly for girls, in the northwest of the country in recent years.

Nearly 200 schools were destroyed in the Swat valley alone during a two-year

Taliban uprising to enforce Sharia law in a district once favoured by Western tourists for its ski slopes and bracing mountain air.

Security forces battling pockets of resistance in a mountainous Taliban stronghold killed at least seven militants Sunday and injured several more, officials said, as militants kidnapped and killed a prominent pro-government activist in another tribal area where the government claims to have near-total control.

Following up a similar offensive in Swat this summer, Pakistan has been fighting against homegrown militants in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Students to get free textbooks before new yr

Says education minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said yesterday the government will ensure that free textbooks reach all students of primary and secondary levels before the new year.

"We are pledge-bound to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

TAPOSH CASE

3 suspects remanded afresh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed three of the arrestees in the case for bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh on a three-day fresh remand each.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Outlaw killed in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Criminals chopped an outlaw operative to death at Nordah village under Atghoria upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead is identified as Uzzal, 28, son of Mahatab of village Jhabhabia under Chatmohar upazila. He was an activist of an outlawed group, police said.

According to police, Uzzal went out of his residence

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Prayer Timing		
November 2		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-55	6-30
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-30	6-34
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Abdullah quits run-off vote fearing fraud

Taliban threatens attacks

AP, AFP, Kabul

Afghanistan's presidential challenger announced yesterday he would not participate in next weekend's runoff election because his demands for measures to prevent fraud were rejected.

He stopped short of calling on his supporters to boycott the balloting.

"I will not participate in the November 7 election," Abdullah told supporters, because a "transparent election is not possible."

Abdullah made no mention of agreeing to take part in any future unity government with President Hamid Karzai, which the US and its international partners believe is the best hope for curbing the Taliban insurgency.

Asked by reporters if he was calling for a boycott, Abdullah said: "I have not made that call."

Abdullah's running mate, Homayoun Assefy, said it was up to the government's Independent Election Commission to decide whether to hold the runoff next Saturday as scheduled.

Karzai campaign spokesman, Waheed Omar, said it was "very unfortunate" that Abdullah had withdrawn from the race but that the Saturday runoff should proceed without him.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

Do you think the ruling Awami League is ignoring other components of the grand alliance in taking any decision because of AL's overwhelming majority?

☐ Yes (68.5%)
 ☐ No (30.0%)
 ☐ No Comments (1.5%)

Total votes: 1309

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government will probe into the extra-judicial killings neutrally as assured by Law Minister Shafique Ahmed?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

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