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Manpower export to Iraq resumes

Ministry okays 2,000 jobs mostly in construction sector

PORIMOL PALMA

After a long six-year interval since the Iraq war in 2003 labour migration to Iraq has resumed with 50 workers joining their jobs in that country while another 200 will join them soon.

"Those fifty workers joined their jobs two weeks back. Around 200 more are scheduled to leave soon. Besides recruiting agencies got over 10,000 job demands," Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Elias Ahmed told The Daily Star on November 16.

This comes as good news for the country, as the number of workers going abroad has declined by around half per-

cent mainly due to global economic recession. Last year 8.75 lakh workers got overseas jobs but the number was only 4.12 lakh until November 5 this year.

The expatriates' welfare ministry, however, approved only around 2,000 of these job demands in Iraq. Most of the demands are in the construction sector, he said.

The government, however, is cautious about allowing recruiting agencies to send workers to the war-ravaged country, as the Bangladesh embassy in Baghdad is yet to start functioning though the ambassador and labour attaché have already been appointed on contract basis.

"Initially, we are approving a small number of workers on trial basis because

we want to know the exact working conditions for our workers there," Ahmed said.

"The ambassador will leave for Baghdad by November 30," he said. The high official said once the embassy starts functioning, it is hoped that Bangladesh can get a strong hold in the Iraqi labour market.

The recruiting agencies, however, said there is a huge demand for workers in Iraq and therefore the government must act promptly to use the potential, especially when Bangladesh has witnessed major decline in labour migration this year.

Previous experiences suggest that lack of efficiency of the Bangladesh missions overseas in checking the authenticity of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia waves to the crowd during a rally in the Sultanganj High School ground in Bogra yesterday.

Armed Forces Day today

UNB, Dhaka

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today with due solemnity and enthusiasm.

On this day in 1971, Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising army, navy and air force came into being and launched an all-out attack on the Pakistani occupation forces.

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Zillur Rahman and

Prime Minister and Defence Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the occasion.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Dhaka, Ankara strike deal on direct air link

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and Turkey have agreed to introduce direct air and banking links between the two countries at the earliest possible time to promote bilateral trade and economic cooperation.

The two sides also underscored the need for direct shipping link, as a protocol was signed between the two countries in Ankara, Turkey on Thursday.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Turkish Minister of State Mehmet Aydin signed the protocol on the concluding day of the third session of Bangladesh-Turkey Joint Commission for Trade, Economic and Technical Cooperation (JEC) held November 18-19.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

AL leader murdered in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A local ruling party leader was chopped to death in Dhulauri village under Santhia upazila in Pabna Thursday night.

Deceased Rezaul Karim Dipu, son of Abdul Kader of the village, was the secretary of Dhulauri union unit Awami League.

Police said a band of criminals attacked Dipu as he walked onto the road after offering Esha Prayers in a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Eid cattle market sees poor sale

HELEMUL ALAM

With only seven days remaining for Eid-ul-Azha, sales of sacrificial animals at the Gabtoli cattle market, the lone permanent cattle market in the city, are yet to get momentum.

The number of cows at the market is less compared to that of the last year with the traders charging low prices as the presence of customers is very thin, said cattle traders.

Sales are very low as very few numbers of customers came to the market till yesterday, said Liakat Bepari who brought 10 cows from Kushtia last night.

Kalam Bepari, who brought 20 cows from

Kushtia, said this time they are not getting any better offer from customers as the customers are hardly seen in the market.

"If Indian cows come to Bangladesh we will have to incur a huge loss," he said.

Siddique brought 16 cows from Kushtia one week back and sold 12 of them to other cattle traders of Sylhet and Noakhali. He said he could not make any profit this time.

Traders have brought some big-size cows in the cattle market. Each of their prices is Tk4.50 lakh.

"The price of one of them was offered Tk 2 lakh and we hope it will go up before Eid, said Mujibor, one of the traders.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Maoists derail train, kill two in India

AFP, New Delhi

India's railways minister said yesterday she would seek extra protection for the state-run service after the latest in a series of rebel attacks left two dead in the east of the country.

Maoist insurgents were accused by police of derailing a passenger train in the state of Jharkhand, killing two people and injuring more than 40, as part of a series of attacks ahead of regional elections.

"I have instructed my officials to meet the home

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



A huge number of homebound people queue up at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday to purchase tickets for the Eid holidays.

Bombers kill 23 in Afghanistan

AFP, Herat

Bomb attacks yesterday killed 23 people in Afghanistan, a deadly start to President Hamid Karzai's second term that underscored spiralling insecurity nine years into the US-led war.

The attacks brought to 35 the number of people killed since Karzai was sworn in for another five years on Thursday, pledging to try to bring peace to the nation and take over security from foreign forces in five years.

A suicide bomber on a motorcycle struck the capital of the southwestern province of Farah, killing 15 people near the governor's home.

A roadside bomb targeted a controversial warlord, who escaped unscathed but killed five of his bodyguards northwest of Kabul, while a similar device, of the type favoured by Taliban insurgents, killed three civilians in the east.

The Taliban-led insurgency against the Western-backed government is at its deadliest in the eight years since US-led troops ousted the Islamists, and is slowly encroaching into once peaceful parts of the north and west.

The suicide bomber damaged buildings in Farah in an area where heavy trucks were being loaded, officials said.

"The bomber riding on a motorcycle detonated himself at a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

BSF kills 1

UNB, Benapole

Indian border Security Force (BSF) killed a Bangladeshi cattle trader along Baroachra border here early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Timir, 32.

BDR sources said BSF troops from Pirojpur camp halted Timir while he was returning home along with cattle from India.

They later beat him up mercilessly, killing him on the spot.

BSF then dumped the body into the Ichamati River.

Bangaon police, later, recovered his floating body from the river in the afternoon.

Prayer Timing		
November 21		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-05	6-40
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-21	6-24
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

বিআরটিএ'র সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, বিআরটিএ ড্রাইভিং কম্পিউটিং টেস্ট বোর্ড এর মাধ্যমে পরীক্ষা গ্রহণ করে কৃতকার্য প্রার্থীদেরকেই কেবল ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স প্রদান করে থাকে। কেহ যদি এ পরীক্ষায় অংশগ্রহণ ও কৃতকার্য হওয়া ব্যতীত অন্য কোন অবৈধ পন্থায় জাল বা ভুয়া ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স সংগ্রহ করেন উহার দায়-দায়িত্ব বিআরটিএ বহন করবে না। এ ধরনের জাল বা ভুয়া ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্সধারীদের বিরুদ্ধে আইন প্রয়োগকারী সংস্থা ও বিআরটিএ'র মোবাইল কোর্ট আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করছে।

জিডি-৫২৩৪

বিআরটিএ

World powers plot next move on Iran after snub

No 'final answer' from Iran on nuclear offer: IAEA

AFP, Brussels

Major world powers met in Brussels yesterday to plot their next move after Iran rejected a nuclear fuel deal, as the UN atomic watchdog's chief warned that Tehran risked losing a "unique" opportunity.

Representatives of the five permanent UN Security Council members -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany met behind closed doors, part of long-running efforts to persuade Iran to curb its nuclear ambitions.

Officials declined to say whether the six would respond to Tehran's move, with EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana's spokeswoman saying only that "the meeting is to review the latest developments on the Iran nuclear issue."

The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog, Mohamed

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

OnlinePoll

Do you think the government should now put an all-out effort to bring the fugitive killers back following the final verdict on the Bangabandhu assassination case?

Yes (83.8%)
No (11.6%)
No Comments (4.6%)

Total votes: 1079

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the communications ministry should have carried out feasibility study before inviting for tender bidding to the billion-dollar project of elevated expressway?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

The Daily Star

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