

Expatriate alleges harassment by police in Noakhali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A Bangladeshi expatriate living in the USA yesterday alleged that the police in Noakhali are harassing him and favouring the criminals who filed a 'false case' against him.
Nizam Uddin of Begumganj made the allegations at a press conference at the auditorium of Crime Reporters' Association of Bangladesh in the city.
He also sought intervention of the authorities concerned in addressing the issue.
Nizam said Manjur Kader Swapan of Anantapur village

filed a case with Sudharam Police Station in November last year alleging that he (Nizam) took Tk 12 lakh from Manjur in January last year but did not pay back.
Manjur also produced two judicial stamp papers on which a deed regarding the money was prepared, but he forged his (Nizam) signature on the stamp papers, Nizam said.
He also said that the stamp papers were sold on November 11, 2009, while the papers show that the deed was signed on January 4, 2009, which clearly proves that the signature was forged.
But the police arrested him instead of the criminals and put pressure on him to pay bribes, Nizam added.
He also said that he filed a case with a Noakhali court against Swapan for forging the signature.
When contacted, Investigation officer of the case sub-inspector Kamaruzzaman of Sudharam police station said that he found the allegation of Swapan true and filed the charge sheet some 12 days ago.
At the press conference, Nizam said he has been living in America since 1990. He returned to Bangladesh in 2008 to invest his money to create job opportunities for his relatives and local people.

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FM keen to send docs, teachers to Maldives

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni yesterday expressed the interest to send physicians, teachers, professionals as well as skilled and semi-skilled workers to the Maldives for its socio-economic development.
Appreciating the Maldives' offer to recruit 65 Bangladeshi doctors, she underscored the need for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in this regard and enquired about the status of the MoU on cooperation in education sector proposed by the Maldives to recruit Bangladeshi teachers and professionals in the university to be set up in the Maldives soon.
She said this when the newly appointed Maldives High Commissioner Ahmed Sareer called on Dipu Moni at the foreign ministry yesterday.
Regarding issues relating to trade, the High Commissioner stated that it is one of his high priorities to introduce Bangladeshi products in the Maldives market and to help enhance interaction between the business communities of the two countries.
He said he will work for the formation of a business council between the two countries. On climate change issues, he said both Bangladesh and the Maldives are frontline states and underlined the importance of working together on climate change issues.

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State recognition of sign language demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded state recognition of Bangla sign language in order to promote its use across the country to make communication easier for the hearing-impaired people.
They said hundreds of deaf people across the country face difficulties in communicating with others. So, sign language should be promoted to

meet their communication needs.
They also demanded amendment to Bangladesh Disabled Welfare Act 2001 to protect the rights of the persons with disabilities and remove discrimination against them.
The National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabilities organised the discussion marking its 19th founding anniversary at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium of the Public

Library in the city.
Social Welfare Minister Enamul Haque Mostofa Shaheed attended the discussion as the chief guest.
Speaking as a special guest, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Promod Mankin said the government would take necessary steps to ensure the rights of people with disabilities.
He also said that he would discuss the issue of sign language at the policy-making level.

Forum President Khandaker Jahurul Alam demanded steps to implement 10 percent quota for physically challenged people in private and public organisations.
Shahidul Haque Badal, founder secretary general of the forum, Dr Abdul Mannan Khan, vice chancellor of World University, Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, member of UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Julian

Francis, programme and implementation adviser of DFID, and noted physician Shuvagato Chowdhury also spoke.
A book entitled 'State of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Bangladesh' was also launched at the programme.
Earlier, members and activists of the forum brought out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar to mark the day.

JICA to give 130 garbage trucks

UNB, Dhaka

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will provide 130 garbage trucks for better waste management in the city.
The assurance came when JICA country representative Takao Toda met State Minister for Environment and Forest Ministry Dr Hasan Mahmud at his office yesterday.
During the meeting, Hasan Mahmud sought more assistance from JICA in this regard as the government has a plan to provide garbage trucks to all pourashavas of the country.



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