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31 seamen send SOS

Bangladeshis left in ships at Benin coast for over a month by their Greek employer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 31 Bangladeshi crewmembers of eight ships have been stranded offshore Benin for more than a month and their employer has not paid them or provided them with air tickets to return home.

They are facing dire circumstances in the West African nation, said victims and their families.

"There is no fuel, no water or life-saving equipment on the ships. Anytime a storm can tear off the anchor. We are becoming sick. Please help us go home," Ashraf Alam, a stranded marine engineer, told a news conference yesterday over mobile phone from one of the ships.

Marine engineer Zahirul Islam, who managed to return home, and family members of those who are still stranded held

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Camera rolls during a poll campaign in Bhola: The Election Commission has decided to record two rival candidates' campaign events using video cameras to find out individuals responsible for violence or other irregularities in the April 24 by-election. Inset, Chief Election Commissioner Shamsul Huda talks to locals of Lalmojan upazila in the district on pre-election situation yesterday.



PHOTO: RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

SECOND DHAKA-CTG HIGHWAY Firms from India, China submit bids

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Two construction firms from India and China have submitted bids to build a second highway between Dhaka and Chittagong at an estimated cost of \$4.3 billion.

Soma JV of India and Sino Global Enterprise JV of China submitted the bids in response to the government's pre-qualification tender, Project Director Md Mafizul Islam said yesterday.

The submission of the bids has revived the project that was stalled in 2006 when only one firm -- Malaysia-based Azimat Consortium -- submitted a bid to construct the highway. The project remained shelved since then as the rules don't allow the government to award the job to any firm if there is only one bidder.

Mafizul said an evaluation committee will complete

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

BNP wants to get polls deferred by a week

AL terms it ploy to foil by-elections; CEC assures of safety as he leaves Bhola; campaign ends tonight

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN, from Lalmojan

With election campaigns scheduled to end at midnight today, BNP has raised a demand for deferring the Bhola-3 by-poll by a week, while its rival ruling Awami League is alleging that BNP has been conspiring to foil the poll.

BNP, the main opposition in the parliament, is claiming that an extra week is required to ensure a congenial

polling atmosphere. It asked the Election Commission to seize all illegal arms, and oust all outsiders from the parliamentary constituency during the period, to ensure a free and fair poll.

AL has been terming the demand as a BNP conspiracy to foil the election sensing a 'confirmed defeat'.

Meanwhile, the home ministry yesterday opened a special cell to monitor the law and order situation in the

constituency.

In the capital, a BNP delegation led by its Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir met the Election Commissioner seeking the commission's permission for its senior leaders to observe the by-poll.

In Bhola, tension between the rival camps, and panic among voters are mounting, with the voters wondering

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

NO ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE 4 ship-breaking yards sued

STAR REPORT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday sued four ship-breaking yards in Chittagong for causing pollution just days after the commerce ministry decided to allow dismantling vessels built with toxic substances.

Ignoring an order of the High Court, ministry has recently relaxed its import policy allowing scrappers to import such vessels. None of over 100 ship-breaking yards in the country has any facilities to clean ships built with substances like asbestos and PCB.

Every ship-breaking yard has to have a clearance certificate from the government saying while dismantling the vessels it would not pollute the environment.

None of the 69 shipyards operating currently has such certificates. The DoE served notices upon them to have the certificate after the HC ordered the government last year to shut those scrappers.

Fifty-seven of the yards have so far applied to the department for the clearance certificates.

But 12 did not apply for it and for the first time the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Tahrir's second man arrested for 'terror plot'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Intelligence wing of Rapid Action Battalion arrested Kazi Morshedul Huq, second-in-command of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, from his Mohammadpur house Tuesday night.

The capture came close on the heels of the arrest of Hizb ut-Tahrir chairman Mohiuddin Ahmed.

Rab Director General Hassan Mahmood Khandaker said Rab intelligence arrested him in connection with a case filed with Uttara Police Station for



Kazi Morshedul Huq

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

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بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman
SHAZNEEN'S 12TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
APRIL 23, 2010

Every year, on the occasion of Shazneen's death anniversary we come before you to both share our grief of her loss and to urge you all to pray for the salvation of her Soul. On 23rd April 1998 she was so very brutally and mercilessly deprived of her life in which she would have been today a young woman of 27 years, with her own ambitions, hopes and dreams and probably with a family of her own. But the brutal and inhuman acts of a band of murderers brought a cruel and tragic end to that.

As parents and others of her immediate family ours' have been a life of unending grief and living with an excruciatingly painful void. As we said before, and we repeat most gratefully, that we have been able to sustain ourselves not only through the boundless mercy of Allah but also with the love and affection that many of you still bestow on us through your regular enquiry and occasional special prayers. Your care nurtures and sustains us and gives us strength to carry on with our lives.

Once again permit us to thank you all most profusely for remembering Shazneen and praying for her Eternal Peace and for sharing with us this never ending sorrow and personal grief.

The day has returned when we invite you all to join us in a collective prayer.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to join us at a Milad-Mehfil to be held **tomorrow, Friday, April 23, 2010** after Asr (5:15 p.m) at House No. NE(J) 4, Road 83, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

Latifur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman and family

Thursday, April 22, 2010

Unhealthy eating habits and stressful lifestyle leads to heart diseases.

Listen to your heart...