2 surveyors monitor 10,000 registered vessels!

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Only two surveyors are working to verify fitness of around 10,000 registered and a good number of unregistered water vessels across the country.

Islam is now working as acting chief engineer of the Department of Shipping (DoS) and only one ship surveyor, Eng Muinuddin Zulfiquer, posted in Khulna is sole responsible for surveying all inland water vessels.

If both of the surveyors work every working day, they can examine fitness of more than 7,000 vessels in a year. But due to lack of cooperation of the owners, they can survey hardly 1,000 vessels per year,

said a source at the DoS. He also recommended having at least eight to ten surveyors across the country supervision.

Lack of monitoring on the vessels is increasing risks of accidents on waterways.

On an average 22 accidents occur every year on different river routes across the country leaving around 300 people dead, reveals a survey conducted last year by Safe Waterway Implement Of them, Eng AKM Fakhrul Movement, a nongovernment organisation.

The unregistered and unfit vessels are causing tragic accidents leaving hundreds of people dead and incurring a loss of at least Tk 40 crore per year on an average, said the study.

Due to lack of monitoring on the inland water vessels, the owners do not care about verifying fitness of their vessels regularly.

"The vessels owners are not interested to get their ships surveyed as it costs around Tk 50,000 for a ship legally. But, if they do an underhand dealing with an inspector of the department, they can manage to bring all water vessels under it at a much cheaper rate," said an official of the DoS requesting anonymity.

> Besides the registered ones, there are thousands of

unregistered vessels including trawlers and sand carrying cargos plying the rivers without caring about the fitness or survey certificate, the department sources said.

The Department of Shipping has four posts of ship surveyor in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Barisal and Khulna and the government is sitting on a proposal of increasing the number to six.

"It's humanly not possible to physically survey the ships by a surveyor. So, the inspectors generally conduct the physical monitoring and the surveyors approve them seeing the papers," said the source at the DoS.

Over the last 15 years, the government did never fill up more than three posts of ship surveyor. Even the government never took any initiative of proper inspection and fitness of the vessels, he said.

According to a government survey revealed last year showed that 9,948 different kinds of vessels are plying

different inland riverine routes across the country, while a non-government organisations showed that the number of water vessels is over 20,000 and two-third of them are unregistered.

The accidents of MV Coco-4 in Lalmohan of Bhola in November 2009 and passenger trawler ML Nurussunna in Kishoreganj in December the same year are a burning example of giving fitness certificates without monitoring the vessels properly.

ASM Nazmul Haque, gave fitness certificate of both the vessels, was withdrawn from the post of ship surveyor and transferred to Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) after the accidents. Talking to The Daily Star,

Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan said, "Manpower crisis is not a problem of my ministry only but also of all other ministries. There are nine departments under my ministry. I hope to fill up all the vacant posts immediately."



BHOLA-3 BY-POLLS

allegation of

intimidating

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) yesterday

rejected the allegation of intimi-

dating voters on the day of

Bhola-3 by-election, saying that

the government did not inter-

brought against AL. Why would

we go for intimidating voters

since the public sentiment was

in favour of Awami League?"

said Mahbubul Alam Hanif,

acting general secretary of the

party, about some newspaper

reports on intimidating voters.

ence at the party president's

Dhanmondi office, he claimed

the election was held in a free

and fair manner and people

mandated the AL candidate in a

the BNP candidate and his party

men did immediately after the

2001 election and what he did

during the caretaker govern-

Hanif said Hafiz tried to

break up his party during the

caretaker government period,

People did not forget what

peaceful atmosphere.

ment tenure, he added.

Addressing a press confer-

"A false allegation has been

fere in the election in any case.

AL bins

voters

Traffic comes to a grinding halt at Paltan intersection in the city yesterday as BNP organised a rally at Muktangan in protest against the alleged vote rigging in the by-election at Bhola-3 constituency.

Edn policy to be placed in next JS session likely

Says Adviser Alauddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed national education policy is expected to be placed in parliament at its next session, said Prime Minister's Adviser Alauddin Ahmed yesterday.

"We have drafted the national education policy aimed at bringing qualitative change in education. The proposed policy is at its the final stage. It might be placed in the next parliament session for passage," he added.

Alauddin said this as the chief guest at a discussion on 'Realities and challenges of education for all (EFA)' and sharing of the findings of a study 'Reality Check Bangladesh 2009 on Education' organised by Campaign for Popular Education (Campe) in cooperation with Sida

Hizb-ut chief

fresh remand

Banned Islamist outfit Hizb-ut

Tahrir Bangladesh chief

Mohiuddin Ahmed was taken

on a fresh remand for four

days yesterday in three sepa-

rate cases under Anti-

Terrorism Act-2009 by Uttara

Police produced the Hizb-

ut chief before the court of

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate

seeking remand for seven days

and after the hearing, magis-

trate Rokhsana Begum Happy

Earlier on April 20,

Mohiuddin, who is an associ-

ate professor of Institute of

Business Administration (IBA)

of Dhaka University, was on a

three-day remand hours after

his arrest by police from his

Green Road residence at IBA

granted for four days.

police.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

placed on

The government will take steps to ensure EFA in the country, he said, adding: "As per our election pledges, we are working to achieve cent percent enrolment by 2011. We will take initiatives to ensure EFA by 2014."

The adviser called on the educated people both in rural and urban areas to get involved in the education management system and to increase their surveillance on the system.

Presenting the findings of the study, Enamul Huda, member of the study team, said financial crisis is the key reason of dropout of children at school level.

Teacher's training programmes cause teachers' crisis because they have to stay

Bangladesh at Cirdap auditorium in the on leave during the period. It greatly hampers the education process in schools.

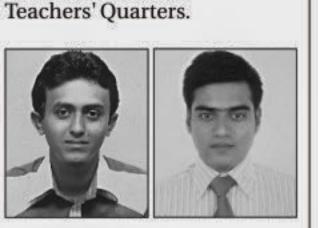
food programme for school-going children instead of stipends to encourage both children and their parents.

Huda stressed the need for introducing lively and recreational education system for children to make them more attentive.

Campe Chairperson Kazi Rafiqul Alam chaired the session while Executive Director Rasheda K Chowdhury, Programme Manager KM Enamul Haque, AusAid Regional Education Adviser Dr James Jennings and Sida Country Director Samuel Egero were present at the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offers munajat after laying foundation of the 150MW combined cycle power plant in Chandpur yesterday. (Story on Page 1)



Rakib, Sidur DUJA president, general secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rakib Ahammed of The Daily Star and Sidur Rahman of the Daily Ittefaq have been unanimously elected president and general secretary of Dhaka University Journalists Association (DUJA), a plat-

form of DU correspondents. Other office bearers are Vice President Hasan Nitol of ATN Bangla, Joint Secretary Solaiman Tusher of the Daily Manab Jamin, Treasurer Dilshad Hossain Dodul of The New Age, Office Secretary Tariqul Islam of the daily Destiny and Executive Members Mahiuddin Mahi of Amader Shamay, Abdul Alim

Dhrubo banglanews24.com and Asaduzzaman Sagor of the daily Amar Desh.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said in a forecast. Mild to moderate heat wave, which is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Jessore and Kushtia may con-

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:27am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 40.2 degree Celsius was recorded today at Jessore and lowest 19.5 degrees Celsius at Sylhet.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------|------------------------|----|
| | | | | |
| | Dhaka | 36.8 | 25.2 | 63 |
| Chittagong | 30.0 | 26.8 | 76 | 77 |
| Rajshahi | 39.0 | 23.4 | 79 | 55 |
| Khulna | 36.7 | 28.0 | 73 | 64 |
| Barisal | 34.6 | 27.3 | 70 | 69 |
| Sylhet | 27.3 | 19.5 | 86 | 77 |
| Cox's Bazar | 35.0 | 26.5 | 66 | 71 |

The study also suggested introducing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

TEACHER

Agitating teachers of

HARASSING FEMALE

Suspension

pleted. If Kafi is not suspended from the position of hall provost and chairman of IR department, he might influence the probe, the conference.

Kafi is still the hall provost and chairman of IR department as he was granted a month-long they added.

ner of 'JU Teachers against Repression' organised the press conference at the office of Jahangirnagar University Journalists' Association.

tial probe, immediate punishment to the offender and ensuring full security and fair atmosphere for the complainant.

A good number of teachers attended the press conference, including Prof Nasim Akhter Hossain, Sayed Ferdous, Raihan Rain, Manash Chowdhury, Nasrin Khandaker, Himel Barkat, Shamima Sultana, Sohana Bilkis and Ribon Khandker.

Those who talk about war crimes do not think of prevailing crises: Nizami

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami yesterday claimed that people who talk about the trial for crimes against humanity do not think about crises of countrymen.

"I believe that the allegations newsmen at a city restaurant.

aim to deceive people.

"Some people say that those nals do not think about the prob-

Although repeatedly asked Nizami's speech.

The programme was titled as leaders of the world for formua view exchange meeting with question."

HINDU LAND GRABBING

HC asks Pirojpur SP to nab culprits within 48 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the superintendent of police of Pirojpur to arrest within 48 hours the persons involved in occupying lands of Hindus in the district.

The court directed the SP and officer-in-charge of Mathbaria Police Station of the district to appear before the court on May 6 for explaining the incidents of land grab-

It also asked the inspector general of police to submit a report within 30 days to it after investigating into the incidents.

The court also issued a rule upon the government and the police authorities to explain within two weeks why they should not be directed to take legal action against the land grabbers and provide security to local Hindus.

The HC bench of Justice AHM Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Md Delwar Hossain came up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Badruddoza Badal also spoke.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

fixed its hearing today.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

rents and advances from their tenants.

Bullets found in sand

School authorities in the city's Khilkhet area.

violence.

total 86 centres.

lines.

with the rule and orders after hearing a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), a human rights organisation.

The petition was filed following a report published in the daily Jugantar on April 20 this year saying that the law enforcers did not come to the rescue although an influential group had occupied around 5,000 bighas of land of the Hindus in Pirojpur.

The law enforcers have assisted the land grabbers in occupying the land, the report adds.

The petitioner also said the law enforcers have failed to discharge their constitutional duties in protecting the properties of the community. The home secretary, IGP,

deputy inspector general of Barisal range, SP of Pirojpur and OC of Mathbaria Police Station have been made respondents in the rule.

Advocate Manzill Murshed appeared for the petitioner.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Frame rules to recruit judges'

The leaders of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yester-

day demanded formulation of rules for recruitment of higher

court judges in the light of the Supreme Court (SC) guide-

As per the SC guidelines, the judges will be appointed in

consultation with chief justice, senior judges of the Appellate

Division and High Court Division, SCBA president, attorney

general and vice chairman of bar council, SCBA President

The demand was made at an urgent general meeting at

Pro-BNP lawyers TH Khan, Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin,

Aminul Haque, and Zainul Abedin and SCBA Secretary

Election Working Group (EWG), an observer organisation of

Bhola-3 by-polls, in its report yesterday said the election was

held in a peaceful manner amid some sporadic incidents of

The organisation said it observed 44 centres out of the

The security arrangement was ample, most of the voters

including religious minority voters did not face any violence

A rights body yesterday filed a writ petition with the High

Court, seeking direction upon the government to properly

enforce the House Rent Control Act 1991 in order to prevent

the house owners in the city from arbitrarily collecting excess

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, stating that most

of the dwellers, residing in the rented houses, are suffered

and harassed by landlords defying the rules of the law.

Advocate Manzill Musrhid filed the petition on behalf of

The HC bench of Justice Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and

Justice Naima Haider yesterday accepted the petition and

Bullets were continuously coming through the dredgers

pipes from the river Balu along with sand and water since the

last three days, as a pond was being filled up by Talna High

bullets of rifle and Light Machine Gun (LMG) from the sand.

Police and have locals so far recovered 260 rounds of

or intimidation but some voters did complain, it added.

Writ to enforce house rent act

Khandaker Mahbub Hossain told The Daily Star.

SCBA's south hall with the SCBA president in the chair.

'By-election held peacefully'

which Bhola people did not welcome and, for this reason, they did not work for him in the election.

politically.

The AL leader called on BNP to accept the people's verdict

and act democratically. He warned that if BNP tries to create an issue for movement or destabilising law and order situation centring the polls, his party would face it

Duta protests CU incident

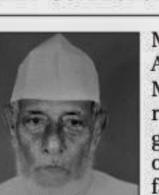
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) in a statement yesterday condemned the incident of vandalising and setting fire to two teachers' buses at Chittagong University, says a

press release. It demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the incident.

Duta called on the concerned authorities to take necessary steps to ensure peaceful and disciplined environment in educational institutions.

Obituary STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg



Mohammad Abdul Aziz Miah, a retired government official and father of The Daily Star

Chittagong Bureau Chief Abdullah Al Mahmud, passed away due to old age complications at his residence in the port city yesterday at the age of

He left behind his wife, four

sons, four daughters and a

host of admirers to mourn his death. The first namaz-e-janaza of Abdul Aziz was held at

Garibullah Shah Housing Society Mosque yesterday. He will be laid to rest at the

Garibullah Shah Mazar Graveyard after the second janaza in front of Garibullah Shah Mazar at Zakir Hossain Road at 9:00am today.

Modasser wins WHO award

Prime Minister's Health and Social Welfare Adviser Prof Syed Modasser Ali has been nominated for a World Health Organisation (WHO) award for his contributions towards tobacco control

He along with three others will receive the award formally on May 31 at the WHO headquarters on the 'World Tobacco Free Day 2010'.

Prof Modasser Ali has been working against tobacco for last two decades and now he is the vice chairman of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Currently 27.2 percent people

are smokers in the country and suffering from different health problems due to smoking. The poor and marginal people are the worst sufferer of using tobacco, saidaWHOreportlastyear. After publishing the report, Prof Modasser urged all the

lating a law and smoking control policy and led a national and international campaign in this regard. The deputy prime minister of Cambodia and the health minister of Egypt have also been nomi-

nated for this prestigious award.

of JU teacher demanded

Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday demanded Abdullahil Kafi, chairman of international relations (IR) department, be temporarily relieved of all the duties until the probe into the allegation that he harassed a female teacher of the department sexually is com-

agitating teachers said at a press

leave instead of suspension, JU teachers under the ban-

They also demanded impar-

Prof Khurshida Begum of government and politics department heads the probe committee investigating the allegation.

of committing crimes against humanity against any Jamaat leader will not be proved even after searching with microscope," he said while speaking at a view exchange meeting with

Nizami further claimed that the trial was organised with an

who talk about water, electricity and gas crises do not want the trial of war criminals to be conducted, there is a reverse version too, that is those who talk about war crimilems of the countrymen or they don't have the ability to solve their problems," Nizami said.

not to talk about trial of war crimes, Nizami could not get out of the topic as the issue always found its way through

journalists but none was allowed to ask any question to the Jamaat leaders as Jamaat's Dhaka city unit general secretary Hamidur Rahman Azad said, "You will be able to give suggestions but can not ask any