FRAUDS BY RECRUITING AGENTS

Families of migrants are worst sufferers

Call to ensure rights of

physically challenged

50 injured in Akhaura clash

Relatives of Bazlur Rahman, a former UP chairman in Barisal, wail after he died at Dhaka Medical

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

5:16am tomorrow.

Celsius at Sylhet.

City/Town

College Hospital following a road accident yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

lenged people.

well after 12:45pm.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

far from implementation.

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Akhaura town yesterday.

Shafi Sami presided over the meeting.

ministries.

Family members of migrant workers are the worst sufferers of recruiting agents' fraudulent activities such as providing fake travel and work documents, giving false hope of better jobs and misappropriating money, speakers at a

national dialogue said yesterday. Such frauds must be stopped to ensure safe migration, said Industries Minister Dilip Barua as the chief guest at the dialogue organised by the Centre for Development Dialogue (CDD) in the city.

There are many families who have lost their lands, money and social capital to frauds by middlemen or dishonest agents, he said.

The dialogue titled 'Impact of migration on Naznin Akhter of BIDS also spoke. families' was organised to mark the International Day of Families, which will be celebrated worldwide on May 15.

At the programme, Kazi Ali Reza, officer-incharge of the United Nations Information Centre (Dhaka), read out a message of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Although Bangladesh has ratified the UN

Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities, the government is yet to ensure their

rights due to lack of coordination among different

plementation of United Nations Convention on

the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: The role of

media' organised by Access Bangladesh

Foundation in association with Disability Rights

initiatives for the welfare of the people with dis-

abilities but a number of their vital rights remain

They said the government has taken different

Former caretaker government adviser CM

Addressing the discussion as chief guest, Editor

of the daily Samakal Golam Sarwar stressed the

At lease 50 people, including an additional

police super and a journalist, were injured

during a clash between two groups of people in

standing dispute over possession of a govern-

The clash between rivals, over a long-

Fund at Biam auditorium in the city on Thursday.

Speakers said this at a discussion styled 'Im-

Ban Ki-moon called on the governments to implement policies that help migrants adapt and prosper in their host countries.

He also called for ratifying and implementing the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrants Workers and Members of their Families.

"Despite its many benefits, migration also places heavy burdens on family members. Migrants can face harsh living conditions, discriminations and low wages. They often lack safety nets and suffer disproportionately in times of economic hardship."

CDD Chairperson Mirza Tarequl Qader, Secretary General SM Murshed and Vice-Chairperson Sakila Matin Mridula and Dr

Meanwhile, the United Nations Information Centre in Dhaka, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) jointly organised a seminar on 'Challenges to the security of the human family' at WVA auditorium to mark the Day.

need for creating social awareness for implementa-

laws. Rather we must emphasised creating social

awareness for the implementation of the rights,'

negative attitudes towards the physically chal-

Bangladesh Advocacy Officer Hasbullah placed

some recommendations for the media men to

rights of physically challenged people with much

priority, producing films and dramas focusing the

rights for the betterment of people with disabilities.

Director Albert Mollah moderated the meet-

ing while its Chairperson CM Tofail Sami and

ment land, started at 9:45am and continued

of Dhaka-Akhaura-Agartala international high

way for over two and half hours during the clash.

charge and fired 21 rounds of blank shot from

shotguns to bring the situation under control.

WEATHER TO A Y

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty

or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi,

Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Kushtia and

Weather may remain dry with partly cloudy sky else-

Prevailing mild to moderate heat wave sweeping over

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at

Country's highest temperature 39.0 degrees Celsius was

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

Humidity in

recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 19.4 degrees

Khulna division and the regions of Faridpur, Maijdicourt,

Comilla in next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

where over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Rajshahi, Ishwardi and Patuakhali may continue.

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Traffic remained suspended on both the sides

Police resorted to indiscriminate baton

theatre personality Kazi Rozi were present.

help implement the rights of the disabled.

"We'll not get fruit through only formulation of

Sarwar called upon people to change their

Presenting the keynote paper, Access

The recommendations include publishing the

Access Bangladesh Foundation Executive

tion of all the rights of physically challenged.

Those who destroyed must stand trial, he said, adding: "We will hold trial of

Former chief justice Syed

Tagore train to arrive in August

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New

launched to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Nobel Laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, will travel across Bangladesh in August after touring Indian cities. The train Sanskriti Express

comprises five coaches, with each one showcasing the life and works of Tagore in the field of literature, music, dance and art, a senior Indian Railway Ministry official said.

The train, flagged off by India's Railway Minister Mamata Banerjee, began its pan-India journey on May 9.

It will enter Bangladesh on August 6 and return from Dhaka on 23 of the same month covering more than 40 stations after its yearlong travel across the two countries.

"The train would halt at the stations for a few days giving the young and the old a chance to know about the rich legacy left by Tagore for the posterity," an Indian Railway official said.

WAR CRIMES TRIAL

support to war criminals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman yesterday said two different sides have cropped up over the issue of the war crimes trial where a group is showing support to the criminals.

He was addressing a meeting to commemorate eminent litterateur Shawkat Osman's 12th death anniversary organised by Shawkat Osman Smriti Parishad at Liberation War Museum in the city.

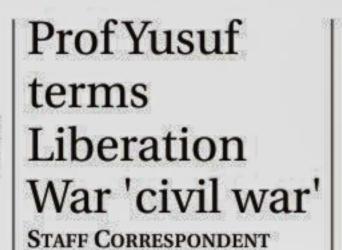
Yeafesh Osman, son of Shawkat Osman, said his father's knowledge and interest in politics were reflected in his writing, which made him a unique breed of litterateur.

Other speakers at the meeting said many litterateurs tend to hide under their shells like turtles in times of political oppressions and military reigns, but Shawkat Osman

His writings predominantly highlight messages against fundamentalism and chronicle tales of the oppressed. After Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Rahman was assassinated, he was the only litterateur to raise voice against the murderers, the discussants said. Director General of Bangla

spoke at the meeting.



Describing the Liberation War of 1971 as a 'civil war', former

vice-chancellor of Rajshahi University (RU) Prof Dr Yusuf Ali said a huge loss of lives is common in a civil war. He also raised question

about the war crimes trial and said the trial of war criminals had been completed a long time ago.

"So, what is this trial for?" he said, adding: "The issue of war criminals is threatening the unity and integrity of the nation."

Dr Yusuf made the remarks at the first national council of Bangladesh Biswabiddalaya Shikkhak Parishad (BBSP), a platform of teachers of public and private universities, at Biam auditorium in the city.

The former VC also alleged that lakhs of people were killed, many were raped and robbery and looting had taken place after independence when peace was prevailing in

peace after independence them when our government comes to power."

JR Modassir Hossain, former DU VC Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, columnist Mahfuz Ullah, journalist Shafiq Rehman, Manarat International University VC Prof Dr Mohammad Abdur Rab and Dhaka University Professors Dr Kamal Hossain Chowdhury, Dr Umme Kulsum Rowzatur Rommana and Dr Aminur Rahman Majumder also spoke.

A special train from India,

During its fortnight tour in Bangladesh, it will travel to important cities connected with broad gauge line including the capital Dhaka.

A section shows

Says state minister

was not one of them.

Academy Dr Shamsuzzaman Khan chaired the meeting. Eminent artists Rafiqun Nabi and Hashem Khan, Dr Syed Anwar Hossain, writer Andaleeb Rasdhi and cultural personality Bulbul Mahlanbish



Nagorik Sanghati forms a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday demanding permanent rehabilitation of the Aila-hit people.

5 marine engrs forge certificates for job abroad

Investigation reveals

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

A government investigation has found that at least five marine engineers had falsified official certificates they needed to qualify for jobs at both home and abroad.

Officials in the Department of Shipping (DOS) said the engineers had forged their Certificates of Competency (COC) to get jobs at Marine Service Co. Ltd., a Saudi Arabia-based shipping company. A source involved with the investigation said

the engineers apparently colluded with some 'corrupt' officials in the department who helped to falsify the signatures of the director general and the chief examiner.

He said a number of engineers might be working in foreign shipping companies based on similar false certificates. The investigation began after the Saudi

Arabian company sent three e-mails to the department to verify that the five engineers indeed were legitimate. The first two e-mails were ignored, but the third, sent in January, went directly to the DG, who then ordered the probe.

It revealed that the five engineers did not participate in competency evaluation examination, which concludes four years of study at the Marine Academy in Chittagong. The exam is required to make sure the seaman can operate and maintain engines and other major equipment on a ship.

The five were identified as Nazmul Hassan Hasan (class 3 engineer officer); Sheikh Mohammad Moorsalin (class 2 deck officer);

Women's rights activists yesterday said it is time

to launch movement to achieve women's politi-

to all movements in the country since the anti-

British movement, they said at the third National

Convention of 'Bikoshito Nari Network' that

ended at the LGED Bhaban auditorium in the

Women and Children Affairs Shirin Sharmin

Chowdhury said women have been contributing

greatly to agriculture and household chores. But

they do not receive any financial recognition for

Speaking as the chief guest, State Minister for

Women have made significant contribution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

cal empowerment.

city yesterday.

their work.

Saiful Islam Rasel (Class 2 deck officer); and Mizanur Rahman (class 3 deck officer) Department officials aren't sure whether the names were real of fakes, the investigation source said. In addition to the five, another fake certifi-

cate holder was identified on March 30 at the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) in Chittagong. He worked in a foreign ship for one and half years and a Bangladesh ship called the 'Banglar Robi' for three months. After it was discovered that his certificate had been faked, the engineer managed to flee from the ship, said an officer of the ship.

According to the 1983 Merchant Shipping Ordinance, anyone caught falsifying a COC can face up to two years of prison and a fine of Tk 10,000.

"Whenever the authorities of any foreign companies demand authentication from us, we investigate it," said Bazlur Rahman, director general of the Department of Shipping. His signature wasn't forged on the certificates in question but that of his predecessor.

Rahman admitted that a syndicate within the department might be assisting engineers in obtaining falsified certificates. He said legal action would be taken against the department insiders once they were identified. To avoid such falsification in future, all information and documents of seafarers certified by the department will be digitised, he added.

Rahman also said there's a demand for Bhuiyan (class 2 engineer officer); Md Nazmul Bangladeshi marine engineers around the world, but foreign companies may lose interest if such corruption becomes widely known.

The government is working to give financial

The government is also working to ensure

Salma Khan, chairperson of Women for

that the laws are enforced properly to protect

Women, said women of Bangladesh are the best

managers in the world, because they can prop-

erly manage their families by tackling poverty

government, Rokeya Sultana, secretary of Rural

Development and Cooperative Department, and

Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, country director of

The Hunger Project, also spoke.

Sultana Kamal, former adviser to the caretaker

women from violence, said the state minister.

recognition to their work, she added.

No plan to restore HK visa waiver for Bangladeshis'

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China has no immediate plan to restore visa waiver policy for Bangladeshi nationals but will extend adequate facilities to bona fide Bangladeshis, including businessmen.

Hong Kong scrapped the visa waiver programme for Bangladeshis in 2006. Presently, only India from the South Asia region enjoys visa waiver programme of Hong

There is no possibility of bringing any changes to the visa waiver policy for Bangladeshis, said Assistant Director of the Hong Kong Immigration Department Corrado Chow.

Talking to reporters at Westin Hotel in the city, visiting Hong Kong immigration officials said visa waiver is determined on a number of factors like immigration and security, social and economic status, trade ties and track record of a country.

Chow said genuine Bangladeshi applicants with sufficient travel documents can apply for Hong Kong visa. Usually it takes four weeks to complete the process of granting visa, he said, adding that they also issue visa for emergency travel within the shortest possible time.

FM greets William Hague

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister Dipu Moni greeted newly appointed British Foreign Secretary William Hague, as the Conservative and Liberal Democrats formed the coalition government in Britain after the last week's general elections.

"I have great pleasure in conveying to you my warmest congratulations on your assumption of the office of the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office of her Majesty's Government," she said in a statement on Thursday.

The foreign minister hoped that the excellent relations between Dhaka and London would be further expanded in the days ahead during Hague's stewardship at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Quality comes first, Profit is its logical sequence

Locations of SEL on-going projects:

- Bashundhara
- Mohammadpur
- Eskaton Shamoly
- Malibagh Tejkunipara
- Tejgaon ■ Joarsahara
- Indira Road
- Zigatola Gandaria

Mirpur

- Rajabazar
- Green Road

'Launch movement for

women's political

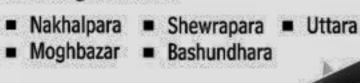
empowerment'

- Tikatuli Uttara
- Comilla

and hunger.

998-2275 sft 1 sft=0.0929 sqm

Apartments





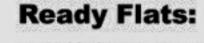




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■ Moghbazar ■ Bashundhara



that would start at 10:00am. Prof Dr Mujibar Rahman of Suhrawardi Medical College Hospital said they called the programme after a retired teacher of Dhaka Medical College was abducted from his Dhanmondi chamber on May

Doctors to

stage sit-in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka city units of three

organisations of doctors

yesterday jointly will stage a

two-hour sit-in programme

today at Central Shaheed

Minar in protest against the

A number of doctors told

The Daily Star last night that

abduction of a doctor.

today

9 by a gang of criminals.

Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Bangladesh Society of Medicine (BCM) and Association of Physician of Bangladesh (APB) jointly announced the programme

He said the criminals took the retired doctor to Dhaka University campus where they beat him up mercilessly and threatened to kill him unless he pays them Tk 10 lakh as extortion.

Celsius percentage Morning Evening Max Min 29.4 Dhaka 36.0 67 27.5 72 Chittagong 33.1 Rajshahi 39.0 28.4 77 73 Khulna 37.0 28.6 Barisal 35.2 27.8 74 Sylhet 30.4 74 19.4 81 35.8 Cox's Bazar 28.5 58