

Bangladesh on Macau visa restriction list

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Macau government included Bangladesh in the list of visa restriction although Bangladeshis are not involved in any major crime.

Citizens from Bangladesh, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Vietnam will have to pay at least 30 US dollar from July 1 for an entry permit to Macau, a special administrative region (SAR) of China.

Nationals from these six countries must obtain an authorisation to enter and stay in Macau at the Chinese embassy, consulate or diplomatic representation in their place of residence prior to their arrival in Macau. For that, people will be charged a standard fee of 30 US dollar.

An additional tax of 20 US dollar was also set, in case there is a need to contact the Macau SAR immigration services for gathering more information, according to Macau Daily Times.

Macau also stopped issuing on-arrival visas to nationals from Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Vietnam and Nigeria. Exemptions are set for diplomatic missions and consular staff, as well as members of international organisations registered in mainland China and their relatives.

When contacted, a foreign ministry official said the ministry would take up the issue with the authorities concerned of Macau and Chinese government and pursue them to withdraw the restrictions.

He said it established the new visa requirements in a bid to solve the problems of an increasing number of overstayers, illegal workers and drug traffickers.

According to Hong Kong administration data, in the first four months of this year, the Security Forces Coordination Office registered 73 incidents of crime committed by the citizens from these six

countries -- Vietnamese people (59), Nepalese (10), Pakistanis (3) and Bangladeshis (1).

In 2009, Vietnam appears again as the country from the group of six placed at the top of the crimes' list with 243 charges. Nepal comes in second place (28), followed by Nigeria (9), Sri Lanka (8), Pakistan (5) and Bangladesh (2).

As for overstaying, in the first four months of this year, authorities identified 234 people from these six countries, mainly women (143). Most of the overstayers between January and April were from Vietnam (169), 46 from Nepal, nine from Bangladesh, six from Pakistan, three from Nigeria and one from Sri Lanka.

In 2009, 1,548 people were found to be overstaying their visas, of which 1,128 were Vietnamese, 308 Nepalese, 48 Bangladeshis, 29 Sri Lankans, 22 Pakistanis and 13 Nigerian.



Students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology leave their dormitory last night after the authorities closed the university for an indefinite period following a clash among students over World Cup Football. (Story on Page 1)



Participants at a seminar on thalassaemia, jointly organised by the Star Campus, a weekly supplement of The Daily Star, Thalassaemia Support Initiative (TSI) and Thalassaemia Foundation at The Daily Star office in the city yesterday.

Call to raise awareness about thalassaemia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on thalassaemia, an inherited condition affecting blood, was held at The Daily Star office in the city yesterday with a call to raise awareness about the disease.

Star Campus, a weekly supplement of The Daily Star, Thalassaemia Support Initiative (TSI) and Thalassaemia Foundation jointly organised the seminar attended by students from eight universities.

Prof Dr Manzur Morshed, a noted haematologist, explained various aspects of the disease and discussed some common myths about it

to dispel them.

He said that once the educated people will come to know about the disease, the entire population will become aware of it gradually.

He praised the students for their commitment to eradicating the disease through creating awareness.

TSI member Sonia Rezina gave a power point presentation on thalassaemia and discussed the causes, symptoms and treatment of the disease.

Dr Abdur Rahim Robin discussed the treatment procedure in detail.

Speaking at the seminar,

Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam appreciated the initiative taken by the students and assured them of the support of the daily in disseminating awareness messages.

Dr Rajib Hossain and Dr Tarek Salahuddin were also present.

Thalassaemia is a hereditary form of anaemia that is caused by a dysfunction in the synthesis of the red blood pigment hemoglobin.

According to experts, almost one crore people in the country are carriers of thalassaemia. A child is born with thalassaemia an hour in the country, they say.

College girl kills self

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Badrunessa Government Girls' College committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling with a scarf in her residence at Fakirerpool in the city yesterday.

The girl was identified as Afridita Nargis alias Anny, 18, a second year student.

Tofazzal Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Motijheel police station, said they recovered the body from her bedroom in the morning. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College for autopsy.

Tofazzal said members of the family found her body hanging from a ceiling when they had broken open the door of her bedroom in the morning as she was not responding to their call.

'Razakar' in FFs' list!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Freedom fighters yesterday demanded exclusion of the names of fake freedom fighters from the list published by the Liberation War Affairs Ministry last month.

They placed the demand at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday ahead of the election to Muktiyoddha Sangsad Central Command Council. The election will be held on June 26.

Freedom fighter Noyeem Jahangir, also a candidate for the post of chairman of the Council, said there are 1.62 lakh freedom fighters in the list published recently. Of them, one-third are either fake or 'razakar'.

He placed names of 86 people included in the list claiming that they are fake or 'razakar'.

"If they are not dropped from the freedom fighter's list, the anti-liberation forces will become stronger and get scopes to hatch conspiracy to foil the trial of war criminals," he added.

They sought prime minister's interference in resolving the problem.

Freedom fighters Mozammel Haque Birprotik, Kazi Sadrul Haque Mridha, Kazi Jahangir Amir and Khalid Ahmed were present at the press conference.

Betar Bangla first 24-hr Bangla radio in UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Betar Bangla, a community radio station, has received licence from the British media regulator, Ofcom, to broadcast its programmes in the UK 24 hours a day, says a press release.

It became the first 24-hour Bangla infotainment radio stations in the UK.

Betar Bangla has been broadcasting short-term transmissions for the past eight years since 2002, inspired by the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Ahmad Sobhan, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers.

Confusing remarks on DAP protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists and professionals yesterday protested the confusing statements about detailed area plan (DAP) and audacious behaviour of some developers towards teachers and other professionals.

"A quarter is opposing the DAP, although the government is sincere about finalising it. The quarter is also behaving indecorously at the high level meeting of the government, which is very unfortunate," Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) President Prof Muzaffer Ahmad said at a protest meeting.

Bapa, Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), Institute of Architects, Bangladesh and Centre for Urban Studies jointly organised the meeting at BIP auditorium in the city.

Prof Muzaffer said Dhaka city has become uninhabitable due to unplanned urbanization and encroachment on lakes and water bodies.

"The interest of a huge population of Dhaka city cannot be ignored just for the sake of the interest of a few people," he added.

Bapa vice president ASM Shahjahan, columnist Syed Abul Maksud, BIP President Prof Sarwar Jahan, and architects Mobassher Hossain and Iqbal Habib also spoke.

They called on all to forge unity against the land grabbers.

Three electrocuted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Three persons including two siblings died and two others suffered injuries from electrocution at Baluchhara on the outskirts of the port city last night.

The deceased were identified as Chhoton Mohajon, 18, his brother Mithun Mohajon, 25, and a mason Mithu, 40.

The injured construction

labourers Mohammad Babu and Rafiqul Islam were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Sources said the incident occurred when Mithu was repairing a tin-roofed bathroom around 8:00pm and got electrocuted. As Chhoton and Mithun rushed to help him, they too got electrocuted and died on the spot.

The bodies were sent to the CMCH morgue for autopsy.

GLOBAL TIGER INITIATIVE Experts' meet in Nepal on June 23

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the run-up to the meeting of the head of states of the Global Tiger Initiative (GTI) in Russia in September, a preparatory meeting of experts group will be held in Nepal on June 23.

The World Bank is sending a five-member team to Nepal from Washington DC to hold consultations, which would revolve around the agenda for GTI.

Meanwhile, India is hosting the Global Tiger Forum meeting from June 26-27.

The meeting will be chaired by Nepal.

It will have participation from all 14 Tiger Range Countries -- Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Russia, Thailand and Vietnam.

People turn against 'fascist' govt thru' CCC polls: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said people have turned against the present 'fascist' government that reflected in the just concluded

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election, terminating a turning point.

BNP-backed candidate Mohammad Manjur Alam was elected mayor by a huge margin, defeating the ruling Awami League-supported candidate, three-time mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in Thursday's election.

The BNP leader made the remarks while addressing a discussion at Jatiya Press Club organised by Bangladesh Mafossal Manobodhikar Sangbadik Forum to observe the 'Black Day for Press'.

Fakhrul said people have won the movements against various autocratic regimes as well as against the emergency government of 2007, and people are now starting again to move against the present AL-led regime.

He called upon all to join the future anti-government movement.

Jamaat-e-Islami Assistant Secretary General Abdul Kader Mollah, Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal President Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, BFUJ President Ruhul Amin Gazi and Secretary General MA Aziz also spoke at the discussion with Forum's President Sakawat Hossain Ibne in the chair.

Coordinated efforts a must to implement RTI law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ensuring open and timely access to information will help stop corruption, improve governance and increase accountability and transparency, speakers at a consultation meeting said yesterday.

They said coordinated efforts should be taken at individual and institution levels for proper implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) law.

The Management and Resource Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the meeting at Rajshahi with support from the USAID PROGATI, says a press release.

Experts from different fields voiced concern over the slow implementation of the RTI Act and lack of awareness among the people about it.

They said shortage of staff in the government institutions, inappropriate information management system and inadequate budget allocations are the main barriers to the effective implementation of RTI law.

Deputy Commissioner of Rajshahi Muhammad Delwar Bakht said the enactment of RTI law is a pragmatic step taken by the government to ensure free flow of information.



Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Muhammad Delwar Bakht speaks at a consultation meeting on RTI implementation organised by the Management and Resource Development Initiative (MRDI) at Rajshahi yesterday. On his right is Dr Ananya Raihan and on his left are Farid Hossain and Hasibur Rahman.

In his keynote speech, Dr Ananya Raihan, executive director of D.Net, said as long as the law is not implemented by the government and non-government organisations, its strength, weaknesses, limitations and appropriateness cannot be ascertained.

Government officials, local government representatives, NGO and rights activists,

journalists, teachers and members of the civil society took part in the open discussion moderated by Bangladesh Bureau chief of the Associated Press Farid Hossain.

Hasibur Rahman, executive director of MRDI, said proactive disclosure of information regarding budgetary allocation for development

work at grassroots can ensure proper utilisation of resources and put a check on corruption.

Findings of the divisional consultation meetings will be presented to the government at a national seminar later, aimed at setting out the strategy to implement the law properly. MRDI organised a similar meeting in Khulna.



Residents of Segunbagicha in the city form a human chain yesterday protesting the move to open a college by closing a school for underprivileged children.