

# Establish transparent migration process

Urges immigration experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration experts yesterday called for establishing a transparent migration process to bring discipline in the labour migration process, saying irregularities are affecting the sector greatly.

A section of brokers and recruiting agencies take advantage of the information gap of overseas jobseekers, which ultimately gives birth to anomalies, they said at a workshop.

Bangladesh Migration Development Forum (BMDF) organised the workshop titled "Conceptual understanding on migration and trafficking: Bangladesh perspective" at Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Addressing as the chief guest, Expatriates' Welfare Ministry Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan said the home ministry is drafting an anti-trafficking law but some fear that it will affect the labour market.

"I don't think so. This is the digital age. Everything should be transparent," he

said, adding that the migrants going abroad must have proper documents.

Irregularities in the sector resulted in the ban on Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, he said.

Those who went abroad forty to fifty years back, even through improper channels, became permanent workers. But now the systems are changing. It may not be the case that those going abroad now will be regularised, he noted.

Home Ministry Joint Secretary Dr Kamaluddin Ahmed said there are cases that the agencies or brokers allure workers to go abroad and get them in trouble even when they migrate voluntarily.

These are the issues that will be addressed by the Anti-Human Trafficking Act (draft), he said.

The problems in the labour migration are artificial and so reforming the laws concerned and enforcing them properly can bring transparency in the migration process, he added.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira)

Secretary General Ali Haider Chowdhury termed the anti-trafficking act (draft) a black law, saying it will be detrimental to Bangladesh's labour markets.

The Emigration Ordinance 1982 is enough to regulate the recruiting agencies and this can be amended instead of framing an anti-trafficking law, which mixes migration with trafficking, he said.

Immigration lawyer Dr Uttam Kumar Das said one may be a trafficking victim even after legal migration and in the same way may become a successful migrant even after being trafficked.

So, including all under a common law is necessary, he said.

BMDF Vice President Professor Ishrat Shamim, Razia Sultana of Winrock International and Samsun Nahar Aziz Lina of BMDF presented papers.

BMDF Vice President Syed Mahub Elahi and General Secretary Jamal Uddin Ahmed also spoke at the workshop chaired by BMDF President Rabeya Sultana.



Recipients of Bank Asia's higher studies scholarship pose for photograph with President and Managing Director of the bank Erfanuddin Ahmed at Konabari in Gazipur on Saturday. As a part of corporate social responsibility, Bank Asia has given higher studies scholarship to 93 meritorious students for the current year.

# Concern over DJ party on Cox's Bazar beach

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green World has expressed deep concern over the "allocation" of DJ party space on the Cox's Bazar beach where sculptures of seven Bir Shrestha, National Monument and the replica of mass killing sites have been painstakingly put together by the students and teachers of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University.

Green World, an organisation involved in keeping the beach clean, in a statement, urged the authorities concerned not to permit any commercial activity on the beach where a unique show is on display to remember the War of Liberation.

On the Victory Day when the hotel authorities arrived at the site in the evening along with

the sound system and other equipment, Green World immediately informed the authorities concerned of the matter, it said adding that but the authorities did not pay heed to the protest rather allowed the hotel authorities to continue with their party a few metres away from the monuments.

"It is beyond our comprehension how the administration could have allowed a local hotel to hold a DJ party, which is directly in conflict with the spirit of our war of liberation."

The organiser of the DJ party, the hotel, claims that the local administration has given them permission to hold such event.

Green World observes that the very sanctity of this unique site is at stake due to the commercial activities on the same spot.

# Indian war veterans pay homage to martyrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A visiting Indian delegation of 1971 War of Liberation veterans from the Indian Armed Forces yesterday paid homage at Shikha Anirban in Dhaka Cantonment to the memories of the members of armed forces martyred in the war.

The 17-member team, led by Lt General (Retd) SPM Tripathi, met with Chief of Army Staff General Md Abdul Mubeen, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman and Principal Staff Officer (PSO) of Armed Forces Division Lieutenant General Abdul Wadud in Dhaka Cantonment.

The delegation reminisced memories of War of Liberation and also shared their experiences and memories with media personnel present at AFD in Dhaka Cantonment, says a press release.

The team, after their six-day visit, is scheduled to leave Dhaka today.

# Woman burned in shop fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman yesterday received burn injuries as fire gutted a small shop at Gandaria in the city's Sutrapur.

Critically injured Soma Begum, 45, was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with 30 percent burn injuries.

Fire brigade sources said the fire originated from a kerosene lamp around 3:40am in the shop where she was sleeping.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and managed to douse the fire around 4:30am, said sources.



Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Z U Ahmed hands over CNS cup to the best all round sailor M Ariful Islam on the occasion of Bangladesh Navy new entry passing out 2010/B batch in BNS Titumir in Khulna yesterday.

# Proshika honours 38 women war veterans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Proshika Manobik Unnayan Kendra, popularly known as Proshika, yesterday accorded a reception and handed over honorarium to 38 women freedom fighters, women family members of the martyred and sick male war veterans.

Marking the Independence Day, the reception ceremony was organised at Begum Sufia Kamal Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum and presided over by Proshika Chief Executive Mahbulul Karim, says a press release.

HT Imam, advisor for the establishment and administration affairs to the Prime Minister, as the chief guest and State Minister for the Primary and Mass Education Ministry Motahar Hossain, as a special guest, attended the programme.

Proshika has been giving Tk 1,000 as honorarium among 21 women freedom fighters since 2000, which will continue throughout their lifetime. Rest 17 freedom fighters will get honorarium the following two years.

# Bulbul made jury member of Unesco prize

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Monjurul Ahsan Bulbul, editor-in-chief and chief executive officer of Boishakhi Television, has been made a member of the jury panel to pick the winner of the Unesco/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize from 2011 to 2013.

Director General of Unesco Irina Bokova mentioned Bulbul's "profound attachment to the principle of press freedom and the considerable contribution he already has made to this ideal, says a press release of Unesco, Dhaka office.

The most prestigious prize for journalists is awarded to a person, organisation or institution for recognising contribution to the defense or promotion of press freedom.

**DHAKA TODAY**

**Discussion**  
Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will arrange a discussion. Venue: House no.54, Road no. 8/A, Dhanmondi, Time: 4:30pm.

**Photo exhibition**  
Bangladesh Astronomical Association will organise a photo exhibition. Venue: Alliance de Frances, Dhanmondi, Time: 6:00pm.

**Convention**  
National convention on education in emergencies will be held. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy, Time: 5:00pm.

**Protest rally**  
Gonolantrik Bam Morcha will organise a protest rally. Venue: In front of National Press Club, Time: 3:30pm.

**Consultation**  
A national consultation on the draft comprehensive law on human trafficking will be held. Venue: Sheraton hotel, 9:30am.

**Rally**  
Ain O Salish Kendra will organise a rally. Venue: Naz-e-Noor Hospital, Madhubazar, Time: 10:00am.

**Meeting**  
Muktijuddha and Swadhinatar Itihas Gobeshona Foundation will organise a meeting. Venue: National Education Management Academy auditorium, Time: 5:30pm.

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