

NEWS IN

brief

Govt moves to legalise 25,000 migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government moved to legalise around 25,000 Bangladeshi workers illegally staying in Greece in the backdrop of over 43,000 Bangladeshi illegal migrant workers being sent back from different countries.

Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said this in parliament in response to lawmakers' queries.

He said he held a meeting with Greece's home minister and labour minister during his recent visit there to legalise Bangladeshi workers staying there. Registration of the illegal workers is already complete, he said.

Modernisation of 3 airports urged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Over thousand pro-BNP doctors in a statement yesterday demanded modernisation of the existing three international airports in the country, quitting the decision of construction of new airport on Arial Beel.

Deshpramik Jonogoner Mancha, a platform of patriotic people, demanded judicial investigation into the Monday's clash, withdrawal of the cases and compensation for the injured people and the deceased's family.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Revolutionary Workers Party of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon in separate statements greeted the prime minister for discarding the decision of constructing airport on the wetland.

JAF demo on all bar premises Feb 6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (JAF), a body of pro-BNP lawyers, will demonstrate at all bar premises across the country on February 6, protesting the filing of case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia over Arial Beel violence that left one policeman dead.

Leaders of the forum yesterday announced the programme at a meeting held at Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) premises.

They said if the false case against BNP chairperson is not withdrawn immediately, a mass protest would take place across the country like the recent one in Arial Beel.

'Control noise pollution'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A non-government organisation yesterday demanded proper steps to control noise pollution and reduce traffic congestion in the city.

Forming a human chain and holding a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, Jalalabad Foundation, the NGO, suggested on taking steps including a stop to parking cars randomly, introduction of modern traffic system, modern training for drivers, evicting rickshaws and building passenger sheds in the right places to reduce the traffic congestion.

Jalalabad foundation held the programme with the help of the establishment ministry.

The foundation also demanded to take proper steps of evicting hawkers from footpaths, constructing flyovers at proper places and ban on building schools, colleges and universities beside roads.

Chairman of the foundation Enam Ahmed presided over the rally while advocate Abed Raza was present as the chief guest.

RUXRA executive body formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ex-Rovers of Rajshahi University formed a new organisation named Rajshahi University Ex-Rovers Association (RUXRA) at a meeting held in a city hotel recently, says a press release.

MM Kamrul Hashan was elected president of 19-member RUXRA committee. Shakil Meraj, Delwar Hossain and Dr Anwarul Islam were elected vice-presidents while Md Fakruzzaman was elected general secretary for the period 2011-12.



Slight fall in night temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Mild cold wave is sweeping over the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia and Srimongal and it may continue in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country. Light to moderate fog may occur over the riverbasins of the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:46pm and rises tomorrow at 6:38am.

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 09.0 degrees at Rajshahi.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	27.0	14.0	45	41
Chittagong	27.0	14.0	73	54
Rajshahi	25.7	09.0	73	59
Rangpur	25.0	12.2	82	68
Khulna	26.4	12.3	69	47
Barisal	27.5	11.0	65	70
Sylhet	27.5	13.0	75	52



Two age-old Raintrees beside the Central Shaheed Minar in the city being cut down yesterday. Trees adjacent to the premises are in a sorry state while many are dying due to negligence of the authorities concerned. Moreover, the timber is being sold at a cheap price. PHOTO: STAR

BDR MUTINY TRIAL AT PILKHANA

Charges against 50 accused read out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Havildar Tariqul Islam in collaboration with two other soldiers of BDR Sadar Rifle Battalion had beaten Major Mostafa Asaduzzaman brutally with belts in front of the flag pole during the mutiny at Pilkhana.

Nayek Shahjahan of the same battalion tortured Major Shahnewaz inhumanly after tying him up to a coconut tree.

The two army officers were later murdered, said Lt Col Abu Masud, the prosecutor of a BDR mutiny case, yesterday in his statement.

He said this as the special court-9, set up to try the mutineers of Sadar Rifle Battalion, carried out its proceeding for the third day at the Darbar Hall in Pilkhana.

"Major Mostafa Asaduzzaman, who was attached to Sadar Rifle

Battalion, ran away from the Darbar Hall and went to his battalion assuming that jawans of his own battalion would protect him.

"But, regrettably, none came to his aid even after hearing his cry," the prosecutor said adding, Major Mostafa rushed to the office of commanding officer where he was murdered after brutal torture.

Lt Col Abu Masud also mentioned how another army officer Major Iqbal saved his life.

"Mutineers opened fire on Major Iqbal and other army officers. Fortunately, Iqbal did not receive any bullet. He managed to hide himself till the evening lying amid other slain officers.

"Iqbal left the place just before the mutineers started hiding bodies, and thus he saved his life", Masud said.

The court, headed by Border

Guard Bangladesh Dhaka Sector Commander Col Habibul Karim, later read out group and individual charges against the accused.

Earlier, the prosecutor described charges against the accused and appealed for framing charges considering allegations against the 735 mutineers of the Sadar Rifle Battalion.

The court read out individual charges against 50 accused out of 735.

The allegations include leaving Darbar Hall defying the orders of the then director general, failing to control subordinates, refraining from providing information about the mutiny to the higher authority, doing nothing to prevent mutiny, taking firearms and ammunition from the cote and taking part in the mutiny actively.

Prosecutor Masud later at a press

briefing told reporters that four soldiers of the battalion were engaged to guard the residence of the then DG. They were provided with SMG and 600 bullets.

"If they had taken action when the mutineers tried to enter the DG's house, family members of DG might be saved", he said.

Among the 735 accused, Criminal Investigations Department pressed charge-sheet against 85.

A total of 141 witnesses are supposed to give depositions against the accused, Masud said.

The court was adjourned till 9:00am on March 6.

A total of 74 people, including the then BDR DG and 56 other army officers, were massacred at Pilkhana and a mutiny spread from the headquarters to other units across the country in February 25-26, 2009.

Prothom Alo cyclone centre inaugurated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A modern cyclone shelter centre was inaugurated at Shinghartali village at Shyamnagra upazila in Satkhira on Friday.

The centre named Prothom Alo Durjog Ashroykendra can accommodate 1,000 people.

Prothom Alo Trust has planned and financed the construction of the refuge built on 50-decimal land donated by Abul Kashem Gazi of Shinghartali.

Caritas Bangladesh implemented the construction work of the cyclone shelter with the expense of Tk80 lakh.

The two-storey cyclone shelter centre has four rooms in the upper floor and a reservoir of 15,000-litre capacity on the roof to reserve rainwater.

The centre of 2,628 square feet has four toilets and a shallow tubewell. It has the options of charging mobile phones and charger lights. The shelter would remain intact amid the wind velocity of 260 kilometres.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman, Caritas Bangladesh Executive Director Benedict D Rozario, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Shabrir Ahmed, and Abul Kashem Gazi unveiled the plaque of the centre.

At a brief inauguration programme, Matiur Rahman said apart from publishing news, the daily has been working on many social and development issues including rehabilitation of the acid victims, anti-drug campaign, providing scholarships to the poor and meritorious students, giving reception to GPA-5 achievers in SSC exams, arranging Math Olympiad and language competition.

Stressing the need for combined effort for development, he said the newspaper is committed to keep its participation in any good work.

He urged organisations like HSBC Bank and Caritas to come forward in building a community clinic in the area to ensure the health care service to people in remote areas.

Benedict D Rozario said as per the people's demand, a clinic would soon be established in the coastal areas of Sundarbans.

UNO Shabrir Ahmed urged the local people to look after the centre.

HSBC Bank official Sami Hafiz, Caritas Bangladesh Director of Khulna region Michel Biswas, Abul Kashem, and Saiduzzaman Rawshan of Prothom Alo Bandhushava also spoke.

Later, the key of the centre was handed over to Abul Kashem.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Nuruchchhafa Talukdar, father of State Minister for Environment and Forest Dr Hasan Mahmud, passed away at a city's hospital yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, five sons and three daughters.

He was a former president of Chittagong Bar Association. He was also a public prosecutor.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina condoled his death.

He will be buried at family graveyard in Chittagong today.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The 45th death anniversary of language movement veteran Dr Mahfuzul

Haque was observed yesterday.

He was a professor of the University of Dhaka and founder of the then East Pakistan's Bangla Procholan Society, says a press release.

On the occasion, Dr Mahfuzul Haque Memorial Sangsad placed wreath at his graveyard. Besides, a milad mahfil was held for salvation of the departed soul.

Mollah Abdur Rashid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the third death anniversary of Mollah Abdur Rashid, a former joint

registrar of Cooperative Societies, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa mahfil will be held at his village at Shibpur in Narsingdi and a special prayers will be held at a mosque of Uttara at Sector No 6 after Juma prayers tomorrow.



Priti Chakraborty, left, chairman of Aysha Memorial Specialised Hospital, presents a crest to Nobel laureate Prof Amartya Sen on behalf of the hospital at a luncheon meeting at Dhaka Club on Tuesday. PHOTO: STAR

South Asia University CEO meets DU VC

UNB, Dhaka

Prof GK Chadha, chief executive officer of South Asia University in New Delhi of India, called on Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique at the latter's office yesterday.

Prof Rajiv Saxena, officer on special duty of South Asia University, and Dr Deepak Mittal, first secretary of Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, were present on the occasion.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of mutual interest specially possibilities of admission of students from DU and other higher educational institutions to South Asia University of India.

DHAKA TODAY

Convocation

Buet will orgainse its 10th convocation. Venue: Buet premises, Time: 11:30am.

Protest rally

Bangladesh Puja Udjan Parishad will arrange a protest rally. Venue: Mukhtangan, Time: 3:00pm.

Discussion

Dhaka Ahsana Mission will hold a discussion on the occasion of World Cancer Day. Venue: House No. 19, Road

No. 12, Dhanmondi, Time: 11:00am.

Seminar

Paribesh Bachao Andolan will organise a seminar. Venue: National Press Club, Time: 10:30am.

Education fair

Bangladesh University will arrange an education fair. Venue: Mohammadpur, University campus, Time: 9:00am.

Seminar

BSMMU will organise a scientific

MUNICIPAL AND BY-POLLS

Electoral culture improved: Brotee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The municipal and by-polls were held in free and fair manner despite some scattered incidents and the entire scenario of electoral culture has improved significantly compared to the previous years, said a report of Brotee, a non- government organisation.

Holding of free and fair elections under a political government has lessened the necessity of interim caretaker government and if the fair practice continues, a time will come when caretaker government system will not be necessary anymore, said Brotee Chief Executive Officer Sharmeen Murshid.

She told a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday while disclosing a report after analysing the municipal and by-polls held recently.

Brotee prepared the report through spot surveillance and analysing news reports of different newspapers and TV channels.

Sharmeen said it has been proved that free and fair election can be held without deployment of army.

No margin of error, no fake votes and no illegal registration of voters could be found in the voter rolls this time, while around 30 percent of fake voters were enrolled in the by-polls in Dhaka in 2004, the report said.

"The Election Commission (EC) has proved its efficiency and neutrality by ensuring proper management and control over the administration", she added.