

Tougher criteria set in students' visa for UK

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Kingdom (UK) announced an overhaul in students' visa system, with tougher entry criteria and limited work entitlements, making it difficult for average grade Bangladeshi students to study and work there.

Changes will protect the interests of meritorious Bangladeshi students wishing to study in Britain, but are bad news for those who tried to abuse the student visa route, said the UK Border Agency Regional Director Chris Dix.

At the UK parliament on Tuesday, British Home Secretary Theresa May announced results of a consultation beginning last December on student immigration system reform, says a press statement of British High Commission in Dhaka.

"This overhaul will ultimately reduce the number of Bangladeshi students in the UK," said an official of the high commission.

Last year, around 9,000 Bangladeshi students entered Britain, where around five lakh Bangladeshis are settled, the official added.

Those wishing to study at degree level in the UK will have to speak English at an "upper intermediate level" as per requirement of Common European Framework of Reference. This is an increase from the current level of requirement, the statement said.

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Sewage being discharged into the lake in front of Banani Road-27 in the city contaminates the water while locals continue dumping waste on it.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

NGOs to obtain climate cash after final review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All the 53 non-government organisations that were entitled "in principle" to receive cash from the government's Climate Change Trust Fund will be reviewed before the final allocation, as allegations have surfaced about their ability to implement climate projects.

"We are going to review their proposals and also their capability of implementing the projects before disbursement of the fund," said State Minister for Environment and Forests Dr Hasan Mahmud after a meeting of Climate Change Trustee Board yesterday.

His remarks followed a report published in a Bangla daily about selection of incapable and inexperienced NGOs to accomplish the small projects in different climate-hit areas to reduce the adverse impacts.

The minister, however, tried to defend the work of officials concerned, saying, "the technical committee just selected those organisations in principle." They were still conducting their review about the project and the organisations, he added.

"It was not the final selection. They would not get any fund until we check them properly."

Hasan Mahmud also bashed the newspaper that ran the report yesterday, saying the news was not written with a good intention as the report expressed concerns about

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Charges against Paban framed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against Khandaker Akhter Hamid Paban, son of late BNP secretary general Khandaker Delwar, and five others in a cracker explosion case.

The other accused are Omar Faruk, former president of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Chatkhil unit, Golam Sabbir alias Shovon, Syed Hasan Rony and Pradip Saha, JCD secretary of Sonaimuri upazila of Noakhali and Dakat Babu.

Judge Mohammad Akhteruzzaman of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court rejected the discharge petition by Paban and fixed May 10 for trial of the case.

5TH AMENDMENT VERDICT SC adjourns govt's review petition hearing till Mar 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday adjourned till March 28 the hearing on the government's petition to review its judgment on the fifth amendment to the constitution.

The government on March 14 filed the review petition with the SC against some of its observations regarding transitional and temporary provisions in the judgment.

Five-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by Justice Md Muzammel Hossain yesterday passed the adjournment order after hearing a short submission from Attorney General Mahbub Alam.

The attorney general told the apex court that this court should expunge its observations in its verdict, which condone provisions regarding transitional and temporary provisions in Article 150 of the constitution.

He also prayed to the Appellate Division for upholding its HC Division observations, which did not condone those provisions.

The review petition stated that if the SC observations remain in force, there would be provision for considering the transitional and temporary period, meaning the state before

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TAINED FOOD 150 more law enforcers fall sick

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The number of police, Rab, NSI and Fire Service personnel, who fell sick after having lunch served during duties for the security of World Cup cricketers at Sheraton Hotel and Mirpur Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, rose to over 250.

Besides, at least 20 children and women of the law-enforcers, who took the lunch home, also fell sick.

Meanwhile, police sent the food sample to CID and a laboratory in Mohakhali for chemical analysis.

Police also filed a case with Motijheel Police Station against six persons in this connection and arrested three of them on Tuesday night.

A mobile court also awarded imprisonment for different tenures to a son of the hotel owner and the cook of the hotel for unhygienic environment.

Most of the sick personnel were admitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines Hospital while the rest at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Combined Military Hospital and Galaxy Hospital as they were vomiting and suffering from dehydration.

Add provision to constitution for strong local govt

Says Prof Muzaffer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted academician Prof Muzaffer Ahmad yesterday urged the government to include necessary provision in the constitution for strengthening the local government.

Power concentration will hinder the progress of democracy, so it should be decentralised through strengthening the local government institutions for good governance, he said.

He was presiding over a roundtable on local government organised by Bangladesh Upazila Vice-chairman Samannoy Parishad at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday.

Muzaffer, also president of Sushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan), stressed the need for specific explanation on budgetary allocation for the development of local government.

He said it is easier to solve most of the civic problems that turn difficult for the central government, as the local government representatives stay close to mass people.

Shujan secretary Badiul Alam Majumder said the government has curbed power of local government representatives by making the lawmakers adviser to the upazila parishad.

He also emphasised the need for launching movement at grassroots level to press the demands for strengthening the local government.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) president ASM Abdur Rob strongly criticised the government. "They are establishing partisan ruling system, rather than democracy."

He also talked on Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus. "The government has belittled the country by besmirching Dr Yunus's image because he is the model the nation."

At the function, some upazila vice chairmen demanded repealing of the rules that have narrowed the jurisdictions of local government and made the institutions inactive.

Local government expert Dr Tofail Ahmed and representatives of different organisations, among others, attended the programme.

Blake's remark criticised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some left-leaning political parties yesterday condemned a US official's recent remark that bilateral ties would be affected if the government does not compromise with Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus centring his removal from Grameen Bank.

Robert O Blake, US assistant secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs, made the remark at a news conference in a city hotel on Tuesday.

In a statement, Communist Party of Bangladesh President Manjurul Ahsan Khan and its General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim termed the remark disrespectful to the country's sovereignty.

In a separate statement, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and its General Secretary Sharif Nurul Ambia said the remark is a violation of diplomatic norms and a blatant interference in the country's internal issue.

Libya attack condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ain O Salih Kendra (ASK), a human rights organisation, has condemned the West's air and missile attacks on the people of Libya, says a press release yesterday.

ASK expressed deep concern over the huge loss of lives of Libyan citizens and called upon the allied forces to immediately stop the attacks.

Western countries led by the US, UK, and France are now pounding on the forces loyal to Libyan leader Col Muammar Gaddafi, leaving scores of people dead.

ASK also said Libyan forces are intercepting Bangladeshi women workers from leaving the country, although the Bangladesh government ruled out any such incident.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addresses pupils of Princess Nura Binte Abdur Rahman Women University in Riyadh, capital of Saudi Arabia, yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

TAX EVASION CASE Charges framed against Kashem

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against an executive member of Jamaat-e-Islami central committee Mir Kashem Ali in a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court rejected the discharge petition of Mir Kashem and fixed April 10 for trial of the case.

Mir Kashem, now on bail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the tax evasion charges were read out to him.

On August 19 last year, Tax Commissioner Moniruzzaman of the National Board of Revenue filed the case against Kashem on charge of evading income tax. The statement against

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Govt to increase facilities for Hajj pilgrims: PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is committed to increasing facilities for the hajj pilgrims in the future.

She said this when the newly elected office bearers of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (Haab) led by its President Alhaj Jamal Uddin Ahmed called on the Prime Minister at her office in the city.

After the call on, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told newsmen that Sheikh Hasina mentioned mismanagements in the hajj during the previous BNP-led four-party alliance government.

She said the present government has established a strong management system removing those irregularities. As a result, she said the number of pilgrims this year rose to near one lakh from 54,000 of the previous year. She said the government along with the private organisers successfully handled the situation.

Hasina said the government like other sectors has allowed private organisers for hajj management and thanked the Haab leaders for their excellent performance.

She also thanked the Saudi government and the King for allowing the huge numbers of pilgrims and ensuring their facilities.

The delegation members apprised the prime minister of various problems of Haab and she gave a patient hearing.

The Daily Star
is looking for

NEWS CORRESPONDENTS

The Daily Star has some openings for young people with journalistic acumen to work as junior reporters in crime beat and as our correspondents in the following areas - Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Jagannath University, Gazipur, Ashulia, Savar and Keraniganj.

We expect the aspirants to be university graduates/undergrads and have fairly good abilities to write in English and report in simple language.

Initial training will be imparted to the new entrants and will be offered pay package as per the newspaper's standard salary structures.

Candidates fulfilling the above mentioned criteria are requested to drop their bio-data along with a one page cover letter either to

email: reporting@thedailystar.net or to Deputy Editor Reporting, The Daily Star by 7 April 2011.

64-65, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215, Tel: 9144330 (Hunting) & 8124944, Fax: 9144332, 8125155, 8126154, GPO Box No: 3257

Grameen Bank official mysteriously burnt to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

An official of Grameen Bank mysteriously burned to death at Sonakura C&B Bazar area under Shibpur upazila of Narsingdi on Tuesday night.

The deceased Nazmul Mia, 35, son of Ramjan Ali, hailing from Madhabdi village under the upazila, was the senior manager of Grameen Bank Nodia branch under Monohordi upazila.

Nazmul's wife said they went to sleep around 11:30pm and she woke up hearing cries of locals around midnight. She followed the cries to an abandoned place 100 metres from the house and found the burnt body.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Officer-in-Charge Mojibur Rahman of Shibpur Model Police station said they recovered a mobile set, a match and a fuel can from the spot. They would be certain of the cause behind the death after autopsy, he added.

Defamation case against Mahmudur dismissed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday dismissed a defamation case against Mahmudur Rahman, acting editor of the daily Amar Desh, and two others as the complainant of the case remained absent from the court for the three consecutive dates.

Metropolitan Magistrate SK Tofayel Hasan passed the order following an application submitted on behalf of Mahmudur Rahman and the two other accused--former publisher Alhaj Md Hashmat Ali and reporter M Abdullah---for dismissal of the case. The three accused were present at the court.

Attention

This is for information of all concerned that Grameenphone has undertaken a massive network up-gradation and maintenance program. During this program, network service was temporarily disrupted on 23rd March, 2011.

We sincerely apologize for this inconvenience.