

VIENNA NUCLEAR SAFETY CONFERENCE  
**Dhaka for crisis management**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Science and ICT Yeafesh Osman urged the States to establish an emergency crisis management centre to deal with nuclear contingencies for the developing countries especially for LDCs.

He made the call at the ministerial conference on Nuclear Safety at International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna. All the nuclear powers and important stakeholders are attending the event, said a message from Vienna received here yesterday.

The minister suggested exchange of information at the time of emergency through an institutional structure under IAEA to ensure flow of vital information.

He said that nuclear technology is still clean and reliable source of energy for the humanity.

Yeafesh said Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant is the flagship project of the government taken to implement soon. He stressed the need for an international and regional cooperation to ensure the highest and most vigorous level of nuclear safety based on IAEA's safety requirements.

The conference has been organised to draw on the lessons from the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi, Japan to strengthen nuclear safety throughout the world and contemplate on the possible future actions.

Earlier, State Minister Yeafesh Osman met Sergey Kirienko, former prime minister of Russia and the Director General "Rosatom", the State Corporation of Russia, the renowned Russian nuclear technology provider.

Kirienko assured the minister of Russian full support in the quest of Bangladesh towards civil nuclear programme.

He also had a courtesy call on Dinh Tien LE, vice minister of Science and Technology of Vietnam. They emphasised the mutual cooperation and exchange of experience and knowledge as both the countries are embarking on the path of nuclear energy.



Dust clouding is common to the road long in disrepair in Kalurghat BSCIC industrial area of Chittagong city. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



UK Minister of State for International Development, Alan Duncan, talks to a participant in DFID-funded project Char Livelihoods Programme (CLP) in Char Raidashbari village of Gaibandha yesterday.

PHOTO: DFID

**Alan Duncan visits acid survivors**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UK Minister of State for International Development, Alan Duncan, visited Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) in the city yesterday, says a press release.

ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman accompanied Duncan to ASF hospital where he spoke to the surviving acid victims and expressed pleasure at ASF activities.

The Department of International Development (DFID) through Manusher Janno Foundation is providing funds to the ASF.

"This is unfamiliar to us," he said during the visit. "Though the phenomenon has declined it is still a terrible problem."

DFID Country Representative Chris Austin and DFID Social Development Advisor Naved Chowdhury accompanied Duncan.

**EU help sought for embankments**

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forests hasan Mahmud yesterday sought European Union's cooperation to repair and build embankments in the coastal belt to protect the people from natural calamities.

He made the call when a 40-member EU delegation, led by German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Affairs Niebel Dirk and EU Economic Cooperation Affairs Commissioner Piebalgs Andris, met him at his Secretariat office.

The delegation members said the EU and Germany are willing to work with Bangladesh to address climate change impacts and protect biodiversity of Bangladesh.

Speaking at a press conference after the meeting, Dr Hasan said the EU, Germany, and Bangladesh have been working together to cope with the climate change.

The EU and Germany have already provided 8.5 million euros to Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund (BCCRF) to address the worst climate impacts, he said.

"They (EU and Germany) assured us of providing a further 20 million euros. The process is now underway."

The state minister also sought technical and financial support from the EU to enhance skill of forest officials and modernise the Department of Environment (DoE) and the Department of Forests (DoF).

German Ambassador in Dhaka Michael Holger, EU Ambassador in Dhaka William Hana, EU Development Cooperation Division chief Milko Van Gool, and Environment and Forests Secretary Mizbah UI Alam also were present at the meeting.

**Gen Singh meets Navy, Air chiefs**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Indian Army chief Gen Vijay Kumar Singh yesterday called on chief of Naval Staff Vice-Admiral ZU Ahmed and chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman at their respective headquarters on the third day of his five-day visit to Bangladesh.

He discussed issues of mutual professional interest with the Navy and Air Force chiefs.

The Indian Army chief also called on GOC of Chittagong Cantonment and visited Chittagong East Bengal Regiment and placed wreath at a monument built in memory of the liberation war martyrs.

Gen VK Singh will attend the passing-out parade at Bangladesh Military Academy in Chittagong today (Wednesday).

**Govt asked to stop hill cutting**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to immediately take steps to stop cutting hills, and appropriate legal actions against those who are involved in such activities in Cox's Bazar.

In response to a writ petition, an HC bench ordered the authorities concerned to continuously monitor all the hill areas of the district so that none can cut the hills.

The bench of Justice Farid Ahmed and Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif asked the police to submit a report after complying with the directives to it within 10 days.

It also issued a rule upon the authorities to explain within three weeks why their inaction in protecting the hills in Cox's Bazar should not be declared illegal.

Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB) filed the petition yesterday following a report published in the Prothom Alo on June 20.

The organisation prayed to the court to pass necessary orders on the authorities to stop cutting hills and protect the environment of the areas.

Petitioner's counsel Manzill Murshid told The Daily Star that the deputy commissioner (DC) and superintendent of police (SP) of Cox's Bazar, and Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of Teknaf and Ukhiya of the district and officers-in-charge (OC) of Teknaf and Ukhiya police stations have to monitor the hill areas to stop cutting hills.

The SP and OCs have to take legal actions, including filing criminal cases against those who are cutting hills, he said, adding that the SP and OCs also have to submit the compliance report to the court, as per the HC order.

Secretaries to the Prime Minister's Office, and Environment and forests ministry, director general of the Department of Environment, and the DC, SP, UNO's and OCs have been made respondents to the rule.

**Teacher kills herself**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A female teacher of an English medium school allegedly committed suicide in the city's Kafrul on Monday night.

Police recovered the body of Rubina Akhter Ivy, 27, from her residence at East Kafrul and sent it to Dhaka Medical College (DMC) morgue for autopsy.

She hanged herself from the ceiling fan with a scarf.

Sub-inspector (SI) Mosharraf Hossain of Kafrul Police Station said Ivy's parents were out of the house during the incident.

Ivy's mother found the body around 8:30pm after breaking open the door with the help of police.

**BANGLADESHI WORKERS IN MALAYSIA One lakh passports soon: Mosharraf**

UNB, Dhaka

A team of the Manpower Employment Bureau will soon go to Malaysia with one lakh hand written passports to be issued among the undocumented Bangladeshi workers living in Malaysia.

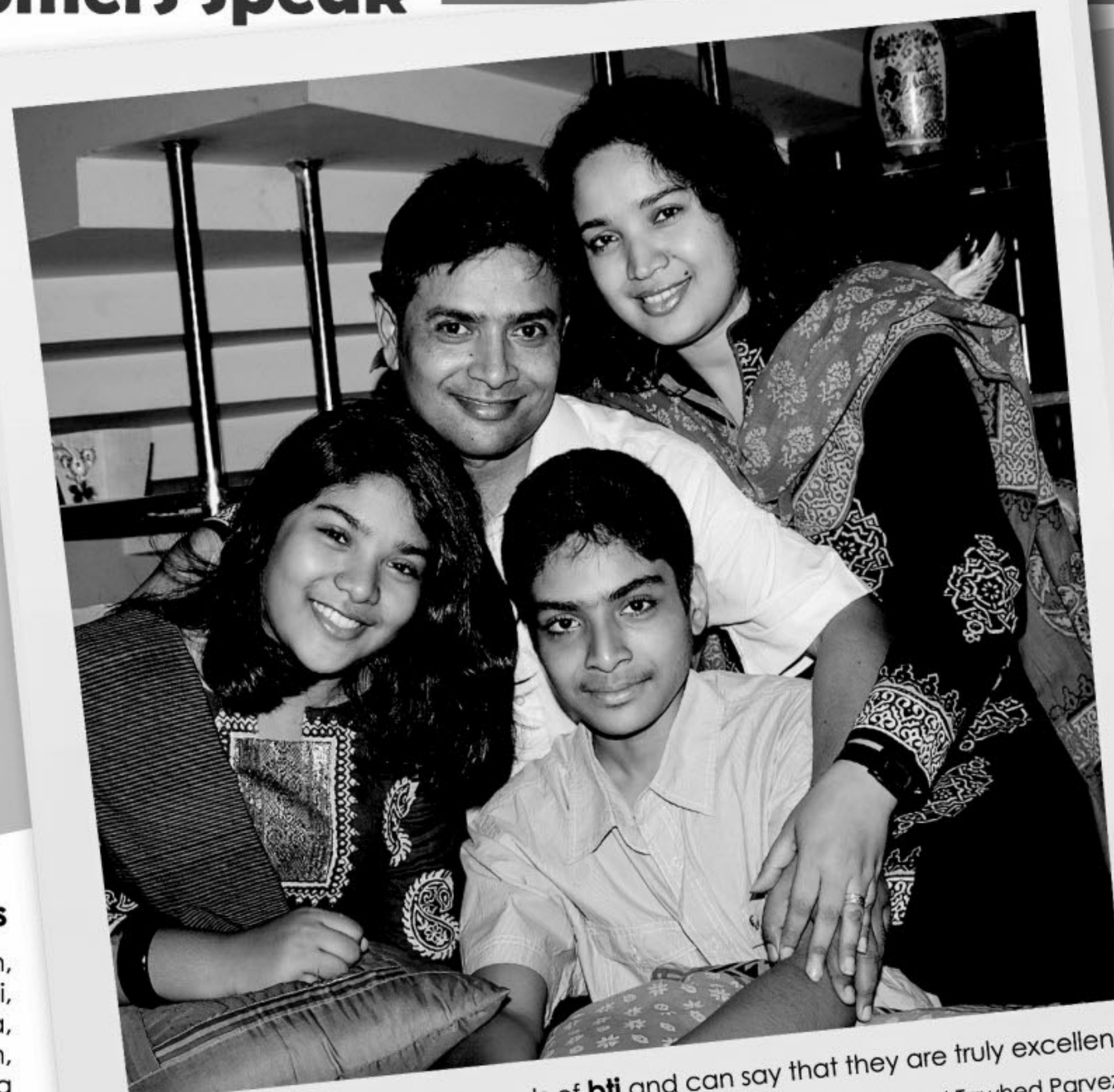
Recently, the Malaysian authorities have agreed to legalise three lakh Bangladeshi workers.

Talking to reporters after meeting with Afghan Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdul Rahim Oraz at his ministry, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Engr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said manpower export to Malaysia will resume after legalisation of the undocumented Bangladeshi workers.

About recruitment of female domestic helps in Saudi Arabia, he said the two governments are now discussing the matter of insurance of the female domestic helps. The female domestic helps will be sent to Saudi Arabia after finalisation of the insurance matter, he added.

He said over 40,000 workers will be sent to Saudi Arabia this month.

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