

NEWS IN *brief*

Koica to train govt officials

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Korea International Cooperation Agency (Koica) will provide training to 12 government officials in Korea on "Trade and Investment Promotion Strategies."

The training will begin on June 30 and conclude on July 16. The training programme will be conducted by Koica under the technical cooperation programme of the government of the Republic of Korea.

Korean Ambassador in Dhaka Taiyoung Cho congratulated the participants and addressed them at a pre-departure orientation ceremony at the Korean Embassy in the city on Monday, says a press release.

Tribute paid to Prof Zaker Husain

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a memorial meeting yesterday observed that Prof Emeritus Kazi Zaker Husain will be remembered for his firmness of character, integrity and morality.

Dhaka University (DU) Zoology Department and Bangladesh Pranibiggan Samity jointly organised the meeting in the auditorium of the department on the campus.

Paying rich tribute to the Prof Zaker Husain, the speakers said he was an eminent bird expert, researcher and sincere teacher.

DU Zoology Department Chairperson Dr Noorjahan Sarker presided over the meeting while Bangladesh Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Prof Aminul Haque, former pro-VC of DU Shahadat Ali and Bangladesh Pranibiggan Samity President Prof Abdul Aziz spoke at the programme.

UPDF to hold protests

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Peoples Democratic Front (UPDF) yesterday announced a series of agitation programmes protesting the move of the government of mentioning different ethnic communities of the country as Bangalee in the bill of fifteenth amendment.

Programmes including hoisting red flags in important places, organising procession with red flags on June 30, arranging demonstration in districts and thana levels on July 3, forming human chain on July 4 and collecting signatures of different prominent persons on the issue on July 5.

UPDF President Prosit Khisha in a statement yesterday said different ethnic communities in the country will not accept the Bangalee nationality as their predecessors were not Bangalee.

Sleeping boy thrown into river: 6 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kidnappers on Monday evening threw a sleeping four-year-old boy into river from Kanchpur Bridge as the victim recognised one of the culprits.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday arrested six alleged kidnappers Chhasra of Narayanganj, who told the investigators that they had the victim Md Zihad drunken sedative-mixed water and threw him into the river.

A joint rescue team of Rab-11 and Fire Service and Civil Defense searched for the boy in the river and adjacent area for eight hours but failed to trace him, said Lt Mahbulul Alam, company commander of Rab-11.

The arrestees are Mohammad Wasim, 26, Mohammad Salam, 19, Mohammad Sadek, 23, Mohammad Swapon, 30, Mohammad Sakil, 25, and Lucky Akhter, 19.

Lt Alam said criminals abducted Zihad, son of Akhter Hossain of Dharmoganj, Fatullah from near his house around 7:00pm on June 26 and demanded Tk 3 lakh from his mother Masuda Akhter the next day over phone.

Wasim, Swapon, and Shakil, neighbours of the boy, planned the abduction about a month back to realise money from Zihad's expatriate father, he said.

Sadek and Salam worked on contract while Lucky, the second wife of Wasim, helped them, he added.

Lt Alam said Rab arrested the gang red handed while the gang members were exchanging money yesterday.

The abductors told interrogators that they took Zihad to Lucky's house at Vuigar on June 26. As Wasim's son Obaidul was a playmate of Zihad, he could have recognised him. Abductors threw Zihad into the river fearing arrest.



David Arkless speaking at a roundtable on migrant workers jointly organised by UK-based Institute for Human Rights and Business and Dhaka University's Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the city yesterday. On his right are CR Abrar, John Morrison, and Khurshed Alam Chowdhury.

PHOTO: STAR

Call to ensure zero cost for overseas job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Global apparel brand operators are demanding transparent recruitment practices that require zero cost for migrant workers to get overseas jobs to ensure labour protection and better productivity.

In the overseas labour recruitment process, migrants have to pay hefty sums to brokers and other parties that makes the workers debt slave and vulnerable to exploitation, said researchers and brand operators, adding that they are not responsible for such situation, but often get bad names.

So, these malpractices must be stopped, while it should be made sure that the employers pay all the necessary charges to hire foreign workers, said officials of apparel brand operators.

UK-based Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) of Dhaka University organised the roundtable

on "Responsible Recruitment,

Responsible Return: Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in the Apparel Sector" at a city hotel yesterday.

Officials of the government, representatives of the brands like Arcadia, ASDA/George, Bestseller, CMT, Gap, Inditex, Levi, M&S, Next and Nike, labour rights groups, researchers and recruitment agencies were present at the event.

The idea of the event is engaging the governments, recruitment agencies and civil society groups to help rooting out the malpractices for welfare of migrants, RMMRU Executive Director Profr CR Abrar told The Daily Star.

The apparel brand operators, which buy products from the factories in Asian or other countries, observe that too often they have bad names from media or other quarters who say the brand operators do not pay the workers or payless, he said.

"We need to have a common set of principles for migrant workers," said

IHRB Programmes Director Frances House. It is generally said that migrants do 3-D (dirty, dangerous and demeaning) jobs -- a definition that should be reversed, said Frances.

"We need to introduce a different 3-D approach that includes dignity of individuals, decency of work and due diligence of process." Frances also suggested that brand operators and employers need to look at the whole process -- starting from the recruitment to return of the migrant workers.

Arcadia Group's head of supplier management Derek Mackay said they have made sure the foreign workers no more pay for flights when they are recruited for the factories in Mauritius and the United Arab Emirates, which are making clothes for Arcadia.

Recruitment agencies' fee is also paid by the factories, he said, adding that they are looking at all aspects -- visible and invisible problems of the workers in the factories, said Derek.

David Arkless, vice-president elect of International Confederation

of Private Employment Agencies, said globally it is the general rule the employers will bear all the costs to hire workers from wherever they are.

The government should have strong regulations banning any charges paid by the workers, he said, adding that the countries like Bangladesh must immediately sign bilateral deals with the labour-receiving countries on fair recruitment practices and strongly enforce those.

Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) Senior Vice-president Reazul-ul-Islam said migration cost is high mainly because of the employers demanding commissions for recruitment.

A global initiative is required to make sure that the employers do not charge commissions, he said.

Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training Director General Khurshed Alam Chowdhury and John Morrison of IHRB also spoke.



A delegation of Bangabidya Conference led by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the PMO in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PTI

Power generation from sea wave suggested

BSS, Dhaka

The country could meet its demand for electricity to some extent by utilising untapped potential of generating energy from sea wave, an expert said here yesterday.

National Oceanographic and Maritime Institute (NOAMI) has recently undertaken a project to explore possibility of generating renewable energy.

The project titled "Electricity Generation from Sea Wave (EGSW)" is being funded by the Ministry of Science and ICT.

Talking to BSS, project director Abdul Latif Mondol said a feasibility study on electricity generation from tide and wave has already been carried out.

The entire Cox's Bazar district could be brought under renewable energy to be generated from the wave of the coastal waters in Cox's Bazar, said Mondol.

Quoting the study findings, he said electricity could also be generated from various rivers including the Poshur river, Mongla Hiron Point, the Bakkhali river, Sandwip channel and the Karnaphuli river.

The NOAMI, which organised a programme, has recently produced electricity on a trial basis at Kalatoli point of Cox's Bazar on Monday. Six bulbs (AC) and as many ceiling fans were operated in presence of the locals from the sea wave during the event.

Deputy Commissioner Gias Uddin Ahmed and Prof Dr Kamrul Alam Khan were present on the occasion.

Expedite construction of 22,000 flats at Uttara

JS body recommends

BSS, Dhaka

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday discussed the progress of implementation of the project for constructing 22,000 flats in the city's Uttara Sector No 18 for the low and middle income group people and recommended expediting its implementation.

The recommendation came at a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Public Works held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with president of the committee ABM Fazle Karim Chowdhury in the chair.

Committee members State Minister for Housing and Public Works Abdul Mannan Khan, Noor-e-Alam Chowdhury, M Abdus Sattar, Asaduzzaman Khan, Johirul Haque Bhuiyan, KM Khalid, Ajijul Haq Chowdhury, and Begum Safia Khatun were present at the meeting.

The meeting was told that a total of sev-

enty-nine 16-storey buildings with basement floors would be constructed at Block-A of Uttara of which Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) will construct 40 buildings in 20 lots and the remaining 39 buildings in 20 lots will be built by the Directorate of Public Works (DPW).

To implement the project, Rajuk and the DPW have already invited open tender, it added.

Rajuk has also started process to invite tender to appoint contractor to construct eighty-six 16-storey buildings at Block-B and 75 buildings at Block-C in the same area.

The meeting also informed about the ministry's policy to allocate flats for the families of martyred freedom fighters directly and the issue of allocating flats to four families of martyred freedom fighters would be resolved soon in Uttara.

Send Rumana abroad for better treatment

Unesco clubs urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Association of Unesco Clubs in Bangladesh urged the government to take steps for sending Dhaka University teacher Rumana Manzur to Singapore or London for better treatment.

Mahbubuddin Chowdhury, secretary general of the organisation, in a written statement made the call yesterday.

He requested the Women and Children Affairs Ministry, DU authorities, philanthropists and NGOs to come forward to help Rumana go abroad.

He also demanded exemplary punishment to Rumana's husband Hasan Sayeed Sumon for the barbaric torture, in which she lost her eyesight.

Man arrested for shouting in court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police arrested a man on charge of embarrassing a Dhaka court by shouting yesterday.

Arrestee Hafez Maulana Abdul Gafur, 45, of Chittagong was an elder brother of an accused in a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) case filed with the city's Sabujbagh Police Station in January.

Sub-inspector Sheikh Abdul Gani of Kotwali said he arrested Gafur from the court around 4:30pm following a court order.

Court sources said while the third additional metropolitan session judge's court was hearing deposition of the case, Gafur started shouting standing at the balcony of the court which embarrassed it.

He added they were investigating whether Gafur had militancy link.

Bangabidya Conference in December

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest at the Second International Bangabidya Conference 2011 to be held in December on the Dhaka University campus.

She has given her consent to inaugurate the conference at a meeting with a delegation of the Bangabidya Conference led by Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday.

Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad briefed newsmen after the meeting.

The three-day conference will be held on December 18-20 at the Senate Bhaban of Dhaka University.

Addressing the delegation, Hasina asked the authorities of the universities to maintain congenial atmosphere on the campuses.


She said the situation on the campuses needs to be made more peaceful and congenial for the greater interest of the nation.

Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister M A Karim, Director General of Bangla Academy Shamsuzzaman Khan and Nazrul Researcher Dr Rafiqul Islam were present.

The first International Bangabidya Conference was held in February in 2010 at the Delhi University.

Researchers, teachers and students of various universities at home and abroad are expected to attend the 2nd international conference.

A 47-member conference preparatory committee headed by Dr Arefin Siddique has been working to make the conference a success. Professor Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman is the academic president of the conference.



**WEATHER
TODAY**

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Rajshahi, Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 24.4 degrees Celsius at Feni.

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	30.5	26.2	81	82
Chittagong	28.4	24.8	97	93
Rajshahi	31.0	25.6	100	92
Rangpur	29.8	25.5	97	87
Khulna	29.0	26.6	92	93
Barisal	29.4	26.4	98	87
Sylhet	29.0	25.3	96	96