

Formation of wage board demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers and Bangladesh Sangabapatra Karmochari Federation in a statement yesterday demanded formation of eighth wage board for the journalists, workers and employees of the newspapers and news agencies.

Leaders of the organisations also demanded restoration of the Newspaper Employees (Services and Conditioned) Act -1974 formulated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to form Wage Board for the newspapermen.

They also sought permission of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to meet her.

They demanded of the government to stop repression on journalists, workers and employees of newspapers and news agencies.

Signatories to the statement are Bangladesh Federal Union of Newspaper Press Workers President Md Alamgir Hossain Khan and Secretary General Md Kamal Uddin and Bangladesh Sangabapatra Karmochari Federation President Md Matiuur Rahman Talukdar and Secretary General Md Khairul Islam.

Certificates at home for returnees from Korea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladeshi workers who returned home after completing their job periods in South Korea can get their career certificates via the Internet in Bangladesh for their re-employment at home.

Those wishing to secure the certificates issued by the Human Resources Development Service of Korea will have to log on to www.eps.go.kr and input necessary data required to get the certificates printed, says a press release.

The Korea returnees can also visit Bangladesh Employment Permit System (EPS) Centre at Korean embassy in Dhaka or Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd (BOESL) to obtain the certificates.

The career certificate holders will be entitled to take part in South Korea's "Occupational skills and opening business training" that will provide training on setting up businesses for the Korea returnees.

DU workshop begins July 23

DU CORRESPONDENT

A six-month long workshop on moral and ethical education will begin at Dhaka University (DU) on July 23 to develop sense of ethics among the university students.

Dhaka University Alumni Association (DUAA) and Ethics Club Bangladesh will jointly organise the workshop marking the 90th founding anniversary of the university.

The organisers made the announcement of launching the programmes at a press conference at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban yesterday.



Tejgaon College students form a human chain in front of the institution in the city yesterday demanding arrest of the people who beat to death six students including Md Tipu Sultan, a student of the college, at Keblarchar in Aminbazar on Monday. A black flag flies as residents of the city's Darussalam neighbourhood mourn the six deaths. The char, a drug hot spot, where the tragedy descended. (Story and More Pictures on Page 1)



PHOTO: STAR

89pc cabinet decisions implemented
Claims govt report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government report shows 89 percent of the cabinet decisions have been implemented in two and a half years of the Awami League-led grand alliance government.

The last BNP-Jamaat coalition government implemented 72 percent of its decisions in their first half, says the report placed at the weekly cabinet meeting at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

Chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the meeting expressed satisfaction for the high implementation rates of its decisions.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Prime Minister's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad said the present government took 749 decisions, enacted 144 laws in parliament, formulated 24 policies and signed and ratified 57 international treaties and deals in 117

meetings in two and a half years. Thirty-eight decisions are on the process of implementation while 24 bills on the process to be made law, he added.

Of the decisions, 670 have been implemented which accounts to 89 percent of all, he added.

On the other hand, the BNP-Jamaat coalition government took 403 decisions, enacted 90 laws, formulated nine policies and signed and ratified 31 international treaties and deals in 110 meetings in their first half of the government.

Yesterday's cabinet meeting also ratified the agreement signed with Kuwait for the economic and technical cooperation. The meeting adopted a condolence proposal for the tragic death of 40 students in Mirsarai, Chittagong.

CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Women's role stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local knowledge and the participation of women should be focused in any development and climate adaptation programme as women are more affected by climate change impacts and traditional methods fit for changing situations, experts said yesterday.

Speaking at the second day sessions of a three-day conference, they said women respond, understand, and cope with any socio-economic change faster; so their participation and opinions have to be taken into account in any development programme.

Shelly Feldman, professor of Cornell University and president of American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS), moderated yesterday's sessions of the conference "Water, waves and weather: Climate change and the future of South Asia" at the city's Brac Centre Inn.

Feldman said multi-disciplinary discussions in the conference about climate impacts in South Asia help to understand the gravity of problems and differentiate the ways of adaptation efforts of local people of different places.

Presenting a paper on "Gendered realities of climate change in South Asia", Farhana Sultana, assistant professor of Syracuse University, said women are particularly more vulnerable during natural calamities.

"More women died than men during the

1991 cyclone in Bangladesh while 61 percent of all dead due to Tsunami in Sri Lanka in 2004 were women", she said.

Women's death is higher as they stay back home during natural disasters to save their children, elderly people, and also their household properties, she said. "So if we lay emphasis on women while preparing to fight climate change, most people would be benefited".

MCM Iqbal, senior research fellow of Plant Biology of Institute of Fundamental Studies, Kandy, Sri Lanka, said traditional water preservation system in Sri Lanka is very useful as groundwater started depleting in the country.

Iqbal presented his paper on "The cascade tank system in Sri Lanka: A solution from past for adaptation to climate change in the water sector".

Dhaka University's Prof Amena Mohosin said participation of women in the development process is generally considered as views of United Nations (UN) and development partners. But their participation should be ensured considering the context of the country, she said.

Dr Saleemul Haq, the senior research fellow of International Institute of Environment and Development (Iied); Naveeda Khan, assistant professor of anthropology of John Hopkins University; Syed Hashmi, director of Brac Development Institute; and SM Rashid also spoke yesterday.

Autism confce begins July 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The world's renowned personalities will gather in Dhaka on July 25 to participate in a two-day regional conference to raise awareness on autism.

Titled "Autism spectrum disorders and developmental disabilities in Bangladesh and South Asia", the conference will be organised jointly by the Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and US-based Autism Speaks.

World Health Organisation (WHO) is supporting the programme.

Sonia Gandhi, president of Indian Congress Party and main advisory of Action for Autism in India, is scheduled to attend the conference as the chief guest.

Joining the event as special guests are Second Lady of the Maldives Ilham Hussain, Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan Fehmida Mirza, First Lady of Sri Lanka Shiranthi Rajapaksa, and the health minister of Bhutan.

Saima Wazed Putul, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is convening the conference to be followed by a three-day training work-

shop, said BSMMU Vice Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta at a press conference at the city's Milton Hall yesterday.

A pre-conference training for the psychology students of Dhaka University will also be held on July 23.

The ministries of health, foreign affairs, social welfare, and education will coordinate the programme.

Prof Datta said 52 specialists from 12 countries will participate in the conference to be inaugurated in Ruposhi Bangla Hotel. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Health Minister Dr AFM Ruhul Haque will attend the inaugural session.

Sessions of the training workshop scheduled for July 27-29 will be held in different auditoriums of BSMMU. Some 370 participants including parents of autistic children, therapists, psychologists, and teachers and students of psychology from across the country will join the workshop.

"Foreign experts will provide the training", said Dr Muzharul Mannan of Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children. "As Bangladesh is still lagging behind in handling autism, the training would facilitate identifying the signs of autism and its severity and offer how to handle an

autistic child, how to teach them etc", he said.

Social Welfare Secretary Ranjit Kumar Biswas, Health Joint Secretary Shafiqur Rahman Laskar and Paban Chowdhury of Prime Minister's Office also spoke at yesterday's conference.

Autism is a complex developmental disability involving a biological or organic defect in the functioning of the brain.

An estimated 1.5 million individuals in the US and tens of millions worldwide are affected by autism. It affects 1 in every 110 children globally, which is higher than the children being affected with HIV/AIDS or Leukemia, according to experts.

Boys are four times more likely than girls to have autism. There is no medical detection or cure for autism, but it can be controlled and improved through early diagnosis, treatment, therapy, treatment, and proper teaching, they said.

The number of autistic children in Bangladesh is yet to be known as no survey was conducted. The Centre for Neurodevelopment and Autism in Children, however, started an epidemiological study in this regard, said the BSMMU authorities.

Asian heritage architecture exhibition begins

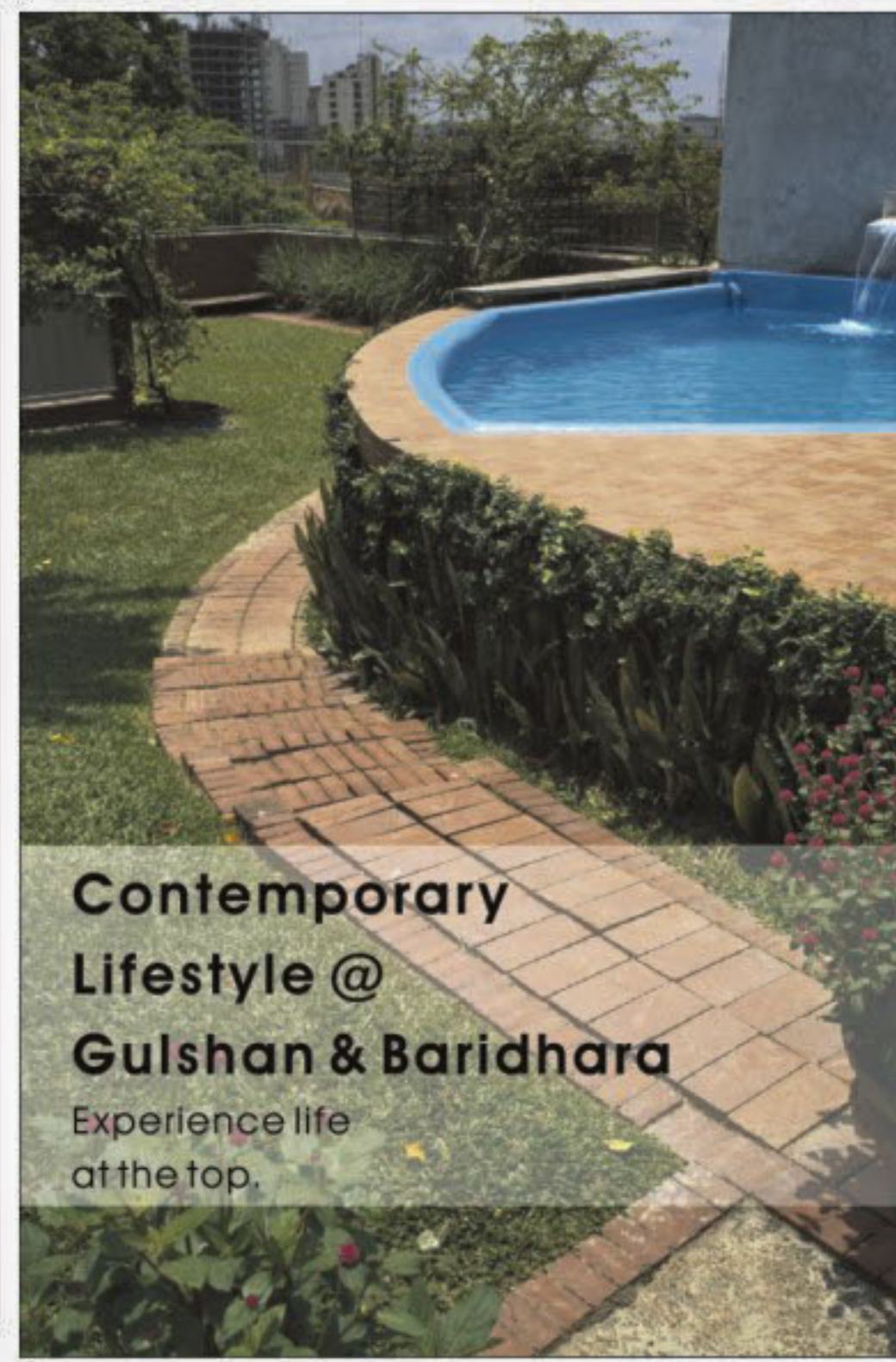
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister Dr Dipu Moni on Sunday inaugurated a six-day exhibition showcasing the heritage architecture of 17 Asian countries.

The Institute of Architects Bangladesh and Ministry of Foreign Affairs jointly organised the exhibition in the Nalini Kanta Bhattashali Hall of National Museum in the city.

Members of diplomatic corps and representatives of socio-cultural organisations attended the inaugural function.

Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes and Architect Mubasshar Hussain also spoke.



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BANGLADESHIS IN INDIAN JAILS

HC asks govt to submit report within 6 weeks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to submit a report before it within six weeks in details about Bangladeshi nationals languishing in different prisons in India.

In response to a writ petition filed by Ain O Salish Kendra, an HC bench of Justice M Bazlur Rahman and Justice M Enayetur Rahim ordered the government to mention in the report the steps it has taken to bring back the Bangladeshis detained in Indian prisons.

The bench also issued a rule upon the government to explain within six weeks why it should not be directed to take steps to bring the detained Bangladeshis back to the country.

Ain O Salish Kendra filed the writ petition as public interest litigation on July 17 following reports published on different newspapers including the Prothom Alo seeking a direction from the HC to the government in this regard.

Secretaries to the ministries of home and foreign affairs and other officials concerned were made respondents to the rule and order. Barrister Saifur Rashid and Abontee Nurul appeared for the petitioner.

POLICE ASSAULT CASES

Nanak, Azam discharged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two Dhaka courts yesterday discharged Awami Jubo League President Jahangir Kabir Nanak and General Secretary Mirza Azam and five others of three police assault cases filed in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Second Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Abu Zafar Mohammad Kamruzzaman discharged them in the case filed with Kotwali Police Station on June 5 in 2004 while Metropolitan Magistrate Shahriar Mahmud Adnan discharged Nanak, Azam and others in the cases filed against them in 2005 and 2006 with Paltan Police Station.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar
Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry will arrange a seminar. Venue: DCC auditorium, Motijheel, Time: 2:30pm.

Human chain
Sammito Olama Mashaekh will form a human chain. Venue: Jatiya Press Club, Time: 12:00pm.

Discussion
Bangladesh Awami Olama League will hold a discussion. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue, Time: 3:00pm.

Meeting
Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) will hold a meeting. Venue: Mahanagar

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