

NEWS IN

brief

Oli likely to meet Khaleda today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Col (retd) Oli Ahmad may meet BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her Gulshan residence today to discuss the latest political situation.

Leaders of the two parties said the meeting will be held as part of BNP's initiative to bring all political parties under a common platform protesting the scrapping of the caretaker government system.

Hizb ut adviser on remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Mahmudul Bari, adviser of banned Islamist outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir Bangladesh, on a three-day remand in connection with a case filed under the anti-terrorism act.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested Mahmudul, also managing director of developer company Silver Sand Reality, from Shahjalal International Airport on Wednesday while he was trying to leave for Malaysia.

Metropolitan Magistrate Saifur Rahman passed the order after Sub-Inspector Farid Uddin produced Mahmudul with a 10-day remand prayer.

Two arrested with firearms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were arrested with three firearms and 12 bullets after a short exchange of gunfire at Sayedabad Koratitola area in the city yesterday.

The arrestees are Rifat alias Shuvo, 20, and Johnny, 22.

Sub-Inspector Sheikh Aminul Bashar of Jatrabari Police Station said he and three constables fired blank shots and caught the two after they shot at police when challenged.

Hearing in Koko's case deferred

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday deferred till September 8, the hearing on charge framing against Arafat Rahman Koko, youngest son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, in connection with a tax evasion case.

Judge Mohammad Zohurul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Koko's lawyer, Barrister Mahbub Uddin Khokon submitted a petition seeking adjournment of the hearing.

95pc Libya returnees face debt: Survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 95 percent migrant workers, who returned recently from Libya, are burdened with debt, and almost half the returnees remain jobless, according to a survey report.

The debt size keeps around below Tk 50,000 to over Tk 3.5 lakh, said the report of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), Dhaka University.

The organisation prepared the report by interviewing about 6,000 Libya returnees over phone from June 15. More than 36,000 Bangladeshis returned from Libya over the last five months, escaping the ongoing unrest in the North African country.

The report said 48 percent of the interviewees remain unemployed upon return while significant others are working as construction workers, day labourers, and farmers.

About 90 percent of the returnees reported to RMMRU that they had to borrow money to get migrated to Libya, and 45 percent of them borrowed at high interest rates.

The organisation disclosed the report at a dialogue titled "Implementation of compensation programme of returnee migrants from Libya" at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban, DU, yesterday.

Addressing the dialogue, Rabab Fatema, regional representative of International Organisation for Migration (IMO) for South Asia, emphasised creation of jobs at home and abroad and recommended providing soft loan to the returnees for self-employment.

Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Eng Khandker Mosharraf Hossain said the government has already taken initiative to compensate the returnees and will move further to solve their problems.

RMMRU Chair Dr Tasneem Siddique disclosed the report while Secretary to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan and Director General of Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training Khurshed Alam Chowdhury also spoke.



WEATHER
TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the seven divisions in next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:43pm today and rises at 5:27am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 36.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and lowest 25.0 degrees Celsius at Rangpur.

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	34.0	28.4	73	61
Chittagong	32.4	27.0	74	86
Rajshahi	36.0	27.5	77	74
Rangpur	31.3	25.0	92	82
Khulna	34.2	27.5	73	82
Barisal	33.0	26.4	74	69



Vehicles heading towards Shahbagh from Farmgate on the Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in the city are not supposed to turn right at Sonargaon intersection for Panthapath. But drivers prefer to stop in the middle of the intersection and wait at the signal in front of Sonargaon Hotel for a smart way through creating an obstacle for the oncoming traffic. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'Protect SC land'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court (SC) yesterday upheld a High Court verdict directing authorities concerned to protect and maintain 55.5 acres of land on its (SC) premises in the city in accordance with the law.

Two SC lawyers Asaduzzaman Siddiqui and Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan, on January 31, jointly filed a writ petition as public interest litigation stating that different organisations are grabbing SC land.

Among the organisations, Roads and Highways Department (RHD) is illegally occupying around seven acres of land and Shishu Academy around 2.5 acres, they claimed.

The HC on March 10 this year directed authorities concerned to protect and maintain SC lands.

The HC also declared that the lands, recorded in the name of Bharat Samrat in 1910 under Central Survey (CS) Khatian No 16855 and CS Dag No 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 16/162, are now SC property.

The academy and RHD filed two separate leave-to-appeal petitions earlier for staying the operation of the HC verdict.

A seven-member bench of the SC Appellate Division headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain dismissed the petitions and passed the order.

Manzill Murshid, counsel for the petitioner, told reporters on Thursday that authorities concerned of government and SC are to conduct survey to demarcate, restore and record the lands in the name of SC as per the apex court order.



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