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KL AMNESTY Move to stop brokers' trade

Every worker to face interview before getting new passport

PORIMOL PALMA

Irregular Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia registered under its amnesty programme will be issued new passports by Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur after each of them is interviewed by it to ascertain their identity.

These workers will have to turn up at the High Commission for interviews, and in the cases of those who fail to do so, mission officials will visit their workplaces to interview them.

The government has taken this decision in the wake of allegations of corruption and irregularities in the process of issuing passports, official sources said.

Many brokers allegedly in connivance with a section of staff at the High Commission are realising hefty sums from these workers for arranging their passports. And some workers of other countries also reportedly managed to get Bangladeshi passports.

Around 2.7 lakh irregular Bangladeshi workers have got registered under Malaysia's amnesty programme that started on August 1 and ended on August 31. They are now approaching the country's mission for new passports which are necessary for them to be regularised as workers.

"We want all our workers to get passports without any

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Discarded bits of animal hide are used for making poultry feed in Hazaribagh in the capital spreading a stinking fume in the neighbourhood and causing air pollution. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Criminals kill 2 in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified criminals killed two youths in two separate incidents at Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

Of the victims, the body of Mohammad Babu, 18, son of Alamgir Hossain of Purba Imambari of South Keraniganj, was recovered from Keraniganj Model Town around 8:00am. The

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Correction

In a photo caption in our yesterday's issue, we mentioned that soil from a grave, "speculated to be" of Lt Col Abdul Qadir, was being taken from Chittagong in a coffin. In fact, it was officially confirmed as Qadir's grave by an investigation team of the army. We regret the inadvertent error.

WikiLeaks Run solo if BNP boycotts polls

Hasina asked JP in 2008

STAR REPORT

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina had asked former military ruler HM Ershad-led Jatiya Party to be prepared for contesting the 2008 parliamentary elections independently if BNP boycotted the polls, said a recently leaked US diplomatic dispatch.

The then US ambassador James F Moriarty sent the cable to Washington after a meeting with Hasina.

At the meeting held on November 16, 2008, she also said even if JP, a key component of AL-led grand alliance, stood in the parliamentary polls on its own, she would be willing to offer the party seats in the next cabinet, the cable said.

A few days before the meet, according to another cable, former adviser to the past caretaker government Maj Gen (retd)

Ghulam Quader told Moriarty that he believed BNP ultimately would boycott the elections because it simply was not ready.

"Quader opined many BNP reformists would break with [Khaleda] Zia and run for Parliament allied with other smaller parties, thereby sundering the BNP and greatly diminishing her political clout," Moriarty wrote about his meeting with the adviser on November 12, 2008.

Quader, who was negotiating with political parties to ensure their participation in the elections, also said Jamaat-e-Islami desperately wanted to remain part of the democratic process and wanted the BNP-led four-party alliance to contest the polls.

"A boycott also would place the BNP alliance partner Jamaat-e-Islami in a

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Speed up enclave exchange

People in 162 enclaves demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Kurigram

People of all 162 enclaves in India and Bangladesh launched a 10-day agitation yesterday for quick implementation of the recent deal signed between the two countries on exchange of enclaves.

India-Bangladesh Enclave Exchange Coordination Committee that announced the programme on September 15 started collecting signatures on papers as part of its campaign to drum up support for the cause.

"The 10-day programme includes human chain, mass signature campaign and processions," said Committee General Secretary Golam

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DEMAND FOR CARETAKER BNP goes for nationwide campaign

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

The main opposition BNP is now planning a nationwide massive campaign to gear up for a tougher anti-government movement demanding restoration of the caretaker government system to the constitution.

As the transit deal was not signed during the Indian prime minister's recent visit to Dhaka, BNP puts its spotlight on the caretaker government issue.

Party high-ups believe the campaign will drum up support for the demand and create anti-government sentiment among the people. They hope the movement will gain momentum before the end of the present government's tenure, which will ultimately force the ruling party to bow to the demand.

Several leaders, however, said party Chairperson Khaleda Zia wants to unite the party men and the common people before going for any tougher movement like hartal and blockade and that is why the party has planned to go for a long anti-government agitation.

BNP standing committee in a recent meeting

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AKHAURA RAIL LINK Indian govt allocates Rs 267cr

REZAUL KARIM

The Indian government has sanctioned Rs 267 crore for construction of a new railway link between India's Agartala and Akhaura in Bangladesh.


Diplomatic sources said the sanction was made following the agreement between the prime ministers of the two countries in January 2010.

The joint communiqué issued on January 12 last year during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's state visit to India said it was agreed that "the construction of the proposed Akhaura-Agartala railway link be financed by grant from India."

After a lengthy technical and financial survey to identify the alignment for

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think the opposition's hartal was successful?

Yes (64.5%)

No (32.5%)

No Comments (3.0%)

TOTAL VOTES: 456

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think the government's plan to increase fuel prices further in the current fiscal year is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
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PRAYER TIMING September 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:35	5:10
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:09	6:12
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation



Even a truck with its huge wheels gets stuck on the road in front of Textile Gate in Bayezid Industrial Area of Chittagong. The authorities concerned not only failed to repair the road but also did not come to the aid of the two poor transport workers frantically trying to get the vehicle going again.

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Ahmadinejad blames West for causing war

His anti-West speech at UN sparks mass walkout

AFP, United Nations

Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad went on the warpath against the West at the United Nations again Thursday sparking a mass walkout by outraged US and European delegations.

The Iranian leader repeated comments casting doubt on the origins of the Holocaust and the September 11, 2001 attacks and criticised the United States for killing Osama bin Laden rather than bringing him to trial.

European countries use the Holocaust as an excuse to pay "ransom to the Zionists," he said. The "diabolical" aims of the West are the cause of wars and the financial crisis, Ahmadinejad stormed.

He also said the United States considers Zionism as "sacred" while they "allow sacrileges and insult" against other religions.

In a repeat of walkouts at the United Nations and other international events in recent years, a US diplomat monitoring the speech in the UN General Assembly left halfway through the 20 minute discourse.

The 27 European Union nations then followed in a coordinated protest move.

"Ahmadinejad had a chance to address his own people's aspirations for freedom and dignity, but instead he

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