

16 Bangladeshis held in UK for immigration offences

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen Bangladeshis were arrested in the UK in the last five weeks for immigration offences including entering the UK illegally, overstaying their visas and working in breach of student visa conditions.

Another Bangladeshi, Khandakar Mohammad Wahiduzzaman, owner of Anamika restaurant in Cleator Moor of Cumbria, was jailed for 23 months on December 8 by a UK court after illegal migrants were found living and working at the restaurant.

The UK Border Agency is now working to deport the 16 Bangladeshis as soon as possible, said a press release from the British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

The men were arrested after several enforcement operations on restaurants and a meat wholesaler in Oldham, Essex, Devon and Norfolk.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samela Khatun, mother of Rafiqul Islam, a senior staff reporter of daily Samakal and vice-president of Bangladesh Sports Press Association, passed away at her residence in Faridpur on Saturday due to old age complications at the age of 81, says a press release.

She left behind her six sons and three daughters to mourn her death.

She was buried at her family graveyard at Saothar village of Bhanga upazila in Faridpur yesterday.

Bangladesh Sports Press Association condoled her death.

Earn people's trust

Prime minister asks police



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gives away medal to a successful police officer at the passing out function of the 28th batch of assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) at the Sarda Police Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

UNB, Rajshahi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked every member of Bangladesh Police to work with friendly attitude towards the people to earn their trust.

"You all have to come out of colonial mentality. You have to be friends of the masses so that the people rush to you for help with full confidence," she said.

The prime minister was addressing the passing out function of the 28th batch of assistant superintendents of police (ASPs) at the Sarda Police Academy yesterday morning.

She asked the members of the police force to be more active and dynamic in combating crimes in the perspective of changed method of offences.

"You have to use modern technologies to combat crimes like international terrorism and militancy. We will provide all types of training facilities

with technological support to make our police force of international standard," she said.

Hasina said the government has decided to create 32,031 cadre and non-cadre posts in Bangladesh Police while some 18,000 posts, including 123 of cadres, have already been created.

"Some 17,000 members have been appointed in the police force. The rest 14,000 posts, including 610 of cadres, would be created and appointed."

She said that the government is considering to form a self-reliant Airport Armed Police Force to ensure foolproof security at the airports in the country.

The government will also create two units - security and protection - in the police department.

Hasina also announced the government's firm commitment to turn Sarda Police Academy into an institution of international standard ahead of the completion of 100 years of the

academy in 2012.

She expressed her dissatisfaction over some of the officers' reluctance to be posted in the training centres, though the government is giving 30 percent special allowances to those posted at the training centres.

"The most skilled and experienced officers should be posted in the training centres as young officers would greatly benefit from their teaching," she said.

A total of 173 ASPs, including 20 female cadres, passed the course. The prime minister distributed medals among the best police officers of the course and administered the batch's oath.

The prime minister took salute and inspected the passing out parade.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun, State Minister for Home Affairs Shamsul Haque Tuku and Principal of the Police Academy Aminul Islam, were, among others, present.

EC decision on split DCC election today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commission (EC) will sit today to make an official decision on whether to hold the split Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) polls during its tenure, which is expected to expire in February.

"We have been giving our personal opinions during the last few days regarding the issue of split DCC polls. But the commission will sit tomorrow (Monday) to take an official decision on this issue," said Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain yesterday.

The commission will send a letter to the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) ministry informing the decision, said Sohul Hussain while talking to reporters at his office.

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