



People crowd the roofs of buses at huge risk to life as they leave the capital to spend Eid-ul-Fitr vacation with family members. This picture was taken at Aminbazar on the outskirts of the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Zillur urges OIC

FROM PAGE 1

In the wake of recent violence in the Rakhine state of Myanmar, Zillur Rahman said the UN high commissioner for Human Rights has expressed concern over oppression on Muslim minorities there.

"The condition of Muslim minorities in different parts of the world is of grave concern to us," he said adding that it is not just an issue of safeguarding Muslims and their faith, but a matter of universal human rights.

"We need to revive the moral of the world and take necessary steps to shape international public opinion in favour of these minority people," he told the summit.

Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud hosted the two-day session of the summit. The heads of states and governments of OIC member states also joined the programme.

The issue of Palestine remains a symbol of oppression and injustice for Muslims, Zillur Rahman said, adding that Bangladesh has maintained its unwavering support for the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

The president said the world public opinion in favour of the legitimate rights of the Palestinians must be formed for a just and fair resolution of the Palestinian crisis.

He claimed that great values of Islamic brotherhood are being challenged by the direction of international politics.

"We are now facing numerous conflicts and discords. They are not just between Muslims and non-Muslims but, sadly, they are also between Muslims and Muslims," he said.

"The oppressions on Muslims that we witness today are a wake-up call to our obligation to uphold the Islamic ideals of peace and justice," the president continued.

"We have necessary wisdom, resources, values, culture and heritage to influence the international politics in our favour," he said adding, "Doing so will require the unity and solidarity of Muslim Ummah and implementation of the Islamic values of justice and equality".

The president expressed his dismay to see the loss of lives and destruction of property during the recent political unrest in the Middle-East and North Africa.

"I firmly believe that such human tragedies should be avoided by assuring the basic civil and political rights of our citizens," he said.

Zillur Rahman left the country for Saudi Arabia on Sunday night on a five-day official visit. He is expected

## Laws passed, left with little

FROM PAGE 1

time has passed over 1,100 laws.

Common practice is that the cabinet approves draft bills or any legislative proposals, which are placed in the House as bills later for turning those into laws. After the passage of the laws, the executive branch executes them.

As the parliamentary bodies do not review law enforcement, there are some laws which are not being executed at all. The Ombudsman Act, 1980, and the Bangladesh Institute of Parliamentary Studies Act, 2000, among others, are two such laws which have never been enforced.

Similarly, there are allegations of misuse of some laws, including the much-talked-about Speedy Trial Act, Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, and Section 54 of CrPC.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, a number of parliamentary affairs experts stressed the need for using the committees' authority to ensure a proper enforcement of the laws. They said the committees could play a vital role in preventing abuse and misuse of the

laws.

"The parliamentary committees should review at least some sensitive laws which involve human rights and fundamental rights in order to monitor whether they are being enforced properly or not," said Moudud Ahmed, former law, justice and parliamentary affairs minister.

If any law is misused or abused, he said, the parliamentary bodies can send recommendations to the government to take necessary measures to prevent misuse and ensure its proper enforcement.

"Parliamentary committees in many countries do this job. We will get better results if our parliamentary bodies start reviewing the enforcement of laws," said Moudud, a veteran parliamentarian.

Echoing Moudud's views, Fazle Rabbi, chief of the parliamentary standing committee on law ministry, said the committees did not review enforcement of laws.

"Non-action of the committees is delaying the establishment of the rule of law," Rabbi observed.

Another former law

minister, Abdul Matin Khasru, said if the parliamentary bodies reviewed the process, enforcement of laws would be more effective. "Other authorities then will be more alert and responsible in discharging their duties," he said.

The parliamentary standing committees have also been denied their constitutional authority to determine the necessity of the laws under Article 76 (2) (a) of the Constitution.

The Constitution empowers parliamentary bodies to examine draft bills before they are placed in parliament in order to be enacted into laws, but successive governments have not followed the provision.

As a result, the bills are sent to the parliamentary standing committees for scrutiny only after they are placed in parliament. Then the House passes the bills.

The committees can do little in determining the necessity of the bills since ministers, who place the bills, obtain permission from the House to specify a timeframe for the bodies to submit scrutiny reports to parliament in order to clear the way for their passage,

### MIGRANT WORKERS IN MALAYSIA

## Police inaction creates dire environment

Says Irene Fernandez

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police inaction is creating an environment where manpower recruiting agents are allowed to cheat, harm and threaten migrant workers with impunity in Malaysia, human rights activist Irene Fernandez said.

"The migrants, who are left without passports and work permits, become highly vulnerable to human trafficking and exploitation not to mention being arrested, detained or whipped under the Immigration Act," said Irene, executive director of Tenaganita, a Kuala Lumpur based rights body, in a press statement.

The statement was issued on August 13 in reference to a case filed by Tenaganita last May against Kuala Lumpur based Akhwan Group of Companies and its Bangladeshi CEO Sirajul Amin on charge of fraud, physical threats and withholding passports of an estimated 5,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers.

The company allegedly collected workers' passports and realised Malaysian Ringgit (MYR) 2,500-4,000 from each of the workers after assuring them of arranging work permits under Malaysia's amnesty programme.

However, the company failed to arrange the permits.

Aside from the Tenaganita case, the migrant workers directly filed nine cases.

"To date, there has been little to no progress in the police investigations and the migrants

who filed the cases have yet to obtain their passports and work permits which are being held by Akhwan Group," Irene said.

On August 3, Tenaganita learned of another incident.

Bangladeshi national Abdul Alim Mizi, who had paid MYR 3,850 to Akhwan Group last August for a work permit, went to the company's office along with his friend Mahub Mollik to enquire about Mizi's work permit.

Irene said Sirajul threatened to physically harm the duo. He took away Mollik's passport, a gold ring, \$1,850 and MYR 1,040, after punching Mollik.

The duo filed a case afterwards.

After the case was filed, police visited Sirajul Amin's office once and left after finding it locked. On August 13, police informed Tenaganita that no further action has been taken.

Expressing concern over police inaction, Irene said, "This is a ripe situation for corruption, where migrants may be forced to pay enforcement officials to prevent arrests or agents who demand more money to obtain work permits that they should have produced in the first place."

Malaysia recently moved to hire Bangladeshi workers again after freezing recruitment in 2009. There are currently 4 lakh Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia.

## Eating egg yolks

FROM PAGE 20

form on the inner arterial wall. As a key component of a traditional English breakfast, the new findings may not put off egg lovers.

But Dr David Spence revealed eating the yolk of an egg is about two-thirds as bad as smoking when it comes to the build up of plaques.

Having surveyed 1,231 men and women, Dr Spence, of the University of Western Ontario, London, Canada, linked the findings to stroke and heart attack risk factors.

Plaque rupture is the usual cause of most heart attacks and many strokes.

The study involved patients, with an average age of 61.5, attending vascular prevention clinics in Ontario.

Ultrasound was used to establish a measurement of total plaque area and questionnaires were filled out regarding the patients' lifestyles.

The research found carotid plaque area increased in line with age after 40, but increased above the average rise after years of regular smoking and egg yolk consumption.

The study also found those eating at least three yolks a week had significantly more plaque area than those who ate up to two yolks per week.

Dr Spence, 67, who is also a

neurology professor, said: The mantra "eggs can be part of a healthy diet for healthy people" has confused the issue.

"High cholesterol intake increases the risk of cardiovascular events, and egg yolks have a very high cholesterol content."

"The study shows that, with age, plaque builds up gradually in the arteries and egg yolks make it build up faster."

Dr Spence added that the effects were independent of sex, cholesterol, blood pressure, smoking, body mass index and diabetes.

He said that while he feels more research should be done, he stressed the regular consumption of egg yolk should be avoided by persons at risk of cardiovascular disease.

The research has been

### Jumatul Wida

FROM PAGE 20

and prosperity of the nation and unity of the Muslim Ummah.

The largest Jumatul Wida congregation will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital.

Special arrangements will be made to accommodate the devotees at mosques in different parts of the city.

LINKING YOUNG MINDS TOGETHER

COMING OUT TOMORROW

## LINKING YOUNG MINDS

This week's Star Campus, a weekly publication of The Daily Star, has some interesting articles for its readers. With Eid knocking on the door, the spotlight this week is a suggestive read for young students looking for a place to pour their hearts out and celebrate. Our Post Campus this week is on the bad effects of cheating as it is becoming a tendency for people across the country. The Campus Trends this week is on how giving Henna has become a widely admired business for young designers. Our Star Chat this week is with Guitarist Sheikh Salekin as he shares stories from his childhood and about his dreams and inspirations. Don't forget to grab your copy of Star Campus as it hits the country tomorrow, Saturday (instead of Sunday due to Eid holidays). And, as always, have a great read!

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