

**BAHRAIN FIRE
Bodies of 13
Bangladeshis
arrive today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The bodies of 13 Bangladeshi workers, who died in a fire in Bahrain on January 11, will arrive in Dhaka around 5:00pm today.

A flight of Emirates Airlines EK 838 will carry the bodies.

Upon receiving the bodies at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister, will hand them over to their families.

The government will give the families Tk 2 lakh each in compensation and an additional Tk 35,000 for the burial of each.

According to officials in the Bahraini capital Manama, 135 labourers, including the 13, lived in a building where no maintenance work had been carried out for 35 years, reported UAE newspaper Gulf News last week.

The fire swept through the labour camp, located in Manama, where most of the workers were from Bangladesh.

**'SNATCHING' CONVICT
Lawmaker
denies
allegations**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Bagmara lawmaker Enamul Haque yesterday denied snatching a convicted owner of an illegally-run brick kiln from a mobile court in the upazila a day ago.

"I just tried to remind the magistrate [who led the court] of ensuring justice, as law is not for harassing anyone," he told The Daily Star.

Enamul claimed that he intervened into the mobile court's activities after "locals complained to him about the matter when he was passing by the kiln".

On Sunday, Enamul rebuked Executive Magistrate M Sirajuddoula by phone for sentencing the kiln owner, Ahsanul Kabir, to six months' imprisonment.

His motorcade turned up at the kiln site in Sikdari Kalapara village when the magistrate refused to withdraw the verdict and he took Ahsanul away with him.

Enamul and Ahsanul live in the same village.



The manhole at GEC intersection in Chittagong city, which is missing its cover for the last 10 days, fails to grab the attention of the authorities concerned. The photo was taken on Friday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

**SUST BUSINESS DEPT
Students
demand dept
head's removal**

SUST CORRESPONDENT

The business administration students at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) will keep the department's offices and classrooms locked today to demand removal of the department head, Prof Nazrul Islam.

They collected signs of 208 of the department's students, formed a human chain and rally on the campus in favour of the demand yesterday. They said they would prevent all academic activities Tuesday, as their demand was not fulfilled within a 24-hour ultimatum they gave earlier.

The agitating students submitted a memorandum to the acting vice chancellor, bringing a number of allegations against Prof Nazrul, including delay in publishing results, financial and other irregularities, and misbehaviour with students and teachers, among others.

Prof Nazrul denied the allegations and said, "I will resign if the university administration asks me to."

**Explain pepper
spray use: HC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked the government to explain why the use of pepper spray on protesters should not be declared illegal.

The court issued the rule asking the government to explain in three weeks why it should not be directed to stop the police from using pepper spray on demonstrating people.

The home secretary, inspector general of police and commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice Naima Haider and Justice Zafar Ahmed issued the rule following a writ petition filed by a Supreme Court lawyer Eunos Ali Akond.

Eunos filed the petition on January 20 seeking HC's directives on the government to take immediate steps to ban the use pepper spray.

In the writ petition, Eunos also mentioned that the practice is a violation of people's basic and constitutional rights.

On the same day, another SC lawyer Aklas Uddin Bhuiyan submitted a separate writ petition seeking HC directives on this issue.

The court may hear this petition tomorrow.

**Elysee Treaty
anniversary today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The French and German embassies in Dhaka will celebrate today the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Elysee Treaty between the two nations.

On 22 January 1963, the treaty was signed between French President Charles de Gaulle and German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to establish political, economic and cultural partnership between the two European countries.

**Mehdy Ispahani
remembered**

METRO DESK

A doa mahfil and commemorative meeting in the memory of eminent industrialist Mirza Mehdy Ispahani, also founder of Mirza Ahmed Ispahani High School in Pahartali, Chittagong, were held on the school premises on Sunday marking his 9th death anniversary, says a press release.



On the occasion, the recitation from the Holy Quran was completed two times followed by a prayer. Tabarak (food) was distributed among all the students at the end of the programme.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Shariful Islam, father of former general secretary of the Bangladesh Table Tennis Federation, died of a heart attack at his residence in the capital on Sunday night. He was 85.

Shariful left behind his wife, five sons and two daughters.

His quikhwani will be held on Friday at his residence at 41/1 at Swamibagh.

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

**Rights violation incidents
rose alarmingly in 2012**

Says Kapaeeng Foundation report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights violations against indigenous communities, including reported cases of violence, land grabbing and dispossession, intensified alarmingly last year, states a Kapaeeng Foundation report.

The 183-page report, based on incidents of 2012 and on the overall human rights situation of the adivasi community, was launched by the indigenous rights organisation in the capital's Cirdap Auditorium yesterday.

In addition to nine communal attacks perpetrated on indigenous communities, the report highlights the murder of 16 people, torture on another 150 and demolition of 300 houses.

It underlines the increasing incidents of violence against indigenous women and children, with the perpetrators enjoying complete impunity in most cases.

A total of 17 indigenous women and children, out of 75 who were subjected to violence, were raped.

Land disputes remain the central issue driving much of the violence, communal attacks and conflicts in the Chittagong Hill

Tracts (CHT) and plains.

The report argues that despite being an electoral pledge of the ruling Awami League, a land commission has not been formed to take special measures in securing the rights of indigenous communities over their land.

Moreover, over 11 corporations, including Destiny Group, occupied thousands of acres of land in the CHT.

It recommends, among others, the full implementation of the 1997 CHT peace accord, a stop to displacement of indigenous people from their ancestral lands and constitutional recognition to adivasis.

Addressing the launching, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman said the state must be "put to the dock" for the human rights violations against its citizens.

Prominent human rights activist Hameeda Hossain underlined the need to follow-up on cases where justice was delayed or denied in order to figure out the constraints to accessing justice.

Sanjeev Drong, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum, urged the government to acknowledge the report and not dismiss it as a conspiracy.



**The 8th Bangladesh Int'l
Plastics, Packaging and Printing Industrial Fair**

Incorporating: **Foodtech & Bakerytech Industrial Fair**

Jan. 23 ~ 26, 2013

Venue: BICC (Bangabandhu Int'l Conference Centre) / Show Time: 12:00 ~ 20:00

Expand Your Business in South Asia, IPF Is Your Best Choice





IPF 2013 EXPECTS **250** BRANDS,
350 BOOTHS FROM **10** COUNTRIES
TAKING UP **6** HALLS OF
8,000 SQ.M SHOW GROUND.

Organizers

 Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers & Exporters Association
  Yorkers Trade & Marketing Service Co., Ltd.
  Chan Chao Int'l Co., Ltd

Contact in Bangladesh:  **BANGLADESH PLASTIC GOODS MANUFACTURES & EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION (BPGMEA)**
Tel: +880-2-8350192 / Fax: +880-2-9347889 / E-mail: bpgmea@aitbd.net

www.bangla-expo.com/IPF/



JOIN THE SPELLING REVOLUTION

For Registration & Online Competition log on to
Champs21.com

Say Again Goodbye Spelling Mistake!

- This competition is for students from class 6 to class 10
- Online registration will be open from 15th January to 28th February 2013