

BAIRA STRIKE Govt agency under huge workload

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) is undergoing a huge pressure in delivering emigration clearances to foreign job seekers due to a strike of the private recruiting agencies.

The BMET has set up 11 special help desks to deal with the increased workload but is failing to deliver the clearances in due time because of staff shortage.

Some applicants, however, alleged negligence of a few officials.

"I submitted my application yesterday (Monday) morning. But I did not get my clearance and card (smart card) yet. The on-duty officer asked me to come tomorrow (Wednesday)," said Md Alamin Miah, who is to migrate to Singapore.

The job seekers used to receive clearances through recruiting agencies the day they applied. Now, they have to come to the BMET as the Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (Baira) has been on strike since April 9 to protest government's decision to send workers abroad under state arrangements.

BMET Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar said, "We will be facing difficulties for one or two days. But we will remove the problem through adding more help desks soon."

Sources said the BMET used to deliver 3,000 to 4,000 clearances a day, which came down to 1,000 now due to Baira's strike.

EXAMINING RAPE VICTIMS HC summons DMCH director, forensic head

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday summoned the director of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and the head of its forensic department before it on April 28 for engaging male doctors in examining rape victims.

The court issued the suo moto rule following a report published in the daily Prothom Alo yesterday which says male doctors check up rape victims and male ward boys assist those doctors at the forensic department of DMCH.

The report also adds that rape victims have to face serious embarrassment when they go to the hospital for collecting documentary evidence of rapes as the department has no female doctor or nurse.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain also issued a rule upon the authorities concerned of the government and DMCH to explain by April 28 why they have not taken effective steps to resolve this situation at the forensic department.

PAY RAISE FOR LOWER COURT JUDGES SC vexed by delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday expressed annoyance at the government's delay in raising the salaries of the lower court judges despite its repeated orders since last July.

The court said the judiciary would collapse gradually if things continued this way and criticised Attorney General Mahbubey Alam when he sought four more months, saying the government was planning a law regarding the judges' salaries and amenities.

The six-member Appellate Division bench headed by Chief Justice Md Muzammel Hossain said sending the matter to parliament meant it would go to the cold storage.

The apex court has, for several times, asked the government to give the lower court judges additional allowances equivalent to their basic salaries and increase other amenities.

On March 14, the court directed the government to increase the pay scale of the judicial officials by 30 percent instead of 20 percent by April 15.

The government instead submitted a time petition yesterday.



Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation forms a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club yesterday to protest vandalism and torching of vehicles and killing of passengers and transport workers in the name of hartal.

PHOTO: STAR

LUNGI BAN IN BARIDHARA HC asks cops about action against issuers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the police administration to inform it in four weeks about their steps against the people responsible for barring lungi clad rickshaw-pullers from entering Baridhara area in the capital.

The HC bench of Justice Quazi Reza-Ul Hoque and Justice ABM Altaf Hossain passed the order on a suo moto move in response to a April 3 report of The Daily Star headlined "Ban slapped on lungi clad rickshaw-pullers".

The report said rickshaw-pullers in traditional Bangalee outfit-lungi-were barred from entering the capital's Baridhara.

Baridhara Society-Baridhara home

owners' association--has instructed security personnel not to let in rickshaw-pullers in lungi, according to the report, requiring them to be in trousers to enter Baridhara, particularly Block K.

The court also issued a rule upon the government to explain in four weeks why it should not be directed to take legal action against the president and secretary of the society who allegedly instructed security personnel not to let in lungi clad rickshaw-pullers in that area.

Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, deputy commissioner of police of Gulshan zone, officer-in charge of Gulshan Police Station, president and secretary of Baridhara Society have been made respondents to the rule.

Road crashes kill eight

METRO DESK

Eight people, including a child, were killed and 26 others were injured in separate road accidents in the country yesterday.

Staff correspondent reports, Mohammad Fahad, 3, son of Omar Faruque, died when a covered-van ran him over while he was playing before their Kamrangir Char residence in the capital.

Meanwhile, three policemen were injured when the microbus carrying them hit a standing covered-van in Pallabi area. The incident occurred as the microbus tried to avert a collision with an oncoming truck, said Pallabi police.

Our Jhenidah correspondent adds, five people were killed and three others injured as an oncoming Kushtia-bound bus rammed the three-wheeler carrying

them near Bejpara village in Kaliganj upazila.

The deceased are driver of the three-wheeler Nekbar Hossain, Nargis Aktar, Hasan Ali, Sufia Begum and Feroza Begum. However, eight-year-old daughter of Feroza is unhurt.

The injured are Monoara Khatun, Mukul Hossain and an unidentified man.

A Chandpur correspondent adds, an unidentified helper of a pick-up van driver was killed as the vehicle veered out of control and hit an electric-pole in Pallibiddi area in Faridganj upazila.

A Gazipur correspondent adds, an unidentified Leguna passenger, aged around 60, was killed and 20 other people injured when a bus rammed the vehicle in Fatik Market area in Kaliakoir upazila.

Both the bus and Leguna passengers were injured.

NATIONAL WOMEN DEVELOPMENT POLICY Tahfij-e-Haramine demands amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tahfij-e-Haramine Parishad Bangladesh, an Islamic organisation, yesterday demanded that the government amend some provisions of the National Women Development Policy as those go against the holy Quran and Sunnah.

"As most of the provisions of the policy are based on the constitution and CEDAW, these provisions conflict with the Quran and Sunnah," said Sadeq Ahmad Siddiqui, president of the organisation, at a press conference in the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

The country's constitution and the Convention on all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) give equal rights to men and women in aspects such as land and property inheritance but the Quran and Sunnah have different directions for allocating those, he observed.

He said many Islamic countries oppose the CEDAW because many of its provisions clash with the Quran and Sunnah.

Criticising the government's stance against 'fatwa', Siddiqui said the fatwa is an integral part of Islamic principle and its ban violates the directions of Quran and Sunnah.

Rapist jailed for 60 yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday jailed one person for 60 years and fined him Tk 1 lakh for abducting and raping a madrasa student in 2006.

The court also sentenced rapist Jalal Uddin's brother, Kamal Uddin, brother-in-law Dulal and friend Ismail to 14 years in jail and fined Tk 20,000 each for assisting the crimes.

Jalal's sister Meherunnesa was acquitted as the allegation brought against her could not be proved while another sister Nurunnesa also was excluded from the trial after her death.

The court pronounced the verdict when the convicts were on the run.

According to the prosecution, Jalal (now 30) along with the trio kidnapped the girl from Chhanna in Banskhali upazila of Chittagong on June 27, 2006. He took her to a residence in the city's Chakta area and raped her. Police rescued the victim after four days of the incident.

Later, the victim's father filed a case with Banskhali Police Station on July 2, 2006 accusing the six.

Shibir chief remanded again for 18 days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Islam Chhatra Shibir President Delwar Hossain was remanded yesterday for 18 days following his implication in five cases filed over hartal violence.

Police, earlier on different occasions, filed the cases with different police stations.

Five metropolitan magistrates in Dhaka placed Delwar on the remand in five cases yesterday. Police had sought his remand for 35 days in the cases.

The cases were filed with Tejgaon, Kalabagan, Rampura police stations in 2012; and Motijheel and Hazaribagh police stations in 2013.

Delwar was produced before the courts on completion of his 14-day remand in two cases filed with Mohammadpur police for hartal violence.

Police, in yesterday's remand prayers, said Delwar needed to be remanded further to find out vital clues about the violent activities during hartal.

Stabbed youth dies in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A youth, stabbed by miscreants at Malivita in Dakkhin Keraniganj of Dhaka on Monday night, died early yesterday.

Kawsar Hossain, 19, a plumber, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

He was gossiping with his friend Raju, by the bank of a canal at Malivita on Monday night when about six criminals stabbed both of them.

Dakkhin Keraniganj Police Officer-in-Charge Sakhawat Hossain said Kawsar might have been stabbed due to previous enmity over a romantic affair.

Police identified the criminals, he said, adding that drives were being conducted to arrest them.

Death anniversary

METRO DESK

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Shabnam Huq, wife of Arham Masudul Huq, senior executive vice-president and company secretary, Dhaka Bank Limited.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and a doa mahfil have been arranged at Rahmat-e-Alam Islam Mission Orphanage in the capital's Tejgaon.



**TUNE IN TO
TODAY AT 7.50 PM**

Watch The Sylhet Divisional Round

