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SAUDI ARABIA

Workers in fear of crackdown

Amnesty yet to be extended

Porimol Palma

Around 2.42 million irregular foreign workers, including Bangladeshis, in Saudi Arabia are in fear of missing the deadline for an amnesty that will allow them to get their status legalised by tomorrow.

"All irregular workers are anxious here. They are confused as to what will happen, since Saudi Arabia is yet to extend the amnesty period," Hanif Mia, an expatriate Bangladeshi, told The Daily Star from Riyadh.

The amnesty declared in early May allows irregular foreign workers to correct their status, transfer jobs, professions or return home without penalty.

However, completing the necessary formalities for such a huge number of workers has turned out to be a colossal task for the foreign missions and the Saudi labour and immigration offices.

According to the Arab News, only 1.58 million workers have so far got the amnesty, whereas half of the total of 8 million foreign workers are supposed to enjoy the privilege.

Bangladesh embassy officials in Riyadh said around 4 lakh of the nearly 5 lakh irregular Bangladeshis have so far collected necessary documents. But they could not say immediately how many of them had capitalised on the situation.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



A new waterbus on its experimental cruise around the capital. The previous waterbus service, launched in 2010, had failed to attract passengers.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Waterbus service resumes Thursday

HELEMUL ALAM

Even though a previous attempt failed miserably, the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation is going to launch a revamped waterbus service around the capital Dhaka from Thursday with six craft.

In its first initiative in August, 2010, BIWTC pressed into service two waterbuses but it could not attract enough passengers mainly because of lack of landing facilities, inadequate trips and higher fares compared to buses.

The BIWTC, in its new initiative, has added four waterbuses with the two old ones but locals say that the service may not improve dramatically because landing facilities

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Morsi given 48 hrs to quit

16 people killed in clashes; protestors storm Musim Brotherhood HQ

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's armed forces yesterday warned that if President Mohamed Morsi failed to meet, within 48 hours, the people's demand to step down, the army would intervene with a roadmap of its own.

The military's statement, read out on state television, received a rapturous welcome from Morsi's opponents who have been camped out in Cairo's

Tahrir Square and a muted response from his Islamist supporters.

The army high command renewed its call "that the demands of the people be met and gives (all parties) 48 hours, as a last chance, to take responsibility for the historic circumstances the country is going through."

"If the demands of the people are not met in this period ... [the armed forces] will announce a future roadmap and measures to oversee its

implementation," the statement said.

The Muslim Brotherhood, on whose platform Morsi won Egypt's first freely contested presidential election in June last year, said it was "studying" the army's statement.

Senior Brotherhood leader Mahmud Ghozlan told AFP that the group's political bureau would meet later to decide its position.

Tamarod, the grassroots campaign

SEE PAGE 2 COL 7

AL leader shot dead in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A Swachhashebak League leader was killed and another Jubo League man injured as a group of armed criminals opened fire on them in Pabna yesterday.

The deceased Md Mamunur Rashid Mamun, 38, son of Torab Ali of Kacharipara, is the joint convener of Sadar upazila

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

TV actress Mita Noor found dead

Doctors suspect suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Television actress Sabina Yasmin Mita Noor allegedly committed suicide yesterday at her Gulshan home in the capital.

Police recovered the body of the 42-year-old in the morning after her husband Shahanur Rahman Majumder informed them over the phone around 6:40am.



A team of the Criminal Investigation Department of police collected evidence from the scene.

Police later sent the body to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station, said the body was found hanging from the living room ceiling fan with a scarf.

Mita Noor lived with her husband and two sons there, he added.

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WAR CRIMES TRIAL Tribunal irked by SQ Chy deposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday did not allow war crimes accused Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury to give deposition against the prosecution witnesses as it went against the law.

The tribunal asked him to give deposition on the charges brought against

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Egyptian men carry items looted from the burnt headquarters of the Muslim Brotherhood in the Moqattam district of Cairo yesterday. The building was set ablaze by opposition demonstrators overnight.

PHOTO: AFP

PRAYER TIMING		July 2
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

GARMENT FACTORY FOR SALE

The land & building of an established & compliant woven garment factory has been put up for sale (no machinery). The factory is located on Katchpur Highway. The premises is on 2 bigha of land & production space is more than 45,000 sft (15,000 sft per floor)

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BASIC BANK SCAM

BB for action against officials

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

The central bank has directed BASIC Bank to penalise the officials involved in the swindling of Tk 1,500 crore from the state-owned bank's Gulshan branch.

"Your statement is out of the ordinary and does not meet banking norms and rules. Prompt action is needed to save the bank," Bangladesh Bank said in a letter to BASIC Bank's managing director on June 19.

The BB in September 2012 found the bank's Gulshan

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the government to widening the opportunity to black money whitening?

Yes (20%)
 No (80%)

TOTAL VOTES: 318

The Daily Star
 Integral Energy Limited
TODAY'S POLL
 Do you think that the proposed law on safe food would be good enough to fight against food adulteration?

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