

24 more Bangladeshis detained in Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 440 illegal foreign nationals, including 24 more Bangladeshis, were detained in a countrywide crackdown in Malaysia yesterday, said Malaysian state news agency Barnama.

Now, a total 411 Bangladeshis with earlier 387 were detained in the crackdown.

Malaysia's Melaka province Immigration Department Director Kamalludin Ismail told Barnama that 395 were found to have misused their passes and did not possess valid travel documents.

Meanwhile, in Kangar, 45 others were detained during separate raids at a golf club and a hospital construction site. They were from Indonesia, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Pakistan.

Malaysian government started the crackdown from

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



Participants at a roundtable titled "Strengthening Governance in Wetland and Water Bodies Management Policies" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

POLLS WITHOUT DISSOLVING JS BNP rejects PM's announcement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior BNP leaders yesterday rejected the prime minister's announcement to hold the next general election without dissolving the parliament and the cabinet, saying that the prime minister has closed the door of mutual understanding over the ongoing political crisis.

The leaders alleged that it is a conspiracy of the government to prevent the main opposition BNP from participating in the polls.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday said the next general polls would be held within the last 90 days of the parliament's tenure, which ends on January 24.

The BNP leaders were addressing a rally held at Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh in the capital.

BNP standing committee member MK Anwar said the government has committed a crime by amending the constitution and scrapping the caretaker government system to hide all instances corruption during its tenure.

He warned the government of ruining their "conspiracy" with people's support, if the government decides not to hold the election under a caretaker government.

BNP organised the rally on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of BNP Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman's release on bail.

In the same programme, Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain said the government as well as Sheikh Hasina knows that if they hold the election under the caretaker government, they will not be voted to power.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

People close to ruling party control fishing

Speakers tell roundtable; observe this deprives genuine fishermen of access to water bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Engagement of too many government agencies in the wetland management and flawed policies are depriving fishermen of access to the country's water bodies or jalmahals, speakers said at a roundtable yesterday.

In most cases, people with close links to the ruling party are forming fake fishermen's associations and winning the lease of the jalmahals for fishing, they added.

The Institute of Governance Studies (IGS), Brac University and the Wetland Biodiversity Rehabilitation Project of the Department of Fisheries jointly organised the discussion, "Strengthening Governance in Wetland and Water Bodies Management Policies" at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Government and non-government officials, researchers, policy makers, officials from development partners, and fishermen participated in the discussion, which was moderated by Brac University Vice Chancellor Prof Ainun Nishat.

The word "mahal" means a source of earning revenue, but now it is time to change the approach of revenue collection from a water body and assume the approach of wetland biodiversity conservation, the speakers said. The traditional fishermen care about brood

fish and do not want to destroy the fish species from a water body, but the non-fishermen who get the lease of those wetlands do not bother about conservation of brood fish and catch them till the end of the lease period, they said.

In his keynote speech, SM Gubair Bin Arafat, research associate at the IGS, showed that at least six ministries and several other departments under those ministries were somehow involved with the wetland management, which is making things complicated. In India or Sri Lanka, a single authority deals with the water bodies, he said.

Now, there are around 28,000 water bodies comprising haor, baor, beel, canal, pond and river, which are selected as jalmahal.

ATM Nasir Mia, deputy secretary to the land ministry, said the government allocated water bodies under the policy, "Jal Jar Jola Tar" (those who have the net have the water body).

"But in reality, close aides of local lawmakers get the lease, not the genuine traditional fishermen," said Fani Bhushan Malo, secretary general of Bangladesh Matsyaji Samity. Without recommendations of local lawmakers, nobody gets the lease, he said.

Dr Rizwan Khair, director of the IGS, delivered the welcome speech.

Substandard drugs of Tk 25 lakh seized Bengal Techno Pharma sealed off; owner jailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) yesterday seized a huge quantity of substandard medicines worth around Tk 25 lakh from the storage of Bengal Techno Pharma Ltd at the capital's Panthapath intersection and gave its owner two-year jail term.

The court also sealed off Bengal Techno Pharma Ltd, said a press release.

The pharmaceuticals company kept producing and selling medicines illegally till date. But a Dhaka court on May 23 this year asked it to stop manufacturing medicines as it was charged with producing substandard items, said Rab-2 Magistrate Anwar Pasha.

But it played a trick through mentioning backward dates of manufacturing on medicine packets to maintain that they stopped producing medicine after it got its licence rejected, he added.

Due to the use low-quality materials, the company became able to sell the medicine items at a surprisingly cheaper rate than usual and thus put the health of people at risk, he further said.

Replying queries of the law enforcers and reporters during the drive, staff of Bengal Techno Pharma Ltd admitted that the medicines recovered from the storage was delivered from its factory located at Dinajpur.

Magistrate Anwar Pasha gave two-year jail term to Md Ali Khan, 53, managing director of the company, and also fined Tk 1 lakh to each of four people, including Ali.

Bar on convicted war criminals' voting rights illegal: Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday termed completely illegal the proposed amendment to the electoral roll law that bars convicted war criminals from being registered as voters.

"It is a violation of human rights as appeals against the verdicts in the war crimes trials remain pending with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court," he said.

Fakhrul was briefing newsmen after a meeting with the secretaries general of BNP-Jamaat-led 18-party alliance at the BNP's Nayapalton office in the capital.

According to legal experts, the proposed amendment, if enacted, will be applicable to those who will be convicted conclusively.

"We are demanding a halt to the cabinet's approval for the proposed

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Death anniversary

CITY DESK



The first death anniversary of Dr Anwarul Abedin, founder chairman of American

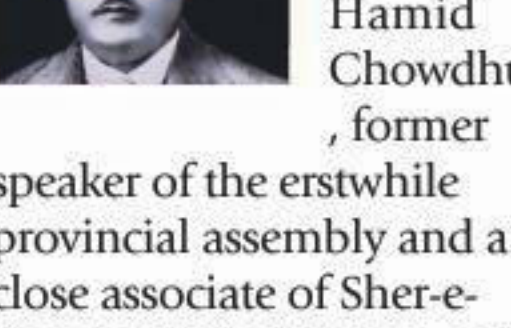
International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), will be observed tomorrow.

On this occasion, a doa and a milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at Gulshan Azad Mosque in Gulshan in the capital.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Abdul Hamid Chowdhury

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 44th death anniversary of Abdul Hamid Chowdhury, former

speaker of the erstwhile provincial assembly and a close associate of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Huq and Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, says a press release.

On this occasion, Qurankhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at Nagbari Jame mosque in Tangail and a meeting will be held at Nagbari Hasina Chowdhury High School.

Hamid was the deputy president of Bengal Legislative Council and deputy high commissioner of the then Pakistan in Kolkata. Former president Justice Abu Sayeed Chowdhury was his only son.

DoE fines fabric mill Tk 11 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined a fabric mill Tk 11 lakh for not renewing its environment clearance certificate and discharging untreated effluent in the Dhaleshwari river.

This Asian Fabrics Mills Ltd, situated in Fatulla upazila of Narayanganj, will also have to pay Tk 1, 83,040 every month as compensation until they set up an effluent treatment plant (ETP), said a press release.

Md Alamgir, DOE director (Monitoring and Enforcement), conducted the drive.

Child marriage still a challenge

Say experts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although Bangladesh has made progress in creating an enabling environment for child protection in the last few decades, challenges like child marriage and adolescent motherhood still remain at large, said experts at a workshop yesterday.

There has also been a lack of sensitising on issues like child labour and corporal punishment, they added.

The workshop titled "Defining the Step to Develop a National Adolescent Strategy" was organised by the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs (MoWCA) and Unicef at Ruposhi Bangla Hotel in the capital.

At the inaugural session of the day-long event, State Minister for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroz Chumki asked the participants to find out ways to protect the rights of girls who work as domestic help.

"It needs to be ensured that they can meet their parents every three months and are not forced to do risky jobs," she said.

Tariq-ul-Islam, secretary for the women and children affairs ministry, said due to lack of implementation of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Hearing on remand for Wakkas Sept 9

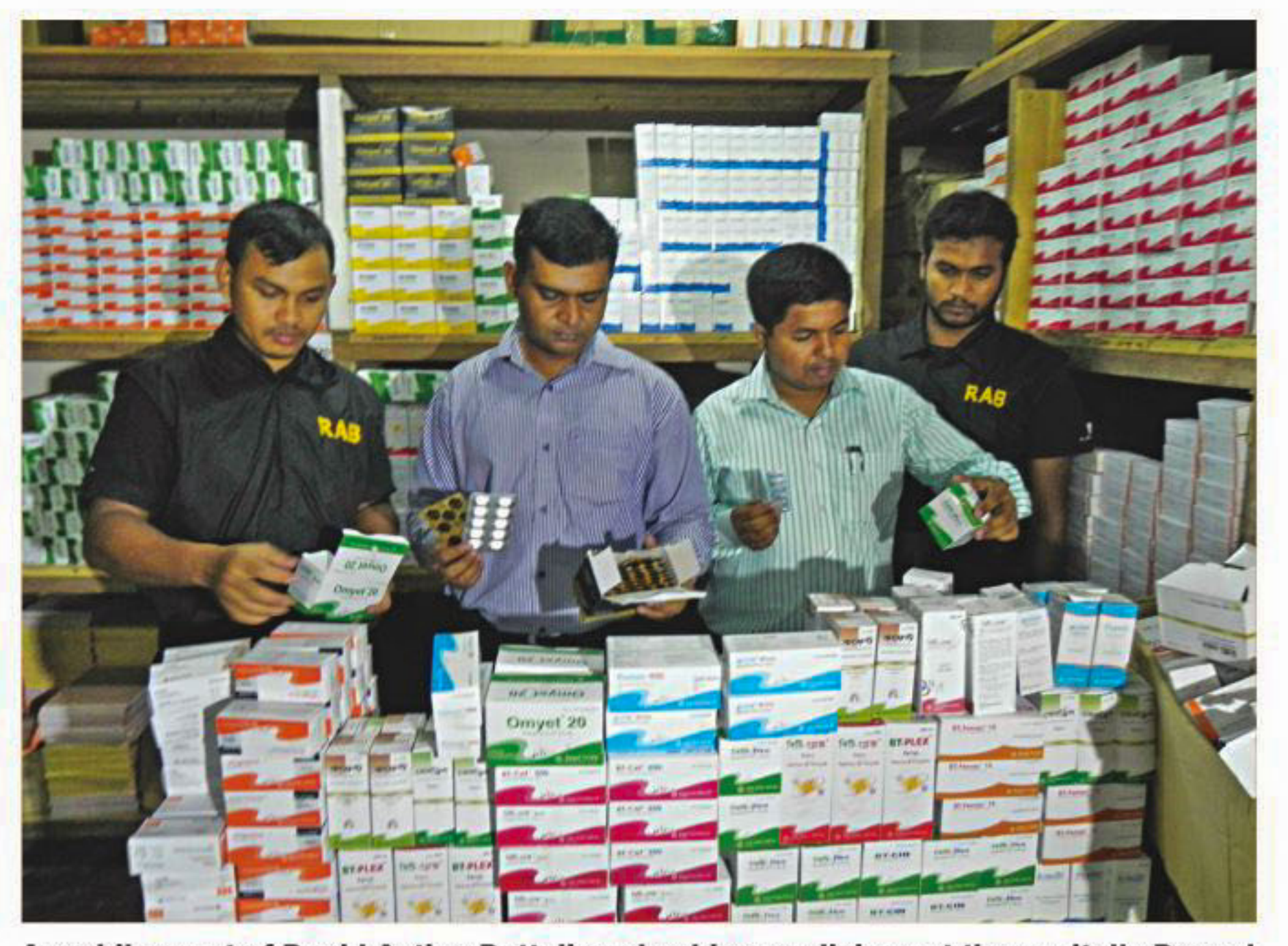
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court will hear on September 9 the 20-day remand prayer sought for quizzing Mufti Md Wakkas in two cases filed over May 5 Hefajat mayhem at Shapla Chattar in the capital.

The cases were filed with Motijheel Police Station on charges of assaulting police, preventing them from discharging their duties, vandalising and torching vehicles.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Erfanullah passed the order after Wakkas's lawyer submitted petitions seeking adjournment of the remand hearing.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A mobile court of Rapid Action Battalion checking medicines at the capital's Bengal Techno Pharma Ltd from where they later seized sub-standard drugs worth around Tk 25 lakh yesterday. PHOTO: COURTESY



PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Around 20,000 residents of Nandipara and Angarjora areas of Khilgaon in the capital have been suffering as they have to use this bamboo bridge because there is no concrete bridge in the area. The photo was taken on Monday.

BCC with Jica's support creates master trainers to introduce ITEE

CITY DESK

Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) with the support of Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) has created master trainers through providing ToT (training of trainers) as part of its endeavor to introduce international IT standardised test named Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE) in the country.

A total of 21 IT experts, comprising of senior faculties of Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), Rajshahi University and Brac University as well as members of Bangladesh Computer Society and BASIS, have been completed a 13-day ToT course on

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

'EXTORTION' FROM FRIEND Narail MP testifies against cop at ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Narail lawmaker Kabirul Haque Mukti gave his statement at the Anti-Corruption Commission headquarters in the capital yesterday against a deputy commissioner (DC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police who has allegedly extorted Tk 1 crore from one of the lawmaker's friends.

ACC enquiry officer Nasim Anwar told The Daily Star that the lawmaker accused DC Mollah Nazrul Islam of the Detective Branch. He declined to elaborate on the statement.

An ACC source, however, said Mukti described how the police official extorted his friend Syed Abidul Islam, 42, a businessman, whose village home is in Narail.

According to news reports, DB Sub-inspector Hasnat and Inspector Azhar, on instruction of Nazrul, picked up Abidul from his Gulshan-1 residence on April 7. He was released after the payment that very day.

The DB men threatened to implicate him in false cases if he did not pay Tk 10 crore, Abidul earlier told The Daily Star. Mithu, a distant relative of Nazrul, brought down the amount to Tk 1 crore through negotiations, he said.

After the incident came to light, Hasnat and Azhar were closed, while Nazrul was made DC (protection) on June 1. In this connection, the victim lodged complaints with the home ministry, police headquarters, DB and an intelligence agency. The ACC decided to probe the allegation in early June.

The police official earlier refuted the allegation.

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