

MANPOWER EXPORT FALL BMET moves to find reasons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) has moved to identify the reasons behind the decline in manpower export and remittances last year.

It called the assistant directors, who are assigned to monitor the export activities in the 42 district offices, in the capital's BMET office yesterday.

"We are discussing with the district officers to work out the challenges and solutions in the manpower sector. We want our district offices to be more migrants-friendly," said Javed Ahmed, additional director general of the BMET.

The number of migrant workers fell from six lakh to four lakh last year from 2012, while the amount of remittance dropped from \$14.17 billion to \$13.78 billion in the period.

The BMET wants to streamline the country's existing 42 district employment, manpower offices aiming to intensify the export activities, said Javed Ahmed.

Rapist jailed for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday sentenced a man to life term imprisonment and also fined him Tk 50,000 for abducting and raping a girl.

The convict is Md Shakil, 22.

According to the prosecution, Shakil with the help from one of his friends abducted the victim from Gujara village in Anwara upazila of Chittagong on June 13, 2011.

The girl was taken to a house in the neighbouring Haildhor village where Shakil raped her.

Gonojagoron Mancha

FROM PAGE 3

Dhaka representing the vibrancy of our peaceful protests at 4:00pm," he said.

The programmes featuring Liberation War-inspired songs, dramas, and art competition among others will conclude on February 7 at Shahbagh, he added.

All district units of the Mancha will celebrate the occasion through similar programmes.

Gonojagoron Mancha came into existence last year after youths broke into protest against sentencing of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah to life for crimes against humanity in 1971. The platform demanded maximum punishment for all war criminals.

The protest that started on February 5 became known as the Shahbagh movement and took the country by storm attracting hundreds of thousands of youths and general people.



Tangled-up wires from different cable TV and internet service providers clutter the top of the Moghbazar foot over-bridge pillar despite the Dhaka city corporation's repeated attempts to discourage them from doing so. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hasina showered with praise

FROM PAGE 3

joined in eulogising the PM.

"Jananetri Sheikh Hasina has been able to maintain the continuation of democracy in the face of hundreds of adversaries and death threats," said ALMP Pankaj Debnath.

Hasina was present in parliament while all this was going on.

Experts have already voiced concern over the unprecedented character of the current parliament, in which Jatiya Party is playing a dual role and ensuring government's accountability.

Almost all the MPs' questions were centred on carrying out development activities in their constituencies like building and repairing roads, bridges, culverts, and stadiums. None of them spoke for strengthening the local government bodies, which are empowered to execute these development activities.

Only Haji Selim, also an Awami League leader, was critical. He said bifurcation of the Dhaka City Corporation was okay but they way it was done had created an imbalance between the North and South in terms

of their incomes. He demanded redrawing of the boundaries afresh. He also criticised the South DCC's failure to control the menace of mosquitoes.

Interestingly, State Minister for LGRD Moshir Rahman Ranga was replying MPs' queries from the opposition bench. He belongs to the main opposition Jatiya Party but is one of the three lawmakers of JP to be inducted into Hasina's cabinet.

On behalf of LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam, who was absent in parliament, Ranga replied MPs' queries on the LGRD ministry.

Another interesting thing happened when Ranga found almost all the supplementary questions on his ministry very important and avoided answering some of those by inviting MPs to meet him at his office to have a cup of coffee and discuss the issues.

Contrary to the normal practice, the Speaker was seen giving floor to MPs to ask supplementary questions following of a list. Usually, MPs willing to ask such questions raise their hands.

Barisal pro-BNP

FROM PAGE 5

arrested him with seven cocktails on November 9 last year.

During interrogation, Tipu disclosed that Shikdar and Syed Akbar Hossain, another councillor of ward-7 and a Jubo Dal leader, supplied the crude bombs to him for political purposes.

Later, police arrested Akbar, who was granted bail after some days.

Zafar-led JP

FROM PAGE 3

and were elected chairman and secretary general respectively.

Zafar created his party after accusing Ershad of "betraying the nation" by joining the Awami League-led interim government.

Golam Mostafa, personal secretary of Zafar, confirmed that Moshi had resigned as secretary general.

Hammarskjöld did

FROM PAGE 3

Jones was addressing the programme, "Thoughts of Dag Hammarskjöld and the UN", organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) in the auditorium of the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs.

Hammarskjöld, an eminent Swedish scholar in economics and diplomacy, would stress that mutual cooperation should be considered a well-understood common interest for solution of all challenges and crises, he said.

Hammarskjöld was elected the UN secretary general in 1953 and re-elected in 1957. He died in a plane crash in Northern Rhodesia (now Zambia) on September 18, 1961.

Jones said before his untimely death, Hammarskjöld challenged the colonial powers' continued attempts to stop or disrupt the fights for freedom that was sweeping country after country in the African continent.

UNAB President and former justice Ebadul Hoque presided over the programme, while some scholars from Norway, Sweden and Bangladesh also spoke.

27 BNP, Jamaat, Shibir men

FROM PAGE 5

papers in the district during January 5 polls and the day before.

The arrestees were sent to Rangpur Central Jail yesterday afternoon, said police.

Swaraswati blesses book fair

FROM PAGE 3

Sushmita Sarkar came to the fair with a group of friends after praying for the goddess's blessings.

"I usually come on Pahela Falgun (February 13) and Ekushey February (February 21), but since this year Swaraswati puja is being held in February, I came here."

With packets of books in two hands, Afsana Hossain was seen taking the inventory of the books she bought for her son and daughter. "This year, this is the first time I came to the fair since my daughter's school is closed today."

Afsana's daughter Anushka, student of class VIII of Viharunnessa School, said she bought a book by her favourite writer Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, "Tuntuni o Chhotachachhu", and another by his deceased brother, Humayun Ahmed.

Even two years after his death, the demand for Humayun's books saw almost no decline.

Mozammel Haque Shishir, press coordinator of Anya Prokash, with a huge collection of the writer's books, said, "Old books by Humayun Ahmed are more in demand than the new ones. Beforehand, people used to come and ask for the new arrivals and take them away. Now they go through the old books and buy those."

Fifty-seven new books of different genres by various publishers arrived at the fair yesterday and five books were launched.

Govt should implement

FROM PAGE 5

the need for engaging more leaders from the hilly people in mainstream politics to create opportunities for them to contribute in nation building.

Politician Pankaj Bhattacharya, Bangladesh Adivasi Forum General Secretary Sanjeeb Drong, former Jahangirnagar University vice-chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain, advocate Rana Dasgupta and development activist Khushi Kabir, among others, spoke.

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