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MANPOWER EXPORT TO 3 ME COUNTRIES

Doors still shut for local touts

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

Three major labour-importing countries in the Middle East are still reluctant to recruit workers from Bangladesh as they are not happy with “problematic” recruitment process of private recruiting agencies.

These recruiting agencies export manpower with the help of unrecognised middlemen, who are known as “local brokers” or “adam baparis”. Both the agencies and the brokers allegedly exploit the jobseekers by charging excessive fees and sometimes providing so-called free visas.

Moreover, these agencies sometimes send workers two times the number required by the employers.

The United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have identified these factors as problematic, according to ambassadors and labour counsellors of Bangladesh missions in those countries.

These labour importing countries have also expressed dissatisfaction over alleged involvement of some Bangladeshi workers in crimes, they told The Daily Star over the phone.

Some Bangladeshis are allegedly involved in smuggling, visa forgery, swindling and other crimes, said the ambassadors and counsellors.

They recommended that the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry regulate the recruiting agencies strictly to check any kind of anomaly in recruitment process.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain also puts the blame on the recruiting agencies for some irregularities.

“Some of our people may get involved in criminal activities when they fail to cover their migration costs paid to the recruiting agencies. So, we have laid stress on reduction of migration costs at first,” he told The Daily Star.

Besides, the recruiting agencies have been asked to set up branch offices at district level to avoid intervention by unrecognised middlemen, the minister said.

“We have been trying to streamline the manpower sector for the sake of our people. We are in continuous discussion with the labour receiving countries for resolving the existing barriers.”

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Young Bangladesh batsman Mominul Haque plays an attractive back-foot square drive on way to scoring a match-saving hundred on the fifth day of the second Test against Sri Lanka at Zohur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. Story on page 14.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

3 injured as criminals clash in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least three people were injured in a clash between two groups of miscreants in a remote village of Banskhali upazila here yesterday.

Faju group, infamous for illegal wood trading in the area, clashed with the accomplices of Rahman dacoit at Puichhari village in the upazila around 8:30pm. Both the groups used locally made firearms, said Quamrul Hasan, officer-in-charge of Banskhali

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

All-party polls must be held immediately

Observes a platform of leading citizens

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A participatory parliamentary election must be held immediately since the present government lacks legitimacy for assuming power through an election that was largely uncontested and the voter turnout was low, said eminent citizens at a discussion in the city yesterday.

Salehuddin Ahmed, president of The Dhaka Forum and also former governor of Bangladesh Bank, said the country was at a political and economic crossroads with a government not accountable to the people.

The Dhaka Forum, a newly formed group of retired professionals and senior citizens, organised the “Bangladesh at a crossroads” discussion at The Daily Star Centre.

Presenting the keynote paper, M Serajul Islam, former ambassador and a founding member of the forum, said the 10th parliament could not claim to have any legitimacy since it was formed through an election devoid of voters.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1

Parties upsetting local govt polls

Says ex-CEC Huda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties' influence is ruining the atmosphere for holding non-partisan elections to local government bodies, said former chief election commissioner ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday.

The parties are interfering in the elections even though they officially say that the elections are non-partisan. “They must stop playing double roles for the sake of free and fair local government elections,” he said.

Huda said this while inaugurating the official website of Nagorik Oikko (www.nagorikoikko.org), a citizens' platform, at Bangladesh Medical

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Khaleda queen of destruction

PM tells rally

BSS, Charchat, Rajshahi

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the BNP chief does not know any other politics except politics of destruction.

“Begum Zia is a queen of destruction. She knows only destruction. She can only take, but can't give anything to the country except for terrorism and militancy,” the PM told a mammoth rally at Charchat High School ground in the afternoon.

The BNP, she said, has been cursed by a humiliating failure as it waged a hollow movement. “This is yet another failure in her [Khaleda's] life after dozens of similar ones in the past, including the failure she had experienced in her matriculation exams,” added the premier.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1
MORE ON PAGE 3

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An arrogant Jinnah

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Mohammad Ali Jinnah visited East Pakistan from March 19 to March 28, 1948. The visit was a fiasco, seeing that instead of reassuring the Bengali-speaking people of his country on the language issue he ended up making them

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Wounded tigress needs surgery

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bengal tigress wounded in a hunter's trap in the Sundarbans has been brought to Bangabandhu Safari Park in Gazipur and she will undergo surgery today.

A board of veterinary doctors, formed yesterday with Prof Mizanur Rahman as its head, will conduct the operation on her left forelimb where the trap's twine had dug in creating a septic wound.

The Sundarbans native arrived at the safari park around 4:00pm yesterday. Previously mistaken for a male, the tigress also acquired a new name, Pashuri.

Pashuri was first noticed by a tourist on January 27 in Lawdope village of Chandpai range in the Sundarbans. The tourist snapped a picture of the tigress limping away beside the Dangmari creek, and the photo was published in The Daily Star on January 31.

Since then the forest department had been trying to catch her. They fashioned a wooden cage 12 feet long and three and a

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Death of a language

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

At 103, Hazel Sampson was not only the oldest member of the Native American Klallam tribes of the Pacific North-west, but also the last known native speaker of the Klallam language. Ms Sampson, who died at a hospital in Port Angeles, Washington state, on Tuesday, was taught the Klallam tongue by her parents, and learnt English only later as a second language.

The US government, once active in its attempts to eliminate many

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you agree with the ruling Awami League's claim that none had been killed or made to disappear in joint force's operation before and after the January 5 polls?

Yes

No

(13%)

(87%)

TOTAL VOTES: 292

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP leader Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir that a speech of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina incited ruling party men to attack opposition leaders and activists?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

February 9

Azan

Jamaat

Fajr

5-30

6-05

Zahr

12-45

1-15

Asr

4-15

4-30

Maghrib

5-52

5-56

Esha

7-15

7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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শুভ উদ্বোধন

আজ ০৯ ফেব্রুয়ারি ২০১৪

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