



A vast haor in Sunamganj brimming with water beside Sylhet-Sunamganj highway on Friday, the eve of the official start of monsoon yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Bangladeshis terrified in trouble-torn Iraq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshis migrants are living in fear in Iraq due to the continuous conflict among different forces in that country.

"We are working here with the fear of losing jobs as well as life. We don't know what would happen anytime," said a Bangladeshi working in a South Korean company in Baghdad.

Although the situation has improved a little, it is difficult to predict the fates of the foreign workers, he told The Daily Star by phone yesterday.

He said no casualty of Bangladeshis was reported yet since the turmoil started in some provinces recently last week.

He, however, heard that around 300 Bangladeshis were trapped in a construction site in restive Mosul where the militants launched attacks on Thursday.

His claim, however, could not be verified

as the Bangladesh ambassador in Iraq, who is looking after the labour issues, could not be reached over his phone.

The Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Director General Begum Shamsun Nahar told The Daily Star that they were keeping in touch with the embassy.

Meanwhile, the BMET yesterday directed all recruiting agencies to suspend processing of visas of people seeking jobs in Iraq.

"We formally suspended issuing manpower clearance to migrant jobseekers for Iraq from today," said Golam Mustafa Khan, director of BMET (immigration).

Earlier, the government on Saturday decided to suspend sending workers to Iraq until safe and secure environment is established there.

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PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION FOR MIGRANT WORKERS

Only 10pc attend Says researcher

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only 10 percent of outgoing migrants attend a pre-departure orientation programme despite the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) has made it mandatory for all of them who are called to the event, said a researcher yesterday.

One of the reasons of such poor participation is that it is held only in Dhaka, said Zohra Akhter, lead researcher of a project carried out by Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit, an affiliated research organisation of Dhaka University.

She revealed the information while presenting a keynote paper at a national consultation programme on standardisation of the pre-departure orientation services (PDOS) for potential migrants in the city's Cirdap auditorium.

RMMRU organised the programme with the assistance of International Labour Organization.

Zohra laid emphasis on the decentralisation of the orientation that would increase the migrants' participation.

The RMMRU researcher recommended that the training should be arranged at the respective district manpower offices and technical training centres.

BMET Additional Director Javed Ahmed, Director (Immigration) Golam Mustafa Khan and some representatives from different NGOs spoke.

People bid farewell to Sardar Fazlul Karim

The philosopher laid to eternal rest in Azimpur graveyard

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People from all walks of life yesterday paid rich tributes to eminent scholar and philosopher Sardar Fazlul Karim who breathed his last in a hospital of the capital early yesterday.

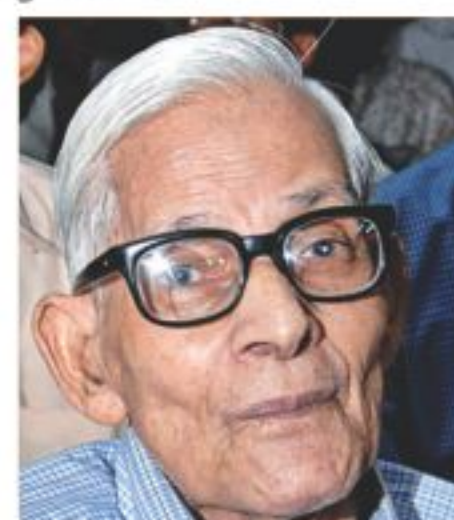
His body was first kept at the Communist Party of Bangladesh office at Paltan around 11:00am and then on the Bangla Academy premises around 12:15pm.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's special assistant Mahbubul Hoque Shakil placed a wreath at the coffin of the professor on her behalf.

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Bangla Academy Director General Shamsuzzaman Khan and Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid also paid respects.

Among others, former foreign minister Dipu Moni, CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim, Professor Emeritus Anisuzzaman, Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, former vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Anwar Hossain and cultural personality Mamunur Rashid paid homage to the scholar at the Bangla Academy.

His body was then taken to the Dhaka



University central mosque for a namaz-e-janaza around 1:00pm. DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique paid respects to him there.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith and Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, among others, took part in the namaz-e-janaza, after which he was laid to eternal rest beside his wife at Azimpur graveyard.

Suffering from old-age complications Prof Karim was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit of Samorita Hospital on Saturday evening. He died at 12:45am, at the age of 89.

One of the most prominent teachers of Dhaka University and a leading intellectual of the country, Prof Karim left behind a host of admirers and well-wishers to mourn his death.

He was born to a lower-middle class family of Barisal in 1925 and led a simple and humble life. At the age of 21, he became a lecturer at DU in 1946.

Karim got involved in progressive politics in his student life. Perceived by the then ruling classes as an enemy of Pakistan, he spent almost all 24 years of Pakistani rule in prison in four phases.

He was elected to the East Bengal provincial

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Leaders of the Communist Party of Bangladesh salute the coffin of scholar and philosopher Sardar Fazlul Karim at the party office in the capital yesterday. Sardar died early yesterday.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Brac founder and Chairperson Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, far right, with Princeton University President Christopher Eisgruber, centre, and other honorary degree recipients, from left to right, Herb Kelleher, James West, Madeleine Albright, and James McPherson in Nassau Hall of the university in the US on June 3.



PHOTO: BRAC

Princeton awards honorary degree to Sir Abed

CITY DESK

Brac founder and Chairperson, Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, was awarded with an honorary degree, Doctor of Laws, by Princeton University on June 3.

Princeton University's President Christopher L Eisgruber awarded Sir Fazle in the Nassau Hall of the university in the USA.

This honorary doctoral degree was conferred upon five persons, including former US secretary of state Madeleine K Albright, for their contributions to human rights, public life, business, the humanities, education and engineering.

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DEVELOPMENTS

Pro-BNP intellectuals call Zia first president

Book edited by Tarique Rahman to establish the argument launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ziaur Rahman first announced Bangladesh's war of independence and he was the country's first president, BNP senior leaders and pro-BNP intellectuals claimed yesterday.

They also said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did not want the freedom of Bangladesh and that was why he surrendered to the Pakistan army on the night of March 25, 1971.

"It is now historically proven that Zia first proclaimed Bangladesh's war of independence, not Sheikh Mujib. He [Mujib] was prepared to get arrested by the Pakistani army," BNP standing committee member Tariqul Islam said at a book launch at the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Titled "Ziaur Rahman: First President of Bangladesh" the book was launched yesterday.

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Destroyers should be punished

FROM PAGE 3
with roadside trees. The government estimates that over 20,000 trees were felled during the violence led by BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Hefajat-e-Islam across the country.

Describing her government's steps in making tree plantation a social movement, Hasina said initiatives had been taken to use every inch of the country's land to make the people self-reliant.

The prime minister mentioned that her government was creating a green lattice across the coastal areas from

Cox's Bazar to Teknaf, which would protect the region from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Hasina urged every citizen to plant at least three saplings—one of fruit tree, one of medicinal tree and the other of timber tree—to contribute to the government's efforts in building a bright future for the next generation. The fruit trees will give fruits, timber trees will bring money, and the herbal trees will keep the people healthy, she said.

The prime minister said nowadays herbal medicines were becoming

popular across the globe, and the country could earn foreign exchange by exporting these items to many countries. She called upon all to further the National Tree Plantation Campaign through social afforestation.

Sheikh Hasina mentioned that her government had provided bank loans to farmers only at four percent interest for producing spices, including onion, ginger and turmeric.

She also said vegetables had national and international markets, particularly with over 80 lakh Bangladeshis living abroad.

The word retirement should be retired

FROM PAGE 3
a life free from usual responsibility of raising a family and establishing oneself. "Phase two of life is the life of freedom and the opportunity to be whatever one wants to be without any restriction. They are not 'retired people'; they are 'citizens without boundaries'."

He urged the participants not to identify themselves as retired. "Forget

who you were, make a new person out of yourself; be what you never got a chance to be; give leadership in changing the world, join the young in their journey to make a new world."

He suggested that older persons could devote themselves to social business, and proposed five percent of pension fund money to be devoted to social business fund.

Prof Yunus recommended that the elders do not work in isolation, but join the youth to build "a coalition of experience and innovation to create a new world".

He also said this was a time for women to re-plan their life, free themselves from the taboos put on them, and go beyond the limits that society imposed on them.

Probe finds Azhar's involvement

FROM PAGE 3
confinement at Rangpur Town Hall. The IO claimed that Azharul was directly involved in torturing two brothers in Rangpur town. Idris said he visited the spots of the incidents.

The witness yesterday exhibited

the SSC examination admit card where Azharul's date of birth is February 28, 1952. He also showed a note of Rangpur Carmichael College's principal, which reveals the war crimes accused was a student of science at higher secondary level.

Following the deposition, defence

counsel Abdus Sobhan Tarafder began cross-examining the witness.

The defence counsel suggested the witness that he gave deposition quoting from a white paper supplied to him. But the investigation officer denied it.

The proceeding was adjourned till June 22.

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Last date of Application: June 24, 2014