



A farmer being helped by his school-going son in planting Aman seedlings in Nandail of Mymensingh on Friday. With agriculture labourers asking for high wage, the poor man chooses to hire none, and instead engages her son to save some costs. These days, farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

'We just want to return home'

180 Bangladeshis still in confinement in Iraq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 180 Bangladeshis who are confined to their workplace at Najaf in Iraq do not want their money back, they just want to be rescued by the Bangladesh government.

"We don't need any new job here. We just want to go home," Mohammad Siddique, a victim, told The Daily Star by yesterday.

"We demand the government rescue us immediately," he said, but declined to reveal his full identity in the media.

The Bangladeshi workers have been languishing at the workplace in restive Iraq for over two months.

Under constant watch by security guards of the Turkish employer, the expatriates are passing their days at a makeshift house without enough food and water.

Recruiting agency Career Overseas

Consultants Ltd had sent them to the trouble-torn country in late May for working at Abu Torab Housing Project in Najaf.

They also fear that their Turkish employer would hand them over to a human trafficking group for forced labour.

The employer has constantly been threatening the Bangladeshis of dire consequences since several Bangladeshi media reported their inhumane condition, Siddique said.

He added that the security guards in the project area recently beat up one of them and broke his finger.

This newspaper could neither reach the recruiting agency Career Overseas Consultants Ltd, nor the Bangladesh embassy in Baghdad over the phone yesterday, despite repeated attempts.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

WAR CRIMES TRIAL OF QAISAR Tribunal rebukes defence lawyer for prompting colleague

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 yesterday rebuked a defence counsel for war crimes accused Syed Mohammad Qaisar, as he was prompting his colleague repeatedly from behind during placing of arguments.

Terming the action of Abdus Sobhan Tarafder "highly contemptuous", the three-member tribunal, led by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam, said he would be driven away from the courtroom, if he did it again.

SM Shahjahan, a defence counsel of former state minister Qaisar, yesterday placed closing arguments for the third day. During his submission, his colleague Sobhan was seen prompting Shahjahan several times sitting on a first row bench.

A counsel can assist colleagues with the court's permission. Lawyers sometime assist their colleagues by going to the podium.

But, at one stage of arguments, the defence counsel's action drew the tribunal's attention and Justice Mozibur Rahman

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7



Journalists and other staff of Maasranga Television form a human chain on the airport road at the capital's Banani, near the station, yesterday, demanding the quick trial of the murder of Sagar Sarwar, a news editor of the television, and Meherun Runi, senior reporter of ATN Bangla. The couple were slain in their rented apartment in the capital on February 11, 2012.

PHOTO: STAR

Fakhrul gets bail in case for vandalism, attack on cops

COURT CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and 19 others got bail yesterday in a case filed for vandalising vehicles, assaulting police and preventing them from discharging their duties in March last year.

The other accused include BNP standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy and Mirza Abbas; BNP joint secretary generals Barakatullah Bulu and Amanullah Aman; and BNP Vice Chairman Abdullah Al Noman.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ali Masud Sheikh granted bail

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

One in 7 households facing land disputes

Finds Brac study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One in every seven households in Bangladesh is involved in land disputes, shows a first ever study, which highlights the toll they take on families financially and in terms of safety and the enormity of the number of litigations the judiciary handles.

Roughly four million households might be facing land disputes at present, says the study, conducted by Policy Research Institute, a local think tank, and commissioned by Human Rights and Legal Aid Services of Brac.

Titled "Socio-Economic Costs of Property Disputes: An Empirical Examination from Bangladesh", the survey was conducted in June and July this year

2m cases pending

Average 8yr backlog

70pc of court cases land-related

Adjudication costs household 45pc of annual income

Complex land registration key reason

among 1,050 households in 14 districts from seven divisions.

About two million land related cases are pending with the judiciary, which make up more than 70 percent of all litigations in the country, according to the research report.

Of the resolved disputes, each took about three years to be adjudicated, but some cases found settlement after 17 years, it said.

However, the average time a case remains pending is approximately eight years, while a few cases have been continuing for nearly 40 to 50 years.

The report says 7.5 percent of households

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

Dismembered body's head not found yet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Head of the woman, whose dismembered body parts were found at different places in the capital on Sunday, is yet to be recovered.

Turag police said they are conducting drives to recover the head of the woman aged around 35 years.

An autopsy was performed at Dhaka Medical College morgue and samples of the body parts were collected for viscera test to ascertain whether the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 8

UBIQUITOUS TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS Govt must take responsibilities

Human chain told

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of left leaning bodies yesterday demanded that the government take responsibilities of accidents occurring on roads, railways and in rivers and also take adequate measures to stop recurrence of such tragic deaths.

The demand came from a human chain organised in the capital's Shahbagh by Bangladesh Chhatra Union and Juba Union, protesting what they said "Killing people in the name of accident".

At the gathering, Tapas Kumar Kundu, who lost his brother on July 31 when a train hit a bus at a level crossing in Jhenidah's Kalganj upazila, said at least 70 victims of the

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



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