



1) Winners at the gala award ceremony of the film, photography, and lyrics competition Celebrating Life Contest 2014, with the chief guest, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, and Standard Chartered Bank Chief Executive Officer Jim McCabe in Osmani Memorial Auditorium of the capital yesterday. The contest is a Standard Chartered Bank-The Daily Star initiative. The theme of the seventh year was "Living in Harmony". 2) Jim McCabe addresses the audience. 3) From left, Lifetime Achievement Award recipients -- Rani Sarker for film, Sayeeda Khanum for photography, and Sheikh Sadi Khan for music, Noor, and Jim McCabe. 4) Noor addresses the audience. 5) Prominent singer Shampa Reza sings for the audience. 6 & 7) Dancers perform at the event. 8) After the inauguration of the programme, the guests along with the host looking at the photo entries of the contest.



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON AND AMRAN HOSSAIN

Cheated returnees from Iraq demand damages

Complain about four recruiting agencies; two returned money but Messrs Morning Sun Enterprise, Messrs Meghna Trade International not following suit; victims facing bureaucratic red tape of govt agencies, they allege

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirteen returnees from Iraq who had been cheated by recruiting agencies demanded compensation from two agencies and cancellation of their licences yesterday. The victims also urged the government to provide them with jobs at a human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club in the capital. The demonstrators said they paid between Tk 2.5 lakh and Tk 3.70 lakh to four recruiting agencies, which promised them jobs in an Iraqi company. However, when they arrived in the Middle-East country, there was no job. Instead, brokers of the agencies confined the migrant workers to a labour camp and asked them to wait, they added. After a few months, the workers understood that they were cheated by the agencies, and after living in terrible conditions for nearly a year, they returned home empty-handed between November last year and January this year with the help of the Bangladesh mission in Iraq, the demonstrators narrated their ordeal. "We did complain about the four agencies to the ministry [Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry], and sought compensation," said

Mozammel Haque, one of the victims. "The minister himself assured us of taking action against the agencies, but we did not get our money back, nor were we compensated," he added. Two of the agencies returned money to three workers after they had come back, but the other two--Messrs Morning Sun Enterprise and Messrs Meghna Trade International--did not do so, he alleged. Mozammel said when they contacted the ministry for compensation, its officials asked them to go to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), but when they contacted BMET officials, they were asked to wait. "How many months do we have to wait?" asked Emaz Uddin Pramanik, another victim. Emaz said he took Tk 80,000 loan from state-owned Karmasangsthan Bank to go to Iraq, and now the bank officials are asking for the loan repayment. "How can I return the money now?" asked Emaz, who is now a rickshaw-puller. A total of 27 migrant workers left for Iraq early last year. Of them, 22 came back to the country among whom three got their money back. Anirban Survivor Voice, a forum of returnees, helped form the human chain.

STOPPING LABOUR TRAFFICKING Maximum migration transparency must

BAIRA, IOM meeting told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Maximum transparency and accountability must be maintained in sending Bangladeshi workers abroad to check illegal labour migration and trafficking, said discussants at a meeting yesterday. The Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) in association with the International Organisation for Migration organised the meeting on "Serving the migrants: Role of civil society and BAIRA" at Cirdap in the capital. BAIRA Senior Vice President Ali Haider Chowdhury said there should be a coordination committee comprising government officials, civil society members, recruiting agencies' representatives, and media personalities to deal with different issues to protect migrant workers' rights. He also demanded implementation of the recommendations made in the UN Global Forum relating to their rights, fresh trainings, proper banking facilities, monitoring cells at embassies and high commissions in different countries and stern actions against traffickers. Denying BAIRA's involvement in illegal migration and human trafficking, its President Abul Basher sought government initiatives to arrange easy loans for migrant workers and employment when they return home. Bhorer Kagoj Editor Shyamol Dutta raised questions about the role of law enforcers and intelligence agencies that failed to stop human trafficking through the bay. He suggested that the government and recruiting agencies arrange conferences with migrant workers at different countries to know their sufferings and then take necessary steps. Chairman of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit Tasneem Siddiqui said the government should formulate a comprehensive plan to ensure proper services to them.

HT Imam BNP man in AL

Claims Khaleda's PS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

HT Imam is a BNP man in Awami League, claimed BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan yesterday, saying there are many others like him who will spill the beans about the January 5 "farical" parliamentary election in right time. "It will be of no use if Awami League men assault or take action against him. Because there are many others like HT Imam surrounding Awami League who will expose the government's misdeeds," he said. He was addressing a discussion organised by Jatiyatabadi Swachhasebak Dal in the capital's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh marking the 50th birthday of Tarique Rahman, senior vice-chairman of BNP, also the eldest son of Khaleda and the slain founder of the party, president Ziaur Rahman. When The Daily Star tried to contact HT Imam over the phone, one of his

Sundarbans, Sylhet haors vulture safe

Declares SAVE

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sundarbans and its adjacent areas in greater Khulna, and haor areas in greater Sylhet have been declared Bangladesh's first Vultures Safe Zones (VSZ) where the government will conduct close monitoring to protect the birds from being extinct. The declaration came at a meeting of SAVE (Saving Asia's Vultures from Extinction), a consortium, which is working to protect vultures and will also assist the forest department in the move, held yesterday at a hotel in the capital. Officials of the environment and forests ministry said they will publish a gazette notification regarding the declaration in a day or two. With the help of the local administration, the forest department will conduct special drives in the regions to check the sale and use of banned veterinary medicines of diclofenac group which cause kidney failure of the vultures two to three days after they had eaten dead animals

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In Loving Memories

Today 23rd November, 2014 is the 5th death anniversary of Mr. Razzaul Karim, an eminent insurance executive, founder member of Shishu hospital & Palli Shishu foundation. Former General Manager of Shadharan Bima corporation, Managing Director of Janata insurance company Ltd., Pioneer insurance company Ltd., Agrani insurance company Ltd., Member secretary of Central rating committee, notable philanthropist & freedom fighter. Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal; Memories are treasured, that no one can steal. Some may forget you, Now that you're gone, but we will remember, No matter how long. Deep in our hearts, you will always stay, Loved and Remembered, in every single way. No tears, no verse can ever say, how much we miss you, Every Single Day. We request all his relatives, friends, associates and admirers to pray for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Love - From your loving daughter Mala, grandson Waris and family members.



Following a dispute over occupying seats in front rows, two factions of Jubo League hurl chairs at each other at its Jubo Jagoron Programme in Chittagong city's GEC Convention Centre yesterday, two hours after the event started marking the founding anniversary of the ruling Awami League's youth front.

PHOTO: STAR

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