

Govt issues corrective statement about discussion with Europa team

CITY DESK

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a joint corrective statement yesterday regarding controversy over State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam's statement after a meeting with the three-member delegation of the Subcommittee on Human Rights of the European Parliament on February 18.

After the meeting, the state minister told the media, "The delegation did not express any concern over the human rights situation in Bangladesh."

On February 19 the foreign ministry issued the following corrective statement:

"Following some initial media reports, the visiting Members of the European Parliament and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like to clarify that Human Rights were the main subject of the one-hour meeting held on 18 February.

Labour rights but also civil and political rights, and sufferings of the ordinary citizens in the current climate of violence were highlighted by the Members of the European Parliament as the focus of their visit to Bangladesh."

Muhith hosts high tea for Mamata

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister AMA Muhith hosted a high tea for West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and her delegation at state guesthouse Jamuna in the capital last evening.

Before that, Mamata had a meeting with State Minister for Foreign Affairs M Shahriar Alam at the same place and agreed to follow through the proposals that came up during her visit.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Commerce Minister Tofail Ahmed, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, former foreign minister Dr Dipu Moni and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pankaj Saran, among others, joined the tea party, between 5:30pm and 6:30pm.

BCS preliminary exam time changed

UNB, Dhaka

The 35th BCS preliminary test, which was scheduled to begin at 9:30am on March 6, will now begin at 3:00pm on the same day at all centers in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal Sylhet and Rangpur, said a PID handout.

The Bangladesh Public Service Commission changed the time due to unavoidable circumstances. Details about the exam centres and the seat plan will be available at www.bpsc.gov.bd.



Farmers brace for mammoth losses as cabbages start perishing in the field instead of selling in the market amid the non-stop countrywide blockade paired with occasional hartals, in Shaghata upazila of Gaibandha, on Saturday. The vegetable's price has plummeted to as low as Tk 1-2 apiece, meaning the growers would not even get back their investment and count further losses if they ever wish to harvest and transport their produce to the market, of course at abnormally high costs.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Boy injured in crude bomb blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 10-year-old boy was injured when a crude bomb he was playing with exploded in Azimpur of the capital yesterday.

Emon Hossain, a class V student of Azimpur Adarsha Biddyalaya, picked up the bomb at Azimpur Madhya Colony around 12:30pm.

After the bomb exploded witnesses rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Hospital sources said Emon sustained injuries in his left leg from the explosion.

Obaidur Rahman, sub-inspector of Lalbagh Police Station, told The Daily Star that after receiving treatment Emon was taken to the police station for interrogation.

He said Emon told the police that he and two others of the same age were playing at the colony.

The trio found the object wrapped in red scotch tape lying on the ground. When they threw the object at a wall it exploded, Obaidur Rahman added.

Book fair reaches its crescendo

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Just as it happens on February 21 every year, the Bangla Academy grounds was crowded from early morning.

The audience who came to listen to the poetry recitation at 7:30am stayed back to browse through books when the fair opened at 8:00am and the size of the crowd increased as the day rolled to dusk.

The street between the two portions of the Amar Ekushey Granthamela-2015 was jam packed with visitors, some just passers-by while others tried to get inside the fair boundary.

Sales too shot up yesterday, as people who came to pay their respects at Central Shaheed Minar during the day dropped by at the fair to buy books.

Johirul Abedin Jewel, publisher of Ittadi Granthaproskash, said, "Buyers were less compared to visitors but sales has picked up since Friday, though it is lower than other years."

Yesterday, 240 new books arrived at the

fair and 11 new ones were launched. Till date 2,890 new books came out in the fair.

Md Mobarak Hossain, director of Bangla Academy, yesterday announced an award, "Goonijon Smriti Puroskar", presented to publishing houses in four categories.

"Chittaranjan Saha Smriti Puroshkar", for publishing the highest number of good quality books in 2014, was awarded to Mowla Brothers.

"Munier Chowdhury Smriti Puroshkar", for the best book in 2014, was given to Bengal Publications Limited for Murtaja Baseer's "Amar Jibon or Onnanyo" and to Pathak Samabesh for

"Rabindra Samagra Khondo-23". "Rokonuzzaman Khan Dada Bhai Smriti Puroskar", for publishing quality books for children in 2014, was awarded to Somoy Prokashon.

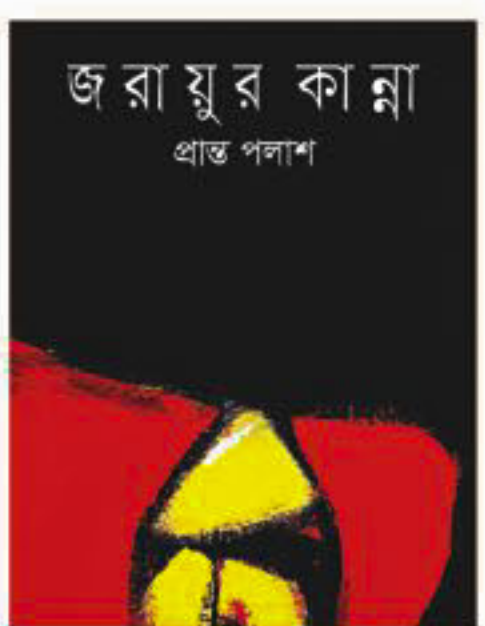
University Press Limited received "Qayyum Chowdhury Smriti Puroshkar" for the best decorated pavilion of 2015 and Prothoma and Journeyman Books received it for the best decorated stalls.



BOOKS TO LOOK FOR



CAMUS MARQUEZ ELIAS O ONNANNO
Author: Pias majid
Publisher: Kothaproskash
Price: BDT 150



JARAYUR KANNA
Author: Pranto Palash
Publisher: Oitijhya
Price: BDT 120



PREMHIN CAMPUS
Author: Ranzit Sarker
Publisher: Shobdoshoilo
Price: BDT 150

THREE MISSING BANGLADESHIS IN UAE AFTER DEADLY FIRE Father-son reunion may never come to pass

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Tanvir Wasfee was only 10 month old when his father, Abul Shukkur, flew abroad, so cannot remember his face at all. The father-son reunion was finally set for March 2, but fate probably has played a cruel trick.

Shukkur is one of the three Bangladeshis who remained missing after a fire ripped through a residential building in Abu Dhabi early Friday, killing at least 10 migrant workers and injuring 30, including five Bangladeshis. Around 100 workers lived in the two-storey house.

The three-Shukkur, Enamul Haque and Selim Uddin-might be among the deceased, who were charred beyond recognition, said Jahirul Islam Majumder, assistant director, the Employment and Manpower Office in Chittagong. "Their identities could be confirmed after DNA tests."



Abdul Shukkur



Selim Uddin



Enamul Haque

Shukkur, 38, a mason, of Fatikchhari upazila in Chittagong, went to the United Arab Emirates five years ago.

When a correspondent of The Daily Star visited Shukkur's village home yesterday, his wife Poppy Akter, 28, was seen in tears, holding her son Tanvir, now 6.

"I spoke to him on Friday afternoon [February 13]. He said he would come back home on March 2, and that he had bought gold ornaments for me and toys and chocolate for Tanvir," she said.

Shukkur went to Abu Dhabi by borrowing Tk 3 lakh but he was yet to repay the loan, said a family member.

The village homes of the two other victims, Enamul and Selim, took similar looks.

There were only occasional bursts of crying at the house

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Tanvir Wasfee, 6, in his mother's arms, has never seen his father Abdul Shukkur, one of the three missing Bangladeshis feared dead in a deadly fire in Abu Dhabi early Friday. Grieving family members at Shukkur's house in Fatikchhari of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



Elocutionist Kamrul Hasan Monju recites a poem at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (BSK) in the capital yesterday, marking International Mother Language Day. The event was Abritti Sangha's fourth production titled "Ami Banglar Gaan Gai".

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Int'l mother

FROM PAGE 3

Karok Natya Goshthi distributed Adarsha Lipi, a book on learning Bangla alphabets, among children following an alphabet writing competition there.

CHITTAGONG

In Chittagong city's Central Shaheed Minar, Chittagong City Corporation Mayor M Manjur Alam led the tributes, laying a wreath at 12:01am, reports out Chittagong University correspondent.

NBR yet to realise green tax

FROM PAGE 4

environment, a senior NBR official told the news agency.

"We have sent a list of polluting industries to the NBR," said Md Raisul Alam Mondal, director general of the Department of Environment (DoE).

The NBR has to publish a gazette with the names of the selected industries for realising green tax.

Talking to the news agency, another NBR official said they are taking time to examine and re-examine the names of the industries.

He said companies like brickfields, polluting hospitals and other companies would be out of the list as the existing law

does not define these as industries.

According to sources at the finance ministry, the government is thinking about the image of the country's export products before making the names of these polluting industries or factories public as many exporters have requested the government to be cautious over selecting the names of the industries and take into consideration the sustainability of their business.

The NBR has prepared the list of the polluting industries in three categories with the industries in Dhaka falling in the first category, while those in Chittagong and Khulna in the second category and those in other divisional headquarters in the third category.

Mola in ponds may

FROM PAGE 4

which the contribution of mola was 21 percent and other small fishes 10 percent.

The project completed in 2013 promotes innovative new technologies designed to increase the production of small nutrient-rich fish species in two separate and environmentally distinct agricultural areas.

The project targeted about 1,500 households with ponds producing small fishes in the northwest districts of Rangpur and Dinajpur, and 500 households in the northeast district of Sunamganj, an area dominated by wetlands and an open water capture fishery.

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