



**Abrar Anwar, chief executive officer, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference at Hotel La Vinci in the capital's Karwan Bazar yesterday, organised to announce the launching of The Daily Star-Standard Chartered Bank "Celebrating Life 2015" contest. On his right is Rafi Hossain, festival director, Celebrating Life, and on his left are Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher, The Daily Star, and Bitopi Das, head of corporate affairs, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh.**

PHOTO: STAR

# Govt to slash cost of migration to S'pore

## Aims to oversee the market, bring down cost from Tk 7-8 lakh to Tk 1 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will send workers to Singapore, the third largest destination for Bangladeshi jobseekers, through private recruiting agencies but under strict supervision to curb the high migration cost, the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment minister said yesterday.

"Currently, a jobseeker has to spend a minimum of Tk 7-8 lakh for obtaining an employment visa for Singapore. It is an extreme level of exploitation of a foreign jobseeker," Khandker Mosharraf Hossain told reporters at the capital's Probashi Kalyan Bhaban.

The minister, who has visited Singapore recently, said the government would ensure that no jobseeker had spent more than Tk 1 lakh for migration to the Southeast Asian country.

"The private channel for sending workers has gradually turned into a system of exploiting jobseekers. So, we have decided that the recruitment system must be strictly supervised," he said.

An official at the ministry said there would be no manpower export to Singapore under government to government (G2G) arrangements.

Singapore is the lone destination country which receives workers, both skilled and semi-skilled, only after training them, at eight technical training centres in Bangladesh.

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# StanChart, Star to celebrate country's heritage this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a call to capture the essence of the Bangladeshi identity in their lyrics, photographs and films, The Daily Star-Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) "Celebrating Life 2015" contest opened yesterday welcoming submissions from all over the country.

"We want our participants to explore the diversity and richness of Bangladeshi heritage in their creative pursuits," said Abrar Anwar, chief executive officer of SCB, Bangladesh, announcing this year's theme, "The Heritage of Bangladesh", at a press conference at Hotel La Vinci in the capital's Karwan Bazar.

Besides holding it at national level, Celebrating Life this year will head out to 20 renowned universities (10 public and 10 private), informed Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

On every campus, the best submissions in each of the categories will be shortlisted in the first phase for a second inter-university phase, he said.

Eligibility and details for participation at both national and university levels are available at [www.celebratinglifebd.com](http://www.celebratinglifebd.com). Submissions for national level are open until July 31.

Starting off in 2008, Celebrating Life awarded 84 people for photography, 55

for lyrics, and seven for films and honoured 16 renowned persons with lifetime achievement awards for their contributions in the aforementioned categories, said Rafi Hossain, festival director, Celebrating Life.

Under the film category, the Best Short Fiction and Best Documentary will each win Tk 2 lakh as cash award while the Best Debut Short Fiction and Best Debut Documentary Tk 1 lakh each.

In photography, three cash prizes for the first, second and third positions will be given along with nine additional honorary awards. While SCB prints the top 12 photographs in its yearly calendar, The Daily Star publishes a coffee table book with the best photographs.

"The books serve two purposes. One, they provide recognition to the photographers and secondly showcase the beauty of Bangladesh," said Mahfuz Anam.

The best lyrics are also compiled into a CD after the music is composed by renowned songwriters and rendered by the country's eminent singers, he said.

Channel i this year is joined by Ekattor TV and Radio Foorti as media partners.

"In Ekattor, Celebrating Life has become Odommo Bangladesh, a programme which

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# COAL MINE GRAFT CASE

## Khaleda's no-trust in an HC bench

### Seeks another to hear her petition to withdraw charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday stated of not having confidence in a two-member High Court bench, set to deliver on April 5 a verdict on her petition seeking to scrap the Barapukuria coal mine corruption case against her.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case on February 26, 2008, accusing the former prime minister and 15 others of causing a loss of Tk 159 crore to the state exchequer by abusing power to award a Chinese company the contract to run the coal mine.

Khaleda apprehended being denied justice over two issues. One was that the verdict date was set without her lawyers' arguments being heard, one of Khaleda's counsels told The Daily Star quoting the no-confidence application as saying.

The other was that Justice Md Moinul Islam Chowdhury had been elected vice president of the Supreme Court Bar Association from the ruling Awami League panel before he became a judge, said the lawyer requesting anonymity.

Justice JBM Hassan is the HC bench's other member.

Khaleda urged Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, who accepted the application at his Supreme Court office in the afternoon, to transfer the petition to another HC bench for hearing and disposal, said Bodruddoza Badal, one of Khaleda's four lawyers who submitted the application.

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**Kazi Alauddin Road in Old Dhaka inundated since Wednesday when nor'westers accompanied by moderate rainfall lashed the capital and some other parts of the country including Chittagong and Netrakona in the morning and afternoon. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

# CASE AGAINST TARIQUE'S WIFE

## HC allows ACC to place arguments

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday permitted the Anti-Corruption Commission to contest its seven-year old rule on a graft case against Zubaida Rahman, wife of BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman.

On September 26, 2007, the ACC filed the case against Tarique, Zubaida and her mother Iqbal Mand Banu for amassing assets through illegal means and concealing information in their wealth statements.

According to the charge sheet, Tarique accumulated wealth worth around Tk 2.75 crore beyond his known income sources and hid information about assets worth around Tk 2.17 crore in his statement. Zubaida and her mother were accused of aiding and abetting Tarique.

Yesterday, the HC allowed the ACC to become a party in the rule,

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# Manage Langalbandh bathing ritual like Biswa Ijtema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rights defenders yesterday urged the government to manage the Hindu pilgrimage at Narayanganj's Langalbandh where several lakh people from home and abroad attend a bathing ritual every year, in the same manner it aids the Muslim gathering of Biswa Ijtema.

"We claim to be secular but secularism is proved in action not in words," said National Human Rights Commission Chairman Mizanur Rahman Khan, adding that he heard from a source that the government budget for this particular pilgrimage was only Tk 1.5 lakh.

Speaking as chief guest at a discussion on the March 27 stampede at Langalbandh, which killed 10 people and injured 20, the NHRC chief questioned that if government could monitor and aid the arrangement of Biswa Ijtema without flaws, why could it not do the same for Langalbandh?

The programme was organised by environmental rights

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Another attraction before the press show lucrative Motor show and Car rally.  
\*Super star Ananta Jalil & lot of celebrities will be attending the show.

1. Rally will start at 3:00pm
2. Motor Show will start at 5:00pm
3. Prize giving ceremony with refreshment at 5:30pm
4. Press show starts at 6:30pm

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