



MUSIC AND MELODIES

Melody is the very soul of Bangladesh, says Pt Tejendra Narayan Majumder

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SEEING THE INVISIBLE

It's time we stopped looking down upon the house helps as lesser human beings

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Star Showbiz

Firm with dubious records in charge

Malaysia appoints Synerflux to recruit workers from Bangladesh; rights groups say the decision will lead to monopoly

PORIMOL PALMA

Malaysia has appointed a private company to manage recruitment of Bangladeshi workers under the new C2G Plus system, despite rights groups' fears that the appointment of a single company will lead to monopoly.

The Malaysian company -- Synerflux Sdn Bhd -- that got the job is owned by former Malaysian home minister Azmi Khalid and Bangladesh origin Malaysian resident Aminul Islam, a competent source said.

online system known as Bangladeshi Workers Management System (BWMS). For this, Synerflux will be the "sole and exclusive entity" that will develop, maintain and manage the system.

The proposed system is similar to the one run by another company, Bestinet, which was also owned by Azmi Khalid and Aminul Islam. The company's operation was suspended on January 26 following allegations by Indonesia and Nepal that their workers were being charged higher fees.

"As Bestinet drew sharp criticisms, they SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



One-and-a-half-year-old Rakibul among the children at the Chhotomoni Nibash, a government shelter for the lost and abandoned kids, at Azimpur in the capital. If they are not lawfully claimed, they would be moved to orphanages when they are seven.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Caught in camera

A senior govt official may face music as video clips of his taking bribe go viral on social media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A senior government official is likely to face administrative and legal action after he was filmed taking bribes from service seekers on a number of occasions at his Motijheel office in the capital.

Video clips available on the social media show Md Shahidul Haque, controller at Dhaka office of the Office of Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (CCI&E) under the commerce ministry, counting notes, bargaining with service seekers over bribe and putting the cash in his trouser pocket.

It was unclear when the video was shot. But commerce ministry sources said their top officials came to know about it before the Eid-ul-Azha.

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Md Shahidul Haque

They need love, care

Life uncertain for abandoned, lost kids living in govt shelters due to absence of uniform adoption law

TAMANNA KHAN

The picture of a smiling child in a green sleeveless shirt caught attention of many after it was published in a national Bangla daily last month.

The reporter received several calls from people who wished to adopt one-and-a-half-year-old Rakibul Hasan being taken care of at a government shelter, home to lost and abandoned children.

But children of such shelters rarely get a family and parents due to legal

barriers and lack of a uniform adoption law in the country.

Rakibul got himself at Chhotomoni Nibash in the capital's Azimpur in November last year.

A Hindu couple had adopted him from a woman named Taslima. The police recovered him from them following a complaint filed with Shah Ali Police Station, Mirpur by a Muslim couple claiming to be parents of the boy.

Neither of the families became

Rakibul's own as DNAs of the Muslim couple did not match his and it has remained a mystery as to who Taslima was and how the boy was adopted by the Hindu couple in the first place, said Selina Akhter, deputy Superintendent of Chhotomoni Nibash in Dhaka.

So, the fate of the little boy finally took him to the shelter that at present accommodates 24 children of different ages up to seven.

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UK heightens alert, fears further attack

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The United Kingdom apprehends more attacks on westerners in Bangladesh and those could be indiscriminate.

"There is a high threat from terrorism. Further attacks targeting westerners may occur," the British government said in its summarised travel advice updated yesterday for its citizens.

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People jump over two walls on a footbridge of the Second Buriganga Bridge in Old Dhaka yesterday. Ahead of the last Eid, the walls were erected so that people could not board buses on the bridge, which caused traffic jams. The Eid holidays are over but the walls are still there troubling pedestrians.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HOSHI MURDER Two more detained

Families allege another four 'picked up by law enforcers'

EMRAN HOSSAIN and MEHEDI HASAN

Rangpur police yesterday detained two private bank employees from Rajshahi for questioning in the murder of Japanese national Kunio Hoshi.

Shushanto Chandra Roy, spokesperson for Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, confirmed the detention of the two -- Shahrir and Nahid.

Both Shahrir and Nahid are employees of a Brac Bank branch in Rajshahi. Shahrir is a credit card officer there and Nahid a sales and service

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Nobel Peace Prize goes to Tunisia mediators



Houcine Abbassi | Wided Bouchamaoui | Abdessattar Moussa | Fadhel Mahfoudh

AFP, Oslo

Tunisian civil society groups won the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday for helping to create the only democracy to emerge from the Arab Spring, at a time when the country is under threat from jihadist violence.

The Nobel panel said the award to the National Dialogue Quartet was intended as an "encouragement to the Tunisian people" and as an inspiration for others, particularly in the turbulent Middle East.

The award drew praise from around the world as a "beacon of hope" for the region, while one winner said it was a tribute to the "martyrs" who died in the struggle to move the north African country from dictatorship to democracy.

The committee hailed the quartet's "decisive contribution to the building of a pluralistic democracy in Tunisia in the wake of the Jasmine

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



One of the handed over Kaalmegh Villas (actual image)



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