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KSA wants to hire doctors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia is seeking to recruit some 1,000 doctors from Bangladesh, 10 years after the Arab country froze hiring health professionals from here.

"Saudi Arabia officially contacted us on November 21. They want to recruit consultants and specialist doctors from Bangladesh as soon as possible," said a high official at the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Golam Moshi confirmed the matter after he was contacted by The Daily Star over phone yesterday.

"This is a very positive news for us," he said. The message has already been communicated to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment for prompt actions.

The ambassador said the recent visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali to the KSA has further strengthened the Saudi-Bangladesh relations, which is resulting in opportunities for Bangladeshis in the Saudi Arabian job market.

The salary for the physicians would be between Tk 3.5 lakh and Tk 7 lakh and they would not have to pay for the travel and other expenses, said an official at the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh.

Bangladesh's state-run recruiting agency, Bangladesh Overseas Employment Services Ltd, would arrange the necessary paperwork, he added.

Golam Moshi said the Kingdom had imposed a freeze on recruiting medical professionals from Bangladesh in 2016 following "mismanagement" in the recruitment process.

"If we can manage everything well, Saudi Arabia may recruit more Bangladeshi doctors," he said.

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Rickshaw vans are "parked" on the central reservation of a street under the Mayor Hanif Flyover at Phulbaria in the capital yesterday. City dwellers are often troubled by illegal occupation of the streets below the flyover.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Dhaka goes classical today



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Army Stadium in the capital will reverberate once again with pristine melodies and rhythms along with the world's largest gathering of sub-continental classical music-loving souls, as the fifth edition of Bengal Classical Music Festival begins today.

The five-night (November 24-28) grand classical music fiesta -- hailed as the largest festival of classical music in the world -- will take place from 7:00pm to 5:00am every day. This year's festival is dedicated to eminent litterateur Syed Shamsul Haq.

At the opening ceremony tonight, Finance Minister AMA Muhith will inaugurate the festival, where Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor will be present as special guest.

Indian High SEE PAGE 13 COL 4

No arrest without permission

Draft law shields govt staff's action while on duty

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Without permission from the government, a civil servant cannot be arrested for a criminal offence committed while on official duty, according to a draft bill likely to be placed before the cabinet today.

However, law enforcers would be able to arrest such a civil servant if the charge sheet in the case was accepted by a court, the draft said.

If the person commits a criminal offence on his or her own time, the law enforcers would be able to arrest a civil servant without permission and before a charge sheet was issued.

The proposed law will not be applicable for cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The draft had been placed before the cabinet in July and the cabinet gave its approval in principle with some observations. The draft was then sent to the law ministry for vetting.

Several rights bodies and legal experts had then criticised the draft's provision for

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6 Filipinos charged over BB cyberheist

STAR REPORT

An anti-money laundering body of the Philippines has filed charges against five officials of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) and a former treasurer who "willfully ignored" suspicious activity that led to \$81 million vanishing after a heist on Bangladesh's central bank.

In a 97-page complaint filed to the justice ministry on November 18, the Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) said former RCBC treasurer Raul Tan, three retail banking officials, and two workers at the branch where cash was withdrawn were guilty of money laundering because they should have noticed something was wrong and intervened immediately.

"Tan was in a position to order enhanced due diligence based on the red flags," read the complaint, according to a Reuters report.

"Tan could have convened the anti-money laundering committee to act on these red flags," the AMLC said, adding Tan "willfully ignored them and failed to conduct thorough investigation" as required by law and the bank's regulations.

Tan's actions showed he had "knowledge that the funds transacted represented the proceeds of an unlawful activity", it said.

Tan, brother of National Treasurer Roberto B Tan, resigned from RCBC last April, at the height of a Senate investigation on the money laundering scandal.

Other officials who were charged are: Ismael S Reyes, Brigitte R Capiña, Nestor O Pineda, Romualdo S Agarrado and Angela Ruth S Torres. At the time of the money laundering transaction, Reyes was national sales director of RCBC's retail banking group; Capiña was retail banking group regional sales director; Pineda was district sales director; Agarrado was customer service head of RCBC Jupiter branch's business center; and Torres was senior customer relations officer at the Jupiter business center.

Alleged omissions made by Reyes, Capiña, Pineda, Agarrado and Torres were detailed in the complaint, reported The Philippine Daily Inquirer.

In a statement Tuesday, RCBC said its own probe had found that no official from the head office was involved in the transaction, which was

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Handbag 'thief' is a driver

Dutch envoy's handbag recovered; 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday recovered the stolen handbag of the Netherlands ambassador to Bangladesh and arrested two people, including the alleged thief, in this connection.

Rubel, 19, a driver by profession, was seen in the photographs taken by photojournalists before he stole the bag of Dutch envoy Leoni Margaretha Cuelenaere from an event on Dhaka University campus on Monday, said police.

He shaved off his beard soon after the incident so that he could not be identified easily, said police.

Another arrestee Shams, 20, is an employee of a mobile phone shop at Bashundhara City Shopping Complex.

Police recovered all the SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Involved dads get less trouble later



DAILYMAIL.CO.UK

Children whose fathers embrace parenthood are less likely to be troubled as they approach their teens, researchers say.

An Oxford University study has found that fathers who were emotionally committed and felt confident about parenthood in the first few months had better-behaved children 11 years later.

The amount of time the father spent with the child or got involved in domestic chores was not as significant as these two factors.

For the study, parents of more than 10,000 children from south west England answered a set SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

3 'JMB men' surrender to home boss

STAR REPORT

With a promise to return to normal life, three alleged operatives of banned militant outfit Jama'at ul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) surrendered to the home minister in Rangpur yesterday.

Hafiz Masud Rana, 18, Hafizur Rahman, 16, and Akhtarul alias Akteruzzaman, 18, all madrasa students from Dinajpur's Chorghat upazila, surrendered at an anti-militancy rally organised by Rab-13 in the city's Chital Auditorium.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan handed over a cheque for Tk 5 lakh to each of the three for their rehabilitation.

Asked whether the surrendered militants would be under custody, Director Mufti Mahmud Khan of the Rab's Legal and Media Wing said they will not be held in custody.

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Poverty landed two sisters in the factory

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Two minor sisters are fighting for life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital with burns from Tuesday's fire at a factory in Ashulia. They came to Dhaka just one and a half months ago from Manikganj to work, to shoulder the expenses of their family.

At the hospital's burn unit yesterday, the mother seemed dumbstruck sitting beside her daughters --

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Wrapped in bandages, a few of the victims of the Ashulia factory fire lie on their beds at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital. An underage co-worker of theirs died of her injuries at the hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Not equipped to fight fire

Finds primary probe into Ashulia gas lighter factory blaze; 1 dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Firefighters have primarily found absence of necessary fire-dousing equipment at the Ashulia gas lighter factory as an under-aged girl labourer, who received severe burns in Tuesday's fire, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

There were extinguishers at the tin-roofed single-storey factory, said Samarendra Nath Biswas, deputy director of Fire Service and Civil Defence, Dhaka.

"But we did not see any hosepipe to convey water immediately to douse the flames," he said, adding that they also did not find reserve of sands which could be used to extinguish the fire.

The firefighters found these in primary investigation, said Samarendra, adding that the factory was launched in 2012 and is owned by one Kaiser Hamid, who is on the run.

A three-member committee headed by Assistant Director Dilip Kumar Ghosh was formed yesterday to probe the incident, he added.

Locals have alleged that more than 100 children were working at the factory, reports a correspondent in Savar.

The deceased child labourer has meanwhile been identified as Akhi Banu, 14. She had joined the factory in October this year, said her family.

With 35 percent physical burns and damaged respiratory tract, Akhi succumbed to her injuries around 2:00am yesterday at the Intensive Care Unit of the Burn Unit of DMCH.

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 24

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-05 12-45 3-45 5-21 7-00
JAMAAT 5-40 1-15 4-00 5-24 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION