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130 nations agree on safe migration

Global Forum on Migration, Development ends in Dhaka aiming to protect migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 130 countries unanimously agreed to have a global treaty for better protection of the migrants, a global phenomenon that is increasing rapidly across the world.

They wanted the treaty to be legally binding or in the form of Sustainable Development Goals that the countries are responsible to achieve on their own, Foreign Secretary Shahidul Haque said at a press briefing in the city's Bangabandhu International Convention Centre (BICC) yesterday.

"Such a consensus is historic," he said as the chair of the ninth Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD). The three-day summit concluded at the BICC yesterday.

The global treaty will have provisions to protect rights of migrants in any form - regular or irregular - and maximise their development benefits, the foreign secretary mentioned.

Bangladesh hosted the GFMD at a time when the world witnessed one of the largest movements of people amid armed conflicts. Tens of thousands of people are taking refuge in Arab countries and Europe, creating a global hue and cry with many countries refusing to accept them.

Thousands of migrants also died while crossing the Mediterranean, while migrant crisis in the Andaman Sea last year involving migrants from Bangladesh and Myanmar drew global attention.

Some 80 lakh Bangladeshis work abroad, mostly in the Middle East, Malaysia and Singapore, but high recruitment cost, abuses in the destination countries, forced labour and indebtedness cause great miseries to a large number of low-skilled migrants.

Migrants, who leave behind their families back home, too undergo psychological and health problems. Besides, there are threats of climate-induced displacement of people in Bangladesh.

Against such a backdrop, Bangladesh placed the proposal of Global Compact on Migration at the UN summit in New York on September 19. It

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Flocks of Whistling-ducks fly in to feed and rest in a lake on Jahangirnagar University campus on the outskirts of Dhaka. The verdant campus is a favourite wintering place for the locally migrant birds. They come mainly from the northern haors of Bangladesh as winter sets in. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Five Huji suspects placed on remand Arrestees tell court they were picked up months ago

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted three-day remand for each of the five alleged Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) men who were arrested by Rab in the city's Uttar Kattali area with arms and ammunitions four days ago.

During the hearing of their remand prayers, the arrestees told the court that plainclothes men, introducing themselves as law enforcers, had picked them up about six months to one year ago, said court sources.

The arrestees are Tajul Islam, Nazim Uddin, Abu Jar Gifari, Nure Alam and Iftisham Ahmed Sami.

Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate Nazmul Hossain Chowdhury placed the five on remand in three cases lodged against them under the arms, explosive substances and anti-terrorism acts, said Nirmalendu Chakraborty, additional deputy commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police.

One of the arrestees Iftisham Ahmed told the court he was picked up from a students' mess near the Monnaffer

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Money doesn't really make you happy

MAIL ONLINE

Money really can't buy happiness, according to an extensive research project into Britain's well-being.

The cheapest way and most effective way to make Britain feel happier and to reduce misery levels is by improving mental health treatment.

A study by Lord Richard Layard and others at the London School of Economics found that treating depression and anxiety would reduce misery in the UK by 20 percent.

Eliminating poverty would only reduce misery by five percent, the study found.

Explaining why reducing poverty would not boost happiness levels, Lord Layard's report said the problem is that income is measured against what

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Job tenure of 3 services chiefs fixed at 4 yrs

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

The cabinet yesterday approved in principle a draft law proposing the service tenure of the chiefs of the army, the navy and the air force to be four years.

Traditionally, chiefs of the three forces are appointed for three years and in some cases, they get extensions ranging from one year to several years, according to former chiefs of the forces who hailed the government move.

Talking to The Daily Star, they said the law would help introduce a system in the forces.

The draft law titled "Defence Forces Chiefs (appointment, retirement and salary and allowances) Act-2016" was approved in the cabinet's weekly meeting at the secretariat, with Prime Minister Sheikh

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No voting to Bhola, Feni zila parishads

All candidates in the dists elected unopposed; large number of chairman, member aspirants in other dists face no contestants

PANKAG KARMAKAR

Twenty-two district council chairman candidates have been declared elected unopposed by the Election Commission.

A total of 61 districts were slated to go to district council polls on December 28. But there would be no election in Bhola and Feni on that day as the chairmen and all the 40 member hopefuls of the two district councils have already been elected unopposed.

Besides, at least 165 member hopefuls of the total 700 posts in 35 district councils are going to be elected uncontested, according to data compiled by The Daily Star. This means many voters, elected public representatives of different local government bodies, would be denied their rights to exercise their franchise.

The EC declared the chairman candidates elected yesterday after the deadline for withdrawal of nominations expired on Sunday.

In Jhalakathi, voters of only two wards will cast votes as the chairman and 18 member aspirants have been elected uncontested.

The trend of uncontested elections is prominent in Sirajganj, Pabna, Natore, Thakurgaon, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Faridpur, Chittagong, Barisal and Madaripur.

Out of 20 member posts in each district councils, 10 are going to be won unopposed in Sirajganj, nine each in Natore and in Madaripur, eight each in Barisal and Narayanganj, seven each in Pabna, Munshiganj and Faridpur and six each in Chittagong and Thakurgaon.

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No political party should get 'scale' as polls symbol

SC observes in full court meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday decided to ask the Election Commission not to allocate "daripalla" (weighing scale) as election symbol to any political party.

The decision was made at a full court meeting of the SC, as the weighing scale is used as the monogram of the apex court, a meeting source told The Daily Star.

The weighing scale was earlier allocated to Jamaat-e-Islami. The party lost the right to contest parliamentary elections after the High Court declared its registration with the EC illegal.

Yesterday's meeting decided to use the weighing scale with three chains as the

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Bangladesh Private Medical College Association Newly Elected Executive Committee

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Alhaj Mockbul Hossain

Former Member of Parliament & CIP Advisor, Bangladesh Awami League.

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Advisor

Vice-President

Vice-President

Vice-President

Vice-President

Joint-Secretary

Joint-Secretary

Joint-Secretary

Organizing Secretary

Divisional Organizing Secretary (Sylhet)

Divisional Organizing Secretary (Chittagong)

Divisional Organizing Secretary (Rajshahi)

Legal Affairs Secretary

Education & Cultural Secretary

Executive Member

Executive Member

Executive Member

Anwer Khan Modern Medical College & Hospital

Popular Medical College & Hospital



Finance Secretary
Md. Ikram Hossain Biju



General Secretary
Dr. Md. Enamur Rahman

Honourable Member of Parliament Dhaka-19 (Savar)

Dr. Md. Moazzem Hossain

Dr. Mostafizur Rahman

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Syed Md. Morshed Hossain

Dr. Taskinur Rahman

Dr. Gazi Mizanur Rahman

Nilu Ahsan

Ulfat Jahan Moon

Priti Chakraborty

Mohammad Yusuf

BANGLADESH BANK CYBER HEIST Some BB officials involved: top investigator

REUTERS, Dhaka

Some Bangladesh central bank officials deliberately exposed its computer systems and enabled hackers to steal \$81 million from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in February, a top investigator in Dhaka told Reuters yesterday.

The comments by police official Mohammad Shah Alam are the first sign that investigators have got a firm lead in one of the world's biggest cyber heists. Arrests are soon likely, he said.

On Thursday, the head of a Bangladesh government panel that investigated the heist said five bank officials were guilty of negligence but that they were only unwitting accomplices.

Shah Alam told Reuters his investigations had discovered that some bank officials had knowingly created vulnerabilities in the bank's connection to the SWIFT system, used for

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 13

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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