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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



STYLE

ADP EFFORTS PAY OFF

Spending rose 42pc year-on-year to Tk 23,815cr in July-October

PAGE B1

NOVOTNA NO MORE

Former Wimbledon Champion Jana Novotna succumbs to cancer aged 49

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Keep watch on NGOs

Ministers demand as some NGOs 'influencing trade union activities'

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

A number of ministers yesterday demanded stricter monitoring of the activities of the local and international NGOs operating in Bangladesh.

They also called for scrutinising the earnings and expenditures of the non-governmental organisations, alleging that some of those provoke workers to create chaos.

The demands were made at an unscheduled discussion at the weekly cabinet meeting chaired by the prime minister at her office, said meeting sources.

Seeking anonymity, a minister, who attended the meeting, told The Daily Star that one of the cabinet members raised the issues of workers' wages and trade union.

At one point, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wanted to know whether the trade unions operate independently or outsiders interfere in those.

In reply, State Minister for Labour Mujibul Huq Chunnu said the employees of different organisations run their own trade unions but NGOs patronise those.

He pointed out that it's not monitored from where the NGOs collect funds, and where and how they spend those, according to the sources.

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Loggers remove trees through the hilly roads inside a forest in Chittagong's Rangunia upazila a couple of days ago. The bio-rich forest is shrinking every day as trees are cut for brick kilns and furniture industry.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

KSA cracks down on illegals

Over 24,000 migrants, including Bangladeshis, detained so far

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of expatriates, including Bangladeshis, have been detained in Saudi Arabia since Wednesday as the authorities have begun a campaign against the violators of residence, work and border security regulations.

The Saudi interior ministry launched a joint field campaign on November 15 to pick up over-stayers and violators of residence, targeting expatriates, carriers, and operators, said diplomatic sources at the Bangladesh embassy in Riyadh.

Over 24,000 people have been rounded up so far. The majority of them were detained in Makkah while others in Riyadh and Jazan, according to Saudi Press Agency.

Among the detainees, 15,702 had breached

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SEDITION CASE Charges framed against Tarique

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed sedition charges against BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman and three others in a case filed over broadcasting a "provocative speech" of Tarique.

Former chairman of Ekushey TV Abdus Salam and former journalists of the TV channel Mahathir Farooki Khan and Kanak Sarwar are the other accused.

Salam, now on bail, pleaded innocence and

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Halt hostilities, ensure early return of refugees

Foreign ministers from Asia, Europe make the call at ASEM meet in Myanmar

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Attending a conference in Myanmar, foreign ministers from Asia and Europe have called for immediate cessation of hostilities, halting of outflow and early return of externally displaced Rohingyas.

Foreign Ministers of 51 Asian and European countries gathered in Naypyidaw for the two-day event of the 13th Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM), which was opened by Myanmar's de facto leader Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday morning.

Taking part in an informal briefing on Rakhine issue in Naypyidaw yesterday, they also called for implementation of recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission for long-lasting-solutions in Rakhine state.

Earlier in the morning, the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy had informal meetings with some ministers on the situation in Rakhine State. The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of Myanmar, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Estonia, Germany, Malta, Russia, Luxemburg, France, Thailand, Hungary, Finland and Sweden.

The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini, has expressed her hope that Bangladesh and Myanmar would reach a decision to sign an MoU and agreement on the safe repatriation of Rohingyas from Bangladesh to their homeland Myanmar.

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Don't hold bodies for unpaid bills

HC orders hospitals

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered hospitals and clinics not to hold any deceased's body if his or her family fails to pay the medical bill.

It asked the health secretary and the director general of the Directorate General of Health Services to issue a circular in this regard.

The court also directed them to create a fund for paying the medical bill if any poor people died in a hospital or clinic.

The HC bench of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice Md Ataur Rahman Khan came up with the directive after hearing a writ petition moved by advocate Manzill Murshid on behalf of Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh.

He filed the petition with the HC in June 2012 after the Bangla daily Jugantor had published a report on June 10, 2012, mentioning that City Hospital in the capital's

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'MISSING' BOOK IMPORTER Cops now claim he's held for terror links

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The book importer, who was picked up by plainclothes men on November 8, is now claimed to have been arrested on Sunday night in a terror case.

His family, however, says he is innocent.

Police claimed Tanvir Yasin Karim, owner of Karim International and Darus Salam Publications, was held in Azad Masque area in the capital's Gulshan.

Until the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police disclosed the arrest, his family was completely in the dark about his whereabouts.

Karim, who graduated from North South

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IT'S NOT FOG... People cover their noses to walk past as a pail of dust hangs in the air on this street near the capital's Mohakhali bus terminal yesterday. Dust from the battered street makes life for locals and other city dwellers difficult. Polluted air in Dhaka during the dry season is one of the main reasons behind respiratory diseases.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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The Metal (Pvt.) Limited

Congratulations

Officers, Staffs & Workers of Fariha Group are really honoured on the achievement of **Mr. Md. Monir Hossain**, Managing Director of **Fariha Spinning Mills Ltd** for being awarded **CIP (Commercially Important Person)** by the Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh for his outstanding contribution in the national export trade. Mr. Md. Monir Hossain is a distinguished and enterprising personality of Financial, Textile, Energy & Industrial Sector and noted philanthropist of the country. We express our heartiest congratulations & wish him good health and long life.

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