

Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 3
written in the constitution that multiparty democracy would be there in the country. Leaders of different parties are here on the same stage. There can be differences of opinions among us, but we have to be united on fundamental issues," he observed.

The Oikyafront chief said independence becomes meaningless if people's ownership of the country cannot be ensured.

Former Gono Forum general secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu, its executive president Subrata Chowdhury, general secretary Reza Kibria, JSD general secretary Abdul Malek Ratan, Bangladesher Biplobi Workers Party general secretary Saiful Hauque, Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury and Prof Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University were present at the programme, held with Nagarik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna in the chair.

Finance minister hopes for smooth hajj management

Bss, Dhaka

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal yesterday hoped that Bangladeshi pilgrims would be able to perform hajj this year without any hassle, as the government has taken all necessary steps in this regard.

"Before the Awami League government assumed office in 2009, hajj management was bad every year, but now there is no problem regarding the hajj management," he said.

He was addressing the annual iftar of Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) at the Police Convention Hall in Ramna.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah assured HAAB of looking into their problems through discussions.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mahbub Ali said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had already directed his ministry to see that there is no mismanagement during the hajj time.

He also said from this year, Bangladeshi hajj pilgrims can complete immigration formalities of Saudi Arabia from Dhaka airport, saving their time and energy.

Chaired by HAAB President M Shahadat Hossain Taslim, the event was moderated by HAAB Secretary General Faruk Ahmad Sardar.

Taslim said HAAB would not shelter agencies which would resort to corruption and injustice to pilgrims.



With a 14-point demand including allocation for Dalit youths' skill development in the national budget, Reach to Unreached formed a human chain on Barishal city's Sadar Road yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Three killed

FROM PAGE 5
killed as a truck hit him while he was crossing Dinajpur-Panchagarh highway in Baromile village of Kaharol upazila yesterday.

Abdul Gafur, 60, from the village, died instantly, said police.

UNB from Cox's Bazar reports, two people were killed and 10 persons injured in a head-on collision between a bus and microbus in Dulafrin Majar area of Sadar upazila yesterday.

Among the two deceased, one was identified as driver Md Yakub, 27, of Kalatoli Adarsh Uttar village in the upazila.

Ray of hope

FROM PAGE 5
"We got around five to 10 ounces of eggs. We were hoping for more as it's the second time broodfish laid eggs in the river. But it's still a good sign," he said.

Prof Md Manzoorul Kibria, an eminent Halda researcher, told The Daily Star that the repeated release of sample eggs is a positive sign. "We hope the spawning will begin in full swing within days," he added.

Broadfish release sample eggs before releasing eggs in full. Heavy rainfall accompanied by gust and thunderbolt create a congenial atmosphere for its breeding.

'Stay alert of middlemen'

FROM PAGE 3

nationals of different countries seeking fortune abroad.

These migrants had left Libya and undertaken perilous journey through the sea in hopes of reaching Europe.

Different media outlets reported that unscrupulous quarters were involved in sending the Bangladeshis through illegal means.

At yesterday's discussion, speakers including lawmakers, human rights and development activists also called upon the government to increase monetary allocation for the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry in the national budget, to address various problems of migrant workers.

Addressing the discussion, Deputy Speaker Fazle Rabbi Mia said remittance by migrant workers is one of the key forces of the

country's economy. But unfortunately, allocation of money in the national budget for the concerned ministry is not enough.

He also urged all stakeholders to raise awareness among people, so that they are not cheated by any unscrupulous quarter or middlemen in the name of migration.

Fazle Rabbi also assured that he will allocate adequate time to lawmakers if they want to raise their voice in the parliament over safe migration.

Ruling Awami League lawmaker M Israfi Alam, chairman of the Parliamentarians Caucus on Migration and Development, said the government is yet to see success in reducing cost of labour migration.

Lawmaker Aroma Dutta, a member of the caucus, said the government is doing many things for safe migration but people are not aware about it due

to lack of publicity.

Presenting the keynote paper, Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants (WARBE), a non-government organisation, said in the 2018-19 fiscal, Tk 594 crore was allocated in the national budget for the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry, which was Tk 90 crore less than the previous fiscal year.

He said increment of budget allocation is urgent for safe and legal migration.

Lawmakers Rezaul Karim Bablu and Shamsun Nahar, Ain o Salish Kendra Executive Director Sheeba Hafiza, and secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury spoke at the programme, among others.

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