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EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

3,000 more likely to get MPO benefit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is likely to provide MPO benefits to 3,000 educational institutions, about 1,000 more than it had initially planned for the coming fiscal year.

The government allocated Tk 1,150 crore to bring 2,000 institutions under the monthly pay order scheme, in which no institution was included for nine years.

Despite the rise in the number of institutions, there will be no change in the allocation.

Basic salaries and other benefits will be given to the employees of newly included educational institutions in phases, finance ministry officials said.

"A number of schools, colleges and madrasas have been queuing for the MPO since 2010... We are increasing [the number of institutions] to 3,000 because of the pressure from teachers," a ministry official said, wishing anonymity.

About 2,500 of the institutions are schools and colleges while the rest are madrasas, technical and vocational training institutions, he said.

Several thousand teachers and employees took to the streets several times demanding the MPO scheme in the last several years.

In 2018-19, the government had set aside Tk 500 crore for new MPOs, but the fund was not used because of the election and other issues, officials said.

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Oblivious to the danger, people, including women and children, travel on the flatbed and the top of a cabin of a truck on the Dhaka-Tangail highway in Gazipur's Joydebpur yesterday. Many, who cannot afford to buy bus or train tickets, returned to the capital this way after spending Eid with their loved ones back home.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

GRAFT CHARGES

Zardari arrested

AFP, Islamabad

Former Pakistani president Asif Ali Zardari was arrested yesterday after his bail application was rejected in connection with a high-profile money laundering case that saw millions allegedly siphoned out of the country.

Zardari, husband of assassinated former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, served as president from 2008 until 2013 and has long been the subject of corruption allegations, and he is widely known in Pakistan as "Mr Ten Percent".

Small scuffles erupted between police and supporters of Zardari's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) outside his family's residence in Islamabad as he was taken into custody.

A senior PPP official confirmed the arrest.

The charges in the case were not disclosed.

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Noted actor, playwright Girish Karnad passes away

AGENCIES

Veteran Indian playwright, actor and director Girish Karnad died of multiple organ failure in Bengaluru early yesterday. He was 81.

Karnad, who will be remembered for his roles in Shyam Benegal's Hindi films "Nishant" (1975) and "Manthan" (1976), was an accomplished actor both on the stage and on the big screen.

Recipient of India's third highest civilian honour Padma Bhushan in 1992, Karnad was born on May 11, 1938.

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UNDOCUMENTED BANGLADESHIS IN MALAYSIA

5,272 detained in five months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Malaysian immigration department has detained 5,272 Bangladeshi workers, among other nationals, between January 1 and June 4 this year amid the country's stringent action against undocumented foreign workers.

During this time, the immigration department carried out 7,940 nationwide operations, involving checks on over 100,000 foreigners, and actions have been taken against 23,295 undocumented foreign workers, reports Malaysian newspaper Free Malaysia Today, quoting a statement by the country's Home Minister Muhyiddin Yassin on Sunday.

Of those detained, 8,011 are Indonesians, 5,272 are Bangladeshis and the rest include the workers from Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand.

In the same period, legal action was taken against 605 employers under the immigration act.

"In the five months between Jan 1 and Jun 1 2019, some 26,116 illegal immigrants were sent back to their respective countries," the statement said.

The number of Bangladeshis jailed or deported could not be known.

Malaysia is home to some 800,000 Bangladeshis. Of them, some one to two lakh are estimated to be undocumented. Bangladesh has repeatedly requested Malaysian authorities to regularise the undocumented workers, but the latter has reportedly denied.

According to migrant rights bodies, fraudulence by Malaysian agents and abuses by the employers contribute to workers being undocumented. They too have called for the Malaysian government to regularise undocumented foreign workers before fresh labour recruitment from Bangladesh.

In Sunday's statement, the Malaysian home minister said his ministry would take steps to regularise the undocumented workers.

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52 FOOD ITEMS

Most of them now pass BSTI retest

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Samples of most of the 52 food items, which were previously found to be substandard by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, have passed a retest by the quality regulator, says a counsel for the BSTI.

The report, which was prepared by the BSTI based on recent test results, was handed over to the lawyer, barrister Sarkar MR Hassan, yesterday for submitting it to the High Court.

Talking to The Daily Star, Hassan said the report would be filed on June 16. The court had directed the BSTI to complete the retest of the food items by June 13, he said.

Citing the report, Hassan said that his client has reexamined samples of 48 food items as per the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution Act-2018, and it found most of the samples to be standard.

For example, samples of Oil Food Lachchha Seemai of Oil Food and Beverage Company had been found to be substandard in the previous test.

"In the retest, Oil Food Lachchha Seemai was found to be standard."

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Panic on PIA flight

Passenger opens emergency exit, mistaking it for toilet



CNN ONLINE

A passenger on a UK-Pakistan flight at Manchester Airport caused severe delays after opening the emergency exit door in an attempt to reach the bathroom while the plane was still on the ground.

Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) flight 702 was due to fly from Manchester, UK, to Islamabad, Pakistan, on Friday but suffered a delay of seven hours, according to the airline.

Forty passengers were offloaded following the incident, during which "the exit slide deployed automatically," PIA said in a statement.

A spokesman for the airline told CNN the passenger had opened the door thinking it was the bathroom, but all passengers were safe.

Manchester Airport declined to comment on Friday night's incident.

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Six arrested over rape of four girls

STAR REPORT

Police in the last two days arrested six people, including a teenager, on charges of raping four girls in separate incidents in four districts.

In Cumilla, police on Sunday evening arrested three people following a reported "gunfight" over gang-raping a garment worker at Daudkandi upazila on Friday night, said Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge of Daudkandi Police Station.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 11

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-05 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAAT 4-40 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

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