



The Daily Star



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“You’ll have to understand that the soil condition of China and India is different from that of Bangladesh. You’ll have to consider it when you compare construction costs.”
ROAD, TRANSPORT AND BRIDGES MINISTER OBAIDUL QUADER ON ROAD CONSTRUCTION COSTS IN BANGLADESH (PAGE 3)

“Institutional corruption and irregularities cast a shadow over the government’s achievements.”
JATIYA PARTY MP PIR FAZLUR RAHMAN ON WIDESPREAD GRAFT ALLEGATIONS IN DIFFERENT SECTORS.

“I am deeply concerned about the impact of recent actions by the government of India...”
UN RIGHTS CHIEF MICHELLE BACHELET OVER INDIA’S ACTIONS IN KASHMIR. (PAGE 8)

Duped with lure of bright future

Rab busts MLM firm that made a fortune for itself at expense of hapless jobseekers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About a month ago, Nazmul Haque Mujad, an honours third-year student in Rajshahi, learnt about a job in Dhaka from one of his friends named Akib.

Murad was told the salary would be about Tk 20,000 and in addition, he would get commissions on sale.

For someone like Mujad, who was struggling to support his education because of financial hardship, the job looked so lucrative that he quit studies right away and travelled all the way to the capital to join the firm, without even knowing what the job responsibilities would be.

At the firm -- Lifeway Bangladesh (Pvt) Limited -- housed at a building at Uttara, the 23-year-old was informed about three packages involving Tk 30,500, Tk 40,500 and Tk 50,000.

He said the salaries and other perks would be the highest for the last one.

Mujad, 23, took the first package and paid them Tk 30,500 as “refundable security money”. He would also have to take up a three-month training. During that period, he would receive a remuneration of Tk 8,000 every month along with free accommodation and food.

“There were many other youths like me and the first three days went well. But on the fourth day, they took all our mobile phones. They then asked us to call our friends and gave them the same job offers,” Mujad told this newspaper yesterday.

On the 12th day, Mujad realised he was trapped and so did the others with him. As they tried to leave the place, the man refused to let them go.

“As I asked for my Tk 30,500, the man told me that they spent Tk 11,000 for my food and Tk 11,000 for my accommodation. He offered a blender or a dinner set for the rest of the money.”

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Bangladesh skipper Shakib Al Hasan’s dismissal immediately after a long rain delay gave Afghanistan the boost to make one final victory charge, which they managed just in time on the fifth day of the one-off Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED



We need better players: Shakib

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram

Unlike the previous two occasions that Shakib Al Hasan had attended the press conference during the one-off Test against Afghanistan, there was no smile on the Bangladesh captain’s face yesterday following a humiliating 224-run defeat at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram.

Why not? With rain allowing just 13 balls to be bowled in the first two sessions of the fifth and final day, Bangladesh had just to survive 18.3 overs or 70 minutes with four wickets in hand and, most importantly, with Shakib at the crease.

There were many prayers by local supporters for rain to wash out the entire day’s play, but it seemed that destiny was not to be denied for the deserving

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BTRC AUDIT CLAIM Robi, GP launch legal battle

They seek permanent injunction against Tk 13,447cr claim

MUHAMMAD ZAHIDUL ISLAM

Mobile carriers Robi and Grameenphone have filed two cases with a Dhaka court, seeking permanent injunction against the telecom regulator’s audit claims of Tk 13,447 crore.

The cases were lodged on August 25 and 26 respectively. On Thursday, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) issued show cause notices to the operators asking them to explain within 30 days why their licences would not be cancelled for not paying the dues.

Shahed Alam, chief corporate and regulatory officer at Robi, yesterday said their company was trying to resolve the matter amicably through negotiations or arbitration, but the BTRC did not heed to their request for such resolution of disputes.

“Instead, the BTRC has taken steps

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Bribery rampant at sub-registrar offices

TIB says service seekers have to pay up to Tk 5 lakh in bribes to get their land deeds registered; up to Tk 20 lakh bribe for recruitment, promotion, transfers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People had to pay up to Tk 5 lakh in bribes to get their land deeds registered at 41 upazila sub-registrar’s offices, said a Transparency International Bangladesh report.

Transactions of up to Tk 20 lakh beyond legal means had also been made for recruitments, promotions, and transfers of staffers and officials, and for obtaining licences for deed writers, said the report.

TIB disclosed its research findings in the report “Challenges of Good Governance in Land Deed Registration Service and Way Forward” at a press conference at its Dhanmondi office yesterday.

It said a sub-registrar who indulges in corruption gets 10 to 50 percent of the bribe money and a portion of the rest of the money is paid to unscrupulous officials in district offices and Directorate of Registration.

- Top to bottom tiers complicit in corruption
- Up to Tk 20 lakh traded for transfer of a sub-registrar
- TIB recommends digitisation in land-related services

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said in a sense, people were being held hostages to the institutionalisation of corruption.

The sector has accountability and internal control mechanisms but those were not functioning properly. The corruption and irregularities there were based on “partnership and agreement”. A kind of “partnership outline” from top to bottom had been established, he added.

“In Bangladesh, deed registration and corruption have become synonymous,” Iftekharuzzaman said.

The report was based on research done by the Bangladesh chapter of the Germany-based global graft watchdog between July 2018 and last month.

It collected data from 16 district offices of registrars -- two each from eight divisions -- and

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Centre plans to expel all illegals from India

Says home minister Amit Shah

NDTV ONLINE

India’s Home Minister Amit Shah yesterday hinted that after Assam, the government’s plan to locate and weed out illegal immigrants will be taken across the country.

Amid a huge discontent in Assam over the citizens’ registry, in which 19 lakh people have been left out, the minister said on Sunday that the centre will throw “every single illegal immigrant” out of the country.

“All states are worried about the NRC the national register of citizens,” Shah said yesterday during his two-day visit to the northeast.

“Assam thinks NRC was wrong, smaller states felt there would be a spill over. Let me assure, not only Assam, we want the entire country to be cleansed of illegal migrants. We already have a plan ready. We will bring all states into confidence,” he said.

Since the final NRC list was released, a section of BJP leaders in the state had expressed disappointment at the exclusion of a chunk of Bengali Hindus -- who constitute



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Holy Ashura today

UNB, Dhaka

The holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (RA), is being observed in the country today with due religious fervour and solemnity.

On this day in the Hijri year of 61, Hazrat Imam (RA), grandson of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), along with his family members and 72 followers had embraced martyrdom in the hands of Yazid’s soldiers at the desert of Karbala to uphold the

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HOLIDAY NOTICE

Today, September 10, is the holy Ashura and therefore The Daily Star office will remain closed in accordance with the decision of NOAB. There will be no issue of this paper tomorrow (Wednesday).



Rainwater floods parts of the capital’s Karwan Bazar due to poor drainage system, causing buyers and traders at the market to suffer. The photos were taken around 3:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

