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SHAH CEMENT

Maldives to recruit from Bangladesh

Says its visiting foreign minister

UNB, Dhaka

The Maldives will recruit workers from Bangladesh by creating a solid framework under an agreement, said visiting Foreign Minister of the Maldives Abdulla Shahid yesterday.

"Today we'll be signing two memoranda. The memorandum of understanding on the placement of human resources between the two countries to provide a solid framework for the recruitment of human resources from Bangladesh," he said at a joint press briefing after bilateral talks at state guesthouse Padma.

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and his counterpart from the Maldives Abdulla Shahid led their respective delegations during the talks.

The second MoU is on cooperation between the Foreign Service Institute of the Maldives and the Foreign Service Academy of Bangladesh over the training development of Foreign Service officers of the two countries, he said.

Shahid said the Maldives put emphasis on regularisation of undocumented Bangladeshi workers to ensure their basic rights in his country.

"I conveyed the important role played by Bangladeshi workers in [the] Maldives and the need to regularise the undocumented workers for protecting their basic rights and wellbeing," he said.

ROHINGYA ISSUE

Shahid reiterated the support of the Maldives to Bangladesh on the issue of Rohingya refugees.

"[The] Maldives always advocated for the right of the Rohingya people and together with the government of [The] Gambia, we seek the accountability

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Growers bring in boat loads of pineapples to Samataghat in Rangamati and sell those to traders at wholesale prices. The fruit produced in the hills are much sought after across the country and fetch good prices. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANVIL CHAKMA

SMUGGLING GOLD Customs finds 60 bars in catering truck

8 US-Bangla workers held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs Intelligence officials yesterday arrested eight US-Bangla Airlines employees after recovering 60 gold bars at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport.

The bars, weighing seven kg, were concealed inside the food storage of a catering truck. The officials recovered those after a flight landed at the airport from Dubai around 7:00am, Md Abdur Rouf, director general of Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate (CIID), told The Daily Star.

All the arrestees are catering staff of the aircraft, he said.

The arrestees are: Ali Reza, Saddam Hossain, Rashedul Islam, Abdur Razzak, Ashraf Alam, Abu Saleh, Hanif Dewan and Zahedur Rahman.

The CIID DG said they took position at the airport on information that gold is

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Don't collect income tax from pvt univs

SC directs NBR

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday directed the National Board of Revenue not to collect any income tax from the private universities across the country until further order.

The apex court, however, allowed the government to move separate appeals before it against the 2016 High Court verdict declaring illegal the government imposition of 15 percent income tax on private educational institutions, including private universities and private medical, dental and engineering colleges.

A four-member SC bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain gave the orders after hearing 44 leave-to-appeal petitions that the government filed challenging the HC verdict.

Talking to this newspaper, Omar Sadat, who represented two private universities at the court, said the NBR cannot demand any income tax from his clients until the disposal of the appeals against HC verdict.

Mohammad Sakhawat Hossain, counsel for five private universities, told this correspondent that no private educational institution needs to pay the government income tax till the disposal of the appeals.

There are 98 private universities in

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WHO MISSION TO CHINA Covid source not found

WHO says lab leak 'extremely unlikely'

AGENCIES

The WHO mission to China to uncover the origins of the coronavirus has failed to identify the source of the pandemic but the team yesterday ruled out the Wuhan lab-leak theory propagated by Donald Trump.

Experts believe the disease -- which has killed more than 2.3 million people worldwide -- originated in bats and could have been transmitted to humans via another mammal.

World Health Organization foreign expert Peter Ben Embarek said identifying the animal pathway remains a "work in progress", and the absence of bats in the Wuhan area dimmed the likelihood of direct transmission.

It was "most likely" to have come from an intermediary species, he said. He also backed up China's position that there was no evidence of "large outbreaks" in Wuhan before December when the first official cases were recorded.

Animals such as rabbits, ferrets and bamboo rats could be the intermediary, another team member Marion Koopmans added, saying they might be an "entry point" for further investigations.

Liang Wannian, head of the China side of the joint mission, said animal transmission remained the likely route, but "the reservoir hosts remain to be identified".

Ben Embarek quashed the theory that a leak from a virology lab in Wuhan could have caused the pandemic.

"The laboratory incident hypothesis is extremely unlikely," he said. It "is not in the hypotheses that we will suggest for future studies".

The mission was a diplomatically knotty one -- presaged by fears of a whitewash -- with the US demanding a "robust" probe and China firing back with a warning not to "politicise" the investigation.

The WHO experts spent a month in China including two weeks in

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Ruling party men clash in Bogura town

10 hurt

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogura

At least 10 people, including a policeman and a camera person of a private TV channel, were injured in a clash between two rival groups of Bogura Awami League and Jubo League in the town's Charmatha bus terminal area yesterday over establishing supremacy at Bogura District Motor Malik Group.

Police said leaders of the two groups -- Monjurul Alam Mohon, joint secretary of Bogura district AL, and Aminul Islam, acting president of Bogura sadar upazila Jubo League, -- were present during the clash.

Witnesses said Monjurul, along with about 600 people, attacked the office of Bogura District Motor Malik Group in bus terminal area around 11:30am.

Ramjan Ali, 55, constable at the Special Branch of Bogura police,

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MYANMAR PROTESTS

Police fire to disperse crowd

UN condemns use of force; NZ suspends ties

AGENCIES

Myanmar police used force yesterday to disperse protests against military rule and one woman was in critical condition and not expected to survive after being shot in the head with a bullet, a doctor said.

Police fired guns, mostly into the air, and used water cannon and rubber bullets to try to clear protesters in the capital Naypyitaw, and four people were taken to hospital with what doctors initially said they believed were wounds caused by rubber bullets.

One of them, a woman, had what was most likely a fatal head wound, said a doctor who declined to be identified. The bullet could be seen lodged in her in an X-ray, the doctor said.

"She hasn't passed away yet, she's in the emergency unit, but it's 100% certain the injury is fatal," the doctor, who said senior colleagues involved in her treatment had assigned him to speak to the media, told Reuters.

"According to the X-ray, it's a live bullet."

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People crowd the vaccination centre of Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College in the capital to get inoculated for Covid-19 yesterday. Most of the people who went there to get vaccinated were elderly or government officials and employees. Yesterday, over one lakh people got the shot. The number is more than the combined number of the previous two days.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

'Drug trader' killed in 'gunfight'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A suspected drug dealer was killed in a "gunfight" with Border Guard Bangladesh in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The identity of the deceased could not be known immediately.

BCB claimed to have seized 52,000 yaba tablets and a locally-made firearm from the spot at Golarchar point in Shah Porir Dwp around 3:00am.

A member of BCB was also injured in the incident, it claimed.

BCB-2 Battalion Commander Lt Col Md Faisal Hasan Khan said one of their teams chased two drug dealers when they were entering Bangladesh territory in a boat through the Naf river.

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PRAYER TIMING FEBRUARY 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-25 12-45 4-30 5-57 7-15
JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-45 6-01 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

প্রকাশিত সংবাদের বিষয়ে তীব্র প্রতিবাদ

বিভিন্ন জাতীয় দৈনিক পত্রিকায় কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়ে প্রকাশিত সংবাদের বিষয়ে আমাদের বক্তব্য নিম্নরূপ:

ডেল্টা লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এর বিভিন্ন অনিয়ম ও দুর্নীতির বিষয়ে বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ (আইডিআরএ) গত ১২/২/২০১৯ ও ৬/১০/২০১৯ তারিখ থেকে যথাক্রমে নিরীক্ষা ও তদন্ত কার্যক্রম শুরু করে। তদন্ত কার্যে কোম্পানীটির অসহযোগিতা আইডিআরএ এর বিভিন্ন নির্দেশনা পরিপালনে ব্যর্থতার নজির থাকায় তা ঢাকার জন্য মঞ্জুর রহমান (সদ্য সাবেক সিইও আদিবা রহমান এর পিতা) তার প্রতিনিধি আব্দুল আউয়াল (যার সাথে কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যানের ২৩ বছরের সম্পর্ক) এর মাধ্যমে কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যানের নিকট ১০ লাখ টাকা গিফট পাঠিয়েছিল। তা তিনি তিন বার প্রত্যাহ্বান করায় তারা কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যানের উপর ক্ষিপ্ত হয়ে তাঁর একান্ত ব্যক্তিগত কিছু বিষয় নিয়ে তাঁকে হেনস্তা করার উদ্দেশ্যে অপচেষ্টা চালাচ্ছিল। পরবর্তীতে কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যান আউয়ালকে ডেকে গিফট না নেয়ার কারণে তাঁর উপর যেন মঞ্জুর রহমান মনে কষ্ট না পান সে জন্য অনুরোধ করেন এবং মঞ্জুর রহমান চাইলে উক্ত গিফটের টাকা কোথাও ডোনেট করে দিতে পারেন বলেও তিনি অনুরোধ করেন। পাশাপাশি আউয়ালকে কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যান অনুরোধ করেন যে, যারা কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট অভিযোগ করেছে, ডেল্টা লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্স এর নিকট যাদের দীর্ঘ দিনের পাওনা রয়েছে এবং কর্তৃপক্ষের আইনি কাজে এডভেড পাটি হিসেবে যারা সংযুক্ত রয়েছে তাদের পাওনা মিটিয়ে দেয়ার জন্য। সেটি উক্ত আব্দুল আউয়াল পরের দিন কর্তৃপক্ষের চেয়ারম্যান এর সাথে দেখা করে তাঁর সরলতার সুযোগ নিয়ে প্রতারণামূলকভাবে গোপনে কথা রেকর্ড করে। তিনি ইতোমধ্যে এবিষয়ে আদালতের স্মরণাপন্ন হয়েছেন। বিষয়টি সৃষ্ট তদন্তের জন্য আদালত নির্দেশ দিয়েছে। কিন্তু তার আগেই উদ্দেশ্যমূলকভাবে তারা সংবাদ সম্মেলন করে সৃষ্ট তদন্ত বাধাগ্রস্ত করার মাধ্যমে নিজেদের অনিয়ম ও দুর্নীতিকে আড়াল করার চেষ্টা করছে বলে প্রতীয়মান হয়। আদালতের তদন্তধীন ও বিচারধীন কোন বিষয়ে এ ভাবে প্রেস কনফারেন্স করা উদ্দেশ্যমূলক ও নজিরবিহীন।

এটা নিয়ন্ত্রক সংস্থার সৃষ্টভাবে কাজ করার জন্য বড় ধরনের হুমকি। পাশাপাশি শিষ্টাচার বহির্ভূত ও ন্যাকারজনক ঘটনাও বটে। প্রসঙ্গত উল্লেখ্য যে, কর্তৃপক্ষের বর্তমান চেয়ারম্যান গত প্রায় তিন বছর যাবৎ অত্র কর্তৃপক্ষে সুনামের সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করে আসছেন।

এছাড়া তিনি ডেল্টা লাইফ ইন্স্যুরেন্সসহ বীমা খাতের বিভিন্ন প্রতিষ্ঠানেও সুনামের সাথে দায়িত্ব পালন করেছেন।

বীমা উন্নয়ন ও নিয়ন্ত্রণ কর্তৃপক্ষ

৩৭/এ, দিলকুশা বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।