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TOBACCO CONTROL ACT
Pass amendment
to it urgently
Speakers say at event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The amendment of the Tobacco Control Act should be urgently passed to protect the health of the countrymen and build a strong, talented young society, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Passing of the amendment of the law will see lower deaths, while achieving SDG goals and making a tobacco-free Bangladesh a reality, they said.

Dhaka Ahsania Mission organised the event at Janata Tower Software Technology Park auditorium in the city, said a release.

“To Achieve the SDGs, we must pass the amendment of the Tobacco Control Act,” said Iqbal Masud, director (Health and Wash Sector) of the Mission.

“If the amendment is passed, the number of tobacco users in the country will decrease. As a result, it will be possible for Bangladesh to become tobacco-free by 2040 as announced by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina,” he added.

Shariful Islam, coordinator of the Tobacco Control Project, said, “Non-smoking citizens are suffering from the harm caused by passive smoking as the existing ‘Smoking and Use of Tobacco Products (Control) Act 2005’ allows smoking in public places, restaurants, and public transport which is a severe threat to health.”

“While the existing law completely prohibits the advertising and promotion of tobacco products, however, there is no specific ban on the display of tobacco products

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Locals continue to suffer during their daily commute on Banasree-Rampura Road as it has remained dug-up for the last three months. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



BRICS SUMMIT
PM Hasina
returns today

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Johannesburg for Dhaka yesterday afternoon, wrapping up her South Africa trip.

She attended the 15th BRICS Summit held in Johannesburg on August 22-24 at the invitation of South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

A regular flight of Emirates, carrying the premier and her entourage, took off from OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg at around 2:00pm (6:00pm Bangladesh time).

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PHULBARI MOVEMENT
Conspiracy on
to restart coal
mine project

Claims Anu Muhammad at rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

Conspiracies are still afoot to reinstate the Phulbari coal mine project, said Anu Muhammad, member secretary of National Committee for Protection of Oil, Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and Ports.

Asia Energy, a London-based company contracted to implement the project, has partnered with a Chinese company to resume the project, he said while speaking at a rally marking 17 years of the Phulbari movement in Nimala area of the upazila town.



“The ones who believe that the movement has waned are mistaken. The locals are vigilant even today,” added Anu Muhammad who was present as the chief guest.

Urging the authorities to take preventive measures, he said that the people will reunite if the foreign companies conspire again.

On August 26, 2006, three people were killed and hundreds injured while protesting against Asia Energy’s open-pit coal mining project at Phulbari. Following four days of strikes and blockades, a contract was signed

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Hong Kong mulls
hiring more
female workers

JAMIL MAHMUD

Hong Kong’s labour ministry has shown interest in hiring more female workers from Bangladesh, opening doors towards a prospective market expansion.

About 700-750 Bangladeshi woman migrant workers are currently employed in Hong Kong as female domestic helpers (FDHs). However, new workers need to have skill and language training in Cantonese, among other qualifications, to migrate as FDH, said Bangladesh Consulate General officials in Hong Kong.

According to a Facebook post of the consulate, Hong Kong labour and welfare ministry, headed by its secretary Chris Sun Yuk-han, held a meeting with the Bangladesh mission officials on August 8 to discuss possible ways of expanding the country’s labour market in Hong Kong.

Consul General Israt Ara, who headed the Bangladesh side at the meeting, said the meeting was held as the Hong Kong counterparts wanted to know ways of recruiting more FDHs from Bangladesh.

The meeting was held after

New workers need to have skill and language training in Cantonese, among other qualifications, to migrate.

Indonesian Manpower Placement Agency Association said it would enforce rules introduced by Jakarta in 2020 and last year, stating that employers had to foot the administrative bill when they hired new helpers, according to South China Morning Post.

However, details on whether local employers would have to pay the full HK\$20,000 (US\$2,558) remained unclear as of August 11, SCMP said in the report.

The Indonesian consulate and Hong Kong’s Labour Department said existing policies would be unchanged, the report added.

The Philippines and Indonesia are the two top source countries of FDHs in Hong Kong, as per SCMP reports.

As per the Bangladesh mission, Hong Kong is a specialised market for FDHs as the working conditions there are better than the ones which have employed female workers from the country.

The minimum wage for an FDH is HKD 4,730 (about Tk 65,939) per month, effective from October last year.

A Bangladeshi female migrant

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ROHINGYA CRISIS
Repatriation
the only
solution

Says Hasan Mahmud

UNB, Dhaka

Immediate repatriation of Rohingya refugees is the only proper solution to the Rohingya problem, said Information and Broadcasting Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud yesterday.

“We see no other option [to solve the crisis] except for the safe return of Rohingya refugees [to Myanmar]. Moving some refugees to other countries won’t solve it, rather it may escalate the problem,” Said Hasan Mahmud in a seminar held at the Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building of Dhaka University, marking the 6th year of the Rohingya crisis.

The seminar titled “Genocide and Justice: Bangladesh’s response to Rohingya crisis” was organised by Centre for Genocide Studies (CGS), University of Dhaka.

The seminar focused on the suffering of the Rohingya people and ongoing efforts that are being undertaken by the government of Bangladesh to solve the crisis.

DU VC Prof Md A k h t a r u z z a m a n

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

BNP would wipe
out AL if it comes
to power: Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday stressed that there is no alternative to Sheikh Hasina at the helm of the country.

“Sheikh Hasina is taking the country forward despite the global crises. Who is a more qualified leader than Sheikh Hasina to be the next prime minister? I want to ask this question to all the political parties,” he said.

“Bangladesh will lose if Sheikh Hasina loses the election. She has to win to save the poor people.”

Quader said this while addressing a food distribution event, organised by Dhaka City (North) AL in the capital’s Mirpur area, marking the 48th death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

He also said if BNP comes to power, it would wipe out the AL overnight to its entirety, and engulf the country’s democracy and the spirit of Liberation War.

“The BNP leaders said that no harm would be caused to the Awami League activists. But it [BNP] has an angel’s face with a devil’s mind. The party will wipe out the Awami League in one night. It is their actual intention,” said Quader.

“Their plan is to turn Bangladesh to Pakistan and Afghanistan,” he also said.

The countrymen do not want Sheikh Hasina’s resignation, caretaker government, and dissolution of parliament, Quader added.

Awami League organising secretary Mirza Azam, Dhaka City (North) general secretary SM Mannan Kochi, and lawmaker Aga Khan Mintu also spoke at the event among others.



BCL plans to
assemble five
lakh activists
on Sept 1

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Chhatra League yesterday announced that they will gather about 5 lakh leaders and activists from all units for its “massive student rally” on September 1 at Suhrawardy Udyan, where the prime minister will attend as the chief guest.

BCL President Saddam Hussain made the announcement at a press conference at Madhur Canteen in DU.

“Many rallies and meetings were held earlier. But no rally was arranged by only students. For this reason, we termed it a massive student rally. About five lakh students from across the country will join us.”



A bike stays parked in a passenger shed, already crowded by hawkers, in the capital’s Fakirapool area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Taposh seeks
Aedes survey
reports on time

STAR REPORT

Dhaka South City Corporation Mayor Sheikh Fazle Noor Taposh yesterday urged the health directorate to provide to it on time the survey reports on the presence of Aedes mosquitoes during the monsoon and pre-monsoon seasons.

“We start our work [anti-mosquito drives] on the basis of the health directorate’s survey. We have already done our job as per the pre-monsoon survey, but the report was delayed much. We hope we will have the survey reports on time so that we can start our activities more effectively,” he said.

He came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after taking

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AL govt rejected
both at home
and abroad

Says BNP leader Amir Khasru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP’s standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday said the present Awami League government has been rejected both at home and abroad.

“The government has been rejected in the country as well as abroad. They have no place to go. Spending people’s tax money, the prime minister went to South America to become a member of BRICS but failed. Even the Prime Minister is not present at the official photo session of the participating heads of states in the summit.”

Khasru was addressing as the chief guest of a mass procession, organised by BNP Chattogram city unit in the port city’s Kazir Dewri area.

Stressing that BNP is a party of decent people, Khasru said, “We are still demonstrating and agitating peacefully in a disciplined manner and non-violent way along with the countrymen.”

To the party men, he said “Those who come to arrest you in the middle of the night, take their photos. Tell your neighbours about that.”

“If the filing of false cases and ghost cases

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