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Policy actions can aid their reintegration

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Ukraine says nine killed in series of Russian attacks

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NEW SCHOOL CURRICULUM Implementation limps along

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ARAFAT RAHAMAN

One and a half years after it was launched, implementation of the new curriculum at schools is still in a shambles as the authorities are yet to finalise a method of evaluating the students.

Due to a lack of training, many teachers are not sure how to deliver lectures and form student groups, said educationists.

Besides, the authorities had to recall two textbooks amid pressure from Islamists.

Manzoor Ahmed, professor emeritus at BRAC University, said the ambitious new curriculum is being implemented in a haphazard manner as the authorities had not taken steps to reduce the classroom size and bring changes to the management of schools before introducing it.

Most importantly, the teachers are not motivated to implement it, he added.

Prof Siddiqur Rahman, former director of Institute of Education and Research at Dhaka University, said, "With inadequate training, the teachers are not prepared to properly implement the new curriculum."

Learning in groups through activities is at the heart of the new curriculum, but that is not happening in reality, he said. "The goals of reducing the students' dependency on private tutors and so-called guidebooks have not been met."

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Maina Begum cuts a forlorn figure as she waits for a boat near Bhadra river to go to a relative's house yesterday, with whatever she could salvage from her now submerged home in Telikhali village of Khulna's Paikgachha upazila. At least 12 villages in the upazila's Deluti union have been under water for the past four days after Remal caused a breach in an embankment there, affecting around 15,000 people. More on page 2.

'Put a stop to arms race' Says PM on UN peacekeepers day



UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the international community to end the arms race and instead spend the money for eradication of poverty and easing the adverse impacts of climate change.

"The money for arms development and competition can be provided to the climate fund for the countries that are

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Manpower syndicates beyond Dhaka-KL control Says Malaysian high commissioner

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The syndicates recruiting Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia are "beyond the control of the two governments", Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Haznah Md Hashim said yesterday.

governments," she told the media at an interaction session hosted by the Malaysian high commission at a city hotel.

She did not clarify why the syndicates are beyond the governments' control.

Haznah made the remarks when The Daily Star asked about the allegations

"The Malaysian government is committed and very serious about ensuring transparency and the highest ethical standards in the recruitment process,"

Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh HAZNAH MD HASHIM



She, however, assured that both governments are sincerely working together to improve the recruitment system.

"Of course, there are things that are beyond our control. You [this correspondent] just mentioned the syndicates. This is something beyond not only Malaysia, but also Bangladesh ... [it's] beyond the control of the two

of irregularities made by four UN independent experts in a letter to the governments of Bangladesh and Malaysia on March 28.

The letter said criminal networks operate in the recruitment process of Bangladeshi workers, who are deceived, recruited by phantom companies and obliged to pay exorbitant recruitment

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CYCLONE REMAL Coastal people reeling from heavy losses

STAR REPORT

Dipali Sardar of Gopi Pagla village in Khulna's Paikgacha upazila used to rear ducks.

Water entered her home on Sunday after Remal damaged a nearby embankment. Around 60 ducks were washed away and the hatching machine also went under water.

"My family members and I went to a nearby road to save our lives. But I have lost my only source of income -- my ducks," said the 47-year-old woman.

Dipali's husband Pradip Sarkar used to work as a labourer at a local shrimp enclosure which has also been washed away. This has left Pradip unemployed.

"We don't know how we will survive," the woman told The Daily Star yesterday.

Like Dipali, hundreds of others of a dozen villages in Paikgacha are passing days in misery as the villages have been waterlogged for the last four days.

Out of the 22 villages under Deluti union, 12 have gone under water. As people cannot cook at homes, their relatives from faraway places are bringing food for them.

Some villagers have moved to their relatives' homes. Many families have taken shelter on embankments with their belongings.

A number of these villages have been without power for the last four days.

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EX-ARMY CHIEF AZIZ Petition filed with ACC for probing graft allegations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lawyer has filed a petition with the Anti-Corruption Commission seeking an investigation into the alleged corruption of former army chief General (ret'd) Aziz Ahmed.

Salah Uddin Reagan in the petition filed yesterday said, "The US sanctions against Aziz Ahmed on corruption charges and the reports published in the national dailies have undermined the image of Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh nationally and internationally."

"It damaged the reputation of Bangladesh Army worldwide, tarnished Bangladesh Army's image in the United Nations peacekeeping missions and is undermining the trust and confidence the ordinary people of the

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ACC to seek travel ban on Benazir, family

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to seek a foreign-travel ban on former inspector general of police Benazir Ahmed and his family members.

"We are preparing to ask the court so that Benazir Ahmed and his family members cannot leave the country without the permission of the court," a high official of the ACC told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

Benazir and his family members are now facing an investigation by the graft watchdog over allegations of amassing wealth beyond their known sources of income.

The official said since the ACC was probing into the wealth of Benazir and his family, they might leave the country.

The graft watchdog is also trying to find out if Benazir and his family members have any assets abroad.

An ACC investigation committee has written to the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit asking it to launch an enquiry, sources in the ACC said.

They said the committee also asked the BFIU to provide any documents it has regarding Benazir and his family having assets in the US, the UK, the UAE, Malaysia, and Canada.

Jahurul Haque, commissioner (investigation) at

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Mongla port set to be connected by rail on June 1

BR to launch commuter train but yet to have any container carrier for the broad-gauge line

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Mongla, the country's second largest sea port, is going to be linked to the railway network on June 1 with the launch of a commuter train on Khulna-Benapole-Mongla route.

Bangladesh Railway is set to launch the train seven months after the inauguration of the Khulna-Mongla rail line. The project was taken up with Indian loans around 13 years ago.

The 64.75km broad gauge line is aimed at boosting internal and transboundary trade, but the BR may not be able to reap the full benefit of the project as it doesn't have any broad gauge container wagons.

The BR has submitted a Development Project Proposal to the railways ministry recently to buy 290 container wagons, meaning it may take three to four years to add such wagons to BR's fleet, officials said.

The state-run transport agency, however, will be able to carry goods in bulk using its wagons. Besides, it will hire Indian container carriers, they said.

The government approved the Tk 1,721-crore Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line

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The authorities have dug up the North South Road in the capital's Bangshal to install underground drainage pipes, significantly narrowing the space for traffic. This has been causing tailbacks in the area for about a month. There are no barriers to prevent vehicles or pedestrians from falling into the trench. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

PLANE PURCHASE 'Airbus's second proposal far better than the first' Outgoing Biman MD tells Star in an interview

RASHIDUL HASAN

Biman's outgoing Managing Director and CEO Shafiul Azim said the Airbus's second proposal to sell its aircraft to the national flag carrier was far better than the first one.

In an interview with The Daily Star in his office on Tuesday, he said, "That's why the technical and financial evaluation committee had given the go-ahead to the second proposal to purchase aircraft from the European plane manufacturer."

"In the first of the two proposals, Airbus proposed selling two freighters along with a passenger aircraft," he said, adding, "We don't think we need cargo planes now as it wouldn't be economically viable."

"In the second one, it proposed selling four passenger aircraft. This was far better than the first."

About reconstituting the evaluation committee after it had said buying Airbus aircraft would not be profitable,

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Shafiul Azim