

GETTING NIDS Take steps against Moslem Uddin's children for using father's fake name

Home ministry tells EC
MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The home ministry has asked the Election Commission to take legal action against the six children of Moslem Uddin, a convicted killer of Bangabandhu, for using a fake name of their father to obtain NID cards.

Moslem Uddin alias Moslehuddin has been sentenced to death for killing Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in August 1975 and also for his involvement in the killings of four national leaders at the Dhaka central jail in November 1975.



SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



Locals of several villages were building an earthfill dam on the Bhadra river using a rented excavator yesterday, before beginning repair work of the broken embankment in Deluti union of Khulna's Paikgachha upazila. They have taken it upon themselves to fix the protective structure as there is no government initiative in sight as yet. The embankment breach has caused damages to farmlands, houses, animals and trees across the upazila.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Rohingya man killed as 2 groups of refugees clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Rohingya man was shot dead and five others were injured in a clash between two groups of refugees in Cox's Bazar's Ukhiya early yesterday.

The deceased, Noor Faisal, 25, was a resident of Camp 17, said police.

Shamim Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ukhiya Police Station, said the clash took place between the members of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO).

The injured were undergoing treatment at Cox's Bazar General Hospital and Chattogram Medical College Hospital.

Relatives of the deceased said around 100 RSO members attacked them when they were guarding the camp around 3:00am, leading to the clash.

Yemen's Houthis target six ships in three seas

REUTERS, Dubai

Yemen's Houthis targeted six ships in three different seas, including the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Laax that was damaged after reporting a Houthi missile attack off the coast of Yemen, the Iran-backed group said yesterday.

Mongla port set to be connected by rail on June 1

FROM PAGE 1

Project in December 2010.

The project, taken up without any feasibility study, was supposed to be completed in three years.

But its physical work began around six years after the approval due to complications over various issues, including land acquisition, changes in the design, and delay in getting approval from the Indian authorities.

When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi inaugurated the line on November 1 last year, its cost rose to Tk 4,225.71 crore.

According to BR officials, goods brought through the Mongla port can be transported to different parts of the country, including Dhaka, from July when Dhaka-Jashore rail line will open.

Besides, neighboring India, Nepal and Bhutan will also be able to use the sea port, which will boost tradewith the countries, they added.

Shah Sufi Nur Mohammad, divisional railway manager (Paksey) of the BR, said they will launch a commuter train on Khulna-Benapole-Mongla route by slightly changing the route of Betna Commuter Train.

As per the BR schedule, the train will leave Khulna at 6:15am and reach Benapole at 8:30am. Then it will depart Benapole at 9:15am and arrive in Mongla at 12:35pm.

The same train will leave Mongla at 1:00pm and reach Khulna via Benapole at 7:30pm. The minimum fare will be Tk 20 and the maximum fare Tk 85, shows BR document.

Asked about their plan to carry goods from the port, BR Director General Sardar Shahadat Ali said they have already told their Indian counterpart that the line is ready for transportation of goods.

Replying to a query, he said the BR has already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Container Corporation of India Limited to hire container wagons. "So, it will not be a problem."

Mongla Port Authority handled 16,054 containers in fiscal 2021-22 and 7,830 containers in the first seven months of the last fiscal year, shows the port data.

Petition filed

FROM PAGE 1

country have in the army."

He further said it was very unfortunate that the ACC had not taken an initiative to probe even after such allegations were made public.

Talking to The Daily Star, Reagan said he would file a writ petition with the High Court if the ACC failed to take any action.

ACC Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah told reporters yesterday afternoon that he was yet to go through the petition. The ACC will take the petition into account if the allegations made were within the jurisdiction of the anti-graft watchdog, he added.

On May 21, the US imposed sanctions on Aziz and his immediate family members for what it said was his involvement in significant corruption.

It said the actions of Aziz contributed to the undermining of Bangladesh's democratic institutions and the public's faith in public institutions and processes.

Aziz was the chief of army staff of Bangladesh from June 2018 to June 2021. Before that, he led the Border Guard Bangladesh for four years from 2012.

Implementation limps along

FROM PAGE 1

However, Prof Moshuizzaman, member of the National Curriculum & Textbook Board (NCTB), is of the opinion that a section of teachers, afraid of losing the opportunities to be tutors, are making "negative comments".

"The teachers' training was adequate," he said, adding that the authorities were planning to provide another seven-day training for all teachers in December.

Phase-wise implementation of the new experiment- and activity-based curriculum started on January 1, 2023. Currently, the curriculum is followed in class one, two, three, six, seven, eight, and nine while four, five and 10 will get it from January 2025.

ASSESSMENT NOT FINALISED
Students still do not know how their mid-year assessment will be done.

There will be classroom-based assessments and year-end assessments, as per the new curriculum. An education ministry committee earlier this month recommended that written exams bear 65 percent and activities bear 35 percent weightage.

The committee proposed that each SSC exam will be five hours with intervals: four hours for activities and one hour for writing, NCTB officials said.

Prof Siddiqui, a former chief consultant of the NCTB curriculum-framing, said the delay in finalising the evaluation method is frustrating.

"It should have been finalised before classes began, so that teachers could give the students an idea of the system. It is harmful for a student to learn about the system in the middle of the year," he said.

NCTB member Prof Moshuizzaman said the teachers already know how they will evaluate the students. "The system will be officially finalised by June."

Parents often express concerns over the new curriculum.

NEW CURRICULUM FROM JANUARY 1, 2023

- Students of I to III, and VI to IX got the books
- Students of IV, V and X will get next January

MAJOR CHANGES

- No exams before grade 4
- No PECE, JSC exams
- Separate science, business, humanities discipline from class 11
- SSC exam in grade 10
- New Evaluation Process

MAJOR CHALLENGES

- Inadequate training for teachers
- Evaluation not finalised
- NCTB changed content due to pressure from Islamists
- Allegation of plagiarism

Asaduzzaman Khan, father of an 8th grader in Mirpur, said, "My son asks his mother to cook for his class assignments. His teachers ask him to make posters and present them in class. We are not sure how much our children are learning."

Moshuizzaman argues that the curriculum's objective is to ensure that students learn in classrooms. "That's why, parents may not see their children studying at home."

From next year, SSC exam results will no longer be based on GPA.

According to NCTB sources, there will be seven scales to describe the

level of competency -- the bottom one being "initial" and the top "unique".

A student with "initial" in two or more subjects will not get to the higher secondary level, the sources said.

TEACHERS FACE PROBLEMS

A NCTB survey on 2.53 lakh teachers in January found that 37.6 percent teachers "roughly" understood the assessment system while the rest understood it well.

The teachers must use the app, Noipunno, to evaluate students. During the study, 43 percent said they used the app to evaluate students, 14 percent did it manually, and 42 percent did a combination of both.

A secondary school teacher in Satkhira, wishing anonymity, said, "Many of our colleagues are facing difficulties, mostly regarding the evaluation process. We don't fully understand the app. It sometimes fails to display the students' list. Server issues also cause delays."

NEW CURRICULUM AND DEBATE
The NCTB may have to recall a third textbook due to pressure from Islamists.

An education ministry probe committee recently recommended the removal of the story titled "Sharifa's Tale" from the 7th grade history and social science book.

But different groups are against such removal. "If the government removes Sharifa's story, we will launch a tough movement," said Rezaul Kabir, general secretary of Khela Ghor.

In February last year, the NCTB recalled "History and Social Science: An Inquiry-based Reader" for 6th and 7th graders giving in to the pressure mainly from Islami Andolon Bangladesh who said the books were promoting the "debatable" Darwin's theory of evolution and demeaning the Islamic attire for women.

Manpower syndicates beyond Dhaka-KL control

FROM PAGE 1

fees, ranging from \$4,500 to \$6,000. This pushes them into debt bondage.

It added that this goes against the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in 2021, which allowed charges to be capped at \$720.

The Bangladeshi workers pay the highest recruitment fees globally, the letter said.

Haznah said, "I'm not in opposition to those allegations."

However, she said the Malaysian government is "committed and very serious" about ensuring transparency and the highest ethical standards in the recruitment process.

"Give us space to do it right for the interest of good relations of the two brotherly countries."

Since August 2022, some 422,000 Bangladeshis have gone to Malaysia for jobs under a syndicate of 100 Bangladeshi recruiting agencies selected by the Malaysian government. They joined some 400,000 other Bangladeshis who had gone there earlier.

Independent researchers say that around 1-2 lakh Bangladeshis are now jobless, unpaid or underpaid, and in debt in Malaysia.

The UN experts' letter further said the recruitment process in Malaysia reportedly begins with bribery within the human resources and home ministry officials of Malaysia to obtain "fake quotas for bogus employers".

"Subsequently, the bribery extends to the Bangladeshi high commission in Malaysia and Bangladeshi

syndicated agents to facilitate the recruitment approval. Workers pay fees which go far beyond the actual recruitment costs, in addition to airfare, passport and visa costs, to the syndicate for migration," it read.

Upon arrival in Malaysia, many migrants find that they do not have the job as promised and are forced to overstay their visa validity, risking further exploitation, arrest, detention, ill-treatment and deportation.

Many have become destitute, facing an alarming humanitarian crisis, the UN experts said, adding that the situation requires urgent attention before it escalates further or before lives are further put at risk.

They urged both the governments to ensure that the migrants under consideration do not face reprisals from employers, brokers or government officials for claiming their rights, while also requesting the two countries to hold accountable the employers, recruitment agents and government officials involved in this exploitative process.

The letter was made public by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on May 26 as neither of the governments responded.

An official of Bangladesh's Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva on Tuesday told this correspondent the Mission was awaiting feedback from Dhaka to respond to the letter.

Since 1997, when Malaysia first began formally recruiting Bangladeshi workers, it repeatedly opened and froze recruitment

Airbus's second proposal

FROM PAGE 1

he said. "There was no change made in the committee. The previous chair went into retirement. So, the next most senior person was made the new chair."

Azim said, "Boeing also sent us a proposal and we'll evaluate that too. We have a long standing good relationship with Boeing."

"It is our very trusted and reliable partner. Our relationship is not only based on buying or selling planes, the company's technical support and credit facilities are also good. Overall, we work well together."

He further said, "However, whichever aircraft we buy, we're in a preferable position as a buyer with competitive offers from both companies."

Azim claimed the technical and financial evaluation committee worked very transparently and that even the slightest compromise was not made to ensure Biman's interests.

"The highest authority of the country instructed us to choose the proposal that will be better for Biman, and we followed that instruction... The committee didn't face any pressure or interference while doing its work."

He further said the committee green signaled the second proposal, which was later sent to the Biman board. The board then sent it to the negotiation committee with instructions to proceed.

"We're now prioritising the Airbus offer. All major aircraft in our fleet are from Boeing, so passengers will like

something different.

"Any company can face bad times at any time. We're negotiating with Airbus as part of a long-term plan to ensure we're not in any kind of danger, that our strength doesn't wane in the future, and that we're not exposed to any risk."

About "risks", he spoke about some recent incidents involving the Boeing 737 max aircraft.

"If we can make an excellent combination of Boeing and Airbus, Biman will reach a new height in Asia."

"Now that we're growing the fleet and if there is no diversity, we're just single-sourced. Then there's no option for passengers to choose. They often have a choice as to which company's aircraft they will fly."

Azim said the decision to buy Airbus aircraft has already been made and the proposals are being reviewed. "The aircraft will be bought following proper procedures."

Meanwhile, at a views-exchange meeting with the Aviation and Tourism Journalists Forum of Bangladesh at Biman's headquarters in the capital's Kurmitola yesterday, Azim said Biman has been a profitable venture for the last eight to 10 years.

"We had two years of losses, one due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the other due to huge repayments."

About a syndicate selling Biman tickets, he said, "If anyone can prove this, the responsible officials and staffers of Biman will face proper punishment."

'Put a stop to arms race'

FROM PAGE 1

now going to be affected by climate changes to protect mankind from climate adversities. And the money can also be used on food for the poor children, as well as education and health of the underprivileged children," she said.

The premier was addressing an event in the city's Bangabandhu International Conference Centre to mark the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers 2024 and pay tribute to the fallen peacekeepers and those who had been wounded while on peacekeeping duties.

Pointing to the countries that are spending a huge amount of money on the arms development and arms race, she said, "We talk about peace. But why do you engage in conflicts?"

Had this money spent on the arms race been used on food for hungry people, education, and treatment for the poor, then peace would have been established in this world. The living standards of people would have improved, and the people could live in a decent manner, said Hasina.

"Conflicts and wars in different parts of the world are disrupting world peace today," she said, citing Russia-Ukraine war, Israel's genocide in Gaza, the forcibly displaced Rohingyas of Myanmar.

The wars and conflicts have created a dire situation for mankind, she said.

"As the arms race continues to rise, the lives of people become more and more miserable," she said, adding that the women and children are suffering the most and young people are losing their lives due to conflicts and wars.

The PM stressed the need for solving problems and disputes through negotiation. "We don't want war, we want peace. We want to solve everything through dialogue. A large number of people in the world still live below the poverty line."

She said Bangladesh has become a role model for global peace.

"Bangladesh is a dependable name in the efforts of protecting peace and safety alongside establishing global peace. We are acknowledged by all as we have become a role model on the global stage."

Hasina said currently 6,092 Bangladeshi peacekeepers, including

493 women, are deployed in 13 UN missions around the world.

Bangladesh, the PM said, is now observing 36 years since it started contributing troops to the UN peacekeeping missions.

She said Bangladesh is currently the largest troops-contributing country to UN peacekeeping. "They [Bangladeshi peacekeepers] have been working with fame and glory."

Hasina said Bangladesh is actively participating in other international forums alongside the UN peacekeeping missions to establish global peace.

The PM greeted the Bangladeshi peacekeepers and all other peacekeepers working in the UN missions on the international day.

At the beginning of the event, a one-minute silence was observed in remembrance of the peacekeeping heroes who sacrificed their lives for the noble cause of world peace.

The PM also handed over awards to three wounded peacekeepers.

Chief of Army Staff General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen and UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh Gwyn Lewis also spoke on the occasion.

This year, the day is being observed with the theme of "Fit for the future, building better together."

The premier unveiled the International Day of UN Peacekeepers Journal 2024 (volume-10) at the event.

ACC to seek

FROM PAGE 1

the ACC, told The Daily Star that the independent investigation committee has the jurisdiction to seek a ban on foreign travels of people it is investigating.

"The commission will not interfere in this matter," he added.

On April 18, the ACC decided to launch an enquiry into the allegations of amassing illegal wealth by the former police chief after a Bangla daily ran reports on this.

It formed the three-member investigation committee on that day.

Benazir had been at the helm of the police from April 15, 2020, to September 30, 2022. He had also served as the director general of Rab.