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**7,964 workers to be sent in first phase**  
They are out of 18,000 who missed deadline to enter Malaysia

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Nearly 8,000 out of 18,000 Bangladeshi workers, who missed the May 31 deadline last year to enter Malaysia, have been identified for recruitment in the Southeast Asian country in the first phase.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Rafiqul Alam shared this information during a media briefing yesterday.

During his visit to Dhaka in October last year, Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim had promised to address the issue of these 18,000 workers who couldn't travel, despite having work visas and making payments.

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A worker hangs a wide array of colourful fabrics to dry on bamboo frames. The field is located in Hajiganj of Narayanganj, where 4,000 pieces of fabric are dried daily before being sent to a local garment factory for production. While the row of bright and colourful fabric can make for a beautiful scene, the cost comes in the form of dyeing chemicals that are dumped into the nearby waterbodies. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

**NATIONALISATION DEMAND**  
Madrasa teachers continue sit-in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of independent Ebtedayee madrasas -- primary-level educational institutions under the madrasa board -- have warned of tougher movements unless they receive assurances by 2:00pm today regarding the nationalisation of all registered institutions.

"We have been observing a sit-in at Shahbagh for two days and will continue it. We will announce our next course of action after 2:00pm," said Shamsul Alam, convener of the teachers' platform, last night.

Several hundred teachers began their sit-in on Sunday afternoon in front of the Fine Arts Faculty at Dhaka University after police used batons and water cannons to disperse them as they marched towards the Chief Adviser's Office to submit a memorandum outlining their six-point demands.

The protesters, organised under the banner of "Swatantra Ebtedayee Madrasa Shikkhak Oikyojote," have been spending nights on the streets under the open sky.

On Sunday, police action left several teachers injured. Yesterday, cops were seen standing guard near the protest site.

Shamsul said a meeting was held with officials of the Ramna Division Police, during which both sides agreed to maintain peace.

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**Youth for political reforms, corruption-free leadership**

Finds BYLC survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reforming major political parties and removing corrupt politicians are seen as essential steps to improving political leadership in Bangladesh, according to a recent survey.

The Youth Matters Survey, conducted by Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center, revealed that young people overwhelmingly want candidates without corruption charges to contest the next parliamentary election.

Additionally, one-fourth of the 3,238 respondents believe launching a new youth-led political party could improve leadership quality.

The survey, conducted between October and November last year, gathered 1,575 in-person responses and 1,663 online submissions.

Findings showed that 83 percent of in-person and 78 percent of online respondents prefer candidates with no corruption charges.

When asked about eligibility criteria for candidates, in-person respondents wanted those with no

**WHAT DO YOUTH WANT**

- Corruption-free candidates
- Youth leadership
- Freedom of expression
- State reforms
- Unbiased law enforcement

**WHAT THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT**

- Student politics hindering education
- Women's safety
- Law and order situation
- Rising cost of living
- Corruption and nepotism

Online respondents wanted those with "no corruption charges" and transparency in candidates' income and asset disclosures.

The survey found that most young people believe the upcoming political environment will be favourable for their involvement in politics.

Around 72 percent of in-person respondents and 44 percent of online participants felt the situation would be supportive, although 29 percent of online respondents said it is uncertain.

In both groups, there was a strong demand for reforms in existing political parties to bring in fresh, youth leadership.

Notably, 74 percent of in-person and 81 percent of online respondents reported feeling more comfortable expressing their opinions on public platforms compared to the previous government's tenure.

More than 95 percent of respondents, aged between 18 and 35, expressed optimism about voting in the upcoming election.

However, 71 percent of in-person and 86.4 percent of online

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**Form task force to combat graft within ACC**

Suggests reform commission in its report

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti-Corruption Commission Reform Commission has proposed forming an independent internal disciplinary division to address corruption within the ACC. It has also called for the creation of a high-powered task force to identify and take swift action against corrupt ACC staff.

The recommendations were outlined in the Commission's report, submitted last Wednesday by its head, Dr Iftekharuzzaman, to the chief adviser.

The report urged the ACC to urgently establish a high-powered task force with government support, comprising members from various investigative and intelligence agencies.

This task force would identify corrupt officials and employees, ensuring their dismissal through departmental action and prosecution under criminal law.

Additionally, the commission recommended dissolving the ACC's internal anti-corruption committee

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**ACC to probe why experts found EVMs suitable**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) will investigate why experts, including Professor Muhammad Zafar Iqbal, found the electronic voting machines (EVMs) suitable for use, despite allegations of their substandard quality.

The commission's Director General Akhtar Hossain disclosed this information during a press conference at the ACC headquarters yesterday.

He said a drive was conducted on Sunday following allegations against the Election Commission of procuring substandard EVMs using public funds.

During the operation, the ACC team reviewed relevant records and discovered that the purchased EVMs are stored at the EC headquarters, 10 regional offices, and the

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Kyoko Arani Nasir Bhuiyan and architect Nishat Afrose were honoured for their outstanding contributions in the "Marketing Professional" and "Architect (Interior & Landscaping)" categories at a programme at bti Celebration Point on Sunday. The event was attended by bti's Managing Director FR Khan and Md Tajdin Hassan, chief business officer at The Daily Star.

PHOTO: STAR

**COURT CORNER**

**Ex-state minister Enamur remanded**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Enamur Rahman, former state minister for disaster management and relief, on a six-day remand in connection with the death of hawker Sagor in Mirpur on July 19 last year.

Metropolitan Magistrate Joshita Islam issued the order after Investigation Officer Md Monirul Islam, a sub-inspector of Mirpur Model Police Station, produced him before the court. Enamur was arrested on Sunday.

**TECHNICAL EDU BOARD HC stays hiring of 3,534 candidates**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday stayed the recruitment of 3,534 candidates under the Technical Education Board for three months.

The candidates were being recruited for the posts of junior instructor (tech) or physical education instructor (10th grade) in various polytechnic institutes and technical schools and colleges. The HC bench of Justice Md Akram Hossain Chowdhury and Justice KM Rasheduzzaman Raja issued the order.

**IJTEMA CLASH**  
Anticipatory bail of 23 upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld a High Court order that granted anticipatory bail to 23 accused, who are followers of the Tablighi Jamaat faction aligned with Maulana Saad Kandhalvi, in a case filed over the death of four devotees at the Biswa Ijtema ground in Tongi on December 18 last year.

A three-member bench headed by Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam passed the order and fixed February 23 for further hearing.

**Protect ponds, canals in Habiganj, Pirojpur: HC**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the government to take necessary steps to protect Chandranath pond and Town Model School pond in Habiganj and Mirukhali-Badura-Bharani canal and Badura Bhutar canal in Pirojpur from encroachment, landfilling, or any other form of destruction.

The court also imposed a ban on earth filling and constructing structures on the lands of the waterbodies.

**BTI Star STELLAR WOMEN**  
Kyoko, Nishat awarded

CITY DESK

Building Technology and Ideas Ltd (bti) and The Daily Star honoured two exemplary women for their contributions to nation-building as part of the "bti The Daily Star Stellar Women" initiative at an event on Sunday.

The event took place at bti Celebration Point, Gulshan-2 in the capital. The awardees were Kyoko Arani Nasir Bhuiyan and Architect Nishat Afrose.

Kyoko was honoured for her outstanding work as the People, Partnerships, and Marketing Manager at Alokito Hridoy Foundation in the "Marketing Professional" category.

Meanwhile, Nishat was awarded for her remarkable interior and landscaping designs in the "Architect (Interior & Landscaping)" category.

In 2023, bti and The

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