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KSA deported 1,800 in 18 days

224 migrants return on Saturday alone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia has sent back over 100 Bangladeshi migrant workers per day in the first 18 days of this month after detaining them on various grounds, according to Brac Migration Programme.

The narratives of sufferings endured by 1,834 deportees are almost identical, says the NGO-based initiative that provides support to returning workers at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

“Almost all of them have returned empty-handed. There are deportees who went [to Saudi Arabia] only months ago,” said Shariful Hasan, head of the programme.

In the latest deportation, Saudi officials sent back 224 Bangladeshi workers on Saturday. They arrived in two separate flights of Saudia Airlines, Brac officials said.

A flight carrying 108 workers landed at the airport around 11:20pm. Earlier, another flight carrying 116 workers reached Dhaka at 12:20pm.

Brac Migration Programme, with the help of Prabashi Kalyan Desk set by the Expatriates’ Welfare Ministry at the airport, provided the workers with immediate support, including food and drinking water.

Shariful said the migrants alleged they were promised of fortune overseas by brokers and recruiting agencies.

However, they had to face various challenges in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA). Many of them did not get wages while several had to return within few months after

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



GOODS IN THE PIPELINE... This photo taken yesterday shows hawkers near Motijheel’s Shapla Chattar converting sewage pipes, which have long been kept at the side of the road as part of development works in the area, into temporary stalls to sell their goods to passersby.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Man kills 4 before taking own life

His wife, mother-in-law, 2 neighbours murdered

OUR CORRESPONDENT

A man hanged himself after killing four people, including his wife and mother-in-law, following a family feud in Barlekha upazila yesterday.

The man was identified as Nirmal Karmakar from Ahllad tea garden. Nirmal, 35, used to live at his in-laws’ house at Pallartal tea garden, where the incident took place.

He stabbed his wife Joly Bannerjee, 33, mother-in-law Laxmi Bannerjee, 60, and neighbours Basanta Bakta, 60, and Basanta’s daughter Sheuly Bakta, 27, to death. All the victims were tea workers in Pallartal.

Kanan Bakta, 13, Basanta’s younger daughter, also came under attack and was undergoing treatment at Sylhet’s MAG Osmani Medical College and Hospital.

According to the officer-in-charge (OC) of Barlekha Police Station Yasinal

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

PM to launch e-passports on Jan 22

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to launch e-passports (electronic passports) on January 22.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally unveil this at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said yesterday.

After the inauguration, issuing of the passport will primarily begin from regional passport offices in the capital’s Uttara and Jatrabari, and from divisional passport and visa office in Agargaon, he added.

Addressing a press conference at his ministry, Asaduzzaman said president and the prime minister would get the e-passport first, and then the others would apply for it. Some 25,000 e-passports can be issued daily, he said.

The passport will be delivered from three offices at first and then from 72 regional and divisional offices, and 80 foreign missions gradually, the minister added.

The machine-readable passport will be valid even after the e-passport inauguration. But it will be replaced gradually, said officials.

The project – “Introduction of Bangladesh e-Passport and Automated

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

MISSILE ATTACK ON MOSQUE

Huthi rebels kill 83 Yemeni troops

Say military sources; 148 soldiers hurt

AFP, Dubai

More than 80 Yemeni soldiers have been killed and scores injured in a missile and drone attack blamed on Huthi rebels in central Yemen, medical and military sources said yesterday.

Saturday’s strike follows months of relative calm in the war between the Iran-backed Huthis and Yemen’s internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led military coalition.

The Huthis attacked a mosque in a military camp in the central province of Marib -- about 170 kilometres (105 miles) east of the capital Sanaa -- during evening prayers, military sources told AFP.

A medical source at Marib city hospital, where the casualties were transported, said that 83 soldiers were killed and 148 injured in the strike.

Death tolls in Yemen’s grinding conflict are often disputed, but the huge casualty list in Marib represents one of the bloodiest single attacks since the war erupted in 2014 when the rebels seized Sanaa.

Saudi-owned Al-Hadath television broadcast a video that it said showed the gruesome aftermath of the attack.

Body parts can be seen on the floor, among shredded debris, and with blood pooled on the carpet and spattered against the walls.

The drone and missile strike came a day after coalition-backed government forces launched a large-scale operation against the Huthis in the Nihm region, north of Sanaa.

Fighting in Nihm was ongoing yesterday, a military source said according to the official Saba news agency.

“Dozens from the (Huthi) militia were killed and injured,” the source added.

DE-ESCALATION

Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi condemned the “cowardly and terrorist” attack on the mosque, Saba reported.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Another cold spell likely this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is likely to experience another cold spell from Wednesday, according to the Met office.

“The not-very-severe cold wave is likely to hit the country’s northern region on Wednesday and then the rest of the country,” Aftab Uddin, meteorologist at the Bangladesh Meteorological Department, told The Daily Star.

There will be light to moderate fog at some places in the early hours and the temperature may fall by 1-2°C at night and fall slightly during daytime, according to forecast.

The temperature drop could be preceded by light rain at one or two places over Rangpur, Rajshahi, Dhaka, Mymensingh, Khulna and Sylhet divisions. The rest of the country would remain mainly dry, it added.

Yesterday’s lowest temperature was recorded at 12 degrees Celsius in Sreemangal while the mercury dipped to 16.4C in the capital.

Prehistoric scorpion first to move to land from sea



CNN ONLINE

A 437-million-year old scorpion was the earliest known creature to venture from sea onto land, a new study has found, shedding new light on one of the earliest chapters in the planet’s evolutionary history.

Scientists believe the fossilised remains of the prehistoric scorpion are the oldest known example of an air-breathing animal although Andrew Wendruff, a palaeontologist at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio, said it’s not known how the creature would have divided its time between land and sea.

“We have the preservation of the internal structure. They were just like modern scorpions in that they were doing the same things -- they were more than likely breathing air,” said Wendruff, the author of the study that published in the journal Scientific Reports.

While there was no “unambiguous evidence” that this prehistoric scorpion, officially known as

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Rohingya man killed in ‘gunfight’

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox’s Bazar

A Rohingya man, allegedly involved in drug smuggling, was killed in a “gunfight” with the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in Cox’s Bazar early yesterday.

The dead, Md Aiyas, 25, was a resident of Kutupalong Rohingya Camp in Ukhaia upazila, our Cox’s Bazar correspondent reports, quoting BGB officials.

On information that a large consignment of yaba would be smuggled into Bangladesh from Myanmar, a BGB team took position in the Jadimora-Shikholghera area in Teknaf’s Hnila union, said Lt Colonel

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 20

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:30	12:45	4:15	5:43	7:15
JAMAAT 6:05	1:15	4:30	5:47	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Action prompt, praiseworthy

Barishal district admin knocks down illegal structures on Kirtankhola after Star seeks comments on grabbing

STAR REPORT

In a welcome case of prompt action, the Barishal district administration yesterday demolished illegal structures put up by encroachers on the west bank of Kirtankhola river around 24 hours after being alerted.

Around 2:30pm on Saturday, The Daily Star’s Barishal correspondent sought comments from district officials regarding the encroachment on the river by an influential local.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



A digger ripping apart the concrete blocks and pylons of mahogany wood placed illegally on the banks of the Kirtankhola river in Barishal yesterday. *Inset*, the illegally constructed pylons and concrete blocks as shown in a picture taken on January 18.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

NEWS SIMPLIFIED

BHAIRAB: NATION'S FOOTWEAR HUB

৳300	TOTAL INVESTMENT	৳
10,000	TOTAL SMALL & LARGE FACTORIES	🏭
250,000	EMPLOYED	👥
৳15-20	AVERAGE TRANSACTION PER DAY	↔️
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