### Migrants can slip into poverty

The call came at a time when millions of migrants are facing joblessness due to the ongoing lockdown in many countries to check the spread of coronavirus.

The issue is especially significant for Bangladesh as about one crore Bangladeshis work mostly in the Middle Eastern and the Southeast countries. Bangladesh government has already started repatriating some migrants, but it urged the destination countries on several occasions not to terminate and send back the workers without compensating them with six months' salary. But there has been no response from the destination countries so far.

The statement said the Covid-19 pandemic has severely impacted the lives of millions of migrant workers

in different countries as many of them appropriate compensation benefits, have experienced job loss or nonpayment of wages. Some of them were forced by employers to take unpaid leave or work at a reduced wage.

The regional bodies said countries of destination and origin have begun repatriation procedures of these workers without giving a thought to their predicament. Many countries have been portraying the repatriation to be inevitable.

"Millions will be repatriated to situations of debt bondage as they will be forced to pay off recruitment fees and costs, despite returning emptyhanded," the statement said.

There are additional challenges involved in the repatriation as some unscrupulous employers might take advantage of the mass repatriation and terminate their worker without

the statement said.

This is a gross violation of labour rights on a large scale. Wage theft will account for millions of dollars to the detriment of workers and the benefit of businesses and employers who will be exempted from any accountability, even if states and banks extend a helpline to reestablish themselves and adjust to the new normal," it said.

Safeguards must be put in place to ensure that migrants can pursue their claims even after their return to the home countries, the statement

The states should ask employers and businesses to keep all employment records, including payroll, employee lists, and hours worked and allow workers to take copies of their records

# Mango growers feeling the squeeze "Who shall I sell it to? With trucks at half the rates to transport

Hossain, a mango orchard owner of movement restricted, buyers will not Rajshahi's Bagha upazila.

Usually, buyers from different parts of the country visit Rajshahi to purchase mangoes every year. While still at the flowering stage in trees, the imminent mangoes are sold and buyers would make advance payments.

"This year, no buyers showed up. Most orchards remain unsold," said mango orchard owner Anwar Hossain

Some buyers who showed up offered much lower prices -- for an orchard he sold at Tk 3 lakh last year, a middleman offered Anwar Tk 50,000 this year.

"We spend over 60 percent of the average price we receive -- Tk 1,000 per maund -- on taking care of the mango trees. If the price goes down by six times, it will break us.

Shafiqul Islam, of the same upazila in Rajshahi, exported 36 tonnes of mangoes abroad last year. He has little hopes for export this year.

"Yet, I took care of the mangoes. But till now, I haven't found a single buyer. I doubt if I will be able to recover half of my investment in producing export-quality fruits.' SCARCITY OF BUYERS

Mahmudul Hasan Sumon, a trader from Brahmanbaria, visits Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts every year to purchase mangoes. Last year, he invested over Tk 5 crore.

"I didn't dare to invest this year as coronavirus changed the situation. No transport is available and even if I arrange alternative transport to go there -- law enforcers will harass the truck drivers on the road and villagers will not welcome us for being outsiders (to avoid coronavirus transmission).

There is no guarantee that he will subsequently be able to transport the fruit to his district, Sumon said, adding that he has not seen any measures to facilitate the process in this extraordinary situation.

Apart from the logistics problems, mango trader Aminul Islam Polash from Sylhet brings up another issue. What will he do with the mangoes back in Sylhet?

utmost sincerity.

BANGABANDHU

UNROD CHIEF CALLS ON

United Nations Relief Operations in Dacca (UNROD) Chief Victor

Umbricht calls on Bangabandhu

today at Bangabhaban. He hands over

a letter from the UN chief to the prime

planes to expedite food distribution

come to me. I am not even sure if I can open my shop to sell the mangoes," said Aminul

Mohammad Yousuf, director general of the Department of Agricultural Marketing, said the department was unaware of traders not being able to visit the mango orchards.

"No one raised the problem. We could have arranged their transportation, but it is not possible now as we lack a database of farmers and traders. Without the database, we cannot contact them," he told The

Despite this, he said, there will be no problems in selling and transporting mangoes as all mango markets, including the country's largest in Kansat of Chapainawabganj and other large markets in Rajshahi's

Baneswar, will operate as usual. In Dhaka, the agricultural marketing department has dedicated Gabtoli Central Market for mango traders.

The market contains storage facilities as well as food and accommodation for the farmers for a few days. It also has four vehicles for transporting mangoes to other markets in the city free of cost, he added.

This facility is, however, limited to

Farmers and traders also allege of harassment and illegal toll collection allegedly by law enforcers on roads nothing new but which will only be exacerbated by the current situation.

Transport owners and workers are reluctant to take on their cargo to avoid such hassle on the roads, they said.

Farmers said trucks are difficult to find, even at higher prices than the average Tk 25,000 it takes to transport 400 maunds of mangoes

long distance. Illegal toll collection on roads, amounting to an average of Tk 5,000 per truck, will only add to mounting costs, said mango traders.

Recently, announced mango producers of estimating between 20 and 50 percent Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj of their yields were affected as a result would be able to use railway parcel of the storm and winds due to the services at reduced rates and BRTC super cyclone.

New banknotes with Bangabandhu's image

mangoes to other districts.

LOW PRODUCTION EXPECTED More than half of the country's total mango production of around 12 lakh tonnes comes from Rajshahi division, according to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics.

This year, researchers and farmers say production may fall due to bad weather and lack of upkeep of mango trees.

"Most farmers couldn't properly attend to their mango trees this year because of the coronavirus scare," said Ismail Khan, a mango orchard owner from Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj.

Ismail, also general secretary of the upazila unit of the mango producers' association, said less than 60 percent trees of the upazila are bearing fruits this year.

"Éven if I took care of my trees hoping for mango exports, I cannot expect more than 50 percent production on my 16 acre orchard,"

"During the flowering stage, many flowers dropped in the recurring rains. During the fruit-bearing stage, when the trees need high temperatures, the prolonged winter hampered fruit

The farmers' fears have ground, said Dr Mosharraf Hossain, senior scientific officer of the Regional Horticultural Research Centre in Chapainawabganj.

"This year, the trees delayed bearing fruits for late arrival of summer. The prolonged winter and rains caused some damage.

When Cyclone Amphan struck before Eid, especially the southwestern part of the country, the damage extended to the northern districts.

The storm and lashing winds affected possibly 16 percent of mango orchards in Dinajpur, according to a primary assessment by local Department of Agricultural Extension officials.

Farmers and orchard owners The the Rajshahi DC Daily Star contacted fear worse,

## Two 'drug

Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukhia," said Lieutenant Colonel Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer (CO) of BGB-34.

The incident occurred Baishfari Godharbil area around 5:00am while a BGB team confronted a group of miscreants, the CO said, adding they opened fire, forcing the border guards

At one stage, Abdur was shot. After he was taken to hospital, doctors declared him dead, he said.

BGB claimed to have recovered 80,000 pieces of yaba pills and a locally-made firearm from the spot.

Meanwhile in Gazipur's Kashimpur area, an alleged drug peddler, Nurul Hague, 25, was killed in a "shootout" with Rab.

Nurul and a few others were carrying 1.7 lakh yaba pills from Cox's Bazar when the gunfight took place around 3:00am, said Md Kamruzzaman, assistant director of Rab-1.

On information that a consignment of drugs was being smuggled in, Rab set up a checkpost and signaled a truck to stop but its driver tried to speed up and the criminals opened fire, he said, adding that when Rab fired back, Nurul was struck, while his cohorts fled. He was rushed to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College and Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

Rab claimed to have recovered all the yaba, a firearm, and some bullets from the spot and have seized the truck. A Rab man was injured in the incident, it added.(Our correspondents from Bandarban, Gazipur and Cox's Bazar contributed to the report.)

## 'Ring leader' of trafficking

through Hundi, an illegal channel of money transaction.

A diary recovered from Kamal during the raid testified to his crimes and also revealed names and other information of at least 10 of his local and foreign agents, Rab said.

Kamal's local agents lured the poor in different districts with high-paying jobs abroad.

Kamal, a tiles contractor, also used to "inspire his co-workers" to go abroad, Rab officials said.

He would ask his clients to first pay "only" Tk 1-3 lakh and then Tk 4 lakh after landing in Libya.

Those who accepted the offer began facing ordeals as soon as they left Bangladesh, Rab said, adding that the gang used to manage travel documents for them in the process.

Bangladesh-Kolkata-Mumbai-Dubai-Egypt-Benghazi-Tripoli (Libya) was the latest among the routes they used. The gang's foreign agents would deal with the migrants and confine them for days at each stop.

Once they reached Libya's Tripoli, some Bangladeshis received and handed them over to local gangs, who tortured them for money and filmed it to send clips to the victims' families back home through different messaging apps for money, the Rab said.

Sometimes, the hostages were allowed to call their families and beg their families to pay the money, Rab said, quoting the arrestee and family members of the victims.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Lt Col Rakibul said, "We have proof that families of two

Bangladeshi victims -- Lalchan and Tarikul -- first paid Kamal Tk three lakh before the two left Bangladesh. After they reached Libva, each family gave Kamal another Tk four lakh each.

That Thursday, 38 Bangladeshis and some Africans were held hostage by the criminals, who are alleged human traffickers, Rab officials said, adding, the traffickers demanded a high amount of money, although the victims had earlier paid up to \$10,000 each.

There was a heated argument between the traffickers and the victims, when at one stage, "the main trafficker" was killed by an African migrant. In return, other members of the trafficking gang fired shots at the hostages, leaving 26 Bangladeshis dead, Rab said.

The crime-busters claimed they recovered passports of at least 31 people during the raid and said the passports belonged to people who were about to go to Libya through Kamal.

#### LIBYA'S RESPONSE

Libya has condemned the killing of the 26 Bangladeshis by kidnappers in Mizdah on May 27 and vowed to bring the killers to book.

In a condolence to Bangladesh, Libya's foreign ministry yesterday said the killing of Bangladeshis and others was an act of cowardice and they (the criminals) must face trial for this.

### LatAm virus cases

partially reopen in Britain drew scorn from some accusing the government of moving too fast.



### বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয় প্রধান কার্যালয় মতিঝিল, ঢাকা-১০০০



०८ रेशार्घ, ३८२९

বিজ্ঞব্ধি নং-৪১/২০২০

৩টি ব্যাংকে 'অফিসার (ক্যাশ)' পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ২য় পর্যায়ে নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তন্তাবধানে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক ও বাংলাদেশ ভেভেলপমেউ ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'অফিসার(ক্যাণ)' এর ৫৬৪টি শুনা পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ২ছ পর্যায়ে নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বিগত ১৬/১১/২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত দিখিত পরীকা এবং ১৭/০২/২০১৯ থেকে ১৬/০৪/২০১৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত যৌখিক পরীক্ষায় উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের সমন্বয়ে প্রণীত তালিকা হতে মেধাক্রম এবং প্রার্থীদের পছদের ক্রমের ভিত্তিতে নিম্নোক রোল সম্বরধারী ৫৬৪জন প্রার্থীকে নিমুবর্ণিত ব্যাংকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে :

106895 | 110246 | 111550 | 112058 | 112429 | 112727 | 112841 | 113872 | 115037 | 115621

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড :

100893	110240	111220	112058	112429	112727	112841	113872	115037	112021
115722	119744	120403	120446	121110	124236	124541	124624	125442	125698
126323	127778	127784	128600	129820	130399	130844	131046	131182	131246
131829	132193	133383	133469	135575	136351	137023	137095	137171	137526
137815	138223	139161	140648	143307	144892	145193	145975	146112	149821
152865	152868	157671	159478	160785	160851	161168	162503	165232	166206
166253	166642	168846	169854	170977	171429	171812	172346	173214	173638
174267	174914	174941	175970	177355	177794	178503	179391	181876	182915
183272	183401	184578	184624	186181	186442	186464	187697	188294	188443
188735	189445	190456	190682	190693	191054	193228	193255	194097	195021
196307	196314	196537	196741	196946	197038	197078	197133	197343	198037
199371	199662	202568	203257	203463	205732	206499	207321	207417	207903
207969	208776	209092	209207	209350	210767	211361	211831	212391	212543
215296	215566	216381	218684	220178	220268	222338	222641	223175	223320
223465	223671	228594	228787	229617	229795	230420	230697	231175	232591
233167	234945	240042	240967	241059	243190	244389	244411	246399	247618
247723	247781	247910	248992	250121	251186	251234	251757	252519	252824
253750	255877	256228	256442	256558	256852	257006	257085	257505	257958
258093	258470	258581	259552	259848	259950	259964	260043	261634	264734
265297	266499	266593	267599	267874	268051	268217	268270	268580	268775
268818	268872	269062	269900	271045	272024	272734	273122	276024	276396
276539	276559	277612	278263	278411	278481	279039	279102	279733	282395
285393	285616	286522	288128	288989	290028	291093	291138	292414	293232
295417	296201	296246	296525	297948	298041	298706	298757	298881	299437
301085	301198	301368	302319	302991	304586	305989	308028	308896	309561
309630	310496	310923	311159	311441	313257	315567	315827	315837	315982
316223	318315	318485	318802	319302	319814	320400	320972	321247	322219
322951	322956	323169	323188	324429	324687	326850	327040	327118	328476
		329440	329770	332044	332249	333018	333480	333563	335097
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361704	362293	362636	362886	363655	363808	366212	366338	366489	
366907	367365	367653	367878	368168	369407	370007 377117	370661	372342	373266 377713
373574	373690	373832	376113	376332	376791		377312	377335	381809
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414285	414650	415650	417722	419286	425251	425617	427834		437407
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বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক ঃ

ভিগিপি 🛊 ৪৮/২০২০/১২৬৬

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255678	269127	271603	273718	276076	285984	286091	287299	290401	296340
301096	309671	312953	316231	320232	320584	321005	321914	322048	326392
333503	339607	344524	344788	348446	348496	352202	354019	359455	360878
371912	375004	380502	383100	385099	391267	392905	396934	399385	402139
402443	403970	405789	406860	409504	412441	413047	416734	417586	418307
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নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রম সংখ্রিষ্ট ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।

তারিখ : ০১-০৬-২০২০

कारना अकिरयां शंकरल ১৬২৩७ नयदा रकान कक्रन।

ব্যাহকিং ও আর্থিক দেবা পেতে হয়রানির শিকার হলে কিংবা

মহাব্যবস্থাপক, বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক সদস্য-সচিব, বিএসসি

বি: প্র: বিএসসিএস প্রকাশিত ক্লাক্সল সংশোধনের অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করে।

GD-920

## Keep food supply chain intact

do farming in full swing. We have to remember that we are self-sufficient in rice, but we import around 60 lakh tonnes of grains -- maize and wheat -every year. Much of our dairy, poultry, and fish production depends on maize, the main food for livestock. We need to make sure we produce these grains domestically. That's very much possible if we can inspire farmers. **TDS:** What are the current challenges

of agriculture in Bangladesh? Jahangir: The major challenge is keeping the food supply chain intact. We can see that farmers are not getting fair prices at all. Two factors are responsible for this. One is that purchasing power of a large section of people has come down with no work and no earnings. On the other hand, the majority of vegetables, milk, fish, chicken, and eggs produced in villages cannot be transported to transport fare. As a result, people in the urban areas are buying the are either abandoning their produces or selling them at a minimal prices. If this trend continues, small and medium farmers will incur losses. They will become frustrated and won't And that will result in a shortage of

domestic food production. **TDS**: What is your suggestion to keep the supply chain intact?

Jahangir: The government's agriculture and food departments, along with police and army, should come forward to keep the supply chain intact. They have a lot of vehicles that can be used to transport agri-products from farms to cities where the demand is high.

The government can also distribute these food items as relief materials. Such initiatives would allow farmers to make profit and help them prepare for the next season.

On the other hand, dairy farmers can produce more powdered milk, which can be preserved. The producers need to do it as part of their corporate social responsibility. The government's policy intervention is important to this end. The country's daily milk production is about 27,000 tonnes, but the demand has dropped cities. Transport owners are hiking to half of the production. Milk prices causing a colossal loss to farmers.

also declined in the rural areas, produce at high prices, but farmers TDS: The government has declared some stimulus packages for the small and medium farmers. Is it enough? Jahangir: The stimulus package of Tk 5,000 crore is mainly for the poultry, dairy, fish, and horticulture sectors. go for production in the next season. Farmers of these sectors can have loan with an interest rate of 5 percent. The the food crisis.

package.

The farmers who cultivate paddy. risk of famine, otherwise.

TDS: We are largely dependent on imported fertiliser and insecticides. Will there be any crisis of farm inputs? Jahangir: Yes, many of the countries are under lockdown. So, export-import is heavily restricted. It is high time we assessed the needs of farm inputs for the coming Aman and Boro seasons and started talking to the countries on how we can get the required farm inputs such as fuel, fertiliser, seed, and machinery. Remember, we are now dealing with coronavirus outbreak. Our next challenge will be managing

#### about the UN's efforts to collect of the war criminals will be held at food aid for Bangladesh from the international community. any cost. The Pakistani war criminals Later, at a press briefing session, the not only committed crimes against UNROD chief shares that the UN will

minister. He informs Bangabandhu humanity but also tarnished the image provide four helicopters and eight cargo

across the country. He expresses his visiting Malaysia to discuss the

INDIRA-BHUTTO MEETING

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdus

Bhutto at Delhi will expedite the process of recognition of Bangladesh by Pakistan. He adds that Bangladesh wants friendship with all countries. He, however, emphasises that the trial

The Foreign Minister is currently

to Bangladesh. Malaysia was the first Muslim country to recognise Bangladesh. WAGE BOARD FOR WORKERS

The government is going to set up a wage board for workers, informs Finance Minister Tajuddin Ahmad today. A pay commission will also be formed to determine wages of workers who are not included in the Labour

### LAUNCHED

Bangladesh Bank releases new Tk 5 and Tk 10 notes today. The portrait of Bangabandhu is inscribed on the obverse side of the notes.

Purbodesh.

crop farmers, however, would hardly be able to reap benefits from the

maze and wheat will have to depend on the general farm loan whose interest rate is 8 percent. Also, many of the small and marginal farmers cannot avail such loan. I suggest that the general farm loan be disbursed at 4 percent interest rate. And, if possible, the interest rate of the stimulus package should be lowered to 2 percent. This is because profitability in agriculture is very low. The small and marginal farmers who cannot avail farm loan should be provided cash subsidy. Agriculture should be given a high priority because there is a serious

#### confidence that the UN will be able country's proposal to provide to collect 10 lakh tonnes of additional economic and technical assistance production in all the industrial units. He also assures that all the demands food assistance for Bangladesh. BANGLADESH WELCOMES of the workers will be considered with

Samad Azad today says in Kuala Lumpur that the upcoming meeting between Indira Gandhi and ZA

of Islam, says Abdus Samad Azad.

#### Act, he adds. NEW TK 5 & TK 10 NOTES

SOURCES: June 3, 1972 issue of