

Migrants can slip into poverty

FROM PAGE 12

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 Asian 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 have experienced job loss or non-payment 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 empty-handed," 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

appropriate compensation benefits, 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 said.

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 with them.

Mango growers feeling the squeeze

FROM PAGE 12

Hossain, a mango orchard owner of 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 Palash.

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."

"Who shall I sell it to? With movement restricted, buyers will not 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 Daily Star.

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 cold 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.

trucks at half the rates to transport 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.

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

"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 growth."

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 Polish from Sylhet brings up another issue. What will he do with the mangoes back in Sylhet?

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, the Rajshahi DC announced mango producers of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj would be able to use railway parcel services at reduced rates and BRTC

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 south-western 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 Daily Star contacted fear worse, estimating between 20 and 50 percent of their yields were affected as a result of the storm and winds due to the super cyclone.

New banknotes with Bangabandhu's image

FROM PAGE 12

production in all the industrial units. He also assures that all the demands of the workers will be considered with utmost sincerity.

UNROD CHIEF CALLS ON BANGABANDHU

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 minister. He informs Bangabandhu about the UN's efforts to collect food aid for Bangladesh from the international community.

Later, at a press briefing session, the UNROD chief shares that the UN will provide four helicopters and eight cargo planes to expedite food distribution across the country. He expresses his

confidence that the UN will be able to collect 10 lakh tonnes of additional food assistance for Bangladesh.

BANGLADESH WELCOMES INDIRA-BHUTTO MEETING

Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad today says in Kuala Lumpur that the upcoming meeting between Indira Gandhi and ZA 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 of the war criminals will be held at any cost. The Pakistani war criminals not only committed crimes against humanity but also tarnished the image of Islam, says Abdus Samad Azad.

The Foreign Minister is currently visiting Malaysia to discuss the

country's proposal to provide economic and technical assistance 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 Act, he adds.

NEW TK 5 & TK 10 NOTES 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.

SOURCES: June 3, 1972 issue of *Purbodosh*.

Keep food supply chain intact

FROM PAGE 12

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 cities. Transport owners are hiking transport fare. As a result, people in the urban areas are buying the produce at high prices, but farmers 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 go for production in the next season. 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 to half of the production. Milk prices also declined in the rural areas, causing a colossal loss to 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. Farmers of these sectors can have loan with an interest rate of 5 percent. The

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

The farmers who cultivate paddy, 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 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 the food crisis.

Two 'drug

FROM PAGE 12

Kutupalong Rohingya camp in Cox's Bazar's Ukchia," said Lieutenant Colonel Ali Haider Azad Ahmed, commanding officer (CO) of BCG-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 to retaliate.

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 Haque, 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 checkpoint 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

FROM PAGE 12

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 Libya, 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 message 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

FROM PAGE 12

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

বিস্তারিত নং-৪১/২০২০

তারিখঃ ০৪ জুলাই, ১৪২৭
১৮ মে, ২০২০

৩টি ব্যাংকে 'অফিসার (কাশ)' পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ২য় পর্যায় নিয়োগ প্রসঙ্গে।

ব্যাংকার্স সিলেকশন কমিটি সচিবালয়ের তত্ত্বাবধানে সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক ও বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এ 'অফিসার(কাশ)' এর ৫৬৪টি শূন্য পদে সমন্বিতভাবে ২য় পর্যায় নিয়োগের লক্ষ্যে বিখ্যাত ১৬/১১/২০১৮ তারিখে অনুষ্ঠিত লিখিত পরীক্ষা এবং ১৭/০২/২০১৯ থেকে ১৬/০৪/২০১৯ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত মৌখিক পরীক্ষার উত্তীর্ণ প্রার্থীদের সমন্বয়ে প্রার্থী তালিকা হতে মেধাক্রম এবং প্রার্থীদের পছন্দের ক্রমের ভিত্তিতে নিম্নোক্ত রোল মধ্যবর্তী ৫৬৪ জন প্রার্থীকে নিম্নবর্ণিত ব্যাংকে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রাথমিকভাবে নির্বাচন করা হয়েছে :

সোনালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড :

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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
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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
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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
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361704	362293	362636	362886	363655	363808	366212	366338	366489	366538
366907	367365	367653	367878	368168	369407	370007	370661	372342	373266
373574	373690	373832	376113	376332	376791	377117	377312	377335	377713
378881	378996	380115	380342	380382	380450	380624	380822	381588	381809
381878	382418	385055	385745	387949	391418	391847	392150	392551	394781
394850	394871	395732	396099	396143	396925	397207	397218	398034	398330
398394	401956	403393	403485	403646	404855	406399	406411	406864	407569
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414285	414650	415650	417722	419286	425251	425617	427834	428914	429989
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447205	448108	448596	449373	449380	450455	450481	450976	452478	452486
454427	455924	456514	456541	458449	459192	460832	461503	461732	463054
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বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক :

113730	116464	143101	150266	153746	157391	162036	164713	169514	176802
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203556	211167	219629	223312	225374	229053	240298	241118	244412	247997
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
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402443	403970	405789	406860	409504	412441	413047	416734	417586	418307
422994	428535	433862	435223	437081	437286	438933	441275	446277	446542
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বাংলাদেশ ডেভেলপমেন্ট ব্যাংক লিমিটেড :

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নিয়োগ সংক্রান্ত পরবর্তী সকল কার্যক্রম সমাপ্তি ব্যাংক কর্তৃক সম্পাদিত হবে।