

Don't harass journos, migrants

21 civil society orgs call on Malaysian govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twenty-one civil society organisations working on migration and development yesterday expressed deep concern over the Malaysian government's recent "harassment of journalists and migrant workers".

The incident of harassment took place following the broadcast of an investigative documentary by Al Jazeera about mistreatment of migrant workers in Malaysia, the organisations said in a joint statement.

They said summoning the journalists and the reported manhunt for a Bangladeshi migrant worker interviewed by Al Jazeera for the documentary "is a blatant attempt to muzzle the freedom of press and human rights abuse" by the Malaysian authorities.

"We call on the Malaysian government not to harass the journalists and expatriates, and instead investigate and take action against those who have been treating the migrants unjustly," read the statement.

The CSOs urged the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia, the ministries of foreign affairs and expatriates welfare and overseas employment and international organisations in Dhaka to take necessary actions in this regard.

The investigative documentary titled "Locked Up in Malaysia's Lockdown" was

broadcast on July 3 as part of Al Jazeera's "101 East" documentary strand.

It shows that the Malaysian government is discriminating migrants during the Movement Control Order enforced due to coronavirus pandemic, read the statement.

"We note with deep concern that six media workers of Al Jazeera were called to Malaysia Central Police Headquarters on July 10 for questioning. They are also being investigated for alleged defamation and sedition by Malaysian police. We stand by various international journalists' organisations who have also condemned this incident," the CSOs said.

Besides, Malaysian Immigration Department has issued a search warrant for young Bangladeshi migrant who was interviewed in the documentary, they added.

The CSOs that issued the statement are Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit, WARBE Development Foundation, Brac, Manusher Jonno Foundation, Ovivashi Karmi Unnayan Program, Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendro, IID Migration Policy Unit, Human Rights Support Society, Bangladeshi Ovivashi Mohila Sramik Association, BASUG, INAFI Bangladesh, Karmojibi Nari, Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha, Devcom, IMA, Awaj Foundation, Rights Jashore, BILS, Bastob, Film for Peace Foundation, and Migration News.



Dhaka Electric Supply Company (Desco) has chosen an inopportune time to dig up this road in Mirpur-1 for work on underground cable lines, as rainy weather may not just slow the work down but also pose hassles to commuters. Locals said the road was renovated just a year ago and was in perfectly good shape until the excavation. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Low-quality sanitiser Mobile court fines trader, seals off factory

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chattogram District Administration yesterday fined a factory owner Tk 20,000 and sealed off another factory for producing and selling substandard hand-sanitisers in Chattogram city without approval of the drug administration department.

Omar Faruque, executive magistrate of Chattogram District Administration, told the Daily Star, "Factory owner Manik Ghosh ran an illegal business under the name of 'Manik Enterprise' during the pandemic."

"Manik had been cooperating with one Mansur Ali, owner of 'Jamjam Chemicals', to produce sanitisers using substandard chemicals," the magistrate said.

"Being informed by Manik, we rushed Jamjam Chemicals' factory, but found it closed," he said. "For their offenses, we have fined Manik Tk 20,000 and sealed off Mansur Ali's factory."

Historian Prof ABM Hossain no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi



Internationally acclaimed historian Prof Abul Bashar Mosarrar Hossain of Rajshahi University passed away at Bangladesh Specialised Hospital in Dhaka yesterday.

He breathed his last at 2am, said Prof Fazul Haque, dean of Faculty of Arts at RU. He was 86.

He was the first professor emeritus of RU, where he served for 60 years, said Prof Haque.

Prof ABM Hossain was an expert on the Middle Eastern history and authored at least 11 books including Arab Shapotyia, Muslim Shilpakolar Eithas and Modhyaprachher Eithas, he said.

Norwegian parliament selected him as a member of the Nobel Peace Prize awarding body of The Norwegian Nobel Committee in 1977, said Prof Haque citing his profile.

Prof Hossain was also a member of the committee that drafted the Rajshahi University Act, 1973.

Born on September 1 in 1934 in Cumilla's Debidwar, ABM Hossain studied at Debidar High School, Cumilla Victoria College and Dhaka University.

He went to London University on a scholarship and obtained honours and PhD in History and Islamic Archaeology in 1958 and 1960. In 1960, he joined Rajshahi University as a teacher, and became a professor in 12 years.

He left behind two sons, a daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Prof Hossain was buried at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in the capital following a namaz-e-janaza held near his Dhaka residence in Kalabagan.

Transport leader stabbed dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The general secretary of Sylhet district unit of Tank Lorry Workers Union died at hospital an hour after being stabbed by a group of miscreants at Babna point area of Dakshin Surma in Sylhet on Friday night.

The transport leader Iqbal Hossain Ripon, 40, is son of Abul Hossain of Khojarkhola area of Dakshin Surma.

Another transport leader Babla Ahmed Talukder was also injured and undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Khairul Fazal, officer-in-charge of Dakshin Surma Police Station, said, "The transport leaders and some others were in front of Sitara Hotel when miscreants attacked them at around 10pm."

"Critically injured, they were rescued and taken to Osmani Medical College Hospital where Ripon died", he said.

Following the incident, tank lorry workers staged demo at Babna Point area for hours that night and yesterday (Saturday) morning after blocking Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

Ripon's wife Farzana Akther filed a case with Dakshin Surma Police Station accusing 13 persons and following a drive yesterday (Saturday) morning, Police arrested two accused in connection of the murder, the OC said.

Dhaka-Barishal flights resume

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Regular flight operations between Dhaka and Barishal will resume today, ensuring health guidelines.

Earlier, the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) permitted flight operations to Sylhet, Chattogram, Saidpur and Jashore airport to resume.

CAAB yesterday allowed resumption of commercial flight operations between Dhaka and Barishal as the district civil surgeon office arranged physicians and health workers at the airport there to monitor the health guidelines regarding hygiene and social distancing.

Country's two private air operator -- US-Bangla Airlines and Novoair -- have taken preparation to resume their operation on Dhaka-Barishal-Dhaka route from today after nearly three-and-a-half-months of flight suspension on this destination.

Both the airlines have decided to operate one flight daily on the route.

Novoair flight will depart at 3:15pm and US-Bangla airlines flight at 4:15pm from Dhaka to Barishal every day of the week, the two airlines said in separate releases.

The government on June 1 primarily resumed flight operation on the three domestic routes -- Chattogram, Sylhet and Saidpur -- out of its seven domestic routes after more two months suspension following Covid-19 pandemic. Flight operations on the Jashore route resumed on June 11.

The CAAB is yet to give permission to operate domestic flights to the rest of two other domestic routes -- Cox's Bazar and Rajshahi.

BEZA eyes

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They said they have nothing except this land on which they yield crops to support their family, graze their livestock and catch fish to meet the demand of protein.

They said despite the PM's instruction, the economic zone had already acquired 30,000 acres of forest land, damaging a large source of their livelihood.

Mainul Ahsan Rukon, a resident of Purbo Mogadia under Mirsarai upazila, said they grow crops such as paddy, vegetable and beans on the land. "Our lives are intertwined with this land we reside on. It provides us with food...", he said.

The villagers sought the PM's intervention to save their land. Contacted, Paban Chowdhury, executive chairman of BEZA, said the land they were acquiring was minimal comparing to the size of the economic zone.

"We have to accommodate a large population there including educational institutions. Apart from this, there is also an 'Indian Zone' for which we need land. That's why we are acquiring more land," he said.

He said they are also building an embankment along the Bay of Bengal and will reclaim land from the sea. But in comparison to the volume of investment, they need more land.

"At least \$15 billion have been proposed for the economic zone and we expect to employ 15 lakh people. We will pay the land owners triple the amount of the actual value," he said.

Asked about the PM's direction of not using arable land for the economic zone, he evaded the question.

Contacted, Md Abu Hasan Siddique, additional deputy commissioner of land acquisition in Chattogram, said he joined the department around two months ago. "The process for the economic zone started years ago and as far as I know, it has been done following due procedures."

The land acquisition is at the final stage, he informed The Daily Star yesterday.

Regarding the prime minister's direction, Siddique said he does not have a clear idea about the matter as the process has been completed long before he joined.

Tourism in

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the sector."

Meanwhile with almost no tourist visiting, people involved in jobs such as guides, boatmen, photographers, vendors and souvenir sellers are bearing the brunt of the situation.

Arob Ali, a boatman of Ratargul Swamp Forest area, said, "The area was closed days before the nationwide shutdown and we have been struggling since March."

Like Ali, many others said they did not receive any support yet.

Contacted, Javed Ahmed, chief executive officer of Bangladesh Tourism Board, said, "Tourism sector was the first to collapse and unfortunately will be the last one to recover. But we've already prepared a recovery plan which has been approved by the [tourism] ministry. We've also prepared a standard operating procedure (SOP), which is awaiting approval."

"Our response to sustain the sector, however, is limited and we are solely dependent on the government's initiatives. The government offered stimulus; but we need banks to be more cordial in sanctioning them to all stakeholders of the sector," he said.

The CEO continued, "People like boatmen, guides and locals who used to depend on the sector are in distress. We've urged local administrations to bring them under the safety net programme and provide them with help till we revive the sector."

He further added, "This year has been lost to us... we won't be able to recover the losses by December. We need to survive the pandemic together and need everyone's support to sustain."

Asked, Jakaria, additional divisional commissioner (general) of Sylhet, said, "We don't have any special plan to support people involved with the tourism sector. The government is providing monthly cash support and many from the sector are included in the list."

"Additionally, the administration is continuing to provide relief to those in need," he added.



A group of current and former students of Government Barishal College form a human chain on Sadar Road yesterday, demanding cancellation of a proposal to change the name of the institution to Ashwini Kumar Dutta College. Local cultural organisations submitted the proposal to the deputy commissioner last year to rename the college, which used to be the residence of the eminent educationist and political leader.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

Sahara Khatun

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Awami League presidium members Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Abdur Rahman, two mayors of Dhaka North and Dhaka South city corporation, and AL joint general secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim attended the second namaz-e-janaza maintaining physical distance.

Floral wreaths were placed at her coffin on behalf of President Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and on behalf of the party.

Later her dead body was covered with national and Awami League party flags in honour of her contribution in upholding the country's independence and sovereignty and establishing democracy.

Earlier, a special flight of US-Bangla Airlines carrying her body landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport from Bangkok at around 1:40am yesterday.

Sahara Khatun was a lawmaker from Dhaka-18 constituency. She died at Bumrungrad International Hospital in Bangkok at 11:25pm (local time). She was 77.

She was taken to Bangkok on Monday by an air ambulance.

On June 2, the three-time MP was admitted to United Hospital with fever and complications associated with old age. She was later taken to the ICU of the hospital as her condition deteriorated.

Sahara Khatun was born in Dhaka's Kurmitola on March 1, 1943 to Abdul Aziz and Turjan Nesa.

Sahara was one of the forefront fighters as a lawyer in the legal battle to free Sheikh Hasina. She was also an activist.

In the 2008 national election, Sahara became an MP for the first time from Dhaka-18 constituency.

Sheikh Hasina included Sahara in her cabinet as minister for home affairs. In a cabinet reshuffle of 2012, she was made the minister of posts and telecommunications.

JP ex-presidium

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presidium member. He was dropped from JP presidium after the party's ninth national council following the demise of Ershad.

Before his death, Ershad formed a trust and donated his assets to it. Later, Khaled was made its chairman.

JP Chairman GM Quader and Secretary General Moshirur Rahman Ranga condoled his death.



Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology

141-142, Love Road, Tejgaon I/A, Dhaka-1208
Phone: 8870422, Registrar: 8870416, Web: www.aust.edu

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE POSTS

Applications are invited from suitable eligible Bangladeshi candidates for the posts of
1) Registrar 2) Librarian 3) University Engineer 4) Controllor of Examinations 5) Medical Officer 6) Director/Deputy Director of Finance 7) Asstt. Controllor of Examinations at Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology. The details regarding the Qualifications, Experience, and other information are available in the AUST website : www.aust.edu. The last date of application is 27 July 2020 and application should be sent together with all the supporting documents & two PP Photograph to regnr@aust.edu with cc to vc@aust.edu and the hard copy to the Registrar, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, 141-142 Love Road, Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka 1208 within the last date.

Star journo

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contribution to family planning services and maternal and child health sectors.

A total of 40 media personnel from print, electronic and online portals, cartoonists, and artists were selected for the "Family Planning Media Fellowship-2020" in March. The names of the fellows were announced at the programme, each of whom will receive Tk 50,000 as an honorarium for the successful completion of the fellowship.

The Daily Star's Nilima was announced as one of the fellows for the programme as well.

Every year, DGFP marks the World Population Day with exuberant programmes. However, considering the

ongoing global pandemic, this year's celebrations had to be limited to the virtual space.

This year's theme for the day is "Putting the brakes on Covid19: How to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls now."

Health Minister Zahid Maleque was chief guest of the programme.

Health Services Division's Secretary Md Abdul Mannan, UNFPA Bangladesh representative Dr Asa Torkelsson, and Director General of DGFP Sahan Ara Banu spoke at the event, among others.

The programme was presided over by Md Ali Noor, the Health Education Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Hereby JSC ASE EC notifies you on holding the open tender for the right to enter into an agreement for the provision of freight forwarding services for the transportation of building materials and equipment for the construction of the Ruppur NPP. The documentation is published on the official procurement site of the nuclear industry <http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>, procurement No. 200619/0536/719.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Hereby JSC ASE EC notifies you on holding the open tender for the right to conclude the contract under lots No. 1, No. 2, supply of rolled metal steel reinforcement, metal rolling (periodic reinforcement) on the NPP "Ruppur". The documentation is published on the official procurement site of the nuclear industry <http://zakupki.rosatom.ru>, procurement No. 200618/0536/709.