

Migrants want to settle in UK

BBC Online

A growing number of migrants coming to Britain from Eastern Europe may be intending to stay, a survey suggests.

More than a third of women and a quarter of men said they wanted to stay, many of whom had changed their minds since arriving in the UK.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's report also found that one in four migrants spends no time with British people.

The study, based on interviews in 2002 and after EU enlargement in May 2004, draws on experiences of 600 migrants.

Construction workers, farm labourers and au pairs were among those interviewed about their lifestyles.

'Treated as equals'

Researchers spoke to working migrants from Poland, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Ukraine and Bulgaria.

They found 6 percent of those surveyed in October 2002 said they would stay in the UK when they first arrived.

Eighteen months later, of those who remained in the UK, just under a quarter said they would stay permanently.

By the end of 2004, 29 percent of Eastern European migrants said they would stay "for good".

Factors in making a decision included their legal status, income, gender, where their dependents lived, having friends in the UK, and how they were treated, the report said.

Questioned about their experiences in Britain, two-thirds of the sample did not know how to register with a doctor.

Almost half of the migrants had received no information about conditions attached to their immigration status.

Four out of 10 said Britons treated them as equals, but three out of 10 said they did not.

Just one-third had taken English classes and many felt they had only limited contact with British people.

A waitress from the Ukraine said they "do not let you into their circles".

Facing challenges

BBC home editor Mark Easton said that, while the study provided a glimpse into the world of migrant workers in the UK, it did not show the

true picture as there were no figures showing how many go home.

However, it did highlight the need for the government to look at service provision, integration and learning English, he said.

The foundation's director, Julia Unwin, said the research showed that the government should value migrants as "more than simply an economic resource".

She said ministers "must continue to place importance on ensuring their integration into wider British society, even when their stay is expected to be temporary".

A spokesman for the communities department said he recognised that "both new migrants and more settled communities can face challenges when migration patterns change".

Master manipulator of state power

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political parties, contributing to the rise of recent confrontational political environment in the country, said competent sources in various law enforcement agencies.

Till August 31, 2006 the police arrested as many as 1,23,566 political activists most of whom were implicated in various false cases, the sources said.

The role played by Babar changed the direction of the investigation of the fatal August 21, 2004 bomb attack on an Awami League rally in the capital, intelligence sources said.

Although the 2004 attack had been marked as one of the biggest terror attacks on a political party leaving 23 persons including senior AL leaders killed and 300 others injured, the police made no progress in the investigation. Then on August 2006, the police came up with a so-called confession of one Judge Mia stating that a group of ordinary criminals had orchestrated the attack. Since then, the investigation has died down. It was subsequently reported in the media that behind the scene the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police was subsidising the regular expenses of Judge Mia's family, the sources said.

Babar also played a questionable role in the investigation of the biggest ever incident of arms smuggling in the country, the sources added. In April 2004 10 truck loads of arms and ammunition were intercepted by law enforcers while being smuggled. The investigators never made any progress as Babar

reportedly made the police file a 'simpler case'. Investigators were never asked to find out who had been involved in the smuggling and where the cache was being taken to - rather Babar directly discouraged the law enforcers from proceeding with the investigation, according to police officials involved in the case.

Babar also allegedly silenced the Bogra arms haul case. Although a huge cache of bullets and explosives was recovered from a truck in Bogra, investigation regarding the haul stalled within a few months with some significant arrears.

He also played a significant role in the rise of executed Jamaatul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) leader Bangla Bhai in North Bengal in 2004, intelligence sources said. While the media was reporting about the atrocities of Bangla Bhai, Babar denied the existence of Islamist militants to the media. The then police super of Rajshahi, Masud Mia, was openly cooperating with Bangla Bhai in his killing missions. The other police officer who sheltered Bangla Bhai -- the then deputy inspector of Rajshahi police Nur Mohammad -- was promoted to the position of an additional inspector general superceding officers senior to him.

During his five years in the home ministry, Babar spear-headed purchase of motor vehicles worth a few thousand crores of taka for Rapid Action Battalion

(Rab), police and the fire brigade, the ministry officials said.

In 2005, ahead of the Saarc summit in the capital, the government decided to procure 1970 cars with Tk 121 crore of government finance and some foreign funds. The police headquarters floated a tender in which 16 importers participated. But at the last moment, through a circular, the authorities changed the conditions of bidding in such a way that allowed only two importers to participate. That prompted the other bidders to lodge complaints with the government alleging corruption in the bidding process, but that did not work. Finally the vehicles were mainly procured from Pacific Motors, owned by the then foreign minister M Morshed Khan, the home ministry sources said.

Born in 1958, Babar was an unknown face when he was first elected to the parliament in 1991. He was involved with import and other businesses throughout the nineties, maintaining a low profile.

After he became a member of the parliament for the second time in 2001, the then prime minister Khaleda Zia made him the state minister for home affairs on request from Tarique Rahman. Although initially now detained Altaf Hossain Chowdhury was the full minister for some time, Babar was assertive from the beginning, the ministry sources said.

Police sources said Babar made sure that only he took the deci-

sions regarding transfers and postings in the police department for the levels from constables to high officials. And that control helped him to institutionalise partisanship at all levels of the police department.

In June 2006, 700 constables were made assistant sub-inspectors and each of them paid bribes of Tk 1.5 lakh to Tk 2 lakh, the sources said. Bribes were also taken from police officers interested in joining the UN peace keeping missions, added the sources.

Babar also unduly modified the training courses for police officers, claimed the sources. A one-year training course for assistant superintendents of police (ASP) was slashed down to nine months and another one-year training course for sub-inspectors was reduced to six months, the sources said.

The sources also alleged that Babar influenced the Public Service Commission (PSC) to recruit 200 ASPs whose only qualification was that they were involved in the politics of the ruling party of the time. Again, those ASPs also allegedly had to pay bribes to get the jobs.

While revamping the police department by changing their uniforms, Babar dropped a boat from the police monogram which the department had inherited from the colonial British Raj, the police sources said. The move was viewed by many as a manifestation of deep anti-Awami League sentiment of Babar.



Winners of 'CityCell Mother's Day Contest' pose for photograph with the guests at the prize giving ceremony at Pacific Centre in the city recently.

CityCell Mother's Day Contest

CityCell hosted the prize giving ceremony of weeklong 'CityCell Mother's Day Contest' at Pacific Centre on May 27, says a press release.

CityCell organised the SMS-based quiz contest to celebrate International Mother's Day.

First prize winner Omar Bin Naser was awarded a pleasure trip of five days and four nights for two to Bangkok. The prize also included air tickets and hotel accommodation with supplementary breakfast. In addition, all his SMS charges for the contest were waived.

Kamruzzaman Belal, the second prize winner, was awarded three days and two nights' stay at a five star hotel in Cox's Bazar for four along with waiver of 50% of his SMS charges.

The third prize winner, Khondokar Shahjalal (Babu), won household shopping coupon worth Tk 20,000 from Agora Super Store. Also, 25% of his SMS charges for the contest were waived.

Ng Hwee Boon, chief marketing officer, and Nithianandan Rajasingham, head of marketing, CityCell, handed over the prizes to the lucky winners.

Hotel Sea Palace, Persona, Agora, Mantra Fashion Café, Rupahli Sari and Priyo Super Store were the co-partners of the contest.

3 killed in 'actions' with Rab, cops

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leader of an outlawed party, were killed in "crossfire" between police and their cohorts in Meherpur and Kushtia yesterday.

In Dhaka, a Rab-2 team was raiding the Hazaribagh area for muggers and criminals last night when they identified a gathering of few people inside a makeshift shanty.

"Curious, we came close to the spot. One of the four people there fired on the team, forcing Rab members to fire back," said a Rab official, who was in the team.

Later, they found an unidentified youth lying on the floor with bullet wounds in his head and chest.

Meanwhile, Our Correspondent from Kushtia, reported that the two killed in the region were identified as Biddyt alias Dilip, 34, regional commander of outlawed Purb Banglar Communist Party (PBCP)-Janajuddho faction and Moyeen Uddin, 33, member of a notorious gang Hamidul-Rashidul Bahini.

In Meherpur, police arrested PBCP leader Biddyt at a tea stall in Jadabpur of Sadar upazila on Monday.

Police claimed that upon secret information Arif Ahmed, a sub-inspector (SI) of Meherpur Police Station, went alone to the spot in plain clothes around 3:30pm and arrested the PBCP leader with the help of locals.

Police interrogated him at Meherpur Police Station where he admitted to his involvement with the outfit and gave information about hidden firearms at Mahajanpur of Mujibnagar upazila.

When a police team along with Biddyt reached a mango orchard at Mahajanpur around 3:30am yesterday to recover those hidden arms, Biddyt's cohorts opened fire on the police team. Police retaliated leading to an hour-long gun battle.

According to police, Biddyt was caught in the 'crossfire' when he tried to escape from the police van during the 'shootout'. He died on the spot.

His cohorts managed to escape following the gun battle but police recovered two bombs, a locally made rifle and five bullets from the spot.

According to police, Biddyt was a close associate of Abir Hasan, divisional commander of

Janajuddho, and took over the charge of regional leader after the death of Abir in a gun battle with Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in October last year.

Police said Biddyt was accused in 13 criminal cases including three murder cases filed with Mujibnagar and Meherpur police stations.

In Kushtia, locals captured Moyeen at Radhanagar of Kumarkhali upazila and handed him over to police after beating him up Monday afternoon. He was trying to flee after an unsuccessful attempt to kill the convener of a local anti-crime body.

Police took Moyeen to Kumarkhali Police Station for interrogation where he admitted to his involvement with Hamidul-Rashidul Bahini and gave information about hidden firearms at Kaya.

Police claimed that Moyeen's accomplices ambushed them when a police team along with Moyeen went to Kaya to recover the firearms around 4:50am. An hour-long gun battle between police and the gang ensued as police retaliated in defence.

Police claimed Moyeen was bullet-hit in "crossfire" while

trying to escape during the 'shoot-out'. He died on the spot.

Police recovered a locally made revolver and two bullets from the spot. Moyeen's cohorts managed to escape.

According to police, Moyeen was accused in 12 criminal cases including two murder cases filed with Kushtia Sadar and Kumarkhali police stations.

On Monday, locals foiled Hamidul-Rashidul Bahini's attempt to kill the convener of "Santrash Protirodh Committee", an anti-crime body, Zahidul Islam at Chueria in Kumarkhali upazila and captured two other cadres of the gang -- Mizbar, 20, and Sumon, 23. Locals also ransacked at least 20 houses belonging to the gang members.

Police recovered a double-barrel gun and five bombs from the criminals.

According to police, 18 cadres of the gang have been killed in different incidents including "crossfire" and fighting between gangs. Four police personnel were killed in gun battles with the gangs in 2003.



PHOTO: STAR

Upazila Project Implementation Committee (UPIC) of Palash takes out a procession marking the Safe Motherhood Day at Narsingdi on Monday.

Safe Motherhood Day observed in Narsingdi

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) jointly observed the Safe Motherhood Day with various programmes in Narsingdi on Monday.

Processions, discussions, sports and cultural programmes were held at six upazilas of the district under the project 'Safe Motherhood Promotion Project' with a view to raising awareness about how the maternity mortality rate and child mortality rate can be reduced.

Deputy commissioner, civil surgeon, family planning officer, Upazila Nirbahi Officers and local government officials took part in a procession at Sadar upazila. Later, a discussion was also held, with the deputy commissioner in the chair.

A discussion and pregnant women's health check-up programme were held at Daulatpur in Manohordi upazila.

The organisers also distributed clay pots, in which coins or money is saved, among pregnant women. Union Parishad Chairman Ehsanul Haque Sharif said they donated the pots so that they can save money to use it during delivery.

Addressing the discussion, Chief Adviser Yukie Yoshimura advised pregnant women to take all necessary preparations for safe delivery.

The four-year 'Safe Motherhood Promotion Project' is being implemented with the technical and financial assistance of Jica. The project started in June

2006.

Project manager Dr Zubayer Hussain said the major components of the project are promotion of birth preparedness among women, their husbands and in-laws and establishing community support systems for providing timely and life-saving maternal and newborn health services.