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MANPOWER EXPORT TO MALAYSIA

Recruiters trade on workers' woes

PORIMOL PALMA

Negligence of most recruiting agencies and their sub-agents in Bangladesh and Malaysia in selecting skilled jobseekers as per employers' requirements leads to dissatisfaction on both sides, making the workers the ultimate victims, sources concerned said.

Many of these agents make false promises of higher pay to lure the jobseekers, who come mostly from rural areas. These workers get frustrated and resort to protests when they receive wages lower than their expectation in a foreign land.

This was the case of about 800 workers of four textile factories who on October 9 went to the Bangladesh High Commission in Kuala Lumpur from Johor, a town 400 kilometres off the capital, to

protest against lower wages.

The workers alleged their employers paid each of them only Malaysian ringgit (RM) 200 a month against the promised RM 1,200 since January this year.

These workers are most likely to be sent back home resulting in huge loss, as they had paid recruiting agents Tk 2 lakh or more by selling their land and other belongings and taking loans at high interest rates.

Quoting an official of one of the textile factories in Johor, a Malaysian newspaper, The Star Online, on October 19 reported that the Bangladeshis had previously worked at home as truckers and general workers.

"They felt they were not suited for a job that required them to sit for long hours and sew garments,"

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MANNAN BHUIYAN SAYS Post-independence govt declared amnesty for collaborators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader and freedom fighter Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said there were Razakars, Al Badrs and Al Shams (collaborators of Pakistan army) during the War of Independence but the post-independence government did not bring them under trial.

He made the remarks at a press briefing when asked on Jamaat Secretary Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaahid's claim that there is no war criminal in the country.

The party, which came to power after the Liberation War, declared amnesty for the anti-liberation forces, Bhuiyan claimed.

Asked if there would be any alliance with Jamaat in the next election, Bhuiyan said election understanding could be reached with any party to strengthen the election alliance.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Since growing "golden fibre" is not profitable anymore, farmers now cultivate jute as vegetables. The photo was taken yesterday at Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

College student killed as van hits rickshaw

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A college student was killed and another was injured when a covered van hit a rickshaw in Moghbazar in the capital yesterday.

Following the death of Farzana Hossain Silvy, 24, a third year student of marketing department at Dhaka City College, aggrieved locals blocked the Moghbazar to Malibagh road for more than an hour.

Silvy's classmate Nusrat Sharmin Liza, who was also on the rickshaw, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with injuries.

Police apprehended the covered van but the driver managed to escape.

Liza said Silvy and she were going to their friend's house in Moghbazar from Malibagh and they were supposed to go to a coaching centre in Mirpur from there.

She said the covered van hit the rickshaw from behind around 9:30am. Both of them were ejected from the rickshaw onto the street

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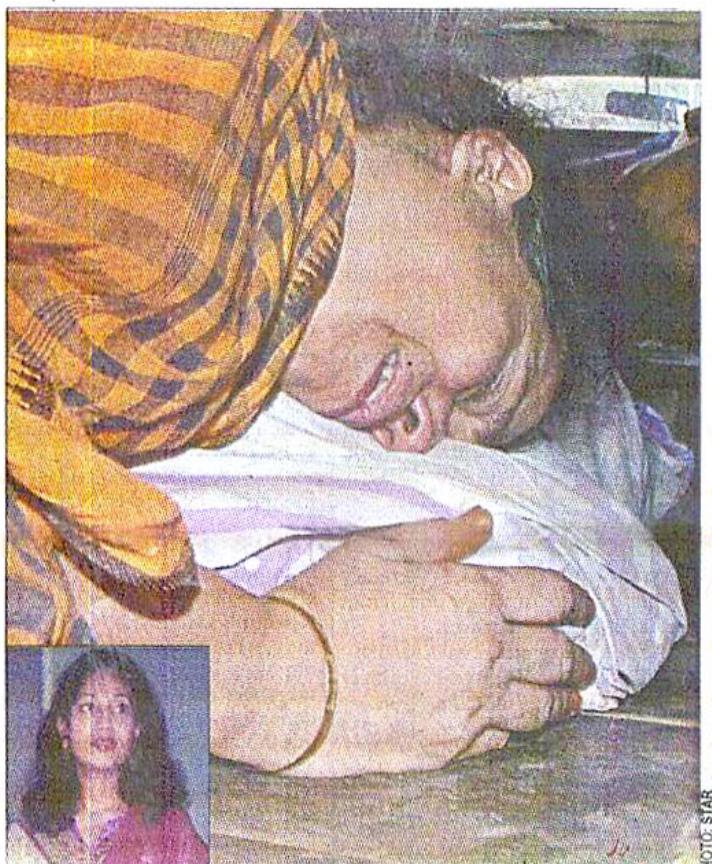


PHOTO STAR

Mother of Farzana Hossain Silvy, inset, breaks down at Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday after the Dhaka City College student was killed in a road accident.

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2 Tangail JMB militants get 10-year RI

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A Tangail court sentenced two militants of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment in two cases, one under the Arms Act and the other under the Explosive Substances Act.

Tangail Special Tribunal-2 Judge Mohammad Golam Hossain, also the additional district and sessions judge of Tangail, delivered the verdict Thursday and fined the convicts Tk 8,000 each, in default they would have to stay five more months in jail.

The convicts are Arman Ali and

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JMB torture victim in Rajshahi sues 63

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A victim of torture of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) filed a case with a Rajshahi court on Thursday, accusing 63 persons of aiding and abetting the activists of the banned militant outfit in torturing and demanding tolls from him in 2004.

Shantu, son of Mujibor Rahman of Jhargram village of Bagmara upazila, lodged the case with a first class magistrate's court, which ordered the officer-in-charge of the upazila police station to investigate the matter and take legal action.

With this, the total number of

cases for abetting militancy stood at 20 in Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon.

Shantu alleged that the accused persons following the directive of Mojaffar Hossain Dewan came to his house and demanded Tk 50,000 on April 15, 2004.

As he refused to pay the toll, the attackers blindfolded and tied Shantu and took him to the Hamirkutia torture camp, the complainant said in the case.

The militants hung him upside down from a tree and tortured him. They broke his hands and legs and threw him outside the camp when

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Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-3 raided a house in the area at around 6:00pm and arrested Babu, Dhanmondi unit president of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). He was wanted in a number of murder, extortion and kidnapping cases.

On Babu's confessional statement, the elite force arrested one of his associates, Rumi, in the city's Kathalbagan area. In another drive, the law enforcer recovered a pistol

Accomplice of Pichchi Hannan held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Nazimuddin Babu, a close associate of Pichchi Hannan, was arrested in the city's Sepoybagh area Thursday evening.

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