Deadly Traps for Foreign Job-seekers

Stories of men and women seeking jobs abroad being swindled by unscrupulous fraudulent middlemen are endless. Many migrant workers after paying local brokers a fat sum of money, amounting to all they possess in terms of assets, end up languishing at foreign airports or on the streets or worse, in jails of foreign lands. Many find they have been given false papers or nonexistent jobs. Most don't have the money to come back home. But a new even more terrifying fate can await such job seekers. A recent report by The Daily Star's Rajshahi correspondent reveals that some gangs operating in the northern districts of the country, are luring people with the promise of jobs abroad, only to imprison them, take their money and then brutally kill them. These crimes go undetected as the criminals later tell the families of the victims that their relatives have already gone abroad.



A few days ago in Natore, police nabbed Helal Uddin, a man from Bogra, with a sack containing a dead body. Disguising himself as a madrassa teacher, Helal Uddin rented a microbus and took two sacks with him one containing the corpse. The driver of the microbus was suspicious and called the police.

Helal confessed to the police that he was a member of an organised gang that had a network across the northern districts where its members would try to swindle and then kill foreign job seekers. The man Helal had killed was a shop owner named Enamul whom he had promised a job in Saudi Arabia in exchange of Tk 2 lakh. When Enamul came to Helal's Natore house on January 29, with one and a half lakh taka, Helal killed him and took the money.

Helal's accomplice was also arrested and is currently being interrogated.

This chilling story is unlikely to be an isolated case. Unless these gangs are rounded up and given exemplary punishment and until the process of getting jobs abroad is made more transparent and well-monitored, there will be more such grisly murders. The practice of individuals acting as middlemen must be stopped and only legitimate agencies should be allowed to operate.