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LANDMARK STEP BY SAUDI GOVT Workers can change jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saudi Arabia, in a major policy change, has allowed Bangladeshi workers the opportunity to change their employers and jobs during their stay in the kingdom.

Thousands of expatriate Bangladeshi workers there breathed a sigh of relief after the decision. Many unable to change jobs had become irregular workers there.

Saudi Arabia has also issued a general amnesty until July 3 for the irregular workers so that they can legalise their stay or return home without facing any penalty.

The opportunity to change jobs was available for all other foreign nationals in Saudi Arabia except for Bangladeshis as the kingdom had withdrawn the facility for Bangladeshis in 2008.

"This is indeed a great news for us. Many Bangladeshis have been in trouble for restrictions on Iqama [work permit] transfer. Now they can change their jobs and occupations," Foreign Minister Dipu Moni told journalists at Chandpur Circuit House yesterday.

The development had proved our close ties with Saudi Arabia, and an improvement in Bangladesh's labour migration process, she said, reports our Chandpur correspondent.

There are around 12 lakh Bangladeshis working in Saudi Arabia, which had significantly reduced recruitment from Bangladesh and stopped job transfers for Bangladeshi workers since 2008.

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Jamaat's hartal today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has called a countrywide dawn-to-dusk shutdown today protesting a verdict of International Crimes Tribunal that handed down death penalty to its leader Muhammad Kamaruzzaman for his involvement in war crimes. Jamaat, the key

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Genocide claim unfounded

Says HRW, asks govt for free probe

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

New York based Human Rights Watch yesterday urged Dhaka to immediately assemble an independent commission to investigate the numbers of casualties during the Hefajat-e Islam led protests on May 5-6.

The international rights watchdog body said the commission should also investigate the violence responsible for the dozens killed during February, March, and April; the aftermath of protests and counter-protests staged after the announcement of verdicts by the country's

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Press note useless Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday criticised the government press note about the law enforcers' operation to flush out Hefajat-e Islam activists from the capital's Motijheel Shapla Chatter, saying it neither reflected truth nor divulged information people wanted to know.

"People did not get the

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NEWS ANALYSIS

BNP hugs Hefajat, says bye to women

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Ignoring its own manifesto, the BNP has extended its support to the Hefajat-e Islam's movement that seeks a realisation of its 13-point demand. The demands, if implemented, will severely hinder women's empowerment as well as lead to some other consequences.

The main opposition party in its manifesto declares that it will take multi-pronged measures to ensure women's empowerment. It speaks of the overall emancipation and progress of the women.

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'Barbad'-e Islam

Muhith renames
Hefajat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday criticising Hefajat-e Islam said common people would protect Islam in this country and no Islamist organisation was required for the job.

He also termed Hefajat-e Islam (protector of Islam) as 'Barbad-e Islam' (spoiler of Islam).

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Miracle girl Reshma at the Combined Military Hospital yesterday. She was rescued on Friday, 391 hours after Rana Plaza came crashing down on April 24.

PHOTO:
ANISUR RAHMAN

No return to 'happy' life

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and
TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Life was a losing battle for Reshma but finally it showed some sympathy towards her after Rana Plaza in Savar collapsed along with her.

Reshma, from Ghoraghat of Dinajpur, lost her father at the age of three. She married someone who she had chosen to be with for the rest of her life around two years ago but the marriage did not last. She had to get separated in the face of continuous torture for dowry.

Family members, former colleagues and her house owner yesterday revealed her sad story to The Daily Star as she was undergoing treatment at Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Savar outside Dhaka.

Reshma is the youngest among five siblings and was brought up by her mother, said Reshma's cousin Ambia Khatun.

Reshma's sister Asma, who is a garment worker, brought her to Savar around two and a half years ago and helped her find a job in a textile mills there.

Reshma rekindles rescue hopes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They realise what is logically possible, but in the deepest corner of their minds have lit up a flicker of hope that their dear ones may still be alive.

At the site in Savar, The Daily Star correspondent yesterday talked to a few people who now seemed to believe in the unbelievable after the miraculous rescue of a garment worker, Reshma, from the mangled wreckage of Rana Plaza 17 days into the collapse.

They said that five to six days into the rescue operation, they had accepted that their relatives, who were working at any of the five garment factories in the nine-storey building at the time of the disaster, were dead. But Friday's incident surprised them.

Meanwhile, 49 more bodies were recovered from the rubble, raising the death toll of the country's deadliest industrial disaster to 1,117. The number of the dead will go further up as many people were seen claiming the bodies of their missing relatives at Adhar Chandra High School where the dead were being brought for identification.

Milan Hossain, of Jibannagar upazila of Chittagong, has been searching for his cousin Shirin Akhtar in different hospitals and morgues since the collapse on April 24. But he has not yet found her.

"I have heard about the rescue of Reshma from television at Dwip clinic [some half a kilometer from Rana Plaza] and rushed to the spot, thinking that my cousin might also be alive," said Milan.

He said he had found the body of Shirin's husband on May 5, adding that Shirin might also be dead by now.

"I know my sister is dead but there remains the slightest hope that Tanzin may be found alive like Reshma," said Nazim Hossain while speaking of his

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The Daily Star



Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL
Do you think the government's decision to allow import of 5,000 new taxis will help improve commuter service in the capital?

Yes (33%)

No (67%)

TOTAL VOTES: 201

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think that government will be able to monitor the factory compliance successfully following the Savar Tragedy?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.netYOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

PRAYER TIMING

May 12

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Night-time raid turned nightmare

Cop killed, 10 hurt as
Gazipur villagers attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A policeman was killed and at least 10 people, including four cops, were injured when police came under attack from locals during a raid to arrest an Awami League leader in Kaliganj upazila early yesterday.

The dead cop is Azizur Rahman, 45, a nayek of the reserve police force in Gazipur.

Kaliganj police said they went to Barokow village around 2:00am to raid the house of Abdul Kader, vice-president of Kaliganj unit of AL, to nab him in connection with an extortion case.

At one stage, some locals through loudspeakers in a

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Cyclone brews in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A cyclone, Mahasen, in the Bay of Bengal was moving north-westwards last night, prompting the country's three maritime ports -- Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla -- to hoist local cautionary signal No. 3.

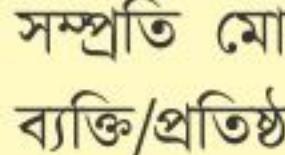
"Position of Mahasen is changing very slowly. It is moving north-westwards at 10 kilometres per hour," said Shamsuddin Ahmed, deputy director at the Meteorological department.

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Dakota Uttror Siti Korporeishon, Dakka

Aপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন।

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