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FEMALE WORKERS

HK dream shattered

Mistreatment by employers alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 20 to 25 Bangladeshi domestic helps, who migrated to Hong Kong under a deal struck last year, returned home on different grounds, including 'termination of contract' and 'mistreatment' by their employers.

Expatriates' Welfare Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain claimed that only 20 females had come back while Shamsun Nahar, director general of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), put the figure at around 26.

In April last year, BMET had inked memorandums of understanding (MoU) with two Hong Kong-based recruiting associations to send Bangladeshi maids.

According to a senior official of BMET, a total of 301 Bangladeshi maids migrated to Hong Kong between May last year and January 27 this year under the arrangement.

Three Bangladeshi recruiting agencies -- SA Trading, Sadia International and Trisha International -- sent these women to Hong Kong as per their deals with the BMET and Hong Kong agencies.

"Among the total number females, only SA Trading sent 175 workers. Four of them had already returned home after they were sacked by their employers," said Abdul Alim, owner of the agency.

The sacked workers were provided with one month's salary and the cost of their return air tickets, he told The Daily Star yesterday.

South China Morning Post, a Hong Kong-based daily, yesterday reported that one in five of the 270 Bangladeshis returned home with many put off by reports of

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A mother and child push their way through workers and construction materials piled up on the footpath on Sat Masjid Road in the capital yesterday.

ATTEMPTED MURDER CASE

No bail for Mahbub

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday denied bail to BNP leader Khandaker Mahbub Hossain in a case filed for "attempted murder".

The same day another court granted bail to BNP Chairperson's special assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas in a case filed over Hefajat-e Islam's May 5 violence.

The Detective Branch of police produced Mahbub before the court with a seven-day remand prayer. Metropolitan

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Two more killed in 'shootouts'

17 dead so far this month; law enforcers tell similar story

STAR REPORT

Two suspected criminals, including a leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP), were killed in "gunfights" between their cohorts and law enforcers in Khulna and Jessore yesterday.

Including them the number of extrajudicial killings comes to 17 in this month. At least eight were killed while they were in custody of law enforcers. Police versions of the "gunfights" were found more or less similar.

Extrajudicial killings should be stopped immediately, said Sultana Kamal, executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra, a rights body that provides legal aid.

"If they are really accused [of crimes], they should be punished through a proper judicial process," she said, adding such extrajudicial killings should not be allowed in any democratic country.

Meanwhile, expressing concern over the recent

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EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

HRW calls for free probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Human Rights Watch, a New York-based rights advocacy organisation, has asked the government to conduct an independent investigation into a recent spate of alleged extrajudicial killings by security forces.

The HRW in a release also said the government should publicly order the law-enforcement agencies to ensure safety of everyone taken into custody.

The joint forces comprising police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB)

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Tajul made opposition chief whip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Party yesterday selected party's lawmaker Tajul Islam Chowdhury as opposition chief whip of the 10th parliament.

The JP parliamentary committee made the

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Sri Lanka opener Kaushal Silva punches the ball of the back foot during his painstaking knock of 139 during the second day of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. The Lankans were 375 for five at stumps, with a lead of 143.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

The return of firing squad?

US states reconsider execution methods

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

With lethal-injection drugs in short supply and new questions looming about their effectiveness, lawmakers in some death-penalty states are considering bringing back relics of a more gruesome past: firing squads, electrocutions and gas chambers.

Most states abandoned those execution methods over a generation ago, in the hope of making capital punishment more palatable to the public and to a judicial system worried about inflicting cruel and unusual punishments that violate the constitution.

But to some elected officials, the shortages of lethal drugs, and the recent legal challenges around them, are beginning to make lethal injection seem too vulnerable to complications.

"This isn't an attempt to time warp back into the 1850s or the wild, wild west or anything like that," said the Missouri state Republican representative, Rick Brattin, who this month proposed making firing squads an option for executions. "It's

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Youth shot dead in house in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local miscreants shot dead a youth in his residence in the capital's Sher-e Bangla Nagar yesterday morning.

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PRAYER TIMING		January 29
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:35	6:10
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:46	5:50
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

BLOGGER RAJIB KILLING

Mufti Jasim, 7 NSU students charged

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Almost a year after the killing of blogger Rajib, detectives yesterday charged Mufti Jasimuddin Rahmani, chief of emerging militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team, and seven students of North South University.

The students had vowed to kill "atheist bloggers" after reading Jasimuddin's books and listening to his sermons, the investiga-

tion officer said in the charge sheet.

They targeted Rajib "for his blog posts under the nick of Thabababa" and got divided into two -- "intel group" to collect his details and track him down and the "execution group" to carry out the murder.

The charge sheet mentioned Jasimuddin as the "instigator" while Redwanul Azad Rana, one of the seven

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think there should be an independent broadcast commission to monitor television and radio programmes?

Yes

No

69%

31%

TOTAL VOTES: 265

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Dr Mizanur Rahman, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), that the government needs to take stern measures to stop targeted killings in the country?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

Hair trick to keep the mind alert

ODDITYCENTRAL.COM

Now this is what you call pure genius. As you can see in the picture, a Chinese university student has resorted to tying up her hair using clothespins.

Every time she nods off, the pins will pull on her hair, jerking her awake.

The technique became popular after two students at the Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University in Fujian province uploaded pictures of themselves on Weibo.

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