



Prosperity helps cut terrorism Says APJ Abdul Kalam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former Indian president Dr APJ Abdul Kalam yesterday said bringing economic prosperity to affected or alienated people would help reduce terrorism at national and international levels.

"You bring economic prosperity to the affected people or to alienated people. So, that prosperity comes in, terrorism slowly declines," said Kalam at a programme organised by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

"If you plot a curve [that] terrorism [is] increasing, you penetrate the area where they live. With economic progress, initially a number of setbacks will be there, but finally economic growth and prosperity will lead to a winning point," he said.

Kalam made the observations while answering a question of participant at the programme. Earlier, he delivered his keynote speech on 'Sustainable Development System for a Peaceful & Prosperous Global Society' at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC).

The MCCI organised the programme to

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These people are among the trafficking victims who were rescued recently at a rubber plantation in the southern part of Thailand.

PHOTO:
BBC VIDEO GRAB

134 BANGLADESHIS' RESCUED FROM THAI JUNGLES

Modern-day slave trade unearthed

STAR REPORT

A modern-day slave trade has taken a firm root in Bangladesh as confirmed by the recent discovery and subsequent rescue of 171 people, mostly Bangladeshis, who were confined in a Southern Thailand rubber plantation deep in the jungle.

Beaten, abused and left with no food, these wretched men tell a horrific tale of how they were abducted in the style of the 17th century slave trade in Africa and forced to work in the plantation in the most hazardous condition.

The Thai authorities discovered 81 trafficking victims, who were surrounded in a forest camp near the road, on October 13 and another 53 victims on October 11.

Of these 134 people, 118 are Bangladeshis and the rest 16 are Rohingyas from Myanmar, said Mohammad Ehteshamul Haque, counsellor of the Bangladesh mission in Thailand, quoting the victims.

The BBC, however, reports that all these 134 are Bangladeshis.

Earlier, a group of 37 people were found in the jungle last month. It could not be known

how many of them are Bangladeshis.

The Bangladesh Embassy officials in Thailand said this year alone some 700 Bangladeshi victims of human trafficking were rescued in that country.

"Of them, 300 have already been repatriated. The rest are in the process of repatriation," Ehteshamul told The Daily Star by phone yesterday.

He, however, does not believe the Bangladeshi jobseekers were kidnapped for taking them to Malaysia. According to him,

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