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Lured to sea of dangers

Touts dupe poor people from across the country, take them to Teknaf for a highly risky, illegal voyage

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOLO

Sabuj Mollah thought he was almost there and could even smell the air of Malaysia. The 28-year-old along with 90 others from Bangladesh could start visualising a rosy future of their families once they got jobs there.

But their trawler never touched Malaysian waters as traffickers in disguise of job contractors kept them all in a jungle near the southern Thailand border on a December afternoon.

"Instead of sending us to Malaysia, they handed us over to some traffickers," Sabuj



Sabuj Mollah

told The Daily Star recently.

The people on the trawler were aware of the risk of being caught by law enforcers anytime during their long and illegal sea journey but they were desperate for a job in Malaysia.

"But the thought of being trafficked never popped up in our minds," he said.

After losing his father a decade ago when he was still a teenager, the man from Saltha upazila in Faridpur had been facing trouble in earning two square meals for his family

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PHOTO: BBC

Some trafficking victims pray -- may be for their quick repatriation -- at a Thai shelter where they have been brought in after being rescued recently.

Return too complicated

Repatriation may take 2-3 months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The repatriation of Bangladeshis rescued recently in Thailand after they were trafficked into that country to be sold as slaves may take at least three months.

"My heart is aching to go home," said Absar Mia, 27, father of three children, from Teknaf of Cox's Bazar.

He is now staying at a Thai detention centre with others, mostly Bangladeshis and some Myanmar nationals.

"All I think about is how I can get home, how I can see my mother again, how I can see my little boys and girl again. That's why

I'm crying," Absar told BBC, echoing the plea of other victims of trafficking.

However, before their repatriation, their nationalities have to be determined and the whole process will require some three months, said Ehteshamul Haque, counselor at Bangladesh embassy in Thailand.

The embassy has already sought permission from the Thai foreign ministry for taking the victims' statements that will be verified by the home ministry in Bangladesh, he told The Daily Star by phone.

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College student beaten dead

His crime was to play a role in affair

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A college boy was beaten to death allegedly by the relatives of his friend's girlfriend at Jalalpur in Pabna Sadar upazila yesterday.

The deceased Saiful Islam, 22, son of Jobbar Biswas of Char Varara in the upazila, was a first-year student of Social Science at Government Edward College, Pabna.

The relatives also beat Saiful's friend Jony Biswas, 22,

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Ebola mission unaccomplished

Draft WHO report details missteps

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking back, the mistakes are easy to see: Waiting too long, spending too little, relying on the wrong people, thinking small when they needed to think big. Many people, governments and agencies share the blame for failing to contain Ebola when it emerged in West Africa.

Now they share the Herculean task of trying to end an epidemic that has sickened more than 9,000, killed more than 4,500, seeded cases in Europe and the United States, and is not even close to being controlled.

Many of the missteps are detailed in a draft of an internal World Health Organization report obtained by The Associated Press. It shows there was not one pivotal blunder that gave Ebola the upper hand, but a series of them that mounted.

Nearly every agency and government stumbled. Heavy criticism falls on WHO, where there was "a failure to see that conditions for explosive spread were present right at the start."

WHO -- the United Nations' health agency -- had some incompetent staff, let bureaucratic bungles delay people and money to fight the virus, and was hampered by budget cuts and the need to battle other diseases flaring around the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Mystery man 'flies past' aircraft

MAIL ONLINE

Pilots on a holiday jet were left stunned when a "flying man" whizzed past their aircraft at 3,500 feet.

The mystery man flew within 100 metres of the plane and left the pilots baffled as to how he was moving through the air, as neither could see a canopy suspending him.

There was also no sign of him on the radar and further checks failed to reveal any paragliders,

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The Chhatra Dal office at Nayapaltan has been locked by aggrieved leaders protesting the recently announced central committee of the pro-BNP organisation. Inset, stick-welding activists during an angry demonstration in the area yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

JCD office padlocked

Rebels protest against new committee

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aggrieved Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders yesterday locked its central office at the BNP's Naya Paltan headquarters protesting the recently announced JCD central committee.

On October 14 BNP chief Khaleda Zia approved a 201-member partial committee of the party's youth wing with Rajib Ahsan as president and Akramul Hasan as general secretary, sparking huge dissatisfaction among deprived

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শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি



আজ ১৯শে অক্টোবর ২০১৪ ইং, রবিবার নাভানা লিমিটেড ও আফতাব অটোমোবাইলস্ লিমিটেড-এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা, পরম শ্রদ্ধেয় মরহুম আলহাজ্জ জহুরুল ইসলাম সাহেবের ১৯তম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী।

তিনি ছিলেন আমাদের আদর্শ, পথ প্রদর্শক এবং সকল কর্ম প্রেরণার উৎস। তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার প্রতি জানাই গভীর শ্রদ্ধা এবং পরম করুণাময়ের কাছে কামনা করছি তাঁর আত্মার মাগফেরাত।

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government should compensate college student Limon for his loss done by Rab personnel?

Yes

93%

No

7%

TOTAL VOTES: 150

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think Jatiya Party has the ability to become the country's main opposition political party?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT
www.thedailystar.net


PRAYER TIMING

October 19

Azan	Jamaat
Fazr	4-50 5-25
Zohr	12-45 1-15
Asr	4-00 4-15
Maghrib	5-38 5-41
Esha	7-15 7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



C. A. Hamid a legend in his own right, passed away on the 17th October, 2014. He will live on forever in our memories and in our hearts.

Verily our hearts feel sad and our eyes shed tears but to Allah we belong and to Him is our return.

May Allah protect him and grant him the highest station in paradise. Ameen


- Sons, Daughters and Grand-Children

C. A. Hamid (1929- 2014)

His namaj-e-Janaza will be held at Gulshan Central Mosque (Azad Masjid) on October 19, 2014 after Asr prayer.

19TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

LATE ALHAJ JAHURUL ISLAM



The 19th death anniversary of the founder Chairman of Islam Group Alhaj Jahurul Islam is being observed today.

A Doa mahfil will be held at his birth place Bhagalpur, at 11:30 a.m, October 19, 2014. All relatives, friends and well wishers are requested to attend the Doa mahfil and pray for his eternal peace.

On behalf of Islam Group
Begum Suriya Islam
Manzurul Islam, Syeda Islam, Mafida Islam
Naima Islam, Kaneta Islam
and
Members of the Family