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Sorry tale of Asian 'slaves'

Traffickers use abductions, prison ships to feed slave trade

REUTERS, Phang Nga

When Afsar Mia left his home near Teknaf in southern Bangladesh to look for work last month, he told his mother, "I'll see you soon." He said he expected to return that evening. He never did.

When he reported for work at a house on the outskirts of Teknaf, a man there gave him a drink of water. Soon, his eyelids sagged and his head started spinning.

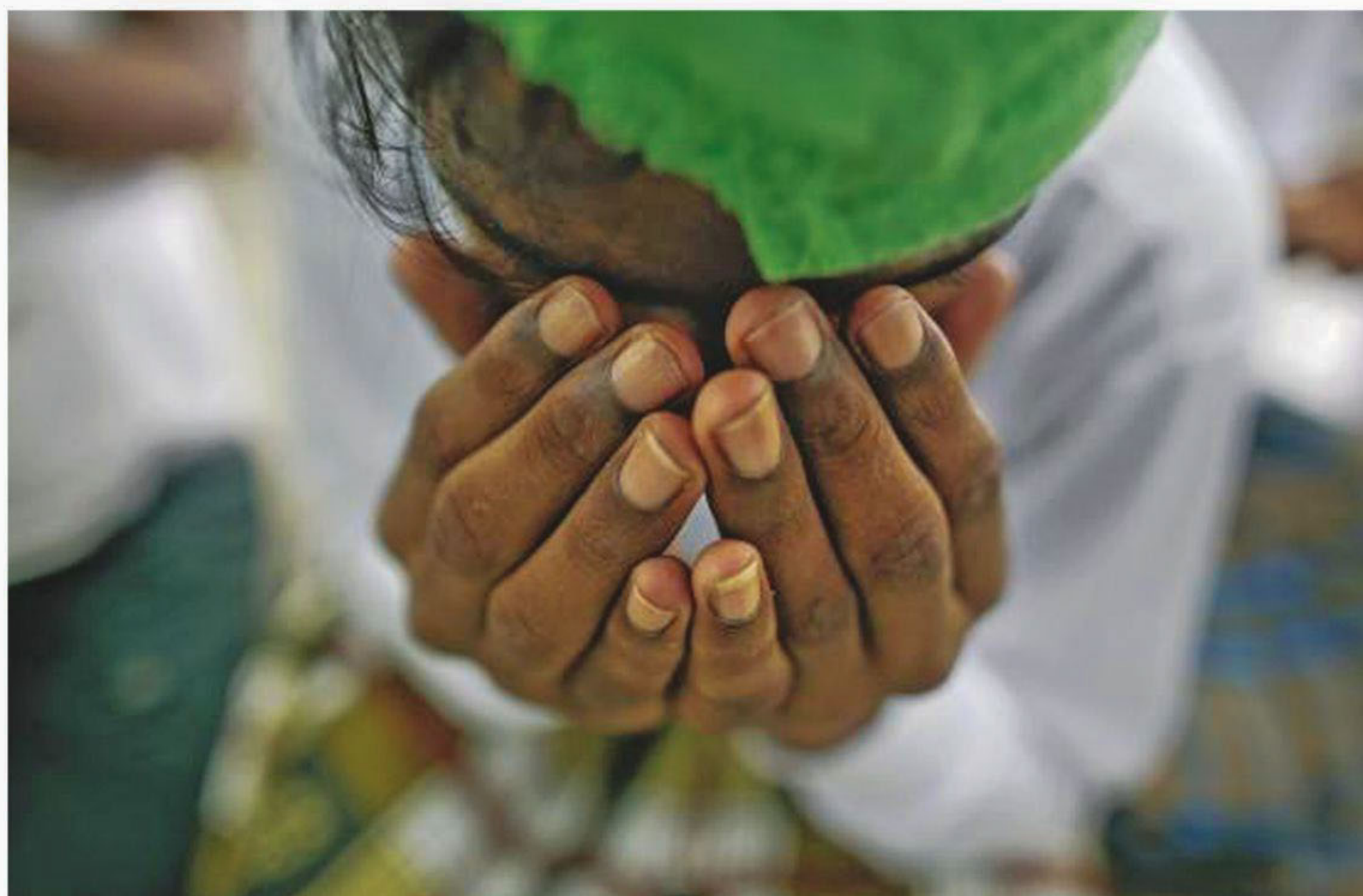
When he awoke, it was dark. He had lost all sense of time. Two Bangladeshi men then forced him and seven others onto a small boat and bound them.

"My hands were tied. My eyes were blindfolded," said Afsar, 20.

The boat sailed through the night until it reached a larger ship moored far offshore. Afsar was thrown into its dark, crowded hold by armed guards. He and his fellow captives survived on scraps of food and dirty water, some of them for weeks.

The ship eventually sailed toward Thailand where, as Reuters reported last year, human-trafficking gangs hold thousands of boat people in brutal jungle camps until relatives pay ransoms to secure their release.

Testimonies from Bangladeshi and Rohingya survivors



A victim of human trafficking prays at a government shelter in Takua Pa district of Phang Nga in Thailand.

Hall-Mark boss charged with not giving wealth report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has pressed charges against Hall-Mark Group Chairman Jasmine Islam in a case filed for not submitting her wealth statement.

ACC Deputy Director Monjur Morshed, also the investigation officer of the case, yesterday submitted the charge to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka, showing 11 people as prosecution witnesses.

On Sunday, the commission approved of submitting the charge sheet against Jasmine, now on bail, in the case.

Joyaln Abedin, deputy assistant director of the



PHOTO: REUTERS

Reckless driving, overtaking main reasons Says probe body on Natore accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Reckless driving by two bus drivers and a dangerous overtaking manoeuvre by one of them caused the Monday's tragic road accident on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway in Natore, found a probe committee.

The five-member body also revealed that the two buses of Keya Paribahan and Othoi Paribahan did not have fitness certificates.

The committee led by Khan Mohammed Ali, additional district magistrate of Natore, submitted the report to Deputy Commissioner Mashur Rahman around 9:00pm yesterday. The report included 17 recommendations.

Road safety steps in hibernation

Govt committees sit on decisions to check road accidents

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Three government bodies tasked with ensuring road safety have been sitting on their decisions on crucial issues including the removal of unfit vehicles and illegal structures from highways and roads.

Their activities have largely been limited to discussions on road safety issues.

Not much has been done to check overloading of vehicles, punish drivers for using fake licences or reckless driving, and stop plying of non-motorised vehicles on highways.

Headed by Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, the three bodies -- National Road Safety Council (NRSC), Road Transport Advisory Council and Cabinet Committee on Road Safety -- include government officials, law enforcers, experts and rights activists.

But they have failed to achieve desired results as most of their decisions and recommendations remain unimplemented, according to officials, experts and road safety activists.

ACC to check war hero status of its 9 officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission has decided to scrutinise the freedom fighter certificates of its nine officials, including a director general.

The decision came at a regular meeting of ACC on Tuesday at its Segunbagicha headquarters in the capital.

A two-member committee led by Zulfikar Ali, deputy director of ACC, has been formed to conduct the probe, ACC Commissioner Mohammad Shahabuddin

Man faked coma to evade justice

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

A fraudster conned an elderly neighbour out of £40,000 and pretended to be quadriplegic for two years in order to evade justice before he was finally caught by police going on shopping trips and on holidays with his family.

Alan Knight had mounted the deception after



SHOOTING OF LIMON State minister terms it an accident!

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an apparent attempt to save the law enforcers responsible for maiming Limon Hossain, State Minister for Home Asaduzzaman Khan yesterday termed the 2011 shooting of the innocent boy an accident.

Asked about the call of Human Rights Watch for the

PRAYER TIMING October 23		
Fazr	4-50	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-39
Esha	7-15	7-45



A mobile court has a huge illegal hoarding removed on Noor Ahmed Road in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is possible to screen all incoming passengers for Ebola infection at all international ports and border areas?

Yes (34%)
No (66%)

TOTAL VOTES: 164

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with HRW that Bangladesh government should order an independent investigation and prosecute the Rab members responsible for shooting and maiming Limon Hossain?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

WHO aims for Ebola serum in weeks

Epidemic could be contained within 4 to 6 months: Red Cross chief

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The World Health Organisation has announced it hopes to begin testing two experimental Ebola vaccines in west Africa by January and may have a blood serum treatment available for use in Liberia within two weeks.

The UN's health agency said it aimed to begin testing the two vaccines in the new year on more than 20,000 frontline health

care workers and others in west Africa -- a bigger rollout than previously envisioned.

Separately, a senior Red Cross official said he was confident the epidemic could be contained within four to six months.

Elhadj As Sy, the secretary general of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told reporters in Beijing yesterday that the outbreak could be contained if there was "good isolation, good

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আয়কর প্রবৃদ্ধি দেশ ও দেশের সমৃদ্ধি

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
রাজস্ব ভবন, সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা-১০০০

“ঈশ্বারনেটে চিআইএন,”
রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রক্রিয়ায় সোজা

আপনি জানেন কি? ২০১৪-১৫ করবর্ষে রিটার্ন দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ২রা নভেম্বর, ২০১৪।
নিম্নোক্ত সকল করদাতার আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করা বাধ্যতামূলক।

- যে কোনো ব্যবসা অথবা পেশা পরিচালনার জন্য আপনার ট্রেড লাইসেন্স এবং ব্যাংক এ্যাকাউন্ট থাকলে
- সরকারী, আধা-সরকারী, স্বায়তশাসিত সংস্থা অথবা স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষের টেন্ডারে অংশগ্রহণকারী সকল ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান
- আয়বর্ষের পূর্ববর্তী তিন বছরের যে কোন বছর করযোগ্য আয় নিরূপিত হলে
- এনজিও এ্যাসোসিয়েট ব্যারোতে নিবন্ধিত যে কোনো এনজিও
- ডাক্তার, দস্ত চিকিৎসক, আইনজীবী, আয়কর আইনজীবী, চার্টার্ড এ্যাকাউন্টেন্ট, কস্ট এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট একাউন্টেন্ট, প্রকৌশলী, স্থপতি, সার্ভেয়ার অথবা সমজাতীয় পেশায় নিয়োজিত সকল ব্যক্তিবর্গ
- সিটি কর্পোরেশন অথবা পৌরসভা অথবা বিভাগীয় শহর অথবা জেলা শহরে বসবাসকারী যে কেউ একটি গাড়ির মালিক হলে অথবা মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইনে নিবন্ধিত কোন ক্রাবের সদস্য হলে
- আয়বর্ষে আপনার করযোগ্য আয় থাকলে
- পৌরসভা অথবা সিটি কর্পোরেশন অথবা জাতীয় সংসদ নির্বাচনে সকল পদপ্রার্থী

১২ ডিজিটের ই-টিআইএনধারী যে সকল করদাতা ৩০ জুন, ২০১৪ এর পূর্বে ই-টিআইএন গ্রহণ করেছেন তাঁদেরকেও ২০১৪-১৫ করবর্ষে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করতে হবে।

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড, ঢাকা
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