

## MACHINE-READABLE PASSPORT STALEMATE

# 60 lakh overseas jobs at stake

Expatriates live on their nerves for wayward Malaysian contractor; regulator loses control, officials stay happy

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The deadline is November 2015. The clock ticks away for about 60 lakh Bangladeshi expatriates in different countries. Will they get machine-readable passport in time or face deportation?

The question arises as the issuance of MRPs continues to be sluggish. Unless things improve drastically, most of the expatriates will not get new passport before the stipulated time. This will jeopardise the future of remittance earners who send home over a billion US dollars each month.

Since the issuance began four years ago, the government has been able to give MRPs to only 11.5 lakh expatriates out of an estimated 70 lakh.

At this pace, only around four lakh more will get new passport before the deadline of November 24 next year.

On expiry of the deadline, set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, old passports will not be accepted by any foreign governments.

Extending the deadline by a year or two will not make much difference unless the

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Maryal Taying & Photocopying Office  
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TXN: TWXRCK0000105 DATE: 23/08/2014

**Bill Details:** Maryal Taying & Photocopying Office  
Address: Haiyat chanter, Al Ain main street, Morobba Police Station, Al Ain  
Tel: 971552479015 Email: maryaltaying@yahoo.com

**Customer Details:**

Name	DELOWER HOSSAIN
Customer ID	58
Address	AL AIN, Al Ain 17261, UAE
Phone	00971563079196

**Bill Details:**

Item Description	Amount
Service Charge*	AED 80.00
TOTAL	AED 80.00

\* Includes typing fee, access charge, management fee, documentation fee

## IRIS MISDEEDS

1. Appointed a sub-contractor in the UAE project without approval, allowing data collection at internet cafes and photocopy shops.
2. Unauthorised access to the main frame and network infrastructure in the Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia.
3. Locked the central system at Agargaon office with malicious codes, blocking integration of new passport centres and data access.
4. Poor maintenance of the central system, substandard delivery compared promises made.
5. Poor quality equipment supplied, equipment remained broken for months, failed to meet all Service Level Agreements.
6. Did not supply spare parts for equipment.

## A contractor too mighty

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Malaysian company IRIS seems to have gone beyond the control of the passport regulator and it can shut down the entire system if it so wishes.

The government appears to have no power over the contractor or the system it has paid for.

The authorities concerned are doing almost nothing, letting IRIS get away with irregularities and violation of contracts, sources in the home ministry said.

IRIS along with local firm Dataedge and Polish PWPW introduced MRP in Bangladesh under a project in 2010. As lead partner, IRIS was responsible for providing software and technical documentations, and printing passports. Accordingly, it established a central system at Department of Immigration and Passport (DIP) in Agargaon.

The Malaysian company is contractually obliged to provide technical support to integrate new passport offices at home and abroad.

There was no problem with MRP issuance until in 2012. But then the government floated a tender for a new project to expand the service by establishing passport offices in 33 districts of

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## MRP PROCESS

**STEP-1:** Enroll data with photograph, fingerprint and electronic signature of a person.

**STEP-2:** Send data electronically to the central system at Agargaon for MRP printing. IRIS has absolute control over the system though it is owned by the government.

**STEP-3:** Printed MRPs are sent to foreign missions from where outsourced companies collect and distribute MRPs among applications.

"We can't do anything without IRIS"

- STATE MINISTER FOR HOME



## MUGGING, KILLING OF HOUSEWIFE 3 suspects held



Himu Kalam Ratan



PHOTO: STAR

The handbags and knives recovered from the alleged muggers and killers of housewife Ayesha Akter Ripa.

JAMIL MAHMUD and RAFIUL ISLAM

Police yesterday arrested three persons from Mirpur in connection with the killing of housewife Ayesha Akter Ripa, who died two weeks ago when muggers in a microbus dragged her along the Mirpur road for snatching her handbag.

Police claimed they seized the microbus and recovered knives and four handbags snatched away from other women at different times.

The arrestees are Hemayet Hossain alias Himu, Abul Kalam and Alamgir Hossain alias Ratan.

The incident took place on October 28 near Sobhanbagh mosque when Ripa along with her friend was going to Lalmatia on a rickshaw early in the morning.

Himu pulled Ripa's handbag whose straps were fastened around her hand. Kalam was on the driver's seat. Ratan rented out the vehicle to the duo at Tk 2000 per hour, said police.

"The microbus belongs to a high official of a private bank. Ratan has been using it frequently and had plans to

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## Handcuffed body raises questions

No arrest yet; stolen car found abandoned on Mawa highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inscribed with the word "police", the handcuffs on the wrist of a driver murdered in the capital's Banashree have raised many questions.

Posing as law enforcers, criminals shot dead Faruk Kha, who was about to deliver an imported car at Banashree, and hijacked the vehicle around 2:30am on Monday.

Police were yet to arrest anyone though the hijacked car was spotted on Dhaka-Mawa highway about 17 hours after the murder. The Toyota car was later found abandoned on the highway.

The handcuffs found attached to Faruk's wrist suggest that law enforcers

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## Four Mirpur cops guilty

Finds judicial probe into custodial death of Sujan

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and JAMIL MAHMUD

The judicial body probing the custodial death of garment waste trader Mahbubur Rahman Sujan has found four cops, including prime accused Sub-inspector Jahidur Rahman, and a civilian involved in the murder.

The probe report was submitted to the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday. The Daily Star has obtained a copy

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## When was he arrested?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two separate announcements, one from the home ministry and another from the Rab, have given two separate dates of the arrest of a person stated to be a brother of the main accused in Burdwan blast case of India.

The Rapid Action Battalion in a press note yesterday claimed they have detained Mohammad Monaem in Farajikanda village under Bandar upazila of Narayanganj around 4:30am in the day.

The elite force also sent a text message to the media, saying Monaem is a brother of the Burdwan blast accused,

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Mohammad Monaem

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