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16 Bangladeshis still in 'confinement'

Languishing in Iraqi city with insufficient food, water; ambassador says they might be sent back soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The 16 Bangladeshi migrant workers who claim to have been abducted by some locals are still passing their days in misery inside an old building in Najaf city of Iraq. The Bangladeshis were "forcibly" taken to the building on Tuesday from a camp in the same city where they had been languishing with another 164 jobless Bangladeshis for the last seven months. Many of the "abducted" workers have somehow managed to contact The Daily Star over the phone and said they are living in an unhygienic overcrowded room with limited access to food and drinking water. They alleged they are simply confined to

the building. "You can't imagine my condition here. Foul smell emanates from a broken toilet. There is no arrangement for taking bath either," Rafiqul Islam, one of the Bangladeshis, said. Career Overseas Consultants Ltd had sent the 180 Bangladeshis to Iraq in May with promises of jobs at Abu Torab Housing Project run by a Turkish employer. The recruiting agency however yesterday said the 16 Bangladeshis were being kept inside the building with the assistance of the Bangladesh embassy in the Middle Eastern country.

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Dignitaries listening to the speeches at Bangla daily Prothom Alo's 16th anniversary celebrations at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR



US President Barack Obama embraces Myanmar's opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi during a press conference at her home in Yangon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Obama calls for free polls in Myanmar

Backs Suu Kyi's bid to change constitution

AFP, Yangon
US President Barack Obama yesterday urged Myanmar to hold "free, fair and inclusive" elections as he threw his weight behind a bid by opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi to change a constitution that bars her from the presidency. Obama held talks with fellow Nobel laureate Suu Kyi at her lakeside villa in Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon, after arriving from the capital Naypyidaw where he discussed the nation's troubled reform process with President Thein Sein. Speaking at a joint press conference he warned Myanmar's reforms since shedding outright military rule in 2011 were by "no means complete or irreversible" and called for "free, fair and inclusive" elections in the nation, where Suu Kyi and her party are set to contest crucial polls next year. Suu Kyi, who has publicly stated her

desire to be president, is barred from the top office by a constitutional clause ruling out anyone with foreign spouse or children from the presidency. Her late husband and two sons are British and the democracy champion is seeking an amendment. Using strong language, Obama took up the issue telling reporters that "the amendment process needs to reflect inclusion rather than exclusion." "I don't understand the provision that would bar somebody from running for president because of who his (someone's) children are." Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy (NLD) party is expected to sweep polls in late 2015, branded the contentious clause as "unfair, unjust and undemocratic" adding "it is not right to discriminate against one particular citizen". The issue is currently being debated in

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ISIS chief calls for attacks on Saudi Arabia

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the so called Islamic State (ISIS), has purportedly issued a defiant call for followers to "erupt volcanoes of jihad everywhere", specially on Saudi Arabia.

The 17-minute audio recording, in which he vowed to fight to the last man, was his first public statement since Iraqi officials reported he had been injured in air strikes last week.



Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi

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Young entrepreneurs reap benefits

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Kabir Uddin had always dreamt of a government job. With all his efforts going in vain, he was in despair as he crossed the threshold of 30, the age limit after which one can no more apply for a civil service job.

It was then in 2011 that he met UP chairman Md Abdul Latif who helped him become an entrepreneur at the Prithimpasha Union Digital Centre of Kulaura upazila in Moulvibazar.

"After starting the job, I did not have to

look back. I'm financially independent now and busy with serving people digitally," said Kabir while talking about his business at the digital centre which is equipped with computers, printers, scanners, and webcams with internet connectivity, multimedia projector etc.

Kabir earns around Tk 50,000 a month from the centre which is good enough to run his family.

Kabir is one of about 11,000 such entrepreneurs who attended the Digital Centers

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AL men clash as minister watches

20 hurt in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

At least 20 people were injured as two groups of Awami League activists were locked in a clash during its Patuakhali district unit council yesterday morning.

In the presence of Industries Minister Amir Hossain Amu, supporters of AL leader Dr Shafiqul Islam, also mayor of Patuakhali municipality, and another leader of the same party Tariquzzaman Moni, also chairman of Sadar upazila parishad, attacked each other.

Advocate Shahjahan Mia, president of the district unit AL, presided over the council while Amu was present there as the chief guest. Moni is a son of Shahjahan.

The clash ensued soon after the programme began

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Bangladesh leg-spinner Jubair Hossain celebrates one of his five wickets on the third day of the third Test against Zimbabwe at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chittagong yesterday. The hosts ended the day at 23 for no loss, leading the visitors by 152 runs. Story on page 14

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Unique protest

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Hundreds of protesters have taken to the beach in Australia to express their anger at Tony Abbott's failure to address climate change - by literally burying their heads in the sand.

The colourful demonstration came as their prime minister issued an extraordinary statement saying "jobs and growth" should be the focus of the G20 summit this weekend, not "what might happen in 16 years' time" as a result of global warming. Last

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PHOTO: AFP

Australians yesterday bury their heads in the sands of iconic Bondi Beach to send a message to Prime Minister Tony Abbott about the dangers of climate change.

BURDWAN BLAST PROBE NIA chief may lead team to visit Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Sharad Kumar, chief of National Investigation Agency (NIA), is likely to lead the agency team which will visit Bangladesh on November 17 in connection with the October 2 Burdwan blast probe.

Apart from the NIA director general, the

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PRAYER TIMING November 15		
Fazr	Azan	Jamaat
5:00	5:35	
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:45	4:00
Maghrib	5:22	5:25
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Invest more in Bangladesh

Officials, businesses from Dhaka urge KL investors

UNB, Kuala Lumpur

Bangladesh yesterday urged Malaysian investors to take up new investment ventures in the fast-growing manufacturing, services and infrastructure sectors to help the country reach newer heights of development.

Dhaka also sought technological support from Kuala Lumpur as it has developed expertise in the area.

Officials and entrepreneurs of Bangladesh made the call while addressing the inaugural session of a three-day trade show -- "Showcase Bangladesh 2014", which began at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Bangladesh-Malaysia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BMCCI) in collaboration with Bangladesh High Commission in Malaysia, Malaysia South-South Association, Malaysia External Trade Development

Cooperation and Malaysian Industrial Development

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for BNP chief Khaleda Zia to urge the international community not to provide training or arms and ammunitions to Rab and police?

Yes (61%)
No (39%)

TOTAL VOTES: 168

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think that the Myanmar government would respond to the call of President Barack Obama to allow Rohingya Muslims to become its citizen?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net