



WATCH OUT for PART III
 Poor fortune-seekers are bundled at Teknaf and St Martin's Island. But their dreams come crashing down the moment they step onto the boats moored at the entry point of the **DARK TRIANGLE**

PART II
ABDUCTION & TRAFFICKING



EMRAN HOSSAIN and **MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT** did an extensive investigation into human trafficking from Bangladesh to Malaysia. For over three months, they carried out a thorough research, interviewed trafficking victims, brokers and rights groups, and travelled to the southeastern coastal areas before reporting on the clandestine crime that brings to mind the horror of slave trade of the past. The two apart, **PORIMOL PALMA** and **BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB** tried to find out the reasons jobseekers are so easily lured into such a dangerous journey and the ways to fight the crime. Stay with *The Daily Star* as we uncover the modern-day slave trade of transnational syndicates in the Dark Triangle.

KIDNAPPED, treated like slaves of past

EMRAN HOSSAIN and MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT with MAHBUB MORSHED

He was bound the way slaves used to be bound centuries ago. "My arms and legs were tied in such a way that it was impossible for me even to change sides without help," said Jewel Barua, who was abducted and held captive by human traffickers in November 2013.

The 22-year-old man, along with 13 others, was kept confined to a shack for a day in Teknaf's Noapara before he was sent to Malaysia as slave labour through the Bay of Bengal via Thailand.

Carrying a stick, a man always stood guard inside the shack, and hit them whenever they tried to talk with each other.

THE NATION EXCLUSIVE -- PAGE 2



Jafar Alam, father of a victim.



Above, Jewel shows how he was tied while in captivity. Left, a painting titled "Slavery in Brazil".

Rohingyas the easy prey

PORIMOL PALMA with WALID BIN HABIB

Rohingya youth Zafar Ahmad bin Abdul Ghani was on the run since the Burmese military junta seized power through a coup d'état in late 1988.

After months of hiding from military oppression on Rohingya Muslims -- killing, looting and land grabbing -- in the western Rakhine state of Buddhist-dominant Myanmar, Zafar and others fled to Bangladesh and then to India.

Failing to make a decent living, he decided to go to Malaysia that had held better prospects. Finally, he found a way -- a boat journey through the Indian Ocean against a hefty pay to the agents. After two weeks of perilous journey, they landed in Thailand

PHOTO: COLLECTED/STAR

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



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The plaque at his grave in Faridpur mentions executed war criminal Abdul Quader Mollah as a Shaheed (martyr).

Mockery with martyrdom

REZAUL KARIM, Faridpur

He was hanged for his coldblooded savagery unleashed upon the Bangalees during the Liberation War. But in a mockery of martyrdom, his tombstone reads: Shaheed (martyr) Abdul Quader Mollah.

The tombstone was set up on Quader Mollah's grave at Faridpur's Sadarpur upazila two months after his execution for war crimes on December 12, 2013.

Local freedom fighters have described it as an insult to those who laid down their lives for independence.

The hanging of Mollah,

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Govt plans to build airport at Rampal

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to build an airport at Rampal in Bagerhat to establish faster communications link between Khulna region and the rest of the country in a bid to attract investors for regional development.

The project called Khan Jahan Ali Airport, which would require Tk 545 crore, is likely to be placed before the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnc) today, according to planning ministry officials.

The new airport would be built in an area where construction of a coal-fired power plant has been underway amid protests from environmentalists over possible threats to the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

Speaking on the project, Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said the Khulna region has lost most of its traditional industries over the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



TOP!
 QUOTE

"The Prime Minister [Modi] had last year said that the [land boundary] agreement is good for Assam... Now why are you excluding it [Assam]? You have one stand before polls and another

TARUN GOGOI
 CHIEF MINISTER OF ASSAM AT A PRESS CONFERENCE IN GUWAHATI

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