

**WATCH OUT for PART IV**

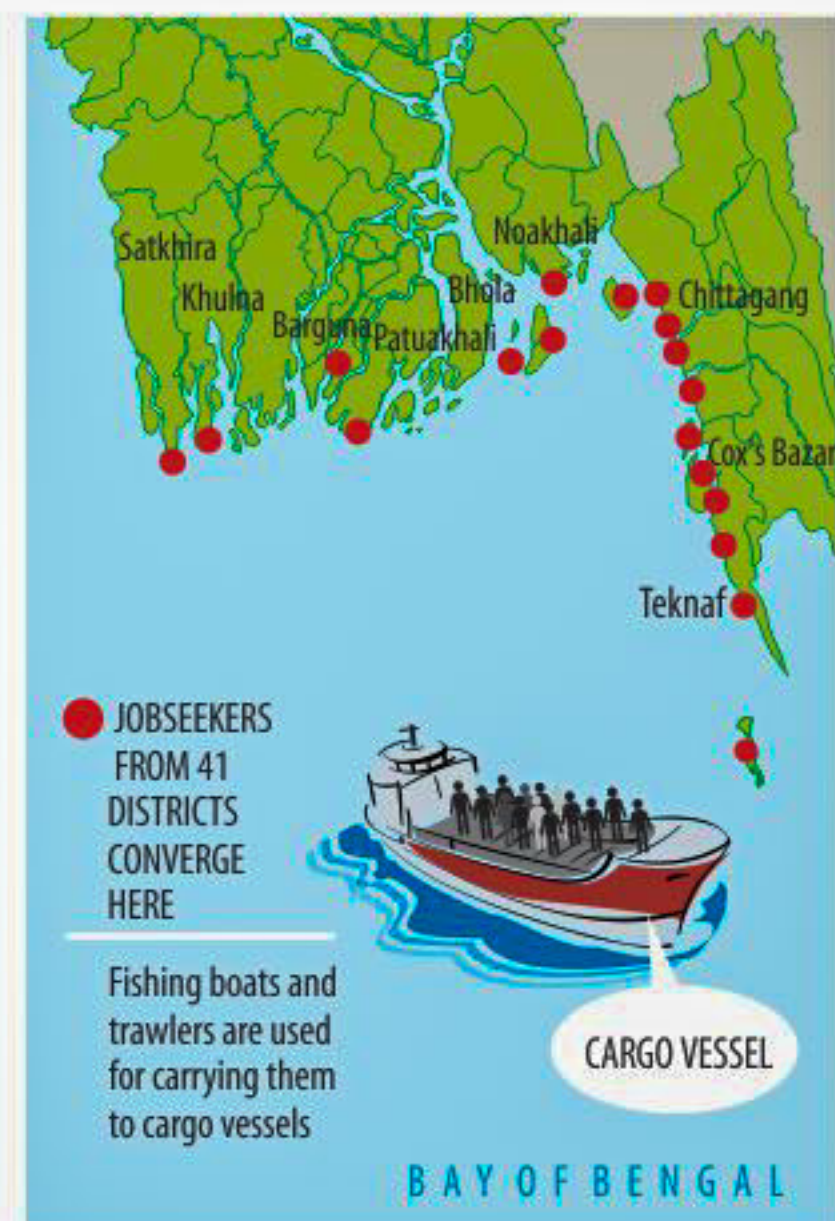
Desperate, they embark on a dangerous sea voyage to Malaysia. With it begins their long, long nightmare. Deaths in the sea and torture in Thai prison camps for ransom reduce the number of desperados. Those who survive either land in jail or return home to embrace a life of despair.

**PART III DARK TRIANGLE'S GHOSTLY PORTS**

**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 south-eastern 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 BIPLOB** 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.

## 'MALAYSIA AIRPORTS' in Teknaf

Traffickers put in place makeshift decks for ghost boats, lodges, money-transaction facility at the entry point to the Dark Triangle



EMRAN HOSSAIN and MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT with ROBIN GAZI

Sitting on the southeastern tip of Bangladesh, Teknaf is a perfect place for boats carrying migrants to set sail for Thailand and Malaysia in absolute secrecy.

From the coast there, a trip to the two countries is the shortest from Bangladesh. And for Teknaf's unique location, it is easier for the traffickers to dodge law enforcers.

As night falls, traffickers bundle their prey on fishing trawlers and leave for the two destinations from several points of the coast. Locals and traffickers have come up with an ingenious name for these departure points:

"Malaysia airport".

The traffickers use a route along the edges of Bangladesh and Myanmar's waters, and slip by Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard and similar forces of Myanmar just across the Naf river.

The "Malaysia airports" are full of supplies needed for the journey: dry food, medicine and life jacket. The area also has dozens of mobile banking outlets, through which much of the ransom money is transacted.

Sometimes, family members of the victims travel all the way to the remote area from across the country to pay the ransom. At other times, transactions are made through bank

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3  
5 MORE GRAVES FOUND -- PAGE 2



TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE LIKE "I-NIGMA BARCODE SCANNER" FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE STORIES AND PHOTOS OF OUR SERIES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING.



Boats anchored on the shore at Khurermukh in Teknaf. This is one of the spots from where traffickers send job seekers on boats to a cargo ship in deep sea. A shop at Noapara sells items like life jackets and water cans migrants need during voyage.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN

The Daily Star **INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS ON SLAVE TRADE**

are also being run by The Straits Times, Singapore, and The Nation, Thailand, through Asia News Network (ANN), a network of 21 media groups in Asian cities.

## Land deal now on track

Indian cabinet gives go-ahead to bill; likely to come up in Rajya Sabha today; Assam not excluded amid Congress pressure

REZAUL KARIM and PALLAB BHATTACHARYA

The Indian cabinet yesterday approved the constitution amendment bill on the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) with Bangladesh to pave the way for permanent settlement of decades-old boundary disputes.

The BJP wanted to amend the bill keeping Assam out of its purview

apparently as part of its political calculations in the state where assembly elections are slated for early next year.

But the ruling party had to include Assam in the bill in the face of strong resistance from the main opposition, the Congress Party.

The Indian government will now move for passage of the bill in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha to facilitate

exchange of enclaves, transfer of adversely possessed areas and demarcation of un-demarcated border.

The bill is likely to come up in Rajya Sabha today. If gets through, it will be placed in Lok Sabha tomorrow, say diplomatic sources in New Delhi.

The bill has to be passed in each House by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House. And it will require ratification

## COMMERCIAL TRAWLER FISHING 65-day ban in Bay to boost breeding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 65-days ban from May 20 will be imposed on fishing by commercial trawlers in the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Bay of Bengal to conserve and boost the country's marine fish stock.

"Considering breeding and conservation of fish and shrimp, fishing by commercial

trawlers in the country's exclusive economic zone will be prohibited from May 20 next to July 23," said M Sayedul Hoque, minister for fisheries and livestock, during a press conference at his office yesterday.

The EEZ is the sea zone -- 200 nautical miles from its coast -- over which a coastal state has sovereign rights for use and exploration

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

**MG!**

"It is journalists who have kept the BNP alive. They [journalists] say the BNP is on the streets, but in reality, the party's presence can't be seen anywhere."

FOOD MINISTER **QAMRUL ISLAM** AT A PROGRAMME AT THE JATIYA PRESS CLUB.

# Cow Brand Colour Coated Steel

Technology Support By:

Bronx-Australia

Superior Aesthetics & Durability through Technology

**AKS ABUL KHAIR STEEL**