



WATCH OUT for PART V

Deep down their hearts, fortune-seekers should know the dangers in crossing the high sea on tiny boats. Yet, they give in to the false assurance of manpower touts. But why do the poor people get so desperate that they don't hesitate to risk their lives and whatever wealth they have? What's wrong with our overseas manpower management?

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

SHOUT

TIME TO ACT

Immediate actions needed for saving Dhaka from a seismic disaster

PAGE 7

HUNG PARLIAMENT?

UK votes today in what's forecast to be the tightest race in memory

PAGE 8

Land boundary bill gets thru'

Rajya Sabha passes it unanimously paving way for ratification of landmark deal with Bangladesh

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA and REZAUL KARIM

In a rare display of unanimity, India's Rajya Sabha yesterday passed the landmark constitution amendment bill to ratify the long-pending Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh.

The bill, which will allow operationalisation of the 1974 Indo-Bangla deal and its protocol in 2011, got through the Upper House of the Indian parliament with full support from 181 members.

There was complete agreement in the House after its members had a nearly two-hour discussion on the issue.

The bill will be taken up today by the Lok

ENCLAVE EXCHANGE UNDER LAND BOUNDARY AGREEMENT

Total enclaves

162

111 OF INDIA with 17,160 acres of land, 37,334 residents

51 OF BANGLADESH with 7,110 acres of land, 14,215 residents

ADVERSELY POSSESSED LAND

5,044.72 acres

India to receive 2,777 acres from Bangladesh; Bangladesh to get 2,267 acres from India

Sabha, the Lower House of the Indian parliament, for passage.

Dhaka has welcomed the passage of the bill in the Rajya Sabha, and said it will help enhance further bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

"I congratulate the Indian external affairs ministry and the Indian parliament for their initiatives towards implementation of the agreement in full," Bangladesh State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahriar Alam told reporters at the foreign ministry.

While piloting the bill for passage, Indian

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

SEE ONLINE FOR MORE STORIES

TOP QUOTE

"This is a historic situation. We're going to implement the agreement after 41 years. I'm happy that everyone supported the bill."

INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER
SUSHMA SWARAJ
WHILE PILOTING THE LBA BILL FOR PASSAGE

Khaleda charged with murder

37 others also accused of Jatrabari petrol bomb attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives yesterday pressed murder charges against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and 37 others, mostly her party men, for their alleged involvement in a petrol bomb attack on a bus in the capital's Jatrabari in January.

The attack on the night of January 23 killed one person and injured 30 others.

The accused have also been charged with explosions in the same attack -- one of many that the country witnessed in the three months since early January when the BNP-led 20-party alliance started an indefinite blockade.

This is the first time Khaleda, also a former prime minister, has been charged in a criminal case. Currently she stands accused in five corruption cases and three defamation suits. In addition, she is facing four other

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



Novera dies in seclusion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sculptor Novera Ahmed's emergence in the 1950s coincided with an important shift in the art scene of the erstwhile East Pakistan. Through her unbridled spirit and creative association with the likes of Hamidur Rahman, she had not only contributed substantially to that modernist shift but also had sculpted art works that have inspired many generations of artists.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Salman jailed for killing man with his SUV

AFP, Mumbai

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan was sentenced to five years in prison for killing a homeless man with his SUV in a 2002 hit-and-run after a night out drinking at an upmarket bar.

Judge DW Deshpande found Salman guilty of culpable homicide and other charges for driving his Land Cruiser into a group of homeless men sleeping rough in suburban Mumbai, rejecting the actor's claim his driver was to blame.

"After going through the arguments put forth by both sides, I have come to the conclusion that five years is proper

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5



PART IV HOPELESS VOYAGE. OMINOUS OUTCOME

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.



Pairs of sandals, left behind by fortune-seekers before setting off on illegal voyages across the sea, hanging from a string at Sonaichhari village of Teknaf. Piles of abandoned footwear are found along the Teknaf coast every day as overseas jobseekers have to board boats barefoot.

PHOTO: EMRAN HOSSAIN

Sailing off into hell

Desperate fortune-seekers embark on dangerous sea voyages to Malaysia. With it begins their long nightmare

EMRAN HOSSAIN and MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT with RIFAT MUNIM

The voyage that Jewel Barua had made to Thailand on a cargo vessel crammed with several hundred deceived jobseekers tells of a harrowing journey redolent of a time when slave trade was a profitable business



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across continents.

In its modern dimension, the trade is no less appalling with many captives thrown overboard and drowned at sea, many shot dead and many committing suicide.

Those who survive till the end of what turns out to be a long, excruciating jour-

ney, end up either in jails or at immigration centres in Thailand and Malaysia, where they pass their days in constant fear and uncertainty.

Jewel's journey had taken him about two weeks. First a fishing boat carried him to a cargo vessel anchored in the waters of the Bay of Bengal for days until there were at least 500 people on board.

Jewel was almost unconscious by the time the boat had reached the cargo vessel. "I threw up ceaselessly and at one point blood came out of my mouth," he said over the phone.

The vessel stayed there for four more days before finally setting sail to Thailand. Out into the wide sea, what Jewel faced and saw haunts him to this day.

"The amount of rice we were served in a polythene bag can be held on an upturned palm," said Jewel. "Rice was served once a day with lentil soup and water was given in drops, half a tea cup a day."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4
FIND ALL MIGRANT CAMPS -- PAGE 2

One broker an upazila's woe

16 youths of N'ganj village gone missing for over a year

PORIMOL PALMA with SYED ABDUR ROUF

Sona Mia has no more tears left to shed. He is now afraid of something ominous coming his son's way.

Mujibur Rahman has been missing since October 1, 2013 when he left home for Malaysia to make a fortune.

"I can't tell you how painful it is for a father," said the 50-year-old rickshaw van puller at Kaindi village in Araihaazar, Narayanganj.

Unaware of the danger they would be in, Mujibur, 25, and his brother-in-law Akhter Hossain, 28, took a voyage across the Bay of Bengal.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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.

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