



PART V WHY ARE THEY SO DESPERATE?

EMRAN HOSSAIN and **MOHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT** did an extensive investigation into human trafficking from Bangladesh to Malaysia. For over three months, they did 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 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**.

Illegally driven as

LEGALLY RESTRICTED

Fortune-seekers go desperate as govt, private sector fail to cash in on huge job opportunities in Malaysia



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PORIMOL PALMA and BELAL HOSSAIN BIPLOB with SHAHTUB SIDDIQUE ANIK

As legal channels for labour migration from Bangladesh have shrunk due to malpractices in the arrangements by both private agencies and the government, desperate jobseekers take dangerous sea route to Malaysia.

Dreaming of high-paid jobs, they fall prey to a third party -- transnational gangs pledging a secure sea voyage -- and end up in a vicious web of abuses includ-

ing torture and captivity en route, forced labour or humiliating deportation.

Manpower export from Bangladesh to Malaysia has always been fraught with anomalies since it formally began in 1992.

Corruption by some Bangladesh high commission officials in Kuala Lumpur left as many as 50,000 workers illegal in 1996.

The Southeast Asian burgeoning economy had kept its doors closed to Bangladeshi workers for nearly a decade from 1997, except in 2000 when some 20,000 were granted visas. The migration resumed in

2006 and continued till early 2009.

"Such repeated closure or opening of Malaysian labour market was never the case for Nepal or Indonesia. But Bangladesh faced it mostly because of corruption," said Mohammad Harun Al Rashid, coordinator of CARAM Asia, a regional network of organisations working on migration and health issues.

Malaysia recruited some 8,000 Bangladeshi workers under a government-

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4
MORE STORIES ON PAGE 2,16



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.

Tories win majority

Cameron stays at 10 Downing Street; 'Sorry' Miliband quits Labour Party leadership

CON	LAB	SNP	LD	OTHERS	TOTAL SEATS
331	232	56	8	23	650

David Cameron's Conservatives won a stunning victory in Britain's election, which cut short the careers of his top three rivals and put the country's European Union future in doubt.

Widespread predictions of a close contest with the opposition Labour party turned

out to be wide of the mark, as the Tories won 331 seats in the 650-seat House of Commons.

The shock victory seals a new term for Cameron as head of a majority Tory government.

The Tory victory was focused on England,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1
MORE ON UK POLLS -- PAGE 8

Tulip becomes British MP

Rushanara, Rupa also win



Three British-Bangladeshis -- including Tulip Siddiq, granddaughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- have made it to the House of Commons in the UK general election with Labour Party tickets.

Apart from Tulip, Rushanara Ali and Rupa Huq have also been elected MPs defeating their Tory rivals.

This is the first time the centuries-old British parliament will have three lawmakers with roots in Bangladesh.

Though their party put up a dismal show in Thursday's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

25,000 trafficked in January-March

Most of them Bangladeshis, Rohingyas sailed thru' Bay of Bengal, says UNHCR

STAR REPORT

Around 25,000 Rohingyas and Bangladeshis boarded smugglers' boats from the Bay of Bengal between January and March this year, almost doubling the number over the same period in 2014, says a UNHCR periodic report released yesterday.

According to interviews of those who have reached Thailand and Malaysia, 300 people are estimated to have died at sea this year and 320 others in the last three months last year as a result of starvation, dehydration and beating by boat crew, the report adds.

"Between 40 to 60 percent of 25,000 people are thought to have originated from

the Rakhine State of Myanmar, although many of them embarked on the ships from Bangladesh," the report says.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has prepared the report to oversee irregular maritime movement in Southeast Asia.

Considering the growing scale and severity of boat exodus, the UN body calls on countries in the region to work more closely together to counter smuggling and trafficking of vulnerable people.

An increase in irregular maritime movement has been attributed to a variety of factors, including more Bangladeshis embarking on smugglers' ships, and politi

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

TOP QUOTE

"I take absolute and total responsibility for our defeat. I am so sorry for all of those colleagues who lost their seats."

UK LABOUR LEADER ED MILIBAND



Britain's Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party David Cameron and his wife Samantha pose for pictures as they arrive back at 10 Downing Street in London yesterday, after visiting Queen Elizabeth II, a day after the British general election.

Amazing victory

20-yr-old boots out Labour grandee

REUTERS, Glasgow

A 20-year-old university student standing for the Scottish National Party defeated a Labour Party grandee in Britain's national election to become the youngest member of the British parliament in 350 years.

Mhairi Black won

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

'SHOOTOUT' WITH COPS 3 listed human traffickers killed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Three alleged human traffickers were killed in a "gunfight" with police in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Dholu Hossain, 55, Jahangir Alam, 30, and Zafar Alam, 25. All of them were residents of the same upazila.

"Acting on a tip-off, a team of police conducted a raid at Hatchery Beach area in Teknaf around 3:30am," Ataur Rahman Khandakar, officer-in-charge of Teknaf Police Station, told The Daily Star.

Sensing the presence of the law enforcers, the human traffickers opened fire on the police, prompting them to retaliate that triggered a 30-minute "gunfight", he said.

The gunfight left the three traffickers dead on the spot, the OC added.

Malaysia too has 'slave camps'

THE STAR ONLINE, Malaysia

After the discovery of "death camps" in southern Thailand, reports are now trickling in that there may be similar slave camps housing illegal immigrants on the Malaysian side of the border.

Abdul Kalam, the former president of the Rohingya club in Thailand involved in helping refugees, alleged that Malaysia is home to some 80 percent of the holding camps where young Rohingyas and Bangladeshi "slaves" brought in by

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1