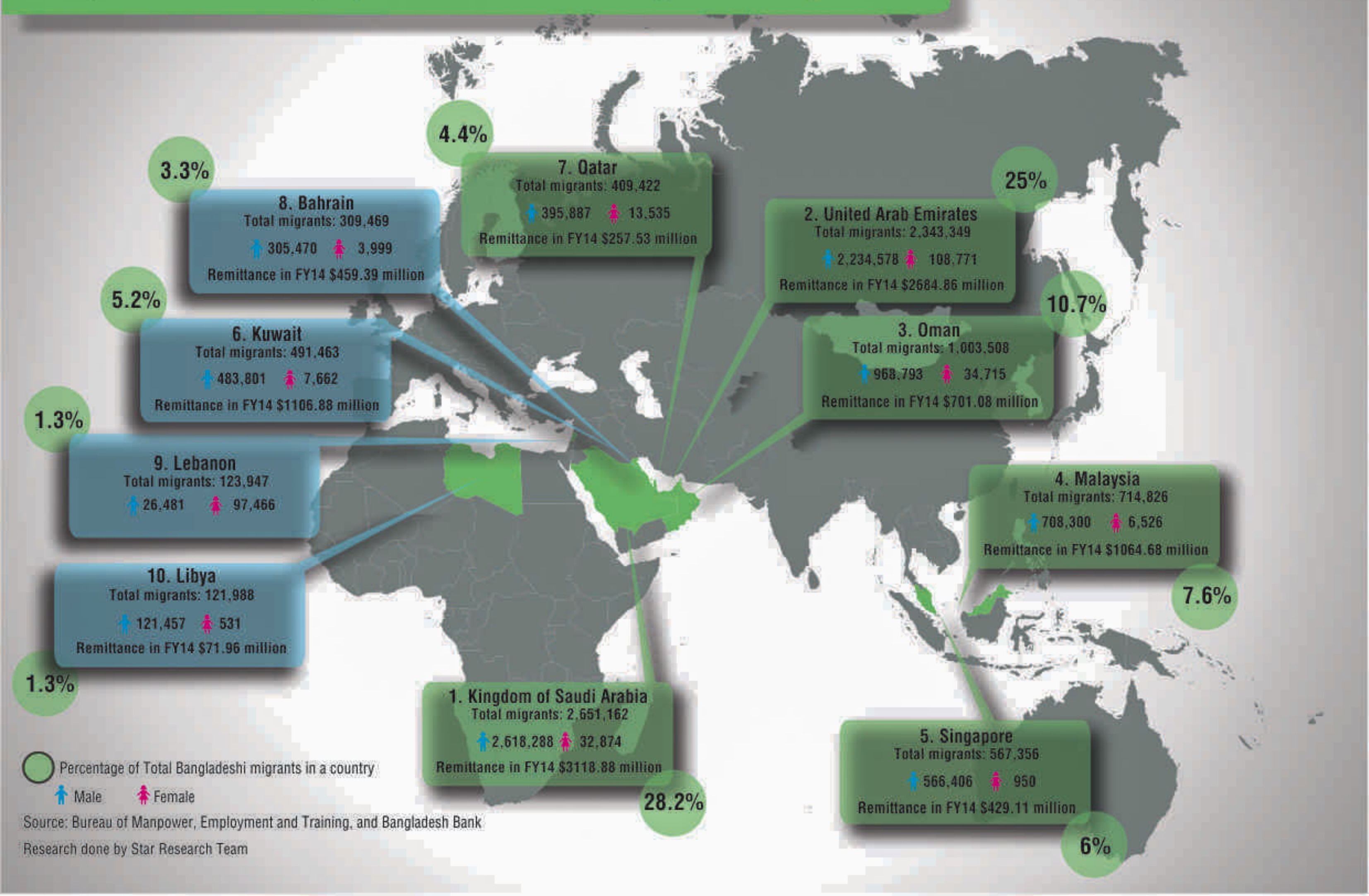


Top 10 Overseas Employment Countries for Bangladeshi Migrants



Hilsa trust fund on the cards

Govt hopes to see increased production in next seasons

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to set up "Hilsa Development Trust Fund" for sustainable production of hilsa in the country.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sayedul Haque said this at a press conference held at the Matshya Bhaban conference room marking the start of National Fisheries Week yesterday.

The minister, however, did not give any details regarding the trust fund for the national fish of the country.

"The production of the Hilsa has now reached 3.85 lakh tonnes which is worth Tk 17,000 crore. Necessary programmes will be taken to raise the production of the Hilsa further," the minister said.

He further said Bangladesh at present holds fourth position in the world with a production of 35.48 lakh tonnes of fishes in 2013-14. This figure is up from 27.1 lakh tonnes in 2008-09.

This year, the government has decided to increase the duration of the ban on catching brood hilsa to 15 days.

It used to be 11 days in October. Hilsa contributes to 11 percent of total fish production in the country.

The government has been providing over 35,846 tonnes of rice in subsidy to 2.24 lakh fishermen, an initiative taken to help increase hilsa production, the minister said.

This year the national fisheries week is being observed with the theme "Sagar Nadi Shakal Joley, Machh Chashe Shona Foley". Starting yesterday, the fisheries week continues until August 3.

The minister said alongside increasing production of hilsa, the government has taken up an initiative to introduce long liner commercial fishing trawlers to catch tuna from deep sea.

As lawful rights have been established over 118,813 square km area of the sea, the government has already taken an initiative for preservation of marine fishery resources by imposing a ban on catching of all types of fishes by commercial trawlers at the blue economic zone of Bay of Bengal for the first time in 2015. This ban lasted for 65 days from May 20 to July 23, the minister told the press conference.

Top officials from the fisheries sector, including Fisheries and Livestock Secretary Selina Afroza and Director-General of the Department of Fisheries Syed Arif Azad, among others were present at the conference.

Talking about welfare programmes undertaken by the government, Sayedul Haque said the government has distributed grants of Tk 1.19 crore over the last three years to the families of 247 fishermen killed at sea in natural disasters.

The government has already distributed identity cards among half a million fishermen across the country while another 15 lakh will get their identity cards by the end of this year, he said.



Female workers' migration rising

FROM PAGE 1

compared to all other countries. About 97,000 female workers reside in Lebanon today.

A total of 9.4 million Bangladeshi migrants are toiling in various parts of the globe and sending their hard-earned money back home.

The fruits of their hard work are paying off, as an incredible \$15.31 billion in remittance was received in fiscal 2015 -- the highest in the country's history.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) has the highest percentage of Bangladeshi migrants, about 28.2 percent. The June 2015 statistics of the BMET shows there are more than 2.6 million Bangladeshi migrant workers in the KSA. Remittance inflow was recorded at \$3.12 billion from the KSA in the fiscal year 2013-14 as per Bangladesh Bank.

The UAE, ranking second, is currently home to more than 2.3 million Bangladeshi migrants who have sent home \$2.68 billion remittance in fiscal 2013-14.

Oman is the third favourite overseas employment country today, with 10.7 percent of the total Bangladeshi migrants. An impressive 1 million workers were there at the end of June 2015. Remittance inflow from Oman was \$0.7 billion in fiscal 2013-14.

Malaysia and Singapore remain a common destination for overseas workers, with about 7.14 lakh and 5.6 lakh Bangladeshi migrants respectively at the end of June 2015. Remittance inflows from Malaysia and Singapore stood at \$1.06 billion and \$0.43 billion respectively in fiscal 2013-14.

Kuwait and Qatar, on the other hand, have 5.2 percent and 4.4 percent of the total Bangladeshi migrants, placing sixth and seventh in top 10 overseas employment destinations. Migrants in Kuwait and Qatar brought in \$1.1 billion and \$0.26 billion respectively in fiscal 2013-14. There were around 4.9 lakh and 4.1 lakh migrants in the two countries at the end of June 2015.

Verdict on SQ Chy appeal today

FROM PAGE 1

on an appeal against a tribunal's judgment.

The three other judges of the bench are Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain and Justice Hasan Foez Siddique.

On July 7, a four-member bench of the Appellate Division headed by the chief justice fixed today for delivering the verdict on the appeal after hearing it for 13 days.

Talking to The Daily Star on Sunday, both the state and the defence counsels expressed the hope of getting a verdict in their favour.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said he was optimistic that the Appellate Division would consider the gravity of Salauddin's wartime offences in 1971 and would uphold the Tribunal-1 verdict that sentenced him to death in four charges.

Salauddin should be sentenced to death for each of the three other charges in which the tribunal had sentenced him to 20 years in jail, he said.

The defence could not produce any credible evidence in support of their claim that Salauddin was not in Bangladesh during the war and was not involved in the crimes against humanity committed in Raozan of Chittagong, he added.

The attorney general also said several eyewitnesses had testified before the tribunal confirming Salauddin's involvement in atrocities, genocide and killing of the Hindus in different areas of Raozan and sufficient documents and evidence were produced as well.

Salauddin's principal lawyer Khandker Mahbub Hossain, meanwhile, told this correspondent that the prosecution had failed to produce credible and trustworthy evidence and witnesses before the court.

"I hope the Supreme Court will acquit Salauddin Quader Chowdhury of all the charges considering relevant evidence, documents and circumstances," he added.

Yesterday, the attorney general refuted allegations by Khandker Mahbub who said Gonojagoron Mancha had been pressing the apex court with their demand for his client's death sentence, "which was tantamount to contempt of court".

Briefing reporters at his office, Mahbubey Alam said the demand of

the Mancha, a youth platform that wants maximum punishment for war criminals, was not contemptuous.

He also said Salauddin's family had been trying to make the trial questionable through leaking the draft verdict of the tribunal in October 2013.

Earlier in the day, Khandker Mahbub alleged that the activists of Gonojagoron Mancha were chanting slogans on streets demanding death for Salauddin, although the trial against him was pending with the apex court.

Talking to reporters at the Supreme Court Bar Association premises, the defence counsel expressed the hope that the SC would strictly consider the matter.

On October 1, 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 found the BNP leader Salauddin, now 66, guilty of nine of the 23 charges brought against him of committing crimes against humanity.

The tribunal handed him death penalty on each of four charges -- involvement in the killing of Natun Chandra Singha, Awami League leader Mozaffar Ahmed and his son; and genocide in Raozan.

The tribunal sentenced him to 20

Tk 79cr goes down

FROM PAGE 1

Even a senior official of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) visited the road to see its condition and later pressed for its quick repair. Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader had also expressed his dissatisfaction over the poor condition of the road.

But all those proved futile.

DSCC officials in the meantime are not sitting idle. They have recently initiated another move to repair the road, involving Tk 20 crore this time.

"Soon a tender of the work will be floated," said an engineer at Zone-5 of DSCC located at Sayedabad.

But many believe the money would go down the drain this time as well.

Speaking anonymously, a number of mid-ranking officials at Nagar Bhaban said the development works were done only on papers.

"The lion's share of the Tk 79 crore has been misappropriated without doing any work," one of them said, adding, the fund was more than enough to properly develop the entire road under the flyover from Palashi to Jatrabari and its drainage system.

The official said one of the contractors did some development work on the road between Gulistan and Jatrabari with little impact.

"This is just one of countless examples of how syndicates of officials and contractors plunder money in the name of implementing development projects," another engineer said, asking not to be identified.

As allegations of misappropriating fund surfaced late last year, an inquiry was initiated to detect how the money was spent.

The Anti-Corruption Commission collected documents of the road and drainage development works and also took statements of the officials concerned to begin the probe.

But the inquiry stumbled halfway for mysterious reasons.

The Daily Star correspondents yesterday went to the offices of Chief Executive Officer Ansar Ali Khan, Chief Engineer Habibur Rahman and Additional Chief Engineer Nurul Amin and tried to get their versions, but the top officials were "busy" with meetings.

These correspondents also tried to contact them by phone. The chief engineer received the phone in the afternoon only to shrug off his responsibility by saying, "I wasn't in charge when the development works were implemented last year."

He suggested contacting Zone-5 of the DSCC to get information about the contractors and how much money they got.

When a correspondent went to the zonal office, he was informed that the person who keeps record files was not available.



Dilapidated roads under Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Sayedabad. As there is no enforcement of traffic laws, inter-district buses stop here to pick up passengers, causing tailbacks on the roads. Things beneath the flyover get even worse with locals dumping waste at will. And the authorities concerned keep turning a blind eye to all this. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN