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FRAUD IN WORKERS' MIGRATION

Nepalese face similar ordeal

TAMANNA KHAN

Sunil Koirala of Nepal's Dhading district was lured to a job in Malaysia with a monthly income of Nepalese rupees (NPR) 20,000 per month three years ago. He did not hesitate to pay the recruiting agent NPR 1.5 lakh, although the government-fixed rate was NPR 80,000.

"But when he got there he found the salary was NPR 8,000 per month only. So he returned home after three years and started working as a shopkeeper in Kathmandu," Sunil's father Khageswar Koirala told journalists when they visited a rural area in Dhading.

Farmer Prem Tamang had gone to Dubai seven years ago as a construction worker from the same area. His wife Karuna Tamang said her husband paid NPR 1 lakh for the job, although the government rate was NPR 70,000 for gulf countries.

"We did not have any choice. We took huge loan for building a house and treatment of our daughter. We could not repay the loan with the farming income," said Karuna, who now works as a day labourer to supplement her husband's remittance of NPR 15,000 sent every two months.

The tales of migrants from rural Nepal almost mirror

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Karuna Tamang, a migrant worker's wife, trying to rebuild her life with her two children in a makeshift room after the April earthquake in Nepal. Right, Khageswar Koirala at his quake-ravaged home. His son Sunil was cheated by a manpower recruiting agency. Both the photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: HARIHAR SING RATHOUR/TAMANNA KHAN



Two arrested over Ananta murder

Female blogger seeks protection

STAR REPORT

The Criminal Investigation Department yesterday arrested two more suspects from Kanaighat Upazila in Sylhet for their alleged involvement in the killing of blogger Ananta Bijoy Das. The arrestees were identified as Mannan Rahi, a student of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology and his brother Mohaymen Noman, a student of MC College in Sylhet.

About two months ago, Idris Ali, a photojournalist of local daily the Sobuj Sylhet, was arrested after

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 3

Cases piling up in courts

31 lakh lawsuits await disposal; over 1,000 added to backlog every day

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A whopping 1,051 cases are added every day to the existing backlog, already in the millions, due to a shortage of judges in the country.

At this rate, around 3.84 lakh new cases will pile up in a year, according to estimates provided in a Supreme Court study, in addition to the 31 lakh pending ones till March 31.

This means it will take at least 945 days or over 2.5 years to dispose off all these pending cases even if no new case is filed from this very day and the disposal rate continues



in the current pace.

"Shortage of judges is the main reason behind the ever increasing backlog of cases," observed Law Commission Chairman Justice ABM Khairul Haque.

Though there might be some other "petty reasons" like incompetence of some judges and corruption behind the logjam, it wouldn't have been so acute had there been sufficient judges

in service, he told this correspondent on Thursday.

"At least 4,000 judges are required for

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Let us work together for sustainable democracy

Khaleda tells PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday called upon the government to work together with her party for a sustainable democracy in the country.

"Step away from the path of violence and hatred, and let's work together, like we did before, for a sustainable democratic system," she urged the government in a statement.

However, before making the call, Khaleda blasted the government for the arrest of Joypurhat district BNP President Mojahar Ali Pradhan immediately after

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FACEBOOK REACHES MILESTONE

A billion users on a single day



BBC ONLINE

For the first time over a billion people used Facebook on a single day, according to company founder Mark Zuckerberg.

The "milestone" was reached on Monday, when "1 in 7 people on Earth used Facebook to connect with their friends and family", he said in a post.

Facebook has nearly 1.5 billion users who log in at least once a month, but this was the most in a

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JOINT DRIVE

2 more held in Rangamati

STAR REPORT

A joint team of the army and police yesterday detained two more people in Rajasthani upazila of Rangamati over suspected links to the Myanmarese rebel group Arakan Army.

The detainees are Cha Sui Wang Marma, 42, and Mong Cha Woang Marma, 39. They were caretakers of the

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PRAYER TIMING

AUGUST 29

Fazz Zohr Asr Maghrab Esha

AZAN 4-30 12-45 4-45 6-33 8-00

JAMAAT 5-05 1-15 5-00 6-36 8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



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জনকল্যাণে রাজস্ব

A recently taken photo shows a woman of Paulpara in Aria union of Bogra working on pottery items. Potters there have been hit hard as most people are turning to crockery made of plastic and other materials.

Hard times for Bogra potters

Price of clay, competition with plastic products put them in trouble

MAMUN-UR-RASHID with ANDREW EAGLE

Tubs, curd-pots, dolls and idols: for many generations the locality of Paulpara in Aria union of Bogra's Shahjahanpur upazila has been synonymous with pottery. Locally hundreds of families of the Paul caste, after which the locality is named, continue to practice and pass on refined artisan skills. Practical, decorative or sacred, with the many clay items available it's not readily apparent how precarious their livelihood has become.

"We used to collect clay from the nearby river and local ponds," says potter Uzzal Paul. "But nowadays we have to buy it at a cost of Tk 300 per van [rickshaw-van] load." His colleagues Baccu and Shymoli Paul agree that the additional expense is one factor squeezing profits.

In addition, pots and containers made of plastic and other materials compete with traditional clay in the mar-

ket. Plastic wares are cheap and often considered more convenient than clay ones by consumers.

"We are trying to save the profession of our forefathers," says Baccu Paul. "But it might not be possible." Within four months, with effort, a potter can make around 3,000 curd pots which after firing will currently sell for Tk 12,000. After costs, it's not a great income upon which to run a family.

"I can't pay for school supplies for my children anymore," admits another potter, Shusanto Paul. "My financial position has steadily deteriorated over the past few years."

The inability to fund their children's school and college life is a sharp blow in a community that has come to highly appreciate the benefits of education. Budgets are so tight that even buying food supplies requires careful consideration.

To make matters worse, a few months ago the area was attacked by local thugs led by one Morshed who hoped to

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পুরস্কার (উভয় বিভাগের জন্য)

নিয়মাবলী

জিডি-২৮২৭

- ঃ 'ক' বিভাগ - মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী (ষষ্ঠ-দশম শ্রেণী)।
- ঃ 'খ' বিভাগ - উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক পর্যায়ের শিক্ষার্থী (একাদশ-দ্বাদশ শ্রেণী)।
- ঃ 'ক' বিভাগ - 'আমরা কেন আয়করে দেব' (সর্বোচ্চ শব্দ সংখ্যা ৫০০)।
- ঃ 'খ' বিভাগ - 'বাংলাদেশের উন্নয়নে আয়করের ভূমিকা (সর্বোচ্চ শব্দ সংখ্যা ৭০০)।
- ঃ ১৫ অক্টোবর ২০১৫।
- ঃ আয়কর বিষয়ক রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা ২০১৫ কর কমিশনার
- ঃ ১৫, তোপখনা রোড (৩য় তলা), সেগুনবাগিচা, ঢাকা।
- ঃ ১ম পুরস্কার ১৫টি, সনদপত্র ও ২৫,০০০ টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড।
- ঃ ২য় পুরস্কার ১০টি, সনদপত্র ও ১৫,০০০ টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড।
- ঃ ৩য় পুরস্কার ৫টি, সনদপত্র ও ১০,০০০ টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড।
- ঃ সাতনা পুরস্কার (৪৮ থেকে ৬৭ স্থান অধিকারীগণ) ৩,০০০ টাকার প্রাইজবন্ড ও সনদপত্র।
- ঃ রচনা অবশ্যই বাংলা ভাষায় রচিত হতে হবে।
- ঃ A4 সাইজের সাদা কাগজের এক পৃষ্ঠায় স্থানে লিখিত হতে হবে।
- ঃ লেখার সাথে নিজের নাম, শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম, শ্রেণী, রোল, শাখা উল্লেখ পূর্বে পরিচয়পত্রের কপি ও পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ২ কপি ছবি সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
- ঃ খামের উপর 'জাতীয় আয়কর দিবস ২০১৫ রচনা প্রতিযোগিতা' ও রচনার বিভাগ ('ক' বা 'খ') লিখতে হবে।
- ঃ বিচারকদের রায় চূড়ান্ত বলে বিবেচিত হবে।

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