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REMITTANCE EARNERS

Why so many return dead?

BELAL HOSSAIN BIPOB

Afzal Hossain of Noakhali had gone to Saudi Arabia for job, spending Tk 6 lakh.

To meet the expense of the migration, he had taken out a loan of Tk 4 lakh that he could not pay off even after working for four years in the oil-rich country. According to his wife, he was a low-paid construction worker who had to do overtime most of the days.

Far away from home, Afzal died of heart attack in March 2014. He is one of the 3,335 Bangladeshi workers who returned dead that year.

Over the last one decade, the number of bodies received at the three international airports of the country rose every year, as per the statistics of Wage Earners Welfare Board under the expatriates' welfare ministry.

Most of these workers were below 40 and most of them died of stroke and heart attack.

Last year, 3,375 bodies of migrant workers arrived in Bangladesh and 550 of them died of stroke and 385 of heart attack. In 2014, 470 died of strokes and 325 of heart attacks, according to the statistics.

In 2006, the number of bodies was 1,402 and in the following two years, it was 1,678 and 2,098 respectively.

The actual figure of deaths could be over 5,000 a year, according to sources in Bangladesh missions abroad, as at least one-third of the dead are buried abroad.

"The cases of migrant workers dying of stroke are totally different from patients in the country," said Zahirul Haque Chowdhury, associate professor at the National Institute of Neurosciences & Hospital.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, fourth from left, poses for photos at the closing ceremony of South Asian Speaker's Summit on Achieving Sustainable Development Goals at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday with Speaker Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Bhutanese Speaker Lyonpo Jigme Zangpo, Speaker of The Maldives Abdulla Maseeh Mohamed, and Afghanistan Speaker Abdul Rauf Ibrahim on her left. On her right is Indian Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan, Inter-Parliamentary Union President Saber Hossain Chowdhury, and Sri Lankan Deputy Speaker Thilanga Sumathipala. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PMO

TRAWLER SINKING
Four bodies recovered

Vessel pulled ashore

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Police yesterday recovered the bodies of three children and a woman who went missing after a trawler sank in the Meghna river in Chandpur five days ago.

The dead are Aleya Begum, 25, her three-year-old daughter Swarna, Manik, 4, son of Mostafa Mridha, and one-and-a-half-year-old Fahim Hossain, son of Jamal Hossain of Charbugula in Haimchar upazila.

At least nine people, including six children, went missing when a trawler sank after being hit by an oil-laden vessel in the dense fog on Tuesday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Bombs kill 45 near Syria Shia shrine

110 injured; IS claims responsibility

REUTERS, Amman

At least 45 people were killed and 110 wounded yesterday by a car bomb and two suicide bombers in the Sayeda Zeinab district of Damascus, where Syria's holiest Shia shrine is located, the interior ministry said.

Sunni fundamentalist Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attacks, according to Amaq, a news agency that supports the group. It said two operations "hit the most important stronghold of Shia militias in Damascus".

State television showed footage of burning buildings and wrecked cars in the neighbourhood.

Syrian state news agency SANA, quoting an interior ministry source, said a group of militants had detonated a car bomb near a public transport garage in the neighbourhood's Koua Sudan area.

Two suicide bombers then blew themselves up nearby as people were being rescued.



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44 lakh new voters on updated list

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The total number of voters rose to 9.98 crore this year with more than 44.32 lakh new voters included in the electoral register.

Apart from including the new names, the Election Commission dropped the names of 7.35 lakh people who had died, according to a statement issued by the EC yesterday.

Of the new voters, 23.32 lakh are male and 21 lakh female.

The EC yesterday released the final electoral roll at upazila election offices, EC's Secretary Sirazul Islam told The Daily Star.

The updating of the electoral register began on July 25 last year and continued until the year end.

The draft of the updated electoral roll was made public on January 2. It was available at union parishad and

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Be innovative

Youths urged at Ctg Chamber conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Be innovative and skilful was the message speakers gave to the youths of the country at a conference in Chittagong yesterday.

Addressing the Youth Conference organised by Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) at Hotel Radisson Blu Chittagong, chief guest Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader termed the youths "brand ambassadors" of Bangladesh and urged them to be creative so that the country could take pride in them.

"We will not hire foreign consultants with tax-payers' money, you [the youths] will be the brand ambassadors of Bangladesh," he said.

"When the World Bank left us terming us thieves regarding Padma Bridge project, was there anyone who could imagine that we would be able to construct the bridge?" he said, adding, "But today we have proved that we are not a nation of thieves but a nation of heroes."

"Pakistan is ahead of Bangladesh only in making nuclear weapons," he said, adding, "But we are not interested in that sort of a destructive thing. Pakistan is called the most dangerous country in the world... We would not let Bangladesh become a dangerous country."

PHOTO ON PAGE 3

SSC exams begin today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations begin today with 16,51,523 students taking the tests across the country.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PRAYER TIMING
FEBRUARY 1

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5:30	12:45	4:15	5:52	7:15
JAMAAT	6:05	1:15	4:30	5:56
				7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

জাতীয় সঞ্চয় অধিদপ্তর
অভ্যন্তরীণ সম্পদ বিভাগ, অর্থ মন্ত্রণালয়

১০০ টাকা মূল্যমানের বাংলাদেশ প্রাইজ বন্ডের ৮২ তম 'ড্র' এর ফলাফল

১৮ মাঘ, ১৪২২/ ৩১ জানুয়ারী, ২০১৬ তারিখে ১০০/- টাকা মূল্যমান বাংলাদেশ প্রাইজবন্ডের ৮২ তম "ড্র" অনুষ্ঠিত হয়

প্রথম পুরস্কার	টঃ ৬,০০,০০০	০৮৩৯৮৫৭
দ্বিতীয় পুরস্কার	টঃ ৩,২৫,০০০	০৩৪৪১২২
তৃতীয় পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১,০০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার		০০০২৬৮৭ ০২৭০৬৪২
চতুর্থ পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ৫০,০০০ টাকার মোট ২টি পুরস্কার		০০১৯৩৬৭ ০৭৬৪২০৮
পঞ্চম পুরস্কার প্রতিটি ১০,০০০ টাকার মোট ৪০ টি পুরস্কার		০০১৯৭৭২ ০৩০১৭০৫ ০৪২৬৬৫৫ ০৫১৮৮৬২ ০৭৬২৩৪৭
		০০৩৪৪৫০ ০৩১৪১১৪ ০৪৩২৫৪০ ০৬১৬২৪৯ ০৮০৫১৫১
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		০৩০০৫০৮ ০৪১৮৯০৫ ০৫১৭১১২ ০৭৫৬৬৩৯ ০৯৫৫৮৮১

বিঃ দ্রঃ প্রাইজবন্ডের 'ড্র' এর তারিখ হতে পুরস্কারের দাবি ২ বছরের মধ্যে গ্রহণযোগ্য

বিতারিত জানতে যোগাযোগ করুন : প্রধান কার্যালয়- ৯৫৭৭৮০৪, ৯৫৮৭৫৭৩, ৯৫৭৭৮০৩
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www.nationalsavings.gov.bd

Over 10,000 child migrants 'missing'
Says Europol

BBC ONLINE

More than 10,000 migrant children may have disappeared after arriving in Europe over the past two years, the EU's police intelligence unit says.

Europol said thousands of vulnerable minors had vanished after registering with state authorities. It warned of children and young people being forced into sexual exploitation and slavery by criminal gangs.

Save the Children says some 26,000 child migrants arrived in Europe last year without any family. It is the first time Europol has given a Europe-wide estimate of how many might be missing.

"It's not unreasonable to say that we're looking at 10,000-plus children," Europol's chief of staff told the Observer newspaper yesterday.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Registration No. 1

Someday, we may not remain the 'only one'
But, we will always remain the 'number one'

Thank you

Department of livestock services (DLS)
Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock,
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

For Issuing the registration to the artificial insemination laboratory and, to the bull-station of American Dairy Limited (ADL), as 'the first' and, 'the only' private company in the country.

American Dairy Limited (ADL)
Vangnahati, Sreepur, Gazipur