

Migrant workers in graft mire

Male jobseekers paid thrice the usual costs for work visas for 7 nations last year; Tk 5,234cr laundered: TIB report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 Around 90 percent of five lakh Bangladeshi male workers had to pay two to three times the usual migration cost last year to obtain work visas for seven countries, including five in the Middle East.

They also paid bribes at different stages at the Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry and the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) for visa approval to go to the destination countries, according to a Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report released yesterday.

The workers had to pay between Tk 5 lakh and 12 lakh each for getting a Saudi visa and at least Tk 3 lakh each for visas for Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Malaysia, the UAE and Bahrain. But the private recruiting agents spent only Tk 1 lakh to Tk 2.5 lakh on each visa, it mentioned.

At least Tk 5,234 crore was laundered from Bangladesh last year for getting visas for these countries, said the report titled "Good Governance in Labour Migration Process: Problem and Way Out".

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CABLE CHAOS... TV, telephone and internet cables strung haphazardly on a wall of Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd's office in the capital's Moghbazar. Local internet resellers string their cables on power and telephone poles although it is against the law. Authorities remove the cables from time to time but they reappear soon.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

'Equivalent of independence'

Bangabandhu's historic March 7 speech in declassified CIA docs

Bangalees won an overwhelming majority in the 1970 general elections. But the Pakistan military junta had chalked out a plan so as not to relinquish power. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was firm in his resolve that power must be handed over to Bangalees.

On March 1, 1971, president Yahya Khan suddenly suspended the inaugural session of the National Assembly. The news was electrifying to the common men in East Pakistan and in no time, there were crowds on the streets of Dhaka.

Mujib called a province-wide nonstop general strike that paralysed the country.

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FULL CIA TEXT ON PAGE 15

82pc of them radicalised thru social media

Finds a police study on detained 'militants'

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and SHARIFUL ISLAM

Around 82 percent of the arrested militant suspects were radicalised through social media platforms, a police study has found.

"Conducting a research among the 780 militants arrested since 2010, we found that around 82

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FIRE TO SANTAL HOMES Probe identifies 2 cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police sub-inspector and a constable who set fire to Santal homes in Gaibandha in November have finally been identified.

They are SI Mahbubur Rahman of Detective Branch and Constable Sajjad Hossain of Gaibandha Police Lines.

The two have already been suspended and departmental proceedings against them are underway, the police said in two reports submitted before the High Court yesterday.

Several other people were also involved in the November 6 arson attack, but they could not be identified yet. They too will face legal action if they can be identified in



future, the reports said. Deputy Inspector General of police of Rangpur Range Khandker Golam Faruk and a three-member probe committee led by

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5 Rid Pharma men must surrender within a week

HC orders over toxic paracetamol syrup

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed five officials of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd to surrender to a trial court in seven days.

The lower court had acquitted them in a case filed for manufacturing toxic Paracetamol syrup that killed at least 28 children in 2009.

The bench of Justice AKM Asaduzzaman and Justice Razik-Al-Jalil

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Boy slips from bus, meets tragic end

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeduj Salehin Shuvo had been chasing his dream of becoming an engineer and his family had all along stood by him in his pursuit of reaching the goal.

Little did his parents know his dream would come screeching to a stop as he slipped from a running bus and met a tragic death when the vehicle ran over him in the capital yesterday.

The 19-year-old "A" level student was on his way to a coaching centre in Dhanmondi around 1:30pm when he tried to catch a bus at Matsya Bhaban. The friend who was accompanying him managed to get on the bus but he lost his balance as the vehicle sped up, Shuvo's father said.



Shuvo

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He missed what could have been his third century in successive Tests, but Mushfiqur Rahim's 85 was the backbone of Bangladesh's face-saving 312 against Sri Lanka on the third day of the opening Test at Galle yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Rain and Mushfiqur keep Sri Lanka at bay

SAKEB SUBHAN from Colombo

A Test that had been meandering for the first two days sprung to life on the third day at the Galle International Stadium yesterday. Sri Lanka were well and truly in the

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