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SHAH CEMENT

FROM BANGLADESH TO MALAYSIA

# Student trafficking nexus exposed

THE STAR, Malaysia, and The Daily Star

They are sold a dream, of a ticket to study and work in a foreign country, but after spending their family's entire savings they are caught in the harsh reality of being trafficked and trapped in a constant cycle of exploitation and extortion.

Thousands of young Bangladeshis have been trafficked to Malaysia through obscure private colleges and their unscrupulous "agents".

Some pay over RM 20,000, equivalent to three years' wages in Bangladesh, to the agents for securing student visas and admission into these bogus colleges.

But that's just the beginning of the exploitation.

Many have no choice but to work illegally under inhumane conditions, creating a cycle of exploitation where they have to earn enough to repay their debts and buy a ticket home, or pay the agents again to renew their student visas so they can work another year.

"I can't go home, because my family spent all their money on the agent fees. Now I need to work here to pay for my father's medicine," said one victim, 24, whose father has suffered two strokes.

The Star's (Malaysia) RAGE team uncovered these trafficking rings through a series of undercover investigations, all featured in its new video series, Student/Trafficked.

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Star LIVE

SCAN THE QR CODE TO WATCH VIDEOS

TO USE QR CODE ON YOUR SMARTPHONE, INSTALL FREE QR READER SOFTWARE FROM GOOGLE PLAYSTORE OR APPLE STORE. TURN ON THE SOFTWARE AND HOLD THE PHONE CAMERA OVER THE QR CODE TO GET THE VIDEO LINK.



Many Bangladeshi students become victims of an extensive and elaborate human trafficking network in Malaysia. They're saddled with debt and treated like criminals, with little hope of completing their education. They have no choice but to work illegally, often in inhumane conditions, to pay off the debts.

PHOTO: ASIA NEWS NETWORK

## THEFT OF PHONE DATA 2 fraudsters detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Beware when you are handing your mobile phone to a technician for servicing. Fraudsters might clone your IMO messaging account, follow your private chat sessions and blackmail you for money.

The Rapid Action Battalion picked up two suspected fraudsters with 15,000 photos of over 100 women from Dhaka and Gopalganj in the last two days, Lt Col Tuhin Mohammad Masud, commanding officer of Rab-3, told reporters yesterday.

Alamin Sheikh Sabuj, 26, was detained in the capital's Shahbagh area on Sunday and Sahadat Hossain Madhu, 25, was picked up from Gopalganj's Muksudpur upazilayesterday.

Sahadat has been running a mobile phone servicing shop in Muksudpur for about 10 years. His friend Alamin, also from the same upazila, lives in Dhaka.

Addressing a press conference, he said...

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## Two Shibir men held with crude bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kusthia

Police recovered 16 petrol and crude bombs and some bomb-making materials from Saddam Hossain Hall at Islamic University in Kusthia on Sunday night and arrested two Shibir activists in this connection.

The arrestees are Hasnat Hossain, a master's student of computer science and engineering, and Golam Azam, a third-year student of Al Hadith and Islamic studies.

On information, law enforcers raided different rooms of the dormitory and detained the two during the seven-hour raid from 3:00pm, said SM Mehedi Hasan,

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SIBL Foundation Hospital & Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING AUGUST 15

Fazr Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-25	12-45	4-45	6-38
JAMAAT 5-00	1-15	5-00	6-41
			8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 16 agencies yet to send any pilgrim

Religious affairs ministry gives them 48 hrs to complete all procedures to send 3,000 aspirant hajis

RASHIDUL HASAN

The religious affairs ministry yesterday gave a 48-hour "final ultimatum" to 16 hajj agencies for completing all procedures to send around 3,000 pilgrims to Saudi Arabia by August 26.

The agencies are yet to send a single pilgrim to Saudi Arabia, although most of them have been granted visas.

The ministry issued another two-day ultimatum to some other hajj agencies to submit necessary documents to the Saudi hajj authorities to get visas of around 1,100 pilgrims.

It warned the private tour operators of taking punitive actions, including cancellation of licence, if the ultimatums were not met, Abdul Jalil, secretary of the religious affairs ministry, told The Daily Star last night.

Saiful Islam, director at Ashkona Hajj Camp, said they sat with the representatives of the agencies to discuss the issues. He said the agencies are yet to send a single pilgrim to Saudi Arabia, although most of them have been granted visas.

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A wounded woman sits on the ground following an attack by gunmen on a restaurant in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, on Sunday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

MUDSLIDE, HEAVY FLOODING

## 312 dead in Sierra Leone

More than 2,000 left homeless; Red Cross says death toll could rise further as search operation continues in disaster-hit areas

AFP, Freetown

At least 312 people were killed and more than 2,000 left homeless on Monday when heavy flooding hit Sierra Leone's capital of Freetown, leaving morgues overflowing and residents desperately searching for loved ones.

An AFP journalist at the scene saw bodies being carried away and houses submerged in two areas of the city, where roads turned into churning rivers of mud and corpses were washed

up on the streets.

Red Cross spokesman Patrick Massaquoi told AFP the death toll was 312 but could rise further as his team continued to survey disaster areas in Freetown and tally the number of dead.

Mohamed Sinneh, a morgue technician at Freetown's Connaught Hospital, said 180 bodies had been received so far at his facility alone, many of them children, leaving no space to lay what he described as the "overwhelming number of dead".

Many more bodies were taken to private morgues, Sinneh said.

Images obtained by AFP showed a ferocious churning of dark orange mud coursing down a steep street in the capital, while videos posted by local residents showed people waist and chest deep in water trying to traverse the road.

Fatmata Sesay, who lives on the hilltop area of Juba, said she, her three children and husband were awoken at 3:00am by the sound of heavy rain.

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## 18 killed in Burkina Faso terror attack

Suspected jihadists blamed

AFP, Ouagadougou

At least 18 people including foreigners were killed and a dozen others wounded in a "terrorist attack" by suspected jihadists on a Turkish restaurant in the Burkina Faso capital, the government said yesterday.

Two assailants were also killed by security forces who launched a counter-assault following Sunday night's attack on the restaurant popular with foreigners, Communications Minister Remis Dandjinou said. It was not clear how many gunmen were involved.

The security operation "has ended" but searches are continuing in buildings in the Ouagadougou neighbourhood around the restaurant, Dandjinou told a press briefing early yesterday carried on social media.

The Istanbul restaurant is just 200 metres (yards) from a hotel and cafe targeted in an assault in January 2016 that left 30 people dead and 71 wounded, many of them foreigners. That attack was claimed by the al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) group.

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## Largest volcanic region found in Antarctica



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists believe they have found the largest volcanic region on Earth - under the ice of Antarctica.

A remote survey discovered 91 volcanoes ranging in height from 100 to 10,000 metres.

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১৫ আগস্ট জাতীয় শোক দিবস

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