

Bangladeshis doing fine in Libya

Its envoy tells press in Dhaka; terms report on human auction, slavery inaccurate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi migrants are living well in Libya, said Mahmoud M El Sallabi, chargé d'affaires of the Libyan embassy in Dhaka, at a press briefing yesterday.

The envoy also sought more assistance from the Bangladesh government to resolve the manpower recruitment crisis as it stopped sending workers there. "We have demands for skilled workers in the government offices and hospitals," he added.

The press briefing was held at the Libyan embassy over a media report on human auction and slavery in Libya. The embassy condemned and termed the report "inaccurate, unproven and irresponsible".

The Libyan government condemns any kind of human trafficking and smuggling, and denounces such acts, Mahmoud said.

However, in a press statement circulated by the Ministry of Justice in Libya on November 20, it said the criminal gangs and trafficking syndicates are utilising the political and security crisis in Libya, and committing trafficking crimes.

In mid November, several international media including the CNN ran a series of reports into the modern day Libyan slave market that shocked the world.

The release of a CNN investigative report titled, "People for sale: Where lives are auctioned for \$400", on November 14, revealed that a dozen men were sold at an auction outside of the capital, Tripoli -- some for as little as \$400. The news crew was told that the auctions were taking place at nine locations in the country.

Mahmoud said the Libyan authorities have already launched an investigation into it.

According to reports, the trade works by preying on tens of thousands of vulnerable people who risk everything to get to the Libyan coast and then across the Mediterranean into Europe -- a route that has been described as the most deadly.

Bangladeshi migrants are also reportedly crossing this dangerous passage, despite a ban on sending migrants to Libya due to an unstable political situation and armed conflicts there.

Many Bangladeshi fortune seekers who were trapped in detention centres in Libya gave horrendous accounts of tortures. They alleged that they were sold, held for ransom, used as forced labourers, or exploited sexually. Such incidents have been frequently reported in the last few years.

This time, a trade union

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and luggage. He said he was then pushed into a large room, filled with around 70 people -- around 25 Bangladeshis, some Pakistanis, Indians and nationals of China, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Qatar, Egypt and Somalia.

Tapan said the immigration officer asked the Bangladeshis, Indians and Pakistanis to sit on the floor.

"As a Bangladeshi, I felt so humiliated," he said. After lunch, Tapan felt sick and sat on the sofa, but an officer rushed in and kicked him in the stomach. The officer then asked: "Are you a businessman?"

Tapan was deported on November 18 evening, but before that he was asked to pay 200 more Malaysian ringgit. He said he had Tk 800, and he changed Tk 600 to 30 ringgit and gave it to the officer.

"The immigration officers behaved so rudely. While some Bangladeshis were sleeping on the floor in the morning, an officer shouted and kicked them, asking them to get up."

Earlier on July 19, Bangladesh Supreme Court lawyer Adilur Rahman Khan was also detained, mistreated by the KLIA immigration authorities, and deported in a similar fashion.

Contacted, North South Initiative Executive Director Adrian Pereira said such practices by the Malaysian immigration is very discriminatory and goes against fundamental right to the freedom of movement.

The South Asians are particularly targeted by the immigration officers, he told The Daily Star from Kuala Lumpur over the phone.

"The immigration officers must be held accountable," he said, demanding a probe into the matter.

Why not 'Joy Bangla'

FROM PAGE 5

The HC yesterday fixed December 10 for holding hearing on the rule, Deputy Attorney General Tapas Kumar Biswas told The Daily Star.

Bashir Ahmed himself moved the petition.

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Medical College for Women and Hospital
(A project of the Medical and Health Welfare Trust)
Plot # 4, Road # 8-9, Sector # 1, Uttara, Dhaka 1230

Memo no - MHWTP/PC/17/15 Date: 03/12/2017

RE TENDER INVITATION FOR CT SCANNER MACHINE

Sealed tenders are hereby invited to purchase a CT Scanner Machine for Radiology & imagine Dept. Tender documents will be sold from accounts department on payment of Tk. 1,000/- (One Thousand) only non refundable. Tender documents will be available from 09/12/2017 to 23/12/2017 from 8:30am to 2:00pm. Tender documents will be received at 4th floor the Board room up to 12:00 noon on 07/01/2018 and will be opened on the same day at 12:30 p.m in presence of the Tenderers if any. Authority reserves all right to accept or reject any or all Tenders without assigning any reason / reasons whatsoever.

(Prof. A.M. Mujibul Haq)
Chairman, Projects

DIPAN MURDER

Ansar Al Islam operative Saimon remanded

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An Ansar Al Islam operative Mozammel Hossain alias Saimon was shown arrested and remanded for four days yesterday in a case filed over the killing of Jagriti Prokashoni publisher Faisal Arefin Dipan in October 2015.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Mazharul Haque passed the order after Detective Branch Assistant Commissioner Fazlur Rahman and also the investigation officer of the case submitted a petition for showing Saimon arrested in the case.

The IO also sought a 10-day remand for quizzing him.

In yesterday's remand prayer, the IO said Saimon was directly involved in the killing of Dipan, adding that he needs to be remanded for gathering more information.

Jagriti Prokashoni owner Dipan was stabbed dead inside his office in Dhaka's

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NEWS IN brief

Suspended ASI remanded in Yaba peddling case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday granted a two-day remand for a suspended Assistant Sub-inspector (ASI) of Chittagong District Police as well as for his accomplice in a Yaba peddling case.

The two are suspended ASI Anwar Hossain and his associate Md Ujjal, said court sources. On November 28, the Detective Branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested the duo in Maijartek area with 1,000 Yaba pills. Later, a case was lodged with Karnaphuli Police Station.

'Plot to kill Joy': Court asks for probe report on Jan 4

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed January 4 for submitting the investigation report in a case filed for plotting to kill prime minister's son and her ICT adviser Sajeeb Wazed Joy after abduction in the USA.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Sorafuzzaman Ansari set the date as Hasan Arafat, the investigation officer of the case and also a senior assistant police commissioner of Detective Branch, failed to submit the report yesterday.

Earlier on August 3 in 2015, inspector Fazlur Rahman of the detective branch of police filed the case with Paltan Model Police Station accusing several people, including journalist Shafiq Rehman and Amar Desh editor Mahmudur Rahman.

World Health Organization Bangladesh

VACANCY NOTICE

World Health Organization (WHO) invites applications from the interested and eligible candidates for the following position under Special Service Agreement modality:

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General Manager (HR & Admin), Jamuna Group
Jamuna Future Park, Ka-244, Progati Sarani, Kuril, Baridhara, Dhaka-1229.

RESEARCH GRANTS IN TOBACCO CONTROL

Bangladesh Center for Communication Programs (BCCP) has been implementing a Research Grant Program on Tobacco Control Policy in collaboration with the Institute for Global Tobacco Control based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, USA since 2013. BCCP is now inviting the 6th round proposals from postgraduate students and individual researchers. The purpose of the Research Grant is to promote tobacco control policy research in Bangladesh. A total of 10 grants will be available through this round.

Proposals generating local evidence that may contribute to developing new policies or strengthening existing ones in line with the components of World Health Organization's MPOWER package are recommended.

The proposal submission themes and guidelines are available at <https://goo.gl/jAeFUA>. Three hard copies and an electronic version of the proposal in a CD should be submitted to the following address no later than 4:00 p.m. on January 04, 2018. Please mark the category "Student" or "Researcher" on top of the envelope.

BCCP Tobacco Control Research Grant Program
House # 08, Road # 03, Block- A
Section- 11, Mirpur, Dhaka-1216, Bangladesh
Email: btcr@bangladesh-ccp.org
Website: www.bangladesh-ccp.org

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Pan Pacific Sonargaon authority reserves the right to accept / reject any tender in part or in full or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Deputy Purchase Manager, Tel (880) 2 9128008 (Ext n : 4166)