

Two lakh Rohingyas went abroad with Bangladeshi passport: Nurul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two lakh Rohingyas went abroad using Bangladeshi passport, Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Nurul Islam said yesterday.

"They are earning there and sending money to Myanmar", the minister said while addressing a programme organised by Centre for NRB (Non-Resident Bangladeshi) at a city hotel.

"When I go abroad, many people identifying themselves as Bangladeshi come to visit me. Asked about residence [back in Bangladesh], they say they are Rohingyas," the minister added.

Centre for NRB arranged the event in Dhaka as part of "World Conference Series".

Addressing as chief guest, the minister said

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Khaleda can't be out of jail before polls

Says chief of AL ally Tarikat Foundation; adds Zia family members never coming to power again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tarikat Federation, a partner of the Awami League-led 14-party ruling alliance, yesterday categorically said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia would not be able to walk out of jail before the 11th parliamentary election, slated for December.

"There's no way she is getting released from jail," Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvondary, chairman of the party, said while addressing a programme at the Institution of Engineers' Bangladesh in Dhaka.

When asked, he told The Daily Star, "Though it's a sub justice matter, I understand the reality. And it's the fact."

Bashar also said no government will be formed under the leadership of former president Ziaur Rahman's family member in the country ever again.

"BNP's politics is doomed. Tarique Rahman (Zia's elder son) will be sent to jail if he is brought back home," he added.

The Special Court-5 in Dhaka sentenced Khaleda to rigorous imprisonment for five years on February 8 after she was found guilty in the Zia Orphanage Trust graft case.

Around a month before Khaleda's jail sentence, Jatiya Party Presidium Member Mashiur Rahman Ranga, also state minister for rural development and co-operative division, at a programme in Cox's Bazar on January 18, had said the BNP chairperson will have to go to jail in the next 15 days.

In addition, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad, at a views exchange meeting in Lalmonirhat on January 23, had said Khaleda Zia will have to go to jail within a few days.

Soon afterwards, the BNP chief landed in prison.



Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Choudhury delivering a lecture titled "Nation and Class: Thoughts and Concerns on Bangladesh and the Subcontinent", in Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of DU Social Science Faculty building yesterday. The lecture was the fifth episode of the "Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Distinguished Lecture" series.

PHOTO: STAR

Prisons will turn into correction centres

Law minister tells Legal Aid Services Day programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is going to formulate a new law and amend the existing prison rules to turn the country's jails into correction centres, said Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday.

The minister was addressing a programme on the occasion of National Legal Aid Services Day-2018 in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Anisul also said the government has also emphasised facilitating legal assistance to prisoners and to make their rehabilitation process faster.

"Following the prime minister's instructions, we have taken measures to complete trial procedures of prisoners in the shortest possible time," he said.

"It is the government's prioritised programme to formulate necessary legal framework to reduce sufferings of poor prisoners," he added.

Pointing to the government's legal assis-



tance programme, he said success of the programme depends on public awareness.

"A part of the country's population is still poor and illiterate. They are not much aware about their legal rights. So, we have to create public awareness about the matter through extensive publicity," the minister said.

To provide the poor with legal aid at the government's cost, the government formulated the National Legal Aid Services Act and established National Legal Aid Services Organization (NLASO) in 2000, said Anisul.

"Legal aid committees were formed in all 64 districts led by the district and sessions judges. The committees are also working at upazila and union levels. We have a legal aid committee at the apex court too," he added.

The law minister further said any citizen, especially acid attack victims, widows or those abandoned by their husbands, people

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29 sued over ex-Jubo League leader killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, City

A case was filed against 29 people, including nine named, on Friday night over the killing of former Jubo League leader Faridul Islam in Chittagong.

Victim's wife Monowara Begum filed the case with Chawkbazar Police Station.

The named accused include Jubo League activists MA Musa, Rasel and Foisal. However, no one was arrested till yesterday afternoon, said police.

Faridul, 35, former organising secretary of Jubo League Chawkbazar Thana unit, was shot dead and three pedestrians, including an 11-month-old boy, were injured during a clash between two groups of cable TV service providers over establishing supremacy on the cable TV business in the city's DC Road area on Friday.

We must break free from existing system

Prof Serajul Islam observes in his lecture

FAHMIM FERDOUS

The failure to implement communist ideologies in the societal system has shaped the course of this subcontinent for the worse, Professor Emeritus of Dhaka University Serajul Islam Choudhury observed yesterday.

In addition, the rise of capitalism has brought the world -- and as its part, Bangladesh -- to a difficult juncture, he added.

The preminent scholar and author made the observations while delivering a lecture on "Nation and Class: Thoughts and Concerns on Bangladesh and the Subcontinent" in Muzaffar Ahmed Chowdhury Auditorium of DU Social Science Faculty building.

Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Foundation organised the fifth episode of its ongoing lecture series titled, "Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Distinguished Lecture".

An over-capacity audience -- consisting largely of students -- crammed into the auditorium to soak in the wisdom and insights. Some of them stood at the back while some sat on the floor in front of and behind the podium.

Dr Ajoy Roy, an eminent educationist and former teacher of DU, chaired the session. Dr Ahrar Ahmad, director general of Gyantapas Abdur Razzak Foundation, delivered the welcome address.

Professor Syed Manzoorul Islam introduced the speaker through a brief speech.

In his lecture, Prof Serajul said, "When Bangladesh was established, there was a hope that people will be free. But that did not happen. Initiatives were taken to make the economy communism-focused and a strong planning commission was also formed."

"Its members did extensive research

but their recommendations were not accepted, and the commission itself disintegrated," he said.

He attributed it to a lack of political interest in bringing about a new system, and an interest in establishing the capitalist system.

"There are four perspectives on the question of nation and class in the subcontinent and Bangladesh. They are nationalist, liberal, religious fundamentalist and socialist," Prof Serajul asserted.

"Although there are major differences between them on the surface, a closer inspection reveals that the first three have something in common. They all believe in capitalism."

Delving into historical nuances of the socio-political landscape of the subcontinent, Prof Serajul explained how at various points in the process of

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Schoolchildren precariously hang behind a Leguna, a locally made passenger vehicle. Such a risky ride could turn fatal in no time. The photo was taken in the capital's Agargaon area on Thursday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Candidates pledge corruption-free KCC

STAR REPORT

Five mayoral candidates of the upcoming Khulna City Corporation (KCC) election yesterday promised that they will not misuse power and work for curbing corruption, violence against women and drug abuse if they are elected.

They also committed themselves to accepting the election results if it is held in a transparent manner.

The candidates -- Talukder Abdul Khaleque of Awami League, Nazrul Islam Monju of BNP, Mizanur Rahman Babu of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Shafiqul Islam of Jatiya Party and Md Mozammel of Islami Andolon Bangladesh -- made the pledges from the same stage at the city's Shaheed Hadis Park.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a civil society platform,

organised the programme titled "Jonogoner Mukhomukhi" [Face to face with the people].

At the programme, voters asked the five candidates various questions on how they will resolve the city's problems including waterlogging, recovering of canals, abuse of drugs and dilapidated condition of roads.

In reply, the candidates said they will launch various projects.

All five candidates pledged to follow the electoral code of conduct and not to influence the election process.

They also promised that they will work against violence and black money and will turn the KCC into a corruption-free office.

Other issues like stalking, child marriage, dowry, rape and crimes were also raised by the audience.

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Settling score, the BCL way!

OUR CORRESPONDENT, RU

It all started around two years ago.

Jihad Hossain, then a second-year student of anthropology department of Rajshahi University, had an altercation with Ruhul Amin Kisku, a second-year student of botany.

Kisku was also a Bangladesh Chhatra League activist.

The dispute soon turned violent. They had a fight. As a result, Kisku allegedly ended up with a head injury.

Jihad eventually got busy with his studies. But Kisku never forgot about the fight.

Two years went by. By this time, Kisku became a vice president of RU unit BCL.

On Friday evening, upon information that Jihad was alone at the Shaheed Sukhoranjan Samaddar Teacher Student Cultural Centre on the campus, Kisku along with some 12 to 15 BCL men went there.

Armed with iron rods and sticks, they swooped on Jihad. They beat him up bad and left the scene.

Later around 8:30pm, some of Jihad's

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Setting an example

Brotee's treatment plant distributes drinkable water among people in 3 C'nawabganj villages; 100 villages under 4 upazilas in Rajshahi, Naogaon free from child marriage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A decade ago, locals of Chamagram, Laharpur and Laxmipur under Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila used to face a severe crisis of pure drinking water because groundwater in the three villages was highly contaminated with arsenic.

Thanks to a modern facility known as Ecological Surface Water Treatment Plant (ESWTP), they could overcome the crisis.

In 2010, development organisation Brotee built the plant that treats water of the river Mahananda. The drinkable water is distributed among villagers through a 6.6km pipeline.

Brotee officials came up with the success story during a seminar yesterday at Bangla Academy in the capital. It arranged the seminar to mark the 17th anniversary of its development activities.

They also shared success of another one of its initiatives -- creating awareness on preventing child marriage among people in four upazilas. The upazilas are Tanore in Rajshahi; and Manda, Niamatpur and Mahadebpur in Naogaon.

As a result, 100 villages under the upazilas were freed from the clutches of child marriage in 2017, said Sharmeen Murshid, chief executive officer of Brotee.

She said although they could eliminate child marriage from the villages, they still have more works to do as some still want to marry off their under-aged children secretly.

On the water treatment plant, she said after four years of research the water treatment plant went on trial in 2008 and became fully operational two years later.

Each day, about 3 lakh litres of water is

distributed among the inhabitants of the three villages, who have to pay Tk 320 to Tk 350 as a monthly household tariff, she added.

"The plant can produce about 7 lakh litres of water per day and meet the demand of seven villages," she added.

AH Khan, a scientist who worked in the project, said ESWTP is a proven technology in several countries. Egypt used it in 2000 to treat the water of the Nile river.

During the seminar, some of the villagers also shared their stories on how they were benefited from the initiatives taken by Brotee.

Parul Khatun, a person with disability from Naogaon, said her family wanted to marry her off when she was in eighth grade. But with the help of locals, who were involved with the activities of Brotee, she stopped the marriage.

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Participants talk about the success of Brotee's initiatives during a seminar at Bangla Academy in the capital yesterday. The development organisation set up a treatment plant to facilitate drinkable water among locals of three villages in Chapainawabganj and freed 100 villages in Rajshahi and Naogaon from clutches of child marriage.

PHOTO: STAR