

"I went to Saudi Arabia two years back, but the employer neither arranged a residency visa nor a job for me. So I had to stay without Iqama ... Two weeks ago, police detained me and sent me back to Bangladesh."

SAJEEB HOSSAIN
OF SINGAIR,
MANIKGANJ, WHO
RETURNED HOME
ON OCT 3

Saudi job market shrinking fast

Due to stricter rules, number of Saudi-bound workers drops; many returning home

PORIMOL PALMA

The Saudi labour market is shrinking fast for Bangladeshis as locals are taking up foreign workers' jobs amid the kingdom's strong policy against undocumented migrants.

Fewer Bangladeshis are now migrating to the Middle Eastern country, traditionally the largest foreign labour market for Bangladesh, while more and more are returning home.

According to the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET), 187,224 Bangladeshi workers went to the kingdom from January to September this year with a monthly average of 20,802. The number was 551,308 last year with a

monthly average of around 46,000.

Officials at Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh said scores of Bangladeshis are returning from Saudi Arabia because job opportunities are drying up there. Besides, the Saudi authorities are now strictly enforcing the immigration laws, making it difficult for irregular foreign workers to stay there.

Talking to The Daily Star, Golam Moshi, Bangladesh Ambassador in Riyadh, said job opportunities for Bangladeshis and other foreign workers have shrunk because of the Saudi authorities' economic reforms.

Since October 3, more than 400 Bangladeshis returned home in three phases from Dammam Deportation Centre,

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TRAILBLAZERS: Bangladesh players and team officials celebrate with the trophy of the inaugural SAFF U-18 Women's Championship following their 1-0 win over Nepal in the final at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu yesterday. Masura Parvin's 49th-minute strike was enough to see them emerge unbeaten champions.

PHOTO: BFF

Truckers' strike to hurt supply chain

Lorries feeding Dhaka stay put in districts; workers of other divisions join work abstention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supply of perishable and other goods to the capital is likely to suffer further disruptions as truck owners and drivers vowed to continue their work abstention that started yesterday.

"We are yet to receive any response from the authorities. So, our programme [strike] will continue," Tajul Islam, member secre-

tary of Bangladesh Goods Transport Owners Workers United Council, told The Daily Star last night.

Although the council on Saturday announced that truck owners and transport workers would abstain from work in Dhaka division only, truckers in many districts expressed solidarity and joined the strike to press home their seven-point demand,

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DENGUE CASES Sharp rise rings alarm

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"What thousands of bombs and a hundred of militants could not do, an Aedes mosquito has done it today. [I'm] hospitalised! Seeking blessing!" wrote Sanwar Hossain, chief of the bomb disposal unit of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime

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Movement from single platform

BNP, Juktofront, Jatiya Oikya Prokriya decide to join hands for five-point demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP, Juktofront, and Jatiya Oikya Prokriya have decided to wage a movement from a single platform to press home their five-point demand, including release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President ASM Abdur Rob made the announcement after a meeting of the parties was held at BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain's home in the capital yesterday.

Juktofront is an alliance comprising Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury's Bikalpadhara Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Rob) and

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BNP looks to 'forgotten ones'

High-ups plan to bring back expelled, reformist leaders to strengthen party

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

In a bid to strengthen the party ahead of the next general election, the BNP high-ups have launched an initiative to reinstate expelled leaders and reformists who became politically inactive after the 1/11 changeover.

In a standing committee meeting last week, the top brass have agreed in principle to bring back the former party men,

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Walton Hi-Tech Industries Ltd., Excellence in Import Substitution

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