

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A KEY TO YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2019, FALGUN 5, 1425 BS **16**

Untold stories of Bangladeshi migrant workers



PHOTO: RASHED SUMON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Stories of recent migrants are replete with contract substitution, confiscation of passport, casualisation of work, non- or irregular payment of salaries, physical torture, deception and so on.

GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES

Successive governments of Bangladesh have taken various steps to streamline the labour recruitment process. Included among those are framing of two overseas employment policies, one in 2006 and the other in 2017 and the Overseas

Employment and Migration act, 2013. It has strengthened the human resource capacity of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment (EWOE), increased the number of district manpower offices—DEMOs (42)—and technical training centres—TTCs (64).

The line agency of the concerned ministry has successfully decentralised many of its functions such as finger printing and distribution of smart card facilities. The government has recently

framed the Wage Earners Welfare Board Act 2018 to manage the welfare fund more effectively. Forty-one labour attachés are working in 26 countries. Despite all these efforts migration cost in Bangladesh remains high and aspirant migrants continue to be cheated on many fronts—more so in the international labour market for the less skilled—where Bangladeshi workers are mostly absorbed—which has largely remained unregulated beyond any meaningful control of institutions of the

receiving countries. Some receiving countries have attempted to bring in reforms. But despite those efforts, work and living conditions of the less skilled migrants remain much to be improved upon.

Given the reality of the current labour management portrayed above, one can say bilateralism so far has failed to protect the rights and dignity of Bangladeshi migrants. The most recent years have witnessed a number of multilateral initiatives such as the UN High Level

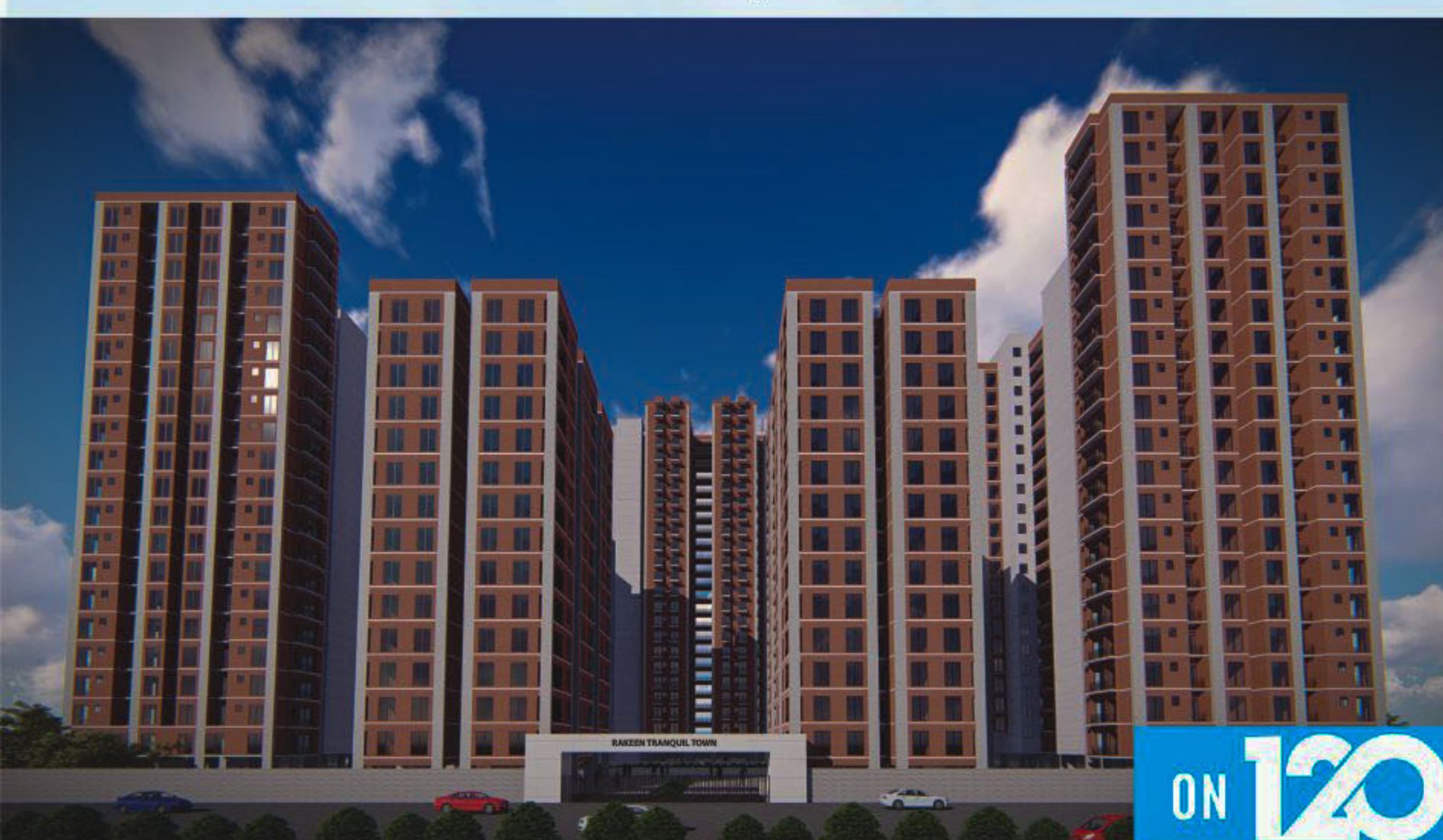
Dialogues, Annual Meetings of the Global Forum on Migration and Development, and the adoption of the Global Compact of Migration. Along with corruption free accountable governance in Bangladesh, perhaps now is the time to pursue multilateralism in ensuring protection of migrants in destination countries.

Tasneem Siddiqui is Professor of Political Science, University of Dhaka. She is the founding Chair of RMMRU.

The wait is over !

rakeen
Tranquil Town
Kanchpur

Where **tranquility** meets **connectivity**



ON **120** BIGHA LAND



Throughout the world, successful people are moving their homes to places with tranquil nature and excellent connectivity. These places are developing into residential zones with every modern day facility or amenity. They travel to the city for work in the morning, and come back to their tranquil homes in the evening.

Rakeen Tranquil Town offers just that. A life of tranquility at home. With major commercial urban places and industrial zones just a short drive away.

Tranquility: Nature & Open Air • Health at Home • Care for your children • Care for your parents • Prayer & Special Needs • Safety & Security • Secure from Natural Calamity
Connectivity: Via 8-lane Kanchpur bridge to Motijheel: 20 minutes • 4-lane Expressway to Purbachal: 30 minutes • Purbachal and Kuril flyover to Airport: 55 minutes • Tarabo bridge to Rampura: 30 minutes • Via Signboard Chowrasta to Narayanganj: 25 minutes

Grab the
Early Bird Offer.
Call us today!

rakeen
world class living

Rakeen Development Company (BD) Ltd.

www.rakeenbd.com f/rakeenbd

01977799100 | 01977799200 | 01977799300