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## MIGRANTS' WELFARE

# Budget skips core problems

Say experts, express surprise at decrease in allocation for expatriates' welfare ministry

PORIMOL PALMA

Cash incentives on remittance offered in the next budget will help boost foreign currency inflow, but the decline in allocation for the expatriate welfare ministry means low priority for the migrant workers' rights, analysts said.

The budget also doesn't address the core problems facing the sector, they added.

The government proposed allocating Tk 3,060 crore to provide two percent incentives to ease the burden of high cost of sending remittances -- the first ever move to encourage remittance via legal means.

However, the allocation for the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment has come down from Tk 596 crore in the outgoing fiscal year to Tk 591 for the next one.

"Providing incentives to the migrants has been our demand for a long time. This incentive will help boost remittance as well as the migrants' credit worthiness and banking literacy," said Prof Tasneem Siddiqui, chair of Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit of Dhaka University.

In 2018, nearly one crore migrants sent home \$15.5 billion via legal channel. The government says the amount could have been much higher given if the money was sent only through legal means.

However, experts say the assumption is only partly true. There are other reasons why remittance growth is low. For example, the remittance in 2015 was \$ 15.27 billion. Over

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Protesters gather again to rally outside the Legislative Council government offices against a controversial extradition bill in Hong Kong yesterday. Beijing reiterated its backing of Hong Kong's embattled leader Carrie Lam after a massive demonstration demanding her resignation over the bill.

PHOTO: AFP



## Morsi dies after falling ill in court

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's first democratically elected civilian president Mohamed Morsi, an Islamist who was ousted after one year of divisive rule, died after falling ill during a court hearing yesterday, the attorney general said. He was 67.

Morsi had been "animated" during a hearing in the retrial of an espionage case where he was accused of collaborating with adverse foreign powers and militant groups, judicial and security sources said.

"The court granted him his request to speak for five minutes... He fell to the ground in the cage... and was transported immediately to the hospital. A medical report found... no pulse or

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## Halt Rampal, other projects in question

TIB urges govt amid Inesco concern over the Sundarbans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday called upon the government to immediately suspend all controversial projects, including the Rampal power plant near the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

Issuing a statement, the graft watchdog expressed deep concern following the Unesco's recent proposal to put the Sundarbans on the list of "World Heritage in Danger" in the proposed agenda for its 43rd session to be held in Azerbaijan's Baku.

The TIB urged the government to take into consideration the Unesco World Heritage Committee's recommendation to conduct a Strategic Environment Assessment and draw up a time-bound action plan.

TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the World Heritage Committee's proposal proves that their concern about the danger to the Sundarbans was not baseless.

"We think such a situation has been created as the government overlooked the concern and suggestions

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ATROCITIES ON ROHINGYAS

## UN warns Myanmar of withdrawing aid

Move aimed at avoiding complicity in a govt "policy of apartheid"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Nations has warned Myanmar of withdrawing support in the Rakhine state to avoid complicity in a government "policy of apartheid" for Rohingyas, reported The Guardian.

The British newspaper found a copy of a letter that was sent from Knut Ostby, UN resident and humanitarian coordinator in Myanmar, to Win Myat Aye, minister for social welfare in Myanmar, relaying the decision.

The letter was issued on June 6, the report added. The UN decided to withhold support "beyond life-saving assistance" in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps deemed "closed" by the government, unless fundamental changes occur.

Agencies of the UN have worked continuously in camps for Muslim communities displaced by violence in Myanmar's restive Rakhine state seven years ago.

The letter said from now on, UN assistance could only be provided when it was "linked to tangible progress made on the fundamental issue of freedom of movement".

Ostby said, the policy by the Myanmar government "risks entrenching segregation".

In 2017, the Myanmar government vowed to begin closing the IDP camps, where 128,000 Rohingya and Kaman Muslims have been forced to live in squalid, insanitary conditions with their freedom of movement severely restricted after their homes were destroyed in violence in 2012.

The government agreed to follow recommendations of a commission led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan which called for the displaced people to be rehoused in a voluntary and consultative manner, where possible, near their original villages, and with access to livelihoods.

However, the living conditions for the relocated Rohingyas remain dire and virtually unchanged, with their basic human rights, particularly

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## Sohel Taj wants his nephew back

Seeks PM's intervention

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for home affairs Sohel Taj yesterday sought the prime minister's intervention in finding his nephew who was allegedly picked up by plainclothes men over his relationship with a woman.

He made the request at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

According to the family, Syed Iftekhar Alam Sourav, a student of media and communications at Independent University Bangladesh, was picked up by some plainclothes men from in front of Afmi Plaza in Chattogram city on June 9 around 7:00pm. Sourav went there with his CV for a job after being asked by law enforcers over the phone, but he never returned home.

Asked what could be the fate of an abduction victim from an ordinary family given the fact that the nephew of a former state minister has been abducted, Sohel Taj said, "We are citizens of Bangladesh. We

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## Xi gets ice cream gift from Putin



CNN ONLINE

Chinese President Xi Jinping celebrated his 66th birthday Saturday alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin, who surprised him with ice cream, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The two leaders met in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, where they were attending the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA).

It marks their second meeting in just under a week, following an earlier appearance at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Kyrgyzstan's capital Bishkek.

"The Russian leader praised Xi Jinping's role in the development of bilateral relations and noted the success of the recent state visit by China's President to Russia," reads the Kremlin statement. "Vladimir Putin gave Xi Jinping Russian ice cream as a birthday present."

Xi thanked Putin for the ice cream and said

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## 11-year-old girl 'raped' in Savar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Police yesterday arrested a man for allegedly raping an 11-year-old girl in Savar on the outskirts of the capital.

Tushar Kha, 26, is a day labourer and a neighbour of the victim's family, said Bodruzzaman, sub-inspector of Ashulia Police Station.

Tushar entered the girl's house around 10:30pm on Sunday while no one else was there, the SI said, adding that the matter came to light when her parents returned home after a while.

Later, the girl's father filed a case with the police station accusing Tushar, he added.

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PRAYER TIMING JUNE 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:05	12:45	5:00	6:50	8:15
JAMAAT 4:40	1:15	5:15	6:55	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Hilsa being sorted at the Boro Station Machhghat of Chnadpur yesterday. Good catch in the Padma and its confluence with the Meghna has resulted in the prices of hilsa to drop a little.

PHOTO: ALAM PALASH

সুন্দর কিছু হোক  
আপনার... সুখি পরিবার  
কল সেন্টারে

প্রয়োজনীয় পরামর্শ পেতে  
ডায়াল করুন  
১৬৭৬৭

আইইএম ইউনিট, পরিবার পরিকল্পনা অধিদপ্তর  
স্বাস্থ্য শিক্ষা ও পরিবার কল্যাণ বিভাগ

স্বাস্থ্য ও পরিবার কল্যাণ মন্ত্রণালয়

সুখি পরিবার  
১৬৭৬৭  
পরিবার পরিকল্পনা অধিদপ্তর

পরামর্শ দিবে >>>

- জরুরি প্রসূতি সেবা
- পরিবার পরিকল্পনা সেবা
- প্রসব পরবর্তী পরিবার পরিকল্পনা সেবা
- গর্ভবতীর সেবা
- নবজাতক ও শিশু সেবা
- কৈশোরকালীন প্রজনন স্বাস্থ্য ও
- পুষ্টি সেবা