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BANGLADESHIS IN MALAYSIA

Uncertainty grips 28,000

Due to high air fare, these illegal migrants may not make it home by Dec 31 amnesty deadline

RASHIDUL HASAN and JAMIL MAHMUD

About 28,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers in Malaysia are still facing uncertainty over returning home within the December 31 amnesty deadline due to the high price of air tickets and a shortage of flights, said sources at the expatriates' welfare ministry.

The Malaysian government offered the amnesty under its "back for good (B4G)" programme to repatriate illegal foreigners from August 1, according to the Malaysian Immigration Department.

Amid this, the government last night decided to give a subsidy of Tk 10,000 per ticket of Biman Bangladesh Airlines on Kuala Lumpur-Dhaka flight to bring back migrant workers registered under the B4G programme, said a top official of the Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment Ministry.

With the subsidy, now a migrant worker will have to pay Tk 23,000 per ticket to reach Dhaka from Kuala Lumpur.

Taking advantage of the high demand for tickets from migrant workers who want to return home, different airlines operating on the Dhaka-Kuala Lumpur route suddenly increased their airfares four to five times than the usual price in recent months.

The regular fare for a one-way ticket from Kuala Lumpur to Dhaka is around Tk 10,000-15,000, which shot up to

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina poses for a photo with winners of Begum Rokeya Padak 2019 at a function in the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday. The PM handed the awards to five eminent personalities for their contribution to women empowerment and social development.

PHOTO: PID

Stay alert to repression on women

Says PM, hands over Rokeya Padak to winners

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged all to remain alert to all forms of repression on women, saying that enacting laws was not enough to end the menace.

"We have enacted laws, but only enacting laws is not enough. Both men and women have to be aware so that no one becomes victim of such torture," she said.

The PM was addressing a programme at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium, marking the 139th birth and 87th death anniversary of Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain.

Hasina said special attention was needed to ensure the protection of women in all spheres of life.

The PM said Bangladesh was marching ahead in terms of women development. She said an evolution has taken place in

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Univs turned into business organisations

Says president at DU convocation, blames a section of teachers

UNB, Dhaka

President Abdul Hamid yesterday said commercial courses were turning public universities into business organisations and this was disrupting the atmosphere on the campus.



"Thousands of graduates are being produced every year with these commercial courses. A section of teachers is making profits [from these courses]... and turning the universities into business institutions," he said at the 52nd convocation of Dhaka University.

Hamid, also the chancellor of the university, said there was a question about how many students were benefiting from these degrees.

"Many public universities assume the character of private universities at night... This is unacceptable."

He said some teachers were reluctant

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Razakars' list may be out on Dec 16

Govt plans to roll it out in phases

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The government is going to publish the names of 11,000 Razakars who had been on Pakistan payroll and collaborated with the Pakistan occupation army in mass killings and carrying out atrocities against freedom fighters during the Liberation War.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs is likely to start publishing their names in phases from December 16, on the country's 49th Victory Day. It has a plan to publish the names of members of other collaboration forces like Al-Badr and Al-Shams later on.

It is publishing the list provided by the home ministry. The initiative of making public the full list of Razakars suffered a setback due to lukewarm responses from deputy commissioners.

The Ministry of Liberation War Affairs asked for lists of such Razakars from DCs of 64 districts, but only 10 responded. Five of them said they did not find any Razakars in their districts.

"We will begin publishing the list of Razakars [who had been on Pakistan payroll] soon, and there is a strong possibility of starting the process on Victory Day," Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq told The Daily Star.

He added that no one would be able to raise any question about the authenticity of the list as the names came from the home ministry.

The minister said the process of listing Razakars would continue, and the government would issue a gazette notification after the list was published.

"Later, we will prepare lists of Al-Badr, Al-Shams members, and other collaborators," he said.

Successive governments in the last 48 years did not list the members of anti-liberation forces like Razakar, Al-Badr, and Al-Shams.

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On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 10 Fearing defeat, Lt Gen Amir Abdullah Khan Niazi tries to plot an escape but BBC leaks his plan. To conceal his weakness, he goes to Hotel Intercontinental and asks, "Where are the international journalists? I want them to know that I will never leave my army behind."

Fighter jets of the allied force bomb the radio station in Dhaka. They also continue attacks on the Kurmitola airbase to dominate the area.

Chatogram and

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Buy a phone, get a kilo of onion free



NDTV ONLINE

The rising cost of onions has led to some innovative marketing and publicity stunts. Case in point - a shop in Tamil Nadu that is offering a kilogram of onions free with the purchase of a smartphone. STR Mobiles, a mobile sales and service centre in Pattukottai, is offering one kg of onions free with every smartphone purchased at their store, reports The News Minute.

The price of the kitchen staple has been skyrocketing over the last few days, touching Rs 180 per kg during the weekend.

The owner of STR Mobiles, Saravanakumar, thought that the idea of giving out free onions with phone would boost the popularity of his shop. He claims that the unusual scheme, which was started last week, has attracted more customers to his shop.

"The offer has brought in more customers, indeed," he said to The Hindu. "Normally I sell only three to four mobile handsets a day. But after

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BIWTA starts drive against illegal river port in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) yesterday launched an eviction drive to remove all structures of the illegal river port on the bank of Hurasagar river at Brishalikka in Pabna's Bera upazila.

A mobile court, led by shipping ministry's Deputy Secretary Habibur Rahman Hakim, demolished all the eight ghats, four connecting roads and an office room of the illegal port, which was

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Minor girl raped by neighbour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

A four-and-a-half-year-old girl was allegedly raped by her neighbour in Faridpur Sadar upazila on Sunday.

The accused, Abdul Hye Mollik, 55, is an autorickshaw driver.

Victim's father said the perpetrator lured his daughter to his house by promising her chocolates on Sunday noon when she was home alone.

Returning home, the girl narrated everything to her aunt.

Mother of the girl told The Daily Star that Mollik's family members obstructed her while she was taking her daughter to the hospital on Sunday evening.

Later, the girl was taken to Faridpur Medical College Hospital yesterday morning with the help of other neighbours.

This correspondent could not contact Mollik for his comments despite repeated attempts as his cell phone was switched off.

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A thick layer of dust covers part of a road in the capital's Kamalapur, posing health hazards and reducing visibility for drivers and pedestrians. Locals said the authorities did not remove piles of dirt from the road after carrying out development work there a few months ago. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

GLOBAL SPORTING EVENTS

Russia banned for 4 yrs over dope tests

REUTERS, Lausanne/Moscow

Russia was banned from the world's top sporting events for four years yesterday, including the next summer and winter Olympics and the 2022 soccer World Cup, for tampering with doping tests.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) executive committee acted after concluding that Moscow had planted fake evidence and deleted files linked to positive doping tests in laboratory data that could have helped identify drug cheats.

The decision was a huge blow to the pride of a nation that has traditionally been a powerhouse in many sports but whose reputation has been tarnished by a series of doping scandals.

"For too long, Russian doping has detracted from clean sport," WADA president Craig Reedie said.

"The blatant breach by the Russian authorities of RUSADA's reinstatement conditions...demanded a robust response. That is exactly what has been delivered today," he said in a statement.

The impact of the unanimous decision was felt immediately, with WADA confirming that the Russian national team could not take part in the 2022 World Cup in Qatar under the Russian flag and could only participate as neutrals.

"If they qualify, a team representing Russia cannot participate, but if there is a mechanism put in place, then they can apply to participate on a neutral basis, not as representatives of Russia," Jonathan Taylor, chair of WADA's compliance review committee, told a news conference.

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