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No 'ethical practice' in recruitment

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh is far from practising ethical recruitment, which requires a zero-cost migration policy and transparency in the entire migration cycle, and also ensures that migrants do not face exploitation, according to researchers.

They said Bangladeshi migrants pay the highest recruitment cost and get one of the lowest per capita wages due to unethical recruitment practices and low-level skills.

According to a 2015 World Bank report, the average recruitment cost in Kuwait for a migrant was \$1,955. But for a Bangladeshi it was \$3,131, which is about nine times their monthly wages.

For an Indian, the migration cost is about two and a half months' salary and for a Sri Lankan about a month's wage.

To go to Malaysia to work, Bangladeshis had to pay Tk 4 lakh during 2016-2018 whereas Nepali workers pay equivalent to Tk 50,000 or less.

Malaysia suspended its labour market for Bangladeshis in September last year over allegations of syndicates controlling the recruitments and costs being too high.

The high cost for Bangladeshi workers was also reported in United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries, major labour markets for Bangladeshis.

The UAE also has restrictions for Bangladeshi workers

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Three people, including two policemen, ride on a motorbike in the capital's Kakrail without wearing helmets, in violation of the traffic rules that the law enforcers themselves are tasked with enforcing. More than two people are also not allowed on the same motorcycle. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



On this day in 1971

DECEMBER 18

Two high officials of the Bangladesh government -- Ruhul Quddus, newly appointed secretary general, and Abdul Khaleque, inspector general of police -- reach Dhaka. Cheers and gunfire are heard every now and then. The freedom fighters are celebrating their victory.

French intellectual Andre Malraux sends an open letter to the US President Nixon lambasting his stance against India and Bangladesh. He says

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AMAN PADDY PROCUREMENT

At a snail's pace in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinaipur

The government-sponsored programme that promised to procure Aman paddy directly from marginal farmers has been operating at a slow pace for half a month in eight districts of Rangpur division.

Although the programme officially started on November 20, the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE) could manage to finish making a list of nearly 175,000 farmers in the division only recently.

Due to the delay, the Regional Food Controller's Office in Rangpur managed to procure only 3,865 tonnes of paddy until December 9 whereas the government set a target of procuring 126,883 tonnes in this harvesting season.

Contacted, Raihanul Kabir, divisional food controller of Rangpur, said the number of farmers in the region was far more than what the government initially presumed it to be.

Thus, it took additional time to start procuring paddy in full swing from the enlisted farmers, he said, adding, "We made the list through a lottery."

Meanwhile, Mohammad Ali, deputy director of DAE of Rangpur, said the entire process of procuring paddy was delayed due to the setback in making the list.

"Besides, high moisture in the paddy was one of the reasons for the delay," he said.

Paddy with high moisture cannot be stored properly, he added.

In the face of this sluggish purchase, prices of paddy in these districts continued to remain low, raising worries among many farmers.

Subol Roy, a farmer in Gopalganj area of Dinaipur, said if the government had started procuring paddy in full swing, the price of paddy could have been better in the market.

On last Tuesday, the farmers sold their paddy at Tk 16 per kilogramme in a wholesale market in Dinaipur Sadar, he added.

Azizul Islam, a farmer of the same area, said they could manage to be at their break-even if the price was at least Tk 18.5 per kilogramme.

Asked, Rangpur's Divisional Food Controller Raihanul claimed the

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BANGABANDHU KILLING

Where were AL leaders?

PM wants to know

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she was still looking for an answer as to where all Awami League leaders had been when Bangabandhu was assassinated and why none of them came forward to play a courageous role against the killing.

"It's [Awami League] such a large organisation ... so many leaders! Where had they been? Sometimes I want to know that; no one came forward with their courage. The mass people were always with Bangabandhu," she said while addressing a discussion arranged to mark the 49th Victory Day.

The AL organised the event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital with its President Hasina in the chair.

Hasina wondered why nobody took any

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2 jailed over rape attempt on Aussie tourist

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A court in Cox's Bazar yesterday sent two youths to jail on charge of attempting to rape an Australian national in Himchhari area of Ramu upazila on Monday.

The accused are Aman Ullah, 25, and Abdul Gafur, 20, said police.

Abul Khayer, officer-in-charge of Ramu Police Station, said the two broke through the windows of Mermaid Beach Resort in Marine Drive area and entered the room of the

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Dummies 'control' Bengaluru traffic

NDTV ONLINE

Bengaluru Traffic Police has come up with an innovative solution to the city's infamous traffic problem.

Life-size mannequins, dressed as traffic police personnel, have been placed at important junctions of the city to regulate traffic and deter traffic rule violators.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 2



49 journos murdered worldwide in 2019: RSF

AFP, Paris

Forty-nine journalists were killed across the world in 2019, Reporters Without Borders said yesterday, the lowest death toll in 16 years.

The "historically low"

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-05	12-45	3-45	5-21	7-00
JAMAAT 5-50	1-15	4-00	5-24	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Ducusu VP Nurul Haque Nur, in blue panjabi, along with his supporters, and Muktijuddho Moncho activists engaged in clash yesterday near Raju Memorial Sculpture in the capital's Dhaka University area. The incident took place after Moncho activists tried to obstruct Nur from holding a rally to protest India's Citizenship Amendment ACT.

PHOTO: COLLECTED



আমরা শোষণ

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রীর সামরিক সচিব মেজর জেনারেল মিয়া মোহাম্মদ জয়নুল আবেদীন, বীর বিক্রম ১৭ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৯ মঙ্গলবার সিঙ্গাপুরের মার্কেট এলিজাবেথ হাসপাতালে সিঙ্গাপুর স্থানীয় সময় ৭টা ১৩ মিনিটে ইন্তেকাল করেন (ইন্না লিল্লাহি ওয়া ইন্না ইলাইহি রাজিউন)।

তাঁর মৃত্যুতে ইসলামী ব্যাংক বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড গভীর শোক প্রকাশ করছে। আমরা তাঁর আত্মার মাগফিরাত কামনা করে শোকসন্তপ্ত পরিবারের প্রতি গভীর সমবেদনা জ্ঞাপন করছি।

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