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RETURNEES FROM BAHRAIN

1,200 stuck with expired visas

JAMIL MAHMUD

About 1,200 returnees from Bahrain, who got stuck home for months amid the coronavirus pandemic, are facing uncertainty over going back to their workplaces as their visas expired.

The Bangladeshi expatriates, mostly migrant workers, came home on vacation before the virus spread across the world early this year. They got stranded following the suspension of global air communications.

Now without income for several months, many of them are finding it hard to meet expenses of their family members. They sought immediate steps from the Bangladesh government to diplomatically negotiate with the Bahrain authorities for allowing them return to the Gulf country.

"The pandemic changed everything. I remained stuck and saw my visa get expired. Now I see a bleak future ahead," said Imdad Ullah, a migrant worker, who came home on February 15 on a three-month vacation.

The 35-year-old from Sylhet's Goainghat used to work at a coffee shop in Bahrain and was supposed to go back in May. His visa expired in June.

He said his immediate supervisor assured him of rehiring if he could make it to Bahrain. But there is little chance for

him to enter the Gulf country in the current situation, since the Bahrain government is not allowing renewal of his expired visa.

"All of my papers were valid," he said, adding that he could apply for a new visa but issuance of such visas for Bangladeshi workers also remained suspended.

He said his identity card, known as Central Population Registry (CPR) which allows him to stay in Bahrain, still remains valid till 2022.

Phul Miah, 39, is facing a similar problem. Employed as a driver in Bahrain, he came home on February 25 and was supposed to return on July 22.

"But now, I am stuck home without work," he said recently over the phone, adding he has been facing acute financial hardship.

"My wife and seven siblings largely depend on my income," said Phul, who is from Sylhet's South Surma area.

If the Bangladesh government takes steps considering the coronavirus situation and negotiate with the Bahrain government, it will help many of migrants like him to return to their workplaces, he added.

Bahrain is home to around 150,000 Bangladesh nationals.

Construction is the biggest sector of employment for Bangladeshis in Bahrain --

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Dust kicked up by vehicles makes life difficult in Amin Bazar Truck Stand area beside Dhaka-Aricha highway. Vessels carry sand via the Turag and offload it to trucks at Amin Bazar. The vehicles usually drop some of their cargo as they travel on the highway, leading to the dust problem. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

MYANMAR ELECTION UK unhappy at exclusion of Rohingyas

Calls for amendment to citizenship law

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UK has urged Myanmar to amend its citizenship law and hold elections in parts of Rakhine and other areas where polls were cancelled on Sunday.

Nigel Adams, the British minister for Asia at the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, in a statement on Monday said the 2020 elections are a significant milestone on Myanmar's path from military dictatorship to democracy. He said his country would work with the new government and civil society to this end.

However, the minister expressed disappointment that the Rohingyas and other minorities were once again disenfranchised.

Some 600,000 Rohingyas live in Rakhine state of Myanmar, while about 750,000 fled a violent military crackdown there and took shelter in Bangladesh.

"Elections were cancelled in areas of conflict without a clear rationale or

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FIRST YEAR OF BANGLADESH BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

Awami Jubo League formed

November 11, 1972
 SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

NEW YOUTH POLITICAL ORGANISATION FLOATED Sheikh Fazlul Huq Moni, a member of the Awami League organising committee, at a press conference at the National Press Club today announces formation of a new youth political organisation under the name of Bangladesh Awami Jubo League (BAJL). Shiekh Moni, who is also the convener of the BAJL, declares that the aim of the new organisation would be to organise the youth forces of the country with a view to reconstruction of the war-torn country on the basis of the four basic principles of the state policy as enunciated by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, popularly known as Mujibbad.



\$1 BILLION AID COMMITTED TO BANGLADESH Bangladesh has so far received tentative commitments of about one billion dollars in aid, grant and loans from different countries. The money will be available to Bangladesh within December this year. The highest individual contributor is the United States, followed by India, Canada and the USSR. The international community and specialised financial institutions are expected to place an additional 800 million dollars at the disposal of the Bangladesh government by the middle of June next year.

BANGLADESH WILL BUY WHEAT FROM US Government of Bangladesh today signs a contract for purchase of

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LAUNDERING Tk 168CR Court frames charges against GK Shamim, seven others

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday framed charges against expelled Jubo League leader GK Shamim, a top contractor of government projects, and his seven bodyguards in a case filed for laundering Tk 168 crore.

The eight, now in jail, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice after Md Nazrul Islam of the Special Judge's Court-10 of Dhaka read out the charges.

The seven bodyguards are: Delwar Hossain, Murad Hossain, Zahidul Islam, Shahidul Islam, Kamal Hossain, Samsad Hossain, and Aminul Islam.

Yesterday, the judge dismissed seven petitions submitted by their lawyers for discharging them from the case.

The judge fixed

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Scientists discover two new marsupial species in Australia



CNN ONLINE

If you take a walk through the forests of Australia's east coast, you might come across the greater glider -- a possum-sized marsupial with big ears and a long furry tail, that glides from tree to tree.

Until last week, the glider was classified as a single species, but a new study found that it was actually three different ones, marking the discovery of two new marsupial species.

"Australia's biodiversity just got a lot richer," said Professor Andrew Krockenberger of James Cook University, who was part of the research team. "It's not every day that new mammals are confirmed, let alone two new mammals."

Scientists have long suspected the glider

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Mumbai cruise to 5th IPL title

REUTERS, Dubai

Defending champions Mumbai Indians claimed their fifth Indian Premier League title after romping to a five-wicket victory over Delhi Capitals in yesterday's final in Dubai.

Mumbai's bowlers, led by Trent Boult (3-30), laid the foundation for their comprehensive victory by restricting Delhi to a below-par 156-7.

Mumbai skipper Rohit Sharma smashed a breezy 68 and Ishan Kishan made 33 not out as they prevailed with eight balls to spare for their fourth win against Delhi this season.

Playing their maiden IPL final against the

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GRAFT ALLEGATION Postal dept DG sent on forced leave

UNB, Dhaka

The Posts and Telecommunications Division yesterday sent Sudhangshu Shekhar Bhadra, director general of the Directorate of Posts, on forced leave as primary investigation found evidence of graft against him.

A notice was issued in this regard yesterday and it will come into effect from today. The leave will remain in force until further notice.

According to the notice, several allegations of corruption have been brought against Sudhangshu and evidence was also found in this regard.



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 11
 Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 5:00 12:45 3:45 5:25 7:30
 JAMAAT 5:35 1:15 4:00 5:30 7:30
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Maintaining proper hygiene, Ranu Begum (right) has been offering homemade food to students, teachers and others at an affordable price on Dhaka University campus for almost 13 years. Between 200 and 250 people are served at her stall near TSC in regular times. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Europe's Covid death toll set to top 300,000

Brazil halts trials of Sinovac vaccine after an 'adverse incident'

AGENCIES

The Covid-19 death toll in Europe was set to pass 300,000 yesterday, according to a Reuters tally, and authorities fear that despite hopes for a new vaccine, fatalities and infections will continue to rise as the region heads into winter.

With just 10% of the world's population, Europe accounts for almost a quarter of both the 50.9 million cases and 1.2 million deaths globally and even its well-equipped hospitals are feeling the strain.

The United States is the worst-affected country with 238,251 deaths from 10,110,552 cases. After the US, the hardest-hit countries are Brazil with 162,628 deaths, India with 127,059, Mexico with 95,255 and the United Kingdom with 49,063 deaths.

After achieving a measure of control over the pandemic with broad lockdowns earlier this year, case numbers have surged since the summer and governments have ordered a second series of restrictions to limit social contacts.

In all, Europe has reported some 12.3 million cases and 295,000 deaths and over the past week, it has seen 280,000 cases a day, up 10% from the week earlier, representing just over half of all new infections reported globally.

Hopes have been raised by Pfizer Inc's announcement of a potentially effective new vaccine, but it is not expected to be generally available before 2021 and health systems will have to cope with the winter months unaided.

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