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# Get jobs abroad via legal channels

PM urges migrants; directs ministry, agencies to take care of the ones in trouble abroad

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry and recruiting agencies to take care of Bangladeshi expatriates.

"I request you one thing that those who're involved in manpower migration -- from the recruiting agencies to the ministry -- to give

them [expatriates] due honour and make sure they're not facing any problem," she said while addressing a programme virtually marking the International Migration Day 2020 from the Gono Bhaban.

The expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry organised the event at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre (BICC). Hasina said everything has to be looked after by the recruiting agencies

and the ministry for those who are willing to go abroad. "Ensure their security, especially the female migrant workers.

About the homebound expatriates who have lost their jobs during the Covid-19 pandemic, she said the government is taking care of them and



Risking their lives, people jump over a median railing on a flyover after being dropped off by a bus in the capital's Postogola. Violating traffic rules, most bus drivers drop passengers in the middle of flyovers. The photo was taken yesterday.

**AMRAN HOSSAIN** 

ORIGINS OF PANDEMIC

### China blocks entry to WHO Covid team

Tedros 'disappointed'

AFP, Beijing

An expert mission to China to probe the origins of the Covid-19 pandemic was in disarray yesterday after Beijing denied entry to the World Health Organization team at the last minute despite months of painstaking negotiations.

Ten experts were due to arrive in China this week for the delicate, highly politicised task of establishing how and where the virus jumped from animals to humans.

But with a number of the team already in transit, China denied them entry visas, prodding WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, to say he was "very disappointed".

China is determined to control the origin story of the virus, which has killed more than 1.8 million people around the

world and laid waste to global economies. The first cases of the coronavirus were recorded in the central Chinese city of SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

#### AL completes 12 consecutive years in office

Bss, Dhaka

The ruling Awami League has greeted countrymen on the completion of an era of the AL government at a stretch under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Awami League General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader, in a statement yesterday, congratulated the people and announced the party's programmes marking the anniversary.

Doa mahfil and special prayers will be arranged wishing long life and sound health of Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and overall welfare of the people.

Dhaka city south and north units of the AL will arrange a doa and milad mahfil centrally at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office after Asr prayers.

Milad and doa mahfil will be arranged at all mosques across the country at a convenient time. Special prayers will

be held at International SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

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BANGABANDHU'S NATION-BUILDING CHALLENGES

### Discrepancies in pay will be reduced: Bangabandhu



Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with his parents at his village home in Tungipara on January 7, 1973.

**January 7, 1973** 

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman today



huge discrepancies in salaries of various grades of government officials. The existing administrative system, which the prime minister considers the legacy of the capitalistic and colonial set-up, would soon undergo a drastic metamorphosis, declares Bangabandhu. He expects the Pay Commission and

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

VIRUS 'IMPRISONMENT'

### Bangladeshi worker sues Singapore employer

AFP, Singapore

A Bangladeshi migrant worker is suing his exemployer and dormitory operator in Singapore, accusing them of "false imprisonment" after he was locked in his room during a coronavirus outbreak.

The majority of Singapore's more than 58,000 cases have been among low-paid migrants living in crowded dormitories, sparking criticism of the affluent city-state's treatment of its foreign workforce.

Construction worker Rahman Mohammad Hasibur filed a claim SEE PAGE 4 COL 1



AZAN 5-30 12-45 4-00 5-30 7-00 JAMAAT 6-05 1-15 4-15 5-35 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## 'We will never concede'

Defiant Trump rallies supporters as Pence ignores his call to block Biden's win; Senate expected to turn blue

Donald Trump yesterday launched a furious last-minute bid on the streets of Washington to reverse his election defeat, as Joe Biden was set to be certified president with an added triumph of his Democratic Party on track to win full control of Congress.

In a scene unprecedented in US democracy, Trump rallied thousands

of supporters outside the White House moments before Congress meets to affirm Biden's November election victory -- traditionally a formality, but one which Trump hopes will overturn the results.

Trump, rambling angrily with the occasional aside lauding his four-year tenure, warned "weak" Republicans not to certify Biden's victory and put direct pressure on Vice President Mike

Pence, who presides over the session. "We will never give up. We will never concede," Trump told the cheering crowd, few wearing masks

despite a spike in Covid cases. "I hope Mike has the courage to do what he has to do," Trump said, describing the US election as less honest than those of "Third World

countries.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 2



### Abdul Muktadir

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