



THE DAILY

SECOND EDITION
Star

ON FRIDAY



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXI No. 44

FALGUN 13, 1427 BS

www.thedailystar.net
Your Right to Know

RAJAB 13, 1442 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS TOGGLE PRICE : Tk12.00

WORKERS TRICKED, TRAFFICKED

Sold in Algeria, waiting for rescue

ZYMA ISLAM

A group of at least 55 Bangladeshis had paid recruiting agencies over Tk 3 lakh each for jobs in Algeria and the promise of illegal passage into Spain -- what they got instead was indentured labour under subhuman living conditions.

It was nothing but modern-day slavery in the guise of construction jobs -- when they attempted to release themselves from their exploitative contracts and leave the country, they were told they had been "bought".

Tushar, who worked in a project in Mascara, Algeria, said according to his contract, he was recruited to a company called SARL Yuan Xiang Construction de Chine.

"I was told I need to pay back the \$1,500 I was bought for," said Tushar.

The fact that they cannot leave and must bear the horrendous working conditions

was bad news for the workers for whom Algeria was only a pit stop to their final destination.

"Let me be honest with you, we had gone there to go to Spain. At the Singapore Skills Training Centre [their recruiter], they had maps of the countries on every table. They kept saying that we would be able to go to Spain from Algeria. They would show us the map and tell us to see how close Algeria is to Spain," said Tushar.

Several other workers, contacted over WhatsApp, told this correspondent that they too were told they were "bought".

In 2019, the 55 Bangladeshis were recruited by Singapore Skills Training Centre (currently known as Asia Skills Training Centre) in Munshiganj. Their BMET (Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training) clearance was processed by Banna Bijoy Overseas Ltd.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Sanjana Sonia, left, wife of slain Maj Mohammad Mominul Islam Sarkar, cries standing in front of her husband's grave at the military graveyard in the capital's Banani, on the 12th anniversary of BDR mutiny yesterday. Seventy-four people, including Maj Mominul and 56 other army officers, were killed in the carnage in 2009. Story on page 3.

TIPU MURDER CASE No headway in 10 years

Prosecution fails to produce witnesses

CHATANYA HALDER and
EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

The trial of Sayeed Ahmed Tipu's murder case did not make any headway in around a decade due to the prosecution's failure to produce witnesses before court for their statements.

Tipu was the young brother of Army Chief General Aziz Ahmed, who filed the case in 1999 after his brother was shot dead in the city. Aziz Ahmed gave his deposition before court on January 6, 2004.

Till May 22, 2011, 32 out of 41 prosecution witnesses had given their depositions, according to the prosecution.

The remaining nine however did not appear

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Death sets Mushtaq free from DSA, jail

Brought dead to hospital in Gazipur from Kashimpur jail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He was denied bail six times and finally passed away last night before he could ever walk free.

Writer Mushtaq Ahmed, who had been locked up under the controversial Digital Security Act for over nine months, was in the Kashimpur High Security Jail-3 in Gazipur.

"He lost consciousness suddenly around 7:10pm. Immediately, we took him to Shaheed Tajuddin Ahmad Medical College Hospital. There, doctor declared

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



COLLEGES UNDER NU Students protest exam deferral

7 hurt as police charge baton in Netrakona; 18 detained in capital

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Students across the country took to the streets demanding the continuation of ongoing and previously announced exams, protesting the authority's decision to postpone ongoing exams.

When they were staging a demonstration demanding the continuation of National University (NU) exams, police swooped on them. At least seven students were injured.

After postponing all exams on Monday,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Pay back loan or go to jail

HC tells defaulters of People's Leasing

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court yesterday warned loan defaulters that if they fail to pay back money to People's Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (PLFSL), they will be thrown into jail.

It said the loan defaulters must return the money to save the non-bank financial institution, which is facing liquidation.

The non-performing loans (NPLs) are not the money of thieves or scammers. This is the money of the country's common people, the HC bench of Justice Muhammad Khurshid Alam Sarkar said while hearing a petition regarding the liquidation.

"You [defaulters] have taken a huge amount of money from PLFSL and

SEE PAGE 10 COL 3

THE THIRD VIEW



MAHFUZ ANAM

Time for a code of conduct for the lawmakers

SEE PAGE 8

bKash



৫ কোটি
মানুষের
বিকাশ

আপনার আস্থায়, নতুন সম্ভাবনায়

দশ বছর ধরে আধুনিক সব ডিজিটাল সার্ভিস-এর পাশাপাশি গ্রাহকের লেনদেনের নিরাপত্তা রক্ষায় বিকাশ থেকেছে দায়িত্বশীল। তাই, সারাদেশের আস্থায় বিকাশ আজ ৫ কোটির পরিবার।

বাংলাদেশের ৫ দশক পূর্তিতে এগিয়ে যাই একসাথে, নতুন সম্ভাবনায়।