

Ministry doing little to address workers

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ministry seeking support to address the problems of Saudi Arabia-bound migrant workers, said leaders of platforms.

The ministry, however, is yet to respond, they said.

They also blamed Biman for delaying in taking necessary measures complying with the advisory.

In its latest advisory, the Saudi authorities said violators shall be deported and banned indefinitely from entering the country.

Due to the latest directive, about 6,500 migrant workers have been facing uncertainty regarding their travel to Saudi Arabia.

Besides, it caused many migrant workers to spend additionally about Tk 60,000 to Tk 70,000 to ensure institutional quarantine in the Gulf country.

Recruiting Agency Friends Associates (RAFA) and Sommito Somonoy Front, (Baira) separately submitted applications to the minister, expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry, on May 23 demanding financial support centering huge expenses of Saudi-bound expatriate workers to stay in quarantine and to carry out Covid-19 tests.

The two organisations also demanded that the government priorities vaccinating expatriate workers going abroad. In that case, the Saudi-bound migrant workers might be exempted from staying in mandatory institutional quarantine in hotel.

RAFA in its application said due to the huge prices of air tickets, recruiting agencies and the workers have already become seriously affected.

The two organisations said it would

take Tk 55,000 to Tk 70,000 to bear the cost of staying in hotel for seven days' quarantine.

Under these circumstances, the two organisations said it has become impossible for many expatriate workers to gather the money and go abroad despite completing all other procedures including having visas and tickets.

They said several hundred crore take are remaining idle in the wage earners welfare fund. They demanded that the government in coordination with the respective embassy adjust the expenses of hotel cost through the welfare fund.

Several thousand Saudi-bound Bangladeshi migrant workers are facing untold sufferings due to new travel advisory of Saudi Arabia that requires medical insurance that covers the risk of Covid-19 infections and hotel reservations for institutional quarantine.

Talking to The Daily Star in the last two day at the Saudia office at city's Karwan Bazar, Saudi-bound expatriate worker said they need to spend Tk around 65,000 to Tk 70,000 to comply with the new conditions.

Following the fresh travel advisory that came into effect on May 20, Biman Bangladesh Airlines was forced to suspend all its 18 weekly flights to Saudi Arabia for nine days since May 20 saying they need time to make arrangements to comply with the fresh travel advisory.

Sources said Saudi authorities issued the travel advisory on May 10 which came into effect on May 20, meaning Biman got at least 11 days to make arrangements to comply with the advisory.

Talking to The Daily Star, several Saudi-bound workers said it's just insincerity on the part of Biman that it

took so much time to make necessary arrangements.

For instance, they said, Saudi Arabian Airlines didn't suspend even a single flight following issuance of the new advisory. On the other hand, the national flag carrier of Bangladesh suspended its all flights for nine days.

Several thousand expatriate workers who failed to travel to Saudi Arabia due to suspension of Biman flights said they are in fear that their visas would expire if they fail to return to their workplaces in Saudi Arabia on time.

According to the advisory, all travelers arriving in the KSA shall be undergone seven days institutional quarantine (except those who are exempted mentioned above) at own expenses and shall complete a PCR test on day 1 and on day-7. Children under the age of eight are exempted from the test.

The reservation of the institutional quarantine shall be through the respective airlines.

It says airlines shall contract medical care centers to perform the two PCR tests all travelers at institutional quarantine facilities and facilitate the transportation of all travelers.

A top official of Biman said they have informed its offices concerned about the conditions imposed by the Saudi government. "Our officers there are trying to manage hotels."

"We are trying to figure out how cheap we can get these hotels. It takes some time to do these," he said.

Saudi Arabia is the largest manpower export market for Bangladesh. At least 26 lakh expatriates are working in different sectors in the country.

Despite repeated attempts yesterday, this newspaper could not contact the secretary to the expatriates' welfare ministry for comments.

Rozina

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days later, family members took her to Square Hospital.

Her husband Monirul Islam told this correspondent at the hospital that doctors will do a few more tests today.

Rozina said she felt exhausted and expressed her gratitude to journalists, journalist associations, her colleagues at Prothom Alo, friends and family members.

Raihan Rabbani, consultant of internal medicine and intensive care unit at Square, said, "Rozina's diabetes is still out of control."

Poet Sirajee

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His second janaza would be held at Azimpur Graveyard before his burial there, Lokman said in the statement expressing deep sadness at the poet's demise.

Sirajee was admitted to the hospital in February with cardiac and digestion complications. Rings were put on his heart on February 27. He returned home on March 2.

Sirajee was a renowned poet of contemporary Bangla language. He has about 50 books of verse to his credit. His poems portray the struggling history of Bangladesh, her glorious War of Independence and continuous progress.

His prose is of a distinctive kind. He has written more than 10 books for children.

His writings attract and inspire both readers and writers, irrespective of age. His works have been translated into other languages.

Sirajee was born on December 31, 1948, at Rasulpur in Faridpur. He had graduated from Buet in 1970.

Siraji served Jatiya Kabita Parishad as president for four terms. He received Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Literary Award, Jessore Literary Parishad Award, Bishnu Dey Award and Jatiya Kabita Parishad Award.

Japanese premium

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The successful bidder was a local manufacturer of baby food, whose president said he hoped the purchase would spread a bit of a good cheer.

"Although there's still plenty of negative news, I hope this can help people smile and overcome the coronavirus pandemic," he told national broadcaster NHK.

Seasonal food offerings in Japan routinely attract massive sums from buyers seeking prestige and plenty of free publicity.

Nazrul's 122nd birthday

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Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in separate messages yesterday paid rich tributes to the memory of the poet on the occasion of his birth anniversary.

They prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul of the national poet and wished overall success of all programmes taken up on the occasion.

Nazrul was born on the 11th Joishtha in Bengali calendar year 1306 in Churulia near Asansol of West Bengal's Burdwan district.

He was the poet of rebellion against injustice and taboos. He is famous for his poem Bidrohi (The Rebel) and his many melodious songs.

He was a poet, lyricist, musician, revolutionary and philosopher. There are 2,400 of his songs, and together, they are known as Nazrul Sangit.

Although known for his rabid criticism of imperialism, social and religious taboos, Nazrul explored the

themes of love, romance and devotion also.

He introduced a robust style that was very bold and innovative. His use of Persian and Arabic words in Bengali poetry also opened up new literary horizons.

In the 1930s, the leading gramophone company of India, HMV, employed him as a lyricist. Later, All-India Broadcasting Authority employed him.

He also wrote and directed a play, Byathar Dan (The gift of pain).

But his luck ran out once again and in 1942, he developed a rare neurological disorder that led to the loss of his voice and memory. Doctors in Vienna diagnosed it as Pick's disease.

After Bangladesh's independence, Nazrul was declared the national poet and he was brought to Dhaka from Kolkata.

The poet died in Dhaka in 1976. He was buried beside the central mosque of Dhaka University.

Party will 'exist

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her legal case and her lawyers struggling to gain access to their client.

There was a heavy security presence in the capital Naypyidaw, an AFP correspondent said, with the road to the specially-constructed courthouse blocked off by trucks of police.

Suu Kyi had faced weeks of delays to her legal case and her lawyers had struggled to gain access to their client.

The next hearing was set for June 7, Min Min Soe said, adding she had also met with former president Win Myint, who was ousted and detained along with Suu Kyi.

Meanwhile, an American journalist

working for a Myanmar-based news outlet was detained by authorities as he attempted to board a flight to Malaysia yesterday, his employers said.

Danny Fenster, the managing editor of Frontier Myanmar, "was detained at Yangon International Airport this morning," the publication said on its verified Twitter account, adding it did not know the reason for his detention.

'EVERYTHING SHE CAN' Junta leader Min Aung Hlaing gave a two-hour interview to Hong Kong's Phoenix Television last week, with the full programme yet to air, though portions have been released.

Hasina seeks Commonwealth's

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the underprivileged people.

She said Bangladesh has emerged as a global leader on adaptation despite vulnerabilities and resource constraints. "Every year, we are spending about \$5 billion from our own resources for adaptation and climate resilience."

Hasina said Bangladesh has adopted "Mujib Climate Prosperity Initiatives" marking the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to deal with the adverse impacts of climate change.

Under the initiatives, Bangladesh is pursuing a low-carbon development path. "We're going to generate up to 40 gigawatt of renewable energy by 2041, and plant 30 million saplings. We hope to submit a quantified

ambitious NDC by June 2021."

As the second largest exporter of readymade garments, Bangladesh is also exploring efficient options of circular fashion and textiles as part of the overall circular economy, she added.

Noting that the world is going through an unprecedented and yet uncertain pandemic situation, the PM said her government has adopted policies and measures focusing on lives and livelihoods.

"By the grace of the Almighty, Bangladesh has been able to continue with its socioeconomic development minimising the impact of the pandemic."

Hasina extended her sincere thanks to the Royal Highness for convening the roundtable with "mother nature" at the heart of the dialogue.

Prime accused confesses, implicates

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Chandra Adhikary recorded Sumon's confession after Inspector Syed Iftekhar Hossain of the Detective Branch of police brought the accused to his chamber, sources said.

The magistrate sent him to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj after recording the statement.

Sumon told the magistrate that Awal had enmity with victim Shahinuddin over the land of a project since 2004. Failing to grab the victim's land, he planned to kill him.

Three or four days before Shahinuddin's murder, Awal drew out a blueprint for the killing at his office in Kalabagan in the presence of Sumon and Taher, another accused who is yet to be arrested.

The former lawmaker asked Sumon to hire 10-12 goons to execute the murder. In accordance with the instructions, Sumon hired the goons and had a meeting with them at

Mirpur-12 on May 15, he told the magistrate.

As per the plan, Sumon and the others went to the spot in Mirpur-12 the next day, asking Shahinuddin to come and resolve the land dispute.

When Shahinuddin approached the scene around 4:00pm with his son, Sumon led the group of 10 to 12 persons who started to hack Shahinuddin indiscriminately with sharp weapons, killing him on the spot.

Sumon said in his confessional statement that he called Awal's on the phone after the murder and said, "Sir, finished".

Sumon also told the magistrate that Awal is mainly a property and land developer.

Under the former lawmaker's protection, Sumon and his group used to grab land and engage in other criminal activities. They were paid Tk 10,000 to Tk 12,000 a month by Awal.

They received additional sums

for special tasks, Sumon told the magistrate.

Detectives arrested Sumon in Dhaka's Jatrabari area on May 19. He was later placed on a four-day remand.

On May 22, two other accused, Mohammad Murad and Rony Talukder, confessed before another magistrate.

On May 21, Awal, Zahirul Islam Babu and Nur Mohammad Hasan were each placed on a four-day remand.

On May 23, three other accused -- Mohammad Sharif, Iqbal Noor and Mohammad Tipu -- were also each placed on four-day remand.

Two other accused -- Monir and Manik -- were killed in a so-called gunfight with law enforcers.

On May 17, Aklima, the victim's mother, filed a case against 20 named and 13 to 14 other unnamed individuals with Pallabi Police Station.

Awal was a lawmaker from Lakshmpur-1.

Genocide against Rohingyas not abating

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measures" ordering Myanmar to prevent and halt genocidal acts against the Rohingyas.

Myanmar is required to report periodically to the court on its compliance with these measures, with a report due by May 23, 2021. The military coup in Myanmar on February 1 added much uncertainty around the case.

Against this backdrop, it is unclear if the military dictatorship intends to engage with the ICJ, or if it will submit a report. Myanmar's agent in the ICJ case, former State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, has also been placed under house arrest by the Tatmadaw.

BROUUK has called on the international community to redouble efforts to hold the Myanmar military to account for atrocity crimes.

"The National Unity Government should throw its full weight behind international justice efforts, and submit its own report to the ICJ spelling out how it will end persecution against the Rohingyas."

"The military coup in Myanmar has again shown the Tatmadaw's brutality and callousness to the world. At the same time, the genocide against the Rohingyas continues at pace, putting the very existence of our people at risk," said Tun Khin.

"Authorities in Myanmar have taken no meaningful steps to amend the laws and policies underpinning the genocide. What is more, abuse, extortion and humiliation of Rohingya continue on a daily basis. The military coup has made the situation even more precarious."

Severe internet restrictions in effect off-and-on in Rakhine State since June 2019, have continued since the coup, affecting all aspects of Rohingyas' lives.

"The Rohingya continue to live a hellish existence in Rakhine State. The restrictions on all aspects of our lives are clearly designed to make our lives so unbearable that we have no option but to flee, said Tun Khin.

"It is unconscionable that nine young children have recently lost their lives because of the conditions they were living in and the denial of proper medical care."

Ending the Rohingya genocide and building a democratic Myanmar are closely linked -- both involve stopping the Tatmadaw's reign of terror once and for all, he said.

"The international community must now more than ever take genuine action to make this a reality. The human cost of failure is too high."

Reuters adds: Myanmar's junta leader Min Aung Hlaing cast doubt on the return of hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslim refugees who fled to Bangladesh in comments made in his first interview since taking power in a Feb 1 coup.

Min Aung Hlaing was asked by Chinese-language Phoenix television whether the Muslims could be allowed back to Rakhine State - from where most fled an army crackdown in 2017 that UN investigators said had "genocidal intent".

"If it doesn't comply with Myanmar's laws, what else is there to consider? I don't believe there is any country in the world that would go beyond their own country's refugee laws to accept refugees," Min Aung Hlaing responded, according to a transcript of the interview.

When asked whether that meant vocal international appeals on behalf of the Rohingya were to no avail, he nodded.

Min Aung Hlaing, who headed the army in 2017 when some 700,000 Rohingya fled from advancing troops, reiterated the view of nationalists in Buddhist-majority Myanmar that the Rohingya are not one of its ethnic groups.

Meghalaya border shelled

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the government's resources.

"I have pleaded with all countries to recognise this threat to peace on the subcontinent," she declared. "If the world does not take heed we shall be constrained to take all means as may be necessary to ensure our own security and for the preservation of the structure of social and economic life. I say this with full sense of responsibility," said Indira Gandhi.

Indian Defence Minister Jagjivan Ram said Pakistani troops had crossed the Indian border seven times since the trouble began in East Pakistan on March 25. There had been 43 incidents of firing across the border and 11 violations of air space. Instructions had been given that intruding aircraft were to be shot down if they disobeyed orders to return to Pakistan territory, he added.


NOBODY SEEKS WAR: YAHYA

Pakistan President Yahya Khan said "nobody wants war" since it would solve nothing. Yahya said he believed Indira Gandhi did not want a war despite her recent statements.

Yahya told journalists that he would announce a plan within a few weeks to turn over governmental power in Pakistan to representatives elected last December. He also offered amnesty to members of Awami League who did not commit crimes in the initial fighting last March in East Pakistan.


He said US President Richard Nixon had offered Pakistan aid in what Yahya called a "warmhearted, kind, personal letter of friendship" received on May 23, 1971.

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com



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দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১.	সংস্থার ও সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার নাম	:	মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি
২.	সংগ্রহকারী সত্তার জেলার নাম	:	ঢাকা
৩.	যে জন্য দরপত্র আহবান	:	Tab সরবরাহ
৪.	দরপত্র নং ও তারিখ	:	এমআরএ-৫৩.০৪.০০০০.০০২.০৭.০০৫-২১-১১২৬, তারিখঃ ২৩/০৫/২০২১
৫.	সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি	:	উন্মুক্ত দরপত্র
৬.	বাজেট ও অর্ধের উৎস	:	সরকারি
৭.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের শেষ তারিখ	:	০৮/০৬/২০২১ইং, বেলা ১২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৮.	দরপত্র গ্রহণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৮/০৬/২০২১ইং, বেলা ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত
৯.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	:	০৮/০৬/২০২১ইং, বেলা ১২.১৫ ঘটিকায়
১০.	দরপত্র প্রাপ্তিস্থান, দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও দরপত্র খোলার অফিসের নাম ও ঠিকানা	:	মাইক্রোক্রেডিট রেগুলেটরী অথরিটি, গুলাফেঁশা প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮, শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭।
১১.	দরদাতার যোগ্যতা	:	১) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ০৩ (তিন) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি (আইটি)/আহবানকৃত দরপত্র সম্পর্কিত সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ মালামাল সরবরাহ এবং বিপণনকারী হিসাবে অনুমোদিত এবং পিপিআর-২০০৮ এর বিধি ৪৮ এবং ৪৯ এবং দরপত্র দলিলে ITT Clause 9.1(a) (b) & 10.1-এ বর্ণিত অন্যান্য যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ব্যবসায়িক প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রে অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবে।
১২.	দরপত্রের সাথে অবশ্যই দাখিলকৃত দলিলসমূহ	:	১) যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষ প্রদত্ত বৈধ ও হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, টিআইএন সনদ, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন সনদ-এর সত্যায়িত কপি; ২) বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের নির্ধারিত তারিখের পূর্ববর্তী ০৩ (তিন) বৎসরের মধ্যে রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব প্রাপ্তি, সরকার নিয়ন্ত্রিত কার্যালয়/স্থাপনা/কারখানা এবং ব্যাংক ইত্যাদিতে একক কার্যদেশের আওতায় ন্যূনতম ৮১০ (দশ) লক্ষ টাকার আহবানকৃত দরপত্র/সাদৃশ্যপূর্ণ ইনফরমেশন টেকনোলজি (আইটি) সম্পর্কিত মালামাল সরবরাহ কাজের ০১ (এক)টি সন্তোষজনক পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতা এবং অভিজ্ঞতার অনুকূলে সেবা গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান উপযুক্ত কর্মকর্তার ইস্যুকৃত কার্যসম্পাদনের প্রত্যয়নপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি; ৩) ব্যাংক কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত দরদাতা প্রতিষ্ঠানের তারল্য, পুঁজি অথবা ঋণসীমা ন্যূনতম ৮১০ (দশ) লক্ষ-এর ঘোষণাপত্র; ৪) ক্রয়কৃত দরপত্র দলিল এবং মানি রিসিট।
১৩.	সেবার বিবরণ	:	দরদাতাকে দরপত্রের উল্লিখিত কারিগরি বিনির্দেশ অনুযায়ী, মানসম্মত ব্র্যান্ড নিউ ৪০টি Tab supply, setup কাজ সম্পন্ন করতে হবে।
১৪.	দরপত্র সিডিউলের মূল্য (দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয়ের জন্য আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে)	:	৮৫০০/- (টাকা পাঁচশত মাত্র)
১৫.	দরপত্রের জামানত	:	৮৩০,০০০/- (টাকা ত্রিশ হাজার মাত্র)
১৬.	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর নাম	:	মোঃ ফসিউল্লাহ
১৭.	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর পদ নাম	:	এক্সিকিউটিভ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান
১৮.	দরপত্র আহবানকারীর ঠিকানা	:	গুলাফেঁশা প্রাজা (৭ম তলা), ৮, শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, বড় মগবাজার, রমনা, ঢাকা-১২১৭। ফ্যাক্সঃ ৮৩৩৩২৫৭। ই-মেইলঃ evc@mra.gov.bd

বিজ্ঞপ্তি
(ক) কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করে।
(খ) আলোচ্য দরপত্র পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট বিধিমালা, ২০০৮ এবং তৎপরবর্তী আনিত সংশোধনী সমূহের প্রযোজ্য ধারাসমূহ প্রতীপালিত হইবে।
(গ) অনিবার্য কারণবশতঃ নির্ধারিত তারিখে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা সম্ভব না হইলে পরবর্তী কার্যবিবসে একই সময় ও একই স্থানে দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলা হইবে।

এক্সিকিউটিভ ভাইস চেয়ারম্যান