

Malaysia detains 250 Bangladeshi migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Immigration officers in Malaysia rounded up 252 undocumented Bangladeshi migrant workers during a raid yesterday, according to a report of Free Malaysia Today, an online news portal.

The Bangladeshis are among 425 undocumented migrants detained from several units in an apartment block, the report says, quoting the local immigration department.

According to Kuala Lumpur Immigration Department Director Syamsul Bahrin Mohshin, the raid at Cheria Heights apartments was carried out following investigations and surveillance for two weeks, the report adds.

The official said that in the operation carried out by 60 staff between 1:00am and 4:00am (local time), the undocumented migrants were arrested for not possessing valid identification documents, overstaying, or possessing expired temporary work permits.

The others arrested include nationals from Myanmar, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Nepal, and Pakistan.

According to the official, those detained worked in a variety of industries, including construction and cleaning.

He said all those detained were taken to the Bukit Jalil immigration detention centre for further legal action.

BJP'S INVITATION AL delegation to arrive in New Delhi today

BSS, New Delhi

A five-member Awami League delegation, led by party presidium member Muhammad Abdur Razzaque, is scheduled to reach New Delhi today on a four-day visit.

The BJP invited AL leaders as part an initiative announced by its National President JP Nadda.

The visit aims to enhance party-to-party interaction and enable the delegation to understand BJP's vision, according to BJP sources.

The AL delegates will meet Nadda and other senior leaders of the party.

The other delegation members are AL Joint General Secretary Hasan Mahmud, also the information and broadcasting minister, Aroma Dutta MP, AL Organising Secretary Sujit Roy Nandi and executive committee member Merina Jahan.



Boatloads of guavas are on sale at a floating market in a canal in Jhalakathi's Satadashkathi area yesterday. Farmers from nearby villages sell their produce here for Tk 300 to Tk 350 per maund, depending on size and variety.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

After warship, naval drone hits Russian tanker

Kyiv claims responsibility; Moscow claims to seize settlement in northeast Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine carried out a drone strike overnight on a Russian tanker in the Kerch Strait, a day after one of Moscow's ships was hit in the Black Sea, a Ukrainian security source told AFP yesterday.

It was the latest attack around the Black Sea since Moscow exited a deal last month that had protected Ukrainian grain exports despite the conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

"Overnight the (Ukrainian Security Service) SBU blew up the 'SIG', a large oil tanker belonging to the Russian Federation that was transporting fuel for Russian troops," the Ukrainian source said.

The "successful special operation", which involved a naval drone and explosives, was carried out jointly with the navy in Ukrainian territorial waters, the source said, adding that the ship was "well-loaded with fuel, so the 'fireworks' could be seen from afar".

In a video obtained by AFP purporting to show the attack, a vessel is seen

approaching a large ship before the connection cuts off.

The Russian tanker SIG was hit around 11:20pm (2020 GMT) on Friday south of the Kerch Strait, Russia's Federal Agency for Sea and Inland Water Transport said.

The oil and chemical tanker is under US sanctions for supplying jet fuel to Russian forces in Syria who are supporting President Bashar al-Assad.

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The SIG suffered a hole at the waterline in the area of the engine room, "presumably as a result of an attack by a marine drone", the agency said on Telegram. "The ship is afloat."

An oil boom had been placed around the vessel and preparations were under way to patch up the damage, it said.

Russia's state RIA Novosti news agency said there were no casualties, citing the

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Novorossiysk.

Traffic on a key bridge across the Kerch Strait linking the Moscow-annexed Crimean peninsula to Russia's mainland resumed early yesterday after a three-hour halt, according to the Russian highways information centre's Telegram channel.

Crimea has been disrupted by several strikes throughout the war but it has seen more frequent attacks in recent weeks.

Russian forces yesterday downed a drone over the sea near Sevastopol, city governor Mikhail Razvozhayev said.

Ukraine struck the Olenegorsky Gornyak vessel at the Novorossiysk base in southern Russia, a Ukrainian security source told AFP, "to show that Ukraine can attack any Russian warship in that zone".

On the front line, Russia said it had captured the settlement of Novoselivske in northeastern Ukraine, where Kyiv said it was confronted with a growing number of attacks.

Footage from the Russian army showed Novoselivske completely destroyed, white smoke billowing over crumbling buildings.

AL special extended meeting today

UNB, Dhaka

A special extended meeting of the Awami League will be held at the Gono Bhaban today.

The meeting will be held at 10:30am, with AL President Sheikh Hasina in the chair, said a party press release.

The leaders of the party's central working committee, advisory council and national committee, presidents and general secretaries of the party's district, city, upazila, thana and municipality units, AL MPs, district council and upazila parishad chairmen from AL, and presidents and general secretaries of the party's associate bodies have been asked to attend the meeting.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader has urged all concerned to attend the meeting on time.

On the occasion of the special extended meeting, Dhaka Metropolitan Police has taken special measures to keep traffic normal in the capital.

Hit by 'garbage truck', woman dies in Jatrabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed early yesterday when a garbage truck allegedly of Dhaka South City Corporation ran over her in the capital's Jatrabari area.

Nazma Begum, 46, of Bhola's Borhanuddin upazila, was a cancer patient who came to Dhaka for treatment, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of police outpost at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

He said Nazma was crushed under the wheels of a garbage truck after she fell on the road from a battery-run auto-rickshaw around 5:00am, leaving her injured.

Later, she was brought to DMCH, where the duty doctors declared her dead.

Several media outlets reported that it was a DSCC garbage truck. However, in a press statement today, DSCC refuted the claim, saying that their vehicle was not involved in the incident.

In the last six years, at least 16 people have been killed by garbage trucks, according to media reports.

2kg heroin seized in Cox's Bazar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Border Guard Bangladesh recovered a little over two kilograms of heroin from a Cox's Bazar-bound bus yesterday.

BGB members seized the contraband drug after searching the bus on the highway at Uttar Muhuripara area under Jhilongjia union in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila around 8:00am, said Lt Col Md Saiful Islam Chowdhury, commanding officer of BGB Battalion 34.

However, none could be arrested as the 2.195-kg heroin was recovered in an abandoned state, he said.

Legal proceedings were underway in this connection, he added.

Dengue deaths cross 300

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Shuhrawardy Medical College Hospital, told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the researchers, there are four distinct serotypes of the dengue virus: DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4.

These serotypes are closely related but differ slightly in their genetic makeup, leading to variations in their antigenic properties.

When a person is infected with one serotype of the dengue virus, they develop immunity to that specific serotype. However, this immunity does not provide protection against the other serotypes, according to researchers.

Different studies show that most people who are infected with dengue will have mild or no symptoms.

"This fact has left many dengue patients unaware that they have caught a subsequent infection with different serotypes. So, they develop severe illness fast, but come to hospital too late," Dr Khalilur Rahman said.

He said that coming to hospital late is also the main reason behind the higher death rate among young patients.

According to the DGHS, the fatality rate among patients aged 21-25 is the highest – around 11 percent; followed by 9 percent among patients aged 26-30; and 8 percent each among 31-40 and 56-60.

"So, our advice will be that patients come to the hospital before developing severe symptoms. And drastic fall of blood pressure is the major sign," he said.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), severe dengue symptoms often come after the fever

has gone away.

According to physicians, there are seven symptoms of severe dengue: intolerable abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, breathing difficulty, bleeding gums or nose, slurred speech, declining blood pressure and severe fatigue which leaves a patient unable to even walk or stand up.

Different studies show that most people who are infected with dengue will have mild or no symptoms.

But for those who do, the most common symptoms are high fever, headache, body ache, nausea and rash and most get better in 1-2 weeks, according to the WHO.

Prof Dr Saif Ullah Munshi, a virologist at Bangladesh University of Medical Sciences, said that the four-five days following the patient's report of "no fever" are crucial.

"This is because patients may go into shock (or may develop severe symptoms) at any time during this period. So, taking caution is crucial at this time," Prof Saif Ullah Munshi told The Daily Star earlier.

According to different studies, the mortality rate among patients with severe symptoms is 1 percent if treated. When untreated, the mortality rate is 5 percent.

This year, the number of dengue cases started surging early on due to weak mosquito containment efforts and other relevant factors, leaving the hospitals under pressure.

As of yesterday morning, a total of 9,334 dengue patients were undergoing treatment at different hospitals countrywide, which is around 15 percent of all dengue cases this year.

Tk 37.5cr mishandled in just one year

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three square meals is Tk 59.34 and for prisoners Tk 54.66.

So for the entire fiscal year, the food bill should have been Tk 20.6 crore. But the authorities billed Tk 26.7 crore, meaning the government was charged Tk 6.1 crore extra.

This is a violation of General Financial Rules, the report said.

Not just that, the meal served to the prisoners and inmates were substandard.

The portion size of fish and meat was smaller than the minimum prescribed intake and no fruits are served, the report found.

For lunch, the inmates and prisoners were supposed to get rice, lentils and vegetables, but they are only served rice and lentils.

The same menu is served day in and day out and it is not appetising, so a huge portion of food is wasted. The inmates end up forking out prisoners cash to purchase food from the prison canteen.

The authorities were supposed to deposit the proceeds of the prison canteen to the government exchequer. But they do not, which violates the rules.

The authorities were supposed to get the food served to the inmates approved by the resident civil surgeon, as per the jail code.

But an on-field visit by the auditors to the Kashimpur High Security Central Jail and the Women Central Jail in Gazipur found that this was not the case.

"This poses health risks for the inmates," the report said, adding that

the two prisons spent Tk 10.6 crore on food.

The authorities also broke public procurement rules and the finance ministry's Delegation of Financial Power rules in tender approval and bill payment involving Tk 22.1 crore.

As per rules, for tenders upwards of Tk 2 crore, the authorities are supposed to take approval from the home ministry. This was not adhered to.

The senior jail superintendent of Kashimpur Central Jail-1 instead split the tender into five packages, which were for the other three prisons under the Dhaka Central Jail, and went ahead with the tenders and bill payment.

Besides, all four prisons under the Dhaka Central Jail are supposed to have separate procurement and tender as their budgets are different.

During the period under review, Iqbal Kabir Chowdhury served as the senior jail superintendent of Dhaka central jail.

As a departmental head, he was responsible for ensuring compliance with financial regulations.

Contacted, Chowdhury, who is currently on pre-retirement leave, said: "I know nothing about it. I am not in a position to disclose anything about it."

The audit report has revealed losses amounting to Tk 26.41 lakh for the government in the purchase of cigarettes at inflated prices in different jails.

According to the report, a tender was invited to procure cigarettes for death row convicts. MS Liton Enterprise won the bid, offering each cigarette for Tk 4.88.

Imran Khan held after court conviction

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"By the time you hear this statement, they will have arrested me. I have only one appeal: don't sit silently at home. I am struggling for you and the country and your children's future," he said.

His conviction came a day after Pakistan's high court temporarily

halted the district court trial. It was not immediately clear why the trial had proceeded despite the high court decision.

Khan's deputy and former foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, who PTI said would lead the party in Khan's absence, said their leader had been denied a fair trial.

"We have to struggle for his freedom - we have to fight legally and politically and move in a peaceful way in line with Imran Khan's directives," he said in a video address.

The party's top decision-making body met Saturday and called for nation-wide peaceful protests, according to a statement.

At least 7 drown

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led by an additional deputy commissioner was formed to investigate the incident.

The committee was asked to submit a report within three work days.

The upazila administration was asked to give each victim's family Tk 25,000 to cover the funeral expenses, he said, adding that further financial assistance for the families would be considered.

Suman Dev, additional superintendent of police, said the bulk carrier had been seized, but its crew members had fled.

Officials said this was not the first time a bulk carrier had collided with boats used by locals in the area.

AL wants to stay

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recent reshuffle in the administration ahead of the national election, he said, "DCs [deputy commissioners] and SPs [superintendents of police] have been changed, and numerous appointments and promotions have taken place in the administration. Their only objective is to regain control over the administration just like before."

Speaking at a rally organised by pro-BNP platform Bangladesh Sommilito Peshajibi Parishad in front of Jatiya Press Club, he urged the law enforcement agencies and judiciary to "stand by the country and the people. Do not accept unjust orders."

Referring to the law enforcers he said, "They have already started using firearms. They don't let people stay in their homes at night. They arrive [at the activists' houses] with warrants in false cases."

Incarcerated BNP leaders and activists are denied bail and given harsh treatment in prisons, he added.

He added that the recent conviction of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman in a graft case was an attempt by the government to mislead people.

He then accused the ruling Awami League of undermining two consecutive elections, and forcefully seizing power.