



DEPORTEES FROM KSA Neglect writ large as one dies

MD ABBAS and RASHIDUL HASAN

A deported migrant worker died and another one fell sick during their flight back to Dhaka from Saudi Arabia yesterday.

Allegations have been made that the deceased Nazir Ahmed, of Chattogram's Lohagara upazila, was neglected during the flight and sick Imam Hossain, of Sylhet's Gowainghat, was left at the Dhaka airport without treatment for two and a half hours.

Nazir was confirmed dead by a doctor shortly after the flight landed at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport around 11:30am, according to Sharier Sazzad, the airport's health officer.

After arrival in Dhaka, there was nobody to take Imam to a hospital.

Eventually, he was taken to Kurmitola hospital with the assistance of Brac, according to Shariful Islam Hasan, associate director of Brac's Migration Programme and Youth Platform.

Other migrant workers on the flight stated that due to confusion over who would take Imam to a

hospital, he was left at the airport for two and a half hours.

Security personnel later contacted Brac for help. Brac officials then rushed to the airport and took Imam to the hospital around 2:30pm.

Mohammed Miran Hossain, director of Aviation Security at the Hsia, mentioned that the Hsia health department is supposed to deal with sick passengers.

NEGLIGENCE THE NORM

Brac's Shariful said every year between 50,000 and 60,000 Bangladeshis are deported and they face negligence.

Between 2008 and 2022, about 8.11 lakh people have been deported and Saudi Arabia alone sent back around 3.65 lakh, he said.

The migrants deported from Saudi Arabia suffer at both ends, he said.

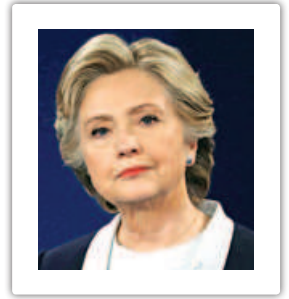
"We have even observed Bangladeshi migrant workers being deported in chains from Malaysia," he noted.

Regarding the deceased, Shariful said, "When the migrant

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4



These women and the child are having to be especially careful while leaving their homes in Rangipara area of Chattogram's South Agrabad yesterday as the drains there are not only open but also without any safety fences. Just three days ago, an 18-month-old child's body was found in a drain after he went missing in the area. Such incidents are all too frequent in the port city with the authorities concerned seemingly ignoring the fatalities and injuries caused by unprotected drains and canals. PHOTO: RAJIB RATHAN



Hillary Clinton urges support for Prof Yunus

STAR REPORT

Former US secretary of state Hillary Clinton has urged support for Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in a social media post.

In her post on X (formerly Twitter) and Facebook on Tuesday, Clinton attached an open letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina asking for immediate suspension of the "current judicial proceedings against Prof Yunus".

"Stand with me and more than 160 other global leaders to support great humanitarian and Nobel laureate Muhammad

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



Pakistan thrash Nepal by 238 runs

AFP, Multan

World number one batter Babar Azam and Iftikhar Ahmed scored punishing hundreds as Pakistan beat Nepal by 238 in the opening game of the Asia Cup in Multan on Wednesday.

Skipper Azam smashed a 131-ball 151 while Ahmed scored an unbeaten 109 in 71 balls for his maiden hundred in Pakistan's 50 overs.

Later, Shadab Khan took four wickets for 27 runs as the Nepal were bowled out for 104 in 23.4 overs.

Nepal, playing in the Asia Cup for the first time, had bowled well to keep the home team down to 124-4 in the 28th over but were clueless in the final overs against the onslaught from Azam and Ahmed.

The pair added a robust 214 runs off 131 balls for the fifth wicket, which brought Pakistan back into the game after Azam won the toss and opted to bat.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

22.8pc RMG factories not monitored Finds a CPD study

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Almost a quarter of the garment factories in Bangladesh are still not under any inspection mechanism but they are shipping products abroad to countries other than the US and the EU, the Centre for Policy Dialogue said.

Of the 3,752 garment factories, companies, 856 are not under the purview of either the RMG Sustainability Council (RSC), Nirapon or the Remediation Coordination Cell (RCC), the think-tank said at an event held at its office yesterday.

Even those factories that are inspected by the authorities are not monitored properly, so accidents and casualties prevail. On top of that, the authorities' enthusiasm for inspections is waning, the think-tank said.

Though the country has not seen any recurrence of Rana Plaza-like incidents between 2013 and 2023, the risk of workplace injuries remains, said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of CPD, at the event on workplace safety in the garment industry.

"The number of deaths, incidents and accidents are not zero yet. Besides, the number of accidents has risen recently."

For instance, the number of fire incidents in export-oriented factories rose from 177 in 2000 to 241 in 2022. In 2021, the number of workplace accident deaths was 13 in 2021, according to the data of Safety and Rights, a non-

governmental organisation.

The RSC, which conducts regular safety inspections at apparel units after the ACCORD left the country, covers 1,887 factories, while Nirapon inspects about 350 factories.

The RCC, a specialised temporary unit of the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments (DIFE), is responsible for inspecting 659 factories. DIFE has shifted the responsibility of RCC to the Industrial Safety Unit.

Though the country has not seen any recurrence of Rana Plaza-like incidents between 2013 and 2023, the risk of workplace injuries remains, said Khondaker Golam Moazzem, research director of CPD.

This means one-fourth of the export-oriented factories are still out of any monitoring initiatives, according to Moazzem.

"This is not a good sign," he said.

The uninspected factories are exporting goods mainly through subcontracting. So, the factories should be brought under a safety mechanism to effectively address their compliance

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

TWO-FINGER TEST It violates rape victims' basic rights

HC observes in full text of verdict that banned the controversial test in 2018

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The two-finger test or virginity test in rape cases was a violation of fundamental rights of the survivors, the High Court observed in the full text of a verdict.

The test was neither scientific nor reliable, said the verdict, originally delivered in 2018 banning the two-finger test (TFT).

"The forensic experts/physicians while examining the survivors/victims of rape and the investigation officers while investigating the rape cases shall not ask any question about their previous sexual experience, and accordingly, shall not opine as to or use the degrading words 'habituated to sexual intercourse' in the medical certificates/reports and police reports respectively," the HC bench of Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore and Justice AKM Shahidul Huq said in the 62-page text released recently.

The court also ordered the government authorities concerned to take necessary steps so that the "Health Response to Gender-Based Violence Protocol for Healthcare Providers" is strictly followed during examinations of rape victims.

The verdict came after rights organisations Ain o Salish Kendra, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Brac, Manusher Jonno Foundation, and Naripokkho, and physicians Ruchira Tabassum Naved and Mobarak Hossain Khan filed a writ petition challenging the legality of the two-

SEE PAGE 6 COL 7

Indian rover finds sulphur on Moon's south pole



AFP, New Delhi

India's Moon rover has confirmed the presence of sulphur on the lunar south pole, the country's space agency said.

Last week, India became the first country to land a craft near the largely unexplored south pole, and just the fourth nation to land on the Moon.

"The Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS) instrument onboard Chandrayaan-3 Rover has made the first-ever in-situ measurements on the elemental composition of the lunar surface near the south pole," the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said in a statement dated Monday.

"These in-situ measurements confirm the presence of sulphur in the region unambiguously, something that was not feasible by the instruments onboard the orbiters," it said.

The spectrographic analysis also confirmed the presence of aluminium, calcium, iron, chromium and titanium on the lunar surface, ISRO added, with additional measurements showing the presence of manganese, silicon and oxygen.



With Liton Das ruled out of the Asia Cup due to viral fever, the burden of giving Bangladesh a solid start might fall onto the young shoulders of Mohammad Naim and uncapped Tanzid Hasan Tamim when the Tigers take on co-hosts Sri Lanka in their first game of the 16th edition of the continental championship in Pallekele today. PHOTO: BCB

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

13th Death Anniversary

Today is the 13th death anniversary of Late Alhaj Giashuddin Ahmed. On this day of remembrance, we the family members, directors, officers and employees of Popular Jute Exchange Limited as well as other sister concerns fondly recall the memories of his industrious & benevolent life, and pray for the salvation and eternal peace for his departed soul.

Late Alhaj Giashuddin Ahmed

POPULAR JUTE EXCHANGE LIMITED
1, Tolaram Road, Narayangonj, Bangladesh