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Still in Myanmar prison even after serving time

At least 150 Bangladeshis in jail due to delay in legal process

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAT

On a quest to change his fortune, Salamat Ullah left his home in Teknaf for Malaysia in October last year. After embarking on a boat journey with a broker, Salamat, 26, was detained by Myanmar Border Guard Police (BGP). He was then brought to Yangon and sentenced to six months in prison. Although Salamat's sentence ended six months ago, he still remains in Myanmar's Buchidong prison, yearning to return home. "I was able to speak to my son only for four times since his arrest in Myanmar. He just wants to come back home," said Zafar Alam, father of Salamat. Zafar said his son had managed to send a letter to them through a Rohingya, pleading to make arrangements for his return home.

approximately 150 Bangladeshis are currently imprisoned in harsh conditions within Myanmar's Buchidong prison for an extended period of time. They were sentenced to five years of imprisonment for crossing the border illegally.

However, according to the Burma Immigration Act of 1947, the stipulated punishment for illegally entering or attempting to enter the Union of Burma is imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, a fine, or both.

sea routes but also individuals involved in drug trafficking. Lt Col Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, commander of BGP-2 Battalion in Teknaf, confirmed that at least 150 Bangladeshis

On October 3, 29 Bangladeshis returned home following the completion of their jail terms. While their jail terms had concluded two and a half years earlier, unfortunately, they still had to endure prolonged incarceration due to bureaucratic processes. Sources indicate that the return of these Bangladeshis was the result of an 18-month-long effort by the Bangladesh Embassy in Yangon. They were repatriated by the Myanmar government through a diplomatic meeting with Border Guard Bangladesh. On March 23 last year, 41 Bangladeshis were repatriated from Myanmar, including some individuals who had been detained by BGP while returning home through the Naf river after fishing in the Bay of Bengal. Within these prison walls, there are not only those seeking to reach Malaysia via

The average income of female workers decreased by 54 percent after the pandemic, according to a study by Karmojibi Nari.

The findings of this study, titled "The Helplessness of Female and Female Workers in PostCovid-19: Needs and Realities of Decent Work and Social Security", were revealed at a discussion organised with support from Christian Aid at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Before the pandemic, the average salary of female workers was Tk 8,208, which has decreased to Tk 4,440 in recent times. The main reasons behind this decline were changes in profession and unplanned pregnancies, according to the study.

The study surveyed 695 female workers during March-April this year.

Around 200 RMG workers participated in the study. Of whom, 133 said they failed to return to the sector after the pandemic.

Of the respondents, 60 said they took loans to fulfil their basic necessities. Over half of them were yet to repay the amount.

Most participants, including widows, divorced women, and those abandoned by husbands, are not getting social security allowances and services. Mustafa Mahmud Sarwar, deputy director

I was able to speak to my son only for four times since his arrest in Myanmar. He just wants to come back home.


Zafar Alam, father of imprisoned Salamat Ullah

Process of bringing back Bangladeshis, who completed prison term, must be coordinated at state level.

Md Mohiuddin Ahmed, commander of BGP-2 Battalion in Teknaf


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