

## Migrant activist's arrest draws flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Al-Amin Noyon, a migrant rights activist, was arrested and sent to jail on Thursday -- drawing criticisms from the rights advocates.

Metropolitan Magistrate Dilruba Afroz Tithi of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court denied the bail to Noyon, manager of BRAC's Migration Welfare Centre, and issued order for sending him to jail after he was produced before the court.

Earlier in the day, Banani police arrested him from Dhaka airport in connection with a case filed by Joynal Abedin Joy, chairman of Bangladesh Migrants' Foundation (BMF), with the Anti-Human Trafficking Offence Tribunal on June 6.

The accused also include Md Shafiqul Islam, 36, a returnee migrant from Tangail, and NGO Shikha Shastha Unnayan Karzakram (SHISUK)'s executive director Sakiul Millat Morshed.

According to the case document, Noyon, who was an employee of SHISUK, and Morshed, instigated Shafiqul to file the case against Joy, recruiting agency Morning Sun Enterprise's owner Md Rokonuzzaman and four others under Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking act, 2012, in early 2014.

Kibria Hasan, who was sub-inspector of Airport Police Station and was investigating the case, told The Daily Star on January 6, 2014, that four recruiting agencies -- Meghna Trade International, Morning Sun Enterprise, East Bengal Overseas and Idea International -- alongside BMF, were accused of labour trafficking to Iraq.

Early 2013, these agencies had sent 27 workers to Iraq charging about Tk 4 lakh from each for jobs, but after their arrival in Iraq, they were left confined to an accommodation facility in Najaf, without pay and good food, Kibria had said.

Following repeated pleas of their relatives, 11 workers returned home early 2014 and filed the case that led to the arrest of Joy and Nasir Khan of Meghna Trade.

Joy claimed the case filed against him in 2014 has been proved false.



Al-Amin Noyon



Visitors look at a painting at Dhaka University's TSC yesterday. An "anti-imperialism" photo exhibition was inaugurated in the area. Many freedom fighters took part in the inaugural event. Besides, a cultural show was organised at Central Shaheed Minar marking Victory Day.

PHOTO: STAR



**I am sure there is a strong syndicate working to defame and suppress the rights advocates. The policymakers need to seriously look into the matter so that the innocent is not punished.**

SHARIFUL HASAN  
Associate director of BRAC Migration Programme

HELEMUL ALAM

Despite December being a month which sees less dengue cases, the first 15 days of the month this year have seen 54 deaths and 6,722 cases.

In comparison, 27 dengue patients had died while 5,024 were hospitalised in December last year.

With the 2 new deaths and 190 new cases yesterday, the total number of deaths this year rose to 1,678 while the number of cases rose to 3,18,803.

Among the total deaths, 961 are women and 717 men. The 36-40 age group saw the highest deaths (164), while the 21-45 age group saw highest number of hospitalisations (45,040).

Entomologist Manzur A Chowdhury said government will have to chalk out a better plan to control Aedes mosquitoes in the upcoming years.

Addressing the spike in dengue-related deaths this year, public health expert Mushtaq Hossain

highlighted the failure to break away from traditional health management approaches.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist at Jahangirnagar University, emphasised the necessity of advocacy meetings led by experts to establish a national strategy plan for dengue management.

The plan should outline specific measures to control Aedes mosquitoes, identify the required insecticides, and determine effective methods. He urged the government to distribute the plan to all local government bodies for implementation.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital, said there are multiple reasons for the high rate of dengue deaths this year, including virus, patient, and management-related factors.

Of the four types of dengue strains, the Den-2 serotype is mostly active this year and has a high severity. This is a reason for so many deaths this year, he said.

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PROF KABIRUL BASHAR, Entomologist at JU

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Local Government Engineering Department  
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GD-1952

President, PM greet people on Victory Day

BSS, Dhaka

President Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday greeted people of the country on the occasion of the 53rd Victory Day.

They also paid tributes to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders, martyrs and the greatest sons of the soil -- the freedom fighters -- whose supreme sacrifices gifted us an independent, sovereign Bangladesh.

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## Sharing more than 7 seats not possible Says Quader on 14-party alliance partners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said it is not possible for the ruling party to share more than seven seats with its 14-party alliance partners.

"We informed them yesterday [Thursday] that we can sacrifice 'boat' [AL's electoral symbol] in seven constituencies. But it is not possible for us to go beyond that," he said while briefing reporters at the AL president's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

Speaking about the alliance partners' demand to withdraw "AL's independent" candidates, Quader said, "Elections will be competitive... If independents win, we will not forcibly take away anyone's victory."

Asked whether the partners have been seeking guarantees that they would win, he said, "We cannot guarantee victory to anyone. I am the general secretary of AL and I have no guarantee of winning. Four contenders are contesting against me. If anyone wins here, I have to accept the defeat."

On Thursday, the 14-party alliance coordinator Amir Hossain Amu announced that seven seats will be shared with three of the AL allies.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal chief Hasanul Haq Inu in a video message said his party did not agree to the AL's decision on seat-sharing.



**Tariqat confident about AL sparing two seats**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tariqat Federation, a partner of the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, yesterday asked AL to keep its promise of sharing two seats with the party.

"This is not the final list [AL's seat-sharing]. We know we are in it," said Syed Nazibul Bashar Maizvandary, chairman of Tariqat Federation, at a press conference at its central office in Dhanmondi.

Among the partners of the alliance, three parties -- Workers' Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal, and Jatiya Party (JP-Manju) -- got assurances from AL that seven seats would be shared.

However, the final decision on the Chattogram-2 seat of Maizvandary has not been taken yet.

"On December 4, there was a meeting between all the parties of the alliance. We were assured that at least two seats would be allocated to Tariqat," said Nazibul. "We are not disappointed. They [AL] didn't say that Tariqat is not on the list," he added.

His nephew and chairman of newly registered Bangladesh Supreme Party, Syed Saifuddin Ahmad Maizbhandary, has filed nomination papers for Chattogram 2.

When asked if AL might sacrifice the seat for Saifuddin, Nazibul said it will be a "terrible message" for politics if it is given to the Supreme Party.