

কর্মজীবনের শেষে অবসরকালীন আর্থিক নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করতে

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✓ আকর্ষণীয় সুদহার  
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## Four more die of dengue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four dengue patients died in the last 24 hours till yesterday morning.

The total number of deaths rose to 1,682, of which 970 are from Dhaka, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS).

Earlier on Saturday, Bangladesh saw no deaths from dengue, a first since June 29.

With 254 new dengue cases, the total number of cases this year rose to 3,19,236, of which 1,09,511 were from Dhaka.

A total of 1,563 dengue patients are still undergoing treatment at different hospitals across the country, 474 of which are in Dhaka.

Among the total cases, 3,15,991 dengue patients have already been released.



Awardees along with guests at the 8th BRAC Migration Media Award yesterday. BRAC organised the event at its auditorium in the capital's Mohakhali. This year, 15 journalists and a media house were awarded in six categories -- newspaper (national), newspaper (regional), television, media house, radio and online news outlet. PHOTO: STAR

## Upskill migrant workers: speakers

### 15 journos, a media house get BRAC Migration Media Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Given the vital role of remittances from expatriate Bangladeshis in the country's economy, it is imperative for the government to prioritise the well-being of remitters, speakers told a discussion yesterday.

Upskilling workers will help them earn higher wages and send home more remittance. Reducing migration cost and addressing the migrant workers' plight are also necessary, they said.

BRAC organised the discussion as part of the 8th BRAC Migration Media Award at its auditorium in the capital's Mohakhali.

This year, 15 journalists and a media house were awarded in six categories -- newspaper (national), newspaper (regional), television, media house, radio and online news outlet.

BRAC introduced the award in 2015. BRAC Executive Director Asif Saleh said the migration sector's importance is more apparent now as remittance has

been playing a crucial role in overcoming the crisis regarding the country's depleting forex reserve.

Asif also said the media needs to highlight the challenges faced by the migrant workers, including health hazards of working in extreme weather conditions in the Middle East.

BRAC has been working to ensure safe and regular migration and combat human trafficking, while developing a model on low-cost migration of skilled workers, he added.

Addressing the event as chief guest, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam said workers go abroad paying their own migration cost, work arduously there facing health challenges and send valuable remittance to boost Bangladesh's economy.

Despite that, the migration sector is the least benefited compared to other forex-earning sectors in getting government incentives, he said.

Anam also said Bangladesh now

## Release Noyon immediately

Urges Civil Society for Migrants

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Civil Society for Migrants (BCSM) yesterday condemned the arrest of migrant rights activist Al-Amin Noyon, demanding his immediate release and the withdrawal of the case against him.

In a statement, BCSM, a platform of 20 organisations working for migrants, said it is stunned over the filing of the case against a migrant rights activist on the grounds of provocation.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

**PRAYER TIMING**  
DECEMBER 18

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5:20	12:45	3:45	5:22	7:00
JAMAAT 5:55	1:15	4:00	5:25	7:30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY

# Of rights violations and heartbreaks

The challenges faced by Bangladeshi migrants

JAMIL MAHMUD

Despite a surge in labour migration, many Bangladeshi migrant workers encounter challenges in host countries, including job loss due to fraud, leading to economic loss and psychological stress.

Amid this, Bangladesh will observe International Migrants Day today.

In 2000, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed December 18 as International Migrants Day, taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants worldwide.

In the 2022-2023 fiscal, Bangladeshis sent home \$21.6 billion in remittance, which accounted for 4.76 percent of the country's GDP, according to the Bangladesh Bank.

Shakirul Islam, chairperson of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program, said workers face exploitation mainly because of their low skills.

"If we want development in our labour migration sector, we should redesign our skills training programme based on demand of destination countries," he said.

He called on the government to critically review its various bilateral agreements and

memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with host countries to alleviate the plight of workers.

"Workers' rights will not be protected if ethical recruitment is not ensured," he added.

A telephone survey conducted by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) on 218 returnee migrants,

**Workers' rights will not be protected if ethical recruitment is not ensured.**

SHAKIRUL ISLAM  
Chairperson of Ovibashi Karmi Unnayan Program

including 42 females, revealed that 64 percent of respondents experienced some form of rights violation in the destination country.

The survey, conducted in October-November this year, shows 15 percent migrants returned in less than 30 days of

migration, 14 percent within one to three months, and another 29 percent within three to six months.

The key reasons behind their untimely return include arrest and deportation (in 34 cases), not getting any job (33 cases), not getting promised job and wage (44), employer's misconduct (17), not having valid visa (23), and low wage (31).

Of the respondents, 116 migrants went to Saudi Arabia and 51 percent of them returned within six months.

Due to their untimely return, 161 migrants counted financial loss and 32 suffered psychological pressure, shows the survey, which interviewed individuals who had returned home after the pandemic.

The "Labour Force Survey 2022" by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics shows that the average recruitment cost for a Bangladeshi migrant worker is Tk 3.81 lakh, requiring 14.6 months of income for cost recovery.

This year, out of approximately 12.1 lakh workers departing for foreign countries by November, Malaysia received 3.29 lakh workers, as per data from the Bureau of

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## Why policy should not be enacted for their development?

### Asks HC on children living in condemned cells with mothers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to formulate a regulation to ensure physical and mental development of children living in condemned cells with their mothers.

It also ordered the authorities concerned to inquire about the condition of 10-month-old Mahida, who has been living with her mother, Husna Akter, in the condemned cell of Habiganj district prison. Husna was convicted in a criminal case on October 26.

The court asked to submit a report by January 18.

Inspector general of prisons and Habiganj jail authorities have been asked to comply with the directive.

HC also asked respondents to explain why their inaction to ensure sufficient food, a healthy environment, and other needs for Mahida should not be declared illegal.

The rule's respondents included secretaries at the ministries of home, law, women and children affairs, IG (prisons), DIG (prisons) of Sylhet, and inspector of Habiganj prison.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

## On the road to enlightenment

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro celebrates 45th anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bishwo Shahitto Kendro celebrated its 45th anniversary through a three-day-long programme that ended yesterday.

"Sobbho Sangha", an alumni association of the institution, organised the programme.

On the last day, they organised a discussion, "Bishwo Shahitto Kendro: Through My Eyes," where Mahfuz Anam, the editor and publisher of The Daily Star, was the chief guest.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Bishwo Shahitto Kendro founder Prof. Abdullah Abu Sayeed speaks at an event marking the 45th anniversary of the institution yesterday. Mahfuz Anam, the editor and publisher of The Daily Star, was the chief guest at the programme. PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Visiting Indian, Russian war veterans call on army chief

BSS, Dhaka

Visiting delegation of Indian and Russian war veterans paid a courtesy call on Bangladesh Army Chief General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed at the Army Headquarters yesterday.

During the meeting, the army chief recalled with gratitude the contribution of all members of allied Indian forces who took part in the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh, said an ISPR release.

Chief of the delegation of India's visiting retired army officers who took part in the Liberation War of Bangladesh reminisced their memories and expressed their gratitude to Bangladesh as well as Bangladesh Army for

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



Covering himself with a woolen blanket, 95-year-old Narendranath Biswas sets off to the local bazar yesterday morning in Bill Pabla area of Khulna's Dumuria upazila. PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN