



## MIGRANT WORKERS

# Record 4,552 returned home dead last year

### Majority from Gulf countries, say rights groups

JAMIL MAHMUD

Habib Khalasi, a migrant worker from Faridpur's Bhanga upazila, went to Saudi Arabia in 2019 to turn the wheel of fortune for his poor family. But he returned home in a coffin last year.

The 33-year-old father of one was a metal-scrap worker in Riyadh until his life was cut short by a large metal piece that fell on his head while working at an old camel shed in a desert outside the Kingdom's capital on May 3.

"When he left for Saudi Arabia, our family was facing hardship. As he



The Cox's Bazar Development Authority has allegedly been cutting some hills inside its high-rise residential apartment project in Kolatoli area of Cox's Bazar town and dumping the earth at a low land in front of the project area. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: MOKAMMEL SHUVU

## What's happening in Gaza is genocide

### Says PM in Munich

UNB, Munich

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged world leaders to stop the genocide in Gaza.

"Bangladesh has always stood against genocide. What is happening in Gaza, I feel, is a genocide. So, we never support it," she said in an interview with Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference 2024 on Saturday.

The PM said the Palestinian people have the right to live and have their own state. "So, we should help them, and stop this invasion and war."

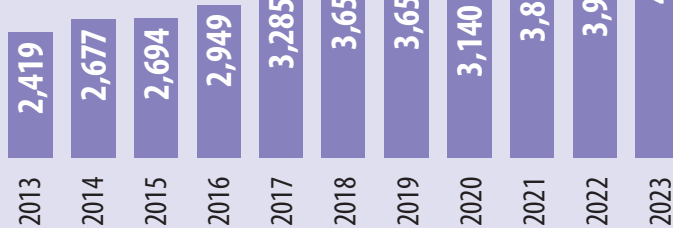
She called upon the international community to extend support and help to the children, women, and people of



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## Migrant workers returning home as corpses on the rise

SOURCE: WEWB



started sending money home, we thought our hardship was over," his younger brother Mahbob Khalasi, an undergraduate student, told The Daily Star over phone.

With Habib now dead, his elderly parents and minor son have been staring at an uncertain future.

Habib was one of the record 4,552 ill-fated migrant workers who returned home as corpses last year, shows Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) statistics. A year before, 3,904 migrants returned as corpses.

Every year, a large number of migrant workers go abroad with dreams but many of them return home in coffins after facing dire situations in

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## Grameen Bank can't nominate board members

### Yunus Centre responds to bank's press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Grameen Bank has no ownership of Grameen Kalyan and Grameen Telecom and it does not have the legal authority to nominate directors and chairman at the two non-profits, said the Yunus Centre yesterday.

Yunus Centre said this in a statement a day after

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## Not possible to accept a single Rohingya

### Say security, foreign policy experts; BGB, Coast Guard on high alert

STAR REPORT

Accepting any more Rohingyas from Myanmar will only exacerbate the huge burden that Bangladesh is already facing by sheltering more than a million Rohingyas who fled here over the decades, with the biggest being in 2017, said security and foreign policy experts.

"We can see that there are conflicts within various Rohingya groups in the camps in Cox's Bazar," said Touhid Hossain, a former foreign secretary. Rohingyas are being killed and

drug trafficking is rampant.

"I would not say that only Rohingyas are responsible for all these, but it is a fact that there is a sort of anarchy in the camps," he added.

The issue came up as the UN Refugee Agency in a recent meeting said that several hundred Rohingyas were forced to leave their homes in Rakhine State and were taking shelter in the areas bordering Bangladesh.

At a regular meeting of the National Task Force on Rohingya last

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## 5G guideline issued after delays

### Operators must roll out service in a year

MAHMUDUL HASAN

Nearly two years after the 5G spectrum auction, the telecom regulator issued a licensing guideline that would allow the carriers to roll out the technology within a year.

From the second year onwards, the licensee must have the capability to provide the full list of services, including mission-critical services like smart cities, smart homes, intelligent transportation systems, smart grids, or any other useful new applications, according to the guideline.

Earlier in March 2022, the country's

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