

Refrain from telling

FROM PAGE 3 to refrain from spreading these falsehoods. "Present the list of the 80 percent of BNP leaders and activists who have allegedly faced torture. Who are they?" Quader questioned.

darkness," he said. Quader accused BNP of spreading propaganda and falsehoods against the ruling AL, reports BSS. "The AL is never subservient to any foreign power or state," he said.

The AL general secretary also stated that the people of the country have rejected BNP for engaging in "negative politics."

People struggle

FROM PAGE 3 "Teastall vendors or hawkers are forced to pay extortion money on a regular basis... The ruling Awami League, Chhatra League, and law enforcers benefit from this," said Anu Muhammad. He blamed a few companies for monopolising the market, which has affected market prices.

"There are no issues in the supply chain of any product. Yet, prices continue to rise. The main reason is the influence of certain groups or individuals," he added.

Sharing iftar, sharing smiles

Patuakhali youths spread joy with 'Garib-er Iftarkhana' initiative

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

For the past three years, a voluntary organisation has been providing free meals to low-income people for iftar in Patuakhali town.

The initiative, termed "Garib-er Iftarkhana" by a group of local youths provides free meals to around 200 people, including day labourers, at Jhautola every day.

Visiting the spot recently, this correspondent saw people having iftar sitting on mats on the roadside while being served around 11 items, including water, dates, chickpeas, potato chops, juice, banana, jilapi, and puffed rice.

Furthermore, Patuakhali Municipality Mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed has arranged for people to do ablutions (wudu) and Maghrib prayers.

"The rising prices of essentials have left us reeling to make both ends meet for our families. This initiative has been of much respite for poor people like me," said Hatem Ali, 62, a day labourer.

"It takes at least Tk 200 to buy these items for iftar. They are offering us the meal for free. It is a great initiative," said Jewel Sardar, 42, a pedestrian.

"I felt a lot of peace and satisfaction breaking my fast at Garib-er Iftarkhana. I pray that almighty Allah keeps the organisers well and in good health," said Zainal Gazi, 65, a rickshaw puller.

Mahmud Hasan Raihan, president of Patuakhali, said, "In the present scenario regarding commodity prices,



low-income people are in a difficult situation. Our initiative over the past three years is a small attempt to help the fasting people with a free meal daily to ease their sufferings a bit."

The initiative will continue throughout the month of Ramadan with help from affluent members of society, he added.

Patuakhali mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed thanked the organisers.

A timeless

FROM PAGE 3 four-decimal land in Tangail. He requested support from the government so that the museum can continue to run smoothly in the future.

A FADING LEGACY Even though Naib Uddin Ahmed was an internationally renowned photographer, memories of his work are slowly fading in the minds of his own people in Mymensingh.

His camera has preserved some of the most striking scenes from the Liberation War - scenes of torture, aggression, and grave injustice. Yet, only a few of his colleagues, well-wishers, and family members remember the veteran behind the lenses today.

Some of his photographs are widely used on different occasions, but his name is never seen on the credits. "It's quite painful for us," said Mahmuda Nasrin Kajol, Naib's daughter-in-law.

One of his most popular works, the historic photograph "Three Freedom Fighters," is displayed in the main corridor of the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs, but it does not bear Naib's name, lamented Kajol.

Oust Israel from

FROM PAGE 3 The committee said the people of Bangladesh suffered a brutal and gruesome genocide 53 years ago.

"For nearly six months, Israel has relentlessly conducted a monstrous genocide against nearly 2.5 million women, men, and children in Palestine, blatantly disregarding all civilised norms and principles of our global community," it added.

With eminent thinker and writer Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury as the convener, PSCB comprises distinguished individuals, professionals, and activists from political, social, and cultural organisations, along with members from civil society.

PSCB said Israel has indiscriminately killed more than 32,070 Palestinian civilians over the course of a six-month military campaign. According to the US Secretary of Defence, 25,000 women and children have been killed in Gaza.

As part of its ethnic cleansing efforts, Israel continues to

defy international condemnation and plans large-scale military attacks, it added.

It is widely recognised that since its establishment in 1948, Israel has consistently disregarded the UN's resolutions concerning the Palestinian issue.

Israel has ignored all 140 resolutions passed between 2015 and 2022, in addition to violating the Geneva Conventions and fundamental human rights principles for over 75 years. By persistently flouting international laws and norms, Israel has demonstrated its disregard for civilised conduct, it added.

In the light of these circumstances, we contend that Israel has forfeited all moral rights and justifications to retain its membership in the UN and its affiliated institutions, the letter adds.

The letter urged the UN Security Council, the UN General Assembly, and all member states to expel Israel, in accordance with Article 6 of the UN Charter.

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Lack of skill traps

FROM PAGE 3 38 lakh workers, according to BMET.

Jordan, Lebanon, and Bahrain hired 2.14 lakh, 2.67 lakh, and 3.13 lakh workers, respectively, during this time, shows BMET data.

Besides, Maldives hired around 1.30-1.40 lakh workers from Bangladesh in the past 15 years, said an official at the Bangladesh mission there.

There are at least another 10 countries, including South Korea, Brunei, Italy, and Japan, that are regular destinations for Bangladeshi workers, however, none of them have hired even one lakh workers in two decades.

Shariful said issues like sending more skilled workers abroad, searching for new labour markets, and reducing migration costs dominated discussions in the labour migration sector over the past two decades, but "no solution has been found yet."

To explore new markets, the expatriates' welfare ministry has conducted several studies in past four years.

A study on "Employment opportunities for Bangladesh less skilled, semi-skilled and skilled migrant workers in East European countries" reveals huge opportunities for Bangladeshi workers in East European countries in several major sectors, including construction, hotels and restaurants, shops and commercial centres, tourism, driving, garments, public health, and airlines. The study mentions high and attractive wage structures, health allowances, public health facilities, and easy access to remit money as some of the prospects of the job market.

However, there are challenges, including lack of awareness of specific government services for

migrants, high migration costs, language barriers, and cultural differences, the report also says.

Shariful of Brac said whenever a major market suspended intaking workers, Bangladesh's overall labour migration declined, recommending upskilling workers to harness untapped overseas job markets beyond the existing ones.

Syed Saiful Haque, chairman of Warbe Development Foundation, said Bangladesh missions in different countries can play an effective role in "branding" Bangladeshi workers and exploring new markets by engaging with the private sectors of those countries.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Department of Public Health Engineering District: Satkhira Memo No.- 46.03.8700.061.14.341.22-921 Dated: 28/03/2024 Invitation for e-Tender Notice No.-01/2023-24 Table with 7 rows including Ministry/Division, Implementing Agency, Project/Program Name, e-Tender ID, Description of Works, Name, Designation & Address of Official Inviting Tender, and a note about the online tender process.

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