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Total 11,450 Bangladeshis in foreign jails

Hasan Mahmud tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 11,450 Bangladeshis including migrant workers are in jails in 31 countries, Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud told parliament yesterday.

The foreign minister who is visiting Saudi Arabia, came up with the statistics while replying to a query from the ruling Awami League MP from reserved seats for women, Farida Yasmin.

In a scripted answer, the foreign minister said, according to information provided by different missions abroad, the highest number of incarcerated Bangladeshis are in Saudi Arabia (5,746). Meanwhile, Portugal, Japan and Belgium have the lowest number of jailed Bangladeshis -- two each.

He said 1,579 Bangladeshis are languishing in Indian jails,

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HOMAGE TO HOLEY ARTISAN VICTIMS

Top right, Italian Ambassador Antonio Alessandro (left) pays tribute to the victims of the Holey Artisan café attack on its eighth anniversary. Japanese envoy Iwama Kiminori stands in solemn silence as a mark of profound respect towards the victims. Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma placing a wreath at the makeshift monument on the occasion. On July 1, 2016, five militants with firearms, machetes, and grenades stormed the bakery and held the diners hostage before killing three Bangladeshis, nine Italians, seven Japanese and one Indian. The photos were taken on the restaurant premises yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



Transfer, dismissal, retirement not enough

Says TIB on addressing graft

UNB, Dhaka

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) has criticised the government's approach to handling corruption within public service, arguing that measures such as transfer, dismissal, and compulsory retirement are inadequate deterrents and may inadvertently foster a culture of impunity.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, emphasised the necessity of holding corrupt public servants accountable through proper legal proceedings rather than mere administrative actions.

He expressed concern over recent cases where officials accused of corruption within agencies like the National Board of

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Rain brings fresh dengue concerns

44 dead, 3,651 hospitalised this year; experts say situation to worsen in July

HELEMUL ALAM

So far, the country has already recorded 44 deaths and 3,651 hospitalisations from dengue this year. With ongoing intermittent rains, experts fear the situation could worsen if immediate actions are not taken.

Data from the Directorate General of Health Services reveals a worrying trend: last year, dengue cases skyrocketed from 5,956 in June to 43,854 in July.

"With the monsoon rains, dengue cases will start rising now, typically peaking this month," said Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist from Jahangirnagar University.

He said rain water is accumulating on rooftops and at balconies of many buildings and also on the streets of Dhaka, creating ideal breeding grounds for Aedes mosquitoes.

"We are getting a huge number of Aedes mosquito larvae in and around houses at Goran, Khilgaon, Mugda, Manda, Rasulpur,

Maniknagar, Sayedabad, Jatrabari, Jurain, Donia, and Postagola areas," he added.

Public health expert Mushtaq Hossain stressed the importance of proper solid waste



management nationwide to combat Aedes mosquitoes. "Cleaning water containers alone is not enough. Garbage must be buried to prevent rainwater accumulation, which can

also become mosquito breeding sites," he said.

He emphasised the need for a nationwide cleaning drive to tackle the dengue outbreak and other health issues.

Community engagement is crucial, with the government leading and providing resources, Mushtaq said.

He also called for a reformed healthcare management system to reduce dengue fatalities, proposing a three-tiered approach: primary, secondary, and hospital care.

The primary healthcare approach for dengue patients involves establishing local healthcare facilities in every city wards to provide initial diagnosis and treatment, enabling early detection and reducing the burden on hospitals, he explained.

He also pointed out the lack of manpower, medicines, and diagnostic facilities at village and upazila levels, which hampers early dengue detection and treatment.

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BNP misleading people on Dhaka-Delhi deals: Arafat

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mohammad Ali Arafat, accused the BNP of spreading misinformation regarding the recent agreement between Bangladesh and India.

"Without understanding all aspects of the agreement with India and without realising it, BNP is spreading misinformation and lies, and by distorting these facts, it is confusing people," he said while addressing reporters at a press briefing yesterday.

The recent agreement between Bangladesh and India is not a new foreign policy for either country but advantageous for both, he said.

Arafat said BNP's claims that the agreement posed a threat to Bangladesh's security due to the transit of Indian trains through the country were unfounded.

He said the agreement explicitly prohibits the transportation of "red traffic", including weapons, explosives, and other hazardous materials.

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When Narendra Modi came to power, BNP leaders woke up early morning and appeared before the Indian High Commission with sweets and flowers. This is what BNP is.

OBABDUL QUADER
Awami League
general secretary



They [Awami League leaders] have always tried to fool people by resorting to lies. The MoUs mean they will make Bangladesh dependent on India within a short time.

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP secretary general



PRAYER TIMING

JULY 2

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4:10	12:45	5:00	6:55	8:17
JAMAAT 4:45	1:15	5:15	7:00	8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

400 people get free health check-ups

Faraaz Hossain Foundation, SKF Pharmaceuticals hold medical camp in Moulvibazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

More than 400 people with various health complications got a chance to consult specialised doctors free of cost at a health camp in Moulvibazar yesterday.

The daylong health camp was jointly organised by Faaraz Hossain Foundation and SKF Pharmaceuticals Limited at Manumukh PT Bahumukhi High School of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila.

Mother and Child Private Hospital and Diagnostic Center in Moulvibazar has provided support in conducting the medical camp, said organisers.

Since morning, there were long queues of people at the camp where the doctors provided services.

Husain Ahmed, 49, said, "I've been suffering from high blood pressure for a long time... but due to poverty I could not afford



treatment. But today, I could consult a doctor and got medicine from them free of charge.

Feroza Begum, 65, who has been suffering from asthma, echoed the same.

The camp was held commemorating Faraaz Ayaaz Hossain.

Faraaz has become an epitome of supreme sacrifice for the cause

of humanity. His refusal to leave his friends during the militant attack at Gulshan's Holey Artisan Bakery on July 1, 2016 was not only an act of bravery that the world saluted but also set the burning example of what a pristine youthful mind can do when it comes to choosing the right path at the expense of mere mortality.

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