

Migrant workers unsung heroes

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through formal channels. But if you count what they send through hundi and other informal methods, the amount would be over \$40 billion. One of the things we are working on is increasing the formal means of remitting,” he said.

Highlighting BRAC’s efforts to support migrant workers, he said more migrant-friendly formal channels would help bolster foreign reserves.

He also stressed the importance of coordination among ministries for migrants’ welfare.

Michael Miller, ambassador and head of the Delegation of the European Union in Bangladesh, said the EU member states believed in regular, safe, and dignified migration.

“If Bangladeshi workers possess the necessary skills for the types of jobs we are seeking, more of them will be able to migrate to Europe for employment.

Ensuring safe migration will benefit both the European Union and Bangladesh,” he said.

He also highlighted the critical role of journalists in the migration sector, saying, “The work of journalists influences policy makers. The media contributes by working objectively.”

Mahfuz Anam, editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, said he wondered how much the government invested for migrant workers who send \$22 a year.

He noted that the ministry received just 0.5 percent of the national budget and asked, “Which ministry or government department earns even \$1 billion? Yet, this is among the most underfunded ministries in our government.”

He opined that the current system exploits human resources.

“You send them abroad. But where do they go? How do they live? What are their health issues? Are they safe? These are not

our concerns. How much money they send is our concern,” he said.

Mohammad Shaheen, NDC, joint secretary of the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas Employment, said the government was working on developing skills of prospective migrants.

“Skilled labour migration will make the migration process safer,” he said.

Shariful Hasan, associate director (Migration and Youth Platform) of BRAC, presented the keynote paper, while Safi Rahman Khan, director of the Education, Skills Development, and Migration Program at BRAC, delivered the welcome address.

Rahnuma Salam Khan, national programme manager of the International Labour Organization, spoke as a jury board member.

The award-winning journalists in the newspaper (national) category are Kamrun Nahar and Masum Billah

of The Business Standard (first), Saiful Islam of Ajker Patrika (second), and Hasanuzzaman of Dainik Inqilab (third).

In the newspaper (regional) category: Shariful Islam of Ekushey Patrika (Chattogram), Iftekharul Islam of Dainik Chattogram Khobor, and Shahin Alam of Saptahik Choddogram (Sylhet) won.

From TV: Khefayet Ullah Chowdhury Shakil of Bangla Vision with cameraperson Rajibul Islam, Rasheduzzaman with videographer SI Suman of Channel 24, and Tanvir Hossain with Jakir Hossain Rana of RTV won.

Independent Television’s Talash won in the programme category, while Badsha Miah of Radio Tehran won in the radio category.

Jahangir Alam of Jagonews24.com, Ajoy Kundo of Daily Madaripur Sangbad, Saddif Ovee of Bangla Tribune, and Shakila Khatun of Daily Khoborer Kagoj (Sylhet) were the winners in the online category.

DU halls no longer students’ nightmare

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when they notice irregularities in the dorms,” said Abdul Jabber, a resident student of Surja Sen Hall.

“Earlier, if students raised their voices against the irregularities, Chhatra League leaders would interrogate and torture them in the gonoroom [guest room].”

Hafizul Islam, of the same hall, said, “Now, when a student falls ill, the hall provost even sends fruits if informed. The administration consults the students before making decisions, and the relationship between the students and administration has improved.”

Additionally, house tutors now visit the halls every month to address the students’ problems – a practice that had been missing for a long time at DU dorms.

These tutors are responsible for students’ education and well-being, but they were rarely present before, leaving students unsure of where to turn for help.

The change is also reflected in the dormitories’ study spaces. Students now have enough space to study in the reading rooms, which were previously overcrowded with job seekers.

“The rooms are also cleaner and better furnished now,” said Arif Hossain, a student of Fazlul Huq Muslim Hall.

Mohammad Shahin Khan, provost of Kabi Jasimuddin Hall, also acknowledged these changes.

“We can now manage the hall and distribute seats among students systematically without political interference. It was difficult before because of that interference. Now, as hall authorities, we can do our jobs properly.”

He also mentioned that canteen managers and vendors inside dorms no longer have to provide food to political leaders for free.

“I haven’t received a single complaint about this since the changes.”

POSITIVE CHANGES SPARK HOPE

From among freshers to master’s students, there is now a renewed sense of

hope that campus politics will not align with students’ expectations through the positive changes and actions taking place since August 5.

The DU authorities have launched several initiatives, including a bus service for students on campus, efforts to reduce traffic on and around the campus, and measures to ensure student safety.

Meanwhile, members of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement have been distributing blankets to students for the winter, as well as offering health services and computer training programmes.

Abdul Kader, a key coordinator of the platform, said, “Students were once controlled by Chhatra League. The leaders forced them to participate in rallies, meetings, and personal tasks against their will. Now, students are free from that culture. They are given the dignity they deserve. We hope this trend continues.”

Salma Nasrin, provost of Sufia Kamal Hall, said, “Positive changes are now

visible. We’re now trying to solve any problems by attaching importance to the opinions of the hall’s students. No one is now forcing girls to attend political programmes. The gonorooms have been abolished. The female students now feel safe and free here.”

HALL FOOD STILL POOR
For years, low-quality food has been served in the hall canteens and students believed that this would change too.

When canteen owners were earlier questioned about the poor quality of food, they would blame BCL leaders, who would not pay for food and extort money from the canteen.

But even now, the residential students claimed the food remains the same as before.

Abdul Kader said, “It’s time to improve the quality of the food served in the halls for the sake of the students’ welfare. Even though the canteen owners have been changed, the food has not. If needed, the entire system [of canteens] will have to be changed.”

Khaleda may join her first rally

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appearance signals a symbolic return to the public eye, reinforcing her enduring legacy as the BNP’s figurehead, even as the party navigates its challenges under the leadership of her son and the party’s acting chairman Tarique Rahman.

Pro-BNP freedom fighters’ group the Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal will organise the event under the theme “Shobar Age Bangladesh” (Bangladesh First) at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka from 2:00pm to 5:00pm.

Khaleda will attend as the chief guest. Tarique, who has been leading the party from London, is also expected to address the rally virtually.

Her return to the public stage after years of political inactivity comes at a critical time in Bangladesh’s politics. An interim government led by Nobel laureate Professor Muhammad Yunus is in power after the ouster of the Awami League on August 5 in the face of a student-led mass uprising. Khaleda’s archival and deposited prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India during the massive political

changeover.

The political vacuum created by these developments allowed the BNP leadership to regain momentum in street politics as well as in the shifting national political landscape. Now the announcement of her appearance in the rally has once again put Khaleda at the centre of attention in the political arena.

Khaleda has already resumed some activities. She attended the Armed Forces Day programme at Dhaka Cantonment on November 21, further fuelling speculations about her ability to reengage with party activities despite her health constraints.

However, party insiders remain cautious about her long-term political engagement.

One senior party leader, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated, “Her physical condition remains fragile. She cannot move alone. While her presence is a source of inspiration, a full-fledged comeback is highly unlikely.”

The leader also pointed to Tarique’s growing influence within the party, saying, “Tarique Rahman has established a strong command over the BNP.

If Khaleda Zia attempts to take an active role again, it may create unnecessary internal chaos.”

Khaleda’s presence still holds symbolic value for the BNP, with many party supporters viewing her as the unifying figurehead of the parties that opposed the Awami League’s rule.

Muktiyoddha Dal President Ishtiaq Aziz Ulfat said, “We invited her to the rally, and she gladly accepted. Although she is unwell, we hope she will say a few words at the event. This alone brings immense joy to the freedom fighters.”

Around 1,500 freedom fighters are expected to attend the rally, which forms part of BNP’s Victory Day programmes.

The rally is expected to draw leaders from BNP-affiliated organisations, political allies, and members of civil society. The organisers hope the event will strengthen party unity and inspire supporters at a time of heightened political tension.

Party leaders interviewed by The Daily Star believe Khaleda’s return to the political stage will be a critical juncture and an emotional boost for the BNP amid its push for election at

the earliest possible time after necessary reforms promised by the interim government.

The BNP leaders also recognised the limitations of her involvement as there are also renewed hopes that Khaleda may travel abroad for advanced medical treatment, something the BNP has long been demanding.

The 79-year-old former premier has been battling multiple health complications, including arthritis, diabetes, liver cirrhosis, and kidney ailments, and requires specialised care unavailable in Bangladesh, according to her doctors.

She last addressed a BNP rally on November 12, 2017, at Suhrawardy Udyan, and presided over her final extended party meeting on February 4, 2018, just two days before her arrest in a corruption case.

Since her release on conditional bail in 2020, she has remained confined to her residence Firoza in Gulshan, with frequent visits to Evercare Hospital for treatment. Although her release was secured on humanitarian grounds, legal restrictions have barred her from active political participation.

How long will you take

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itself succeed.”

The BNP acting chairman highlighted the need for transparency and accountability, which he said the government can ensure by announcing its action plans and roadmap.

It will also speed up the administration’s activities. He also highlighted the role of parliament in strengthening democracy.

Addressing party leaders, Tarique urged them to remain connected with the people.

“After clearing all uncertainties, our beloved Bangladesh will soon begin its journey with the electoral

roadmap. In this journey, the people will be your loyal companions. Therefore, stay with the people and make every effort to keep them by your side,” he said.

Presiding over the programme, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhruul Islam Alamgir said the Awami League had destroyed the dreams of the Liberation War shortly after independence with its misrule and repressive acts. The party also dismantled democracy and stripped people of their rights, he said.

“What we want now, and what every Bangladeshi desires at this moment,

is Tarique Rahman’s leadership so that he can return to the country.”

“The most crucial step to tackle this challenge is to swiftly pave the way for reforms through a credible election. This is the only rightful course of action and the greatest need of the moment.”

Fakhruul added, “Let us, the leaders, workers, and supporters of BNP, move forward together towards this goal. Remember, as our acting chairman repeatedly emphasises, our behaviour will determine whether we gain the people’s love in the days ahead. Let us move forward with this in mind.”

BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said that after the mass uprising, people expected positive actions from the interim government, but many things have caused disappointment.

“The BNP supported this government and expected it would quickly restore the people’s right to vote; through elections, the people would form a government by casting their votes,” he said.

He urged the interim government to finish the reforms and announce a roadmap for election as soon as possible.

We can import more from Bangladesh

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be part of a region of 700 million people.”

With the Asean inclusion, Timor-Leste will join an economic zone with a GDP of over US\$ 4 trillion, he added.

The Timor-Leste president hoped that Bangladesh would be a developing partner of his country.

Earlier, Yunus and Ramos Horta held “fruitful discussions” and shared their ideas to take the

relations between the two countries to a new height.

They witnessed the signing of two instruments – MoU on bilateral consultations mechanism and agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic and official passport holders – to further strengthen the relations.

The two leaders had a tete-a-tete which was followed by a delegation-level meeting.

Ramos Horta said Nobel Peace Laureate

Prof Yunus is one of the most respected leaders in the world comparing the Bangladesh chief adviser to world leaders like Nelson Mandela, John F Kennedy, Mahatma Gandhi, Fidel Castro and Che Guevara.


“So, Bangladesh is very fortunate to have such an unassuming and humble person leading ... he is working with you to transform the country,” he said.

Saying Bangladesh and Timor-Leste have a similar

history of suffering, the Timor-Leste president said the people of Bangladesh are resilient, hardworking, creative and successful.

He described Prof Yunus as his brother, friend, and mentor and thanked the Bangladesh government for hosting him.


Ramos Horta was elected president in May 2022. He had previously been president from 2007-2012 - during which he was shot during an attempted assassination.



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Notice of the 29th Annual General Meeting
Notice is hereby given that the 29th Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of **ALIF MANUFACTURING COMPANY Ltd.** will be held on Sunday, the 29th December 2024 at 1:00 P.M under Hybrid System (both Physical and Digital Platform), Gulshan Club, Dhaka through the link <https://alif2024.hybridagmbd.net> to transact the following business:
AGENDA:

- To receive, consider and adopt the directors’ report, auditor’s report and audited financial statements of the company for the year ended 30th June, 2024;
- To approve 1% (One percent) cash dividend i.e Tk. 0.10 for each ordinary share only for the general shareholders other than Sponsors/Directors;
- To elect Directors in terms of the relevant provision of Articles of Associations;
- To appoint of Statutory Auditors for the year 2024-25 and fix their remuneration;
- To appoint corporate governance compliance auditor for the year 2024-25 (till holding of next AGM) and fix their remuneration; and
- Any other business with the permission of the chair.

By the order of the Board

Company Secretary

Dated, Dhaka
December 15, 2024

NOTES:

- The Record Date for 29th AGM is fixed on November 21, 2024.
- The shareholders whose name appeared in the Register of Members of the Company or in the depository (CDBL) on the record date shall be entitled to attend the meeting as well as qualify for dividend to be approved at the AGM.
- A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf. The Proxy Form, duly filled, signed and stamped of Tk. 20.00 must be sent through email to the Company at alifmanufacturing@gmail.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- The concern stock broker, merchant banker and portfolio manager are requested to submit hard copy or through mail to the Company at alifmanufacturing@gmail.com on or before **December 26, 2024**; the statement along with detail of their margin client or customer who has debit balance or margin loan, who are entitled to receive cash dividend of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2024. The statement should include shareholder’s name, BO ID number, client-wise shareholding position, gross dividend receivable, applicable tax rate, net dividend receivable etc. along with the Consolidated Customers’ Bank Account number, routing number and contact person.
- The shareholders will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically 24 hours before commencement of the AGM and during the AGM. For logging in to the system, the shareholders need to put their 16 digit Beneficial Owner (BO) ID number and other credential as proof of their identity by visiting the link <https://alif2024.hybridagmbd.net>.
- Shareholders are requested to Physical present at Gulshan Club, Dhaka or log-in to the system prior to the meeting start time of 1:00 p.m. on December 29, 2024.

Bowling ban

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on Friday when the English board announced that he can not bowl in ECB-run events until he proves his bowling action is legal in an ICC accredited testing centre.

However, according to clause 11.3 of the ICC regulations for illegal bowling actions, a suspension from a national cricket body is automatically recognised by the ICC and other national boards and enforced accordingly.

ECB confirmed that the ECB suspension on Shakib, which came following an independent assessment conducted at Loughborough University earlier this month, will be enforced accordingly.

ECB also informed that the all-rounder will soon go for a reassessment and there is no restriction on him to continue playing as

a batter. Shakib is currently taking part in the Lanka T10 for Galle Marvels.

“While Shakib is currently unable to bowl, he remains eligible to continue playing as a batsman in all forms of domestic and international cricket. The BCB is aware that Shakib will soon appear for reassessment at an accredited testing centre in an effort to have his bowling action cleared.

“Should the results of this analysis clear his action, Shakib will be permitted to bowl in international cricket and in domestic cricket competitions under the jurisdiction of all National Cricket Federations.” Shakib’s action was deemed suspect by the umpires during his lone appearance for Surrey in the County Championship in September.

Beximco’s liabilities

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fixed January 22 for further hearing.


Following the writ petition filed by senior Supreme Court lawyer Masood R Sobhan, another HC bench on September 5 directed BB to appoint a receiver to manage the Beximco companies and attach all their properties for six months.

The HC also ordered the central bank to recover the money taken by Salman F Rahman, founder of Beximco Pharmaceuticals,

from different banks and bring the money back to Bangladesh from abroad and issued a rule to this effect.

Central bank Executive Director Md Ruhul Amin was appointed as Beximco’s receiver on November 10.


After hearing an appeal filed by Beximco Pharmaceuticals, the Appellate Division of the SC on November 12 stayed a part of the HC order instructing BB to appoint a receiver to manage the pharmaceutical company.



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Notice of the 32nd Annual General Meeting
Notice is hereby given that the 32nd Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of **ALIF INDUSTRIES LTD.** will be held on Monday, the 30th December 2024 at 4:00 PM under virtual platform through the link <https://alif2024.digitalagmbd.net> to transact the following business:
Agenda:

- To receive, consider and adopt the directors’ report, auditor’s report and audited financial statements of the company for the year ended June 30, 2024;
- To approve 10% (Ten Percent) stock to all shareholders and 10% (Ten Percent) cash dividend i.e. Taka 1.00 per share for every ordinary share only for the general shareholders other than Sponsors/Directors as recommended by the board of directors;
- To elect Directors in terms of the relevant provision of Articles of Associations;
- To appoint statutory auditors for the year 2024-2025 and fix their remuneration;
- To appoint corporate governance compliance auditor for the year 2024-25 (till holding of next AGM) and fix their remuneration; and
- Any other business with the permission of the chair.

By Order of the Board

Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka
December 15, 2024

Notes:

- The Record Date for 32nd AGM is fixed on November 21, 2024.
- The shareholders whose name appeared in the Register of Members of the Company or in the depository (CDBL) on the record date 21 November 2024 shall be entitled to attend the meeting as well as qualify for dividend to be approved at the AGM.
- A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf. The Proxy Form, duly filled, signed and stamped of Tk. 20.00 must be sent through email to the Company at alifindustries95@gmail.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- The concern stock broker, merchant banker and portfolio manager are requested to submit hard copy or through mail to the Company at alifindustries95@gmail.com on or before **December 26, 2024**; the statement along with detail of their margin client or customer who has debit balance or margin loan, who are entitled to receive cash dividend of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2024. The statement should include shareholder’s name, BO ID number, client-wise shareholding position, gross dividend receivable, applicable tax rate, net dividend receivable etc. along with the Consolidated Customers’ Bank Account number, routing number and contact person.
- The shareholders will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically 24 hours before commencement of the AGM and during the AGM. For logging in to the system, the shareholders need to put their 16 digit Beneficial Owner (BO) ID number and other credential as proof of their identity by visiting the link <https://alif2024.digitalagmbd.net>.
- Shareholders are requested to log-in to the system prior to the meeting start time of 4:00 p.m. on December 30, 2024.