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# Govt, opposition clash over some ordinances

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday said it submitted notes of dissent on around 15 key issues during a meeting of the special parliamentary committee reviewing 133 ordinances issued by the interim government.

The notes pertain to the ordinances on the referendum, the Human Rights Commission, and the separation of the judiciary, Jamaat Assistant Secretary General and committee member Rafiqul Islam Khan told the media after the meeting.

Around 22 issues were discussed at the meeting, and Jamaat disagreed on 14 to 15 of them, he said.

Rafiqul alleged that the proposed changes would place several important institutions back under political influence, but the ruling BNP members were trying to pass them in parliament using their majority.

"Especially, they [the BNP] want to take institutions like the Human Rights Commission, Police Commission, and the commission to prevent enforced disappearances and killings back under political control, like before," he said.

He added that the ruling party members were attempting to scrap some reform measures and return to the previous system.

These reforms include establishing an independent secretariat for the Supreme Court and forming a selection committee for appointing judges.

"We also strongly opposed any move to curtail the independence of the Anti Corruption Commission," Rafiqul said.

Speaking to reporters, Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said the special committee had discussed each of the 133 ordinances and would place its report in parliament on April 2.

He said some ordinances would be approved without

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## RAMPANT RECKLESSNESS

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Passengers risk life and limb as they cling to the locomotive and ride on the roof of a train crossing Malibagh yesterday afternoon. A fruit vendor sitting on the level crossing scrambles away at the last moment, leaving inches for the train to pass. Meanwhile, a man darts across the tracks, ignoring the gateman's signal. On the adjacent lines, a group of men lounge idly, unlikely to hear another approaching train over the roar of the one already passing. Despite the fatal consequences of train-related accidents, recklessness remains rampant all over the country. Just Friday night, five people were killed after being run over by a train in Tangail's Kalihati upazila.

# Dreams of Europe end in saltwater

18 Bangladeshis killed in the Mediterranean

DWOHA CHOWDHURY and MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

For months, Sajidur Rahman's family hoped the 28-year-old would reach Europe and change their fortunes.

Instead, they are now mourning his death -- from hunger, on a boat adrift in the Mediterranean.

The second of three brothers from a farming family in Tarapasha village of Sunamganj's Dirai upazila, Sajidur had taught at a madrasa before deciding to try his luck in Europe, like many young men in his area.

Several Bangladeshis attempting the perilous crossing from Libya to Europe were rescued and taken to hospitals or detention centres in Greece. Sajidur was not among them.

He was one of at least 18 Bangladeshis who died in the tragedy, confirmed Md Nurul Haque Nur, state minister for expatriates' welfare and overseas employment.

Sajidur left home on January 14 after his family struck a Tk 12 lakh deal with local broker Mujibur Rahman, his father Abdul Gani said.

**"For two months and eight days, they kept giving excuses. Then they said he had been sent on the crossing. The next day, they said he had already reached Greece. Later, we came to know my brother had died on the boat."**

HELAL SARDAR, brother of deceased Nuruzzaman Sardar Moyna

Promised passage on a large steel boat, Sajidur was instead confined for 17 days without food in a so-called "game ghar", a deceptive term used by trafficking syndicates for detention centres where migrants are held, tortured and extorted.

Later he was forced onto a plastic boat to cross the sea.

"His last call came before boarding on March 21. They gave him no food there [in the detention centre], and even after

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# 2 Bangladeshis tortured to death in Libya

Their families in Madaripur say

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Shariatpur

Two Bangladeshi migrants from Madaripur have died in Libya after being tortured by human traffickers while attempting to reach Italy, their families have said, citing brokers.

The victims were identified as Ilias Hawlader, 25, son of Kalam Hawlader from South Janardandi in Kalkini upazila, and Faruk Hawlader, 35, son of Seken Hawlader from Binitiluk in Dasar upazila.

Family members said Ilias had been living in Qatar, while Faruk was employed in Saudi Arabia. Both men supported their households with remittances. Ilias provided for his wife Bithi, their two-year-old son, and his parents; Faruk sustained his wife Laboni, their son and daughter, and his mother.

Relatives alleged that traffickers lured the two men with promises of a better life in Europe. After arriving in Libya, they were detained in a so-called "game house" -- a traffickers' holding facility -- where they were subjected to brutal torture.

According to the families, Faruk died

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# Labour migration hits a wall with several key markets shut

Experts warn against overreliance on Saudi Arabia, call for recruitment reforms, diversification of destinations

MD ABBAS

Labour migration from Bangladesh to several major overseas destinations, including Malaysia and the UAE, has remained stalled for years, leaving tens of thousands of aspiring migrant workers in uncertainty.

Apart from Malaysia and the UAE, Oman and Bahrain either shut or restricted Bangladeshi workers' entry to their labour markets, with no clear timeline for reopening. This has left Bangladesh heavily reliant on a single destination -- Saudi Arabia -- which, according to the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), has absorbed around 30 lakh Bangladeshi workers into its labour market over the last five years.

Experts warn that the situation could worsen, as rising geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, particularly the US-Israel war on Iran, threaten regional stability and economic activity. Any escalation could disrupt labour demand in Gulf countries, further shrinking employment opportunities for Bangladeshi migrants.

- Malaysia, the UAE, several other destinations remain largely closed
- 18,000 workers stranded after missing Malaysia's visa deadline
- Fraud, 'visa trade', syndicates weakening migration system
- US-Israel war on Iran may dampen labour demand
- Oman, the Maldives halted recruitment over visa irregularities

BMET data shows that 11.31 lakh Bangladeshis went abroad for work last year. Of them, 754,671 or 66.72 percent went to

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# PROTEST CRACKDOWN Nepal court extends ex-PM Oli's detention

AFP, Kathmandu

A Nepal court yesterday extended by five days the detention of former prime minister KP Sharma Oli and his home minister after their arrest over alleged involvement in a deadly crackdown on the 2025 protests that ousted him.

Oli, 74, and ex-home minister Ramesh Lekhak were arrested in pre-dawn raids on Saturday, a day after Prime Minister Balendra Shah was sworn in following the first elections since the September uprising.

They were arrested over their alleged involvement in the protest crackdown that killed at least 76

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Illegal structures built haphazardly on Satarkul canal have narrowed the once wide waterbody, linked to the Balu river, in the city's Badda. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

# 'We, the people, will rule'

## Thousands of rallies oppose authoritarianism in Trump's US

REUTERS

Demonstrators decrying US President Donald Trump's aggressive deportation efforts, war in Iran and other policies took to the city streets on Saturday across the country in the third round of the "No Kings" rallies.

More than 3,200 events had been planned in all 50 states, after the two previous nationwide events attracted millions of participants.

Large rallies took place in New York, Dallas, Philadelphia and Washington, but two-thirds of No Kings events took place outside major cities, a nearly 40 percent jump for smaller communities from the movement's first mobilisation last June, organisers said.

The first No Kings event, on Trump's birthday, June 14, last year, drew an estimated 4 million to 6 million people across roughly 2,100 sites nationwide. The second mobilisation in October involved an estimated 7 million participants in more than 2,700 cities, according to sources.

The events come amid what organisers said was a call to action against the bombardment of Iran by the US and Israel.

Morgan Taylor, 45, attending the Washington protest with her 12-year-old son, said she was enraged by Trump's military action in Iran, which she called a "stupid war."

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