



Migrants face growing risks at home, abroad

Say researchers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi migrant workers face growing uncertainty as job opportunities in the Gulf decline and recruitment costs remain high, while people moving to cities struggle with unsafe housing and poor services, researchers said yesterday.

Gulf countries were hiring more from Africa and Central Asia instead of relying heavily on South Asia, posing a long-term challenge.

Dilip Ratha, CEO of Ratha Global and former World Bank lead economist

They urged cheaper recruitment, stronger migrant protection, and safer cities. They spoke at the 30th anniversary programme of the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) and Shonar Manush Shommilon 2026 at a hotel in the capital.

In a presentation, Dilip Ratha, CEO of Ratha Global and former World Bank lead economist, said Bangladeshi recruitment slowed in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries amid the Middle East conflicts.

He warned that Gulf countries were hiring more from Africa

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

While the authorities conducted a drive to remove waste just across the Buriganga, following a photo published in The Daily Star and a subsequent High Court directive, garbage continues to be dumped on its banks. The photo of the Old Buriganga Channel was taken in Ashrafabad, Kamrangirchar, yesterday.

CUET IN FOCUS

Cops escort Cuet VC, JCD leaders out after 30hrs

Protesters say VC was freed after he promised never to return



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Police escort Cuet VC Prof Shariful Alam out of his office.

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, *Ctg*

Prof Sheikh Mohammad Shariful Alam, the newly appointed vice-chancellor of Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology, was taken out of his office under heavy police protection yesterday evening, ending a 30-hour confinement.

Chattogram Deputy Commissioner Zahidul Islam Mia and Superintendent of Police in Chattogram Masud Alam entered the administrative building after students opened its gate and brought the VC out at 6:15pm.

The VC was whisked away in an ambulance while around 150 agitating students chanted "Bhua, Bhua (fake, fake)" slogans, reiterating their demand for the reinstatement of former VC Prof Abu Sadat Mohammad Sayem.

The students had been demonstrating for the last 21 days to press home their demand. They said Prof Shariful was allowed to leave only on the condition

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Yunus harassed at New York's JFK

Dhaka to raise the issue with Washington; parties and ex-advisers condemn

STAR REPORT



Former interim government chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus was harassed by a group of people at the John F Kennedy airport on Monday (New York time), prompting the Bangladesh government to announce plans to raise the issue with Washington.

A video clip circulating on social media shows several people hurling abuse at Yunus, who was in a wheelchair. Yunus and his associates later went back inside the airport before security personnel escorted him away from the crowd.

Condemning the incident, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Humaiun Kobir yesterday said Dhaka would seek action by US law enforcement agencies.

"We will take it up strongly with the government of the United States of America so that necessary steps are taken from a law enforcement point of view," he told reporters at his ministry.

Humaiun said embassy protocol for private visits could depend on whether the government had earlier been informed. However, the harassment of a former chief adviser could not be taken lightly, he added.

He alleged that those involved had fled Bangladesh and were inciting violence from abroad. "We will have to hunt them down, and we will do it with our bilateral partners in those countries," he said, urging US authorities to identify those

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Overhaul the child marriage law

Say Unicef, UNFPA, call for plugging loopholes

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Nearly a decade after Bangladesh replaced its colonial-era child marriage law, a new review by UNFPA and Unicef says the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) 2017 is undermined by legal loopholes, contradictions and weak enforcement, and calls for sweeping reforms.

The review identifies two major problems: flaws in the law and poor implementation.

The act penalises those involved in child marriages but does not invalidate the marriages themselves. It also allows marriage below 18 in undefined "special circumstances" and contains provisions that conflict with other laws and children's rights.

Meanwhile, child marriage prevention committees often fail to function, and officials lack proper training and logistical support.

Survivors also have limited access to shelters and legal aid, leaving the law unable to adequately protect girls most at risk.

The review recommends setting 18 as the minimum marriage age for both sexes, removing the provision allowing underage marriage in special circumstances, making the act take precedence over conflicting personal laws, and allowing children to annul their marriages.

The review recommends setting 18 as the minimum marriage age for both sexes, removing the provision allowing underage marriage in special circumstances, making the Act take precedence over conflicting personal laws, and allowing children to annul their marriages.

The report comes at a time when Bangladesh continues to have the highest prevalence of child marriage in South Asia and ranks among the top 10 countries worldwide.

About 41.6 million child brides live in the country, including 22.3 million who married before the age of 15, according to the report, even after the prevalence of child marriage among girls under 18 fell from 51.4 percent in 2019 to 47.2 percent in 2025, according to the review, uploaded on the UN agencies' website on Sunday.

The review rightly identifies several weaknesses in the act, said Taslima Yasmin, an associate professor in the Department of Law at Dhaka University, while arguing that legal reform should go beyond punitive measures to include stronger social protection for victims of child marriage.

Bangladesh has long relied on punitive measures to prevent child marriage, but decades of legislation have failed to end the practice, she said.

"Child marriage is a social custom, and punishment alone cannot end it. We need social measures, policy interventions and community-level initiatives and amend the act accordingly," she told The Daily Star yesterday.

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Some fishermen are catching hilsa at different points in the Meghna and Kalabadar rivers in Barishal's Mehendiganj upazila, defying a 22-day ban on hilsa fishing from October 8 to 29 to protect hilsa spawning. This photo, taken yesterday, shows fishermen at the confluence of the two rivers.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

POWERTEK

MEGHNAGHAT POWER LIMITED ("MPL")

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ("RFEOI")

Meghnaghat Power Limited ("MPL") is a private company incorporated in Bangladesh, which owns a 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant at Meghnaghat, Sonargaon, Narayanganj, Bangladesh. MPL is a wholly owned subsidiary of **PEL**, a joint venture between **Edra Power Holdings Sdn Bhd, Malaysia and Aljomaih Energy and Water Co., Saudi Arabia**, leading international independent power producers which own and operate a diversified portfolio of power generation assets in Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Bangladesh, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates.

MPL wishes to invite prospective applicants to express their interest in participating in the tender (the **"Tender"**) as stated below:

TENDER NO.	TENDER DESCRIPTION
HO-MPL-2026-001 (BD)	**Tender:** tender for the purchase of a 450 MW Combined Cycle Power Plant in Bangladesh comprising 2 x Gas Turbine (Ansaldo Energia S.p.A, Model: V94.2) + 1 x Steam Turbine (Fuji Electric Co Ltd, Japan, Model: KN30-2*6.3) + 2 x HRSG (Hyundai, Model: HRSG-H-28.4-68.9) and all its auxiliaries, in the form of an asset sale.

Prospective applicants interested in participating in the Tender are required to send their Expression of Interest (**"EOI"**) on company letterhead stating their interest and providing the information stated below via email to **mpl.sales@edra-bd.energy** by **10th November 2026**.

Information to accompany the EOI:

1. **Name of applicant (company name)**
2. **Country of incorporation**
3. **Authorized contact person with contact details**
4. **Company Profile**

The EOI along with the information provided therein will be reviewed and evaluated to determine the Responsive Applicants. MPL will issue invitations via email to the Responsive Applicants to participate in the Tender. The complete information on the Tender and related documents shall be attached with the invitation email.

Any inquires related to the above RFEOI shall be directed to: **mpl.sales@edra-bd.energy**