

RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS

Dhaka to ratify UN Convention by June

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is likely to ratify the UN Convention to protect the rights of migrant workers and their family members by June 2006, said a high official of the Ministry for Expatriate's Welfare and Overseas Employment yesterday.

At a meeting with the female migrant workers at the National Press Club in the city, Joint Secretary Amir Hossain said the ratification of the convention is a lengthy process as it involves meetings with different ministries.

"But the draft Overseas Employment Policy for safe migration is going to be finalised soon. A meeting will take place on January 18 with the foreign minister in the chair to finalise the policy. Then it will be sent for the approval of the cabinet," he said.

Bangladesh Ovbashi Mahila Samik Association (BOMSA) organised the meeting titled 'Voice of Female Migrant Workers' to highlight the problems that the

migrant workers face from the time of their departure to the arrival in the receiving countries.

The female migrant workers spoke about their harassment and repression in the receiving countries and deception by the brokers. They also demanded immediate ratification of the UN Convention as well as finalisation of the Overseas Employment Policy for safe migration.

The UN Convention, initiated in 1990 to protect the rights of migrant workers and their families, was signed by Bangladesh government in 1998, but it is yet to be ratified.

As a result, safe migration of women who are the largest source of remittance in the country, was hampered, said the speakers.

"The government should ratify the UN Convention immediately to end irregularities in sending migrant workers especially the women. The ratification would also help them send more remit-

ances," said a representative of Action Aid Bangladesh TIM Zahid Hossain.

Bangladesh is lagging behind in sending the labourers abroad though the migrant workers are playing vital role in the country's economy by sending remittances worth nearly 3.5 billion dollar every year, he said.

The speakers also talked about the role of recruiting agencies and media in safe female migration and skill development training.

Umbareen Kuddus, project coordinator of International Organisation for Migration (IOM), said IOM has taken up a project with the government to upgrade the current skill-training curriculum.

Susan Ward of the Academy for Educational Development, General Secretary of the National Press Club Shawkat Mahmood, and representatives of different recruiting agencies were present on the occasion.

Police informer murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals slaughtered a police informer at Shahjahanpur in the city on Saturday night, apparently for helping police arrest a criminal on the same day.

The victim was identified as Korban Ali, 22, who was a fish trader by profession.

Police retrieved the body of the Korban from Balurmath at Shahjahanpur of Motijheel Police Station at around 10:00pm on Saturday.

On Saturday noon, Korban helped Motijheel police arrest Humayun Kabir Biplob alias Ghoja Biplob, an accomplice of top listed criminal Subrata Bain, at Motijheel.

Police suspect that Biplob's associates might have killed Korban to take revenge on him.

Relative of the victim filed a case with the police station accusing four unidentified people of the killing.

Police could not arrest anyone as of 8:00pm last night.

Invest in Bangladesh

FM urges expats

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan called upon the affluent expatriates to make large-scale investments in Bangladesh for mutual benefit.

He was talking to a delegation of Tower Hamlet of London, who made a courtesy call on him at his office yesterday.

Mayor Doros Ullah led the 4-member delegation. The team is visiting Bangladesh on an invitation of Dhaka City Corporation.

The Foreign Minister said Bangladesh is a unique place for investment with huge potentialities. The government has been pursuing a liberal investment policy and providing incentive packages to the investors of home and abroad, said the minister, adding that Bangladesh origin London citizens could avail of those opportunities.

He lauded the role of Council of Tower Hamlet for their contribution to the UK and expressed the hope that they would also put in their best effort for their homeland Bangladesh.

Mayor of Tower Hamlet told the minister that the Bangladeshi expatriates are willing to invest in different sectors in the country.

He said the Council has been working for the welfare of Bangladeshi community in London. He expressed keenness to share each other's experience in various fields for the development of both the countries.

Woman killed in city road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman was killed and six others were injured in two separate road accidents in the city yesterday.

Witnesses said Monwara Begum, 40, was killed on the spot when a passenger bus rammed her rickshaw at Sayadabad at around 7:00am.

Her body was sent to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Victim's three-year-old niece, whose name could not be known immediately, escaped the accident miraculously.

"The girl was sitting on the rickshaw despite the bus hit it," a police officer told reporters at the DMCH quoting a witness.

In another incident, a Dhaka-bound bus from Nawabganj turned turtle on the Buriganga bridge at Postagala in Shyampur at around 10:00am.

Six passengers of the bus were injured.

Three of them Mohammad Monir, Abdur Rahman and Manik were admitted to the DMCH.



Participants at the launching ceremony of a book titled 'Hridoye Ivy Rahman' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Asma Kibria, Zillur Rahman, Prof A A M S Arefin Siddique and Prof A K Azad Chowdhury

'HRIDOYE IVY RAHMAN' LAUNCHED

Int'l probe in all political killings demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a function yesterday demanded international investigation of all recent political killings in the country under the stewardship of the United Nations as the killers are getting impunity due to government's undue interference.

They said the government is deceiving the countrymen in the name of investigation and justice.

The function was organised to launch a book titled 'Hridoye Ivy Rahman' at the National Press Club in the city.

The book focuses on the life and works of Ivy Rahman, former president of Mahila Awami League who died on August 23 after being injured in the grenade attack on AL rally on August 21 last year.

"As the alliance government is patronising the defeated forces of the liberation war, we cannot expect justice from this regime," said the speakers.

They said the party which promotes the spirit of the liberation war, and believes in the rule of law should be voted to power.

AL acting president Zillur Rahman said the motto of Ivy's politics was love for people.

She always wanted betterment of the common masses. Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, said ignoring all repressive measures of the ruling regimes, Ivy spent 45 years of her career struggling hard to bring positive changes in the country's politics.

He said as the government has failed to stop terrorism, the people will have to shoulder the responsibility of resisting them.

Asma Kibria, wife of slain former finance minister, said, "We all are to work unitedly to build Sonar Bangla for which leaders like Ivy Rahman and Shah A A M S Kibria fought until death."

Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury said the grief of losing the leaders should be turned into a strength to beef up movement against anti-liberation forces.

Prof A A M S Arefin Siddique, who chaired the programme, urged the party workers to fight for the ideology she upheld throughout her life.

CDA evicts 30 encroachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) yesterday bulldozed around 30 illegal commercial structures to recover its land from grabbers.

Tahera Ferdous, a magistrate of the CDA, led the five-hour eviction drive on a city thoroughfare stretching from Bohaddarhat to Kalurghat area under Chandgaon Police Station.

"A section of dishonest people, mostly businessmen, erected hundreds of illegal structures about decades ago," CDA sources said.

They said a road expansion work of the Bohaddarhat-Kalurghat route was going on and the eviction of illegal land grabbers are needed to implement the work.

In yesterday's drive encroachment on around half a kilometre stretch of the road have been cleared, they said.

CDA sources said the drive will continue until all encroachers are evicted.

UK Pre-departure Health Screening Centre opens in Chittagong

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

UK Pre-departure Health Screening Centre was formally launched here yesterday.

It would help know whether an intending visitor has infectious Tuberculosis (TB), a pre-requisite for migration to the UK, sources said.

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and Sensitive, a local leading diagnostic centre, will jointly implement the programme.

Md Shahidul Haq, Southasian regional representative of IOM, formally launched the third health screening centre at Sensitive diagnostic centre after Dhaka and Sylhet.

Sensitive Chairman Dr Moinul Islam, Consultant physician of UK TB Detection Programme Frank D Gutmann, IOM National Manager in Bangladesh Nazmul Haq and local British Visa processing centre representative Parvez Mohammad were present on the occasion.

Under the programme, anyone aged 11 years or more who has applied for visa or entry clearance to stay in the UK for more than six months must obtain an IOM health certificate confirming that the concerned applicant is free from Tuberculosis.

The UK government took up the programme as TB emerged as an increasingly health hazard in that country.

Md Shahidul Haq said the programme would help intending persons get long-term migration on one hand and the UK government to have a control over the feared impact of TB on its people on the other.

The detection of TB before migration would also help one get treatment in the country which would cost several times less than what would be required in the UK, he added.

The screening for TB detection would cost TK 3,700 per person.

Huda-led BJAFF forms bodies to hold confce successfully

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Communications Minister Nazmul Huda-led faction of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum (BJAFF) yesterday formed different subcommittees to hold its conference on January 19 successfully.

The subcommittees were formed at a preparatory meeting of the conference on the Supreme Court premises with Dhaka Bar Association General Secretary Advocate Khorshed Alam in the chair.

The meeting also requested the presidents and general secretaries of all the districts of BJAFF to immediately send their photographs and writings for the souvenir scheduled to be published on the occasion.

Subcommittees on finance, reception, publicity and public relations, souvenir publications, stage decoration, law and order, cultural affairs and constitution amendment were formed in the meeting.

BJAFF Member Secretary Supreme Court unit Deputy Attorney General (DAG) Helaluddin Mollah, DAGs Golam Kibria and Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal, Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon, Advocate Jamil Akhter Elahi, Advocate Borhanuddin and Advocate Mohsin Miah were present at the meeting.

BDB-JSD dialogue today

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) will hold a dialogue with the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) today.

The BDB will hold it as part of its dialogue programmes with opposition political parties, professional bodies and representatives of the civil society to find a way out of the present political crisis, a BDB press release said.

BDB President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury and JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu will lead their respective parties at the dialogue.

The dialogue will be held at the KC Memorial Clinic at Baridhara at 4:00pm.

Birth anniversary of Santosh Gupta today

The 81st birth anniversary of veteran journalist and author Santosh Gupta will be observed today, says a press release.

Santosh Gupta Smriti Parishad will organise a launching programme of a website on Santosh Gupta at the National Press Club at 4:00pm today.

National Professor Kabir Chowdhury will inaugurate the website while the country's intellectuals will attend the programme.



Appeal for help

Nargis Sultana, a third year student of social science at Eden College, has appealed for financial assistance for her treatment as she has been suffering from grievous injuries following a road accident, says a press release.

She had broken her hands and legs and also received injuries in her head in the road accident that took place on February 7, 2004 when she was coming to her college hostel from her village home at Madaripur.

Nargis is still undergoing treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital in Dhaka as the condition of her left leg has not improved. Sixteen cm of bone in her left leg had broken off during the accident.

According to doctors, it will take three more years to recover from leg injury.

But it is not possible for her parents -- both of them are teachers -- to afford such a prolonged and expensive treatment. They have already spent all their savings on her treatment.

Nargis is the eldest among three siblings. She appealed to the generous people and the government to extend a helping hand to help her lead a normal life again.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Maksudha Khanam, Account No.-6929, Janata Bank, Kalkini Branch, Madaripur. Interested persons can also contact her family over mobile phone: 0177-476204 and 0176-733440.



Homebound passengers crowd a train to celebrate the Eid-ul-Azha with near and dear ones. The photo was taken at the Airport Train Station in the city yesterday.

JUDGES' MURDER CASE

Hearing deferred till January 15

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Hearing of the sensational murder case of two judges at Jhalakathi on November 14, 2005 was not held at Barisal Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday.

The next date for hearing has been fixed on January 15.

A supplementary charge sheet may be placed before the court on that day, sources said.

Accused Mamun, who lost a leg in the blast, and Sultan, who helped him in renting a house at Jhalakathi, were present at the court.

However, the hearing was deferred when Special Public Prosecutor Advocate Majibur Rahman Nantu informed the tribunal that two other accused Ataur Rahman Sunny and Abdul Awal alias Arafat could not be brought to the court from Dhaka.

WEATHER TODAY

Moderate to thick fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur northwestern and central part of Bangladesh and light to moderate fog may occur elsewhere over the country. Met Office said, predicting night temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The highest temperature 27.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and lowest 10.3 degree Celsius at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	20.3	12.6	97	93
Chittagong	26.4	16.2	85	94
Rajshahi	21.7	11.6	95	83
Khulna	21.6	12.8	88	76
Barisal	23.0	14.0	100	89
Sylhet	26.5	12.4	73	81
Cox's Bazar	25.8	18.0	96	80

DHAKA TODAY

Inaugural ceremony

The inaugural ceremony of the 'e-Governance Application at the Department of Agricultural Marketing' will be held with Kazi Abul Kashem, secretary, ministry of agriculture, as chief guest. Venue: DAE auditorium. Time: 11:00am.

Memorial meeting

Pharmacy Graduates' Association will hold a memorial meeting for Abdul Mukit, marketing manager, ACI Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Nahida Sultana Lina, GMP manager, Novertise Ltd, who died in Makkah building collapse. Venue: Lecture Theatre, Pharmacy Faculty, DU. Time: 11:00am.

Human chain

Students of Buet and DU in association of Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon will form a human chain demanding cancellation of a decision to fell trees on Buet campus. Venue: Main Gate of Buet (Polashy). Time: 11:00am.

প্রসঙ্গ এবং গ্যাস ও কয়লা

স্বাস্থ্য-আগ্রাসন ও যোগসাজশ



Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) President Kazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad speaks at a press conference on gas and coal at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. BEA organised the press conference.