

RETURNEE MIGRANT WORKERS Govt to extend more support for their reintegration: minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working to undertake some additional reintegration initiatives alongside the existing ones for the returnee migrant workers, said Expatriates' Welfare Minister Imran Ahmad yesterday.

He said this during an agreement signing ceremony between Probashi Kalyan Bank and Wage Earners' Welfare Board (WEWB) at the ministry, according to a press release.

Probashi Kalyan Bank Managing Director Mahtab Zabin and WEWB Director General Hamidur Rahman signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations, the release added.

Addressing as the chief guest, the minister said the ministry has already created a Tk 200 crore fund which will be disbursed as soft loan among returnee migrants who were affected by the coronavirus pandemic, for their sustainable reintegration.

Later, broader reintegration programme will be undertaken with the stimulus of Tk 500 crore announced by the prime minister, he said, adding, they were working for undertaking additional programmes for the reintegration.

He stressed for disbursing loan among migrants in group so that they can be benefited through cooperative.

Under the agreement, WEWB will provide the Tk 200 crore to the Probashi Kalyan Bank while the bank will disburse the money as soft loan at four percent interest rate among eligible applicants, said the release.

Returnee migrants who went overseas in regular way or sent remittance through authorised channel and family members of migrants who died with coronavirus infection will be eligible for the loan, it said.

They will have to use the loan as investment for small business, it added. Disbursement and management of the loan scheme will be implemented as per the rules formulated to this end.



An entire lane of this road in Kajla, Jatrabari has become too muddy for vehicles to pass through, resulting in heavy congestion on the rest of the road. Vehicles are often having to take the wrong side of the road to pass this part, where repair work was ongoing before the rain created a whole swamp. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Full bench

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The last time a full bench of the Appellate Division had conducted proceedings was on March 12. Then the SC's Appellate and High Court divisions went on an annual vacation.

The chief justice declared general holiday for all courts across the country from March 26 due to the pandemic.

Meanwhile, Justice Md Nuruzzaman, an Appellate Division judge, has been holding hearings and disposing of cases as the division's chamber judge throughout the period.

On July 8, the chief justice at a full court meeting decided to continue running virtual functions of the Appellate and HC divisions until the situation improves.

The meeting decided that the chief justice will constitute at least four to five division benches of the HC, so they can act with judicial powers like that of regular division benches.

Justice Mahmud will increase single judge benches of the HC from the existing 13 to hear and dispose of more cases.

At this will be done after ensuring necessary logistical support, including internet and server facilities.

Bar council

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In February 2020, the council held an MCQ exam but no word on the subsequent exams was heard till Saturday. Those who pass the MCQ exam can get two chances to pass the written exams.

The Appellate Division directed in 2017 that there should be yearly enrolment of applicants in district courts.

HUNGER STRIKE

During the protests, at least 10 people were on hunger strike. Afsana Mimi, an apprentice at Barishal district and session judge's court, came to Dhaka with 13 of her fellows to join the protest on July 7.

Mimi and her friend Hazera Akter had to be taken to Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital on July 9 after their blood sugar level fell due to their hunger strike.

Like Afsana and Hazera, nearly 400 candidates joined the protests. Afsana had completed her LLB from Barishal Law College in 2014, and she passed the MCQ exam 2017. She failed the written exam, and since then, she has had no other chance to get enlisted.

"I was supposed to get another try at the written exam in 2018, but that didn't happen. Now we're in the year 2020, in the middle of a pandemic, and the future seems even more uncertain," she said.

Afsana has been working under a senior lawyer and she earns a meagre Tk 100-300 per day, depending on the generosity of her seniors.

On the process of bar council enlistment, Advocate Ram Chandra Das of Dhaka Judge Court said the system in India is more efficient. "Since 2011, they [Indian bar council] started a one-step process of giving license to lawyers through a three-and-a-half-hour long, open book, analytical MCQ exam of 100 marks, where the pass mark is 40," he explained.

Mahmud Yunus passes away

CITY DESK

S Mahmud Yunus, former accounts and finance officer of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, passed away on July 6 at a hospital in the capital. He was 67.



He had been undergoing treatment in ICU with lung infection, says a press release. He left behind his wife and two children.

Mahmud Yunus was born in 1953 in Bauphal upazila of Patuakhali. He worked at Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority in different posts for 26 years. The BEPZA authorities expressed deep shock at his death.

Five 'JMB members' held in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, MYSINGH

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) claimed to have arrested five suspected members of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) in Mymensingh's Muktagachha upazila early yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Md Asad Ali (45), Mohammad Mister (48), Muklesur Rahman Muktar (28) and Md Rashed (32) and his brother Md Based Ali, said police.

Md Tafiqul Alam, senior assistant superintendent of police in Mymensingh, said tipped-off that some JMB suspects have been holding a secret meeting at a house in Kuripara village, a Rab team raided the area around 3am.

Md Hafizul Islam Babu, senior assistant superintendent of police, led the drive, said Tafiqul, also media officer of Rab.

He said four other members of the outfit managed to flee. Rab also seized a number of jihadi books and leaflets from them.

In primary interrogation, they confessed that they were involved with the militant outfit.

The arrestees were being interrogated at the Rab office as of filing this report in the evening.

Focus on

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public relations officer Sharif Mahmud Opu, law enforcing agencies were directed to take necessary steps to ensure health and hygiene issues at cattle markets, following the health minister's guidelines.

The health ministry has decided that cattle markets will be set up only outside Dhaka city this year, and the local government ministry and the city corporations will take steps in this regard, read the statement.

People planning to visit cattle markets must wear masks and if anyone is found without a mask, then he will have to purchase a mask from the leaseholder of the market. The leaseholders were also asked to set up hand-washing stations and sanitisers at the cattle market.

During the meeting, the minister and officials suggested to emphasise on online shopping to avoid the risk of widespread coronavirus transmission.

Besides, the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and factory owners were asked to take necessary steps to pay workers' salaries and bonus on time.

The Coast Guard and river police were asked to take steps to check carrying of excess passengers on ferries and launches ahead of Eid. They were also asked to increase vigilance to prevent overloading of cattle on vessels.

Beside this, law enforcing agencies will take steps to stop circulation of fake notes, extortion, and drug traders like previous years, reads the statement.

The Industries and Commerce Ministry will set the prices of rawhide and its proper marketing. The Religious Affairs Ministry has taken decisions to hold Eid-ul-Azha Jamaat in mosques, the home ministry statement added.

Stranded in

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Faridul said one of the Bangladeshis got sick recently, but there was no one to take care of him or take him to the doctor. The only thing the others could do was contribute to buy him medicine.

All of them, he said, are struggling, thinking about how they would pay off the loans they took before going to Vietnam.

"Now, we're all dependent on the kind gestures of Vietnamese people. They think we got stranded because of the pandemic and are providing us food. Noodles are all that we eat twice a day now," Faridul said.

He said they had contacted the Bangladesh embassy in Hanoi and were supposed to return home on July 3, when 11 others were repatriated in a special flight arranged by Vietnam.

"The brokers did not give us our passports. So, we couldn't return, even though we were willing to pay airfare," Faridul said.

After news of stranded nationals demonstrating

near the Bangladesh embassy on July 2 made headlines, they are now being kept at hotels.

But the brokers -- Atiq, Saiful and Jabbar -- are threatening the 15, telling them not to contact the media in Bangladesh.

"They threatened us saying this is Vietnam, not Bangladesh, so be careful," Faridul said, pleading for help.

The Head of Chancery at Bangladesh embassy in Hanoi did not respond to repeated phone calls for comments.

Bangladesh does not have any labour recruitment deal with Vietnam.

However, using tourist and enterprise visas, recruiting and travel agencies send people there, said Rapid Action Battalion in Dhaka on Thursday, after arresting three directors of two recruiting agencies over illegally sending people to the Southeastern country.

The law enforcers also received names of eight Bangladeshi brokers who operate from Vietnam.

ACC summons

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national identity cards, TINs and income tax returns.

MP Shahid is currently being detained in Kuwait's central prison and is undergoing questioning by the public prosecution.

He was arrested on June 8 on allegations of human trafficking, money laundering and bribery.

6 CMSD OFFICIALS SUMMONED
Meanwhile, ACC yesterday summoned six officials of Central Medical Stores Depot (CMSD) for quizzing over procurement of low standard N-95 masks and PPE.

In a letters signed by ACC Director Mir Md Zaynul Abedin Shebly, ACC summoned CMSD deputy director Dr Zakir Hossain, chief coordinator Dr Ziaul Haque, assistant director Dr Md Shahjahan, store in-charge Dr Sabbir Ahmed, store officer Kabir Ahmed and senior store keeper Yusuf Fakir.

Of them, Shahjahan, Sabbir and Kabir are asked to appear on July 19 and the rest on July 20.

Earlier, ACC summoned Dhaka Central International Medical College and Hospital Chairman Motazzul Islam Mithu, Meditech Imaging Director Humayun Kabir, JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing Ltd Chairman Abdur Razzak and coordinator (medical team) of Toma Construction Ltd Motiur Rahman and chairman of Elan Corporation Aminul Islam Amin for quizzing in this connection.

Mithu and Aminul did not appear before the commission showing ailments.

The controversy over the mask supply came to the fore in early April when health professionals in various hospitals were questioning the quality of respirators, with many resorting to social media to vent their frustration.

With the complaints over poor quality ventilators surfacing, CMSD, the government body that sources medical supplies, withdrew the masks received from JMI.

Meanwhile, ACC has asked acting director of Mugda Medical College Hospital Dr Rowson Anwar and management authorities of Hotel 71 to submit documents on expense of living of doctors, nurses and staff at the hotel.

ACC deputy assistant director Mohammad Shahjahan Miraj in separate letters on Thursday sought the information from them.

According to the letter, there is allegations against the hospital authorities of misappropriating money allocated for the living of doctors at the hotel.

"We've asked them to provide documents of agreement, hotel rents and other charges," Miraj told The Daily Star.



An improvised vehicle, colloquially called Nosimon or Korimon, is seen plying Dhaka-Aricha highway at Hemayetput area, carrying a heap of sacks. Movement of such slow-moving vehicles on highways is illegal and can be dangerous for other drivers. This photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার	
পরিচালকের কার্যালয়	
সিলেট এম এ জি ওসমানী মেডিকেল কলেজ হাসপাতাল, সিলেট	
দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি	
১	মহানিদ/বিভাগ
২	সম্বোধক/স্বত্বাধিকারীর নাম
৩	অর্থায়নের উৎস
৪	আবেদনকৃত দরপত্রের শর্তক ও তারিখ
৫	দরপত্রের নাম/বাজারের বিবরণ
৬	সম্বোধক স্বত্বাধিকারীর জেলা
৭	ক্রয় বক্তিতা
৮	দরপত্রদাতাদের সোচ্চার
৯	দরপত্র তফসিলের মূল্য (অবেদনকর্তাদের)
১০	দরপত্রের বাতনা
১১	দরপত্র অফিসীয় নিয়ন্ত্রণ, দর প্রক্রিয়া প্রত্যয়নকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা
১২	দরপত্র অফিসীয় নিয়ন্ত্রণের স্থান
১৩	দরপত্র অফিসীয় নিয়ন্ত্রণের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
১৪	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখের নাম ও ঠিকানা
১৫	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও সময়
১৬	দরপত্র বাতন বোকার তারিখ ও সময়
১৭	বিশেষ নিয়ন্ত্রণ