

China's construction workers exploited

Finds survey

AFP, Beijing

Millions of men working on construction sites in China's cities often are not paid on time, not legally employed and suffer other forms of exploitation, according to a survey published Monday.

Some 53 percent of the 5,000 migrant construction workers polled by the China Academy of Social Sciences and Tsinghua University said they did not have a legally mandated labour contract, according to the state-run China Daily newspaper.

Even among those that had signed labour contracts, as all are supposed to by law, 41 percent said they were not given copies of the document and 17 percent said they did not understand its content.

According to the survey, labourers worked an average of 10 hours a day, 27 days a month, but only 31 percent of the workers said that they were regularly paid on time.

Despite the law mandating that workers receive medical and retirement benefits, only 13 percent of the migrant workers said they had retirement insurance and 31 per-

cent had medical coverage, the report said.

Forty-four percent of the migrant workers also said they were "looked down on" by urban residents, while only 3.7 percent of the labourers said they spent their leisure time off the work site, it added.

China is undergoing an unprecedented urbanisation process with over 130 million rural farmers descending on cities looking for jobs.

More than 40 million of those migrants work in the construction industry, the paper said. The survey's results, if extrapolated, suggests millions are exploited.

The poll was taken in the cities of Tianjin, Shanghai, Lanzhou, Guangzhou and Chongqing.

The survey was published after a slavery scandal surfaced last month, shocking the nation with accounts of children and men being forced to work in brickyards with no pay and under disgusting conditions.

Labour rights activists and international critics often accuse Chinese authorities and business

chiefs of turning a blind eye to labour exploitation in preference for quick profits.

**RULES AGAINST GRAFT TIGHTENED**

Another report adds: China's top judicial bodies have tightened rules against official corruption, clarifying the illegality of bribery linked to the stock market, gift-giving and gambling, state press said Monday.

The move will crack down on major new types of bribe-taking, including receiving stock shares as gifts, being invited to buy houses and cars at "ridiculously low prices" and receiving bribes through gambling, the Xinhua news agency said.

The state supreme court and the supreme prosecutorial body jointly tightened the existing regulations on corruption, which were issued earlier this year, the report said.

The development comes ahead of several high profile corruption cases, including the expected trials of Shanghai's former top Communist Party official Chen Liangyu and former Beijing vice mayor Liu Zhihua.

Exim awards scholarship to Jessore students

Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Ltd (Exim Bank) distributed scholarship among the meritorious and poverty-stricken students of Jessore region as part of its corporate social responsibilities at Jessore Club recently.

Chairman of the Board Audit Committee of the bank AKM Nurul Fazal Bulbul handed over the scholarship cheque as chief guest among the students, says a press release.

Managing Director Kazi Masihur Rahman presided over the function. Among others, Director Abdullah Al Zahir Sapan and Senior Vice President and Head of the Human Resources Division Shah Md. Abdul Bari were present.

A total of 31 students from different educational institutions of Jessore region like MM College, Jessore Cantonment College, Jessore Zila School received the scholarship.

In his speech, the chief guest said the bank has a policy to give scholarship to 500 meritorious and poverty-stricken students of different educational institutions of the country every year.

The bank has established its foundation with a view to carrying on charity activities as part of its corporate social responsibility.



PHOTO: EXIM BANK

**AKM Nurul Fazal Bulbul, chairman of the Board Audit Committee of Exim Bank, hands over a scholarship cheque to a student at Jessore Club recently. Director Abdullah Al Zahir Sapan and Managing Director Kazi Masihur Rahman are, among others, seen.**



PHOTO: TELE-TALK

**AKM Shahnewaz Chowdhury, manager of Market Development, Tele-Talk Bangladesh Limited, inaugurates a Tele-Talk corner at Bashabo in Dhaka on Sunday. Senior officials of the company were present.**

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (July 9, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank				
Major currency exchange rates			Exchange rate of some currencies	
	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	69.00	68.00		
Euro	95.36	91.11		
Pound	140.19	135.20		
Australian dollar	60.59	56.96	Indian rupee	40.20 1.70
Japanese yen	0.57	0.55	Pak rupee	60.38 1.13
Swiss franc	57.54	54.49	Lankan rupee	111.56 0.61
Swedish kroner	10.89	9.68	Thai baht	33.99 2.02
Canadian dollar	67.08	64.14	Malaysian ringgit	3.44 19.89
Hong Kong dollar	8.85	8.68	USD forward rate against BDT	
Singapore dollar	46.46	44.62	Buy	Sell
UAE dirham	18.94	18.36	1M	68.09 69.10
Saudi riyal	18.54	17.99	2M	68.22 69.31
Danish kroner	13.23	11.91	3M	68.36 69.53
Kuwaiti dinar	236.12	234.38	6M	68.79 70.24
* All currencies are quoted against BDT.				
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction.				
*The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated.				
Local Market FX				
Local inter-bank FX market was active on Monday as the international market opened after the weekend break. The demand for USD was stable against the Bangladeshi Taka. The volume of cross currency transactions was more compared to yesterday.				
Money Market				
Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate was stable and most of the deals ranged between 6.50-6.60 percent.				



PHOTO: BANGLALINK

**Banglalink opened a Banglalink Point at Uttar Syedabad of Jatrabari in Dhaka recently. Customers can avail all of Banglalink's latest packages and selective customer services at this point.**

STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 9/7/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/3	Dawei (Liner)	Gi	Yang	Everett	8/7	12/7	--
J/4	Banglar Mookh	Wheat(g)	--	Benam	R/a	16/7	--
J/7	Qing Jiang	Gi	Hanj	Cosco	8/7	14/7	352
J/9	PacAquila	Cont	Sing	Seacon	8/7	12/7	--
J/10	Apl Liliac	Cont	Cal	Apl	8/7	10/7	--
J/11	Mir Damad	Cont	Ctg	Bsca	6/7	14/7	--
J/13	Pac Makassar	Cont	Kol	Cel	8/7	10/7	238
CCT/1	Ja Vesta	Cont	P. Kel	Vega	7/7	10/7	--
CCT/3	Eagle Pride	Cont	Ptp	Qcsl	7/7	10/7	--
CCJ:	Maritime Songkhla	C. Clink	Tarj	Bsl	4/7	10/7	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Wisdom	9/7	Sing	Apl	Cont	Sing
Pac Palawan	10/7	Sing	Cel	Cont	Sing
Niki T	9/7	Tarj	Bsl	C. Clink	--
Martha Russ	10/7	Sing	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Oel Freedom	12/7	Col	Pssl	Cont	Col
Maria	11/7	Viza	Sunmoon	Slag	--
Bang Yuan	10/7	Yang	Mutual	Gi(og)	--
Rea	10/7	Sing	Rainbow	Soyabean	--
Lady Fatima	14/7	--	Seacon	Cont	Col
Banga Bodor	11/7	P.kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Cape Henry	12/7	Sin	Apl	Cont	Cbo
OEL Singapore	12/7	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Borak	12/7	Hald	Fsa	Bitumen (rm/3)	--
Al Kuwaitiah	11/7	Kuwa	Mstpl	--	--
Shina	10/7	Dumai	Usl	Cpo(rm/4)	--
Khadjah	12/7	Belwa	Mtcl	Cpo(rm/)	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside port limit

Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (30/6)
United Dynamic	Crude Oil	Jebel	Dsl	27/6

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	9/7
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	9/7

Vessels not ready

Aetos	Cdso	Sing	Rainbow	5/7
Santa Suria	C. Clink	Krabi	Asll	7/0
Gulf Riyad	Hsd	Ind	Psl	8/7

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Lion Trader	--	--	Mmsl	R/a (5/7)
Banglar Robi	--	--	Uniglobal	R/a (9/7)

Vessels not entering

Arya Payam	R. Sugar	Braz	Usl	20/6
Asian Star-1	C. Clink	Kohsi	Saraf	20/6
Trust Fortune	Wt(p)/r.s.	Vanc	Usl	21/6
Parshva	C. Clink	Kohsi	Ancl	25/6
Lalis	Canola/r.s	Vacu	Litmond	26/6
Noora	C. Clink	Krabi	Asll	1/7
Santa Barbara.C. Clink	Krabi	Uniship	2/7	
Marblue	C. Clink	Kohsi	Uniship	2/7

The following is shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.