

Legalise irregular Bangladeshi workers to ensure rights

Migrant bodies urge South Korea

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi migrants' rights organisations yesterday urged the South Korean government to legalise the irregular workers who have been living in South Korea for 10 to 15 years in a bid to ensure their rights to work.

South Korea has long been ignoring the issue of human rights of the foreign workers, though the foreign workers are playing immense role in the South Korea's economy, they said.

They also demanded to give registration to Migrant Trade Union (MTU), a union of foreign workers, by Industry of Labour in South Korea and immediate release of MTU leaders who were arrested recently.

They raised the demands at a press conference organised jointly by Mutual Welfare Society, International Migrants Foundation and Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants (WARBE) at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

Moniruzzaman Masum, a migrant leader, said according to the estimate of the Bangladesh government, over 12,000 workers are now working in South Korea. Of them, 6000-7000 workers are irregular.

He also said it is a matter of regret that the Bangladesh government does not have any accurate information about the workers who have been contributing a lot to the country's national economy by their uphill struggle.

He also said 80 percent of the workers are forced to work irregularly due to the government mismanagement.

He urged the government to do something for legalisation of Bangladeshi workers in South Korea immediately.

In a written statement, International Migrants Foundation President G M Rabbani said, "Formed in 2005, MTU has been working for establishing rights of the foreign workers in South Korea. Korean Confederation of Trade Union approved the MTU. Though the High Court of South Korea in its verdict

directed the ministry of labour to give registration to MTU, the ministry is yet to give registration to MTU."

He also said people of 103 countries are working in South Korea and about 2.4 lakh foreign workers out of 4.5 lakh are working there on irregular basis.

Rabbani also said MTU has been facing repression by the government of South Korea since its inception and now three MTU leaders, including its Vice President Abdus Sabur, were arrested on May 2 as they raised their voice for the rights of foreign workers. They will submit a memorandum to Korean Embassy in Bangladesh, hold meeting with foreign adviser, send letters to the United Nations (UN) office in Bangladesh and International Labour Organisation (ILO), stage a human chain and conduct a mass signature campaign, they announced.

Mutual Welfare Society Executive Director Md Shamiim, Faruque Ahmed of WARBE, Khademul Islam, Syed Shamiim Ahsan and Abdul Dulal also spoke.



US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Richard A Boucher calls on Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed at the latter's office in the city yesterday.

Tagore an inspiration for superstition-free society

CA tells Rabindra Joyantee function

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said Poet Rabindranath Tagore remains a great source of inspiration in the nation's all out efforts for establishing a superstition-free and a knowledge-based developed society through a rigorous transition.

Inaugurating the national celebration of the 147th birth anniversary of kabiguru Rabindranath, he told the function that Bangladesh is now engaged in a tough task of building good, balanced and well-arranged society and life through transition along a problem-strewn rough path.

And he hoped that good thought, humanity and tolerance would prevail over all spheres of society and wished that thoughts and Tagore's philosophy would guide the country in its forward march.

"Still Rabindranath is fully relevant in the determination and expectation of our national life. So observance of birth anniversary of Rabindranath is so much significant," the CA told the inaugural function, organised by the Cultural Affairs Ministry at Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

Apart from Dhaka, national-level celebration of Rabindra Joyantee (birth anniversary) is simultaneously taking place under the auspices of the Cultural Ministry at Shilaidah, Shahjapur, Potisar and Dakshindighi in the country where the poet had passed his important and memorable times and written poems, songs and so, Rabindra Joyantee is also being observed at

non-governmental level.

Prof Mostofa Nurul Islam gave Rabindra commemorative speech at the function presided over by Cultural Affairs Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury. Acting secretary of the ministry M Sharful Alam delivered address of welcome.

Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, special assistants to chief adviser, cultural and noted personalities and senior government officials were also present.

Referring to various initiatives and characteristics of life and works of the world poet, the CA said Rabindranath was not only conscious about the rights and dignity of struggling, deprived and neglected people of the country but also took initiatives for improvement of their lot and for realistic flourishing of the economy through taking different development-oriented steps, introducing cooperatives and applying modern and scientific management in agricultural production.

He noted that the great poet raised his voice against ultra-nationalism, repression and snatchers of human rights. General peoples of all countries had a firm faith in the universal outlook and philosophy of Rabindranath. So, sense of humanity has got impressive exposure in his creations.

"Rabindranath called for freedom of knowledge and soul rising above superstition and narrowness," he said.

The CA said Rabindranath was not only a dominant figure in Bengali literature but also a shining

star in the skies of world literature and culture.

Diverse nature and soft-minded people of Bangladesh not only enriched his feelings and experiences but also emerged as mother of his spirit, inspiration and efforts.

Rivers of Bangladesh, its croplands and panoramas of different seasons were his endless source of inspiration, he told the function.

Later, a colourful cultural function based on Tagore songs and poems was staged at the function. The chief adviser witnessed the event.

Six held in murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested six accused of a murder case from the city's Mirpur area and recovered two firearms and 12 bullets from their possession.

The arrestees are Mansur Ahmed

Mohan alias Suman, 23, Kamruzzaman alias Kamrul, 28, Munna, 38, Parvez Hossain alias Rony, 22, Jasim Uddin, 26, and Sona Miah, 35. Rab-2 officials said the arrestees allegedly shot dead a man and injured two others at Adabar April 21. But they could not identify the dead.

extraordinary. Study in the UK

Undergraduate and postgraduate courses in:

- Business • Computer Systems Security
- Creative Industries • Electronics • Engineering
- Health Sciences • Logistics • Management • Marketing
- Telecommunications...and many more!

- Assessed as 'Excellent' in 12 teaching areas
- Scholarships up to £2,500 for Bangladeshi students
- 20 mins from Cardiff and 2.5 hours from London

Contact our representatives for more information:

GLOBAL STUDY, 3rd Floor, BSL Office Complex, 1, Minto Road, Sheraton Hotel, Dhaka 1000. Tel: 88 02 9357909, 88 01913300025 E-mail: amal@globalstudybd.com

Alpha-i Consultants Ltd, House No. 99, Road 11/A (4th floor) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209. Tel: 02 9111957, 01713040100, 01712018876 E-mail: counsel@global-bd.net

An approved partner of the British High Commission, promoting education to the UK.

Education UK
University of Glamorgan
Pontypridd and Cardiff, Wales, UK



Know Bangladesh Better

Read Star Insight, a fortnightly publication of The Daily Star. It's coming out twice a month every alternate Saturday along with our regular issue.

The current issue (May 10, 2008) covers stories from Noakhali, Pabna, Bogra & Mymensing.

Coming out Tomorrow. Ask your hawker for your copy



Send your comments & contribution to
Star Insight
Shahen Kabir / Rafi Hossain
19 Karwan Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh. Fax: 880-2-8125155
email: starinsight@thedailystar.net
www.thedailystar.net/insight

You can make a difference to your country by voting for Cox's Bazaar

The world's longest unbroken sea beach, Cox's Bazaar, is now waiting for global recognition

Vote
All that is needed is your support,
Your
Log on to www.n7w.com

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION

we are proud to keep Cox's bazaar beach clean for the last two years

international coastal cleanup day 2007
Cox's Bazaar

making a difference

when it's time to make a difference
it's time for banglalink™



banglalink™ is the proud partner of Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation
NATIONAL TOURISM ORGANIZATION