

# Hindrances to legal migration may lead to human trafficking

FM says at nat'l consultation on GFMD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Creating hindrances to legal migration may encourage human trafficking, said Foreign Minister (FM) Dipu Moni yesterday urging the labour receiving countries not to create discrimination in hiring labour forces from the countries like Bangladesh.

"Let legal migration not be stopped. Many labour receiving countries create various forms of discriminations in hiring labour forces, but that finally results in non-transparency. Dishonest businesses may take its advantage and human traffickers may enter into the field," she said.

Dipu Moni was addressing the inaugural session of a two-day national consultation on 'Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) 2009' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city.

Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU), WARBE Development Foundation, Ain O Salish Kendra and Association for Community Development, the partner organisations of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), organised the event ahead of the GFMD meeting in Athens on November 2-5.

"It is a recognised fact that the migrants contribute to the economies of both the labour sending and receiving countries," she said while speaking as

chief guest.

Dipu Moni said global economic recession is a matter of serious concern for labour sending countries which largely depend on foreign remittances for their economies.

"Though the flow of our remittance is still upward, it may go down if the recession prolongs," she added.

Labour migration from Bangladesh came down this year significantly due to economic recession and partial ban by some Middle Eastern countries.

Besides, thousands of workers from Malaysia, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates have returned home on a long vacation or due to loss of jobs owing to recession.

"If there is social instability in any country, it will never bring a positive result for others countries which will also feel its impact," the foreign minister said.

She said the government is actively considering ratification of the UN Convention on Protection of the Rights of Migrants and their Families.

"Migrants are not the machines for moneymaking, they are also human being. We would do everything possible to protect their rights," Dipu Moni said.

Chairing the session, RMMRU Coordinator Prof CR Abrar said the issue of civil society participation in the GFMD

meetings did not get due importance.

"But we want our government to focus on people's voices in the forum," said Abrar, a teacher of international relations at Dhaka University (DU).

WARBE Development Foundation Chairman Syed Saiful Haque said Bangladesh's participation in the GFMD must be active to strengthen the international instrument protecting the rights of migrants.

In the afternoon panel discussion, DU Prof Asif Nazrul said the ratification of 1990 UN Convention on Migrants' rights is the only comprehensive international instrument to protect their rights.

"It will help improve their welfare which ultimately benefits the nation," he said.

"It would be very shortsightedness of the authorities concerned to overlook the management of migration," said Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation.

Migrants are often the victims of exploitation and fraudulent practices, checking of which requires seriousness of the government, she added.

Sultana Kamal of Ain O Salish Kendra, Dr Tasneem Siddiqui of RMMRU and Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies President Ghulam Mustafa also spoke.



Foreign Minister Dipu Moni speaks at the national consultation on 'Global Forum on Migration & Development' at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

## Disasters to be fought thru' managing internal rivers

Says Mahmud

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Environment and Forest Hasan Mahmud said Bangladesh as one of the most affected countries due to world climate change impacts has been tirelessly working to save its land and resources from the environmental hazards by managing its internal rivers.

Mahmud, who is now on a visit to Sweden to attend the World Water Week from August 17 to 20, said this at a bilateral meeting with South African State Minister for Environment and Water Resources Rejoice Mabudafasi on Tuesday, according to a press release.

During the meeting, they discussed issues related to world climate change and proper use of water of internal rivers.

The two state ministers discussed solutions to common problems of the two countries created by the climate and weather change, including floods, drought and cyclones.

Besides, 54 server stations will be set up at district headquarter and 502 server stations would be set up in 481 upazilas and 21 metropolitan police stations.

## Server stations to be set up by current FY: CEC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Election Commission (EC) wants to complete the setting up of district and upazila server station-cum-office building for voter database update during the current fiscal year.

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and

election commissioners visited all the proposed spots in every upazila of the district.

CEC ATM Shamsul Huda and Project Director of Database Brig Gen Moazzem Hossain have been visited the spots in Bandarban on Tuesday and yesterday.

He said a total of Tk 243 crore would be spent to implement the project.

According to the project paper, 10 server stations would be set up at divisional headquarters, including Comilla, Faridpur and Rangpur.

Besides, 54 server stations will be set up at district headquarter and 502 server stations would be set up in 481 upazilas and 21 metropolitan police stations.

## President for more Swiss investment

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the Swiss investors to invest here in a bigger way as Bangladesh is offering the advantages of generous tax and other benefits with a view to increasing foreign investment in the country.

"Swiss investors can take benefits of generous tax and other benefits offered by the government of Bangladesh for foreign investment," he said when new Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Urs Herren presented his credentials to president at Bangabhaban.

Zillur expressed his satisfaction over the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries and hoped that the ties would further strengthen during the new ambassador's tenure.

The president said Switzerland could import some products from Bangladesh, particularly ceramics, pharmaceuticals and computer software, considering their competitive prices.

Mentioning that there are still a lot of opportunities in increasing trade and commerce between the two countries, he said the Switzerland-Bangladesh business forum should be more active in this regard. "Swiss trade delegations can participate in country's different trade fairs."

He said Switzerland is one of the important development partners of Bangladesh and it is receiving Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) as one of the priority countries.

The new ambassador sought President's cooperation in discharging his duties and assured that he would try his level best to increase trade and commerce between the two countries.

He mentioned that the Swiss government is ready to provide its support to Bangladesh for developing the country's human resources which will help the present government reach its desired economic development goals.



Visitors look at photos at a photography exhibition titled 'Liberation War of 1971' at the Indian High Commission Culture Centre in the city yesterday.

## PHOTO EXHIBITION ON LIBERATION WAR 'Constructive dialogue with India can solve various issues'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Liberation War Affairs ABM Tajul Islam yesterday emphasised the need for constructive dialogue and mutual understanding between Bangladesh and India to settle various issues, including sharing of river water.

"Bangladesh pursues a policy of constructive arguments with India. Constructive arguments are necessary to settle issues concerning border management and security, water sharing and maritime boundary," he said.

The two countries will solve problems through mutual understanding and that the people of both the countries will benefit from it, he added.

The state minister said this while inaugurating a photography exhibition titled 'Liberation War of 1971' at the

Indian High Commission Culture Centre in the city.

The Indian High Commission organised the exhibition to pay tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the occasion of his 34th death anniversary. Photographs of some rare moments taken during the War of Liberation were put on display.

"Such exhibitions will help our people, especially young generations, to know more about the liberation war," said the state minister.

Speaking on the occasion, Indian High Commissioner Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty said India and Bangladesh would continue to enjoy a bond based on mutual trust, sharing and understanding.

India is committed to nurturing and strengthening the bilateral relationship with Bangladesh, he added.

Diplomats from various foreign missions attended the

programme.

The exhibition will remain open from 10:00am to 6:00pm daily up to August 25.

## DU students protest fee hike

DU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Dhaka University students yesterday staged a demonstration on campus protesting hike in course fees and administration's plan of introducing night shift courses in different departments.

Under the banner 'Students against increased course fees and night shift course' -- around hundred students brought out a procession at noon and held a rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla.

Students alleged that the DU administration has increased Tk 1000 as course fee in two phases in recent years.

## Anchor pays tribute to mothers

METRO DESK

Anchor organised a programme titled 'Tribute to mothers' in the city on Tuesday, says a press release.

More than 250 mothers were invited to the programme where the Anchor pack was also launched, says a press release.

Inaugurating the programme, SA Mallick, managing director of New Zealand Dairy Products (NZDP) Bangladesh Ltd, said NZDP always thrives to provide the consumers with proper nutrition at an affordable price.

Group Brand Manager of NZDP Kamrul Hasan highlighted the difference between fortified milk and cow's milk produced locally under a controlled quality production process.

Noted psychologist Prof Mehtab Khanam in her presentation said proper parenting and understanding child psychology are two critical issues to be handled carefully by parents.

The event rounded off with a performance of singer Samina Chowdhury.



Anchor organises a programme titled 'Tribute to mothers' in the city on Tuesday.

## Mass media can free society from corruption

Says DUVC

METRO DESK

The way a physician decides the cause of disease by diagnosing the x-ray report, mass media can also play the same role to make the society free from corruption, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said yesterday.

He was speaking at a seminar on 'The Role of Media to Prevent Corruption' at Dhaka Reporters Unity as the chief guest.

MAAPSI International and Dr Ambedkar Foundation jointly organised the seminar, says a press release.

Prof Arefin said at present corruption is considered to be a national problem. On the other hand, a section of our people is busy trying to move the nation in wrong direction.

Travesty of real history of the nation is also another cause to back up more corruption, he added.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Secretary General Altaf Mahmud, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Omar Faruque, Media Massline Centre Executive Director Kamrul Hassan Manju, Dhaka Reporters Unity Secretary Pathick Saha, DUJ Office Secretary Barun Bhaumick Nayan, Bidhan Dasgupta and Major Mukul Dey spoke at the seminar with Dr Ambedkar Foundation Chairman Principal Sukomal Barua in the chair.

MAAPSI International Country Director Mostafa Sohel presented the keynote paper while Dr Ambedkar Foundation Executive Director PR Biswas moderated the seminar.

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