

## INTERNATIONAL MIGRANTS DAY TODAY

## IOM for more financial aid for climate refugees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has called for additional financial assistance for the developing countries to tackle climate change-induced migration of people, which is likely to accelerate in the coming days.

"Financial support to address the migration-related consequences of climate change must not be to the detriment of development assistance which has already been hit by the economic crisis. Support has to be additional if developing countries are to build their resilience to the humanitarian impact," said IOM Director General William Lacy Swing in a statement yesterday.

The call came as the International Migrants Day will be observed in the country as elsewhere across the globe today when the world leaders will attend the final

day of the UN's Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen to consider signing up to a global deal on climate change.

The government in collaboration with NGOs has also drawn up elaborate programmes to observe the day with the theme 'Migrants' rights, security and justice are our commitment'.

In the statement released from Geneva, IOM said Copenhagen conference may not acknowledge climate change impacts on migration, but the reality is that it is already triggering both internal and cross-border migration. In particular, it is the world's poorest countries that are bearing the brunt.

Studies say millions of people of the coastal areas of Bangladesh will be climate refugees because of sea level rise.

At a press conference organised by the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and

Overseas Employment yesterday, Secretary Elias Ahmed said people's migration could be an effective tool to tackle negative impacts of climate change.

About 65 lakh Bangladeshis are now working abroad, but there are serious questions about their sustainable development, as the migrants frequently complain of being cheated both by the agents and employers.

Director General of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training Khorshed Alam Chowdhury, however, said the government is taking steps to protect them from being cheated.

Prof Dr CR Abrar of Dhaka University demanded more budgetary allocation for management of labour migration and formation of a taskforce to investigate why Malaysia, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia stopped hiring workers from Bangladesh.

UN POPULATION AWARD BODY  
Dhaka reelected member

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has been reelected unopposed a member of the UN Population Award Committee for three years.

Bangladesh was also elected the member at a meeting of the UN Social and Economic Council for the period of 2010 to 2012.

Bangladesh's candidature

was decided on behalf of the Asian Group, said a press release.

Bangladesh performed the responsibility of founding chairman of the UN Population Award Committee in 1983.

The committee nominates individuals or institutions for the award each year from across the world for the contribution to population control.



PHOTO: COURTESY

Australian High Commissioner Justin Lee and Minister of the Japanese Embassy Harumitsu Hida hand over the final report of International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) to Major General Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, director general of Bangladesh Institute for International and Strategic Studies (BISS), at a ceremony at BISS office yesterday.

NON-PROLIFERATION, DISARMAMENT  
Report handed over to  
BISS director general

METRO DESK

Australian High Commissioner Justin Lee and Minister of the Japanese Embassy Harumitsu Hida handed over the final report of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) to Major General Sheikh Md Monirul Islam, director general of Bangladesh Institute for International and Strategic Studies (BISS), at a ceremony at BISS office yesterday.

Earlier, Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Japanese Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama launched the report in Tokyo on Tuesday.

The report is intended to reinvigorate global debate on nuclear non-proliferation and

disarmament.

Justin Lee said the Australian government welcomes the report as a valuable contribution to achieving a positive outcome at the NPT Review Conference in May 2010 and galvanising action by governments to progress nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and the goal of a world without nuclear weapons.

The Australian envoy said the report was the work of an independent commission established by the Australian and Japanese governments, and it did not reflect the policy position of any government.

The report is intended to stimulate debate and provide forward-looking options and possibilities for consideration.

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