

AFTERMATH OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Take preparations to rehabilitate 2 crore people abroad

JS body asks expat welfare ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday asked the expatriate welfare ministry to take all-out preparations so that two crore people predicted to be displaced as aftermath of climate change can be rehabilitated abroad with jobs.

The parliamentary standing committee on expatriate welfare and overseas employment ministry also expressed concern over the massive downturn in manpower export last year.

The watchdog body of the House also asked the authorities concerned to bring back a Bangladeshi worker's dead body which has been kept at a mortuary of a Malaysian hospital for the last one year.

Member of the committee Shaheda Tareq Deepti, who recently visited Malaysia, raised the issue of a dead Bangladeshi worker there.

"The body has been kept at a mortuary for one year. The family and relatives of the dead even do not know about him. It's really unfortunate that the concerned embassy did not take steps to bring the

body back to the country," said Deepti, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

On reducing of manpower export, Chairman of the committee Anisul Islam Mahmud said over eight lakh Bangladesh workers were exported in 2008 while the number reduced to only four lakh last year.

"The reason is severely reducing of manpower export in Malaysia. We exported only 14,000 manpower there in 2009 while the number was around four lakh in 2008."

On rehabilitation of displaced people caused by climate change, Anisul said: "It is predicted that around two crore of our people will be displaced because of climate-induced bad impacts. We have asked the ministry to take serious steps from now on so that displaced people can be rehabilitated to European and other countries ensuring their jobs."

The committee chief said this while talking to reporters after the meeting at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"We have asked the ministry so that prospective migrant workers and other manpower

can get technical or vocational training. We also recommend that the government give importance on technical education across the country. Besides, the committee also recommends freeing the technical training."

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chief of a parliamentary sub-committee on environment, told The Daily Star last night that he has already recommended that the government take an initiative so that the displaced people are treated as refugees in international forums.

"I also recommend the government formulate a 'managed migration policy' under which climate-hit people will not be a burden for a country where they will be rehabilitated," said Saber, also a ruling party lawmaker.

Anisul said, "Technical education is much more important than general education and we conveyed our recommendation to government."

The committee also asked officials concerned to hunt new labour markets, assess their requirements and prepare a demographic structure.

Integrated health, family planning stressed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Medical professionals and rights activists yesterday suggested the government to take measures for integrated health and family planning services at hospitals for an effective health care service for people.

They rolled out the suggestion at a

discussion titled 'Debate on policymaking issues in health sector: One year of the government' held at Dhaka Reporters Unity. Health Reporters Forum, Bangladesh organised the discussion.

Prof Rashid-e-Mahbub, president of national committee for Health Rights Movement, at the discussion

pointed out the link among health, food and sanitation. He emphasised the integration of all those issues under ministry of health.

The government should open all community clinics immediately so that people can get primary and emergency health care, antenatal and postnatal care, pediatric care and get

suggestions and references, he added. Prof Mahbub also said the government should monitor standard of the private medical colleges.

AL leader Badiuzzaman Bhuiyan Dablu, BMA leader Abdul Aziz, Jamal Uddin Chowdhury, and Zakaria Swapan, proctor of BSMMU, also spoke at the discussion.

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Suranjit Sengupta speaks at a view exchange meeting titled 'Safeguarding the rights of the domestic workers: Existing laws and ways to move forward' at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left is Mahbul Alam and on his right are Dr Faustina Pereira, Sultana Kamal and Taley Rahman. (Story on Page 5)

TAX EVASION

Jalil asked to appear before court Jan 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again asked former Awami League general secretary Abdul Jalil to appear before it on January 18 in connection with a tax evasion case.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after Jalil's lawyer submitted a petition, saying his client could not appear before the court yesterday due to his illness.

The same court asked Jalil on November 17 last year to appear before it yesterday.

The High Court on October 18 granted anticipatory bail for three months to Jalil in the case.

Earlier on October 15, the same court issued an arrest warrant against Jalil hours after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed a case against him in connection with dodging income tax of over Tk 4 lakh.

In the statement, the NBR mentioned that Jalil, chairman of Mercantile Bank Limited, evaded income tax worth Tk 4,07,485 on his income of Tk 54,60,234 from the bank for the fiscal years 2003-2008. He concealed his income of Tk 54 lakh in his tax returns.

Jalil repeatedly provided false information about his real income and expenditure, alleged the NBR.

RID PHARMA DIRECTOR GETS BAIL

Police fail to submit reports on execution of arrest warrants

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Sheuli Rahman, a director of Rid Pharmaceutical Ltd and wife of its Managing Director Mizanur Rahman, in a case filed against them for manufacturing toxic paracetamol syrup that claimed the lives of at least 28 children.

Meanwhile, Brahmanbaria Sadar Police Station failed to submit reports on execution of arrest warrants and property attachment of three other defendants in the case, although in the court asked the officer-in-charge (OC) of the police station time and again to do so.

Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of Dhaka Drug Court passed the bail order upon a bond of Tk 50,000 with two guarantors after Sheuli, one of Rid Pharma's directors, appeared before the court and sought bail.

But the court did not pass any order regarding the submission of reports on execution of arrest warrants and property attachment of the three absconding accused.

The accused are director Abdul Gani, and pharmacists Mahbul Islam and Enamul

Haque.

Mizan's Lawyers submitted a bail petition yesterday, but the court fixed January 17 for hearing on it. The court also fixed February 17 for next hearing of the case.

On October 12 of 2009, Mizan surrendered to Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court following a High Court (HC) directive, and sought bail. But he was sent to jail.

On August 18 the same year, Mizan's wife Sheuli Rahman appeared before the HC, seeking anticipatory bail and secured it for six months.

At least 28 children died of renal failure following intake of Rid's paracetamol syrup and suspension, across the country from June to August last year.

On August 11, the Dhaka Drug Court issued arrest warrants against the five after Directorate of Drug Administration Superintendent Shafiqul Islam filed the case with the court.

A case against them was filed in Brahmanbaria as well, while three other cases were filed against the Rid management in Comilla, Narayanganj and Sylhet.

CHT land disputes to be solved thru' discussion

Sajeda tells view exchange meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury yesterday said land disputes are the main problem in Chittagong Hill Tract (CHT) area and the problem will be solved through discussions with the indigenous people.

The CHT Land Commission is working to solve the problem. A land survey is needed and it is the important thing for the area, she added.

Sajeda, who is also convener of CHT Peace Accord Implementation Committee, speaking as the chief guest at a view exchange meeting on 'A Decade of CHT Peace Accord: Expectations and

Achievements' at the National Press Club in the city.

Shamprity Manchya, a voluntary organisation, organised the meeting.

The CHT peace accord brought an end to a two-decade-long insurgency in the area. After signing the accord in 1997 on December 2, members of Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), who had been in an armed struggle for autonomy of CHT, surrendered their arms to the then Awami League government.

The Awami League leader said if there is any contradiction in the peace accord, the government will sit with all the stakeholders and then would take a decision to solve the problem.

About constitutional recognition to the indigenous people, she said the constitution has ensured their rights.

Sajeda stressed the need for taking an initiative to protect their traditional culture, language and lifestyle.

Speaking as the special guest, State Minister for CHT Affairs Dipankar Talukdar said the government had made a progress regarding the implementation of the accord.

Chaired by Prof Ajoy Roy, the function was addressed by General Secretary of Indigenous Forum Sanjib Dronng and PCJSS leader Shaktiphad Tripura.

Noted journalist Shahriar Kabir presented a keynote paper at the view exchange meeting.

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