



Citizens' Rights Movement (CRM) forms a human chain in front of BGMEA Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding demolition of the Bhaban built illegally.

PHOTO: STAR

## Rehabilitate Libya returnees

Speakers urge govt

UNB, Dhaka

Speakers at a discussion yesterday emphasised on rehabilitating the returnee migrants from Libya by creating livelihoods instead of providing them one-time financial assistance.

They urged the government to prepare a database of the returnees incorporating detailed information about them so that the returnees could be easily involved with various projects taken by the government and non-government organisations (NGO).

Refugee and Migratory Movement Research Unit (RMMRU) organised the discussion on "Rehabilitation of Returnee Migrants from Libya" at CIRDAP auditorium in the city. Top government officials, university professors, researchers, lawyers, students, NGO representatives and business leaders took part in the discussion.

Presenting a keynote paper at the function, RMMRU Chairperson Dr Tasneem Siddiqui said more than 34,000 Bangladeshi workers have recently returned from Libya and initiatives should be taken for their rehabilitation.

Tasneem, also a professor of Political Science in Dhaka University, said all concerned would have to work together along with the government to cope with the challenge.

She pointed out that RMMRU took initiatives to prepare a modern database of these returnees while many already started sending their information online.

The government should come forward to prepare a master database, rich with all pertinent information about the returnees, she added.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow of Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said beyond the traditional labor markets in the Middle East, more suitable markets for Bangladeshi workers must be found out to face the challenges of the returnees.

He said steps must be taken to increase per capita income, expand Bangladesh's labour market, enhance skills of workers to face the global challenges and reduce labour transition cost.

Information on the returnees would have to be collected correctly so measures could be taken for their re-migration. The business chambers and trade bodies would have to come forward to create employment for them, he added.

Dr Debapriya also said Expatriate Welfare Bank, which will become functional shortly, should provide sufficient loans to returnees from Libya on priority basis.

Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Secretary Dr Jafar Ahmed Khan described the importance of remittance sent by expatriate Bangladeshi workers and said some 4 lakh workers go abroad every year.

The contribution of their remittance is some 13 percent to the country's GDP, he said, adding that the government is working for their welfare.

Emphasising on preparing a database of the returnees, the secretary requested RMMRU authorities for officially handing over the information on Libya returnees to the government to prepare a good database.

RMMRU Treasurer and Supreme Court lawyer Dr Shahdeen Malik, Director General of BMET Khurshed Alam Chowdhury also spoke.

## Demolition of BGMEA Bhaban demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Civil society members yesterday demanded the government demolish BGMEA Bhaban in line with the High Court order and implement the Begunbari-Hatirjheel project.

They made the demand at a public rally organised by Citizen's Rights Movement (CRM) in front of BGMEA Bhaban yesterday morning, says a press release.

CRM secretary general Tusher Rehman, in a written statement, said Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) built the building illegally on the land owned by Bangladesh Railways.

The speakers said BGMEA authorities have hid information about the building and made the incumbent and former prime ministers to lay the foundation and open it.

CRM's senior vice president Shah Enayetur Rahim, Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan joint secretary (Bapa) Mihir Biswas, and Eng M Enamul Haque also addressed the rally.

## TORTURE ON BOY Housewife arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday arrested a housewife at Mohammadpur in the city on charge of torturing her teenage domestic help.

Zannat Ara Begum, 38, wife of Zinnurain, was picked up from her house after father of the domestic help lodged a complainant with Mohammadpur Police Station on Saturday.

Mohammad Khokon Miah, father of the victim Mohammad Sujon, 15, of Mymensingh said his son was employed five years ago. Zannat used to torture and even keep him starving for days since then, he added.

## UIU new hall to be named after Hasina

BSS, Islamic University

Islamic university Vice-Chancellor Prof M Alauddin yesterday said a women's residential hall will be built to solve residential problems of the students and it would be named 'Sheikh Hasina Hall'.

Besides, teacher's quarters would also be built to solve the residential problems of the teachers, the VC said.

The University syndicate has taken this decision yesterday.

## Correct loopholes in A2I programme

Experts urge media

BSS, Sylhet

Experts at an event here yesterday urged the media to highlight the successes of the programmes of Access to Information (A2I) project alongside constructive criticism to correct loopholes in the programmes.

The made the call at an A2I dissemination workshop organised by Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha with its Chief Editor Ihsanul Karim was in the chair.

National Project Director to A2I Nazrul Islam, Sylhet Mayor Badruddin Kamran, Editor of Daily Bhorer Kagoj Shyamol Dutta, Director General of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) Prof Dulal Chandra Biswas, BSS City Editor Ajit Kumar Sarkar and Sylhet DC Abu Sayed Mohammad Hasim were also spoke.

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