

OVERSEAS JOBS

# Call for maintaining highest ethical standards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists yesterday called upon international recruiting agencies and employers to maintain the highest ethical standards by ensuring protection of labour in all the stages starting from recruitment to repatriation.

Employers must bear the migration costs and the migrants, based on their work, should be ensured equal pay, access to health and safety facilities, they said.

They urged global brands and governments to put pressure on the labour receiving countries, which are deviant from global standards, to run a decent recruitment industry.

The suggestions came at a press conference at a city hotel after the end of a two-day roundtable titled "Responsible Recruitment, Responsible Return: Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in the Apparel Sector" yesterday.

UK-based Institute for Human Rights and Business (IHRB) and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) organised the programmes.

Speaking at the press conference, David Arkless, vice president-elect of International Confederation of Private Employment Agencies, said, "The message for the recruitment business here is you can operate ethically, correctly."

"Treat your candidate with human dignity and you can still make money."

Terming the practice of charging high fees from jobseekers in Bangladesh as "terrible", he said there is a huge gap between global norms and the recruitment practice in Bangladesh.

Some foreign countries in the Gulf are exceptionally deviant from



Irene Khan, board member of UK-based Institute for Human Rights and Business, speaks at a press conference after the concluding session of a two-day roundtable titled "Responsible Recruitment, Responsible Return: Bangladeshi Migrant Workers in the Apparel Sector" at a city hotel yesterday. On her left is John Morrison and on her right are David Arkless, Zafar Ahmed Khan and Prof CR Abrar.

the global practice of recruitment, said David.

It will take time for the manpower exporting industry here to bring standards up to global norms, which is why commitment of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, the government and civil society is crucial, he said.

"Human rights comes first, business comes after," said IHRB Board Member Irene Khan.

It is the first and foremost responsibility of the states to ensure human rights. But the states alone can not do it and here comes

the role of the recruitment agencies and global brands, she said.

Businesses, for their own interest, not only have to ensure a safe and responsible recruitment but also a safe return, she added.

"We have to look at the entire spectrum of migration -- recruitment, employment and return," she said.

Job contracts should have clauses for repatriation, a fact which the government needs to address in bilateral agreements, she said, urging on global brands to put pressure down the supply chain of labour to ensure transpar-

ent recruitment.

The sector is not just about profit, but about people, she said.

Irene, former head of Amnesty International, said they are trying to create a framework for multiple stakeholders including businesses, the government, labour associations and civil society organisations to make these principles come to practise.

RMMRU Executive Director Prof CR Abrar said this is high time Bangladesh signs bilateral agreements having clauses that meet labour demands with countries receiving labour, as the Arab world

is moving for reforms following the current uprisings.

IHRB Executive Director John Morrison said principles adopted at the meeting include -- none will retain migrants' travel documents, migrants will face no discrimination on any grounds and companies will maintain code of conduct.

Migrants will also have access to a confidential mechanism for complaints and access to a safe return with due pay and employers will ensure that job contracts are written in migrants' language, he added.

# HC okays Titas asset transfer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld a government decision to transfer the assets of Brahmanbaria-Ashuganj unit of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited (TGTDC) to Bakhrabad Gas System Limited (BGSL) at a cost of Tk 268.20 crore.

A vacation bench of HC comprising Justice Quamrul Islam Siddiqui and Justice M Moazzam Husain summarily rejected a writ petition filed by two shareholders of TGTDC challenging the decision.

Mohammad Alauddin and Abu Sayeed jointly filed the petition on June 23 stating that the assets of Brahmanbaria-Ashuganj unit of TGTDC worth Tk 1207.45 crore, as per the assessment of Ahmed and Akter Company, a chartered accountant firm of Dhaka.

The Petrobangla at a meeting on October 19 last year had decided to transfer the assets of TGTDC at a cost of Tk 1207.45 crore.

But, Petrobangla on January 6 this year decided to transfer the same assets to BGSL at a cost of Tk 268.20 crore, as per the assessment of Huda Vasi Chowdhury and Company, another chartered accountant firm of Dhaka, they said.

If the assets are transferred at such lower cost the shareholders will be financially looser, added the petitioners.

# Jobs of 200 female traffic cops on cards

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police will constitute an all-female division and appoint 200 female traffic sergeants soon to increase women's participation in the police force.

DMP Commissioner Benazir Ahmed yesterday said this at a seminar at Mirpur University College auditorium in the city yesterday.

Titled "Amra Nari, Police Hote Pari", it was organised jointly by Mirpur Police Station and Shishuder Jonyo, a non-government organisation.

# Worker dies in fall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A construction worker died after falling from the roof of a six-storied building under construction near Purabi Cinema Hall in the city's Pallabi yesterday.

The deceased Solaiman alias Chand, 25, is the son of Ahmed Farazi of Jhalakathi.

Co-workers rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

**HANJIN SHIPPING**  
Beyond the Ocean

1st July 2011

Hanjin Shipping Commencing in Bangladesh under Joint Venture with a renewed name and vigour

**HANJIN SHIPPING BANGLADESH LTD.**

*Our Voyage with Nature Goes On*

Head office: HR Bhaban (1st Floor), 26/1, Kakrail, Dhaka  
Tel: 9334144-7, 8316389, 8321629, Fax: 880-2-8312189  
Chittagong office: Ispahani Building (2nd Floor)  
Tel: 880-3-714981-4, 714515-7, Fax: 880-31-710541  
Khulna office: HR Bhaban, 34/B Sonadanga  
Tel: 041-721382, 722886, 7220890, Fax: 880-41-731232

www.hanjin.com

Bangladesh Business Awards  
DHL The Daily Star

There was no secret behind our Enterprise of the Year Award

**INTEGRITY & HARD WORK BRINGS "SUCCESS"**

-Alihussain Akberali

The integrity and hard work of thousands played the biggest role behind our success. We thank these people, our employees, business associates, shareholders, customers and well wishers for winning us the DHL-Daily Star Bangladesh Business Award in the Enterprise of the Year category.

**BSRM**  
the ultimate steel