

Protection for migrant workers' rights sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several NGOs and rights bodies jointly placed a memorandum to the prime minister yesterday to press home their four-teen-point demand for protecting the rights of Bangladeshi migrant workers.

The demands included ensuring the right to franchise of expatriates, reducing migration cost, bringing labour recruiting agencies under government's code of conducts, ensuring government's legal aid to workers if necessary, easing the process of taking loan from Expatriate Welfare Bank by workers, and ensuring autopsy of workers after death.

The demands were jointly put forward by

WARBE Development Foundation; Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit; Association for Female Migrant Workers; Ovivashi Karmi Unnyan Programme; Brac; International Migrants' Alliance Research Foundation; Bangladesh Migrants Foundation; Setu; Ovivashi Karmi Kallyan Foundation; Ain o Salish Kendra; Manusher Jonno Foundation; Peace Foundation; and Bangladesh Construction and Wood Workers Federation.

WARBE Development Foundation Secretary General Faruk Khan, on behalf of the organisations, submitted the memorandum to the Prime Minister's Office on the occasion of the Human Rights Day, 2012 yesterday.



This 275-kilogramme fish, locally known as "Koi Koral", caught deep in the Bay of Bengal, will be on sale at Kazir Dewri Bazar in Chittagong city from tomorrow for Tk 700 per kilogramme.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Japan donates \$6m to feed vulnerable Bangladeshis

BSS, Dhaka

The government of Japan has donated US\$6 million to World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food assistance to poor and vulnerable communities who are exposed to natural disasters and climate change impacts.

The donation will help 80,000 extremely poor households - about 400,000 people - to reduce their exposure to disasters and climate change impacts by involving them in asset-creation schemes that will make their communities more resilient, said WFP in a press release yesterday.

The food assistance will be distributed in 13 food-insecure districts of Bangladesh, including Kurigram,

Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Jamalpur, Lalmonirhat, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Barguna, Bhola and Patuakhali.

Shiro Sadoshima, Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh, said, "I visited WFP project sites in Gaibandha and realised the necessities of continuing the programmes."

"We hope the assistance will help poor people who are affected by natural disasters and climate change," he said, adding that the donation aims to help the poorest, most vulnerable and undernourished people of the country.

Christa Räder, WFP representative to Bangladesh, said, "With Japan's support we can implement converging programmes to assist the most vulnerable people in Bangladesh."

Massive awareness about diabetes urgent

Say medical specialists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned medical specialists, at the inaugural of a three-day conference yesterday, stressed the importance of creating widespread awareness and modernising the country's doctors to prevent diabetes.

The "18th Diabetes and Endocrine Conference" was organised by Bangladesh Endocrine Society and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh in the capital's Bangladesh Institute of Health and Sciences.

Inaugurating the conference as the chief guest, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid said, "A widespread promotional

campaign is needed to prevent diabetes. Private initiatives can play a defining role in creating awareness against diabetes."

The association President Prof AK Azad Khan, presiding over the session, said Bangladesh needed skilled human resource to prevent diabetes.

"We need to train future generations of doctors to be experts in their fields so that they can enhance the state of Bangladeshi healthcare," he said.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Vice-Chancellor Prof Pran Gopal Datta and the society General Secretary Prof Liaquat Ali were present.



65 birds recovered from illegal traders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The wildlife management and nature conservation wing of the Wildlife Division recovered 65 birds of different species from illegal traders during two separate drives in the capital's Uttara and Tongi Bazar on Sunday.

The seized birds include 10 red breasted parakeets, 49 spotted doves, two pond herons and four purple swamp-hens. Officials of the wildlife crime control unit of the wing conducted the drives.

Ashim Mollick, a wildlife inspector, said no-one was arrested as the illegal traders fled instantly on information about the raids. The seized birds were released into Botanical Garden in the capital's Mirpur, he said.

A case was filed in this regard under the Wildlife Act 2012, which prohibits poaching, capturing, trapping and trading of wildlife.

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