

New migration law to eliminate middlemen

Observe experts

DU CORRESPONDENT

The new proposed law on overseas employment has major provisions to prevent the informal intermediaries who used to lure aspirant migrant workers with false promises, experts said at a discussion yesterday.

They, however, suggested that the law should specifically mention that the embassies must provide interpreters and legal aid services to the migrant workers. It should also ensure that the migrant workers get investment loan and counselling on their return home, they added.

Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed stressed that the preamble of the law should make references to the three ILO conventions pertaining to migrant workers' rights.

The recommendations came from a national consultation on the "Overseas Employment and Migrants Bill 2013", organised by Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) with RPC Migrating out of Poverty at the Dhaka University senate building.

Strengthen 'One House One Farm' scheme

Prothom Alo discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing scheme to set up a farm at every house with cooperative capital must be strengthened as a vital poverty alleviation tool, despite some failures, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

Bangla daily Prothom Alo organised the discussion on the popularly known "One House One Farm" scheme at its office in the capital.

Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Syeda Farhana Kawnain said the scheme must be founded on a structure with permanent manpower and advanced with advocacy, motivation and public trust.

Comilla's Debidwar Upazila Chairman Kazi Mohammad Fakrul said the government must ensure fair price of farmers' produce as a poverty alleviation strategy.

The scheme aims at creating income and livelihood for the rural poor by combining human resources with micro savings and at halving poverty by 2015, said the project Director Proshanta Kumar Roy.

The five-year scheme, the conception of which came into being in mid 2009, started with cattle, poultry, vegetable seed and sapling distribution.

Following anomalies in wealth distribution, the scheme was revised in mid 2011 with changes to strategies for contributory micro savings with a Tk 1,492 crore fund, he said.

The 17,388 village cooperative societies, each comprising 60 families, formed till date take loans from the common fund, said Roy.

KHULNA, RAJSHAHI, SYLHET CITY CORPORATION, POLLS

Mayoral candidates collect nomination papers

STAR REPORT

Mayoral candidates, backed by ruling and opposition party alliances, have collected nomination forms for the city corporation elections in Khulna, Rajshahi and Sylhet scheduled for June 15. The polls will also be held in Barisal city.

Our Khulna correspondent reports: The forms were collected by Awami League (AL) city unit President Talukder Abdul Khaleque, BNP city unit General Secretary Moniruzzaman Mony, BNP's district unit General Secretary Shafiqul Alam Mona, Jatiya Party's (Ershad) district unit President Shafiqul Islam Modhu and Bangladesh Muslim League city unit President Sheikh Sirajul Islam.

Our Rajshahi correspondent adds: The forms were collected by AL city unit General

Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton, Jubo Dal city unit President Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, BNP city unit General Secretary Shafikul Haque Milon, Jamaat city unit acting general secretary Dr Jahangir Hossain, former Shibir city unit president Mahbub Hasan Bulbul, Habibur Rahman and Mir Mozammel Ali.

Our Sylhet correspondent reports: The forms were collected by AL city unit President Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran, Swechhasebak Dal's Central Committee Vice-President Shamsuzzaman, BNP city unit Vice-President Nasim Hossain, General Secretary Abdul Quaiyum Jalali and Central Committee Member Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Jamaat city unit Ameer Ehsanul Mahbub Zobayer and businessmen Salauddin Rimon and Arif Ahmed.



A few days of rains have multiplied the sufferings of commuters on the battered Hathazari-Muradpur road, which has been undergoing renovation over a protracted period of time. The photo was taken in Muradpur in Chittagong city yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

BNP for suspension of SCC polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

BNP's Sylhet city unit Vice-President Badruzzaman Selim has demanded that the Sylhet City Corporation (SCC) polls scheduled for June 15 be suspended immediately.

If the election is held according to the SCC's demarcation of 2008, it will be an incomplete election as many people of different areas in Dakshin Surma, Shahporan, Jalalabad and Airport Police Stations will not be able to cast their votes, he said.

Selim also demanded that an administrator to the SCC be appointed as its mayor resigned on Thursday.

"If the Election Commission fails to take necessary steps in a week, we would go for legal measures," he said while speaking at a press conference at a hotel in Sylhet city yesterday.

Ejhanul Haque, regional election officer in Sylhet, said although the areas were brought under the metropolitan areas in re-demarcation of 2011, the SCC polls will be held in 27 wards according to the previous demarcation.

UNUSUAL SURVIVAL UNDER DEBRIS Reshma still traumatised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reshma Akhter is still terrified, though trying to overcome the horror she suffered until being rescued on Friday after spending 16 days face to face with death under the rubble of the collapsed Rana Plaza.

"She is panicked, cannot sleep unless a nurse holds her hand," said Hasan Shahid Suhrawardy, GOC of Savar Cantonment, at a briefing yesterday about Reshma's condition.

But Reshma talked to her family and was able to recognise everybody, the GOC said. She even talked to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the phone shortly after being taken to Savar Combined Military Hospital and Hasina rushed to see her.

Journalists were allowed only to take her photo, before the press briefing yesterday.

"There has been some metabolic changes

in her body after spending so many days in dark under the rubble. It would take some time to recover," he said. "However, she is improving fast."

"She is still traumatised and suffering from insomnia. We are giving her semi-solid food," said Lt Col Dr Azizur Rahman at the hospital.

"Now she needs complete rest and sleep, he said.

Suhrawardy said raindrops that meandered through the rubble helped her survive.

"She had some food for first two weeks. After that she was starving," he said, without explaining where she got the food from.

When asked whether she was rescued from a mosque as rumors say, Suhrawardy said, "None of the rescuers told me so. I don't think so."

Jewellery shop owner 'loots' neighbour

Three arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch of police on Friday arrested the owner of three jewellery shops of Rajanigondha Super Market in the capital's Bhashantek, alongside two others, on charge of looting a jewellery shop of the market.

A total 113 of 501 tolas of gold ornaments, looted from Swarnali Jewellers on December 24, 2012 after a break-in, were seized from two of the three shops, said DB Additional Deputy Commissioner (West) Mashiur Rahman.

The owner, Faruk Hossain Jewel, 27, of Noakhali's Senbagh upazila; Mukul Hossain, 26, of Narail; and Abu Taleb Hawlader, 37, of Barguna were arrested in Kafrul and Bhashantek areas and are now on a five-day remand.

The three shops are Rajanigondha Jewelers, Anamika Jewelers and Solid Gold.

Jewel told The Daily Star in the capital's DB office that he had purchased the loot.

"I used to help a gang sell their loot of gold ornaments. After seven years, I came to own the three shops," he said.

Road accidents kill 6, injure 7

METRO DESK

Road accidents killed six people and injured seven others in three districts on Friday and yesterday.

Our Bogra correspondent reports, three family members died as a bus hit their running motorbike in Noongola of the sadar upazila on Friday noon.

The deceased were Bayejid, 42, teacher of Pollimongal Baroipara High School; Monowara, 35, his wife; and Risha, 5, their daughter.

Our Gaibandha correspondent reports, two men were killed and seven others injured in a bus-truck head-on collision on Bogra-Rangpur highway at Boali yesterday.

The dead were Dulal, 23, of Kushtia; and Rinku, 33, of Pabna. Police said the two were traveling on the truck.

The injured were taken to Gobindaganj health complex.

Our Lalmonirhat correspondent reports, Rubel, 11, son of Saidul Islam and a student of Barodargah Majhar Govt Primary School, died as a bus hit him at Haribhanga Majhar in the sadar upazila yesterday.

Attack on Ornob, killing of Toki interlinked

Says Ornob's father

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The attack on Ornob Wahid and the killing of Tanvir Mohammad Toki are inter-linked as the crime was committed to stop the relatives to go further over the murder, said Ornob's father Wahid Reza yesterday after filing a case with Narayanganj model police accusing unknown persons in connection with the attack.

Ornob, a cousin of Toki was shot by criminals at Khanpur in Narayanganj on Friday night.

'Robbers loot' house at Gazipur

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Robbers allegedly looted 144 tolas of gold ornaments and around Tk 2 lakh from a house at Jangalia in Kaliganj early yesterday.

Ruhul Amin said the robbers broke open the door of his house and robbed it. Kaliganj police said they visited the place but no case has been filed yet.

Alliance of BCL factions calls strike at Sust

SUST CORRESPONDENT

An alliance of eight factions of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday called a strike on the campus for an indefinite period to press home their three-point demand, including cancellation of the newly announced committee of the unit.

Leaders and activists of the alliance led by the BCL unit's Vice-president Anjan Roy locked the university's main gate around 12:00pm, and held a rally there.

Landslide kills 17 in Mizoram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

At least 17 people were killed in a landslide triggered by a cyclonic storm and heavy pre-monsoon rainfall that swept away nine houses in northeastern Indian state of Mizoram yesterday.

Police sources said 10 bodies, including five of women, were recovered while seven bodies are suspected to be trapped under the debris. Six people, including four women, were rescued alive. Around 20 people were injured in landslides at other parts of Aizawl and other districts.

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