

PROTECTING MIGRANT WORKERS' RIGHTS Bangladesh for regional cooperation

Says Khandker Mosharraf Hossain
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh is committed to working for the protection of the rights of migrant workers through regional cooperation among countries exchanging labour force, said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain yesterday.

"The country is receiving around US\$15 billion annually as remittance from Bangladeshi expatriates; which shows the economic importance of migrant workers," he said while addressing a two-day long seminar at a hotel in the capital.

He added that a common framework based on regional cooperation would ensure safe and dignified labour migration.

Representatives from 12 Asian countries are taking part in the seminar titled "Intergovernmental Regional Seminar on Promoting Cooperation for Safe Migration and Decent Work".

The Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment organised the seminar with assistance of International Labour Organization and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation to undertake a collective analysis of the labour migration issue.

Addressing as the chief guest, the minister said migrant workers' income from foreign employment is a way to fulfil their responsibility towards their families and home countries.

"Considering the importance of the migrant workers, our government is going to amend the Overseas Employment and Migrant Workers Welfare' Act-2013 where sufficient provisions would be introduced to ensure safe and dignified migration," the minister said.

Expatriates' Welfare Secretary Dr Zafar Ahmed Khan said Bangladesh would work with other participating countries through a regulatory body to promote the development of the migration sector and ensure its transparency.

Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training Director General Begum Shamsunnahar, among others, spoke.

Students of Ahmedbagh Primary School in the capital cross the waterlogged school yard with much difficulties using a makeshift pathway created by laying bricks on the submerged ground. It becomes difficult in every rainy season for them to move as there is no system to drain out the rain water from the premises. The photo was taken yesterday.



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Woman found dead in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman was found dead in her residence in Shahid Para of Chittagong city on Sunday night.

The deceased is Anowara Begum, 32.

The deceased's husband Elias and son Sowkat took her to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where doctors declared her dead.

The duo told police at CMCH that Anowara committed suicide by hanging herself from a ceiling fan. However in the unnatural death case filed with Chandgaon Police Station Sowkat said his mother was strangled as she was drying clothes on a pole in her room and suddenly a scarf got entangled with the fan. Elias gave similar statement to Chandgaon police.

Meanwhile, Sowkat tried to retrieve the body for burial without an autopsy but police sent it to CMCH morgue.

Fisheries resources can boost economy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Developing the fisheries resources, which have immense potential, can significantly strengthen the country's economic base and make the nation self-reliant, said Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdul Latif Biswas yesterday.

The country's income from exporting fish had increased three-fold in the last decade, he added.

"The sector's contributions to the national GDP is 4.39 percent while 2.46 percent of Bangladesh's export income is generated from fish export," he said.

The minister was addressing a press conference organised by Directorate General of Fisheries at Matsya Bhaban in the capital on the occasion of National Fisheries Week-2013 beginning from today.

Announcing that fishes also provide 60 percent of our protein at present, the minister said, "During 2011-12 the nation produced fisheries worth of Tk 40,000 crore."

He also announced that the government has established a fisheries diploma institute in Chandpur to create skilled human resources in the sector. "In addition, constructions of fisheries diploma institutes in Gopalganj, Kishoreganj and Sirajganj districts are going on."

In order to protect the endangered species of fish, the government is running 500 reservations in different rivers and water bodies across the country to ensure that the species can breed.

To create public awareness on the potential of fisheries resources, the minister also led a colourful procession from Matsya Bhaban yesterday morning.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Dr Shibtoosh Roy, a reputed arsenic specialist and researcher.

He was killed in a road accident in 2001 at Taraganj of Rangpur at the age of 51.

He carried out a research programme together with Dhaka Community Hospital, Commonwealth Research Organisation of Australia and Dhaka University's geology department in the northern region to identify arsenic affected patients for treatment.

Roy visited 5,000 villages in 64 districts of the country to treat arsenic patients.

To pay tribute to his memory, Dhaka Community Hospital will hold a discussion and his family will arrange a religious function.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASES IO denies using threats to get statements

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Chittagong arms haul cases' latest and fifth investigation officer (IO) yesterday denied threatening two government officials with implicating them in the cases if they did not give statements against former industries minister Matiur Rahman Nizami.

The IO, Md Moniruzzaman, also denied including Nizami in the supplementary charge sheet as per orders of the ruling party's senior leaders and since the latter was the Jamaat-e-Islami ameer.

The additional superintendent of police of Criminal Investigation Department (CID) was replying to queries of Nizami's lawyer Advocate Manjur Ahmad Ansari during cross examination before Chittagong Metropolitan Special Tribunal-1 Judge SM Mojibur Rahman in Chittagong city.

The two officials are Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation former chairman Maj Gen (ret'd) Mohammad Imamuzzaman and former industries secretary Dr Shoyeb Ahmad.

Moniruzzaman also denied Manjur's allegation that he just took the two officials' signatures on prepared statements implicating Nizami, instead of recording their real

statements on October 5 and 7 in 2010.

Manjur also alleged that Moniruzzaman did not seize documents related to a visit to Chittagong during the arms seizure by an accused, former acting industries secretary Nurul Amin, because Dr Shoyeb approved the visit.

Nurul remains absconding.

Advocate Hasan Md Shahabuddin, lawyer for accused former NSI field officer Akbar Hossain Khan, started cross examining Moniruzzaman yesterday and it is scheduled to resume today.

On April 2, 2004, around 1,500 wooden boxes containing submachine guns, AK-47 assault rifles, submachine carbines, Chinese pistols, rocket shells and launchers, hand grenades and bullets were seized from two vessels at the jetty of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Limited (CUFL).

Two cases were filed the next day with Karnaphuli Police Station under the Special Powers Act and arms act for smuggling and seizure of arms.

Trial in the cases got underway on November 29 last year.

CID officials said names of 11 new accused, including former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and Nizami, were included with 41 others in the memorandum of evidence of the cases.

DEMAND FOR JU VC'S RESIGNATION VC urges teachers to sit in dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday urged agitating teachers to sit for dialogues to end the ongoing deadlock at the university over the demand for his resignation.

Terming JU Teachers' Association's (Juta) allegations against him "baseless and illogical", Prof Anwar refused to step down and said, "I was appointed as the VC to serve for four years and I will do so till my term ends."

He was addressing a press conference to disclose his stance regarding the Juta's protest.

The Juta has been agitating on campus protesting the decision to warn instead of suspend the studentship of a BCL leader on charge of assaulting a teacher on April 6.

The VC yesterday said the decision was made based on the disciplinary body's recommendation and following report of an independent investigation team.

Meanwhile, Juta held another press conference on the campus where they reiterated their demand for the VC's resignation saying there is no other way to solve the unrest prevailing on the campus.

The association's allegations against the VC include Prof Anwar making unfavourable comments against the university and teachers in media and abusing the university's property.

On April 6, Rajib Ahmed Rasel, general secretary of the BCL unit, allegedly assaulted Nurul Haque, a lecturer of economics department. Following the alleged assault, the JU teachers carried out protest programmes on the campus demanding his suspension. However, Rajib only received a warning of suspension for three months if he created further anarchy on the campus.

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Ref:623/GM(O&M)2x120 MW/EGCB/2013 Date:01/07/2013

Corrigendum

Tender Notice vide Reference No. 590/GM(O&M)2x120 MW/EGCB/2013 Dated: 13-06-2013, published on 16/06/2013 in "The Daily Ittefaq" & "The Daily Star" inviting for "Procurement of Gas Turbine High Efficiency Air Intake Filters (Primary and Secondary) for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd, Narayanganj, Bangladesh." is amended and read (Only notice Sl. No.26: Tender Security) as follows:

26	Lot No.	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount	Completion Time
	01	Procurement of Gas Turbine High Efficiency Air Intake Filters (2340 nos of Primary filters and 2340 nos Secondary filters) for Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.	Siddhirganj 2x120 MW Peaking Power Plant, EGCB Ltd, Narayanganj, Bangladesh.	USD 6000/= Or BDT 500,000/=	One Hundred fifty (150) days from the date of opening of letter of credit.

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