

Good governance crucial to end syndication

Speakers tell event on labour migration to Malaysia

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable discussion yesterday called upon the government to establish good governance in the country's labour migration sector to prevent "syndication".

"Baira Anti Syndicate Grand Alliance", a platform of recruiting agencies, organised the roundtable at a city hotel, demanding that the government ensure participation of all valid recruiting agencies to send workers to Malaysia.

Malaysia signed a memorandum of understanding on labour cooperation with Bangladesh in December last year, lifting a three-year moratorium.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Open, transparent and free migration process
- » Participation of greater number of agencies
- » Strong watchdog process

Labour-sending process should be 'open, transparent and free', which is not possible with only 25-50 agencies as a greater number of agencies can reduce migration cost.

SHAMEEM HAIDER PATWARY
Chair of Parliamentarians' Caucus on Migration, Dev

However, recruitment of fresh workers has not started as the two countries are yet to finalise a labour-sending process.

At the roundtable, recruiting agency leaders alleged a "syndicate" of 25 recruiting agencies has been lobbying to get approval to send workers to Malaysia, depriving several hundred others.

Anisul Islam Mahmud, chairperson of the parliamentary committee on expatriates' welfare ministry, said, "If only 25 agencies are approved without explanation, it will not be acceptable and transparent."

AK Azad, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry's former president, said an open market will ensure sending a higher number of workers and generating more foreign currency.

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Speakers at the roundtable on "Employers Pay Mode", jointly organised by ILO and The Daily Star in the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

'No worker should pay for a job'

Say ILO pilot findings on migration costs of workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"Employers Pay Mode" in the overseas jobs sector can be the best way forward in addressing the exploitation and indebtedness of Bangladeshi migrants, who traditionally pay very high costs, according to International Labour Organization (ILO).

It also commits to ensuring that no worker should pay for a job -- a principle that the UN agency has been promoting for the last several years.

At a roundtable jointly organised by the ILO and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday, ILO presented the findings of a pilot project on

"Employers Pay Mode".

Policymakers and labour migration experts lauded the findings and called upon the government and relevant stakeholders to replicate them.

Presenting the keynote, Dr Ananya Rahian, CEO of iSocial Limited, said the pilot focused on the recruitment practices of Bangladeshi migrant workers in the construction industries in Qatar. Job placement companies -- STS in Qatar and Bonanza Overseas in Bangladesh -- and employing companies in Qatar were also involved.

In January 2018, STS, encouraged and accompanied by Qatar-based QDVC, adopted the

policy of not charging the workers with any recruitment fees or related costs.

During the pilot period, the workers learned about the work conditions and benefits in Qatar, while the employers could know their skills and expectations.

Raihan said the impact assessment indicates that the average costs of migration dropped by 92 percent after the pilot engagement, in comparison to the average costs before the intervention.

The average migration cost for Bangladeshi migrant workers is systematically higher than those of other regional countries. For

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PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Pedestrians cross puddles with much difficulty as the road near Jatrabari bus stop has become muddy and slippery due to yesterday's rain. All it takes is a drizzle to bring the road in such a condition as it has not been carpeted properly. The risks are even higher as heavy vehicles tend to use the road frequently.

'It took them seconds to steal a phone'

Says DB after arresting 3 members of theft gang

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Aziz Mohammad was in Saudi Arabia for 33 years. As a hafiz, the 45-year-old used to work as an imam at different mosques, and also as a driver.

This stint as a driver led him to a new way of making money: stealing cars. He used to target luxury cars, like those of BMW, Porsche, Jaguar and Lexus.

In 2015, however, he was arrested by police in Saudi Arabia in a car-stealing case and sent to jail for three years.

In 2018, he came back to Bangladesh and started working as a teacher in a madrasa at Cox's Bazar Rohingya camp. But he lost his job on charge of stealing a mobile phone.

Then, he went to Dhaka and

started living in different messes and again got involved in stealing phones, laptops and wallets.

On March 23 this year, Kamalapur Railway Station

The gang even posted phone-sale advertisements on online platforms and charged Tk 5,000 to 10,000 for a phone. If they ever failed to break a phone's lock or change IMEI, they would destroy the phone and sell parts in markets.

Manager Masud Sarwar was addressing the media on train tickets ahead of Eid. At the time, two phones, a wallet and Tk 45,000

were stolen from his office table.

While investigating the incident, police's Detective Branch (DB) found Aziz's involvement. He was then arrested on Tuesday. During primary interrogation, Aziz admitted that he stole the belongings and fled.

Mashirul Rahman, deputy commissioner of DB (Gulshan division), who supervised the investigation, disclosed the findings to The Daily Star yesterday.

Detectives also managed to arrest two of his associates, Rony Howlader (40) and Jakir Hossain (25), on Tuesday. On information from arrestees, DB later recovered around 17 stolen phones from the capital's Kamalapur and Gulistan.

Arrestees told detectives that it hardly took them four

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'Where is our right to religion?' Speakers tell event marking 34th anniv of Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Even after 50 years of the country's independence, it's a shame for the state that an organisation exists solely to ensure its citizens' right to perform their religion, said speakers at a discussion marking the 34th anniversary of Hindu-Bouddha-Christian Oikya Parishad yesterday.

The discussion, titled, "Liberation War of Bangladesh: Chuknagar Massacre", was organised at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU).

Prof Mizanur Rahman, former Chairman of

It is true that the country has made tremendous progress in the last 13 years but the mindset of the people has lagged far behind.

RANA DASGUPTA
General Secretary of Oikya Parishad

the National Human Rights Commission, during his chief guest speech, said those who do not understand secularism should be called for a discussion.

"I would like to call upon the Parishad to organise a dialogue with all political parties who believe in our independence. They have to acknowledge that Hindus, Buddhists and Christians have been made second-class citizens in this country."

He also said new policies have to be made taking the new generation's opinions into account in this regard.

Pankaj Bhattacharya, president of Oikya National Awami Party, said, "The textbooks of this country have been occupied by Hefazat-e-Islam. Our children are being taught the language of hatred."

The Parishad's general secretary advocate

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 22

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrub	Esha
Azan	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-40	8-00
Jamaat	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-45	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



DHAKA BOAT CLUB LTD.

Boro Kakor, Birulia, Savar, Dhaka

NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Ref: 88.1340.100.101.205.01

Date: 22 May 2022

Name of the Project: Dhaka Boat Club Sports Complex (Phase-1)

1. Dhaka Boat Club Ltd. invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for development of its 1st Phase of Sports Complex Building at Borokakor, Birulia, Savar, Dhaka from reputed and experienced contractors for following categories:

a	Category-1	Construction of 10-storied Sports Complex with 2-level basement approximately 2,25,000 sft. including Civil, Electromechanical and other ancillary works.
b	Name of Agency/ Employer	Dhaka Boat Club Ltd.
c	Procuring Entity Name	President Dhaka Boat Club Ltd.
d	Procuring Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)
e	EOI Closing Date & Time	Date: 19 June 2022 Time: 05.00 pm
f	Eligibility of the Applicants	The Applicants must be an EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) Contractor capable to undertake and implement the project as Prime Contractor or as a JV Partner/Consortium. Details of experience can be shown in request for Expression of interest.

- Applicants may obtain relevant documents and further information from the office of Dhaka Boat Club Ltd. Tel (+88) 09612-447744, Ex-257, (+88)-01324295065 or contact through e-mail at engineering@dhakaboatclub.com.
- Applicants shall have the option of submitting their applications electronically.
- Dhaka Boat Club Ltd reserves the right to accept/reject any application or cancel the invitation for EOI and to issue addendums (if necessary) without assigning any reason.

Dhaka Boat Club Authority