

Reduce info gap on migration

Speakers tell event on ensuring female migrant workers' rights

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information gaps and ignorance about the migration process have made female migrant workers more prone to harassment both at home and abroad, said speakers at a press briefing yesterday.

To address the issue, the digital centres in unions should be strengthened to serve the migration aspirants with the necessary information, they said at "Media Briefing on Women Migrant Workers' Rights" at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Center for Women and Children Studies (CWCS) organised the event supported by Manusher Jonno Foundation.

"It is urgent to form a women migration committee in the union parishads," Mohammad Ikram Hossain, country coordinator of the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, said while speaking as special guest.

CWCS President Prof Israt Shamim said, "Local government bodies have to know who is going abroad through whom or which agencies."

"Female migrants should be given education on digital knowledge," she added.

Rita Bhowmick, CWCS executive member, presented a keynote at the event where she spoke of the information gap in the media regarding the services for migrant workers.

Rita mentioned that around 10.51 lakh Bangladeshi

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PHOTO: PID

Visiting Indian Army chief, General Manoj Pande, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Gono Bhavan yesterday.

'We are all suffering due to war' PM tells Indian Army chief

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday denounced war, saying it always causes sufferings for people worldwide.

She said this while Indian Army chief, General Manoj Pande, called on her at her official residence Gono Bhavan in Dhaka.

Pande is on a five-day visit to Bangladesh.

PM's press secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the call.

Hasina was quoted as saying that even the US government is sending messages to the American public, asking them to save electricity and energy.

"Due to the war, we are all suffering," she said, referring to the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

Hasina recalled the crucial role of the Indian

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Waste bins, wasted money

DIPAN NANDY

In just six years, waste bins placed on the roadsides under two city corporations of Dhaka have either gone missing or been damaged, effectively wasting some Tk 10 crore invested on them.

As a result, small pieces of garbage like chips packets, tissue, paper and various one-time items are thrown on the road, polluting the capital and waterlogging roads.

The two city corporations installed around 11,000 small waste bins on the roadsides, as part of the "Clean Dhaka" campaign, at a total cost of Tk 9.70 crore.

Of them, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) set up 1,000 bins in their jurisdiction, spending Tk 70 lakh.

Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) installed 10,260 bins under its jurisdiction, which cost Tk 9 crore.



FILE PHOTO

AT A GLANCE

- Bins installed 11,000
- Cost Tk 9.70cr
- DSCC set up 10,260 at Tk 9cr
- DNCC installed 1,000 at Tk 70 lakh
- Around 70pc have gone missing, while the rest have become unusable

These lightly-fitted steel bins were easily removable, making them vulnerable to thieves.

According to sources, around 70 percent of the bins have gone missing from their holders, while the rest have become unusable.

This correspondent recently visited Shabbagh, Karwan Bazar, Gulistan,

Moghbar, Shantinagar, Panthapath, Dhanmondi, Azimpur, Lalbagh, Gandaria, Doyaganj and other areas and did not see any sign of such bins, as if they have magically disappeared in thin air.

Residents said the bin project has done nothing but waste public money, as they were installed in a completely unplanned manner.

"They were of no use to us," said Atiqur Rahman Khan, a resident of Azimpur area.

He blamed the city corporation for mismanagement of the bins.

Rahim Mridha, a resident of Mirpur's Kazipara area, said, "We saw some bins in our area. But they were not effective for waste management. Most of the bins were taken away a few days after they were installed. No one knows what happened to the rest."

Contacted, DSCC Chief Executive Officer Farid Ahmed said, "We had no idea how to maintain those waste bins."

He said his office has no plans to install fresh bins. "We will collaborate with the World Bank to launch an awareness project for city dwellers on disposing their waste at designated places," he added.

DNCC CEO Selim Reza said, "Our project for waste bins failed due to lack of public

awareness and wrong management decisions. We do not want to take up this project again."

However, he added, "We have decided to install 'smart bins' on behalf of DNCC. They will be more user-friendly. We will start working on this project soon."

Meanwhile, urban planners opined that the authorities should have taken into account the feasibility of such an idea.

Through beta testing on specific areas, they could have evaluated how these bins would fare, and then take that into consideration in terms of design and material used.

Urban planner Iqbal Habib told The Daily Star, "The project failed as waste bins were installed at various places in the capital without any pre-survey. It was just a waste of money."

Stating that three things should be kept in mind while installing waste bins, he said, "The bins should be installed in such a way so that they cannot be removed easily. Specific locations for waste bins should be identified. And the most important thing is to create social responsibility among people to use the bins."

"Then this project will be worthwhile," he added.

Conduct energy audit of govt buildings

Recommends JS body, holds 2-hour meeting without AC and lights

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday recommended conducting energy audits on different government buildings to identify the energy efficiency of those structures.

The parliamentary standing committee on the Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry came up with the recommendations at its meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan, presided over by AL Lawmaker Waseqa Ayesha Khan.

Emerging from the meeting, Waseqa told this correspondent that initially the parliamentary

The power division with the assistance of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority was asked to conduct the audit. After getting the audit report, we will determine the next course of action in this regard.

Waseqa Ayesha Khan
Lawmaker

watchdog has recommended conducting energy audits on government buildings that consume a significant amount of power due to the presence of air conditioning.

"The power division with the assistance of Sustainable and Renewable Energy Development Authority was asked to conduct the audit. After getting the audit report, we will determine the next course of action in this regard," she said.

Waseqa also said the parliamentary committee held their meeting without using air conditioning and electric lights, keeping in mind the energy crisis around the globe.

According to the sources at the parliament secretariat, this is for the first time in the history of the parliament that any parliamentary body held a meeting without ACs and lights on despite having electricity in hot summer.

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How do the BNP leaders talk about electricity? Have they no shame? Those, who plunged the country into darkness during their regime, are now talking about power crisis. Their dream of government getting ousted due to power outage will soon turn into a nightmare.

OBAIDUL QUADER
Awami League
general secretary



The countrywide load-shedding is an early sign of "grave economic crisis". The economists are saying problems are being created in every sector. The government will now be at a loss for what to do. People are fuming and they'll burst with anger, hastening the fall of the government.

MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM ALAMGIR
BNP secretary general

PRAYER
TIMING
JULY 20

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-15 12-45 5-00 6-54 8-15
JAMAT 4-50 1-15 5-15 6-58 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Demanding improvement of railway services and a solution to ticket scalping, a procession, led by Dhaka University student Mohiuddin Roni, started a march towards the rail ministry from Kamalapur Railway Station to place their six-point demand yesterday. Roni has been continuing his protest at Kamalapur for the last 13 days. The photo was taken in Jatiya Press Club area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Overworked, overloaded, without licence

Rab on driver, truck that ran over pregnant woman in Mymensingh

STAR REPORT

Raju Ahmed Shipon (42) – who was driving the truck that ran over a pregnant woman, her husband and child in Mymensingh's Trishal on July 16 – had no licence and was tired at the time of the accident as he ran trips for six consecutive days, revealed Rab.

Moreover, the truck's tax token and fitness certificate had expired and the vehicle was carrying double the weight of its capacity of 7 tonnes.

Before her tragic death, the eight-month pregnant woman gave birth to a baby girl on the road who survived miraculously.

The newborn was shifted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) on Monday night as she was diagnosed with jaundice.

"Raju has been driving trucks without a licence since 2016," Khandaker Al Moin,

Rab's legal and media wing director, told reporters at a press briefing yesterday, a day after arresting Raju from Savar.

He had a licence for driving medium-sized vehicles. However, he lost it in 2016.

He was also suffering from problems in his left leg since he had an accident in 2002.

Raju said he did not see the people as he attempted to make space for a bus, informed Moin. Rab also said Raju made several trips for six consecutive days since July 11. He took a nap for only 30 minutes when he started from Chapainawabganj for Kishoreganj around midnight on July 16.

He was desperate to make trips as many as possible as the owner hired him on a 10 percent commission of each trip fare.

Meanwhile, the MMCH authorities formed a five-member medical board, led by the head of the neonatal

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