Form JS taskforce to ensure rights of expatriates

Demand lawmakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition lawmakers yesterday called for the formation of a parliamentary taskforce to address the problems faced by expatriate Bangladeshis and ensure their dignity.

In response, treasury bench said the concerned ministry could review the proposal.

MPs from both treasury and opposition benches, while taking part in a discussion on a motion brought by Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman, expressed dissatisfaction over the inhumane condition of the expatriate Bangladeshis, including harassment in obtaining and renewing passports.

They said migrant workers, who send billions in remittances, continue to face exploitation by middlemen and recruiting agencies, high migration costs, wage exploitation, and unsafe living conditions.

They also cited issues such as overpriced air tickets, embassy-related difficulties, and long delays in passport services, with some workers returning injured or even dead without adequate support.

Jamaat MP Nazibur Rahman proposed forming a parliamentary taskforce, while a National Citizen Party MP suggested a parliamentary committee to address harassment of migrant workers.

Opposition Leader Shafiqur Rahman supported the taskforce proposal, saying it should visit affected countries, engage directly with expatriates, and involve embassy officials.

He said such efforts could help improve remittance flows and ensure dignity for expatriate workers.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shama Obaed acknowledged the concerns raised by MPs, saying that exploitation of expatriates has occurred over the years.

State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Nurul Haque Nur outlined government measures, noting that the Malaysian labour market is currently closed. He said discussions are ongoing regarding the reopening of the market and measures to prevent syndicates under the existing agreement with Malaysia.

He also said Bangladesh has around 3,000 licensed recruiting agencies, but a proper verification process could reduce the number to 400–500. He added that steps are being taken, with the prime minister's approval, to review and grade these licences to curb fraud and malpractice.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said a taskforce could be formed in line with the opposition proposal to review labour market issues and make recommendations.

He also suggested that relevant ministries jointly form a working committee to implement necessary measures.

Two siblings enjoy a carefree moment on a swing in front of Raja Basanta Roy Palace in Basantapur of Satkhira's Kaliganj upazila yesterday, as cooler weather prevailed across the country.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

DMC morgue cooler out of order for a week

Raises concerns over body preservation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central mortuary cooler at Dhaka Medical College (DMC) has remained out of order for the past week, forcing authorities to store bodies on the floor and on transport trolleys, while raising concerns over decomposition and the possible loss of forensic evidence.

DMC authorities said repairing the specialised cooler, which has the capacity to preserve up to 40 bodies, would take some time. Meanwhile, they have started handing over unclaimed bodies to Anjuman Mufidul Islam, which handles the burial of such corpses.

"The higher authorities have already been informed about the need to repair the cooler," said DMC Principal Prof Dr Md Mazharul Shahin.

"Some unclaimed bodies have been handed over to Anjuman Mufidul Islam, and five more bodies remain. We expect to hand those over tomorrow [today]," he added.

According to morgue sources, the mortuary cooler became completely inoperative about a week ago.

Previously, the morgue relied on five smaller freezers, but those had become unusable several years ago. The current mortuary cooler was later installed as a replacement, officials said.

The DMC morgue conducts autopsies on around five to eight bodies daily.

During a visit to the DMC morgue on Monday, this correspondent found some corpses laid out on the floor inside a room adjacent to the college's Forensic Medicine Department, while some others remained on trolleys for transporting bodies. The room had no air-conditioning or alternative cooling system.

A morgue staff member, requesting anonymity, said they had no option but to keep the bodies inside the room, adding that prolonged exposure to normal temperatures could damage crucial forensic evidence.

The staff member also expressed concern over possible rodent infestation.

The odour from decomposing bodies has also disrupted academic activities, making it difficult for students of the Forensic Medicine Department to attend classes, the source said.

A letter sent by Prof Dr Kazi Golam Mokhlesur Rahman, head of the Forensic Medicine Department, to the DMC principal on June 2 described the faulty mortuary cooler as an urgent issue requiring immediate repair.

However, as of yesterday, the cooler remained out of order.

Repeated attempts to contact Prof Rahman over the phone for comment were unsuccessful.

63% retailers

FROM PAGE 3

She said 34 percent of retailers use 10–30 bags daily, while only 2 percent do not use any.

Although 54 percent of retailers reported having alternatives such as jute, cotton or paper bags, polythene use is still increasing annually. However, 55 percent said they would switch if alternatives were affordable and accessible, Noshin said.

Among urban respondents with moderate to high education, 81 percent were aware of the ban, but 36 percent did not use alternatives, while 64 percent used alternatives, but not exclusively. She said the findings suggest that the continued use of polythene bags is not merely an environmental concern but also a reflection of a broader governance issue.

The organisation recommended decentralising the ban enforcement, strengthening environmental education, and providing incentives for businesses to adopt sustainable alternatives. It also called for greater involvement of vendors, workers and manufacturers to ensure a smooth transition away from polythene.

Shahriar Hossain, secretary general of ESDO, said it was concerning that discussions on alternatives are still ongoing more than two decades after the ban.

He said the government bears the primary responsibility for the continued use of polythene bags, although consumers must also share part of the blame.

Former government secretary and ESDO President Syed Marghub Murshed said strict enforcement of the law is necessary, but behavioural change and active stakeholder participation are also essential to address the issue.

ESDO Executive Director Siddika Sultana urged addressing gaps and inconsistencies among existing policies to ensure the effective implementation of the ban on polythene use.

Ayesha Mostafa of ESDO moderated the programme.

Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 3

Referring to a recent meeting between Rosatom chief Likhachev and Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka, Khalilur raised questions on the technical and economic aspects of small modular reactors as part of Bangladesh's plan for a more diversified and resilient future energy mix.

In response, Likhachev pointed to the possibility of offering a floating nuclear power plant unit to Bangladesh.

An FNPP is an offshore or barge-mounted facility housing a small modular reactor, built in shipyards and towed to coastal or remote areas to supply electricity without extensive on-site construction.

The foreign minister also called for expanded cooperation in developing a new generation of nuclear professionals in reactor engineering, operations, and regulatory governance, enabling Bangladeshi specialists to support the Rooppur project and potentially contribute to similar projects abroad.

Likhachev responded positively.

Khalilur also held a separate official meeting in Moscow with Konstantin Kosachev, Deputy Speaker of the senate of the Russian Federation. They discussed strengthening legislative cooperation, digital transformation, capacity building, and parliamentary diplomacy.

Both sides also discussed expanding professional exchanges, delegation visits, and broader capacity-building programmes.

PRAYER TIMING JUNE 11

	Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN	4-05	12-45	5-00	6-50	8-15
JAMAAT	4-40	1-15	5-15	6-55	8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Draft NHRC law

FROM PAGE 3

The anti-corruption watchdog also criticised the composition of the selection committee under Section 7, which includes the Speaker, two ministers, a ruling party lawmaker and the cabinet secretary. TIB warned that the structure could lead to executive dominance and political influence in appointing commissioners.

TIB called for amendments to Section 13 to explicitly empower the commission to regularly inspect and investigate detention facilities operated by law enforcement agencies, intelligence bodies, and armed forces.

It also recommended granting the commission authority to propose improvements to detention conditions, recommend closure of unlawful detention facilities and seek action against those responsible.

Regarding accountability for public officials accused of human rights violations, TIB proposed changes to Section 16 so that arrests of public servants or members of disciplined forces and intelligence agencies would require approval from a court, tribunal or, where applicable, the commission itself, instead of prior government authorisation.

The organisation also recommended repealing Section 20, arguing that it retains restrictions from the 2009 law that prevent the NHRC from independently investigating allegations against members of disciplined forces.

According to TIB, this limitation has been a major reason the NHRC has never achieved "A Status" from the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

Warning that a weak and dependent human rights commission could have serious consequences for citizens and democratic institutions, TIB called on the government to revise the draft law through an inclusive process that takes into account the views and recommendations of all stakeholders.

Case filed

FROM PAGE 2

Family members also alleged that the same criminal group had targeted their household on two to three previous occasions.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Cox's Bazar Assistant Superintendent of Police Abhijit Das said Jisan was released from jail just five days before the attack. He had been serving time on weapons and robbery charges.

The OC said operations are ongoing to arrest the remaining accused.

Meanwhile, rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) yesterday expressed deep concern and strongly condemned the incident.

In a statement, ASK said the "barbaric and inhumane" incident was not merely a personal tragedy but one that raises serious questions about the country's law and order situation and its ability to ensure the safety of women and children.

Draft polls code likely next week

FROM PAGE 3

the commission meeting either at the end of this week or early next week. The commission will sit for the meeting after Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin's health condition improves, as he is scheduled to undergo foot surgery this week."

The commission, however, has not yet received any formal letter from the Local Government Division regarding the arrangement of the local polls.

The EC also said the draft code of conduct will be sent to political parties for their opinion.

Asked about the major changes in the code of conduct, the EC senior secretary said the elections will be non-partisan. Individuals accused under the International Crimes Tribunal Act or the Anti-Terrorism Act, and fugitives, will not be allowed to contest.

He added that independent candidates will not be required to collect signatures from one percent of voters. The use of posters, electronic voting machines (EVMs), and postal ballots will also be excluded.

Bangladesh has 13 city corporations, 500 upazila councils, 61 district councils, and 4,581 union councils.

No local government elections have been held in more than two years, leaving the commission with a backlog as the tenure of many bodies has already expired.

EC data shows that of the 4,581 union councils, 3,632 will be eligible for polls by the end of August, while another 343 will become eligible by December. Due to various complications, 104 union parishads are currently unfit for elections, of which 79 are stalled due to legal disputes, 18 due to boundary issues, and seven due to voter list complications.

Earlier, on May 19, LGRD State Minister Mir Shahe Alam said the government is preparing to facilitate local government elections in phases, beginning this September-October after the monsoon and continuing into early next year.

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
www.tcb.gov.bd
Commercial Section
Invitation for Tender (International) for Purchase of
20,000,000 (Twenty million) liters Refined Soyabean Oil.

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Commerce.	
2	Agency	Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB, Dhaka.	
4	Procuring Entity Code	Not applicable.	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.	
6	Invitation for	Refined Soyabean Oil.	
7	Invitation Ref. No.	26.05.0000.016.08.170.26.2196	
8	Date	09-06-2026.	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM) (International)	
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	TCB's Own Fund.	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
11	Package No.	TCB/Imp-122/Soyabean Oil/2025-26.	
12	Package Name	Refined Soyabean Oil.	
13	Tender Invitation/Publication Date	11-06-2026.	
		Date	**Time**
14	Tender Documents Last Selling Date and Time	29-07-2026	17.00 P.M
15	Tender Closing Date and Time	30-07-2026	12:00 P.M
16	Tender Opening Date and Time	30-07-2026	12:15 P.M
17	Name & Address of the office(s):	**Address:**	
	Selling Tender Document of each item can be purchased from the banks & offices as mentioned in right column.	(1) Accounts & Finance Division, TCB Building, 2nd Floor, TCB's Principal Office at Dhaka. (2) Sonali Bank Ltd. Kawran Bazar Branch, TCB Bhaban, Dhaka.	
	Receiving Tender Document	In front of TCB's reception (2nd floor), TCB Bhaban, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.	
	Opening Tender Document	Board Room, TCB.	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
18	Eligibility of Tenderer	Bonafide Suppliers Details, Terms and conditions will be mentioned in the Tender documents.	
19	Brief Description of goods	Import of 20,000,000 (Twenty million) Liter Refined Soyabean Oil Packed in 02 (Two) Liter Food Grade PET Bottle [Tender of partial Quantity is acceptable but not less than 50,00,000 liter].	
20	Price of Tender Document	Price of Refined Soyabean Oil tender document is Taka 5,000 (Five Thousand).	

	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location	Tender Security Amount (USD/BDT)	Shipment Schedule
21	1.	a) Refined Soyabean Oil	Offers are to be made on CFR (C) Chattogram / Mongla Port by Sea or CPT Benapole/ Bangla Hili/ Darshana/ Sonamasjid/ Bhomra/ Teknaf by rail/ truck.	Tender is to be submitted along with Tender Security amounting to: a) USD 583,000 (US Dollar Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand) or BDT 7,15,63,250/- (BDT Seven Crore Fifteen Lac Sixty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty) Only. In the form of Pay-Order/ Bank Draft must be issued from any scheduled Bank of Bangladesh or Bank Guarantee from a foreign Bank must be endorsed by any local scheduled Bank. The Successful Tenderer is to submit 5% (Five Percent) Performance Security in the form of Bank Guarantee. [N. B: In case of partial quantity, tender security will be fixed proportionate to the offered quantity.]	Entire quantity of Goods is to be shipped within **30.11.2026**

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS				
22	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Golam Khorshed		
23	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Additional Director (Commercial), TCB Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
24	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Principal Office, Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB), TCB Building, 2nd Floor, 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.		
25	Contact details of Official Inviting Tender	Telephone No. **02-8180060**	Fax No. **880-2-8180057**	E-mail: **tcbimp@tcb.gov.bd**

26 **Special Instructions**:
a. All terms and conditions related to the tender and product details are mentioned in the tender document.
b. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in whole/ in part without assigning any reason.

10.06.26
(Md. Golam Khorshed)
Additional Director (Commercial)
Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)

GD-1323