



A Newsletter on Refugee and Migratory Movements

UDBASTU

the uprooted

Issue 10 October - December 1999

Consultation Urges FRAMING A NATIONAL LAW FOR REFUGEES

Speakers at a consultation expressed the need for the adoption of a national law on refugees. The Consultation on *The Need for a National Law on Refugees* was organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) at the BRAC Centre, Dhaka on 28 August 1999. The first session dealt with the need for a national law on refugees and in the second session its relevance to Bangladesh and strategies for its enactment were discussed. Justice K M Sobhan presided over the sessions. Most of the participants felt that some form to legal structure was needed to do away with *ad hocism* and arbitrariness in dealing with refugees. Some participants argued that it is a constitutional requirement and that article 31 of the country's Constitution states that everyone has the right to be treated under the law. Participants also expressed that a distinction must be made between the economic migrants and those fleeing persecution.

In his opening statement Coordinator of RMMRU, Dr. C R Abrar, observed that refugee phenomenon has been an integral part of state formation process of South Asia. Both in 1947 and 1971 a large number of people were dislocated. After the liberation of Bangladesh, more than 50,000 hills people went out of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Twice in the recent past Bangladesh has given shelter to the Rohingya refugees, around 250,000 during each of these phases, out of which around 22,000 are still here in Bangladesh. Besides them, Bangladesh also hosts a handful of urban refugees. Generally one can claim that the treatment of the refugees has been satisfactory, if not ideal. Abrar underscored the need to develop a mechanism to distinguish between persons who are coming from outside the country due to threat on life and those in search of economic betterment. In the absence of a law, people are treated in an *ad hoc* manner and such *ad hocism* leads to arbitrariness. If there is specific law on refugees, then people seeking asylum can be dealt within the specific procedure. Secondly, if the asylum seekers are treated according to the refugee law, such act may not be considered as an unfriendly act, since the government will act in accordance with the state law as well as upholding international humanitarian principles. Over the years, in Bangladesh there are many organizations working on different vulnerable groups such as ethnic minorities, women and children. However, there is no organization exclusively working on marginalised groups such as refugees, migrant workers or displaced persons. In this context, RMMRU felt that there is a need for a national legal procedure for refugees and took the initiative of organizing this consultation.

For the last four years, the Eminent Persons' Groups (EPG) of UNHCR comprising of academics, civil society activists, jurists, ex-parliamentarians, and former judges began a series of consultations at the regional level. In November 1997, a Model National Law on Refugees was adopted in Dhaka. The Model Law has been placed before the participants for their consultation. Dr. Kamal Hossain made a brief statement on the background to the draft Model National Law on Refugees, in the context of our refugee experience in all South Asian states. Dr. Hossain stated that today most of the South Asian countries host a number of refugees but none of these states have national law on refugees. He expressed that the need for a national refugee law was felt because the bureaucrats in different levels dealing with refugees need a guideline, and there has been a debate prevailing in the government regarding refugees, for instance, the issue of Biharis. The basic principle of the international refugee regime is that if anyone has to flee his or her own country and if he is not considered a criminal he or she has the right to go through impartial evaluation through legal procedure in the receiving state. This is the benefit of having a legal regime and to set up a system of objective determination of refugee status. Any state ratifying the Refugee Convention, therefore, must have an impartial procedure through which refugee status will be determined on the ground of fear of persecution.

Those involved in the status determination process will evaluate the situation with objective facts and evidence.

Dr. Hossain stated that the merits and demerits of the refugee law must be considered before adopting any legislation. It should be clearly identified why the refugee law is needed, and what will be the disadvantages if the issue of granting refugee status has been dealt in an ad hoc manner. Firstly it has always been confusing who is to be considered against what standard, since there has been no established guideline. Often the process is entrapped within the bureaucratic process making it harder to take decisions. Secondly, the humanitarian factor is very important as the helpless people face uncertainty. Many a time, such asylum seekers face harassment, imprisonment, and torture and are taken undue advantage out of their conditions. Thirdly, a state earns its reputation in the international community on the basis how it deals with the human rights issues, whether the people's rights are honoured or whether people get justice if their rights are violated.

In this regard Dr. Hossain referred to the Rome Summit of 1999 where experts from other states went through our laws and felt that Bangladesh gave priority to the human rights issues. We need to act together with other states that have respect for human rights. In last December, Bangladesh took a big step forward in acceding to the International Human Rights Conventions. Bangladesh acceded to the major conventions except the ICCPR (International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights). Almost all the provisions of ICCPR are included in our Constitution. The image of Bangladesh will be much more reinforced to the international community if we adopt the Model National Law on Refugees, since Bangladesh is a party to the international conventions on human rights, and well reputed of its active role in protecting human rights.

Some participants expressed that there is a need for a national law on refugees. The Bangladesh Workers' Party leader, Mr. Rashed Khan Mennon and Bangladesh Nationalist Party leader Major (Rtd.) Akhtaruzzaman, MP stated the necessity of adopting such law in a reciprocal manner. They viewed that the other countries of this region, especially immediate neighbouring states such as India and Myanmar, with whom we have common borders, must adopt the law at the same time as Bangladesh does. According to them Bangladesh is already facing the problem of infiltration in the border areas from both the states mentioned above.

Barrister A K H Morshed referred to the 'Bangkok Principles' which was adopted by the Asia-African Legal Consultation Committee and which have been partially amended in its meeting at Accra last September. He expressed the view that while considering the Model Law, we need to take into account the experience of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee.

The question of acceding to the international refugee regime through the 1951 Convention was raised by some discussants. Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Member of Bangladesh Law Commission, explored a few alternatives. The first alternative is that the human rights convention or the human rights instrument may be ratified or acceded to by a country and then implemented. The second alternative is that the Convention be not ratified and will not be followed by any of the legal provisions. The third alternative is that we will neither ratify nor legislate on the basis of human rights instruments, but we can instruct our administrative authorities while implementing or enforcing law to comply with these basic human rights principles. And the fourth and the most dangerous alternative was to ratify a human rights instrument and then failing to implement it. The consequence of this position is very serious. So before we actually decide to go for legislation, we have to consider almost all the substantive provisions of that statute.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed emphasised on creating a public opinion for accession to the international convention on refugees or at least a national debate. Khalequzzaman, MP feared that there is a political risk of adopting such legislation as it might become an issue, which the opposition parties may exploit.

Advocate Sigma Huda of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights referred to other issues that are similar to those of the refugees, like the Bihari 'stateless persons' and underscored the need to distinguish between refugees, political asylum seekers, and economic migrants. Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan MP and Advocate Khalequzzaman MP, feared that through the adoption of such law opportunity will be created for refugees to obtain the status. Mr. Khalequzzaman stated that we still have over 22000 Rohingyas in this country and Bangladesh is least able to entertain the refugees as it cannot clothe, house and feed its own people. He argued that such law must be reciprocally

adopted by the developed states as they have plenty of landmasses where they can resettle the refugees of the third world. He held the view the law may encourage people in sizeable number to come into the country.

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed argued that as soon as the law is made the state will be bound to implement it. He raised the issue of setting up objective standards for the determination of refugee status. Unless there are set of rules by way of legislation, or by way of administrative instruction or under the rule making power of the government One cannot maintain objective standards. Always the decision will be subjective of the person who exercises power, so different refugees are treated differently. Justice Ahmed stated that the relationships between the UNHCR and the local Commissioner for Refugees, or the appellate authority or those who will implement the refugee laws should be sorted out. And in the procedural part of the law provision have to be made, what is the relationship between UNHCR and our local office, the municipal office set up under the municipal law.

Ziaur Rahman Khan MP pointed out some technical problems within the Model Law. He started with the definition of refugee, referring to the uses of terms 'unwillingness', and 'persecution'. He wanted detail definition of 'aggression, occupation, foreign domination' of Section B. 'Serious violation of human rights' was another phrase that required explanation, with specific emphasis on the use of the word 'serious'. He mentioned about 'serious nonpolitical crime'. He mentioned the contradiction regarding 'the principle of non-refoulement' as it is stated - 'no refugee or asylum seeker will be expelled or returned in any manner whatsoever' and asked what would happen if the appellate committee rejects an application of a potential refugee. In Section 6(b) it is stated 'one who has been convicted by a final judgement of a serious crime'. Ziaur Rahman asked whether the judgement in the home country is a valid judgement. He also asked by whom the members of the refugee committee will be appointed and expressed his reservation on the issue of employment and freedom of movement of the refugees.

Wilbert Van Hovell, Representative, UNHCR Dhaka, addressed some of the issues raised by the participants. He expressed that such a law would not invite more people to come to Bangladesh. Asylum under the proposed law was not meant to be permanent. He further stated that once situation has changed to a sufficient degree in the country of origin, the host state may invoke the cessation clause and withdraw the refugee status of the persons involved. He mentioned that the proposed law does not give extensive rights to refugees but minimum standard of treatment, not only in the individual cases of people but also big groups of people once determined as refugee. For the bigger groups freedom of movement may be restricted. Van Hovell also stated that the UNHCR may support capacity of the government by setting up the infrastructure and by training civil servants.

Barrister Ameer-ul Islam agreed with Dr. Shah Alam on the need for acceding to the Convention on Refugees. He stated that by doing so or having a similar legislation, the country would be better placed to manage the refugee influx. Citing the Anup Chetia case Barrister Islam stated that absence of a refugee law could trigger off serious debates in national politics. In order to minimise potential problems Islam suggested that our policymakers and government should seriously consider framing a national legislation. He referred to Article 31 of the Constitution which states that the refugees are to be treated in accordance with law. This is the inalienable right of every person living in Bangladesh and this includes the refugees. Therefore one may suggest that our constitution has given them equal rights as far as the application of law is concerned.

Dr. Shah Alam, another Member of Law Commission, in his statement mentioned the necessity of setting up of a South Asian Refugee Convention like the OAU or Cartagena Declaration, and accession to the 1951 Convention on Refugees. He suggested that RMMRU is the right organisation to take initiative and contact with similar organisations of South Asia and build a forum. Such a forum may call on governments to take initiative to accede to the International Refugee Convention.

Dr. C R Abrar, thanked all the participants for their contribution. He urged the legislators and other participants to seriously consider framing a national law for refugees and acceding to the International Refugee Convention. Justice K M Sobhan in his concluding speech stated this Consultation has been a good beginning for a focused discussion on this important issue. He underscored the need for such a debate in the media.

Reporter: Shahzada M Akram

EFFECTIVE USE OF WAGE EARNERS' WELFARE FUND DEMANDED

Speakers at a Consultation underscored the need for formulating proper policy for the effective use of Wage Earners' Welfare Fund (WEWF). They demanded that there should be representation of migrant workers in the management of the fund. The participants felt that the proposed hostel complex at Gazipur would not serve the needs of the migrant workers. The consultation was organised by RMMRU on 23 September 1999, at the seminar room of the Arts Faculty at Dhaka University.

Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui in her opening statement observed that this important issue is yet to receive its due attention. She drew attention to recent newspaper reports about the use of the WEWF and the establishment of a Migrant Workers' (MWs) Centre, by spending the WEWF. She stated that the decision to establish the Centre was in response to a long felt need and the government deserves the credit and appreciation for taking up the matter. She, however, expressed her reservation on the rationale to build such a massive structure at Gazipur. Siddiqui suggested that as per the original demand of the MWs and the civil society organisations the Centre should be built at a place closer to the airport and also it should not be something extravagant. The money of the WEWF would be well spent by building a more need-based infrastructure at a reduced scale. She expressed doubt that the Centre may not serve the real needs of its targeted beneficiaries. It was also pointed out that the Committee managing the WEWF does not have representation from the MWs though it includes representation from the recruiting agencies.

Floor discussion began with Mr. Saiful Huq, Vice-Chairman of WARBE describing the 10 point agenda of the ten-member committee managing the WEWF constituted by the government in 1990. Published in a circular, the agenda includes establishment of a welfare centre for the MWs, taking care of the deceased, providing monetary help to the relatives of the deceased, financing housing facilities, medical and health care, education, recreation and welfare of their families and children, establishing a centre for the departing MWs, and financing an overseas information centre for the MWs staying abroad. He suggested that quick implementation of these points would at least ensure a minimum level of protection of interests of the MWs. He referred to WARBE's meeting with the Director General of BMET. Mr. Huq stated instead of wasting the resources in a huge complex, a small scale Migrant Centre should be built, separately from the training centre for the MWs. This facility may address the problems of MWs such as overnight stay in Dhaka upon their arrival or before their departure, where a nominal fee may be charged or they may even be kept free of cost. He stressed that any such facility should not be located in a far away place like Gazipur, which would only add to the exploitation and harassment of the MWs. Referring to the practice in India he suggested making provision for an one-stop service for the MWs for the purpose of getting passport, visa, immigration check etc., and bus service to and from the airport to different parts of the country. He stated that the cost incurred in these arrangements might be borne by the WEWF. The representative from WARBE said that they have categorically requested the government officials to make the transactions of WEWF more transparent, representative and participatory, and to use it for activities and projects undertaken only targeted to the MWs.

Mr. Md. Ali Ashraf Khan, President of Iraq Kuwait Repatriated Bangladeshi Association, in his statement, suggested that a 10-storied centre may be built on 5 *katha* of land closer to the airport at a much less cost. The rest of the money can be used to set up banks for the wage earners. He added that such banks may have overseas branches in places like London or in the Middle East, identifying concentration of MWs or Bangladeshi immigrants abroad. He questioned the authority and legitimacy of the decisions taken by the WEWF management committee, considering the fact that it does not include any representation of the MWs. He also raised questions about the utilisation of compensation money for the repatriated MWs from Iraq and Kuwait during the Gulf War. Khan stated that the skill acquired by the MWs could be used after they come back. Their remittance and savings may be used for setting up industries that would ultimately benefit the country. He argued that money should be invested instead of keeping it in the bank. He also suggested that even the interest that the fund generates could have been used to undertake a scheme of allowance for the unemployed returnees.

Mr. Anisur Rahman, Secretary General of WARBE, raised the issue that the government does not have any well-articulated policy with regard to the welfare of the repatriated and the MWs. It should

be a priority economic policy matter. He emphasised the need to think of collective welfare instead of welfare of an individual and pointed out that unity of the MWs was a prerequisite for any success with projects on the issue of welfare of the MWs. He also sought close collaboration and networking of the organisations working in the fields of welfare, protection and promotion of rights of the MWs and their families.

Dr. Hameeda Hossain of *Ain-O-Shalish Kendra* (ASK) in her discussion observed that the crux of the problem in WEFW management centers the question of distribution of the benefits accruing from the fund. Elaborating the issue she stated that any organisation could face the question of legitimacy while demanding a role in the management of WEFW as they themselves do not enjoy absolute support of all MWs of the country. It is only a fraction of the outgoing and repatriated MWs who are members of these organisations. Thus, mere representation of these organisations in the WEFW management committee may not be the right or the best answer to the question of transparency. In the process, the whole mechanism of fund management in general, and of distribution, in particular, becomes unanswerable to anybody due to lack of credible representation. In this context, she suggested that instead of creating a general fund the government could create savings or insurance scheme for the individuals who are sending the remittance. This may directly benefit the MWs concerned and also encourage them to use government channels to send remittance. Dr. Hossain observed that the proposed MWs Centre, could be under or unutilised due to its location and scale and could also add to the sufferings to the MWs. She said that organisations working in this sector could sit with the editors of different national dailies for publishing editorials on the issue in order to sensitise the people at large. She also suggested that the issue could be raised in the national parliament. If all these options fail to bring the desired change in policies of the government then organisations could sue the authorities as the last resort. She stated that a Centre built near the airport with only necessary facility, would really mean effective use of the WEFW and proper welfare of the MWs.

At this point Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui added that at a recent workshop organised by International Labor Office (ILO), the government representatives reported that they were unable to provide training to the departing MWs and this training could be better carried out by the recruiting agencies in cooperation with the NGOs working on the issues related to the MWs. Once that is done, the government could verify and monitor whether the training was being carried out properly. Dr. Siddiqui observed that in this context any new initiative on the part of the government to set up and run the training centres on its own might result in another failure.

Mr. Noor Khan of *Odhikar* remarked that a training centre at Gazipur would not serve the purpose of the MWs. He said use of money from the WEFW without proper consultation with the MWs and other concerned groups must be put to a halt. He observed that most MWs are usually unable to build assets by investing in economically productive sectors as they spend most of their earnings to repay loan, bear expenses of social occasions like marriage and the like. He also suggested that an inventory of the MWs classifying their skill and expertise may be created. This may help find scope for better utilisation of the human resources.

Mr. Victor Gomez of CCDB identified three key problems of the MWs Centre. These are, the unusually high price of the land, the distance from the airport and the huge size of the infrastructure. He also opposed the idea of a separate hospital for the MWs. He said, instead of targeting lofty ideas and goals, the Centre could only be used to check the validity of passports and visa, currency exchange, ticket confirmation service, medical testing, counselling for the traumatised MWs on their return etc. Gomez commented that though participation is an issue of national import and the number of members of different organisations is important for questions like legitimacy; it is, however, important that we raise our voice in whatever way we can to stop any arbitrary and irrational decision that would be detrimental to the interests of the MWs.

Dr. Abrar of RMMRU underscored the need for more write-ups for national dailies so that increasing number of people can be sensitized about the issues related to the MWs. He stated different techniques used in developed countries for legislative and media advocacy could also be employed here to get some results.

At this stage speakers explored options for next possible step to draw attention of the government on the issue of WEFW utilisation and the MWs' Centre. Some suggested for the submission of a memorandum to the higher authorities in the government. They also stressed the need for preparing an

alternative plan for better utilisation of the fund, which could be proposed to the government. Some proposed constituting a coordinating committee to coordinate future activities. Dr. Siddiqui emphasised that participants of the Consultation should have a positive frame of mind so that one can appreciate the good intention of the government and at the same time suggest corrective measures in any flawed procedure or decision. Some participants suggested holding of a press conference to reveal the facts in case the Memorandum to the Minister did not work. Participants alleged that the five biggest concentrations of MWs in Bangladesh did not receive any grant for building schools or other facilities. They said, employment opportunity should be created using the fund. A Consultation with the editors of different national dailies was also suggested. Mr. Ali Ashraf Khan stated that the Parliamentary Standing Committee on manpower and employment could be a body that may be activated to look for progress on the issue. If these measures fail, he suggested meeting the Prime Minister or the President of Bangladesh. On possible action programme he said leaflets could be distributed among the MPs. He recollected his organisation's suggestion to the government to constitute a

vigilance team headed by a Supreme Court Judge to oversee the distribution of the compensation money given by the UN for the repatriated MWs from Iraq and Kuwait. But the government created a committee headed by a Joint Secretary of Manpower. He said even in the BMET and the Ministry there are people who would like greater transparency and accountability of the management of WEWF.

Finally, it was decided that a Memorandum to the Minister for Labour and Employment would be drafted by RMMRU. RMMRU will seek an appointment with the Minister and the representatives of the organisations present will collectively hand over the Memorandum to Minister.

Reporter: S Nurullah Azad

Text of the Memorandum to the Minister for Labour and Employment

4 October 1999

Hon'ble Minister
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of People's Republic of Bangladesh
Dhaka

Subject: Memorandum to the Honourable Minister for Labour and Employment regarding the construction of a hostel complex for migrant workers with resources from Wage Earners' Welfare Fund.

Sir,

The Ministry of Labor and Employment has recently taken an initiative to construct a hostel complex for Bangladeshi outgoing and incoming migrant workers. These workers often fall victim to different types of fraudulent practices. In order to reduce such harassment, migrant workers' associations and other organisations working on migration issue had pressed the need for establishing a transit centre near the Zia International Airport. In that context, the decision of the Ministry to construct the hostel complex is quite rational.

Recently a few news items appeared in the national dailies on the construction of this hostel complex. The Ministry of Labour and Employment also put forward its views. Such reports and government response have caused major concern in different quarters. Migrant workers' associations, human rights organisations, NGOs and research bodies elaborately discussed the issue at a Consultation on 23rd September, organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU). The participants at the Consultation held the view that the project has moved away from its original objective that not only will incur an unnecessary huge cost but also will not effectively cater the demands of the migrant workers. Reasons behind such conclusions are presented below.

Site Selection: Original goal of constructing the hostel complex was for insuring secured and low cost lodging in Dhaka for the migrant workers. Proximity to Airport is supposed to be the most important consideration in establishing the complex. However, the site that the Committee has selected is not at all compatible with the needs of the incoming or outgoing migrant workers as it is located at Gazipur, 30 km away from the airport.

Facilities of the Hostel: Along with secured accommodation, the other basic facilities which were expected to be provided at the complex, included services such as verification of the authenticity of passport and visa and money exchange. But now it has taken the shape of a mega project. The Planning Committee has decided to buy 20 *bigha* of land in Gazipur. According to the present plan, there will be a 500-bed hostel with modern amenities such as, garage, laundry and indoor games. The ministry may have plans of using the complex as a training centre. The complex will not be much

effective as training centre. There are already some training centres under the ministry. Studies have shown that there is no co-relation between those who received training from these centres and the people who are going abroad. Therefore, such a huge investment at Gazipur should not be done without proper assessment of the performance of the present government-run training centres. Moreover, one has to assess, to what extent the planned hostel along with the above mentioned facilities are compatible with the socio-economic realities of the poor migrant workers who are going abroad by selling their homes and ancestral land. The cost of availing such facilities will have to be borne by the migrant workers themselves. In reality, it will end up in increasing the cost of migration.

Cost of Land: According to the newspaper reports the cost of land that is being considered for purchase is Tk. 90,00,000 (Taka 90 lakh) per *bigha*. The total cost, including registration fees, will be Tk 22 crore. This is thought to be much higher than the actual market price. The cost of the project will be borne from the Wage Earner's Welfare Fund. This Fund is a contributory fund of the migrant workers. It is not created through government allocation. As custodian of the fund it is expected that the government would be more accountable in its utilisation.

Representation of Migrant Workers in the management of the Fund: The Wage Earners' Welfare Fund is a contributory fund of the migrant workers. Representation of the migrant workers in the management of the fund is essential. At present there is representation from various ministries including the Ministry of

Consultation on
Ratification of 1990 International Convention on
The Protection of Rights of Migrant Workers and Their Families
and
Launching of Bangla translation of
Achieving Dignity: Campaigner's Handbook for the
Migrant Workers' Rights Convention

Participants: legislators, ministers, academics, lawyers and representatives of NGO
human rights and migrant workers' organisations

Venue: CIRDAP Auditorium, Topkhana Road, Dhaka
Date and Time: 10 February, 2000 at 4:30 p.m.

Labor and Employment, BOESL, and BAIRA in the Planning Committee of this fund, but there is no representation of migrant workers. In that context, effective representation of the migrant workers is necessary in the Planning Committee.

We believe that both the government and the civil society organisations named below have same goal of ensuring better treatment and services for the migrant workers who are earning huge foreign exchange for the country. Therefore, we request the Honourable Minister for Labour and Employment, to immediately withhold the decision to purchase the land with the resources from the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund near Gazipur, and ensure the most effective use of the fund through a long term planning after consulting with migrant workers' associations and representatives from different organisations concerned with migrant worker.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

Advocate Sigma Huda BSEHR; Mr. Md. Nur Khan *Odhikar*; Dr. Shahdeen Malik BLAST; Advocate Fawzia Karim Feroze BNWLA; Mahbuba Masud *Naripakkha*; Victor Gomes CCDB; Shaon SHISHUK; Mr. Anisur Rahman Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE); Md. Ali Ashraf Khan Iraq-Kuwait Repatriated Association; Dr. Hameeda Hossain *Ain-o-Salish Kendra (ASK)*; Dr. C R Abrar RMMRU.

Consultations: Consultation on *The Need for a National Refugee Law* at the BRAC Inn, on 28 August 1999. The Consultation was participated by Members of Parliament, eminent lawyers, researchers, policy makers, UNHCR personnel, and members of the civil society of Bangladesh.

Consultation on *The Effective Use of the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund* at the Meeting Room of the Faculty of Arts, on 23 September 1999. The consultation was participated by representatives of the returnee migrant workers' associations, NGOs, lawyers, and human rights activists.

Refugee Law Course: Two basic courses on *International Refugee Law* for the students of the University of Dhaka at the Meeting Room of Dean's Office, Faculty of Arts, on 20, 22 July 1999 and on 23-24 August 1999. Mr. M. M. Sunnah, Legal Officer of UNHCR, Dhaka, Dr. Shahdeen Malik of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and Dr. C. R. Abrar of Dhaka University, S. Nurullah Azad and Shahzada M Akram, Research Associates of RMMRU conducted the course.

Publication: The April-June, 1999 issue of *Udbastu*, the Unit newsletter was published in April 1999.

Monthly Meeting: Monthly meetings of Student Associates were held regularly. In these meetings future programmes were discussed and planned.



We invite you to join us

In our regular monthly meetings held at 1:00 p.m. on the first Thursdays of every month at the office of RMMRU, Dhaka University

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