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**Consultation Urges the Ratification of
1990 UN CONVENTION ON THE PROTECTION OF
RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANT WORKERS**

Speakers at a consultation underscored the need for the ratification of *1990 UN Convention on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*. Organised by the Refugee and Migratory Movements Research Unit (RMMRU) the meeting was attended by Mr. Abdul Matin Khasru, the Law Minister, and Mr. Abul Hassan Chowdhury, the State Minister of Foreign Affairs of Government of Bangladesh.

In his introductory statement, Dr. C R Abrar, Coordinator of RMMRU stated that the consultation was a part of the advocacy programme of RMMRU. He urged all concerned – academics, legislators, lawyers, journalists, associations of migrant workers, women's organisations and others – to support the cause of migrant workers. Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui spoke on the need for the ratification of Migrant Workers' Convention for ensuring the rights of regular and irregular migrant workers. She introduced the translation of the *Handbook on Migrant Workers' Rights* and the Occasional Paper on *State, Migrant Workers and the Effective Use of Wage Earners' Welfare Fund* published by RMMRU to create awareness among the migrant workers about their rights. She observed that in the absence of a labour standard in the labour receiving countries, it is very difficult to ensure proper treatment of migrant workers.

Another panelist Mr. David Whittlesey, the Regional Representative of International Organization for Migration (IOM), identified migrant workers and their families as an unprotected social entity. He emphasised that accession to the convention should be followed by concrete programmes for the benefit of migrant workers. Mr. Whittlesey expressed IOM's solidarity with the government to strengthen the whole process of labour migration. Giving a brief description of the Convention, Mr. Armand Rousselot of IOM said that the UN created this Convention in recognition of the need to explicitly define and uphold the human rights of migrants. The Convention, he stated, covers a number of legal, social, economic, political and cultural rights and it must be ratified.

Various speakers, including Mr. Shafiqul Alam of BMET, Mr. Saiful Huq of WARBE, Mr. Faruq Ahmed of Daily Independent, and Mr. Raihan Khalid of BELA pointed out that the ratification of the convention alone would not work unless or until it is incorporated and implemented as national law. The participants observed that there is a qualitative decline in skill level of the migration and suggested that unskilled labour should be provided with training and education. They also underscored the need for research on the use of remittance.

Barrister A K H Morshed during his deliberation explained the image and position of Bangladesh vis-à-vis the ratification of the Convention from a critical point of view. He apprehended possible external intervention on issues of labour standard and human rights following the ratification, as the country carry lower weight in international arena both politically and economically. He was supported by Ambassador Waliur Rahman.

Mr. Abul Hasan Chowdhury, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs appreciated the initiative of RMMRU for this vulnerable but valuable section of the society. Mr. Chowdhury shared his experiences that he gained during his visit to different labour receiving countries. He pointed out the need for a clear and rational approach to solve the problems of the migrant workers. With regards to the question of ratification, he said that the legal problem with the constitution could be overcome easily. As part of his duty, he promised to pass instruction to Bangladesh missions abroad to be more assertive in protecting the rights of the countries workers and stresses on the creation of national and regional coalition to resolve the multifaceted problems of the migrant workers.

Dr. Abrar, in his concluding statement stated that ratification is not the only answer. He added that along with the accession to the Convention, laws have to be stream-lined, people's mindsets have to be changed, institutions have to be renovated, government agencies have to be made pro-people, embassies have to be restructured, and a whole range of other things have to be geared to address the problems of migrant workers.

Addressing the meeting, the Law Minister of Bangladesh said that those who are champions in propagating human rights themselves maintain double standard with migrant workers. He admitted the constraints involved in ratifying the Convention on part of the government and placed much importance to the campaign of the human rights organisation to the cause of the migrant workers. He requested all to work together regardless of their position—the government, opposition, civil society and individuals who can contribute in their own ways to remedy the pain and sufferings of the migrant workers.

The Consultation ended with a decision of submitting a Memorandum to the Prime Minister in order to bring the issue to her notice for her intervention. With this objective signatures were collected from participants who were in favour of ratification.

Reporter: Syeda Rozana Rashid

MIGRANT CENTRES IN KOREA: A SUCCESS STORY

Despite valuable contributions in the economies of both the receiving and sending countries, migrant workers all over the world do not receive adequate attention either from the national or from international authorities. Unlike their counterparts in other regions of the world, a section of the migrant workers in Korea enjoys a certain degree of support from a non-governmental organisation, Joint Committee for Migrant Workers in Korea (JCMK). Through its nation-wide networking of twenty-one migrant centres in the country, JCMK seeks to create institutional changes to improve the status of migrant workers.

Some of its main activities are as follows:

- (1) lobbying for the abolition of the 'Trainee' system;
- (2) enacting mechanisms to ensure welfare and human rights of migrant workers;
- (3) legalising the status of undocumented migrants;
- (4) ratifying the UN convention related to the welfare of migrant workers;
- (5) making the civil society aware about the welfare and rights of the migrant workers;
- (6) coordinating the support and solidarity of the workers, human rights organisations and student groups of Korea as well as seeking international solidarity with migrant workers' organisations abroad; and,
- (7) providing health and medicare facilities to the migrant workers through Medical Mutual-Aid Union for Migrant Workers in Korea (MUMK).

The affiliates of the JCMK are engaged in various initiatives related to the welfare and development of migrant workers. For example, 'Association for Foreign Workers Human Rights in Pusan' (FWH), a member organisation of JCMK, publishes a newsletter, the *Asian Workers News*, on a regular basis. It covers issues like the welfare and problems of migrant workers, refugee, and trafficking. 'House of Shalom' is another active migrant centre, which has arrangements for counseling and settlement of labour problems. It arranges language (Korean) classes to help migrant workers' adapting in the receiving country. The centre also provides Korean traditional medical services as well as escort and documentation services to migrant workers. As part of the entertainment programmes they assist migrant workers to organise traditional and religious parties, picnics, and comfort events.

A three-member team of House of Shalom visited Bangladesh in mid-January with an objective to establish a Munshiganj-based office for keeping contact with and monitoring welfare of returnee migrant workers from Korea living in the area. During their stay in Dhaka, they visited RMMRU on 17 January 2000, in order to exchange information and views. They expressed their desire to help the families of the migrant workers in Bangladesh. They explored and inquired about other mechanisms to assist the migrant workers such as establishing liaison between the two countries at governmental level. The issue of encouraging Korean investors in Bangladesh to employ Bangladeshi returnee skilled workers from Korea in their joint-venture projects was also discussed in the meeting. The JCMK initiatives can be an important model for NGO support to the migrant workers in the host country.

Reporter: Syeda Rozana Rashid

UPDATE

MIGRANT WORKERS OF BANGLADESH

Over the last few months, a number of news items relating to the labour migration have been published. The issues dealt with in the newspaper reports include detention and expulsion of Bangladeshi migrant workers, remittance, the future of labour market, corruption of government functionaries, government and NGO activities, and returnee migrant workers.

Detention, Expulsion and Death of Migrant Worker

A news item reports that the number of detained Bangladeshi migrants abroad is more than six thousand. Most of these detainees are illegal intruders or undocumented migrant workers. After this news was published, the labour Ministry announced that it was taking necessary steps to repatriate them through the assistance of Bangladeshi Missions abroad (*Sangbad*, 13 August).

In the first week of July 2000, Malaysian government started expelling 810 Bangladeshi nationals at a cost of \$368,420 to be borne by the Malaysian government. The detainees were accused of offences such as, illegal entry, overstaying and possession of fake visa. According to the Immigration Department Enforcement Division, Malaysia has tightened employment restrictions on foreigners taking up skilled and semi-skilled jobs, which in future will only be available to Malaysians (*Independent*, July 9 and 11).

Delhi police has reported that it expelled 689 Bangladeshi citizens (*Independent*, 27 July). In another development, eight Bangladeshis were arrested along with 22 foreigners for trying to enter illegally into Denmark through the border of Greece. All of them were found lying in the false bottom of a truck full of watermelons about to leave for Denmark through Italy (*Independent*, 4 July).

Seven Bangladeshis died in the UAE from poisoning due to carbon-monoxide leakage from generator (*Sangbad*, 28 April). Another mysterious death of a Bangladeshi migrant in Malaysia was reported in mid July 2000. Although his fellow migrant workers claimed that he had committed suicide, the

family sources expressed that it may be an incident of murder. The family urged the Bangladesh mission in Malaysia to take up the case (*Independent*, 15 June).

Remittance

According to the estimate of Bangladesh Bank, the amount of money sent by the migrant workers through *hundi* is equal to the remittance sent by them, that is US\$ 2,000,000,000. The *hundi* business affect the country the foreign currency paid by the wage earner is used in overseas for the payment of smuggled goods. Despite various incidence of cheating, temporary migrants prefer it to inefficient, complicated and corrupt banking system and sometimes for the unavailability of banking services in some regions (*Sangbad*, 3 August).

Dr. Md. Farashuddin, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, recently stated that the amount of remittance from non-resident Bangladeshis have increased by about fifty percent over the last six months. The government of Bangladesh reported that between June to August, a number of initiatives were undertaken by law enforcing agencies to curb the unholy practice of *hundi* for the greater interest of the migrant worker as well as the nation. As part of their action police raided different areas of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and some other places and arrested a number of *hundi* businessman. Bangladesh Bank will soon engage in public awareness campaign to make people conscious of the fraudulent and illegal activities of some vested quarters, the government stated (*Independent*, 11 July and *Sangbad*, 20 August).

Future of Labour Market

During her last visit to Malaysia, The Prime Minister of Bangladesh urged President Mahathir Mohammad for recruiting more migrant workers from Bangladesh. 130,000 Bangladeshi migrant workers are now in Malaysia, a considerable number of whom would finish their terms. On the other hand, Malaysia is reportedly in need of migrant workers. But, due to illegal and fraudulent activities on part of a section of recruiting agencies and government officials as well as employees, the number of undocumented workers has increased there sharply and it made them less interested to hire Bangladeshis. Under such circumstances, the visit and bilateral talks between the heads of two countries is likely to open new avenues for Bangladeshi migrant workers. The Malaysian government assured that it would not expel Bangladeshis any more. The possibility of transferring the agro-based labour-intensive Malaysian industries to Bangladesh was also discussed in the meetings. If successful, it could bring about better opportunities for returnees in Bangladesh (*Independent*, 30 July and *Sangbad*, 31 July).

The government of Kuwait has expressed during an inter-ministerial meeting, its willingness to employ more Bangladeshi workers (*Sangbad*, 8 June). In another development US President Bill Clinton proposed the Congress to increase the number of skilled labour intake of his country from across the world with temporary visa (*Sangbad*, 13 May).

Corruption within the Government Functionaries

In August 2000, an official of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) has been accused of demanding bribe to disburse compensation allotted to one Gulf returnee, Monir Hossain. This was reported in newspaper that after the victim had filed a case against Nuruzzaman, a senior Statistics Officer, under section 162 and 420 of penal code (*Dainik Yugantar*, 17 August).

The corruption of the government functionaries dealing with migrant workers was reported in the *Dainik Yugantar*, on 1 August. It reported that the recruiting agencies pay bribes at every stage of issuing a clearance certificates to the migrant workers.

It is also reported that some officers of BMET, Sylhet office, recently have been accused of illegally charging returnees for the recently introduced scheme of registration of returnees. They were charging the returnees with false hope of sending them again to the UK or the USA.

The government has cancelled registration and license of 66 travel agencies for their failure to abide by the related government rules and regulation (*Sangbad*, 22 May).

Undocumented Migrant Workers

There are 5000 undocumented migrant workers in Saudi Arabia. On 20 April 2000 the Saudi Arabian government declared general amnesty for all undocumented migrant workers and gave them ten weeks time to regularise their status (*Sangbad*, 6 June).

Government and NGO Activities

In a meeting with the representatives of BAIRA, the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina urged for upholding the interest of the migrant workers and protecting them from exploitation. According to her Bangladesh missions abroad have already been instructed to open temporary offices at places other than the capital of a receiving country, where there is a significant number of migrant workers. She also exchanged her view about market sourcing, establishing vocation training centres, introducing employment passport and building money exchange centres in receiving states for the welfare of migrant workers (*Sangbad*, 10 May).

A two-day discussion on migration jointly organised by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Inter-Governmental Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC) and Government of Bangladesh was held on 29 and 30 August 2000. The meeting underscored the need for evolving an orderly labour migration regime beneficial to both sending and receiving countries for effectively managing the global flow of labour. Along with building up of a comprehensive national policy as well as regional framework, the participants also suggested that the government, private sector and civil society should form a strategic partnership in managing temporary labour migration to be supported by the international community. They also identified some priority areas including institution building, information dissemination, pre-departure training, remittance management and reintegration of return migrants (*Independent*, 31 August).

At a meeting organised by INCIDIN Bangladesh, a research organisation, in collaboration with Oxfam Bangladesh, on *WTO and the Future of Bangladesh Labour*, the participants underscored the need for recognition of labour as a commodity and ensuring its free movement as part of the on-going globalization process (*Independent*, 30 July).

On 13 August, SHISHUK and CARAM-Bangladesh jointly organised a seminar in Dhaka. It was the preparatory meeting of a conference scheduled to be held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in September 2000, regarding the control of the risk of having HIV/AIDS among the migrant workers as well as advisory pre-departure services about the rules and regulations of migration. Coordination Action Research on AIDS Mobility (CARAM)-Asia would host the conference with assistance from IOM and UNDP. Participants from seventeen countries around the world are likely to participate in the conference.

A memorandum with agenda for bilateral discussion about migrant workers was submitted to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh prior to her visit to Malaysia on part of seven NGOs, research organisation and migrant workers' association. The principal areas of focus were: issuing ID Card or work permit in lieu of confiscation of the passport on arrival; system of depositing the levy in the banks by a migrant worker himself; regularization of undocumented migrant worker already staying in Malaysia for their reemployment; renewal or MoU or bilateral agreement with the Malaysia; exploration of easy and prompt mechanism to remit money through government channel; permitting Bangladeshi migrant worker with the opportunity to work in the sectors prohibited for them; and to finish their terms who are already serving in those sectors. It was also mentioned in the letter that the Bangladesh mission in Malaysia must be instructed to take necessary measures to repatriate Bangladeshi detainees, issue passport to the undocumented workers, help migrant worker to secure the real wage and accidental insurance money from employer etc. It has been reported by an informal confidential source that the Malaysian Government decided to look into the above matters before

taking up new policy about the Bangladeshi migrant workers in near future (Memorandum sent to the Prime Minister by ASK on 26 July 2000).

Returnee Migrant Workers

For the first time, Bangladesh government has taken an initiative to enlist the returnee migrant workers. With this objective, a registration scheme in prescribed form has been launched from July 2000. It is reported that a short-term loan from the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund would be provided to the returnees on submission of project proposal. BMET is also hopeful about acquiring information from the registration about the aims of returnee migrant workers that would help them to constitute an appropriate policy regarding the returnee.

RMMRU has recently completed two research projects on the *Recruitment of the Migrant Workers* and *Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Returnee Migrant Workers of Bangladesh* commissioned by IOM. The recommendations were based on the fieldwork conducted on 200 returnees residing in four areas of the country.

Reporter: Syeda Rozana Rashid

UPDATE

EVICTON OF SLUMS IN DHAKA

Eviction Continued

A report prepared by a four-member team from Asian Coalition for Housing Rights and Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction stated that in the previous year the Home Ministry of Bangladesh evicted 100,000 people with the use of police force. Such evictions took place with less than 24-hour notice, bulldozing houses of 19,432 families. These evictions took place without any compensation and rehabilitation. During such eviction operations, incidents of torture on women, children and the elderly occurred. Due to the operations, school-going children have been detracted from education, and many people lost their jobs. The government has only been able to send 1,746 families back to villages, most of whom have already returned to Dhaka city (*Sangbad*, 12 August).

After last year's case against the slum eviction, another case was to be filed by three NGOs, *Ain O Salish Kendra*, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, and *Odhikar*. Advocates Nizamul Huq and Adilur Rahman Khan informed that they were collecting information on the recent incidents of eviction (*Ajker Kagoj*, 27 January). This decision was taken after the evictions of Amtoli and Chairmanbari slums of Gulshan and Banani on 26 January. The evictions took place without any prior notice, by the police force and 200 hired people. Around 20,000 people were made homeless, who would have shifted to other places, if they were given notice (*Ajker Kagoj*, 27 January).

In March, five slums gutted by fire rendered more than 15,000 people homeless. It was reported that during the fire, there were incidents of looting by some miscreants. Some observers feel that these fires were deliberately lit to evict the slums since there had been tensions between the government and the human rights organisations (*Sangbad*, 28 March). Regarding the fire in a slum at Mirpur, it was suspected that the slum was torched as a result of tension between two groups for the possession of the land (*Prothom Alo*, 31 March). On 5 April another slum in Tejgaon was destroyed by fire making 20,000 homeless and 15 injured. There was also allegation of looting (*Sangbad*, 6 April). On 9 April, another slum in Paribagh was evicted, and 150 families became homeless (*Sangbad*, 10 April). In a similar way, the slums on the Dhaka protection dam in Rayerbazar, were put on fire several times through February to April, finally making the slum inhabitants homeless.

Support for the Slum Dwellers

The Bangladesh Krishi Bank (agricultural bank) has undertaken a programme titled *Ghore Fera* (returning home), under which loans are given to the slum dwellers to return to villages. Under this scheme, till June the bank disbursed loans of Tk 31.1 million among 1,746 slum dwelling families. It planned to provide loans to a total of 50,000 such families to help them return to their homesteads under this programme by December this year (*Independent*, 2 July). However, the 11 party coalition under the leadership of Nirmal Sen demanded fund allocation for the slum dwellers in the national budget (*Sangbad*, 8 June).

Government Stand on Eviction

High officials of the government continued their efforts to evict the slum dwellers and destroy the shanties in the city. In an inauguration programme of new taxicab services, the Home Minister, Md. Nasim stressed the need for slum eviction to make Dhaka free from traffic congestion (*Sangbad*, 30 March). He alleged that slums are being used for terrorist activities, and the unhygienic atmosphere is causing environmental degradation. He also accused various organisations for taking the side of the slum dwellers (*Independent*, 6 June). The minister repeated his aim to free Dhaka from traffic jam through eviction of slums and other illegal installations beside the roads (*Sangbad*, 4 July).

Reporter: Shahzada M Akram

WORKSHOP ON FEATURE WRITING HELD

Through his writings, a feature writer must convey the humane aspects of any story. A feature has to touch the human feelings and make the readers to think twice about the issue discussed or narrated in the piece. RMMRU organised a two-day workshop on *Feature Writing* in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Development on 10-11 March 2000. The workshop was held at the seminar room of International Union for the Conservation of Nature and was conducted by Mr. Jawadul Karim, former reporter of *Daily Sangbad*, Dr. Ainun Nishat of IUCN, and Mr. Shamsul Kabir of National University. This was the second workshop of its kind, as the first feature writing workshop was organised by the Unit in 1998.

On the first day, Mr. Jawadul Karim, in his presentation made the distinction between 'news', 'feature', and 'article'. For the preparation of a news item, a journalist has to find out the answers of four 'W's (who, what, where, when) and one 'H' (how) to keep the reader satisfied with his queries. But the reporter has to keep in mind that not every incident has the quality to become news. The news must be related to human interests, and consist of any of the elements that trigger human curiosity. The elements may vary from any new incident to accidents, conflicts, dramatic change, disaster, achievements, money and trade, or any day to day life information.

On the other hand, a feature will consist of a process that has been happening for a longer period of time, which often go unnoticed by general people. The journalist has to find out the occurrence, causes behind it, and place a forecast of the process, if it goes unattended. The feature writer has to be inquisitive, and a keen observer, in order to find out the story. Features should be based on a lucid, pleasing and entertaining presentation of facts. A feature is always subjective and portrays the sensitivity of the writer. A feature must contain a moving beginning and ending, should not be too long to bore the reader, neither be too short to become a news.

On the second day, Dr. Ainun Nishat, Country Representative of IUCN, Bangladesh, spoke on the impacts of refugee crisis on the environment, as well as on the local people. He referred to the cases of Rohingya refugees, Biharis, and Chakmas of the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh, in order to explain the common refugee psyche, and the way they act in a land not belonging to them. Every refugee crisis has adverse impact on the natural environment where the refugees are provided with shelter. Since they do not have any sense of belonging to the host country, they carelessly exploit the natural resources, thus damaging the environment. Dr. Nishat recalled visiting the refugee camps at

Ukhia, Cox's Bazar, how the refugees have destroyed the natural forests as well as the wildlife for food and other purposes. He also criticised the role of international agencies responsible for taking care of the refugees and natural environment.

In the last section of the workshop, Mr. Shamsul Kabir of National University spoke on the effective use of language in Bengali features and articles. He explained how to make a feature readable and interesting to the readers through the proper and effective use of words and sentences. At the same time the writer should follow the grammar properly. He later took small tests on writing skills of the participants and evaluated them. Twenty research and student associates of RMMRU participated in the workshop.

Reporter: Shahzada M Akram

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RMMRU OCCASIONAL PAPER 3 PUBLISHED

State, Migrant Workers and the Use of the Wage Earners' Welfare Fund (in Bengali) has been published by RMMRU in February 2000. This is the third Paper in this series.

Over the last few years RMMRU has been working on different aspects of the migrant workers of Bangladesh. The Wage Earners' Welfare Fund was established in 1990 through a Presidential Decree. The fund was created from the migrant workers' contribution, with the target for the welfare for the migrant workers and their families. A committee comprising of representatives from different ministries and BAIRA manages the fund. In August 1999 reports on a decision to construct a hostel complex for the migrant workers in Gazipur raised questions on the proper use of the fund. RMMRU organised a Consultative Meeting on this issue, where migrant workers' associations, NGO and human rights activists were present. This paper contains the proceedings of the meeting. It also contains the memorandum sent to the Labour Minister, the statement from one migrant workers' association, and the government's response. Various government circulars with regard to the creation and management of the Fund have been incorporated as annexes.

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TRANSLATION OF THE CAMPAIGNERS' HANDBOOK ON MIGRANT WORKERS' CONVENTION PUBLISHED

The translation of the *Campaigners' Handbook on Migrant Workers' Convention* has been published by RMMRU in February 2000. This is the abridged translation of the handbook titled *Achieving Dignity* published by the International Migrants' Rights Watch Committee on the 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. This is the second publication in the translation series of RMMRU.

The booklet is divided into two parts. The first part contains Bangladesh's stand on the Convention written by Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui. The second part illustrates the need for such convention, which contains the need for an international campaign on the migrant workers' rights, the importance and substance of the Convention, and the procedure of campaign on the importance of the Convention. The translation has been done by Syed Nurullah Azad, Research Associate of RMMRU.

**ACTIVITIES OF THE UNIT
January – March 2000**

Consultation: A Consultation on *The Need for the Ratification of 1990 International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families* was organised at the CIRDAP Auditorium on 10 February 2000. The programme was participated by ministers, parliamentarians, migrant workers' associations, NGO and human rights activists, and foreign ministry officials.

Workshop: A 2-day workshop on *Feature Writing* was organised at the IUCN Auditorium on 10 – 11 March 2000, in collaboration with Centre for Sustainable Development. 20 research and student associates of RMMRU participated in the workshop.

Publications: The Unit newsletter, *Udbastu* (the Uprooted), Issue 11, January – March, 2000 was published in January 2000.

Occasional Paper 3 on *State, Migrant Workers, and Use of Wage Earners' Welfare Fund* was published in Bengali in February 2000.

The Bengali translation of the *Campaigners' Handbook on Rights and Dignity of Migrant Workers* was published in February 2000. The translation work was done by S. Nurullah Azad, Research Associate of RMMRU.

Monthly Meeting: One monthly meeting was held on 9 March 2000. In this meeting, Shahzada M Akram, Research Associate of RMMRU spoke on *The Condition of the Camp-based Non-Bengalis in Bangladesh*.

Field Work: The field visit of the ongoing project on the Returnee Migrant Workers and the Process of Recruitment started on 20 March 2000. With a target group of 200 interviewee, a team of four Associates under the supervision of Dr. C R Abrar visited one Thana at Comilla from 20 to 22 March and interviewed more than 50 returnee migrant workers. On 30 March the team visited the area of Aminbazar and Mirpur.

Visitors: On 17 January 2000 a delegation of the Ansan Migrant Shelter of South Korea visited RMMRU office and exchanged views and information of the condition of the Bangladeshi migrant workers in Korea. The team was accompanied by representatives of Bangladesh Migrant Centre.