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Metropolitan

'Facilitate process of migration to Italy'



Shah Mohammad Taifur Rahman, executive director of Expatriates Development Society of Bangladesh, speaks at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right are Md Abu Syed Khan and Iqbal Hossain. Photo: STAR

Staff Correspondent

Leaders of Expatriates Development Society of Bangladesh yesterday called on the government to take necessary steps to facilitate the process of migration to Italy.

Italy is an important labour market of Bangladeshi youths and currently around one lakh skilled manpower are working in Italy.

The leaders said this at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city.

But recently a visa processing agency appointed by the Italian embassy in Dhaka has been harassing around 2,000 aspirant workers and violating the Italian law, they said, alleging that they did not give them the work permit visa.

The visa processing centre named 'VFS Global -- Italian Visa and Legalisation Application Centre' does not cooperate with the hopeful migrant workers and take service charges in addition to the visa fees, they mentioned.

They complained that without showing any cause, some 2000 applicants were refused after harassing for around 10 months, while some 200 to 300 applications are kept in the centre for more than seven months.

But there is no way to say anything against the agency, the leaders added.

On behalf of the workers, they urged the government to take necessary steps in a diplomatic way so that the Italian embassy offers refusal letter if they fail to provide visas to the aspirants.

The government should formulate a monitoring cell and provide legal services to resolve the problems to those who are trying to migrate to Italy or other countries, they added.

The leaders said non-resident Bangladeshis in Italy have been sending around \$300 million currently to the country. Italy is a potential sector for the Bangladeshis and it will take 80,000 seasonal workers from different countries in 2009.

Chairperson of the society Abu Syed Khan, Executive Director Shah Mohammad Taifur Rahman, Director (Information) Iqbal Hossain and Organising Secretary Khan Kamal Nazrul spoke at the programme.

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