

Deal for Manpower Export to Saudi

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Associations of recruitment agencies in Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to recruit four categories of workers for the Middle East country.

Under the MoU, Bangladeshi housemaids, drivers, security guards and gardeners will be sent to the kingdom country at reduced migration costs, president of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) Mohammad Abul Basher told newsmen after signing the agreement in the association office in the city.

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"Housemaids will go to Saudi Arabia free of cost and they will be provided training there," he said adding, they would not be over 30 years of age.

"There is a possibility that less than six-month skilled professionals go there for higher category jobs," he said.

Incidentally, the two associations had signed an agreement to send people in 2005 also, but it did not work.

Both associations hoped that this time it would work.

Sanarcom chairman Saad Nahar Al-Baddah said female workers would be protected under the 'Sharia law' of the country.

"About 40,000 to 50,000 female workers go to Saudi Arabia every month and all of them are protected under the laws," he said.

He, however, could not specify the exact number of workers his country would recruit.

"What I can say is that Saudi Arabia needs people, but it is difficult to say it will be 5,000 or 20,000," he said.

The Saudi delegation met expatriates welfare and overseas employment minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain in the morning.

Both the associations agreed on Monday that a housemaid would get a salary of 600 Saudi rials with free air ticket, food and accommodation, while drivers would get a salary of 800 rials with free food or 200 rials for food and free accommodation.

Security guards and gardeners get a salary of 600 rials with 200 rials for food and free accommodations, the president said.

(1 riyal = Tk 19.40 app)

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