



One Voice of Workers

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Workers Protest Against Draft IRO

LAHORE, Nov 13: The Pakistan Workers Federation took out a procession and staged a demonstration in front of the Lahore Press Club on Thursday to condemn the Draft Industrial Relations Ordinance 2008 moved in the National Assembly.

The procession started from Labour Hall and reached the press club, raising slogans against the anti-trade unions Draft IRO.

Addressing the workers, Federation President Chaudhry Talib Nawaz and other leaders said the Draft IRO moved by the government without consulting trade unions was an attempt to dispense with the independence of judiciary as it proposed to transfer the powers of appointment of National Industrial Relations Commission chair-

man and members and presiding officers of labour courts from the Chief Justice of Pakistan and high court chief justices to the federal and provincial governments.

He said the Draft IRO also violated the internationally recognised concept of collective bargaining by trade unions by allowing employers to negotiate wages with the workers individually.

He said the contract employees in the industrial and commercial sector would not benefit as only charity organisations had been described as industry in the draft. The draft also proposed to authorise the employers to nominate collective bargaining agents during the pendency of referendum. The condition of mandatory affiliation of trade unions with the federations was also proposed to be dispensed with, he said.



THE Pakistan Workers Federation activists turn to the press club to condemn the Draft Industrial Relations Ordinance 2008.

Workers Protesting Against Draft IRO



Be always at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let each new year find you a better man. ~Benjamin Franklin

Pakistan Workers Federation Held Various Local

The meeting of the trade union representatives and workers were held in the various provinces under the aegis of District Committee of Pakistan Workers Federation at Gujranwala, Faisalabad, Mardan Sukkur which was attended by the large number of Trade Union Representatives and workers belonging to the affiliated trade unions and was addressed by its main leader including Ch Talib Nawaz, President and Mr. Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary along

with the local representatives of the Federation and demanded the Government should take measure to bring the provisions of the proposed Industrial Relation Act 2008 in conformity with ILO Convention and establish Independent Labour Inspection Machinery in conformity with ILO Convention No. 81 ratified by the Government of Pakistan and check price hike of essential commodities and aggravating unemployment and abhor terrorism against innocent citizen.

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Labour Watch

Juan Somavia Director General International Labour Re-Elected Office For The Next Term:

Mr. Juan Somavia Director General I.L.O. Geneva has been re-elected for the next 5 years terms by the I.L.O. Governing Body unanimously in its November Session at Geneva. The Workers Group along with Latin America and African Government has sponsored his candidature. Pakistan Workers Federation has offered felicitation on his re-election and hoped that he would lead to prepare ILO to achieve its strategic objectives among Member States in this turbulent phase of history with his able statesmanship.

Pakistan Workers Federation Abhor Bombing Blast:

Pakistan Workers Federation has abhorred the act of terrorism at Mumbai and expressed sincere sympathy over the tragic event with Indian Nation and working class and conveyed message to all major Trade Unions Center of India through a special message by Mr. Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary of the Federation.

Working Class Of Pakistan Mourns Untimely Death Of Attique –Ur-Rehman Kayani President United Bank Employees Federation:

The working class of Pakistan has expressed sincere condolence over the untimely death of Attique-ur-Rehman Kayani a dedicated Trade Union Leader of United Bank Employees Federation CBA and paid tribute his dedicated services for the uplift of the Bank Workers. Ch. Talib Nawaz President and Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary, Muhammad Ahmed Chairman of the Federation conveyed their message to his colleagues, Federation and Family.

WAPDA Electricity Fifteen Thousands Meter Readers Get Better Pay Scale And Power House, Hydel & Thermal Staff Generation Allowance:

"Pakistan Wapda Hydro Electric Central Labour Union" CBA has entered into settlement with WAPDA/Electricity Power Wing Management to get upgrade pay scale of Electricity Meter Reader from BPS-5 to BPS-7 and Generation Allowance for the Generation Staff employed in Hydel and Thermal Power Stations. It benefited more than

twenty thousands electricity workers all over the country.

National Bank Of Pakistan Held Its Annual General Council Session At Lahore:

National Bank of Pakistan Employees Union CBA held its Annual General Council Session at Lahore which was attended by the representatives of the union and its National Trade Union, National Bank Trade Union Federation and re-elected Mr. Akbar Khan, General Secretary and Fiaz Ahmed as President for the next term and was also addressed by Mr. Khurshid Ahmed, General Secretary, Pakistan Workers Federation. It passed various resolution in support of the demand and welcomed the new settlement reached with the Bank Management ensuring various benefits.

The Government Of Punjab And Sind Raised The Minimum Wages Of The Workers For Semi Skilled, Skilled & Supervisory Staff:

Through the concerted struggle of the working class led by "Pakistan Workers' Federation", the Government of Punjab and Sind had raised the Minimum Wages of the Semi Skilled, Skilled and Supervisory Staff under the provisions of Minimum Wage Ordinance, 1961.

Chief Minister Of Punjab Established High Level Tripartite Committee For Labour Inspection:

Mian Shahbaz Sharif Chief Minister of Punjab has constituted a Tripartite Committee for review the Labour Inspection Machinery's Function in the Province on the demand of "Pakistan Workers' Federation" for enforcement of Labour Laws in conformity with ILO Convention No. 81.

State Bank Of Pakistan In Its Annual Report Fore Cost Of Low Growth In The Year 2008:

State Bank of Pakistan in its Annual Report 2008 has indicated there would be slow growth on account of Political, Economic and Social Condition in the country and rise in the inflation of the country 20 to 22% in the next year. It may be recalled that Pakistan has been facing a backlash of Afghan War being member of Internal Alliance which has affected its social and economic fabric seriously..

Workers Are Becoming Victims Suicide Attack:

41 workers of Marriot Hotel Islamabad had died on duty due to bomb blast of suicide bombing while three Electricity WAPDA Workers had also died during the performance of their duties on same account. Pakistan Workers Federation has condoled their tragic death and declared that they are our HEROES who sacrificed their lives in the performance of the public service.

Women Play Key Role In Society's Development:

Peshawar, Women play a key role in the development of society and the government will make all-out efforts to provide them safe working environment and job opportunities, NWFP Minister for Schools and Literacy Sardar Hussain Babak said on Saturday. Addressing a three-day workshop on Women Labour Leaders organised by the Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) North Region, the minister said that literacy rate could be increased only when women were provided better educational facilities. He said that the government was supportive of the women rights, as Islam also endorsed equal rights for women. Education Federation Director Saima Kazmi, Senior Vice President of Pakistan Workers Federation Haji Abdul Latif and International Labour Organisation Representative Syed Romi Hayat highlighted the objectives of the workshop and the problems faced by women in various sectors.

Workshop On Women Ends:

Rawalpindi, 14 Nov: A workshop titled 'Women Empowerment Concern' organised by Pakistan Workers Federation concluded here Wednesday, says a press release. Around 30 participants including women and workers of trade unions belonging to different private, government and semi-government departments attended the three-day workshop. Different presentations and training for the participants on different subjects such as women's economic, social and political rights; effective communication and conflict management; trade union management and organizational skills; occupational safety & health; leadership & emotions management; harassment at workplace and other topics were organized.

Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) - Newsletter

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Government's Apathetic Attitude Towards Migrant Workers Slammed

Karachi, Nov 3: While developing countries like India and the Philippines make all-out efforts towards securing the rights of their nationals employed abroad, Pakistani migrant workers who contribute billions of rupees to the exchequer in foreign remittances every year literally live live slaves especially in the Gulf countries.

These workers, many of whom live in subhuman conditions, have no forum to raise their voice as the Pakistani embassies concerned play no role in protecting their rights.

These were some of the observations made by speakers at a two-day national conference on promoting safe migration practices to prevent human trafficking in Pakistan.

The conference, organised by the Lawyers for Human Rights and Legal Aid (LHRLA), is the last in a series of consultative meetings and workshops held in all four provinces this year in collaboration with the Islamabad-based Solidarity Centre.

Dr. Sabur Ghayur, chairman of the policy planning cell (ministry of labour and manpower), Zahoor Awan of the Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF), Abdul Razzak Cheema, additional director of the immigration department, and Julian Padilla were among the speakers.

According to some speakers, most Pakistani workers abroad are subjected to exploitation in those countries where the

government has allowed dubious agents to operate and has, so far, failed to evolve a system that can protect such workers from being abused and discriminated against in and outside the country.

Throwing light on the present status of Pakistani migrant workers The speakers said that a majority of those employed in some Gulf countries worked as forced labourers living in labour camps in subhuman conditions.

"The workers are abused, forced to work for long hours and paid far less as compared to the Indians and Filipinos engaged for the same jobs.

"They include both regular and undocumented workers. It's a common practice that employers back out on their promises regarding salaries and benefits on the grounds that their contract agreement is not attested," they said, adding that workers could be sacked and deported immediately on any excuse and without calling any explanation.

"These poor workers risk their lives, sell their belongings and work in poor conditions far away from their homeland so that their families can enjoy a better life. They are the ones who send foreign exchange and strengthen the country's economy. Only last year, they contributed about \$6 billion in remittances. But, what are they getting in return?" they asked.

Criticising the "dumb" role of Pakistani embassies, the speakers said that the lack of interest on the part of the government towards the plight of migrant workers could be gauged from the fact that embassies were not even accessible to most migrant workers.

"The embassies are inaccessible for a majority of workers as they shut at 5pm. An aggrieved worker cannot afford to take a day off which would mean a cut in his wages.

"The government should, at least, arrange for an evening desk at the embassies so that people can make queries and register their complaints at that time," they said.

Several developing countries, like India and Philippines, had bilateral agreements with the labour-receiving countries and their embassies played an active role in resolving the issues concerning the wellbeing of their citizens.

Top officials of these developing countries accord priority to meetings with their migrant workers during their visits abroad. "The officials take keen interest in their issues and take up the migrant workers' complaints with the officials of the countries concerned," they said.