



One Voice of Workers

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ILO Workshop On Child Labour

Lahore: Pakistan is experiencing the worst form of child labour, but with a total of 3.3 million child labourers, a point of concern for all stakeholders, efforts are being made to control this menace by implementation of laws and more public awareness, speakers at a one-day capacity-building workshop titled "Activating media in combating worst forms of child labour in Pakistan" remarked. The workshop, arranged by MediaMark, was organized by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

ILO National project manager Saba Mohsin Raza said, "There are 3.3 million child labourers in Pakistan between the ages of 5 and 14 years. These workers, which include 73 percent boys and 23 percent girls, are being exploited by their employers mainly as domestic help". Government of the Punjab spokesman Saeed Awan

said that the Government of Pakistan was working extremely hard under the ILO conventions 182 and 136, ratified by Pakistan in 2001 and 2006 respectively. He also said that his government was committed to end child labor and strongly urged a "coherent social action to provide our future generations with a bright future".

Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) president Chaudhry Talib Nawaz said "The child labor ratio is high particularly in areas such as the carpet industry, the bangles-making industry, surgical instruments manufacturing, tanneries, coal mines, and deep sea fishing". Columnist Javed Chaudhry said "Controlling child labor is the need of the hour, as living with this curse would be a far cry from stability in the national economy". "Major responsibility lies with the national media, as it can effectively highlight the negative impact of child labor", he added.



Death of Eight Workers - Labour Leader Blames Factory Owners Of Negligence

Lahore, Sep 20: Chaudhry Talib Nawaz President Pakistan Workers Federation here on Friday dilating on the recent deaths of eight industrial workers in a factory at Kamoki said that it had brought untold sufferings on the bereaved families of theirs.

He said the tragedy had also exposed the culpable negligence of the factory's owner to get observed safety and health labour laws at their work place. He also lamented non-functioning of government labour inspection machinery in the province.

He added that had this machinery taken a preventive actions, the tragedy would not have occurred. Talib pointed that

workers in the province were victims of exploitation of those employers who had scant regard for the enforcement of labour laws in their workplace. He said Labour Inspection Machinery responsible for enforcing labour laws had been made redundant by the previous provincial government that had forbidden any labour official in the province to visit any enterprise without a prior notice of one-week to the employer.

He said this was a violation of the Constitution as well as ILO Convention 81 ratified by the government. He asked Chief Minister Punjab to immediately intervene in the matter and provide respite to the suffering families of workers.

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Labour Watch

Regularization of Contract Employees: More than 30,000 contract workers have been brought on regular cadre having 02 years service in WAPDA and PEPCO; the largest Water & Power Public Utility in Pakistan employing more than 150,000 work force as a result of Bilateral Settlement reached between Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Central Labour Union (CBA) and WAPDA Authority/ PEPCO Management. The union side was led by Bro Abdul Latif Nizamani, President & Khurshid Ahmad General Secretary of Pakistan WAPDA Hydro Electric Central Labour Union (CBA).

15% Increase in Pay of Employees of National Bank of Pakistan: 15% has been increased in Pay of workers of National Bank of Pakistan through bilateral negotiations between the National

Bank Employees Union (CBA) with the Management of National Bank. The CBA union was led by Mr. Akbar Ali Khan President of the union.

Capital Development Authority (C.D.A) CBA Union: CDA Mazdoor Union CBA entered into settlement with the Management achieving various significant benefits including rise in Pay & Allowances of the staff in numbering 15,000 in CDA through mutual dialogue between the Union and CDA Management. The union was led by Ch. Muhammad Yasin General Secretary of the union.

Pakistan Workers Federation: demanded to all Chief Ministers to raise wages of Semi skilled, skilled and supervisory staff commensurate with price hike under the provisions of Mini-

mum Wages Ordinance 1961 who required to be compensated against recent price hike.

Oil & Gas Corporation Union & State Life Insurance Federation and Pakistan Goods & Transport Workers Federation joined "Pakistan Worker Federation": With the many thousand workers, in order to promote solidarity and unity of working class for promoting and defending the Fundamental Rights of the workers through United Struggle, Ch. Talib Nawaz President and MIs Khurshid Ahmad General Secretary, Mahmood Ahmad Chairman, Zubair Awan Deputy General Secretary of the Federation has welcomed the decisions of these National organization for common good of the workers through their decision for strengthening the unity of working class.

Rs. 400m Marriage Grant For Workers' Daughters

The Federal Ministry of Labour has sanctioned Rs 400 million out of the Workers Welfare Fund as marriage grant for the daughters of 7,000 industrial workers of Punjab. The representatives of the Pakistan Workers Federation (PWF) thanked the federal govern-

ment for its intervention for making the funds, which had been pending since long, available. It also said that the marriage grants to the deserving industrial workers would be distributed in the coming days. Earlier, a delegation of the PWF, consisting Khurshid Ahmed,

Talib Nawaz and Zahoor Awan, called on Federal Minister for Labour and Manpower Syed Khurshid Ahmed and Punjab Minister Muhammad Ashraf Soona to express gratitude for the move.

Workers For End To Industrial Loadshedding And Avoid Mass Unemployment

Lahore, Sep 01: The Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) has asked the government to take steps for preventing closure of industries due to serious loadshedding and avoid mass unemployment of the workers.

The PWF urged the government to introduce amendment to 'retrogressive' labour laws including Industrial Relation Ordinance 2002 and Banking Companies Ordinance Section 27/B and make them in conformity with the ILO Conventions.

The PWF also asked the provincial governments to raise minimum wages of semi-skilled, skilled and supervisory staff in line with the price-hike and enforce labour laws including 7th working Journalist Wage Award through independent labour inspection machinery in accordance with ILO Conventions.

The PWF also demanded that steps should be taken to ensure safe and healthy working condition to prevent

accident and occupational hazards at workplaces.

The PWF said that billions of rupees worth workers welfare fund should be recovered from the Board of Revenue. The body proposed that the government should establish the National Health and Safety Council and National Productivity Council on tripartite basis to promote a culture of safer work and productivity to raise the competitive edge of Pakistani industries in the globalization of economy.

The PWF also demanded that all the labour laws should be made applicable to all the workers without ceiling of monthly pay and compensation should be doubled in case of fatal and non-fatal accident on duty.

The demands were placed by the delegation of PWF including PWF President Talib Nawaz, Secretary General Khurshid Ahmed and others on Friday in a bilateral meeting held with Federal

Secretary Labour and Manpower Malik Asif Hayat. The federal secretary assured the delegation that the government had been making amendment to the existing laws to bring these into conformity with the ILO Conventions and get enforced labour laws through Independent Labour Inspection Machinery in the provinces and the government had also written to the provincial government to review the minimum wages other than unskilled workers.



Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) - Newsletter

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PWF Pay Homage To Martyrs Of 1965 War

Lahore, Sept 06: A large delegation of Trade Union representatives and workers placed wreaths at the graves of the martyrs of September 1965 war at Batapur, offered Fateha and paid tributes to their supreme sacrifice for the defense of the motherland.

The workers delegation under the aegis of Pakistan Workers Federation was led by Khurshid Ahmed, general secretary PWF, and comprised representatives of Pakistan Wapda Hydro-Electric Central Labour Union CBA and other unions.

The delegation called on the ruling janta to defend their political independence through respect of all fundamental economic, social and political rights, to eliminate the scourge of unemployment, pov-

erty and ignorance and to strengthen the norms of democracy and justice in society.

The workers condemned the attack of western forces over the northern areas of Pakistan, and demanded an immediate stop to this gross violation of international law.



September 06, 2008: Workers pay homage to the martyrs of the 1965 war at Batapur

PWF Demo Against US Attacks

Lahore, Sep 16: The Pakistan Workers' Federation (PWF) on Monday took out a protest demonstration against the US incursion into the Pakistani tribal areas.

The protestors also passed a resolution to condemn killings of innocent citizens by Nato forces in the NWFP, stating that Pakistan was a frontline state in the war on terror and the previous government had extended unconditional support to the Nato forces.

Despite getting full cooperation from the country, they said, the Nato forces were killing its innocent people and violating its territorial sovereignty. The protestors

said the killings of innocent people could not be allowed and the working class would continue supporting the steps taken for the sovereignty of the country. They said the government, instead of wasting sources on weapons, should utilise them for the elimina-

tion of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy. The Pakistan Workers' Federation office-bearers, including Talib Nawaz, Khurshid Ahmed, Osama Tariq, Shafqat Javaid, Mukhtar Awan and others addressed the procession on the occasion.

