

RELEASE OF WITHHELD SALARY Vocational teachers threaten agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Beshorkari Karigori Shikkhok Samity (BBKSS) yesterday threatened tougher agitation if the government does not release immediately the withheld salary of 20 thousand teachers.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium, BBKSS leaders said these teachers are not even issued any letter showing the reasons for non-payment of their due salaries since last nine months.

They also reiterated their 11-point demand including removal of discrimination between general and technical education, reduction of lower affiliation fees for vocational training institutes (VTI) and colleges that offers business management (BM) courses, appointment of experts in vocational education board and equipping the institutions with adequate manpower.

The leaders said the normal schools and colleges pay Tk 2000 for board affiliation for a three-year term, but the VTIs and BM colleges need Tk 5000 and Tk 6000 respectively for one-year affiliation only.

Regarding the scarcity of teaching staffs they said there is only one post

of lecturer for English and Bangla, and there is no post of teacher for mathematics, statistics or religious studies.

There is only one post of MLSS but no post for security or night guard despite there are computers and other costly equipment in the laboratories, they added.

The leaders alleged that the affiliations of some non-governmental VTIs have been arbitrarily cancelled for personal political affiliation of their teaching staffs.

They also announced launching of nation-wide campaign from May 1 to June 15, holding dialogues with different professional bodies from June 16 to 30 and holding national convention of sacked teachers and staffs in Dhaka at a suitable time between July 1 to 7.

BBKSS President Md Shahjahan Alam Shaju read out a written statement at the press conference where General Secretary A K M Muksedur Rahman, Vice-presidents Nasiruddin Babu and Abul Kalam Azad, Joint Secretaries Ataur Rahman and Alauddin Ahmed and Treasurer Bashir Uddin Ahmed were present.



PHOTO: STAR

Communist Party of Bangladesh forms a human chain in front of Rural Electrification Board office in the city yesterday demanding uninterrupted power supply across the country.

Uninterrupted power supply demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) held protest rallies and brought out processions across the country yesterday demanding uninterrupted electricity supply round the clock.

The other demands include immediate withdrawal of minimum charge and meter rent imposed by the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and exemplary punishment to those responsible for Kansat killing.

In the capital, CPB leaders held a protest rally in front of REB office where the central leaders addressed.

Addressing the rally, CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the Pali Bidyut Samity, which was formed with the prescription of the imperialistic power, are grabbing money from the people by making new rules. But it did not take any initiative in making the electricity affordable, he added.

He also said the minimum charge of electricity for 25 units

should not be kept at Tk 78 without ensuring uninterrupted electricity.

He demanded immediate implementation of the agreement made with the Kansat people.

The BNP led four party alliances could not produce a single unit of electricity in their four years of rule but it raised the electricity bill that added trouble to the people, he added.

CPB Central Committee Secretary Ruhin Hossain Prince said the farmers are dying, as they could not supply water to their fields due to electricity shortage.

Model habitat of wildlife at Safari Park to boost eco-tourism

NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Ctg
back from Chakaria in Cox's Bazar

The Nature Interpretation Centre (NIC), an artificial natural habitat with replica plants and stuffing, set up at the country's lone Safari Park at Dulahazara in Cox's Bazar, was opened on Tuesday.

Wildlife Management and Nature Conservation Division of the Department of Forest (DoF) introduced the NIC resembling a model habitat of a wide variety of wildlife and flora and fauna.

It aims at boosting eco-tourism as well as encouraging the visitors to help restore the bio-diversity the country was once enriched with.

Environment and Forest Minister Tariquul Islam formally inaugurated the NIC at the Safari Park under Chakaria upazila in Cox's Bazar as chief guest.

Seven types of forests are set in the NIC where aesthetic settings of a model, mural and stuffing would introduce the visitors to 325 species of plants and 182 species of animals - some of which are already extinct or on the verge of extinction.

A twelve-minute audio-visual animation making a lively demonstration of wildlife through light and sounds also features the NIC.

NICs are usually found in large national gardens, wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas in developed countries to attract visitors and make them aware of the beauty of wildlife and bio-diversity, said Dulahazara Safari Park Project Director Dr Tapan Kumar Dey while

talking to a group of journalists visiting the park on Tuesday.

Adland Publicity Ltd, a firm enjoying a reputation developing several such NICs in India, provided the technological assistance for setting up the NIC at Safari Park, he informed.

Twenty-two artists from The Adland Publicity of Kolkata developed the NIC after a relentless effort of two years, Dr. Tapan Dey informed.

Ministry for Environment and Forest responded positively to take up and complete the project immediately after it was proposed in 2004, sources said.

At present, Bangladesh has 23 species of amphibians, 144 species of reptiles, 123 species of mammals and 632 species of birds, they said.

The NIC would surely attract the tourists and inspire the visitors to protect and help improve the present state of bio-diversity in the country, they hoped.

Meanwhile, inaugurating the NIC Environment Minister expressed hope that the NIC would not only help eco-tourism flourish but also facilitate research works by researchers, students and teachers of concerned institutions to contribute to this field.

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafarul Islam and Chief Conservator of Forest Mohammed Osman Gani were the special guests at the ceremony.

State Minister in his speech urged the local people to extend

support and cooperation for further development of Safari Park.

Later, Minister Tariquul Islam also inaugurated "Eagle Forest Rest House" there and released 12 deer of Sambar, Chitra and Maya species in the Safari Park.

Truck helper killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sathkira

A truck helper was killed when a speeding truck hit him near Alipur check-post in Sadar Upazila on Sathkira-Kaligonj road on Tuesday night.

The victim was identified as Alamgir Hossain, 25, son of Khater Sheikh of Rasulpur. The police arrested truck driver Abdul Jabbar.

Police said a sand-laden truck hit Alamgir at around 9:00pm when he was standing beside his truck, which went out of order. He died on the spot.

A case was filed with Sadar Police Station.