

RMG WORKERS' THREAT

# Fresh agitation if deal not implemented

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of sixteen garment workers' organisations yesterday warned of fresh movement if the factory owners did not implement the agreement signed with the labour bodies.

At a meeting at the office of Gono Forum in Motijheel in the city, they sought legal help from eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain, who is also president of Gono Forum.

The industry owners do not implement the labour laws and now they are ignoring the agreement signed on June 22 following widespread labour unrest in the garment sector, the workers' leaders said.

The leaders also demanded that Gono Forum, as the political party led by Dr Kamal Hossain, protest against the garment owners' non-implementation of the agreement.

"The labourers of the garment industry may become furious again if the agreements are not implemented soon," said Salahuddin Swapan, president of Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Garments Sramik Federation.

As per agreement between Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), the authori-

ties were to withdraw the cases filed against the workers following the recent labour unrest, but nothing concrete has been done till now, said Towhidur Rahman, a leader of the 16 workers' organisations.

BGMEA had also pledged that the factories would remain closed on Fridays from July 1, but not even 1 per cent of the factories were closed on last Friday, he said.

The owners' proposal to the wage board for Tk 1,230 as the lowest wage for the workers is also condemnable, he said, adding that a worker cannot pass even 10 days with the money.

Shamima Nasrin, president of

## Community pry teachers to go on strike again next month

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association yesterday threatened to close down community schools across the country from August 1 and fast unto death from August 6 if the government does not agree within July 30 to nationalise their jobs.

The threat came from a rally at Central Shaheed Minar.

Earlier on June 26, the community teachers postponed their fast unto death programme on having assurance from the government that it would soon meet their demand.

Addressing the rally yesterday, leaders said the government says it wants to develop the country's education system, but it never seems to be working accordingly.



A section of speakers at the eighth regional dialogue on the national election 2007 at Begum Rokeya Auditorium at Rangpur yesterday.

## Quadruplets born at city hospital

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A 34-year-old woman gave birth to quadruplets at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) hospital yesterday. The mother and the children are in stable condition.

Nilufer Begum, wife of Shafiqul Islam, an expatriate living in Saudi Arabia, gave birth to two boys weighing 1.2 and 1.3 kilograms and two girls weighing 1.1 and 1.2 kilograms around 11:00am yesterday.

Sultana Jahan, chairman of Gynaecology Department, helped the delivery through a caesarean. The babies were kept in incubators in the Paediatric ward of BSMMU for complications due to underweight.

Jahan said they had to arrange for the emergency caesarean operation as complications developed after the mother accidentally



The quadruplets born at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital yesterday. Doctors said condition of the mother and the babies was stable.

## Smuggler shot dead on Sylhet border

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A smuggler was shot dead and another bullet-hit during a Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) operation to arrest smugglers on Katakhal border in Sylhet yesterday.

Sources in the BDR and police said a patrol team of BDR from Chhatak special camp challenged some motorised boats at Zikar Haor on the borders of Companiganj, Chhatak and Sylhet sadar suspecting that they were carrying smuggled goods at about 4:40am yesterday.

As the boatmen tried to flee the scene, the BDR men fired five shots. The border guards later caught bullet-hit Abdul Bashir, 40, of Gourinagar in Companiganj, and Samuj Ali, 30, of Shiber Bazar in Sadar upazila, while others managed to escape.

Bashir succumbed to his wounds after he was taken to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital at 12:30pm. Sabuj is undergoing treatment there with bullet wounds in his chest and arms.

BDR seized 12.6 lakh Indian bisis and the boat.

# Ahmadiyyas held incommunicado at Sharishabari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ahmadiyyas at Sharishabari of Jamalpur remain incommunicado at their houses as the local religious bigots continue intimidating and harassing the families belonging to the sect.

Seeking a government move declaring the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim, the fanatics mobilised by Ittefaqui Ulama have been threatening to kill the Ahmadiyyas if they get out of their houses and mix with the other people in the neighbourhood.

In the face of constant threats, some two thousand Ahmadiyyas have been keeping themselves confined to their houses, without attending offices or going about other businesses for the last couple of days.

The anti-Ahmadiyya campaign at Sharishabari intensified after a Khatme Nabuwat rally at Fulbaria Ijarapara Thursday. At the rally, the Ittefaqui leaders asked the locals to boycott Ahmadiyyas.

During Jum'a prayers at different local mosques Friday, they called on the locals to unite against the Ahmadiyyas.

When six-year-old Sourav went to a nearby grocery the same day, shopkeeper Rois Uddin refused to sell any goods to him.

He told the boy that the Ittefaqui Ulama leaders had forbidden them to sell anything to Ahmadiyyas "as they are not Muslim".

The zealots threw stones at the house of Ahmadiyya leader Shamsuddin Master Friday evening. At night, they went so far as to throw excreta and garbage at the house.

Besides, they hurled torrents of abuse at the family members, and threatened to drive them off the area and kidnap Shamsuddin's young daughter.

Since the rally on Thursday, members of the sect have been living in constant fear of attacks

## CASE AGAINST COL FARUK

### Cross-examination of witnesses completed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court closed cross-examinations of witnesses and fixed August 13 for the hearing of arguments on three cases filed against the Bangabandhu murder case, Lt Colonel (dismissed) Syed Faruk Rahman.

The three cases, two under the Arms Act and the other one under the Explosive Substances Act, were filed with Cantonment Police Station on August 18, 1996.

Judge Monzurul Bachhid of the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on Thursday issued the order as

Prayer Timing		
July 16		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Iran's leadership rejects freeze of nuclear work

AFP, Tehran

Iran's leadership has rejected demands to freeze sensitive nuclear work contained in an international proposal aimed at resolving the crisis over Tehran's nuclear drive, an official was quoted as saying yesterday.

"In the West's proposal, two preconditions are raised: suspending nuclear activities and responding to questions" raised by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli, the deputy secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

"The leadership has reached the conclusion that it will not accept the precondition set by the Europeans," he was quoted by

# 307 detained over Mumbai bombings

AP, Mumbai

Police investigating Mumbai's deadly train bombings swept through several neighbourhoods yesterday, rounding up more than 300 people for questioning.

Only 11 were detained, all for petty crimes unrelated to the bombings, said senior police inspector Joseph Gaikwad. The 11 were not thought to have been involved in the attacks, but police believed they may have information about the bombers.

Police have carried out several such sweeps since Tuesday's attacks, which killed more than 200 people. Saturday's house-to-house searches were conducted mainly in the slums of Mumbai's Mahim neighbourhood, an area popular with illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

"This was a routine combing exercise. We have questioned and released all but 11 of the 307 who were brought in from Mahim," Gaikwad said.

The sweeps came a day after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said the bombers had support from inside Pakistan, warning that a peace process between the nuclear-armed rivals could be derailed unless Islamabad reins in terrorists.

Singh's unusually blunt comments appeared to signal an abrupt shift in relations between India and Pakistan, whose ties had warmed

