



PHOTO: STAR

Non-government primary teachers and employees stage a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday demanding 100 percent salary and allowances from the government exchequer.

Govt dev project staffs to begin fast-unto-death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Government Development Project Employees' Welfare Council will begin a fast-unto-death at Muktangan in the city today to press its five-point demand.

The demands include issuing a Statutory Regulatory Order (SRO) to transfer the manpower of all the development projects, which started after July 1, 1997, under revenue

sector, scale-based salary and reinstatement of 6,500 employees of various projects who were sacked.

Referring to the SRO no.183 issued on June 20, 2005, Munshi Mostafizur Rahman, president of the council said, "What kind of 'farce' is it that development projects starting after June 30, 1997 will be transferred under revenue sector except for its manpower?"

Moreover, the employees who worked hard at the development projects for 5-15 years will have to get the job once again through competitive examinations, he added.

General Secretary Shirajul Islam, Vice President SM Jashim Uddin, Joint General Secretary Mohi ul Kashem and Convenor of the sub-committee to implement demands Alim ul Bahar also spoke on the occa-

sion.

They said that the government would face economical crisis to conduct the new recruitment process and such development projects would lose skilled manpower.

The leaders alleged that the issue of transferring the manpower of development projects is not implemented due to bureaucratic complexity even after the direction of the prime minister.

CITY GOVERNMENT CONCEPT

Govt urged to give nod to make Ctg a vibrant city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday reiterated his pledge for establishing a 'City Government' in Chittagong to make it one of the most vibrant, viable and liveable mega cities of the world in future.

"I know it's an enormous task, yet I'm confident to make it possible and give the 'City Government' concept a real shape for the greater benefit of Chittagong and the country as well," said the Mayor while speaking at a seminar at the local auditorium of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Mohiuddin said the 'City Government' exists in many cities of the world and Japan alone has thirteen such cities where elected mayors are at the helm of all kinds development in their respective cities.

"I don't need any financial assistance, I just want permission from the government to implement the concept in Chittagong," said Mohiuddin.

He also vowed to go-ahead with the plan if the government refuses to give permission in this regard.

The Mayor hoped that the Awami League-led 14-party opposition coalition, if voted to power, would table a bill in parliament on 'City Government' and pass it as an act.

The other speakers, mostly 14-party leaders, gave positive response to the call of Mohiuddin and promised him full co-operation in implementing his concept.

They also urged the government to give the mayor a go-ahead in view of making Chittagong a unique model for decentralised local gov-

ernment system in true term.

"The system would ultimately help the central government immensely in maintaining good governance at grassroots level and ensure the accountability, transparency and credibility of a democratically elected government to its people," they observed. The speakers suggested formulating specific plan, ensuring more participation of local representatives and reducing the influence of lawmakers to have an effective local government sys-

tem in the country.

Chittagong could be the model of such effective local government if its Mayor is allowed to implement his concept, they said, adding that once the system is implemented the port city would be the focal point of all economic development in the country.

Nagorik Committee Chittagong organised the daylong seminar with its Secretary General Dr Abu Yousuf Alam in the chair.

Awami League Presidium

Member Begum Motia Chowdhury MP, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Bangladesh Communist Party (CPB) President Monjurul Ahsan Khan, Gono Forum Presidium Member Pankaj Bhattacharya, Bangladesh Samyabadi Dal President Dilip Barua, renowned economist Prof MM Akash of Dhaka University and Premier University Vice-chancellor Prof Anwarul Azim Arif also addressed the seminar.



PHOTO: STAR

Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury speaks at seminar on city government organised by Nagorik Committee at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in Chittagong.

PM donates Tk 2 lakh to family of deceased cop

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday donated Tk 2 lakh to the family of police sub-inspector Abul Bashar Munshi, who was killed near the capital during opposition's road-rail-waterway blockade programme on July 2, to help them meet their immediate needs.

Bashar's wife Reshma Begum and his three children received a cheque from the PM at the Prime Minister's Office.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar and Inspector General of Police (IGP) Anwarul Iqbal were also present.

Describing the death of SI Abul Bashar Munshi as an "irreparable loss", the prime minister said she would always stand by his family members.

She directed the IGP to look after and cooperate with the children of the deceased police officer during the time of their study.

She also told the IGP to take steps so that the children of the police officer get proper jobs on completion of their studies.

The prime minister also directed the state minister for home affairs to pay all monetary benefits of the police officer to his family members at the earliest.

President assents to five bills

UNB, Dhaka

President Professor Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday gave his assent to five bills passed in the just-concluded 22nd session of the parliament.

The bills are Bangladesh Accreditation Bill, 2006; Chittagong Veterinary and Animal Sciences University Bill, 2006; The Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 2006; Microcredit Regulatory Authority Bill, 2006; and The Army (Amendment) Bill, 2006.

Garment worker stabbed to death in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified miscreants stabbed a garment employee to death at Chittagong College Road in the port city on Saturday night.

The dead was identified as Shafiqul Islam, 35, son of one Toyub Ali of Baitul Aman Housing Society under Khulshi Thana.

On information, police recovered critically injured Shafiqul, an employee of Tax Trading Garments Limited of Kalurghat BSCIC Industrial Area, at around 11:30pm.

The victim was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

LOOTING OF GOODS Police hand over Rab member to Rab-10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demra police yesterday handed over Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) Corporal Bazlur Rashid, one of the nine accused of looting goods worth Tk 73 lakh, to the Rab-10.

A top Rab official seeking anonymity told The Daily Star that Bazlur might be charged with robbery and punished as per Rab rules.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed Bazlur's eight accomplices, including a retired army sergeant, on a five-day remand.

The accused are Didarul Islam Didar, Mahmudul Hassan, Mohammad Rafiq, Mohammad Shahin, Farhad alias Bhagney Farhad, Ayez Ali, Al Amin and Ali Hossain.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Towfiqul Alam passed the order when the investigation officer (IO) produced them before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court with a seven-day remand prayer.

In the forwarding report, the IO mentioned that the arrestees were directly involved with the incident and vital clues to the incident would come out when they would be interrogated intensively in remand.

Demra police are still hunting to recover looted cloths worth around Tk 5 lakh.

"We have launched several drives to recover 135 rolls of cloths still missing," IO Humayun Kabir said adding that they have already recovered 26 air-coolers and 225 rolls of cloths which had been looted by the accused.

Bazlur and his accomplices took away a covered van laden with the air-coolers and the cloths from its driver and looted the goods.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina speaks at a view exchange meeting with the party leaders from Gaibandha and Joypurhat districts at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

Form Jukta Front to oust alliance govt: B Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said a popular government must be brought to power through the next election by forming a 'Jukta (United) Front'.

There is no alternative to form a jukta front to bring a popular government to power by ousting the anti-

people BNP-Jamaat alliance government, he said.

He was speaking at a view exchange meeting with the representatives of Netrakona BDB unit at KC Memorial hospital in the city.

Former president Badruddoza said the jukta front would be formed with all parties, except the anti liberation forces, that will express solidarity

with the anti-government movement to curb terrorism, corruption and to reduce poverty and price hike of essentials.

He urged the BDB leaders and activists to create a mass public opinion in favour of the party.

Central and city leaders of BDB and different leaders of Netrakona unit were also present at the meeting.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh Patricia Butenis places a wreath at a memorial in the city on Thursday in honour of activist Sajal Chowdhury, a victim of political violence in February 1999.