

Meet demands by Sept 20

Employees urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Sangjukta Oikya Front, a platform of government employees, yesterday called on the government to meet its seven-point demand, including 50 percent dearness allowance, by September 20.

The other demands include permanent pay commission and service commission and removal

of salary discrimination.

The Front leaders made the call at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium in the city, with Aroj Ali in the chair.

They said the government employees are hard hit by skyrocketing prices of essential commodities and are also facing repression by the administration in their workplaces.

Matubbar Harun-ur-Rashid,

secretary general of the Oikya Front, read out a written statement at the press conference. Front leaders Badrul Alam, Shah Alam, Ruhul Amin, Abdul Khaleque, Md Hiron Mia, Sheikh Md Rafiqul Islam and Abdul Baten also spoke.

To realise the demands, they will observe 'Demand Week' from September 3 to 15 and hold a rally at Muktangan on September 20.



PHOTO: STAR
Hundreds of people thronged to Road -17 in Rupnagar Residential Area of Mirpur in the city yesterday to see the two adjoining buildings tilted towards each other.

Uncertainty looms over polls: Monju

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Uncertainty looms large over the upcoming general election as the political crisis deepens, said Jatiya Party Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju yesterday.

"I am not at all concerned about the reform proposals placed by the 14-party opposition combine. I am worried about the violation of people's right to franchise. The war between political parties having ideological differences is actually creating instability in the country. These issues must be resolved before the election, otherwise the election would face uncertainty," he

told reporters at the installation ceremony of Jatiya Chhatra Samaj at the party office in the city.

He also said the constitution is now under threat due to political crisis.

On election coalition, Monju said assuming power is not his main goal and that he would opt for the party that has the similar political ideology.

On the move by four-party ruling alliance to bring Ershad under its fold, he said, "Ershad played with Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina for nine years and now they are playing with Ershad."

"Ershad chose to escape the jail and wants a share in the government," he added.

Speaking at the installation ceremony, Monju termed the upcoming election a 'war of ideology' and stressed the need for people's participation in the election.

Citing the incident of arrest warrants against five eminent personalities, JP Secretary General Shiekh Shahidul Islam said those having different opinions are being harassed nowadays.

JP Additional Secretary General Sadeque Siddiqui, Md Jahangir Alam Prodhan, Nazmunahar Baby and Col (retd.) Nuruddin Malik also spoke.

Death threat to two university teachers condemned

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday condemned the death threat to Rajshahi University (RU) teacher Prof Hasan Azizul Haque and Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST).

Workers' Party of Bangladesh at a politburo meeting yesterday condemned the death threat to teachers by RU Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) activists.

It demanded adequate security for the teachers immediately and punishment to the responsible ICS men.

Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) expressed deep concern over the threat and said the government has a close connection with the repeated threats over the progressive teachers, noted poets, litterateurs, artists and intelligentsia.

Duta President Prof Shafir Ullah Bhuiyan and General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman in a statement said repeated threats to progressive teachers and intellectuals are virtually a part of government's blue plan against country's democracy and free thoughts.

Chhatra Sangram Parishad, a combine of opposition student organisations, yesterday took out a procession and held a rally on DU campus demanding a ban on politics of Jamaat-e-Islami and its student front ICS across the country.

Meanwhile, Srijonshil Prokashkrindo, a platform of publishers, and Chhatra Dhara, student wing of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, also condemned the incident of threat to the teachers.