

## Concern over frequent power outage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday voiced concern over frequent power cuts and condemned police atrocities on demonstrators in the city.

Jatiya Party Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam in a joint statement said people have been plunged into profound crisis due to loadshedding, and scarcity of water and gas.

"From the very first quarter of holy Ramadan, people are facing multi-pronged crisis apart from intolerable price-hike of essentials," they said.

Demanding uninterrupted power supply, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) urged people to launch agitation after Kansat model.

In a joint statement CPB President Monjurul Ahsan Khan and General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim urged people to observe 'mass protest week' from October 4 across the country and from September 29 in the capital.

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) condemned the police attack on protesters at Shonir Akhra, Jatrabari, Sutrapur, Mirpur and other areas in the city.

BSD Convenor Khalequzzaman in a statement said the protest was spontaneous expression of people's anger and frustration.

At a meeting in front of Dholaipar power office, Vice-president of city

unit Gono Forum Md Safar Ali threatened to launch tougher agitation if the demand for uninterrupted power supply is not met within 72 hours.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu and General Secretary Syed Jafar Sajjad have condemned the police attack on power-starved mob at different areas in the city and demanded immediate arrest of culprits.

## Death threat to JU teacher

JU CORRESPONDENT

Some unidentified miscreants yesterday threatened to kill a teacher of Jahangirnagar University (JU).

Sayed Abu Toab Shakir, a lecturer of history department, received the death threat as he along with other teachers asked them to get off the university bus scheduled to leave for campus from Mohakhali in the city at 8:00am yesterday.

The criminals forcibly get on the university bus and tried to create chaos.

At one stage of heated debate, the criminals threatened to shoot Shakir.

Later, the university teachers submitted a written allegation to the university administration in this regard.

## 5 Bangladeshis arrested in Jammu

UNB, Dhaka

Five Bangladeshis who were trying to crossover to Pakistan have been apprehended by security forces in RS Pura sector of Jammu division, officials said on Wednesday.

PTI from Jammu said troops of Rajput Regiment noticed movement of two men moving in suspicious circumstances towards International Border from Agrechak area in RS Pura sector on Tuesday. Both of them were taken into custody.

Another group of three people was also apprehended when they were found moving towards the border from same area later, the officials said.

Preliminary interrogation revealed that they belonged to Bangladesh and have been identified as Liyaqat Ali, Asgar Ali, Fazal Mohammad, Abdul and Munnawar.

They had also revealed that one person had taken Rs 3000 each from a group of 15 members belonging to Bangladesh and brought them here to provide job as labourers.

Security forces have launched a search for the remaining 10 people of the group.

## RMG, leather workers' strike Oct 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh National Council of Textile, Garments and Leather Workers will enforce a 24-hour strike at all the textile, garment, leather and jute mills and factories on October 15 demanding review of the minimum wage and cancellation of the Labour Bill 2006.

They will also enforce a six-hour dawn to midday blockade of highways, railways and river routes on the same day.

The Council leaders announced the agitation programme at a press conference at their temporary office at Sonargaon road in the city yesterday.

Addressing the press conference, the leaders alleged that the new labour bill passed in the parliament reflected only the interests of the owners.

Terming the bill as 'black bill', they said its implementation will intensify the workers' movement across the country and the government will have to bear all the responsibilities if any untoward incidents occur.

Ray Romesh Chandra, general secretary of the Council, said the new bill is completely against the interests of the workers. It violates different regulations of International Labour Organisation (ILO), which Bangladesh ratified in 1972, he added.

Ramesh also said, "If the bill is implemented, at least 50 thousand workers will be dismissed from jobs, as the retirement age has been fixed at 57 years."

There is no provision of provident fund, gratuity or insurance in the bill, he alleged.

Shahjahan Khan MP, vice president of the Council, said according to

the new bill the workers have to work 10 hours a day whereas earlier, the workers used to work extra hours only if they wished to do but now they have to work extra two hours as compulsory overtime.

Council leader Badruddoza Nizam said many owners have garment factories in Vietnam where they pay \$55 per month to the workers. But here

they hesitate to pay a decent wage, he added.

The council leaders demanded due wages, Eid bonus and overtime bill of the workers before the Eid-ul-Fitr.

They urged the president not to sign in the new bill.

They will submit a memorandum to the president in this regard, they added.