

SKOP urges govt to implement accords

By Staff Correspondent
The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) in a statement Thursday demanded immediate implementation of the agreement signed between the government and SKOP leaders on December 21, 1991.

The statement alleged that the government was not fulfilling its commitment to implement the agreement.

The announcement of the National Wage Commission report was not made yet, though it was supposed to be announced within two months of the date of signing the agreement, it said adding that no SKOP representative was included in the commission as yet as per the understanding.

The statement said that the silence of the government on the matter was creating discontent among the workers and labourers and that the government would be responsible for any consequences that may arise.

Assault on UNO

AL MP arrested, released on bail
KHULNA, Mar 12: Police today arrested Awami League MP Mostafa Rashidul Suja for his alleged involvement in assaulting the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) of Terokhada, reports UNB.

Mostafa, also the senior Vice President of Awami League District unit, was arrested at about 9 am from his Tuptara residence but, the Upazila Magistrate Court later released him on bail.

Police said some muscle-men recruited by the MP mercilessly beat up UNO Shapan Kumar Sekhar and Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Nittaranjan Sutra Wednesday afternoon.

Zeenat, Mustafiz arrested

By Staff Correspondent
Police Thursday arrested Mustafizur Rahman, brother-in-law of deposed President Ershad, and Zeenat Mosharruf, wife of former Industries Secretary Mosharruf Hossain, and sent them to jail.

Two special squads of the City Special branch in a pre-dawn swoop yesterday arrested Mustafizur Rahman from his Cantonment residence and Zeenat from her DOHS residence in the capital.

Housewife choked to death

By Staff Correspondent
A housewife was choked to death in the capital Wednesday, according to reports received Thursday.

Tejgaon Police recovered the body of Nurunnahar Kaja, a mother of three children, earlier reported missing, from the room of a house in East Rajabazar in the city.

Sources said that Nurunnahar, a resident of 58 Bhajahari Saha Street in the old city dropped her children at their school (Willes Little Flower) at Kakrali in the morning. She however did not turn up to pick them up after classes were over.

The children informed their father of their mother's not turning up to get them and on receiving this information their father A H M Raisuddin began enquiring about where his wife had gone.

Failing to locate her whereabouts he informed the Ramna police and filed a missing report.

In the meantime, Tejgaon police received information from one Asghar Shah that the body of an unidentified woman was lying in the room of his son Akram.

Tejgaon police then rushed to the spot and recovered the body, later identified to be that of Nurunnahar.

The body was then sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy which could not be performed on the day.

The autopsy was performed Thursday with the report saying that the victim had been choked to death.

Police arrested another son of Asghar Shah, Masum, as Akram, in whose room the body was found, had fled the place of occurrence.

Police could not establish the motive behind the murder. However, they did not rule out the possibility of an extra-marital relationship between Nurunnahar and Akram.



Police resorted to lathicharge on the employees of Dhaka City Corporation at Syedabad in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Police, DCC employees

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Karmachari Federation which called the strike, said. He demanded exemplary punishment of those responsible for the incident.

Kotwali police said that a group of pro-strike workers gheraoed a DCC garbage van and tried to damage it. But police rushed to the spot and rescued the vehicle.

A senior DCC official told Daily Star that recruitment of conservancy staff members and punitive actions against the permanent employees were deferred till Thursday because initiatives were taken to resolve the issue through negotiations Wednesday night.

The second round of talks was scheduled for Thursday morning but it could not be held as the leaders did not turn up at the meeting, he said.

"If the employees' leaders come, a meeting may be held on Friday," he added. Some parts of the city remained without street lights because of the strike.

The DCC source said that a cleanliness programme was under an alternative arrangement which would be reinvigorated from Friday.

Meanwhile various political and professional organisations in separate statements on Thursday strongly condemned the attack on the demonstrating workers of the Dhaka City Corporation. In the statements they expressed their full support to the 'legitimate demands of the DCC workers and called upon the government to fulfil those.

The statements were issued by Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote, Private Sector Workers' Action Council, Chhatra Oikya Forum and Progressive Nationalist Party.

Meanwhile, the members of the press club in an emergency meeting decided to boycott all sorts of programmes and news of Tongi pourasava (municipality) until the culprits were given exemplary punishment.

PM urged to settle deepsea fishing troubles

The Geneva-based International Metalworkers' Federation (IMF) has appealed to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to intervene in securing settlement on dispute involving 2,000 deepsea fishing trawler workers in the country, reports UNB.

Police resorted to lathicharge on the employees of Dhaka City Corporation at Syedabad in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Yangon distorting facts

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out, that it is, therefore, those people who were living in Myanmar on January 4, 1948, when Myanmar was given independence by British were in fact citizens of Myanmar like those who living in erstwhile East Pakistan on August 14, 1947 as citizens of East Pakistan for those living in India on August 15, 1947, as Indians regardless of where they came from among the regions now constituting different independent states.

The press release said Rohingya Muslims of Arakan have evidently some historical links and affinity with the present Bangladesh but it no way means they will lose Myanmar citizenship and their right to live and work in Myanmar.

The press release also pointed out that a Pakistan consulate started functioning in Akyab ever since the independence in 1947 and the same was turned into a Bangladesh consulate since Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation. This is the only foreign consulate in Akyab, the capital of Arakan.

The press release also pointed out to what Myanmar leaders said about Rohingya Muslims and quoted Prime Minister U Nu of Myanmar in a speech over Radio Yangon on 25 September, 1954 at 8 pm inter alia, the Rakhine state is situated towards the south-

Attack on DCC employees shameless: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent
Sheikh Hasina in a statement yesterday protested the 'shameless' attack on the workers of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The Awami League chief termed the demands of the workers of the city corporations and the pourasabhas 'legitimate' and called upon the government to fulfil those immediately.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament alleged that the government, instead of taking effective measures to find a solution to the crisis, had resorted to repression on them. This in turn, she added, was deteriorating the situation causing misery to the general people.

Municipal employees storm Tongi Press Club

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Mar 12: A group of striking municipal employees on Thursday attacked and damaged the Tongi press club alleging that the coverage of their strike and demonstrations were poor in the newspapers.

The agitating employees numbering around 40 damaged the windows and doors of the press club and also broke the signboard.

The attackers rebuked the journalists in slang language who were absent during the incident at around 11 am, witnesses said.

The municipal employees went on an indefinite strike from Monday last demanding wage hike.

Meanwhile, the members of the press club in an emergency meeting decided to boycott all sorts of programmes and news of Tongi pourasava (municipality) until the culprits were given exemplary punishment.

Poverty

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would also meet the demand of protein for the poor people through plantation of fruit trees along the canal and pisciculture and poultry.

Referring to the areas where people become victims of natural calamities every year, the Prime Minister said her government wanted to take up special programmes for alleviation of poverty by identifying those zones as calamity-prone areas.

Zahiruddin Khan said that economic activities of the country could be considerably invigorated and growth rate accelerated if the development approach and programmes were restructured using the inherent strength of the poor for self-sustenance.

Dr Mahub Hossain in his paper said the survey showed that nearly 10 per cent of the households live in shacks made of worn sacks, leaves and jute sticks and another 32 per cent live in one-room structures with the whole family. "Despite marked expansion of government health service infrastructure, only 13 per cent of the rural households get benefit from these facilities at times of sickness", he said.

Indonesia

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border is the domain of private warlords who supply most of the world's heroin - 2,500 tonnes of it from Myanmar alone last year, US narcotics officials said.

The three countries will sign their first joint accord on narcotics suppression that will open the way to substantial united funds for crop substitution schemes.

Growing criticism from Southeast Asian countries over Myanmar actions in other border areas overshadowed the meeting.

The two ministers declined to answer questions about the offensive against Karen rebels in the east and the expulsion of minority Muslims in the west.

Neighbouring governments previously dismissed western criticism of the junta's repression of political opposition and followed a policy of what they called 'constructive engagement'.

BSS adds: The Government of Pakistan has expressed its concern over the plight of Muslim minority in Myanmar, according to a message received in Dhaka today.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said Wednesday the Pakistan government had conveyed its concern to the Myanmar government.

Responding to a question the spokesman said, the government had not been inactive in this regard. "We had been in touch with the Myanmar government and conveyed our concern."

The Midnight File

Arafat in Namibia to a confused reception

WINDHOEK, Mar 12: Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat arrived today in Namibia to a confused reception, with guests gathered at the wrong airport. Arafat landed at the main airport, 40 kilometres (24 miles) outside Windhoek, while Namibian President Sam Nujoma, senior officials and diplomats waited at the smaller airport nearer the city centre, reports AFP.

Kashmiri journalists forced out of PS

SRINAGAR (India), Mar 12: A group of 48 Kashmiri journalists, arrested for protesting against censorship of news on a Muslim insurgency, were evicted forcibly from their cells today after refusing to accept their release. The journalists said they were forced out of Kothi Bagh police station. They had insisted they would not leave until the government rescinded an order curbing their reporting of a two-year rebellion by Muslim militants in the Kashmir valley, reports Reuters.

Bush, Khaleda: Refugees

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ing aspects — the continuous influx of tens of thousands of the Rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh and Myanmar troops build up along the 176-mile border Myanmar-Bangladesh border.

The US has already condemned eviction of the Muslim minority from the Arakan province of Myanmar, which forced them to flee to Bangladesh and also raised the alarming situation with the Myanmar authorities.

The planned talks between the two leaders will also cover important matters, including bilateral trade, export of garments and food aid under PL 480, the spokesman said.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister, during her sojourn in the American capital, is expected to discuss matters of mutual interest with other US high officials, including Defence Minister Dick Cheney, Joint Chief of Staff Colin Powell and Chief of American task force in Bangladesh during the last cyclonic catastrophe General Stackpole.

Begum Zia is scheduled to meet members of the Senate's and the House of Foreign Affairs Committee — the two powerful bodies that play vital role in determining the country's foreign policy.

In Washington, Begum Zia is also likely to meet with President of the World Bank, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, Administrator of USAID and heads of other international agencies which contribute to promoting the socio-economic condition of Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh leader is also expected to give interview to leading media, including, Associate Press (AP), Cable News Network (CNN) and Newsweek.

On her way back from Washington on March 20 Begum Zia will meet the president of the UN General Assembly.

The Prime Minister will discuss with the UN Secretary General the Myanmar refugee issue. Bangladesh has already requested him to use his good office in resolving the issue through peaceful repatriation of the refugees.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman, who will accompany the Prime Minister during the visit, is likely to talk with representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to take up the Rohingya refugee issue.

Her 10-member entourage will also include Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Begum Selina Rahman, PM, Principal Secretary at the Prime Minister's Secretariat Hasan Ahmed, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Chief of Protocol Tofael Karim Haider and Director General of the American desk at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Kurshid Ahmed.

Begum Zia's visit to her to forgive him. Former MPs Subed Ali Tipu and Jamal Uddin Ahmed were in the delegation.

Hasina was learnt to have expressed helplessness, saying she had nothing to do with this matter which was under the jurisdiction of the Central Working Committee of Awami League.

Montu, General Secretary of the District Committee of Awami League and President of Juba League, was suspended by the Working Committee on March 5 on charge of anti-organisational activities.

Montu was also asked to explain within 15 days as to why he shall not be expelled from the party.

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Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.