

Wage award in private jute mills demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Patkal Sramik Karma-chari Sangram Parishad (PSKSP) yesterday demanded implementation of the Wage Commission award in the private sector jute mills.

After the official announcement of the Wage Commission award last year the Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) decided not to implement it in the private sector jute mills. PSKSP leaders told a press conference at its Topkhana Road office.

Moreover, some private jute mills owners have stopped regular payment of the previous wage to the labourers. Even, some owners have threatened to lay off mills when the labourers refused to take half the amount of the wage they are being paid," convener of the parishad Abul Bashar said.

The press conference was addressed by Shahidullah

Chowdhury, Lutfar Rahman, Shah Alam, Anwara Begum, Golam Kabir, Bacchu Mia and others.

They also said some 12 jute mills have already been closed.

The parishad pointed out that BNP government signed a memorandum of understanding with the World Bank on December 15 last, under which, the country would reduce its present production capacity of seven lakh metric tons of jute goods to 1.8 lakh tons.

"If this agreement is implemented, the jute industry will be destroyed and thousands of labourers will lose their jobs," Abul Bashar said. He demanded the cancellation of this agreement.

The Parishad also demanded reopening of the closed jute mills, a ban on producing or importing synthetic fibre, implementation of all agreements signed with the PSKSP, withdrawal of cases against labour leaders and stopping violence in the industrial zones.

The Sangram Parishad also announced its programmes of agitation which included demonstrations in front of all private mills gates on March 5 and 6, a sit-in and rallies on March 7.

Police trade fire

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A police source said that the DB team rushed to the T & T Colony on a tip around 3:30 pm but the terrorists got alarmed upon their arrival.

"The terrorists moved so quickly that we could not use our car which was parked at a distance," said an Inspector who was with the team.

A case was lodged with the Ramna police.

JMB: ADB

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cussed the problems which delayed the railway recovery programme loan and indicated that another ADB mission will visit Bangladesh to resolve the remaining problems of the project.

The Finance Minister during the discussion urged the ADB to put more emphasis on the projects for energy and power development and improving rural infrastructure including primary and secondary rural electrification programme.

The ADB mission included Manager, Programme Department (West) B Hurayangura and Manager, Energy and Industry Paul Dickie. The mission which came here on February 24 will leave today.

ADB Resident Representative G Van Der Linden and External Resources Division Secretary Lutfulla Hil Majid were present. Meanwhile Noritada Morita, called on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman at his office yesterday and apprised him of the bank's assistance to various projects in Bangladesh.

During the meeting, Morita also briefed the minister on the progress of the feasibility study of the development of Mongla.

They also discussed the feasibility of the Rupsha Bridge connecting the Mongla Port with the adjoining areas of greater Khulna.

Jewish leaders

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who was assassinated in 1990. "I think the government took a very important step that signals a new way of dealing with the extremist settlers," Sarid said.

Meanwhile chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath said today an Israeli cabinet decision to disarm hardcore Jewish settlers does not respond to the PLO's demands and would not help the PLO take a decision on the peace process.

"Unfortunately, these measures will not be a serious support for any decision on the peace process," Shaath told Reuters at the end of a meeting in Tunis with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Bilateral talks between the PLO and Israel are not to resume on Monday in Cairo as a result of the killing.

The United States sent the PLO on Saturday a formal invitation to resume talks in Washington.

"It (the Israeli resolution) does not provide protection for the Palestinian people, (and) it does not provide disarmament of the settlers, only a few of the headline known extremists," Shaath said.

"There is a whole climate that has to be dealt with, there is a whole collusion by several elements of the Israeli army that has been dealt with," he added.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni adjourned the session until 10 this morning.

Pohela Baishakh on April 14

"Pohela Baishakh," the first day of Bengali calendar, will be celebrated on April 14 as per officially published calendar for the year 1994 and the 1400 Bengali year will not be counted as leap year, reports UNB.

These were decided at an emergency meeting held in Dhaka yesterday with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahan Ara Begum in the chair.

However, some calendars published under private initiatives showed the "Pohela Baishakh" on April 15 counting the 1400 Bengali year as leap year and month of "Chaitra" as 31 days.

JCD activist beaten up in RU

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Feb 27: A Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal leader, Biplob, was beaten up mercilessly by his rival JCD worker on the campus at about 10:30 this morning.

Sources said, the police rushed to the spot and rounded up three persons including two outsiders.

Later, the police freed two persons but detained Zakir Hossain, a JCD leader and a student of the Economics Department.

Biplob, a second year student of the Department of Economics was later admitted to the RU Medical Centre.

According to sources, the incident was sequel to an internal conflict of the JCD centering the RUCSU polls.

One more held in Dr Rafiq murder case

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch (DB) yesterday arrested one more suspect for killing Dr Rafiq.

Dr Rafiq was beaten to death by hawkers on the sidewalk near the Farmview Supermarket on August 3 last year. He had an altercation with a street-hawker over purchase of a wallet.

Police said in a pre-dawn raid in the city's Lalbagh area yesterday they arrested Ajar alias Shajahan. He was a hawker at the Farmgate area and was absconding since the day of occurrence, police added.

Shajahan was taken to the city's detective branch at Minto Road for interrogation.

Care-taker govt

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Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder of the Awami League, Maudud Ahmed, Anwar Hossain Manju and Manirul Haq Chowdhury of the Jatiya Party and Salauddin Qader Chowdhury of the NDP were present in the meeting.

All the opposition parties are expected to meet again today to discuss the matter and other common issues pending before Parliament.

Talking to newsmen after the meeting, Tofael Ahmed MP said they had decided to bring a common bill on behalf of the entire opposition seeking to amend the Constitution for holding national elections under a neutral caretaker authority.

"This is people's demand... under any circumstances, there must be a caretaker government to ensure free and fair voting," the AL leader said. There will be election, and it must be held under a neutral caretaker administration, JP leader Maudud Ahmed told the newsmen.

Issues with neighbours

From Page 1 Col 7

should be resolved bilaterally in the spirit of the UN resolutions.

He ruled out reports that Beijing would host any meeting between India and Pakistan.

On Tibet, Qian stated that it was an integral part of China and India should accept this reality.

About a question on the latest Sino-US relations, the Foreign Minister said "The USA is the largest developed country while China is the largest developing country."

Both countries should work closely accepting this fact. He admitted that there are some problems between the two countries which should be resolved amicably.

On Bosnia, he said, the matter was not directly placed before the UN Security Council. The arms embargo was imposed on a breakaway republic of Yugoslavia and the sanctions still existed. Some countries supported the sanctions and some did not, he added explaining China's role on the Bosnian conflict.

In reply to a question whether China still thought its role was allright during Bangladesh's liberation war in 1971, the Chinese Vice-Premier said, "I think we should look at historical issues from evolutionary point of view. The situation now has changed."

"During my visit both countries expressed satisfaction over the existing bilateral relations."

Regarding Sino-Bangla trade gap, he said, China would make every effort to increase



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia paying her last respect to the mortal remains of Prof M A Baten, Member of the BNP Standing Committee and former State Minister for Education at his residence in Dhaka yesterday. — PID photo

Islamia Eye Hospital Employees for removal of Dr Mustafiz

By Staff Correspondent

The employees of the Islamia Eye Hospital yesterday demanded immediate removal of Prof M. Mustafizur Rahman from the post of the Additional Chief Consultant of the hospital.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, the leaders of the Islamia Eye Hospital Employees' United Council accused Prof. Mustafiz, a renowned eye surgeon, of mismanagement and misappropriation of money terrorism.

When contacted, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, however, denied all charges.

After the death of Mirza Ahmad Isphahani, founder of the 350-bed hospital, Prof. Mustafiz had turned the hospital into a 'private clinic', accused M. Jainal Abedin, Convener of the Employees' Council.

He said the hospital had virtually ceased to function since Thursday when armed 'outsiders' at the behest of Prof. Mustafiz entered the hospital and terrorised the employees.

Protesting the terrorism, the employees walked out of the hospital, he said.

The council leaders sought immediate government intervention in solving the problems of the Islamia Eye Hospital.

Mugger held at Gazipur

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Feb 27: One Jahangir robbed Taka 800 from the passengers of a minibus on the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway here today threatening them with a toy pistol.

The Prime Minister also recalled the example set by the late leader in pursuing the politics of Bangladeshi nationalism and spreading the ideals and programmes of the BNP.

She conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Begum Zia also went to the residence of Abdul Baten to pay her last respect.

The Prime Minister spent some time there. She also consoled the wife, son and daughter of the late Baten.

BCS (Judiciary) resents pay commission

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Civil Service (Judiciary) Association at a meeting yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over non-inclusion of any representative from the judicial cadre in the proposed pay commission of the government.

The meeting, presided over by its President Abdus Salam, also expressed grievance at the non-implementation of the pay scale announced on January 8 this year in some of the judge courts in the country.

Qian leaves Dhaka

Chinese Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen left Dhaka yesterday afternoon ending a four-day visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Qian, who was accompanied by his wife, were seen off at the airport by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and his wife.

Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang and Bangladesh Ambassador to China Mustafizur Rahman were also present at the airport.

UNB reports: Qian and members of his entourage visited the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday morning.

They were briefed by the Secretary to the Parliament Secretariat, Abul Hashem about the procedural matters relating to functions of parliament with special reference to the committee system.

The briefing was held in the Committee Room No 1. Later, the Chinese leaders were taken to the parliament chamber and shown the architectural and other aspects of the parliament house.

Prof Baten dead

Prof M A Baten, former State Minister and a member of the BNP standing committee, died at the Combined Military Hospital at 4 am yesterday, reports UNB.

His namaj-e-janaza was held at Baiful Mukarram yesterday after Zohr prayers.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas attended the funeral prayers.

It was also attended, among others, by ministers, MPs, politicians and friends and relations of the deceased.

Earlier, another namaj-e-janaza was held at the south plaza of Jatiya Sangsad. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Ministers and MPs attended.

The body was flown to his village home at Dashmina in Patuakhali district by an air-force helicopter yesterday afternoon. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Religious Affairs Minister Keramat Ali and Air Chief Altaf Hossain accompanied the body.

His mortal remains would be buried at Dashmina today.

Baten left behind his wife, three sons, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

Prof Baten was also former Vice Chancellor of the Rajshahi University and the Chairman of Bangladesh Krishi Bank.

His qul khwai will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at Dhanmondi, House number 13, Road number 5, his family sources said.

Meanwhile, President Biswas expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Baten.

In a condolence message, Biswas said late Baten was a prominent educationist, dedicated politician and a social worker.

Biswas conveyed his heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family members.

BSS adds: Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her deep shock and profound grief at the death of Abdul Baten.

In a condolence message, Begum Zia recalled the contribution of Baten in the anti-autocracy movement and said in his death the country had lost a dedicated political leader.

The Prime Minister also recalled the example set by the late leader in pursuing the politics of Bangladeshi nationalism and spreading the ideals and programmes of the BNP.

She conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

Begum Zia also went to the residence of Abdul Baten to pay her last respect.

The Prime Minister spent some time there. She also consoled the wife, son and daughter of the late Baten.

The meeting was informed that the time limit of L/C had already been extended through a Bangladesh Bank circular to 270 days from 180 days in exporting frozen food, tea and leather.

The Midnight File

Indian newsmen go on strike today

NEW DELHI, Feb 27: The Indian Journalists Union today sought the Prime Minister, P V Narasimha Rao's intervention on setting up of the wage board but decided to go ahead on a day's token strike in the capital tomorrow. The IJU president, Suresh Akhouri said in a statement tonight that they had asked the prime minister to immediately announce, the setting up of the wage board for the newspaper industry, reports PTI.

GIA chief, 9 others killed in Algeria

ALGIERS, Feb 27: Algerian authorities dealt a major blow to Muslim extremists this weekend by killing one of their most radical leaders, Djaafar el-Aghani, and nine of his followers. El-Aghani, 29, who heads the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), and his followers were killed Saturday as they were holding a meeting in a house on the outskirts of Algiers, security officials said today, reports AFP.

Incentives for exporters

From Page 1 Col 3

ness community for removing the existing administrative bottlenecks.

But this demand failed to attract the attention of the policy-makers until very recently when a task force, headed by the Commerce Minister, was formed earlier this month, consisting of government officials and business community leaders.

The first meeting of the task force was held yesterday at the commerce ministry, details of which are contained in a separate news report in today's issue of The Daily Star.

In the review report, the World Bank was critical of the effectiveness of the government's liberalisation policies.

"The liberalisation policies are still not fully effective at the level of the individual entrepreneur... and Bangladesh's competitiveness is not being enhanced. More and faster reforms are needed. If the government's high investment and high exports strategy is to succeed and have a significant impact on poverty alleviation," it said.

The report added that "in order to make liberalisation and de-regulation policies more effective, reforms of institutions that deal with entrepreneurs on a day-to-day basis — such as the Tax Department, the office responsible for duty drawbacks (DEDO), the Board of Investment and the Export Promotion Bureau — are urgently needed."

Finally, the report observed, attracting foreign investors and expanding exports require that Bangladesh's economy be at least as competitive as that of its neighbours.

"Production costs must not be allowed to increase beyond those prevailing in competing countries. This implies that great importance must be attached to exchange rate management, as well as to policies that aim at linking wages to productivity and improving industrial relations," it said.

DUCSU polls

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A statement on behalf of the IFA students protested the new election rule, which allow them the voting right but not the right to contest the elections as candidates, and urged the DU authorities for early necessary steps to ensure their rights.

The statement noted that earlier there was no bar on the IFA students contesting the elections and performing their duties on being elected to DUCSU and hall unions.

"So, the discrimination under the new rule is frustrating, unilateral and autocratic," said the statement issued by Chhatra Pratinidhi Parishad and Sarbadalya Chhatra Oikyo of the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA).

The meeting decided that the Home Ministry would take necessary action for ensuring internal free transportation of leather as well as removing existing problems in this respect.

The meeting was informed that the time limit of L/C had already been extended through a Bangladesh Bank circular to 270 days from 180 days in exporting frozen food, tea and leather.

সমস্যায় আমাদের কর্মীদের সহায়ক ভাবুন

আপনি অগ্রণী ব্যাংক-এর সম্মানিত গ্রাহক অথচ....

এই ধরনের যাবতীয় সমস্যার সমাধানের জন্য আপনার সমস্যার কথা-আপনার অভিযোগ এখানে জানান

অভিযোগ কেন্দ্র

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| জনাব মশিউর রহমান উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ফোন: ২৪৯০৬০ | জনাব আবদুল কবির দেওয়ান উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ফোন: ২৪৯০৬২ | জনাব মাহবুব হাশান উপ-মহাব্যবস্থাপক ফোন: ২৩৪১৮৮ |

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