



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at "Bangabandhu Memorial Lecture 1999", organised by All-Europe Bangabandhu Parishad, at the Toynbee Hall in London on Friday. — AFP photo

Reform in labour law urged for speedy disposal of cases

By Staff Correspondent

Lawyers, judges and legal experts at a seminar in the city yesterday underscored the need for quick disposal of cases at labour courts and full implementation of existing labour laws.

They said that speedy trial of industrial dispute cases and ensuring a peaceful atmosphere in the country are both necessary for attracting foreign investment.

They observed that without implementing existing labour laws fully, formulation of new laws would not bring any benefit to the labourers.

Without ensuring a peaceful atmosphere and proper justice in the industrial sector, we can not expect foreign investment in the country on a large scale, they said.

Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust organised the day long seminar on "Speedy trial of labour cases: Obstacles and Suggestions" at CIRDAP auditorium.

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam, Justice Court Copal Saha of the high court division, Justice Habibur Rahman Chairman Bangladesh Press Council, Justice Syed Amirul Islam, Manjurul Ahsan Khan of CPB, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, President Supreme Court Bar Association, Chowdhury Saqwar Ali President Labour Court Bar Association, Abdur Razzaq Khan President Dhaka Bar Association, Dalil Uddin Mandal Joint Secretary, ministry of labour and man power, Rokiya A Rahman President Bangladesh Employers Associations, Anwar Uddin Sikdar Judge third labour court, Khandaker Monirul Huq President National Press Club, Abdullah Al-

Noman President Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramic Dal were the main speakers at different sessions of the seminar.

Four papers were presented at two working sessions of the seminar by Abdur Razzaq chairman second labour court, A K M Badruddoza, advocate Supreme Court Nirmalendu Dhar and Advocate S A Ali.

Demanding some reforms and amendments to the labour laws the speakers said that there should be a change in the mentality of the judges, lawyers, labour leaders and government officials regarding implementation of labour laws.

They further said that eight labour courts were set up in the country mainly to save the poor labourers from the exploitation by owners but that did not prove effective due to the lengthy procedures of a trial.

Some times it takes several years to get a ruling from a labour court and by that time the poor labour is subject to lose most everything. That's why the labourers are not interested to take their cases to the labour court, they noted.

The speakers also recommended expansion and upgrading of labour courts, temporary appointments of judges for quick disposal of pending cases, imposition of a time limit on trials and authorisation of the labour court to execute its verdicts.

Although there are several provisions including those for child care centres and working time limit in the Factory Acts, hardly any mills and factories follow these properly, said Abdur Razzaq, President of Dhaka Bar Association.

"Labour law does not permit

a female worker to work after eight pm but most of the garments factories employing large female workforce make them work till almost midnight" he alleged.

"Before formulating new labour laws we will have to think how much sincere we are in implementing the existing laws," said Attorney General Mahmudul Islam.

He said the labourers of our country are very poor and that's why they can not afford a lengthy wait for a trial at labour courts.

"Unless the lawyers and judges become sincere about their duties only reforms in labour laws is not a solution to the problems of workers" he cautioned.

Manjurul Ahsan Khan observed that the labour laws in Bangladesh were much advanced but those are not being implemented properly. "Hardly ten per cent of the existing labour laws are being implemented and there is a big gap between the law and reality" he said.

He expressed concern over the recent tendency in the process of reforms in the labour laws. "We are about to destroy the success we achieved through such a long struggle" he noted.

"Cases at labour courts should be disposed as soon as possible said Rokiya Rahman. She recommended that temporary appointment be given to some judges for quick disposal of pending cases.

"Labour courts and labour laws should be updated and they should not take more than six months time to deliver a verdict" she said.

JCD protests filing of 'false' cases

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus in protest of filing of 'false' cases against four MPs and an unspecified number of its leaders and activists on charge of the bomb explosion that left a police constable killed and some other injured in the city on Wednesday.

Later, the JCD held a rally in front of DUCSU building on the campus at noon.

Addressing the rally, JCD leaders demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'false' case and formation of a judicial probe body to investigate in to the incident. "Otherwise, we will launch a massive movement", they said.

They also blamed ruling party's 'hired terrorists' for the killing and demanded exemplary punishment of those involved in the incident.

Presiding over the rally, JCD Vice President Monur Elahi said, "the murder of the police constable was a preplanned game of ruling Awami League because the incident took place near its office".

Among others, AKM Moinul Haq, Abdul Khaleq Hawlader, Azizul Bari Helal, ABM Mosharraf Hossain, Munshi Bazul Basit Aamju, Rehana Akter Rana, Anwar Ali Khan Joy, Farhad Hossain Azad and Abdus Satter addressed the rally.

Explore different aspects of NDT, minister says

Minister for Science and Technology Lt General (Retd) Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan yesterday underscored the need for using Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) to add ingenuity and to explore innovative applications of the technology in different sectors including industry, energy, communications and aviation, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the 9th annual convention of Bangladesh Society for Non-Destructive Testing (BSNDT) and a discussion on NDT marking the convention at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) auditorium in the city.

BSNDT President Engineer Delwar Bakht chaired the session. Science and Technology Secretary Muhammad Fazlur Rahman, Acting Chairman of BAEC Engineer M Habibuddin, former President of BSNDT Dr M Sanaullah and Indian Scientists Dr Ramesh Das and Dr Devi Das Datta, among others, participated in the discussion.

BSNDT award '98 was given to Enayeturrahman Mollah, Head of NDT, Atomic Energy Centre, Dhaka (AEC-D) for his outstanding contribution in this field.

The minister said the skill and knowledge in the field of NDT have to be disseminated further for better understanding about the utility of this technology among the users.

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What's on today....

Seminar: A seminar on "Socio-economic and Environmental Impact of Shrimp Cultivation in the South-Western Region." Organiser: Proshikha Institute for Development Policy Analysis and Advocacy, Research And Development Collective (RDC) and Nijera Kori. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium. Time: 10:00 am -5:00 pm.

Rally: Amra Kurt will hold a children's rally in observance of World Population Day. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy premises to Jatiyo Press Club. Time: 10:00 am.

Lecture: A lecture on "Ethics of Banking" will be held in observance of the silver jubilee celebrations of Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM). Venue: BIBM premises. Plot no 4, Rd No 1, Mirpur 2. Time: 10:00 am.

Seminar: A seminar on "International Strategic Alliances: Key Issues" will be held. Venue: Room STR 300, North South University. Time: 10:00 am.

Film Show: DUFFS will screen 3 movies on the closing day of Oscar Film Week '99. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 10:30 am, 1:00 pm and 5:45 pm. The closing ceremony will be held at 5:00 pm.

Discussion: Dhaka University Population Science Department has arranged a rally, debate and open discussion in observance of the World Population Day. The programmes are funded by United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Venue: Rally will be brought out from Aparajeo Bangla, while debate and discussion will be held at TSC auditorium. Time: 10:00 am, 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm respectively.

UGC, JSPS agree to extend MOU

By DU Correspondent

The Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) and Bangladesh University Grant Commission (UGC) has agreed to extend the effectiveness of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the financial years of 1999-2003, in a consultation meeting in Tokyo on Tuesday, said a DU press release.

The MOU will be executed by the concerned authorities. The revised fields of the MOU cover all areas of science including social sciences and medical science.

They have also agreed to increase the number of annual allocation and the period of stay for Bangladeshi scientists. Earlier, the duration of stay for the scientists was for few weeks and as per MOU it would be extended to one year or more with increased amount of allocation.

Expenses of international collaborative research of both Japanese and Bangladeshi scientists will be borne by JSPS and UGC. The JSPS and UGC have also agreed to identify the areas of collaborative research between Japanese and Bangladeshi scientists.

BCL protests killing of policeman

By DU Correspondent

Pro-government student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to protest the killing of a police constable and an old man in the city.

A police constable was killed in a bomb attack on Wednesday while a 60-year-old man was killed during the hartal on Thursday.

The procession was followed by a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla on the campus at noon. Addressing the rally the BCL leaders blamed the BNP and JCD for the killing.

They also accused the BNP-led alliance of creating anarchy in the name of hartal.

The leaders demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in the killings.

Presided over by Bahadur Bepary, the rally was addressed, by Ajay Kar Khokan, Shahabuddin Farazi, Balaram Poddar, Liakat Ali Sikder, Anisur Rahman, Ashraf Azim Rubon and Afroja Parveen Popy.

Pedestrian killed in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, July 10: A pedestrian was run over by a speeding truck at the bus stand traffic point in the town on Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

The deceased was identified as Kafil Miah, 25, son of Afsar Uddin and an assistant of a lawyer in the district court.

Police seized the truck but the driver managed to flee.

A case was filed with sadar police.

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