

Dilemma over action Against trade unions

RAFIQ HASAN

Director of Labour Dr Ruhul Qudus has said they are thinking of a 'strategy of action against trade unions' involved in illegal toll collection in transport sector while some other officials in the directorate are skeptic about any 'effective step' by them.

Talking to The Daily Star, some officials at the directorate's Dhaka division office said action against those trade unions by them would produce 'no result.'

"Only the political parties and police can stop toll collection by trade unions," said one official.

Following newspaper reports earlier, the directorate had issued show cause notices on seven trade unions asking them to explain why action would not be taken against them for involvement in extortion and creating anarchy in transport sector.

Three unions out of the seven responded to the notices and categorically denied the allegations. They, however, claimed that they collect toll only from their members and not from any vehicle.

When asked what action the directorate would take against the trade unions served with show notices, the deputy director of labour in charge of Dhaka division, said although they know that those unions were involved in toll collection, they do not have the authority to cancel their registration.

"What we can do is to file a case with the labour court for cancellation of registration on charge of illegal toll collection," he said, adding that the process is very lengthy.

Khaleda greets Syrian PM

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has congratulated Syrian Prime Minister Dr Mohammad Mostafa Miro on the occasion of the National Day of Syria.

In a message of felicitations the Prime Minister conveyed her warmest greetings to her Syrian counterpart and the people of Syria on the auspicious occasion.

In reply to a question, the labour director said before filing any case for cancellation of their registration, 'we have to investigate and collect relevant documents regarding allegations of extortion by those unions.'

A police official at Cantonment thana, seeking anonymity, admitted toll collection by trade unions from vehicles plying in Dhaka-Gazipur route, saying 'it is nothing new because police also do the same.'

Asked about this, state minister for expatriate welfare and overseas employment Quamrul Islam, who is MP Uttara and Gulshan area, said he had repeatedly asked police to nab the extortionists, but it was yet to be done.

This correspondent yesterday saw toll collection by trade unions from vehicles at a number of points in the route -- Motijheel, Farmgate, Mohakhali, New Airport, Tongi Bazar, Tongi Station road, Board Bazar and Joydevpur.

Screen play & direction diploma for 18 persons

BSS, Dhaka

National Institute of Mass Communications (NIMC) yesterday awarded 'Screen Play and Direction' diploma to 18 people at a simple ceremony here.

Managing Director of Film Development Corporation (FDC) Wasimul Bari Rajib formally gave away the certificates to the participants.

The function was addressed by Director General of NIMC Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, course director Bhaswar Banerjee, NIMC Director Shaikh Saleque, course resource persons Shibli Sadik and Mohiuddin Faruk.

NIMC conducted the ten-week course under its extension project. Paying tributes to the pioneers and legendary personalities of the country's film industry Rajib said congenial atmosphere in the film industry would be restored to attract educated young boys and girls.

The concluding ceremony was followed by screening of short films, which were produced as part of course curriculum.



Haphazard parking of vehicles on both sides of the road adds to the traffic congestion in city. This picture was taken from busy Dikusha area of the city yesterday.

Govt firm to protect environment

Minister tells Country Dialogue Workshop in city

UNB, Dhaka

State Minister for Environment and Forest Jafrul Islam Chowdhury said yesterday that the government has taken up massive programmes for arsenic mitigation and protection of rivers and water bodies from illegal occupation.

He said the government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, is fully committed towards environment conservation. The people have already observed some of the successes of the government such as ban on polybags and air pollution control in Dhaka city, he added.

The State Minister was inaugurating a 3-day Country Dialogue Workshop (CDW), organised jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Global Environment Facility (GEF) and United Nations Development Programme

(UNDP) at Sonargaon Hotel in the morning.

Addressing the function, Jafrul Islam Chowdhury said the government has taken up massive programmes for arsenic mitigation and protection of rivers and water bodies from illegal occupation.

The government has also taken steps to protect the largest mangrove forest Sundarbans and other depleting forests that are vital for ecological balance of the resource-constrained and over-populated country, he added.

...with spontaneous support from our people, the civil society, the NGOs and financial and technical assistance from international donor agencies, including UNDP and the World Bank, the government has taken a green agenda in right earnest," the state minister said, urging the GEF to promote

Bangladesh's green agenda.

To press ahead with all the programmes for conservation and sustainable development, he said, Bangladesh needs support from the world community, particularly international agencies like GEF.

Environment and Forest secretary Sabihuddin Ahmed chaired the function while UNDP Resident Representative Jorgen Lissner, CDW Programme Coordinator Stephen Gold, Ton Boon von Ochssee from GEF Secretariat and joint secretary Harun-Or-Rashid of MOEF also spoke on the occasion.

GEF CDW programme is designed to promote country ownership of GEF co-financed activities, facilitate national coordination on the country's GEF programmes, and enhance awareness about the GEF.

UK exhibition begins Saturday

UNB, Dhaka

A five-day 'Innovation UK Exhibition' will begin at British Council auditorium on Saturday to display some of the ways to turn ideas into reality in the UK.

Vice-Chancellor of BRAC University Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury will inaugurate the exhibition at 10.30 am.

British Council has organised the show with the objective to create a network between young scientists of Bangladesh and the United Kingdom.

The British Council will also organise a science fair for Bengali medium schools to show their best science projects with the theme 'Innovation, Alleviation of Poverty and Contributing to the Development of Bangladesh.'

1446 more held

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered 14 firearms, one other type of weapon and 28 bullets during the last 24 hours country-wide operation ending at 6 am yesterday.

They arrested 1,446 people, including three alleged identified terrorists, from across the country, a police headquarters press release said.

Of the arrested, 664 were wanted by police and 766 accused in cases under investigation.

Thirteen persons were arrested in connection with the arms recovery and nine cases filed under the Arms Act.

Internet service at UZ level soon

UNB, Dhaka

The Post and Telecommunications Ministry is going to implement a project to provide Internet connections at upazila level.

The proposal for Tk 24 crore project has already been sent to the Planning Commission for approval, the ministry sources said.

Demand for the facility is very high in the capital and other places across the country where digital telephone exchanges have been set up.

The Internet facility has now reached 39 districts which was available at only eight districts before the October 1 general elections, they added.

Inter-formation firing contest of Army begins

UNB, Savar

The Inter-formation Firing Competition-2002 of the Bangladesh Army began at the firing range at the Savar Cantonment yesterday.

Twelve teams drawn from Bangladesh Army are taking part in the three-day meet, an ISPR press release said.

Chief of the Army Staff Lieutenant General M. Harun-Ar-Rashid, Bir Protik, will distribute prizes among the winners as chief guest on the concluding day tomorrow.

The present government took Internet to 31 upazilas in only six months. The rest of the districts would be brought under its network as soon as possible, the sources said.

If the project is approved, all the upazilas of the country would be brought under Internet network by the middle of next year, they said.

Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (T&T) offers low rate browsing facilities compared to non-government Internet service providers who charge Tk .65 to 1.00 per minute against T&T's Tk .50 or less in off-peak hours per minute.

Internet users, however, feel that the charges should be reduced to encourage greater use of the information technology.

1229 arrested in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

Police arrested 1229 people including 29 armed men from ten districts of Khulna Division during the last one week ending April 15.

Of them, five are Purb Banglar Communist Party activists, five Bibhoy Communist Party cadres and 19 listed terrorists.

Police also recovered 15 firearms, two lethal weapons, and 11 round of bullets and two explosives from different places of the division during the period.

'Prepare yourselves to face challenges of globalisation'

New university launched

BSS, Dhaka

President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon educationists and learners to prepare themselves to face the challenges of globalisation.

"In this era of globalisation, intense competition is the order of the day and we must have to prepare ourselves effectively to respond to these challenges," the President said while launching a new university in the city.

To bring about a qualitative change in the educational system of the country, the University of Development Alternative (UDA), an institution of higher learning with a difference, came into being after 24 years of silent and continuous efforts of a group of social workers and professionals, led by Mujib Khan, organisers said at the launching ceremony.

Held at a city hotel and attended by educationists, teachers, students and guardians, the inaugural function was also addressed by Education Minister Dr Osman Faruk, Vice Chancellor of UODA Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, and founder and president of UODA Mujib Khan.

The university with nearly a dozen departments began functioning last month and has an enrollment of about 100 students.

President Chowdhury, Chancellor of the UODA, while appreciating the organisers for establishing the university with the motto of creating educated youths with adequate practical job-oriented training and motivation, underlined the need for assiduousness to achieve high standard of morality and ethics.

He said that specialty of a university was, among other things, the creation of new knowledge through research, generation of

human capital through expert training and transfer of existing know-how to businesses, government agencies and other organisations.

Referring to the initiatives to open institutions of higher learning in the private sector, the President said the concept gained legal support in 1992.

By now, 30 private universities have been established, but unfortunately most of them are in and around the capital and in Chittagong, the President noted and said they should have been more widely spread to serve the total population of students.

"Highlighting the role of a university for the development of proper manpower, he said, 'We must also ensure the right academic environment in the institutions of higher learning which are conducive to the healthy growth of teacher-student relationship and guardian-teacher relationship to achieve the goal of education.'

He suggested holding of 'guardian-student-teacher combined day' not only confining to 'student-teacher day' at the end of each session so that the guardians are taken into confidence by both teachers and students.

The President also asked the UODA authorities to see that both violence and drug addiction are prevented on the campus and that due importance are given to all the factors to ensure peaceful academic atmosphere and maintain transparency in all spheres of administration of the university.

Violence claims 1745 in last six months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 1745 people were killed in the country in the last six months - 284 of them in political and 1461 in other incidents of violence.

According to a survey conducted by Democracy Watch, an NGO, the incidents of political violence also left 7,445 people injured.

Of the 284 people killed in political violence, 243 were due to rivalry over establishing supremacy.

The survey based on reports of 13 national dailies said about 1,500 incidents of political violence took place during the last six months' rule of BNP government.

The non-political incidents of violence included mugging, extortion, robbery, kidnapping and clashes over land dispute. Eight persons were killed per day in

these incidents. Land disputes claimed 1034 of the 1461 victims.

At least four incidents of violence on women took place and two women were killed every day, making a total of 247 during the period. These included violence for dowry, rape, acid throwing and trafficking.

A total of 243 incidents of repression on children were reported during the period. Of the victims, 123 were raped.

About 450 people committed suicide.

Thirty-two incidents of police repression in custody, 33 incidents of violence and four of rape by them took place during the period, the survey said.

Police personnel were also involved in five incidents of snatching and six incidents of toll collection, it said.

Reliance Insurance Limited
Registered Office: BSB Building (11th Floor)
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Price Sensitive Information.

As required by the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969, notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of Reliance Insurance Limited has recommended cash dividend of 30% for the year ended December 31, 2001. The Board has also fixed June 15, 2002 to hold the Annual General Meeting at Sonargaon Pan Pacific Hotel at 4:30 p.m.

Company Secretary

REGISTRATION OF INTEREST WESTIN HOTEL PROJECT DHAKA, BANGLADESH

The Westin, Dhaka is a 24 storey, 242 bedroom, 5 Star International Hotel located in Gulshan, Dhaka, Bangladesh, due for completion by end 2003.

Registration of Interest is lodged for the following subcontracts:

- Mechanical, Electrical, Plumbing and Fire Fighting
- Security and Building Management Systems
- Kitchen Equipment
- Pool, Spa & Water Features

Companies that can demonstrate work related experience on similar projects within the Region are invited to submit their Registration of Interest to undertake the relevant items of work above. Previous experience on 5 Star Hotel properties essential.

Registration of Interest to be submitted to:
'The Project Manager' Westin Dhaka Project
C/O. UNIQUE GROUP
51/B, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani,
Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh
within 15 days from the date of the Advertisement.

Role to include: Company Profile; List of similar projects undertaken; Contact person, position and contact address/numbers.

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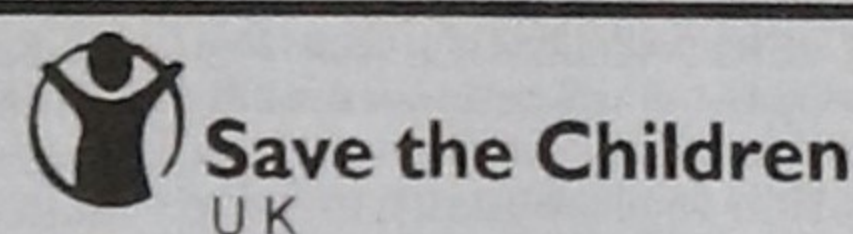
East Shore Hospital Gleneagles HOSPITAL SINGAPORE Mount Elizabeth Hospital



BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday to mobilise support for Mayoral hopeful Sadek Hossain Khoka.

STUDY IN IILM

IILM-Academy for Higher Learning, in collaboration with The University of Bradford U.K., offers the following 3 years undergraduate programs: Business Management, Business Computing, and Software Engineering. The academy also offers 1 year post graduate degrees in Marketing, International Business & Management and Finance, Accounting & Management. The degree is awarded in a convocation by the Vice-Chancellor of The University of Bradford held in New Delhi, India. The campus is about 28 acres with 100% residential facilities. For admissions, students should contact to Omnitalk, Phone: 912-7393, 9132043, 017-682115, 017-869646, 018-224124. Or visit the website: www.iilm.edu E-mail: admission@ubs.iilm.edu



VACANCIES

Save the Children is the United Kingdom's largest voluntary agency working to create a better world for children. The organisation is looking for following posts for its Bangladesh programme. The posts are Dhaka based but may involve travel to project areas outside Dhaka.

Human Resources Manager is responsible for management of HR/HRD work, including support to heads of programs in recruitment, terms of employment career planning, performance appraisal, promotion, contract renewal, and training of staff, induction of new staff, development of in-house training, identification of external training programmes. S/he is responsible to coordinate grievance and disciplinary procedures.

Post-graduate degree in Personnel Management or related discipline with significant professional experience in HRM&D will be required.

Administration Manager is responsible for developing policies and managing procedures for administration, logistics and IT services, so that SC UK resources are used efficiently and effectively in pursuit of programme aims. This includes:

- Managing a team of around 12 people providing administration, logistics, procurement and IT services to the programme;
- Managing records and maintaining office assets, property, equipment etc;
- Facilitating internal and external events, workshops and associated activities such as travel, visas, accommodation, security clearances etc;
- Providing backup support to the finance section;
- Managing immediate administration, logistics, procurement and IT support in emergency relief operations, and developing medium term solutions.

Post-graduate degree with 5-6 years experience in administration or other relevant field will be required.

Executive Secretary is expected to perform a variety of tasks apart from the normal secretarial function, thereby ensuring smooth functioning of the Programme Director's office (PD is the executive head of the Bangladesh programme). S/he prepares documents for meetings, maintains communication, arranges travel and maintains diaries/confidential files for the PD.

Graduate in any discipline or English medium (A-level) and excellent computer knowledge will be required with significant professional experience. For each post, SC UK seeks candidates with the following skills at a level appropriate to the post:

- Command over written and spoken English and Bangla languages;
- Effective interpersonal, communication, learning and team work skills;
- Good analytical, problem solving, and decision making skills;
- Good computing skills and financial understanding.

Save the Children is an equal opportunity employer. We have a responsibility to ensure the protection and safety of children while they are in contact with staff. Recruitment to jobs involving regular contact with children will include specific checks and procedures.

Application will only be accepted on standard SC UK application form available at Reception (House 28, Road 16 (New), Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209 email: scukbd@scbangla.org, fax 8117872) attached a full CV and a photograph. The last date of receiving application is 29 April 2002 at 17h00.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for interview and no other correspondence will be entered into.