

Blasts at ship-breaking yards in Ctg 150 killed in 10 years

CU CORRESPONDENT
About 150 people were killed and 576 others injured in explosions at the ship-breaking yards in Chittagong in the last decade.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Rabeya Begum, mother of Abu Md Masani (Liton), Sub-editor of The Independent, will be held on March 5, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her village home Kazibari, Dhanbari, Tangail after Asr prayers.

Most of the injured workers have become disabled. Poor safety system, use of old method in cutting giant ships and the lack of precautionary measures are responsible for the explosions, said the speakers at a conference in the port city yesterday.

The Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), a non-government organisation, arranged the conference.

Although the government has been earning a revenue of Tk around 700 crore a year from the ship-breaking industry, it pays no attention to it, the speakers said.

The ship-breaking industry also supplies 60 percent of the total demand for iron in the country.

The YPSA has taken up a project, funded by the Manusher Jonno, a donor organisation, to make recommendations on the development of the ship-breaking industry.

Under the project titled 'Advocacy for a public policy to ensure human rights in ship-breaking industry', the organisation will conduct a six-year-long study and submit the recommendations to the government.

The speakers said around 1.5 lakh families are directly involved in this industry, but the yards are unhygienic and dangerous, causing damage to the environment.

The YPSA conducted a preliminary survey that identified 54 problems of the workers such as threat of accident, lack of precautionary tools and safety system, drinking water crisis and wage disparity.

Chief Executive of YPSA Arifur Rahman, programme officer Abdullah Al Mamun and associate programme officers Mohammed Ali, Nahid Sultana, Kaniz Sumaiya, Mahfuza Akhter and Shafiqul Alam were present at the conference.



Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) stages sit-in on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting attack on writer Humayun Azad and demanding immediate arrest of the culprits involved.

Attack on Humayun Azad condemned

CU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of Chittagong University (CU), Jahangirnagar University (JU) and Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday protested the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad.

A total of 115 CU teachers have condemned the attack.

In separate statements, they also demanded punishment to the culprits involved in the incident.

The signatories to the statement included ex-pro-vice-chancellor Prof Abu Yousuf, Dr. Joty Prakash Dutta, Dr. Golam Kibria Bhuiyan, Dr. Shah Alam, Dr. Anupam Sen, Dr. Khan Towhid Osman, Dr. Nurul Anwar and Hasanuzzaman Chowdhury.

Poets, litterateurs, journalists and cultural personalities of the port city have also demanded immediate resignation of the home minister for his failure to give protection to the intellectuals.

They included journalist Abul Momen, Begum Mushtari Shafi, Prof Zia Haider, poet Arun Das Gupta and poet Tapan Joty Barua.

CU unit of Chhatra League will observe a day-long strike on the campus tomorrow to protest the attack.

Our JU correspondent adds: Over 500 teachers, students, officers and

employees of the university yesterday brought out a silent procession on the campus to protest the attack on Humayun Azad.

A rally was also held on the old arts faculty premises.

The speakers expressed deep concern over the ongoing attack on writers, intellectuals, teachers and prominent citizens of the country.

They said freedom of expression is a democratic right, and none should be victimised for this reason.

The rally also demanded exemplary punishment of the guilty persons.

The speakers included ex-VC Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Amir Hossain, Prof Nasiruddin and Prof Mustafizur Rahman.

Our RU correspondent adds: One hundred and nine teachers of the university condemned the attack on Humayun Azad.

In a joint statement, they

demanded punishment to the persons responsible for the incident.

The signatories to the statement included Prof Entajul Haque, ex-vice-chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Prof Khalequzzaman, Prof Moley Kumar, Prof Anando Kumar and Prof Tarek Noor.

FNB concerned

The Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) has expressed deep concern over the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad.

The organisation also condemned such heinous act and demanded immediate arrest of the persons involved in it, says a press release.

The FNB also urged the government to take steps so that such incident may not take place in future.

Polio eradication Japan hints at increasing aid

BSS, Sylhet

Japanese Ambassador Matsushiro Horiguchi has lauded Bangladesh's achievement for successful implementation of national immunisation programme towards eradication of polio.

"It's a great success of the country like Bangladesh in terms of eradication of polio. It is fully free from polio at present," he said.

The ambassador who administered

polio vaccine and vitamin-A capsule to the children of the employees of Telihati Tea Garden, about 10 km away from Sylhet town, said Japan would be further interested in providing support in health sector after seeing the success in the field.

The envoy is now on a three-day visit to Sylhet to witness different development projects being implemented with the financial support of Japanese government and other development organisations in Japan.

"Now the Japanese government has been providing 50 percent of the total cost of vaccine and if needed the assistance would be increased further for improving health status of the people in Bangladesh," Horiguchi said.

He suggested that the government take measures so that the bordering areas are not affected further by polio. As the neighboring country was not able to fully eradicate polio so far, Bangladesh has to be cautious in this regard," he added.

Madam Horiguchi, Tsutomu (Ray) Uchida, Chief Representative of Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) and local representatives from WHO were present.

CUTA to observe strike on Mar 6

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) will observe a daylong work abstention programme on March 6 to protest the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad.

The programme was announced at a rally held at the Shaheed Minar ground on the campus yesterday.

Earlier, the CUTA brought out a silent procession wearing black badges on their chest.