



Awami League leaders receive their party President Sheikh Hasina at Zia International Airport in the city on her return from the USA yesterday.

PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY

B Chy demands inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday demanded an inquiry into the incident regarding the presidential amnesty for a BNP leader convicted in a double-murder case.

He also called for making public all the papers relating to the issue of amnesty for Mohiuddin Ahmed Jhinto, president of Sweden unit of



Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The seventh death anniversary of noted social worker Khondker Zahedur Rahman will be observed today.

A former member of the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus), Zahed was the second son of late Khondker Fazlur Rahman (Mawladad) of Gowaldi, Faridpur.

A doa mahfil will be held at his family residence at Dhanmondi (House-- 62/1, Road--12/A) after Asr prayers today.

Reform labour laws to protect workers' rights

Speakers tell consultation meeting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The workers in the country are subjected to oppression and deprived of their rights because of archaic labour laws and influence of businessmen over the administration, said the labour leaders and civil society members at a consultation meeting yesterday.

Demanding reforms in the labour laws, they said that although the workers, particularly in the garment sector, help earn 76 percent of foreign exchange through export, the authorities pay no attention to their basic needs.

Nagorik Uddog, an NGO, and Sammilita Sramik Forum, a federation of the labour organisations, arranged

Hasina signs condolence book

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday signed the condolence book opened for King Fahd Bin AbdulAziz at Saudi embassy at Gulshan in the city.

Terming King Fahd the undisputed leader of the Muslim Ummah, Hasina said I condole his death on behalf of the people of Bangladesh, Awami League and myself. I remember with great respect his role in strengthening the camaraderie among the Arabs and the Muslims and in safeguarding the two holy mosques of Makkah and Madina. I pray for the peace of his departed soul.

Hasina, also Awami League president, said I pray wholeheartedly to Almighty Allah to give the royal family and the Saudi people strength to overcome the grief at his death.

the consultation meeting on 'Occupational safety and corporate responsibilities' at the National Press Club.

The speakers blamed the rift between different labour organisations for failing to launch a tough movement to protect their rights and called on the trade unions to come under one umbrella in establishing their rights.

Dr Badul Alam Majumder, country director of the Hunger Project, said the compensation given to the families of the workers killed in the Spectrum Sweater Industries factory collapse is too inadequate. How can the cost of a worker's life be only Tk one lakh? he asked.

Demanding revision of the laws on health and safety of the workers, he suggested that the compensation should be fixed on the basis of the skills, potentials and age of the workers.

The minimum compensation in any accident should also be fixed, he added.

Dr Syed Tarique Uz-Zaman, coordinator of Batu, Saarc Region, called for enactment of laws for all the industries, government and non-government organisations so that the employers compulsorily arrange insurance for the workers along with gratuity and provident funds.

The law expert regretted that there is no proper mechanism to monitor the enforcement of labour laws.

AFM Imam Uddin, member secretary of People's Health Movement Bangladesh, called on the government to ratify the international conventions on occupational safety and health.

Md Bahrane Sultan, president of Jago Bangladesh Garments Federation, M Zaman, president of Bangladesh Grameen O Nagar Dandira Federation, Zakir Hossain, chief executive director Nagorik Uddog, and Shamsunnahar Mary of Jago Nari Sangsad also spoke.

Bangladesh Trade Union Kendro President Nurul Islam moderated the meeting.

Moroccan envoy lauds progress

UNB, Dhaka

Democracy has strengthened, the streets of the capital have become cleaner, the air quality has improved -- all this is part of tremendous advances made in various socio-economic sectors in Bangladesh during the last few years, said Moroccan ambassador.

The outgoing Moroccan Ambassador, Mohamed Segrouchni, made the observations at the end of his tenure in Dhaka when he paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

He also appreciated development in economy, education, industry and other sectors following various measures of the government.

Appreciating the traditional hospitality of the Bangladeshi people, Segrouchni said "They take no time to become good friends." The open-heartedness of Bangladeshis is "one of the amazing things" he has seen in his 36 years of diplomatic postings in various parts of the world.

Thanking the Ambassador for his appreciation, Khaleda Zia mentioned that there remained a wide scope for further strengthening relationship between Bangladesh and Morocco through expansion of trade and commerce.

She mentioned the quality of tea, ceramics, pharmaceuticals and jute produced in Bangladesh which can be imported by Morocco.

The envoy said more exchange of business delegations could boost trade relations between the two countries.

Segrouchni appreciated the quality of Bangladeshi Products, including pharmaceuticals and crockery, and informed that he had sent 5,500 pieces of crockery to Moroccan embassies in different parts of the world.

The envoy here for the last five years, thanked the Prime Minister for her government's support during the tenure.

The Ambassador renewed invitation to her to visit Morocco and said it would help boost trade as well as further intensify the existing cordial relationship between the two OIC member-countries.



Outgoing Moroccan Ambassador Mohamed Segrouchni calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

'Check corruption at land registration offices'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly introduced Land Registration (Amendment) Act, 2004 will play a vital role in reducing the incidents of land disputes and checking the forgery of documents of land ownership, speakers at a seminar said yesterday.

If corruption and anomalies at the sub-registrar's office can be stopped, the objectives of the new act will be achieved, they said.

The Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD) organised the seminar on 'The Registration (Amendment) Act 2004: The realities in Bangladesh and mitigation of commoners' sufferings' at the Biam auditorium in the city.

The government brought reforms to

the registration act in order to improve land management, said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, who was present as the chief guest.

Referring to the land litigation situation, he said the new act would help streamline the land management system, easing the suffering of common people.

Presenting a keynote paper, Advocate Dr Naim Ahmed said registration and other fees need to be brought down to a tolerable level.

If modern technology could be introduced along with the newly introduced law, it would further benefit the people, he added.

He also said proper steps should be taken to check corruption and anomalies in the sub-registrar's office in order to

make the new law effective.

Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, executive director of Brac, said the land registration process has been made up-to-date through this new act.

But some problems might crop up during the implementation of the act, he added.

Mohammed Abdul Kader, executive director of Samata, said the new act would expedite the land registration process and reduce the number of land disputes in the country.

He also called for massive campaign to make the people aware of the new act.

Presided over by ALRD Chairperson Khushi Kabir, the seminar was also addressed by State Minister for Land Ukil Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan and ALRD executive director Shamsul Huda.



The magistrate of a mobile court makes a list of low quality food colours and food items without BSTI mark found at the French Cakes and Pastry Shop at Lalkhan Bazar in Chittagong during a drive yesterday.