

Resolve political crisis to save RMG industries

Garment workers urge president

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Holding political unrest responsible for last few week's loss in country's garment sector, the leaders of garment workers at a press conference yesterday urged the president/ chief adviser to caretaker government to take steps immediately to resolve the crisis and save the garment industry.

They also urged the president to meet all the just demands of political parties and create congenial atmosphere for free and fair elections.

The press conference was organised by Bangladesh Garment Sramik Oikya Parishad at its office in the city.

"Since the lives and livelihoods of 22 lakh workers and their families depend on garment industry, the caretaker government should take urgent steps so that this industry is not ruined due to stubbornness of any person or group," said President of Bangladesh National Garment Workers' Employees League (BNGWEL) Sirajul Islam Rony.

People's right to vote cannot be ensured without a reshuffle in the administration, said the leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday.

They called for formulation of policy and implementation of existing laws to free the electoral process from the clutches of black money holders and muscle power.

The CPB leaders were speaking at a rally in front of its central office in the city as part of their countrywide demonstration.

They urged people to continue the ongoing agitation until the Election Commission (EC) is reconstituted on the basis of dialogue among the all parties concerned.

The CPB also demanded militants' execution, adequate foods for Monga-hit areas, control of price hike of essentials and punitive measures against those involved in the price hike.

President over by Abdul Kader, president of CPB Dhaka Committee, the rally was also addressed by CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, Ahsan Habib Lavlu, Sajid Zahir Chandan, Ruhin Hossain Prince, Advocate Montu Ghosh, Dr Fazlur Rahman, Joly Talukder and Hasan Hafizur Rahman Sohel.

The CPB also held a rally and took out a procession at Mirpur 10 intersection in the city.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saying that Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz has lost his moral right to serve in the Election Commission, he urged the president to reconstitute the EC to hold a free and fair election in the country.

"If the president fails to meet our demands, then we are left with no choice but to lay siege to Bangabhaban for the interest of the garment workers," Rony added.

President of Jatiya Sramik League Md Selim Reza, General Secretary of Jatiya Knit Dying Garment Sramik Karmachari Federation MN Zaman Chowdhury and BNGWEL Publicity Secretary Md Rezaul Shikdar were present at the press conference.



With caricatures of Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz, Workers' Party takes out a procession at Paltan in the city yesterday demanding his removal.

JOURNO GAUS MURDER
Brother gets death
COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced a man to death for killing his elder brother GM Gaus, a journalist of the Weekly Janakantha, in July 2004.

Judge Mohammad Nazrul Islam of the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court handed down the sentence in presence of the convict Ashraf Uddin.

GM Gaus was hammered to death allegedly by his younger brother Ashraf Uddin as he (Gaus) protested his brother grabbing construction materials from his Motijheel residence at about 3:30pm on July 24, 2004.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 21 prosecution witnesses.

Following the incident, victim's wife Feroza Begum filed a murder case against Ashraf with Motijheel Police Station the same day.

The investigation officer pressed charges against Ashraf on April 22 last year and the court framed charge against him on May 22 this year.

Earlier, Ashraf, now in the custody, was given 40 years' rigorous imprisonment in three criminal cases.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Shahidul Islam Sardar appeared for the state while ABM Sharuddin Khan Mukul defended the accused.

B'BARIA MUDERS
Investigation
demanded

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad demanded proper investigation and trial of the people responsible for slaughtering five family members of Brahmanbaria Awami League Vice President Haji Rafikul Islam, says a press release.

The parishad in a statement yesterday expressed grave concern over the murder of age-old mother, son, pregnant daughter and granddaughter as reported by different newspapers yesterday.

The Parishad also urged the government and the authorities concerned to take initiative for the security of other members of his family.



Shapla Chhatar at Motijheel in the city yesterday during the countrywide blockade enforced by Awami League-led 14-party combine.

PHOTO: STAR

'Reconstitute
Election
Commission'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Shadhinata Chikitshak Parishad (SCP), a pro-Awami League doctors' organisation, yesterday reiterated their demand for reconstitution of election commission including removal of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MAA Aziz.

The central committee of the SCP yesterday held a rally on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) premises to press home their demand, a press release said.

General Secretary of SCP M Iqbal Arslan, Prof Syed Modesser Ali, Jamaluddin Chowdhury and other leaders spoke at the rally.

Later doctors took part in a procession that joined the rally of Peshajibi Samannaya Parishad and Sammiti Nagrik Andolon at Institute of Engineers in the city.

Attack on sock workers for demanding salary hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers of sock factories at Shyampur area have allegedly been attacked in a demonstration yesterday by miscreants hired by the factory owners for demanding a hike in their salary.

Shyampur Socks Production Association, an organisation of around 40 sock factories at Shyampur, observed the work abstention as the owners of the factories refused to increase their salary, alleged the workers.

The workers further alleged their employers deliberately carried out this attack as they threatened that they won't go back to the factories until their demands are met.

Md Monir Hussain, vice president of the association, told The Daily Star that they were compelled to stop production as their employer remained irresolute in increasing the

production rate in spite of their constant request over the last three months.

"We get only Tk 6 for per dozen socks which is indeed a very meager amount compared to the high price of daily essentials", he added.

Around 10-12 workers of the association got injured in the rally which was attended by around 200 workers near Rajab Ali Sardar Lane at Shyampur area.

Ibais University classes postponed

Ibais University authorities yesterday postponed all the classes and examinations of its all departments due to blockade programme, says a press release.

Classes and examinations will resume according to the schedule as soon as the blockade ends.

Restrictions on journos condemned

Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) yesterday condemned the restriction on duty journalists at the Election Commission (EC) and demanded immediate withdrawal of such restriction, says a press release.

DRU leaders said free flow of information has been interrupted through imposing restriction and it is a sign of ambiguity of the commission.

They said no public institution can enforce such restriction on journalists.

DRU leaders expressed their solidarity with the journalists who are agitating for withdrawal of the restriction.