

LABOUR LAW 2006

15-pt recommendation placed to help formulate rules

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Legal Aid Services Trust (BLAST) and Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) jointly made a 15-point recommendation with a view to helping formulate the rules and regulations of Bangladesh Labour Law 2006.

The recommendations were finalised at a roundtable at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday, with Justice Naimuddin Ahmed in the chair.

The labour law came into effect in October 2006 and a sub-committee is now working to formulate the rules and regulations under the law. The recommendations would be placed before the sub-committee with a call to incorporate them into the rules, speakers at the roundtable said.

Justice Naimuddin Ahmed said the recommendations would help

formulate ideal rules and regulations of the labour law.

"We have made the recommendations beforehand so that they can be incorporated into the rules," he added.

The recommendations include setting up four-foot wide alternative stairs in factories, conducting fire drill every six months, specifying reasons before firing pregnant women, work interval for breastfeeding, supplying food to children at the factory, following building code during construction and specifying temporary work.

Speakers at the roundtable observed that the certificate of a registered doctor should be accepted in determining the age of child and juvenile, salary should be paid for unutilised casual leave and the salary structure should be fixed within six months of declaration of a wage

board.

They also pointed out that the government can extend the time for fixing salary but that period should not be longer than two months.

They demanded that the money for unutilised casual leaves should be paid at the end of a year.

They also suggested that the authorities should provide milk for the children of female workers at the factory.

Advocate Nirmalendu Dhar, labour leader Mohammad Nurul Islam and SA Haq took part in the discussion as the key speakers while Syed Sultanuddin Ahmed, Taslimur Rahman and Farida Yasmin presented different aspects of the labour law.

Principal Kabir Ahmed, a member of the sub-committee formed by the government to formulate the rules and regulations, also spoke.

Contractor shot dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unidentified assailants gunned down a contractor in Gulshan in the city yesterday morning.

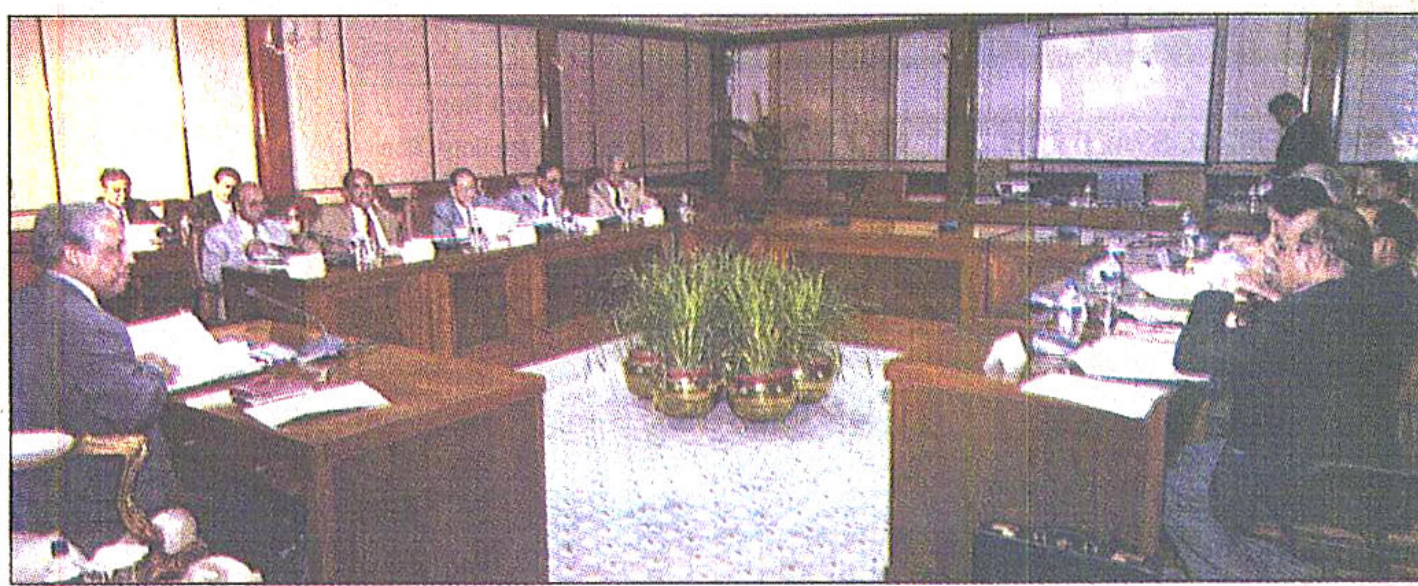
Mujibur Rahman, 45, a resident of Shahazadpur in the city and the owner of Zahid International, came under the armed attack near his residence at 10:30am.

Critically injured Mujib was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

His wife Shirin Rahman told reporters that the incident took place soon after Mujib went out of home receiving a call on his cellphone.

The police and relatives suspect that Mujib might have been killed due to previous enmity as he filed a murder case in connection with the killing of his younger brother Matiur Rahman in 2003.

A case was filed with Gulshan police station.



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed presides over a meeting of Council of Advisers at his office in the city yesterday.

Islam offers viable options to eradicate poverty: President

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday said Islam and its Shari'ah, as the complete code of life, can offer viable practices for all aspects of eradicating poverty from the society.

"Islam is for all believing in peace and social harmony and tranquillity," he said speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a three-day international seminar on 'Islamic Alternative to Poverty Alleviation: Zakat, Awqaf and Microfinance'.

Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI) of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Group, Jeddah, Islamic Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Islamic Economics Research Bureau (IERB), Dhaka, and Prime Bank Ltd, Dhaka jointly organised the seminar at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel in the morning.

Former chief election commissioner of Bangladesh Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf and IRTI Research Adviser Dr M Umer Chapra attended the inaugural session as special guests.

President Iajuddin said the seminar is a timely response to deliberate on the issues of great importance for the poverty stricken developing countries, specially the Muslim world, including Bangladesh.

Bangladesh has been making concerted efforts since her independence to eradicate poverty and establish social justice in its society, he said. "Much has been achieved in this regard but much more remains to be done."

The president mentioned that Islam looks upon poverty as an acute social menace, which erodes ethical values of human beings, retards their dignity and blurs their character.

Poverty is a great threat to peace

and stability of the society, he said. He also mentioned quotes of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and verses from the Holy Quran that recognise the right of the poor in the wealth of the rich.

Iajuddin said Islamic system ensures equal opportunities and Islam builds a society free from all kinds of vices - social, economic, spiritual, moral, ethical, intellectual and physical. "It is, therefore, a sacred duty of every human being to fight against poverty, and work for its eradication using all available means."

He said Islam aims at eliminating poverty by providing the basic human needs, bringing gap between the rich and the poor and developing resources of the earth for the welfare of all human beings.

"Within the boundaries of its philosophy, Islam has devised various ways and means to cure the problems of poverty."

The president said Islam provides a viable alternative for curing these chronic socio-economic ills by offering a mechanism that is in-built and integrated in its system.

Islam presents unique opportunities and obligatory measures to eradicate poverty and create balanced and exploitation free society in the world, he added.

Dr Iajuddin said Islamic instruments like Zakat, Awqaf and

Quard-e-Hasanah are some of the effective instruments to eliminate poverty from the society.

"Islam, thus, makes a social inter-mediation for building social capital and development. It helps the poor to be self-reliant."

He said successful operation of Islamic tools like Zakat, Awqaf, Sadakah and Quard-e-Hasanah throughout the world can create an opportunity for mobilisation of resources at grassroots level to address poverty.



Abdur Razzak speaks at a roundtable at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Justice Naimuddin Ahmed and Taslimur Rahman.

Highlight women's positive role
Speakers urge mass media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for highlighting women's positive role in mass media as they are now playing significant role in the society.

"Women are portrayed very negatively in our mass media, such as housewife and cook who are busy with their household works, although in real life many women are engaged in various dignified jobs," they added.

The discussion was organised for presenting a research paper titled 'Depiction of women in television advertisement' at the Academy for Planning and Development in the city.

The research, conducted by Sourav Shikder, associate professor of linguistics department at Dhaka University, revealed that only 3.05 percent advertisement broadcast in media is gender

sensitive.

The speakers said women are depicted in advertisements in such a way where their economic role is neglected and domestic role highlighted.

The media just reinforces prevailing thought pattern of the society and those who are involved in this industry are not conscious about the issue at all, said Sourav while presenting the summary report of the research paper.

The paper suggested that people involved in planning and producing advertisements must be aware of and sensitive to gender equity.

For this, code of conduct for advertising agencies and workshops and training for media people are needed, it added.

Along with social change, role of women has been changing positively and media should focus

on it, said journalist Nasimun Ara Huq.

Countering the point of those involved in advertising agencies Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, said they don't plan the advertisements considering the demand of the consumers, rather they prepare those for creating additional demands among them to sell their commodities.

Fahmidul Haque, assistant professor of mass communication and journalism department, moderated the discussion which was participated by Gender Programme Coordinator of Oxfam Akhtar Hossain, Senior Trainer of Press Institute of Bangladesh Olur Rahman, Prof Sadeka Halim, Prof Hannana Begum, Marjuk Russel and Executive Director of Transparency International Bangladesh Dr Iftekharuzzaman.

Resignation of PSC chairman, members demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Fair BCS Movement (FBM) have reiterated the demands for the resignation of 'corrupt' chairman and members of Public Service Commission (PSC), cancellation of 27th BCS examination and reforms of PSC.

They made the demands at a roundtable titled 'Reforms of PSC and formulation of Supreme Judicial Council' at the Duesu cafeteria on Dhaka University campus yesterday.

The speakers also demanded arrest of the persons involved in the leakage of BCS question papers, increased merit quota in employment and ensuring transparency and accountability in all job sectors including PSC.

FBM leader Nurul Islam said PSC politicised not only BCS examinations but also recruitments of upazila election officers and social service officers.

FBM President Abu Tareq demanded the arrest of PSC corrupt members including Prof Mahfuzur Rahman.

Former student leader Suvash Singh Roy and FBM General Secretary Azizur Rahman Dolon also spoke on the occasion.

11 robbers arrested

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Police arrested 11 robbers and recovered a revolver from Dattapara in Tongi on Friday night.

The arrestees are Kamal Hossain, Nayan, Mahub, Deen Islam, Suman, Sourav, Badsha, Aziz, Wasim, Mahfuzur Rahman and Omar Ali.

They were produced before the magistrate court yesterday and sent to jail.

Dadon Fakir, officer-in-charge of Joydevpur Police Station, said the drive was conducted based on confessional statement of a robber arrested from Champa of Gazipur district recently.



Potholes on Gulshan-Badda link road have been causing suffering to passengers as well as pedestrians, but the authorities remain indifferent. This picture was taken yesterday.

24 CI sheets seized from house of ex-state minister's asst PS

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Army personnel yesterday recovered 24 pieces of corrugated iron (CI) sheet from the house of an ex-assistant private secretary to a former state minister for religious affairs at Bhauraid village under Sadar upazila of Gazipur district.

Police said acting on a tip-off, army personnel raided the house of Abdul Motaleb at around 8:00am and found the CI sheets in the balcony of his house.

Motaleb, now working as an assistant scientific officer of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute, was

not present during the raid.

Mohammad Ali, father of Motaleb, said the CI sheets were allotted for Haji Kadam Ali Forkania Madrasa, and his son had bought the sheets from the madrasa authorities.

When contacted in the afternoon, nobody was available in the madrasa for comments.

Second Officer of Joydevpur Police Station Md Mamun said the recovered sheets have been handed over to the police station.

The authorities concerned are preparing for filing a case in this connection.

14 robbers held in Keraniganj

UNB, Keraniganj

Members of joint forces captured 14 suspected robbers along with arms and ammunition from Aista area in south Keraniganj after an hour-long gunfight early yesterday.

Police said when a team of joint forces raided the den of the bandits at about 2:00am the gang started firing "at random" towards the law-enforcers.

The forces, now in countryside anti-crime operation under a state of emergency, repelled the offensive. "A gun-battle ensued that lasted about an hour, creating panic

among the local people," sources said in a firsthand account of the encounter.

At one stage, the law enforcers caught 14 of the gang along with two sawn-off rifles, one gun, two revolvers, three sharp weapons and 51 bullets.

Four of the robbers were injured during the exchange of fire.

The arrested are Malu, Jamal, Salahuddin, Sohel, Ramu, Akash, Subed Ali, Anwar, Firoz, Toffazal, Liton, Sharif, Razaque and Habibur Rahman. They are wanted in several cases, the sources said.

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Interviews to be held in Dhaka on 2nd - 3rd May 2007

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[*] 1 sft. = 0.0929 square meter
[*] second sft. size is approximate