

2 LAID-OFF KHULNA JUTE MILLS

# Workers stay away from duty, place 4 demands

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Partial production in sacking sections of state-owned Crescent Jute Mills and Star Jute Mills could not be resumed till yesterday as workers did not turn up for duty.

They placed a four-point demand to managements of the mills as preconditions for resuming work in the two mills.

The four-point demands include withdrawal of lay-off orders, full payment of all arrears including

those for the lay-off period and unconditional release of arrested workers now in jail.

Workers of these two jute mills have already informed local authorities of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) that they would start fresh agitation if their four-point demands are not fulfilled immediately.

The decision to resume partial production in sacking sections with 186 workers of the two jute mills is nothing but a 'new trick' to befool

workers and ignore their right, said convenor of Khulna regional committee of Patkai Sangram Parishad (PSP) Sarder Motaharuddin.

The new crisis created out of workers' reluctance to join work without payment of arrears and meeting other demands could not be resolved despite a three-hour discussion held on Tuesday between CBA leaders and the Joint Director of Labour.

Zonal Coordinator of BJMC Shamim Ahmed was also present at

the meeting.

Terming the situation as grave, Shamim Ahmed said that workers for the next decision from higher authorities on possible ways to tackle the problem.

"I am almost fed up with this sort of situation," he said while talking to this correspondent yesterday.

"I am smelling an unpleasant situation again in the industrial belt as some CBA leaders are fanning the trouble by instigating workers," he said earlier.

Four state-owned jute mills were laid-off by an order of BJMC chairman on April 19 following agitation by workers for payment of arrear salaries and wages.

Meanwhile posters were seen on walls of the laid-off mills with slogans in support of 'another tough agitation' in Khulna industrial belt in protest against non-payment of arrear wages and non-procurement of 'required funds' to resume full operation of the laid-off jute mills.

CBA leader Abdul Malek of Peoples Jute Mills demanded withdrawal of cases against filed under the Emergency Powers Act with Khalishpur and Daulatpur police stations.

"We have made it clear to BJMC authorities that any move to reopen any of the laid-off mills without payment of arrears will bring no positive development to end the deadlock," Malek said.

BJMC Chairman Ashraful Islam visited the laid-off mills on May 20 at the head of a six-member high level team and held meetings with top officials of the eight state owned jute mills on May 21 to find out ways to resolve the crisis.

He submitted a report to the government recommending partial operation of the laid-off jute mills, sources said earlier.



Workers of Amin Jute Mills in Chittagong lazing on the compound after stopping work yesterday to press payment of arrears salary.

ZIA'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

## BNP factions in Khulna hold separate programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two factions of Khulna BNP held separate programmes in the city yesterday in observance of 26th death anniversary of the party's founder and late president Ziaur Rahman.

The faction led by the city mayor held a milad mahfil and special prayer at Baitun Noor mosque adjacent to KDA New Market under Sonadanga police station in the city.

Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman

attended the milad mahfil, held after Asar prayer.

On the other hand, the faction loyal to former lawmaker M Nurul Islam held a milad mahfil at Town Jame Mosque after Zohr prayer, which was followed by offering special prayer.

Former lawmaker M Nurul Islam who heads his faction and city Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and former lawmaker Mian Golam Parwar were among others who attended the milad mahfil.

Besides, both factions organised separate programmes in different areas of the day.

The programmes included milad mahfil, Quraan Khwani and distribution of food among inmates of orphanages. Similar programmes were also observed in all upazilas of the district.

The joint secretary general and former whip Md Ashraf Hossain did not attend any of the programmes organized by the rival factions of BNP.

## 'Journalists oppression day' observed in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Journalists here observed 'Journalists Oppression Day' on Tuesday.

On this day (May 29) last year, BNP cadres attacked a journalist's convention here leaving 25 journalists injured. The injured included former president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFU) and Observer editor Iqbal Sobhan Choudhury, BFU treasurer Farazi Azmold Hossain, former vice-president of Dhaka Union of Journalist (DU) Saiful Islam, the then general secretary of DU Omar Faruk. The convention was called to protest filing of cases against three journalists by BNP lawmaker Saiful Islam and his cadre Azad Biswas.

To mark the occasion, a discussion was held at local Daily Desh Tyatha office. Desh Tyatha Editor Halimuzzaman was in the chair. Speakers demanded immediate punishment to those involved in attacking the journalists.

## SI sued in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A Sub-Inspector (SI) of Assasun Police Station and another person were sued here yesterday on charge of taking signature of a plaintiff on a blank sheet of paper giving a threat to kill him in 'crossfire'.

The accused are SI Abdul Wahed of Assasun police station and Ahsan Ali Moral of village Sarafpur in Assasun upazila.

The two allegedly picked the plaintiff, Anwarul Islam Sardar, son of Salek Sardar of village Sarafpur in Assasun upazila, from his village home on charge of a false allegation on April 19 as he had filed a case against them with a magistrate court.

On contact, SI Wahed refuted the allegations.

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**  
EU team discusses project with Khulna Mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A four-member team of European Union (EU) yesterday called on Khulna city Mayor Sheikh Toyeub Rahman at his office and exchanged views on a project for promotion of renewable energy in Khulna.

Under the project, European Union will give financial assistance of Tk 5 crore for installation of a solar energy plant and construction of a solar energy training centre in Khulna.

The meeting was attended by among others, project chief Dr. Bibhuti Roy, Technical Director Dr. Garhard Scoris, Project Manager Dr. Rulf Drehearn and Editor of Dainik Purbanchal Liaquat Ali.

## 4 JMB suspects held in Chandpur

A CORRESPONDENT, Chandpur

Four suspected militants of banned Jama'tul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) were arrested by police from Kochua and Hajiganj upazilas yesterday afternoon, police said.

The arrested are Billal Hossain, 26, Nuruzzaman, 32, and Md Awlad Hossain, 24, all hailing from Narsingdi and another Jakir, 22, hailing from Bholia, police said.

Acting on a tip off, Kochua police arrested Billal Hossain, Nuruzzaman and Md Awlad Hossain as JMB suspects from Jogotpur Bazaar under Kochua upazila.

They were working for JMB secretly in guise of 'ferrywala'. They rented a house at Jogotpur. They were new faces which created suspicion among local people.

In another raid, police arrested another JMB suspect Jakir from Hajiganj Sadar. Jakir was staying at a rented house from where he was carrying out JMB activities secretly, police said.



PHOTO: STAR  
A mobile court led by First Class Magistrate Devjit Sinha in a drive at Kazir Bazar in Sylhet city yesterday realised Tk 40,000 as fine from traders for selling formaline-mixed fishes. None was arrested.

# Former deputy minister Pintu, 12 others sued in Tangail

'Extortion' case against municipal chairman

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A case was filed against former deputy minister for information Abdus Salam Pintu, his younger brother

brother JCD vice-president Sultan Shahidul Tuku, Gopalpur municipal chairman Kader Kabir Uzzal and 11 others yesterday. Pintu was elected from Tangail-2 (Gopalpur-Bhupur).

Ashrafuzzaman Azad, joint convenor of Gopalpur upazila unit of JDU, filed the case with the court of Magistrate Dewan Mahmudul Haque in Tangail under Section 5/3 of the Explosives Act.

In his complaint Azad alleged that local leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) led by former AL lawmaker Khanakar Asaduzzaman brought out a procession from Gopalpur stadium on March 26 last year on the occasion of Independence Day. The procession was attacked by the accused BNP and JCD leaders with lethal weapons it was crossing BNP office at Gopalpur Bazar. Three AL activists were seriously injured in the attack, he claimed in the complaint.

Azad also mentioned in his complaint that he could not file any case so far due to 'unfavorable situation' prevailing in the country. The magistrate ordered the officer-in-charge (OC) of Gopalpur police station to record the case and take legal steps after investigation.

Others accused in the case are Gopalpur town BNP's secretary

## Simple Truths on Managing Bangladesh

### Bangladesh : Anatomy of Change

Abdul Awal Mintoo

In multi-party system of the democratic order, political parties are vital. Parties are not only for the electoral contests and political agitation, but also for determination of choices for the people. Essentially they are public institutions and therefore the functioning of the political parties must be subject to accountability and strictly governed by law. The internal functioning of the political parties must be based on universally accepted democratic principles. History teaches us that leaders of political parties with arbitrary powers and functioning in an autocratic manner within their own parties, invariably develop the tendency to govern the country in the same fashion undemocratically and arbitrarily. Those who seek a better understanding of the issues, cultural and political impediments to social and economic development and wish for a realignment of this nation's landscape, *Bangladesh: Anatomy of Change*, is an essential reading.

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## - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT -

### PROMOTION OF DEVELOPMENT AND CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THE CHITTAGONG HILL TRACTS



UNDP Bangladesh seeks applications from Bangladeshi nationals for the position of Education Cluster Leader for Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Facility (CHTDF), under the "Support to Primary Education" mission in CHT.

**Duties and Responsibilities:** Under the guidance of the Chief of the Rangamati field office the principal responsibilities are the following: (1) Provide day to day leadership in management of the Education Cluster and its component resources, developing its strategic planning, setting priorities and direction, and team development activities and supervise all members of the Education cluster, (2) Guide, manage and coordinate all Education component activities ensuring project logic, design, work plan, budgeting, and implementation and targeting are achieved according to scheduling of activities; (3) Provide technical oversight and support to all components of the Education programme, and ensure close working relations, linkages and coordination in the implementation of the various components and all partner institutions; (4) Ensure linkages between different activities of Education initiatives and other relevant UNDP-CHTDF program components; (5) Coordinate partner agencies in the design, management, and implementation of the programme in line with UNDP's strategy and programme approaches of partnership and capacity building; (6) Ensure that all activities are developed and designed to the highest possible standards with rigorous M&E plans integrated from the outset, providing regular impact and process data; (7) Monitor the various Education related activities to ensure qualitative and quantitative standards, identifying problems and taking necessary action to address them, and prepare monthly and quarterly status reports, as and when necessary; and (8) Liaise and maintain excellent relationships with government officials, CHT relevant policy makers, donor officials and all other relevant stakeholders. Facilitate workshops, dialogues and various other forms of institutional interactions.

**Qualifications and Experience:** The candidate should have Masters degree in education, development studies, public administration, management or other relevant field. At least 10 (ten) years of experience and proven background in development management and programming, preferably in the field of educational planning and management. Experience in implementation of UN programs and knowledge on UN regulations are desirable. Demonstrated success in working with regional and/or local governments on the promotion of education. Experience with wide range of donor reporting and donor compliance requirements, notably the European Commission. Strong co-ordination, negotiation, networking, lobbying and advocacy skills. Demonstrated writing skills and ability to produce high quality reports in English. Excellent command of English and Bangla. Some working knowledge in any of the CHT languages or Chittagonian dialect is desirable. Must be able to work in close collaboration with staff of multicultural background. High moral integrity, as well as diplomacy, impartiality and discretion with proven ability to work and act with discretion in a politically sensitive and challenging environment.

*Persons selected for the above mentioned position will be recruited under the standard UNDP Service Contract modality with an initial duration of one year which may be extended. Probationary period is three months. Short listed candidates are subject to written, computer and spoken skills test. Successful candidates will be medically tested.*

**Submission of Application:** Application should be marked 'UNDP-CHTDF', and the position applied for should be clearly written on the right side of the envelope. Application including curriculum vitae and a recent passport-size photograph should be sent to the Assistant Country Director - UNDP-Dhaka, GPO Box: 224, Dhaka-1000, or deposited at the Deposit Box at the IDB Bhaban (Ground Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207 by 14th June 2007. Any attempt to influence the selection process will result in automatic disqualification of the recommended candidate.

Women candidates are especially encouraged to apply.  
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