

## MEETING ON LAW AND ORDER

## ‘Some quarters trying to create major crisis in garment sector’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Readymade garment (RMG) sector leaders and the government yesterday said some quarters are trying to create a major crisis in the sector before or after the Eid by provoking the employees over insignificant issues.

To foil such a move, they asked all factory owners to pay salaries and allowances to the workers before October 11.

They also asked the factory owners to frame a fair and unified policy on bonus, tiffin and lift for all workers to ward off any grievance.

Law Adviser Mainul Hossain said they have reports from reliable sources that there are attempts in the sector to find minor excuses and then use them to resort to vandalism and arson.

"We're presently experiencing a stalemate in the economy and some problems because of a major change in the country. We will have to remain alert so that no-one can take any advantage of the situa-

tion," Mainul said after a meeting of the advisory council on law and order at the home ministry.

Talking to The Daily Star, President of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) Fazlul Haq acknowledged that there is labour dissatisfaction, which he said is not easy to resolve completely.

"What have made it worse are some sorts of provocation from outside," he added.

"We have information that there are active attempts to make issues out of non-issues to provoke the employees into creating unrest before or after the Eid," the BKMEA chief said.

The Crisis Management Cell, set up for research in the sector and arrange talks to resolve garment workers' dissatisfaction, is now working to look for signs of any grievances -- may it be over salary or allowances -- that may lead to unrest.

"The objective is to address the problems beforehand so that the situation cannot turn volatile,"

Mainul said, adding that the members of intelligence and law enforcement agencies are also working to find any attempts to fuel grievances.

RMG leaders asked the government to quicken the process of forming industrial police to check unrest at the garment units.

Asked whether any foreign quarters are involved in the move to create a crisis, Mainul Hossain said, "We didn't discuss this point in the meeting. Some people are trying to instigate the crisis."

A database of workers who are involved in creating unrest is being maintained and that steps will be taken against the persons involved, he added.

Meanwhile, the meeting on law and order sent back a proposal for conducting eviction drives in a slum on the land of health ministry at Chankharpool and in another slum on the land of housing and public works ministry near the Bihari camp at Mohammadpur.

"We have asked the authorities concerned to come up with com-

plete work plan on what they'll do on the land after eviction," Home Secretary Abdul Karim told reporters.

**Drugging Incidents**

Alarmed at the increasing activities of 'Aggyan parties' who drug people before robbing them, the government is planning to bring such cases under Emergency Power Rules and try the criminals at Speedy Trial Tribunal.

Many of those arrested on such charges slip through legal loopholes.

The government has also decided to make announcement through loudspeakers at train, bus and launch terminals to aware people about not taking any food, especially liftar, from unknown people.

Communications Adviser Maj Gen (retd) MA Matin, Education Adviser Ayub Quadri, additional commerce secretary and representatives of BKMEA and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) attended the meeting.



PHOTO: STAR

TIB Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad speaks at a discussion on a study titled 'Problems in good governance in the NGO sector: The way forward' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman and on his left is former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan. (Story on Page 20)

## ‘Govt, EC have no right to reform political parties’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both the government and the Election Commission (EC) have no right to reform the political parties, rather the political parties will decide what types of reforms they want. Prof Ajoy Roy said at a view exchange meeting yesterday.

Democratic Left Alliance organised the meeting titled 'Electoral reforms and democracy of Bangladesh' at Jatiya Press Club in the city.

Demanding immediate withdrawal of the state of emergency, the speakers at the meeting said the government should pay more attention to hold a free, fair and meaningful election rather than wasting time in the name of reforms.

The caretaker government came to power with an agenda of holding a free, fair and neutral election but it seems that the government is backtracking from its electoral agenda, Prof Roy added.

Referring to the Truth Commission, Prof Ajoy said, "If the

government compromises with the businessmen, then why do they put the university teachers behind the bar?"

"Teachers of the country were not harassed in such a way in the past," he said and demanded immediate release of the teachers and opening of all the public universities.

Demanding immediate withdrawal of the state of emergency, he said, "The emergency should be withdrawn immediately but I don't know what would be the moral and constitutional basis of this government after the withdrawal."

In his keynote paper, Khalequzzaman, coordinator of the alliance, said the current Election Commission (EC) is not independent although according to the Constitution the EC has to be free from the government control regarding appointment in EC, allocation of money and budget.

Eminent columnist Syed Abul Maksud said it is better to have democracy rather than an unconstitutional government.

He demanded immediate hand-over of power to an elected government through a free, fair and neutral election for the sake of the economy, politics and culture of the country.

Noted educationist Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury said religion-based political parties should not be given the opportunity to contest in the election as they create discrimination and communalism.

Social movement is a must to establish democracy, said Prof Chowdhury, adding, "We need a leader, a hero who can organise people and wage movement to bring qualitative changes in the society."

Prof Ahmed Kamal of Dhaka University said we should work to ensure the participation of the mass people in the election.

Presided over by Tipu Biswas, member of the alliance, the meeting was also addressed by poet Abu Bakar Siddiqui, Engineer M Inamul Haque, Rashid-e-Mahbub and Editor of the Bhorer Kagoj Shyamol Dutta.

## Change mindset, behaviour to protect child rights

Speakers urge adults

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Changing the mindset and behaviour of the adults and increasing awareness are a must to protect the rights of children, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

Although in 1990 Bangladesh became one of the first signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC), a huge number of children in the country are deprived of enjoying their rights, including rights to healthcare and education, they added.

The roundtable titled 'UNCRC Reporting: Expectation and Achievement' was jointly organised by Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (SCSD) and the daily Shamakal at LGED auditorium.

Speaking as the chief guest, Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geetara Safiya Chowdhury said lack of awareness in the society often do not let the government implement the UNCRC.

"The civil society and NGOs

need to come forward to help the government in this regard. A national committee should be formed with the representatives of the government, NGOs and civil society members to monitor the child rights situation in the country," she said.

While presenting the keynote paper on "UNCRC Reporting: Expectation and Achievement" Dr Rita Afzar of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) said the convention recognised special needs for the survival, protection and development of children.

"Yet a large number of children are often violated and there is growing number of children who are abused, exploited, neglected and experienced violence at family, schools and other institutions, communities and at national level," she said.

Lack of awareness and limited practice for protection of rights by the duty bearers along with limitations of some of the important laws and the complicated administrative and legal set up hinder the imple-

mentation of CRC, she added.

"We have already snatched childhood from the children in our country. We do not pay heed to their needs and demands. We just impose our thoughts upon our children," said Prof Mehtab Khanam of Dhaka University.

Quoting a research finding, Mehtab Khanam said it is found that most of the mothers do not answer the queries of their children. Rather they divert the issues, which is not a healthy practice at all.

"Even a child does not need to be sent to the correction centre. Rather it needs just cooperation to be grown up," she concluded.

Editor of the daily Shamakal Abed Khan moderated the discussion while Executive Director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) Salma Ali, cultural activist Ali Zaker, Director (Labour) of the Department of Labour Shyamol Kanti Ghosh and Executive Director of INCIDIN Bangladesh AKM Masud Ali also spoke.

## Two robbers lynched in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Two unidentified robbers were lynched at Patisa in the district yesterday.

Sources said four robbers in a CNG-run auto-rickshaw arrived at Kalarpool Bazar of Kolagaon union in a bid to robbery at around 7:30pm.

When local people challenged them for their unusual movement, the robbers tried to run away.

However, two of the robbers were caught red-handed and died after angry mob beat them mercilessly, said the sources.

Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Patisa Police Station Nazrul Islam confirmed the death of two robbers.

## Girl killed in trawler-launch collision

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A schoolgirl was killed and four other launch passengers were injured in a collision between a trawler and a launch at Saheberhuttungbaria channel, four kilometers from the Barisal port on Thursday morning.

The victim was identified as Swarna, 13, a student of class seven of Halima Khatun Girls' School of the city and daughter of Mosharraf Hossain, an employee of Kazi Construction and local daily Aker Barta.

Among the injured, Poma, 11, sister of Swarna, was rushed to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

Passengers of the launch alleged that an untrained crew was operating the launch.

Police detained both the launch and the trawler and arrested Abul Kashem and Dulal Majhi, driver and sukani of the fishing trawler, while the crews of the launch managed to escape.

## 3 injured as abandoned mortar shell goes off

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two women and a boy of indigenous community were injured seriously when an abandoned mortar shell went off at a village near Jalalabad Cantonment on Wednesday evening.

The three -- Shanti Patro, 40, Radhamoti Patro, 50, and 10-year-old Sukdev Patro -- were admitted to Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital.

Local people said the two women along with others picked up an abandoned mortar shell while collecting firewood at Malgaon at about 5:30pm.

The mortar shell went off with a big bang when one of them hit it with an axe.

A general diary was lodged with Sylhet Kotwali Police Station.

## 15 muggers of 'Malam Party' held in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested 15 muggers who allegedly belong to what is popularly known as 'Malam Party' and used to snatch away valuables from people applying ointment on their eyes, from different places in the city and seized three taxicabs in this regard on Wednesday.

## SC clears way to send 188 artifacts to Paris exhibition

UNB, Dhaka

The roadblocks to holding the first major international exhibition of Bangladesh archaeological masterpieces, scheduled to begin at Guimet Museum in Paris on October 23, are lifted as the Supreme Court yesterday stayed the High Court order halting for next two months the sending of 188 exhibits for the show.

A seven-member full hierarchy of the apex court, headed by Chief Justice M Ruhul Amin, passed the order upon an application filed by the government.

The artifacts from five Bangladesh museums were scheduled to be on display at the exhibition under an agreement signed between the French Ambassador in Bangladesh and the Secretary of cultural affairs ministry on July 31.

But a group of Bangladesh citizens raised the question of legality of the contract and filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) case with the High Court on September 17. Pending disposal of the matter, the court ordered stopping the dispatch of the exhibits.

The litigants feared that the precious items to be sent to the Paris museum might not be returned to Bangladesh.

The 188 items were selected from Dhaka National Museum, museums of Paharpur, Mahasthan Garh, Mainamati and Varendra.

Under the agreement Guimet Museum is to bear the entire cost 700,000 US dollar to organise the single-country show of Bangladesh artifacts.

Barrister Tania Amir appeared for the PIL petitioners.

## Milad mahfil

A milad mahfil will be held at Science Laboratory Staff Quarter Jame Mosque after Asr prayers today to pray for salvation of the departed soul of Dr Mahabbat Ali, former professor of Chemistry department at Dhaka University (DU), says a press release.

Dr Mahabbat, also former provost of Fazlul Haque Hall and general secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) passed away on September 22 due to old age complications.

He left behind his wife, four sons, a daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His students, colleagues, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad.

## COAL POLICY Expert body report by early Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The expert committee on coal policy will submit its report in the last week of this month or early next month and the government will finalise the policy on the basis of the report, Energy Adviser Tapan Chowdhury said yesterday.

The government will then take the decision on Phulbari coalmine project in line with the new policy, the adviser told reporters following a meeting with the visiting Asian Development Bank (ADB) mission led by Kunio Senga, director general, South Asia Department of ADB.

"We told the ADB mission clearly that the government is preparing the coal policy without targeting any company. An independent committee is working on the policy without any involvement of the ministry," he said.

The government has received several proposals for coalmine projects, he said, adding that each proposal will be discussed as per the coal policy.

The energy adviser said the Asia Energy has now come up with a proposal with softer terms for coal mining. It has also informed the government of their big plans, including setting up of power

stations.

The Asia Energy's proposals will also be discussed as per the new coal policy, he added.

Several issues including gas, electricity and ADB's cooperation for coal mining came up for discussion at the meeting.

After the meeting, ADB official Kunio Senga told reporters that coal is an excellent alternative fuel for power generation and the country should be able to benefit potentially from coal mining.

"At the same time, I'm very pleased to find out that the government is very closely looking at the potential aspects and issues of the coal mining and its impact," he said.

When asked for his comment on suspension of the contract between the government and Asia Energy, the ADB team leader said the suspension is not 'appropriate terminology'.

"It is not the suspension. Rather, the government is looking into various aspects in detail," he said.

"I think the government is taking more time to look into various aspects. This is a mega project in terms of potential benefits. At the same time, the government is also aware of the environmental impact and resettlement issue," he said.

## AL secy Jalil's detention extended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government extended the three-month preventive detention of Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil for another three months yesterday.

Jail officials confirmed his fresh detention order that takes effect from yesterday on expiry of his earlier detention term.

The joint forces arrested Jalil on May 28 at his Mercantile Bank headquarters in Dikhusha, Dhaka. On completion of his four-day remand, he was sent to jail on June 3 with a month-long detention order. He was placed on a three-month detention on July 3.

Jalil was admitted to the Coronary Care Unit (CCU) of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) on June 3 and was moved to LabAid Hospital later on. He is still being treated there for different health complications and conditions.

The authorities say he had been giving "inflammatory statements" but are yet to file any specific charges against him.

## Writ seeking parliamentary polls by Feb 28

UNB, Dhaka

A Public Interest Litigation (PIL) writ was filed yesterday with the High Court seeking a court direction to ask the Election Commission to hold parliamentary polls by February 28, 2008 after completion of the final voter list.

Abdul Wadud Khondker filed the PIL writ petition. But, the details of the writ were not available.

## Death anniversary

Today is the first death anniversary of Prof Hosne Ara Begum, head of the department of Islamic History and Culture of Kabi Nazrul Govt College, says a press release.

Relatives and friends have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

## Begum Mansura

Today is the second death anniversary of Begum Mansura, former assistant professor of Physics Department of Home Economics College and wife of Judge Mohammad Altaf Hossain, says press release.

On the occasion, Quamrullahi, doo mahfil will be held at her husband's residence at Circuit House Road in the city. Foods will also be distributed among the poor.

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Nurul Alam, former, chief inspector of explosives, Bangladesh and son of late Imam Uddin Sikder, will be held today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the doo mahfil and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Nurul Alam passed away due to cardiac arrest at his residence August 24.

He left behind his wife, one son and one daughter to mourn his death.

## Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Mizanul Haque, a retired senior principal officer of Janata Bank, Naogaon Regional Office, will be held after Asr prayers today at his Naogaon (House No. 1-54, Kalitola Road) residence, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

He passed away on September 29 at Khaza Yunus Ali Medical College Hospital at Enayetpur in Sirajganj.

He left behind his wife and three sons.

## Anwara Begum

Qulkhwani of Anwara Begum will be held at Apt # 1A, Confidence Tower, 5-Kha Satmasjid Rd, at Mohammadpur in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Anwara, wife of late Kazi Abdus Sattar, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at Square Hospital in the city on October 1 at the age of 64.

She is survived by her two sons and two daughters.

## Tight security during Eid, Durga Puja

UNB, Dhaka

Some 6,000 members of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will be deployed in the capital on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitre and Durga Puja, the largest religious festivals of the Muslim and the Hindu communities.

"As Durga Puja will be observed soon after the Eid-ul-Fitre, some 6000 police and Rab personnel will be on duty to maintain peace in the capital during the festivals," a Home Ministry spokesman told journalists.

Quoted an inter-ministerial meeting on law and order for the Eid and the Puja held in Home Ministry yesterday, he said some 20,649 puja mandaps are likely to be set up across the country, of them 157 puja mandaps in Dhaka City alone.

Chaired by Home Secretary Abdul Karim, the meeting ordered the concerned departments to take stern actions against those to be found responsible for damaging deities or creating any kind of anarchy at Puja mandaps.

## Ashraf fails to hold meet in Khulna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Reformist BNP leader and former whip Ashraf Hossain failed to hold a meeting of Khalishpur, Daulatpur and Khanjahan Ali thana units at his residence at Khalishpur in the city yesterday as only a few of the activists showed up.

According to party insiders, Ashraf Hossain has incurred the displeasure of majority of the leaders and activists for his recent role against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The man who rose from obscurity to political limelight has no right to talk against BNP chairperson as he was elected lawmaker twice with her blessings from Khulna-3 Constituency, said presidents and secretaries of Khalishpur and Daulatpur thana units of the party.



## Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 36.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakundo and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Jessore.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:42pm today and rises at 5:52am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.9	27.2	70	65
Chittagong	33.4	26.4	71	74
Rajshahi	34.8	26.0	79	83
Khulna	34.6	26.8	86	91
Barisal	35.5	26.8	80	83
Sylhet	34.0	26.2	92	75
Cox's Bazar	34.0	26.5	69	78