

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 iftar for all workers to ward off any grievance.

Law Adviser Mainul Hosein 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 situation,"

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 Hosein 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 complete 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 'Aggan 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 though 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 Iftar, 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.



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 Ittekhuzzaman and on his left is former adviser to a caretaker government M Hafizuddin Khan. (Story on Page 20)

PHOTO: STAR

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 Choudhury 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 Afas 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 implementation 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 Patiya in the district yesterday.

Sources said four robbers in a CNG-run autorickshaw 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 Patiya Police Station Nazrul Islam confirmed the death of two robbers.

Referring to the Truth Commission, Prof Ajoy Roy 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, Khaleduzzaman, 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 Abdul Maksud said it is better to have democracy rather than an unconstitutional government.

He demanded immediate handing over of power to an elected government through a fair, free 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 communism.

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 Iamul Haque, Rashid-e-Mahbub and Editor of the Bhor Kagoj Shyamol Dutta.

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.

Jalil 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 Dilkusha, 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 Bangabandhu 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, Qurankhwan, doa mahfil will be held at her husband's residence at Circuit House Road in the city. Foods will also be distributed among the poor.

Chehlim



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

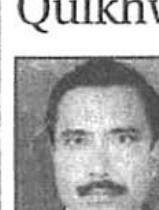
On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers are requested to attend the doa 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 Mianul 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, Kalitala Road) residence, says a press release.

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

He passed away on September 29 at Khatu Yunus Ali Medical College Hospital at Enayetur 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.

All members of 14-party should undergo reforms

Says Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 6,000 members of police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) will be deployed in the capital on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr 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-Fitr, some 6,000 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 Sitakunda and lowest 25.2 degree Celsius at Jessor.

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		Humidity			
	in celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
Dhaka	34.9	27.2	70	65		
Chittagong	33.4	26.4	71	74		