

Mujibnagar
Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The historic Mujibnagar Day will be observed today commemorating the formation of Bangladesh's first government-in-exile at Baidyanaththola mango grove in Meherpur on this day in 1971.

Later, the place was renamed Mujibnagar paying tribute to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was declared president and also supreme commander of the armed forces during the Liberation War.

Syed Nazrul Islam was made acting president in the absence of Bangabandhu, who had been arrested by the Pakistani occupation forces on March 25, 1971.

The Mujibnagar government with Tajuddin Ahmed as the prime minister led the country's nine-month-long liberation war, which ended with the surrender of the occupation forces on December 16.

Awami League has taken up programmes to mark the day.

The national and party flags will be hoisted at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi and the AL headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital at 6:00am and also in Mujibnagar at 10:00am.

Party leaders will place floral wreaths at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Bhaban at 8:00am, and also at the graves of the four national leaders at 8:30am, said a party press release yesterday.

Besides, a discussion will also be held on the Sheikh Hasina Stage in Mujibnagar at 11:00am.

Acting AL President Zillur Rahman in a message demanded the release and proper treatment of the party chief and former premier Sheikh Hasina.

He said the present crises in the country can only be overcome under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.

Zillur paid tribute to Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M. Mansur Ali, A. M. Quamruzzaman and others who led the country's first government-in-exile.

The acting AL chief also recalled the contribution of the civil and military officials, political leaders and freedom fighters, who struggled for the country's independence.



PHOTO: STAR
Agriculture Adviser CS Karim and Army chief General Moeen U Ahmed inaugurated a weeklong 'Potato Feast' at Radisson Water Garden Hotel in the city yesterday.

Consider violation of bldg code as criminal offence

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion on the implementation of 'Bangladesh National Building Code-2006' yesterday urged the government to consider the violation of building code as the criminal offence.



PHOTO: STAR
Labourers' Safety Forum Convener Dr Hamida Hossain speaks at a discussion at BLAST office in the city yesterday. On her left is BLAST Executive Director Taslimur Rahman.

inclusion of punishment and fining against the building code violators and compensation to the victims.

The discussion was held at the office of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) at Pioneer Road in the city with Labourers' Safety Forum Convener Dr Hamida Hossain in the chair.

Executive Director (ED) of Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) A. R. Chowdhury Ripon presented a keynote paper on 'Labourers' Safety in Construction Industries', while BLAST Deputy Director Soma Islam presented another keynote paper on 'Future Working Plans and Writs Regarding the Implementation of the Building Code'.

The daily Sangbad Executive Editor Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul, BLAST ED Taslimur Rahman, Kazi Abdul Hannan of the Shamokal and Shahiduzzaman of the New Age took part in the discussion.

The speakers said in most cases, deaths of construction workers due to falling down from heights are not accidents but the negligence and carelessness of the authorities which should be treated as killings.

As there are no specific explanations of accidents in the building code, it should be included through the amendment of the national building code, they added.

Besides, the compensation package for the victims or their families would have to be increased comparing to the neighbouring countries, they further said.

107 construction workers died at work last year Says OSHE report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 107 construction workers died in 2007 while working, says a report of the Occupational Safety and Health Environment Foundation (OSHE) yesterday.

The information is being published two months after the court had ordered the government to explain why the court should not order it to establish an authority to enforce the Bangladesh National Building Code-2006, says a press release of the OSHE.

Although the government was

supposed to respond to the court within one month, it has failed to give any response, the source added.

The government must take immediate steps to improve health and safety conditions of the construction workers across the country, the OSHE said.

The OSHE, an NGO working on issues of workers' safety, and the Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS) jointly collected the information.

The report showed that most of these deaths were the result of electrocution, falls from heights,

building or wall collapses and trench collapses. In this period 28 people died of electrocution, 27 died due to falls from heights, 27 due to building or wall collapses, 14 due to earth collapse and the rest died of other causes.

They will also form human chain at the Central Shaheen Minar in the city on May 12 and go for indefinite work abstention from June 1 until their demand are not met.

The protest programme was announced at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday under the banner of Bangladesh Community Primary Teacher Association.

Community primary teachers' 6-day strike from April 19
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

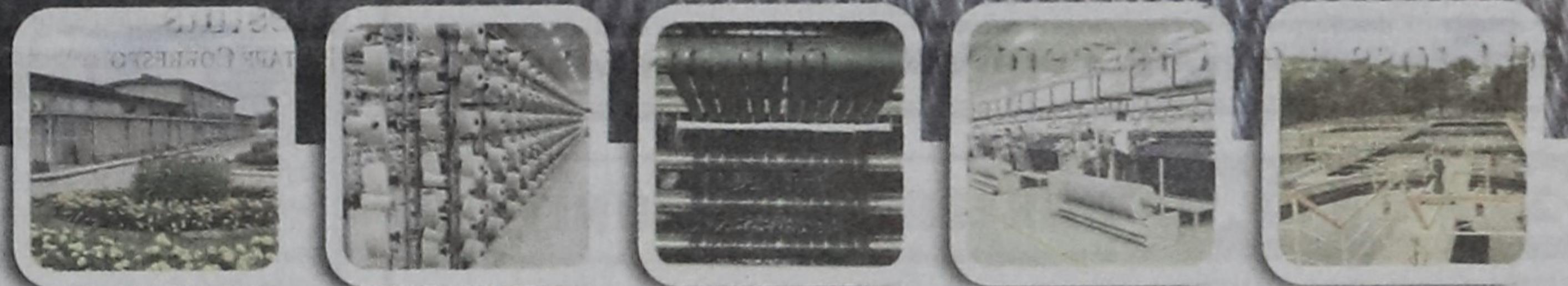
Community primary teachers will observe a six-day work abstention wearing black badges across the country from April 19 demanding nationalisation of their jobs under the national pay scale 2005.

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এ বন বা জা রে

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DEATH OF DU STUDENT Neutral investigation demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad (BMP) yesterday demanded proper investigation into the suicide incident of Chhanda Rani Sarker, a resident of Rokeya Hall of Dhaka University (DU).

Chhanda, a fourth year student of Institute of Education and Research (IER) of DU, committed suicide on Tuesday noon hanging herself from a ceiling

fan with a scarf in her hall room.

In a statement BMP expressed deep concern over the incident and demanded neutral investigation into the incident in a bid to reveal the key reasons behind the incident.

BMP also expressed concern over the repeated occurrence of such incidents and urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to stop such incident further.

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Bitopi/Leo Burnett/djuice/April '08

