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BANGLADESHI WORKERS Migrants' rights bodies worried at Kuwaiti police action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Migrants' rights bodies in Europe yesterday expressed grave concern over police atrocities on Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait, their arrest and subsequent deportation from the Gulf state.

They condemned the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait for its 'passive' role in addressing the grievances of workers who went on strikes demanding promised salaries and other benefits.

Meantime, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) representative in Kuwait, Thabet Al-Haroun, condemned those who censored Asian workers for taking to the streets to air their grievances and urged the Kuwaiti government to work on improving the

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Kuwait fixes foreign workers' wages

63 more Bangladeshis sent back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Kuwaiti government on Monday announced monthly minimum wage for foreign workers — KWD 40 (Tk 10,306) for unskilled workers and KWD 70 (Tk 18,035) for security guards.

Meanwhile, Kuwaiti authorities yesterday deported 63 more Bangladeshi workers, bringing the total to 757 so far. The deportees have been charged with participating in and instigating strikes. Many of the deportees however denied their involvement with the strikes and said they had been arrested and beaten up before being deported.

The decision of adopting a

minimum wage for the expatriate workers came following last week's violent demonstrations by thousands of Asian workers, mainly from Bangladesh, over pay increase.

The decision taken by the Kuwaiti cabinet will be applicable to workers who are employed by companies that are operating on government contracts.

Hundreds and thousands of foreign cleaners and security guards are likely to benefit from the new measure, according to a report published in the Kuwait Times yesterday.

Kuwait adopted the minimum wage a day after Minister for Social Affairs and Labour Bader Al-

Duwailah Duwailah met with the human rights committee of the country's National Assembly to discuss issues related to expatriate workers and the recent strike staged by them.

Around 2.4 lakh Bangladeshis work in the Gulf state and about 80 percent of them make the lowest wage.

Bangladeshi workers who supported the workers' strike last week said each of them had been receiving only KWD 20 a month or less although according to the contracts they had signed each worker is supposed to receive KWD 50 per month.

State Minister for Cabinet

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LEADER'S RE-ARREST BCL men go on rampage at DU VC's office

DU CORRESPONDENT

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday laid a siege to the office of Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) Prof SMA Faiz and kept him confined for four hours in protest against fresh arrest of BCL General Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton.

The demonstrators burnt an effigy of the VC, ransacked windows and panes at his office and later damaged cars on the street.

Roton was arrested immediately after his release from Mymensingh jail yesterday afternoon as the High Court (HC) declared his detention illegal in response to a writ petition filed by his father.

Earlier on May 4, he was arrested soon after release from the

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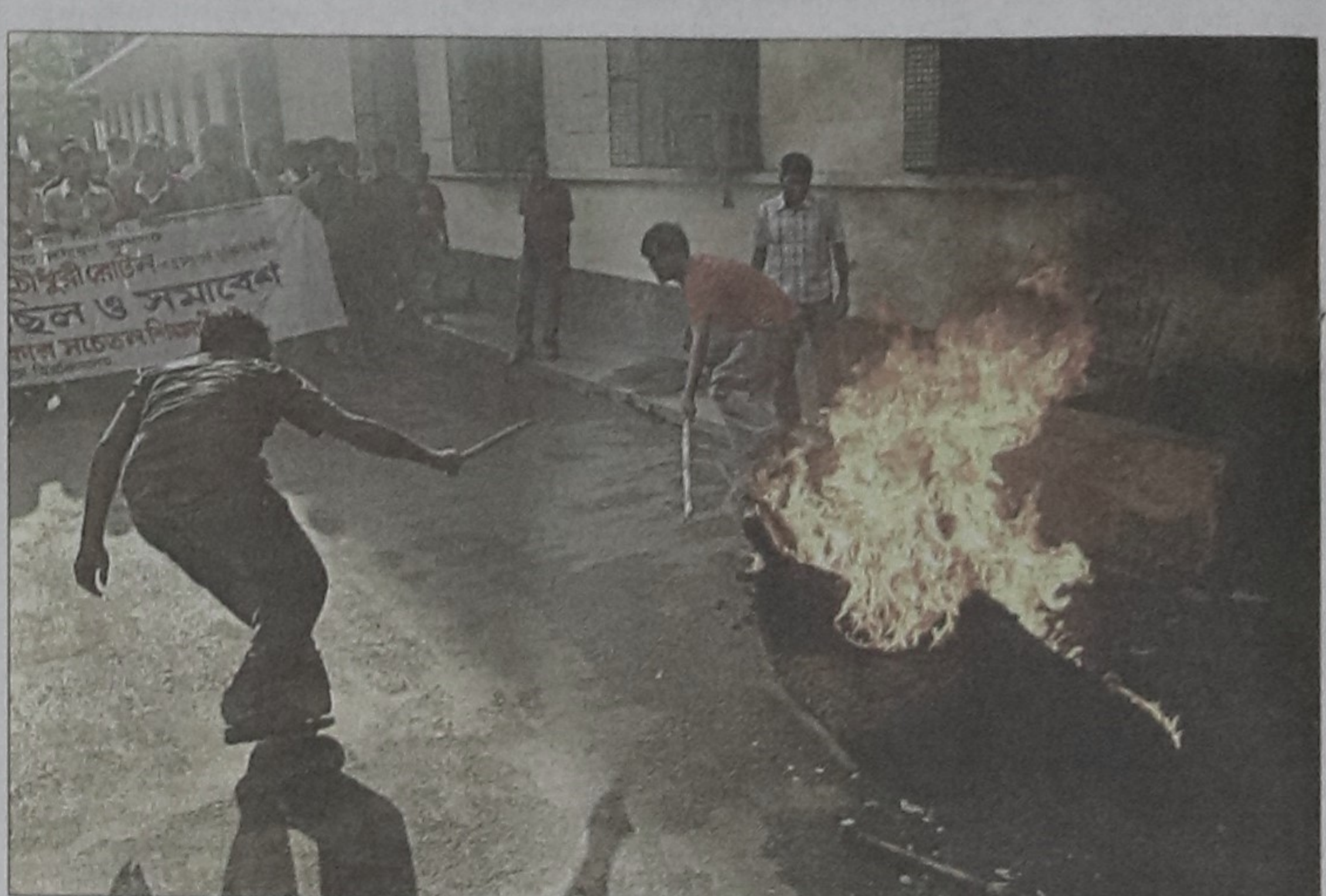


PHOTO: STAR

Students burn furniture in front of the Dhaka University VC office yesterday, protesting the arrest of Chhatra League leader Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton.



A large area of Sadarghat Launch Terminal has been covered with water hyacinth for weeks but the authorities are yet to make any move. The photo was taken yesterday.

HC stays tax evasion case against Dr Mosharraf

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed for three months the proceedings of a tax evasion case against detained BNP leader and former health minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain filed by the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Responding to a writ petition filed by Mosharraf, an HC bench comprising Justice ABM Khairul Haque and Justice Md Abu Tariq also issued a rule on the government asking it to explain within six weeks why the case proceedings against him should not be declared without lawful authority.

Deputy Director of the NBR Muftasir Rahman on July 27 filed the case against Mosharraf under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) with the Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka on charge of evading income tax of Tk 63.23 lakh in fiscal years 1996 to 2006.

In his writ petition, the former minister said the Income Tax Ordinance 1984 is a special law for

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10 months' nightmare

College teacher set fire to wife over his affair with student

SHAMIM ASHRAF and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

After Arzina ducked the lighted matchstick, her husband chased and caught her and set fire to her, this time, with a gas lighter before locking the door from outside to ensure her death.

While in flames she suddenly realised rolling on the floor might put out the fire. The idea worked, but by that time 57 percent of her body was already burned.

Doctors termed Arzina Khatun's condition "very critical" as she suffered serious burns in her face, breast, abdomen, both arms, back and part of thighs.

Struggling for life at the Burn Unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), Arzina, a master in geography from Rajshahi College who passed the 27th BCS exams last year, described the torture she underwent since her marriage 10 months ago.

Her husband, Kamruzzaman Kamu, who teaches geography at



Arzina

Nohata Women's Degree College in Rajshahi, turned mad towards her as he had an affair with a student, according to locals and the victim.

"Twenty-two days into our marriage, the girl student came to our area and told people about their relation," Arzina, who works as a data entry operator with the Women Affairs Department, said. She added she used to live with her parents at Lakhpiur Bhatapara until wedding formalities were completed

on March 1.

When her parents informed her in-laws about the relation, they assured that they would force Kamu to get out of it, though Kamu denied having any relation. "But it was an open secret in the area," the victim said.

After the couple moved to Shalbagan, she often found Kamu talking to that girl over cellphone. "He used to hurl abusive words and beat me up whenever I protested against it."

At 6:00am on July 29, Kamu's girlfriend called at Arzina's cellphone twice. Despite knowing that her husband was awake and waiting for the call, she told the caller he was asleep.

When Kamu sat on the bed at 6:30am, Arzina, who was preparing breakfast on a kerosene stove, asked him how long the relation would last and that she would leave after cooking and would never return.

Immediately he started kicking and punching her, she said.

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Why bribery case against Babar won't be quashed

HC asks govt to explain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday issued a rule upon the government to explain within four weeks why proceedings of the Tk 21 crore bribery case against former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar should not be quashed.

An HC bench of Justice Sharifuddin Chaklader and Md Emdadul Haque Azad passed the order following a writ petition filed by Babar.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) filed the case with Ramna Police Station on May 8 this year for covering up the murder of Bashundhara Group executive Humayun Kabir Sabbir.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Police dept executes new constable-friendly policy

KAILASH SARKAR

Lower-ranking police personnel, over 71 percent of the total force, can now expect promotion and posting in a systematic way — thanks to a new comprehensive human resources policy adopted by the police administration.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has already started implementing the new policy.

According to sources, out of a total of 1.23 lakh police personnel in the country, about 88,000 are constables.

The police department since its inception never had any organisational set up to evaluate the lower ranks of police. Whereas, there had

been some sort of guideline for the promotion and posting of upper ranks of police and they even enjoy various incentives including special training abroad, said sources in the police department.

Due to the absence of a comprehensive human resources policy, most of the lower-level police personnel resort to bribing higher officials for promotion or posting to their preferred locations, added the sources.

Taking advantage of this situation, many high officials have also been abusing their authority over their subordinates and engaging their assigned bodyguards and orderlies to carry out household chores or run errands, alleged the

sources. Nur Mohammad, inspector general of police (IGP), told The Daily Star recently that Bangladesh is most likely the only country in the world where the orderly post in the police department still exists.

"The orderly post should be done away with. A large number of the workforce is being misused in the name of these orderly and bodyguard posts," said the IGP.

He however said the department is yet to make a decision over the abolition of the orderly post. "It would've been revolutionary for the police department if we could do so."

"We are also thinking about

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Army chief calls on president

UNB, Dhaka

Army Chief General Moeen U Ahmed yesterday called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban.

During the meeting, General Moeen apprised the president of different training and ongoing development programmes of Bangladesh army.

The army chief also informed the president about the role played by the army in preparation of electoral roll with photographs and national identity card and its latest progress.

The president gave a patient hearing to the army chief and expressed his satisfaction over the army's activities in different fields.

Secretary of the President's Office Md Sirajul Islam, Military Secretary to the President Major General Mohammad Ruhul Amin and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present.

KAZI AREF MURDER HC upholds death penalty of 9 outlaws

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday upheld the death sentences given by the trial court to nine cadres of a banned outfit for mowing down Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) president Kazi Aref Ahmed and four other party leaders in Kushtia nine years back.

The HC bench of Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman and Justice ATM Fazle Kabir acquitted 14 others, including one earlier condemned to death, on the charges.

The bench reached the verdict after hearing the arguments of the defence and the prosecution and examining the case records and statements of 41 witnesses. It observed that the murders were premeditated.

The bench said it was obvious

that confessional statements given by three detained convicts were in accord with the statements of 10 impartial witnesses, said defence lawyer Zaman Akhter Bulbul.

The people whose convictions were upheld are Elias Hossain alias Elias of Talbaria, Baker of Kishori Nagar, Mannan Mollah of Pachabhita, Anwar, Rashedul Islam Jhantu and Jahan of Kursha, Jalal of Baliaishsha, Safayet Hossain Habib alias Habi of Rajnagar and Rawshan Ali of Bhabanipur, in Meherpur.

Elias, Jhantu and Habi are now in jail and gave confessional statements to the trial court while the others are in hiding.

The 14 accused cleared by the High Court are Sohri, Laltu, Lablu, Rafayet, Tikka, Akubbar, Firoz alias

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Ex-whip Ashraf denied bail, sent to jail

Sigma Hudagranted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP whip Ashraf Hossain was sent to jail after being produced in a court here yesterday in connection with a case filed under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR).

Meantime, defence lawyers of detained former flight engineer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines

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Prayer Timing		
August 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-20	4-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-47	6-50
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

8 suspected militants held in Bandarban 3,000 leaflets seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Intelligence officials yesterday detained eight activists of an organisation named 'Islami Samaj' on suspicion of militancy when they were distributing leaflets that denounce the democratic electoral system on Bandarban District and Sessions Judge's Court premises.

The leaflets also condemned killing people in bomb attacks.

Witnesses said the intelligence officials captured the suspected militants with around 3,000 leaflets to a lawyer on the court premises around 12:30pm.

They were taken to Bandarban Sadar Police Station for interrogation, said Officer-in-Charge Kafil Uddin, adding that the next decision about them will be taken after

senior officials interrogate them.

The detainees are Solaiman Kabir, Syed Ahmed Kabir, Abu Bakar Siddique, Nazmul Haque Rana, Abul Bashar, Khaled Saifullah Mamun, Habibur Rahman and Abu Hanif.

Hailing from Comilla, Sherpur, Noakhali, Shariatpur, Jamalpur and Tangail, the suspected militants aged between 18 and 50 years said they joined Islami Samaj a few months ago.

They claimed that they have no connection with the militants of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh who kill people.

Leader of the group Solaiman told reporters that they do not obey any man-made law and will not seek permission to distribute leaflets. "We are visiting different

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The Daily Star
EID FASHION ALBUM 2008

ATTENTION
Designers, Fashion Houses
Fashion Accessories, Footwears, Jewellerys,
Gift Items, Home Decore

As Eid approaches, The Daily Star prepares itself for the big occasion. This year The Daily Star Fashion Catalogue 2008 will feature dresses, sari, punjabi, kids wear, footwear, jewellerys etc. plus write-ups describing the creative thinking behind the fashion wears & their creators. The designers, boutique and fashion houses are invited to participate in this fashion extravaganza.

Design submission dateline extended till August 07, 2008
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FOR DESIGN & DRESS SUBMISSION
Sayed Ahmed Chowdhury
Phone - 01711623905

FOR ADVERTISEMENT
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Phone - 9144332

PARTICIPATION CRITERIA:

1. The dresses, sari or other apparel items should express the mood of the festival.
2. Materials used for the dresses should be locally produced
3. Design should be original and fabrics should suit the weather And environment
4. The dresses and other items sent for the album are returnable
5. The dresses and other items must be handed over to The Daily Star By August 07, 2008
6. Per entry fee Tk. 200/- (minimum 3- entry for each participating House)

Fashion Models interested for photoshoot please contact :
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