



Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain speaks at a national seminar at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his left are Shaheen Anam, Khushi Kabir and Mokhlesur Rahman and on his right are Shirin Akhtar and Quazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad. PHOTO: STAR

Agri labour law to be formulated

Says minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take steps to formulate agricultural labour law to give proper recognition to farmers and ensure their welfare, Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said yesterday.

The ministry will do everything necessary to this end, he said as the chief guest at a national seminar on 'Things to do to formulate agricultural labour law' at the National Press Club.

Karmojibi Nari and Manusher Jonno Foundation jointly organised the seminar.

"Eighty percent of labourers, including farmers, do not come within the purview of the definition of labourer, as their jobs fall under the definition of informal sector. This system needs to be changed because informal sector is the main sector of Bangladesh," the minister said.

Development of the country is not possible unless proper attention is given to the agriculture sector, which is under the informal sector, he added.

Mosharraf called upon the organisations working for the welfare of farmers to submit recommendations to the ministry, which will form a commission to scrutinise them.

Criticising the World Bank and IMF for their suggestions of not giving subsidy to the agriculture sector, the minister said that although the developed countries give huge agricultural subsidy, they tell others not to provide such subsidy.

"Our government will provide huge subsidy for this sector, as the development of the country is not possible without the development of the

agriculture sector," he said.

Quazi Kholiuzzaman Ahmad, president of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, said women account for 22 percent of 5.60 crore labourers in the country, but their contribution is not recognised by the government.

Agriculture sector has been developed, but no development took place in the life of farmers and agricultural labourers, he added.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, called for proper recognition to the contribution of women workers to the agricultural sector.

She also called for recognising the agricultural labourers as 'workers', fixing minimum wage for them and ensuring minimum workdays and rationing of food for them.

Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, called for taking steps to remove discriminations against women labourers.

Although women labourers do the same amount of work, they get less wages than male workers, she said.

Rahela Rabbani of Karmojibi Nari presented a paper at the seminar moderated by its President Shirin Akhtar.

Samsuzzaman Selim, president of Khetmajur Samity, Mokhlesur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation, Iqbal Hossain Khan, president of Jatiya Krishak Jote, Sudhir Kumar Bairagi of CPD, Naima Imam Chowdhury of ActionAid, and Sheikh Azizur Rahman of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Centre also spoke.

Hillary says 'Shubho Nobo Borsho'

UNB, Dhaka

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton says "Shubho Nobo Borsho" by sending greetings to all around the world who are celebrating Pehela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year.

"As you welcome the year 1416, I salute the spirit of tolerance and shared linguistic and cultural heritage that brings so many together, regardless of religion or nationality, to usher in a new year with music, drama, and traditional foods," she said in her message of greetings.

Hillary said all New Year celebrations reflect the hope of new beginnings. As the world faces the greatest economic challenges in generations, she said, "We all must stand together to embrace the New Year's promise of rebirth and renewal. It is our shared hope for the future - our shared dream of a better world for our children - that brings us all together to celebrate our common humanity."

She said "I send my best wishes for a special day shared with family and friends. Shubho Nobo Borsho!"

Akhter made press minister

UNB, Dhaka

The government yesterday appointed journalist Akhter Ahmed Khan as press minister at the Bangladesh Mission in Washington.

Akhter, former secretary general of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), was given appointment for two years on contractual basis, according to a notification of the Establishment Ministry.

In another notification, retired District Judge Mohammad Anisuzzaman has been made member of Security Exchange Commission for three years on contractual basis.

Two murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two people were killed in separate incidents in Dakkhin Khan and Airport police station areas in the city yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Idris Mia alias Mamun, 32, a garment worker of Dakkhin Khan while the other was Mohammad Rony, 22, a garbage collector in the Airport area.

Police said they recovered slaughtered body of Mamun from the Aminbag at Dakkhin Khan

yesterday morning while the body of Rony was recovered from an under-construction building in the civil aviation area.

Dakkhin Khan police said Mamun, who was accused in several cases, was killed by his accomplices as he came out of his house in the area around 12.30am. Police arrested one Kushum in this connection yesterday.

Sub-inspector Shyamol Nath of Airport Police Station said body of Rony had several marks of stab injuries.

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Christians join a prayer session near the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday on the occasion of Easter Sunday. Dhaka Pastors' Fellowship organised the congregation. PHOTO: STAR

Cancel decision to withhold promotion

Demand primary teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary schoolteachers yesterday demanded cancellation of the decision of the Directorate of Primary Education (DPE) to withhold the promotion of teachers who do not have the Certificate-in-Education (C-in-Ed).

Terming the decision unfair, they said about 10,000 primary schoolteachers across the country are being deprived of the promotion to headmaster because of such a decision.

In September 2003, the directorate made it manda-

tory for primary teachers to have a C-in-Ed to be considered for promotion to headmaster of a primary school.

But the teachers having higher degrees such as B.Ed and M.Ed are being deprived of the promotion as they don't have C-in-Ed, said BM Asadullah, convener of Prathamik Shikkhak Padannati Parishad, said at a press conference in the city.

He also mentioned that in the appointment guidelines of 1991, there are no such provisions that says teachers without C-in-Ed will not qualify for promotion.

Terming the decision self-

contradictory, he also pointed out that many instructors of C-in-Ed course even do not have the degree.

The Parishad announced a series of protest programmes, including a sit-in and a token hunger strike in front of the Directorate of Primary Education office at Mirpur on May 24.

Bangladesh Primary School Teachers Association (BPSTA) expressed solidarity with the Parishad.

Parishad leaders Rawshan Akter Shefa and Nazmin Banu and President of BPSTA Md Wahiduzzaman Mia also spoke at the press conference.

"Bismillahir rahmanir rahim" OBITUARY



Salma Rehman, fondly known as Mina by her friends and family, passed away peacefully at her Dhanmondi residence on Friday, April 10th, 2009. Inna lillaha wa inna ilahir rajun. She was 54 years old. She is survived by her parents, Dr. Harunur Rashid and Begum Rezia Rashid, husband, Mehboobur Rehman (retired international banker and Lead Executive Consultant, BankConsult), her daughter, Saima Rehman (working with IFC), and son-in-law, Usman Shamsul Hoque (Director, Eltech Engineering Co. Ltd.). Her qul khwani will be held today (Monday, April 13th, 2009) after Asr prayers at her Dhanmondi residence (House 30, Road 14/A). All well-wishers, friends and family are invited to attend.

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