



Street children dangerously perch on the footboard of a bus with its second door locked from inside, as the bus conductor refused to give them a free ride. The picture was taken at Panthpath in the city yesterday.

SKOP demands salary arrears, Eid bonus for RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) in a statement yesterday expressed concern over labourer unrest at different garment factories in Narayanganj, Konabari and Ashulia over payment of salary arrears and other dues.

The statement signed by SKOP Coordinator and Bangladesh Trade Union Kendra General Secretary Dr Wajedul Islam Khan, demanded of the garment factory owners to pay salary arrears and bonus before Eid.

They said for maintaining peace, discipline and smooth production in factories it is necessary to pay proper wages, outstanding salaries and bonus before Eid.

They said the government and the management of the garment factories will be responsible for any untoward incidents if salary arrears and Eid bonus are not paid.

BNP's FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED Vow to foil conspiracies against country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP yesterday observed its 31st founding anniversary with due respect and festivity with a vow to foil conspiracies against the country as well as to make the party strong.

Accompanied by hundreds of leaders, workers and supporters, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia placed wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman, founder of the party, at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city to mark the day.

The national flag and the party flag were hoisted early in the morning at the party's central office at Naya Paltan as well as the party offices across the country.

The party also organised a

discussion at Engineers' institution auditorium where Khaleda was present as an audience.

Delwar presided over the programme where senior leaders, including Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Abdurrahman Al Noman, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas and Goyeshwar Chandra Roy, took part.

The party secretary called on all to work together to make the party strong to foil all conspiracies against the country.

The BNP leader said the party is going ahead under the charismatic leadership of Khaleda Zia, though the government is trying to destroy it.

"BNP is playing its role as a vanguard of the independence of the country, but all have to be alert as conspiracy is going on against independence and sovereignty," he said.

Delwar criticised the government, saying that it [government] is busy in protecting the interest of the foreign forces, forgiving the electoral pledges. "Awami League does not believe in democracy, it is the habit of the party to create obstacles in the way of democracy."

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FINALISES REPORT Setting up of 6 regional centres recommended

WASIM BIN HABIB

A high-powered committee on reforms of the National University (NU) is likely to submit its report within a couple of days with recommendations for decentralisation of the university through establishing its six regional centres at the divisional level.

According to the recommendations, all colleges will affiliate to the regional centres and the colleges under Dhaka division will affiliate to the main centre at Gazipur, sources said.

The main centre will also carry out their regular activities like it is doing now and also conduct teacher training programmes.

In the wake of gross irregularities and corruption at the National University, the education ministry formed the 11-member high-powered committee on March 25 with University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam as its convenor to bring around 1,760 graduate and postgraduate colleges under universities at the divisional level.

The committee held several meetings and also consulted with the National Education Policy Formulation Committee recently before finalising its recommendations.

"The committee is likely to submit its recommendations to the education ministry within a day or two," said a member of the committee.

The committee observed that it would be realistic to establish six regional centres of the National University rather than bringing the colleges under the public universities again, as the conditions and infrastructure of some of them are not good enough to monitor the colleges, the source added.

The committee also suggested renaming the National University as 'National Affiliating University' after its decentralisation.

"However, renaming the university will require to amend the National University Act," the committee members said.

The committee in its proposal also said it is not possible to build NU a 'centre of excellence' with its existing infrastructure and facilities at

Gazipur. Rather, higher research works can be conducted in the existing public universities.

The high-powered committee also suggested the main centre should not confer M.Phil and PhD degrees. The teachers should obtain their M.Phil or PhD degrees from existing public universities, it

added.

It also recommended upgrading the colleges in different districts, which have skilled staffs and proper infrastructure, into independent universities in phases.

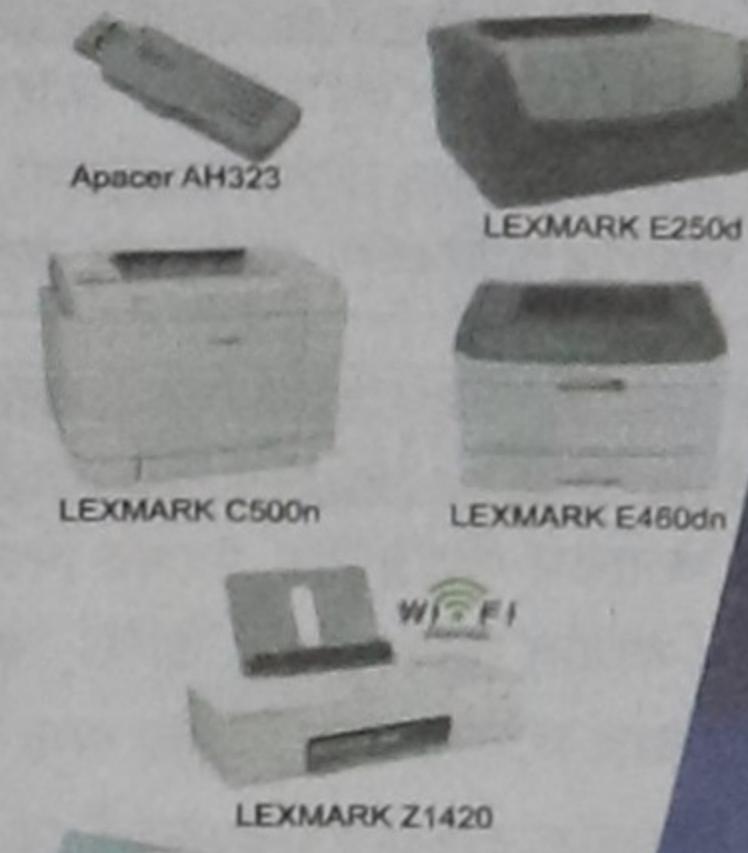
UGC Chairman Prof Nazrul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday that the committee

made the recommendations to improve the standards of education in the NU-affiliated colleges.

"We have finalised the recommendations in line with the reports of the Qudrat-e-Khuda Education Commission and Shamsul Haque Education Commission," he added.

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