

SHIP-BREAKING YARDS

Workers face health hazards everyday

BSS, Chittagong

More than 50,000 people are working in the ship-breaking industry in Chittagong with serious health hazards because of the poisonous waste released from old ships.

The workers and people in the adjoining areas are also being attacked with various diseases frequently.

There are 56 ship-breaking yards on the coast in Sitakunda upazila while thousands of adult and adolescent workers work amid serious health hazards.

Though they have chosen this hazardous job only to earn their bread, many of them are not physically fit for such hard work. Therefore, incidents of various types of accidents and casualties

are rampant in the ship-breaking yards, but there is no hospital in that industrial area.

Old ships worth several thousand crores of Taka are purchased and brought to Sitakunda every year for breaking while more than two lakh people are involved by most of the owners of ship-breaking yards.

DFID Environment Consultant Prof Norman Ahmed Siddiqui told BSS that the owners of the ship-breaking yards are polluting the environment by releasing waste defying the rules.

He said uneducated and poor people working in the ship-breaking industry are dying from inhaling poisonous gas. People are also being attacked with various diseases.

People concerned said every ship brought for break-

ing in the yard is harmful for the environment as all the ships contain poisonous chemicals.

Though there is a rule for cleaning the ship from where it is procured, it is not followed by most of the owners of ship-breaking yards.

Chittagong Regional Director of Department of Forest M Abdus Sobhan said there is a High Court verdict to preserve the environment and uphold rights of the workers in the ship-breaking industry, but it is not being implemented properly.

A member of Bangladesh Ship Breakers Association, on condition of anonymity, said the yard owners are conscious about preservation of the environment and protection of labour rights.

Bangladesh Environment



PHOTO STAR

Students of Adamjee Cantonment Public School and their guardians form a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting hike of fees at the school.

3 fall sick after taking vitamin used for crops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

At least three people including a girl fell sick after taking a vitamin used for crops at Damardarpur village under Ghoraghat upazila in Dinajpur district on Thursday.

They were identified as Azizar Rahman, 40, Dipzol Ali, 17, and Delwara Begum, 15.

Azizar is being treated at Ghoraghat Health Complex where the doctors have described his condition as critical.

Villagers said Azizar bought Crop Plus, a product of Media Agro Marketing Company Ltd, from a local grocery shop for his physical weakness.

They placed the demand at a human chain formed by Bangladesh Centre for Workers' Solidarity (BCWS) at Muktangan in the city.

The speakers said RMG workers are facing a lot of problems in leading their life with their poor salaries, because the prices of essentials are increasing daily, adding that even they have to face starvation.

Under the circumstances, it has become necessary to announce the minimum wage as Tk 5,000 for their survival as well as to protect the garment sector, they mentioned.

Kalpana Akhter, executive director of BCWS, Babul Akhter, director, Nasrin Akhter, finance secretary, and Shahjehan Hossain, coordinator of a BCWS project, spoke.

Speakers at a programme yesterday demanded steps to fix Tk 5,000 as the minimum wage for garments workers and implement the wage within the shortest possible time.

They placed the demand at a human chain formed by Bangladesh Centre for Workers' Solidarity (BCWS) at Muktangan in the city.

The speakers said RMG workers are facing a lot of problems in leading their life with their poor salaries, because the prices of essentials are increasing daily, adding that even they have to face starvation.

Under the circumstances, it has become necessary to announce the minimum wage as Tk 5,000 for their survival as well as to protect the garment sector, they mentioned.

Villagers alleged that Ripon has been selling agro-farming products including pesticides alongside other grocery products.

STU Registrar Dr Nirmal Chandra told The Daily Star that actions against the students and teachers were taken to PSTU for "instigating into the incident".

Barisal Vet Instt reopens Nov 5

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Barisal Veterinary Institute under Patuakhali University of Science and Technology (PSTU) will reopen on November 5, around two months after its closure on September 2 following widespread agitation by students on the campus.

PSTU Vice Chancellor Dr Syed Shahjehan Hossain said the academic council took the decision at a meeting here on October 24.

It also decided to deploy police on the campus. Two male dormitories and one female dormitory will be opened on November 2.

The institute was closed sine die after its students mounted an agitation programme demanding restoration of their internship for one year and scrapping the changes in the curriculum by the authorities.

PSTU Registrar Dr Nirmal Chandra told The Daily Star that actions against the students and teachers were taken to PSTU for "instigating into the incident".

the academic council meeting on September 27 after reviewing the report of the probe committee headed by Prof Nizamuddin Ahmed.

The academic council expelled six students for one semester, served show cause notices on 10 students and made two teachers of the institute OSDs (officers on special duty).

The expelled students are Palash Kumar, ABM Mustafa Kamal, Kamruzzaman Hossain, Md Shahiduzzaman, Abu Bakar Siddik and Fakrul Islam Sarkar.

Ten students of different semesters were asked to explain why they would not be expelled for their involvement in creating chaos on the institute campus. But the matter was not solved at the latest meeting.

On the other hand, Associate Prof Abdul Matin of Dairy and Poultry Science department and Associate Prof Anisur Rahman of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery department have been made OSDs and closed to PSTU for "instigating into the incident".



Today is the first death anniversary of Zia ur Rahaman Bhuiyan (Rajiv), son of Mahboob R Bhuiyan and Humaira Yasmin, says a press release.

On the occasion, milad mahfil will be held after Maghrib prayers at their Gulshan home. Relatives, friends, and admirers are requested to attend the milad and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Achiya Parveen METRO DESK



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Achiya Parveen, a senior teacher of Eskaton Garden High School and wife of former secretary MAM Ziauddin, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to pray for the salvation of her departed soul.

Qulhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulhwani Khan, a language movement veteran, will be held at her residence at Road #8/A, House #62 at Dhammandi after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Farida Khan, wife of late Amanullah Khan, founder and chairman of Star Garments Ltd., passed away on Wednesday due to a cardiac arrest at the age of 76.

She was a teacher of Dhaka University and Eden Girls' College and also a leading singer of Tagore songs in the 50's through 60's.

She left behind her only daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

BNP advisers feel ignored

FROM PAGE 1

Commenting on the advisers' role in the reorganisation process, an adviser to the chairperson and former BNP minister for two terms, said, "Ask the big leaders of the party because we don't count."

Advisory Council members Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan and Syed Hasan Ahmed declined to comment on the issue.

Another adviser Harun-Al-Rashid, also former state minister, said the chairperson sits with them at her will.

He said the party chief sat with them to discuss various issues during the tenure of the last caretaker government.

Informal meetings between the chairperson and her advisers are held often but the issue of national council

has not been discussed, he added.

Officials at BNP central office said the chairperson now has 18 advisers with the nomination of Maj Gen (retd) Ruhul Alam Chowdhury, former adviser to a caretaker government, on October 1.

Other advisers are Harun-Al-Rashid, Tahmina Khan Dolly, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, Shahjahan Omar, Jamiruddin Sircar, M Moshred Khan, Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, Maj Gen (retd) ZA Khan, Reaz Rahman, MA Hakim, Mushfiqur Rahman, Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Maj Gen (retd) Mahmudul Hasan, Harun-or-Rashid Munnu, Moeen Khan, Mofazzal Karim, and Syed Hasan Ahmed.

Of them, Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan, Maj Gen (retd) Fazle Elahi Akbar.

Fight for survival still on

FROM PAGE 1

the government to repair her house, but that money was spent meeting their daily needs. "How could I rebuild my house when I was struggling to have three meals a day?" a virtually hopeless woman asked.

A mother of two children left their parents two years ago, Ayesha said she could not even join the dam repairing work due to old age.

The plight of Fatema Akter, 32, a resident of Garkumpur village of the same union, is no less than Ayesha's.

The demands include introduction of compulsory religious education at primary and secondary levels, exclusion of the word 'secular' from the proposed education policy, introduction of a compulsory Islamic studies course of 100 marks at class 11, exclusion of proposals for construction of dance academy and theatre financed by the government.

Dr M Yusuf Ali, former vice chancellor (VC) of Rajshahi University, presided over the roundtable where Dr M Korban Ali, VC of Bangladesh Islamic University, Prof M Mujahidul Islam, chairman of Banking department at Dhaka University; and Dr Razia Sultana, associate professor of Buet; were also present.

Pratapnagar union in Ashashuni upazila are facing hardship due to poor rehabilitation programme of the government.

The cyclone took their houses along with their means of earning. The sufferings of the survivors increased further as the government is running no relief work or rehabilitation programme now.

Though the occupations of most of the people of the poverty-stricken, Aila-hil areas are fish farming, day labouring and woodcutting, most of them now pass their days either fishing or just staying home.

A number of Aila victims who took shelter on the embankment in Gabura and Padmapukur say they are helpless and in dire need of food and work.

They say the last thing they have received was some clothes, a sheet of tarpaulin, polythene, soaps and a few buckets from some non-government organisations (NGO) one and a half months ago.

She is one of the most unfortunate victims who did not get the house repairing assistance from the government. "Those who suffered little by the cyclone received the money, while we lost everything and received nothing," she said.

Like Ayesha and Fatema, thousand others in Gabura and Padmapukur unions in Shyamnagar upazila and

here -- relief or assistance by anyone. Only life goes on with severe crises of food, drinking water and accommodation.

He adds some 2,000 families in his union have received 10-kg rice under Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme after the Eid-ul-Fitr and since then no assistance from the government.

Though the occupations of most of the people of the poverty-stricken, Aila-hil areas are fish farming, day labouring and woodcutting, most of them now pass their days either fishing or just staying home.

A number of Aila victims who took shelter on the embankment in Gabura and Padmapukur say they are helpless and in dire need of food and work.

They say the last thing they have received was some clothes, a sheet of tarpaulin, polythene, soaps and a few buckets from some non-government organisations (NGO) one and a half months ago.

Shafiqul Azam Lenin, chairman of Gabura union, says the victims are desperately waiting for government support as they have no income sources.

"Everything has stopped

"We will give 20 kilograms of rice to each of the 5,250 families in Gabura, 4,000 families in Padmapukur and 500 families in Pratapnagar a month till December," says Abdus Samad, deputy commissioner (DC) of Sathkhira.

He adds they have received the allocation and would distribute it very soon.

On house repairing assistance, he informs they have given Tk 2.48 crore for rebuilding houses to 11,500 families in the entire district. Each family received Tk 3,000.

Samad says they will soon give Tk 1.5 crore to the worst-affected Shyamnagar and Tk 1.5 crore to another worst-affected Ashashuni upazila for building houses.

"We have received delivery orders and will start distribution of the money within a few days," he adds.

Abdus Samad goes on to say they will start the employment generation for hardcore poor programme from November 1 where each of the victims will get Tk 100 by working for seven hours a day.

He adds he has also asked the NGOs and other organisations to chalk out alternative income generation programmes for the Aila victims.

Buet results published

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of the admission tests for undergraduate courses at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for the sessions 2009-2010 was published yesterday.

The results are available on www.buet.ac.bd

The viva voce of the successful candidates will start on November 4.

A total of 6,040 candidates vied for 965 seats at the admission test held on October 4.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Graduation Ceremony 2009 of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University (DU) was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

A total of 250 graduates from the BBA 13th Batch, MBA 41st batch along with EMBA 1st and 2nd batches received certificates on the occasion.

In his welcome address, Chairperson of BBA Programme Sheikh Morsed Jahan said endowed with brilliance and personal commitment, these young men and women have vowed to make a difference in this world and they will lead the country towards prosperity.

They are the best graduates in the country and surely they will make a difference in the future, he added.

Asifa Mahin from BBA 13th batch and Sarkar Md Reza Hoque from MBA 41st batch received the Abu Talib Award for achieving the highest cumulative grade point averages (CGPA) in their respective batches.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMAS Arefin Siddique said, "Faculties challenges confidently and efficiently."

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the happy occasion of this convocation I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the graduating students, their parents, guardians, and the university family and wish them a bright future, he added.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman was also present on the occasion as a special guest.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"On the happy occasion of this convocation I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the graduating students, their parents, guardians, and the university family and wish them a bright future, he added.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman was also present on the occasion as a special guest.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"On the happy occasion of this convocation I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the graduating students, their parents, guardians, and the university family and wish them a bright future, he added.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Atiur Rahman was also present on the occasion as a special guest.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

"On the happy occasion of this convocation I extend my heartfelt felicitations to the graduating students, their parents, guardians, and the university family and wish them a bright future, he added.