

Govt to increase scholarships at primary level

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is mulling to increase the number of scholarships at primary level as the students are on the increase.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Amin hinted this to The Daily Star yesterday, saying, "We are thinking to increase scholarships, though we are yet to take any decision in this connection."

The government for the first time is going to introduce Primary Education Terminal Examination at class V instead of primary scholarship exam. The exam will begin from November 9.

According to the government decision, scholarships will be

given based on the results of the students in their terminal exams.

Around 40 percent students of a primary school need to sit for scholarship exams as per the last rule. But this year all students have to take part in the newly introduced terminal exams and so additional 60 percent students have added.

The students will be enrolled in class VI on the certificates of the terminal examinations.

Afsarul said around 20 lakh students across the country will sit for the examinations and they have almost completed the preparation.

"We are thinking to consider the students who get a certain number of marks as scholarships entitled," Afsarul said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits a place of historical interest in Bhutan yesterday during her official visit to the landlocked South Asian country.

Dhaka protests BSF killing

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has strongly protested and expressed deep concern over the unprovoked shooting and killing of a minor girl by Indian Border Security Force (BSF).

A 12-year old Bangladeshi girl was shot dead by the troops of 162 BSF Sahapara camp at about 6:00pm on Friday.

The body was, later, found about 25 yards inside Bangladesh territory near border pillar No 1066 under Roumari thana of Kurigram district.

A protest note, handed over to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka, states that "such shooting incidents are in clear violation of the Bangladesh-India Border Guidelines of 1975," said a

foreign ministry release yesterday.

"Bangladesh has also expressed concern at the trend of indiscriminate shooting and killing by the BSF, which creates unnecessary tensions between the two border security forces."

"Such acts go against the spirit of good neighbourliness and the close friendly relations that exist between Bangladesh and India," the protest note observed.

Bangladesh has demanded a proper investigation by the Indian authorities concerned and legal action against those responsible for the killing.

"Bangladesh has also called for a strong policy directive to the BSF to put an end to such shootings," the notes said.



PHOTO: ISPR

Visiting Director of J-5 US Pacific Command Major General Randolph D Alles pays a courtesy call on Chief of Army Staff General Md Abdul Mubeen at the Army Headquarters in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

TU at RMG factories by Jan demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Gonoatmik Bam Mocha (Left Democratic Front) yesterday demanded introduction of trade union at all the garment factories by next January to ensure the democratic rights of the workers.

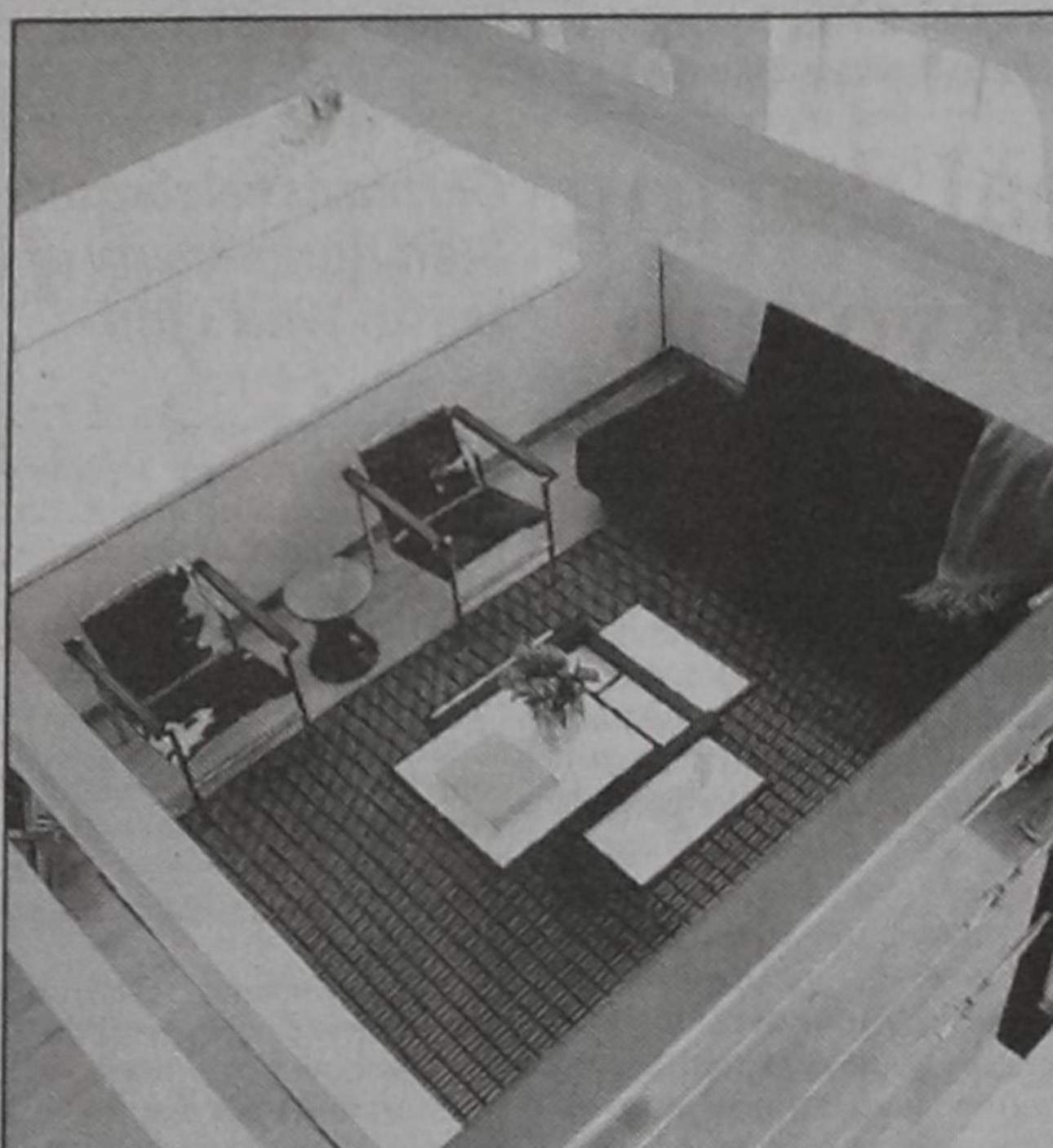
The demands came from a press conference at the central office of Gonoatmik Biplabi Party (Democratic Revolutionary Party) in the city.

While reading out a written statement, Saiful Huq, convener of the forum, said the garment workers are playing an important role in flourishing the sector, but the owners are depriving the workers of their rights.

"The minimum wage of a worker is Tk 1662.50. It is impossible to live with this poor salary. So most of the garments workers have to starve very often," he said.

Whenever the workers raise their voice for their rights, they are rewarded with bullets, he added.

Their other demands include bringing the killers of the workers of Nippon Garments to book, paying Tk 1 lakh as compensation to the family of each victim, withdrawal of all the cases filed against the garments workers across the country, fixing Tk 7,000 as minimum wage and formulating a new labour law, cancelling the Labour Act 2006.



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