

Include domestic work in labour law

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker at a discussion yesterday called on the government to include the domestic helps in the labour law to ensure their rights to health and basic education.

Women are the main constituents of the domestic labour and they have been working in vulnerable situation, said speakers at the discussion organised by ActionAid Bangladesh at Chhayanaut Auditorium in the city.

The discussion titled 'Achievements and barrier of formal and informal women labour' was organised to observe the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.

Rokia Afzal Rahman, president of Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS), said though women in the country have to face many obstacles to make a place in the patriarchal society, they overcome those barriers.

"Women are now working in banks,

micro-finance and some other challenging professions and they are working with efficiency," she added.

"Now, we have to unite to achieve our rights which are yet to be ensured in the garments and agriculture sectors."

Rokias, also former adviser to a caretaker government, said: "There are already some employers who prefer to appoint women rather than men because of women's sincerity."

Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of Campaign for Popular Education, said: "During any rights movement, we forget about the rights of those women who are working as domestic helps. The government and non-government organisations have to think about their basic rights, especially education."

Whip Saguftha Yasmin Emily said the government has already taken an initiative to empower the women both in rural and urban areas.

ActionAid Country Director Farah Kabir moderated the discussion, which was addressed by Farah Naima Imam Chowdhury of ActionAid, Shirin Akhter of Karmajibi Nari, Ayesha Khanam of Bangladesh Mohila Parishad and Rashed Al Mahmood of Unnayan Onneshan.

ActionAid also awarded four people with Nasreen Memorial Award 2010 at another programme organised at Rabindra Sarobar at Dhanmondi.

The awardees were Shahinur Begum for her contribution to making Sidr-hit people aware of disaster management, Shanti Sudha Mandal for establishing a farm house at Chandarbill with her own effort, Aradhan De for building a sanctuary for birds in Sunamganj and Anowara Begum of Gaibandha for her work to ensure reproductive rights for rural women.



Whip Saguftha Yasmin Emily speaks at a discussion titled 'Achievements and barriers of formal and informal women labour' at Chhayanaut Auditorium in the city yesterday. ActionAid Bangladesh organised the discussion to mark the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day.



Glaucoma Society takes out a procession from Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday to raise awareness about glaucoma on the occasion of the World Glaucoma Week.

Modernise army thru' latest training: Zillur

Army chief to visit India from March 14

UNB, Dhaka

President Zillur Rahman yesterday asked the army chief to take necessary measures for modernising the armed forces through increasing facilities for training on latest military know-how.

The president, also the supreme commander of the armed forces, gave the directive when Army Chief General M Abdul Mubeen called on him at Bangabhaban and apprised him of various matters of the service, including his upcoming India tour.

The army chief will go to India on March 14 on a six-day visit at the invitation of his Indian counterpart. He will return on March 20.

During the meeting, President Zillur Rahman said necessary measures should be taken to increase professional skills of the army. "It is very urgent to increase training facilities

and share experiences in this regard."

Recalling the BDR carnage, the president expressed his deep shock over the incidents that took place on February 25 last year, and enquired about the family members of the victims.

He asked the army chief to ensure that the family members of the victims receive government facilities.

The president lauded the role of the army chief, also the chief of Bangladesh Olympic Association, in successfully completing the South Asian Games last month.

General Mubeen requested the president to attend the display of war weapons at the Military Museum beginning on March 25, on the eve of the Independence Day.

He also apprised the president of various development activities of the Bangladesh Army.

TAX EVASION CASE Patal appears in court to seek bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Fazlur Rahman Patal, former state minister for youth and sports, surrendered to a Dhaka court and sought bail in a tax evasion case yesterday.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Senior Special Judge's Court fixed March 28 for hearing on the bail petition.

Fazlur would be at liberty till that date, the court said.

Moving the bail petition, Fazlur's lawyers said their client had surrendered before the High Court on March 8 and sought anticipatory bail in the case.

The HC, without granting bail, directed Fazlur to surrender before the trial court within eight weeks.

In the meantime, the law enforcement agencies were directed not to harass or arrest the petitioner. Moreover, the trial court shall consider his prayer for bail if he surrenders before it, the HC said.

Showing respect towards the HC order, their client had surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case, lawyers added.

The same court on March 1 issued an arrest warrant against Fazlur after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed the case on charges of evading Tk 7.50 lakh income tax on his income of Tk 26.10 lakh in 2005-2006 fiscal year.

In the case statement, NBR Deputy Tax Commissioner Mizanur Rahman said Fazlur provided false information about his real income and expenditure, even though he was an influential minister.

On May 28 of 2007, the joint forces arrested Fazlur, also a BNP leader, on charge of disrupting public safety, destabilising the country, indulging in subversive activities and corruption. He was given 30 days' detention for committing such offences.

He was later sued for acquiring wealth through illegal means and concealing it in his wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

BDR, BSF to sign 'Joint record of discussions' today

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The border guards of Bangladesh and India sign the "Joint record of discussions" here today, culminating the annual summit-level talks, amidst expectations that each side will seek to address other's main concerns.

The document will be signed at a function by visiting BDR Director General Maj Gen Mainul Islam and his BSF counterpart Raman Srivastava at the latter's headquarters at 10:00 am. It will be followed by a joint press conference.

The Joint Record of Discussions is likely to record that no innocent life should be lost at the border due to the guards' actions as such a development was totally unacceptable because this involves local civilian populations.

It is also likely to bring out Bangladesh's willingness to motivate its people not to undertake any act, which may force BSF to take tough measures.

The Joint Record of Discussions is likely to suggest maintaining status quo and exercising restraint by both BDR and BSF in their moves in the adverse possession of enclaves.

India is understood to have conveyed at the talks that it would take care of Bangladesh's

grievances relating to alleged intrusion by BSF and civilians near Jaintia Hills along the border with Sylhet.

Both sides agreed that tension along the border should be scaled down to the extent possible and should not be allowed to affect bilateral relations.

India, which has security concern upper most, in turn is understood to have been assured of Bangladesh's continued cooperation in apprehending northeastern Indian insurgents.

This the two sides hope would help lowering tension along the border substantially as these are the areas where disputes among locals on both sides of the border are rife.

Sources said the Joint Record of Discussions is likely to reflect recognition in both sides that the resolve at the highest level of leaderships of the two countries should percolate down to the field level to avoid impression of a communication gap and lack of coordination.

BDR delegation led by its chief Mainul had the four-hour talks with Indian team and later met Indian Home Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram and Home Secretary GK Pillai on Monday.

Mojahid denies talk with RU Shibir leader on Feb 8 night

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid yesterday said the government has resorted to illegal and unethical acts by publishing the statement of detained Ekram Hussain, who was taken by Rab forcibly after his arrest.

He alleged that Rab officials are trying to involve top Jamaat leaders, including its chief Matur Khan Nizami, Mojahid, Delwar Hossain Sayedee and Shibir President Rezaul Karim, in the recent killing at Rajshahi University by forcing Ekram to make the statement.

Recently, Rab arrested RU Shibir leader Ekram, also an accused in Chhatra League leader Faruk killing case, who confessed that top Jamaat leaders orchestrated the heinous killing.

Demanding release of all Shibir leaders and activists before March 26, Mojahid said Ekram was forced to make the confessional statement.

The Jamaat leader made the remarks at a press briefing at the party's central office in the city.

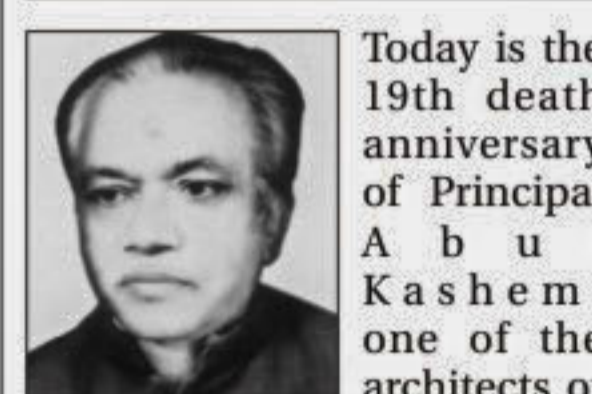
Asked about his conversation with Shibir president on February 8 night when Faruk was killed, the Jamaat leader said, "I was in sleep. That's why, no conversation was held between us [he and Shibir president]. I became informed of the incident the next morning that Shibir president called me on that night and later I called him back."

"No conversation was held between any Jamaat leader and RU Shibir leaders," he claimed.

According to the phone call lists collected by law enforcers, Mojahid talked to Shibir president and some other Jamaat leaders several times on that night.

Death anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 19th death anniversary of Principal A B U I Kashem, one of the architects of the Language Movement and the founder of Mirpur Government Bangla College, says a press release.

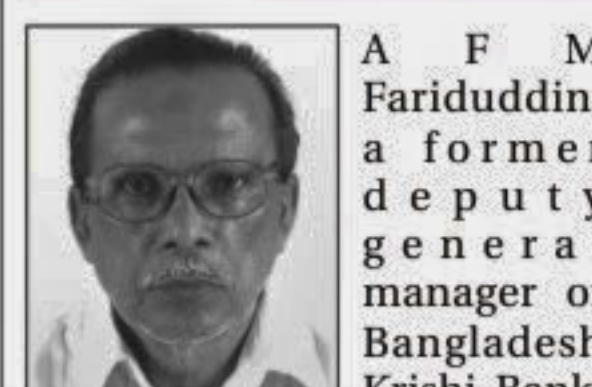
On the occasion, fataha will be offered at his grave and a discussion and doa mahfil will be held at the Bangla College at 9:30am.

Principal Kashem formed Tomoddun Majlish on September 1 in 1947.

He was awarded Independence Day Award in 1993, Ekushey Padak in 1987, Bangla Academy Award in 1982 and Islamic Foundation Award in 1988.

Obituary

METRO DESK



A F M Fariduddin, a former deputy general manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, passed away yesterday at the age of 77, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, three children and four grandchildren. His kulkhwani will be held at Parijat Shikhangon, 229 Green Road, on Friday after Maghrib prayers.

'Findings of researches can be used in formulating policies'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The findings of researches can be used while formulating policies and devising strategies, thus giving researches the due credit, Prof Dr AKM Nurun Nabi of Dhaka University (DU) said yesterday.

He was speaking at a programme titled 'Research Day' organised by Dhaka University Alumni Association of Population Sciences (DUAAPS) in association with the Department of Population Sciences and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban of the university.

DU Pro-Vice-Chancellor Prof Farid Uddin Ahmed inaugurated the programme as the chief guest.

He congratulated the Department of Population Sciences on its one decade of excellence and lauded the research works conducted by the students of the department, which have a good contribution to the development sector.

A total of 15 research papers were presented at the programme on migration, urbanisation and HIV/AIDS; fertility and family planning; and the utilisation of healthcare in three separate sessions.

Two robbers beaten to death

A CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Two alleged robbers were beaten to death at Austagaria of Katiadi upazila when they were fleeing after a robbery early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Nazrul Islam, 28, of Pakundia of Kishoreganj and Abdul Hakim, 26, of Mondalbhogh of Katiadi upazila of the district.

Police and locals said the two along with 15-20 armed men stormed the house of Abdus Salam around 1:30am and looted valuables at gunpoint.

When residents cried for help, neighbours encircled the robbers as they were trying to leave the house with the booty.

The mob chased them, caught the two and gave them a mass beating, killing them on the spot. One local was injured and rushed to Katiadi Health Complex.

Police recovered a number of mobile phones and some gold ornaments from the bodies.

The owner of the house claimed that the robbers took Tk 3.10 lakh and 30 tolas of gold.

WEATHER

Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:06pm today and rises at 6:11am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.0 degree Celsius was recorded at Cox's Bazar and the lowest of 13.3 degrees at Srimongal.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.0	20.8	39	25
Chittagong	34.5	21.7	38	37
Rajshahi	32.5	14.9	49	37
Khulna	32.5	19.5	41	54
Barisal	33.5	18.5	45	48
Sylhet	34.0	17.7	34	37
Cox's Bazar	36.0	22.2	34	42

TODAY

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of English in Action (EIA) will be held. Venue: The Westin. Time: 11:30am.

Discussion

The Centre for Foreign Affairs Studies will hold a discussion on 'Meeting public expectations from Bangladesh embassies abroad: Recommendations'. Venue: South Avenue Tower, Road No 3, 7 Gulshan Avenue. Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad organises a seminar titled 'From Dhirendranath Dutt to Salam-Barkat-Jabbar: Searching the identity of the Bangalees'. Venue: Asiatic Society of Bangladesh auditorium. Time: 5:00pm.

Award giving ceremony

Noted nutritionist Prof Siddika Kabir will be handed over the Sheltech Award 2009. Venue: Sheltech Lounge, Panthapath. Time: 12:00noon.

4 children die in fire

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socks manufacturing unit on the first floor.

Srabonti's mother Ayesha Begum lit candles during power cut while she was working in the unit. Srabonti was asleep on the first floor when the fire broke out, he added.

Firefighters confirmed that the fire originated from the burning candles around 10:40pm. It took half an hour for two fire engines to douse the flames. They recovered Shrabonti's body from the burnt house.

Sock fabric and other equipment and two rooms of the house were destroyed in the flames, fire fighters said.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: Two brothers were burnt to death in a fire at a tea stall in Khulshi area in the city early yesterday.

The victims were identified as Shahabuddin, 10, and Shahadat, 15, sons of Saber of Murad Nagar in Comilla.

The fire broke out at the tea stall around 3:30am, said police and witnesses. Both the brothers were asleep in the

stall and got trapped.

They were burnt to death before locals could douse the fire that reduced the tea stall to ashes, police said.

An unnatural death (UD) case was filed with Khulshi Police Station in this connection.

A three-year-old boy was killed and a 60-year-old woman received serious burn injuries when a fire broke out at Bamandanga village in Mukshudpur upazila yesterday afternoon, reports our Gopalganj correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Anik while Chand Banu received burn injuries. At least five more people were injured while dousing the fire that gutted 16 houses of the area.

Sub-Inspector of Sinduaghat Police Outpost Ashim Kumar Sarker said the fire originated from a stove of Raju Munshi's house. Anik, his grandson, was sleeping in the house.

Mukshudpur Upazila Nirbahi Officer Parvez Raihan said the local administration has distributed saris among

the affected people. Each of the affected families was given Tk 1,000 on behalf of Commerce Minister Lt Col (retd) Faruq Khan.

Meanwhile, fire charred 15 makeshift houses at Munshirhati in the capital's Kamrangirchar yesterday evening.

Fire brigade sources said the fire broke out around 6:30pm and it took four fire engines almost an hour to douse the flames with the help of locals.

A bedding store and its storehouse were gutted in another fire at Babubazar in the capital's Kotwali last night.

In addition to that, an electric pole in front of the Karwan Bazar underpass caught fire yesterday around 10:30am. The fire damaged electric and Internet cables on the spot. Firefighters rushed to the pole and doused the fire in 10 minutes.

Fire brigade sources said all the three fire incidents in the capital occurred due to short-circuit. However, no casualty was reported in the incidents.