



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks at a huge public meeting at Laldighi Maidan in the port city of Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

PHOTO: STAR

## AGRICULTURE WORKERS

# Law to ensure fair wage on the cards

Says JS body chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working for bringing all the workers of agriculture sector under a specific law to ensure just wage and other facilities, Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and employment ministry, said yesterday.

"A specific law is essential for the workers in agriculture sector because they are the base of our rural economy," he said.

The lawmaker was speaking at a consultation on formulating labour law for agriculture sector and designing advocacy strategies organised by Karmojibi Nari at the National Press Club yesterday.

Stressing the need for a labour court in every district, he said labour courts will help workers reap benefits of existing laws, he added.

He also said the government is working on amending the Labour Law-2006 to make it time befitting and more democratic.

He urged the leaders of the Karmojibi Nari and other organisations working for agriculture workers to place their proposals before the ministry

and thus help the government draft the law.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Hasanul Haq Inu urged the government to recognise farmers as 'workers' in the amended labour law and ensure right to trade union.

The farmers are deprived of just wage, medical allowance, professional security and other facilities for lack of law, he added.

Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim demanded keeping a provision in the amended labour law for formulating a separate law for the workers of agriculture sector.

Ziaul Haque Mukta, acting country director of Oxfam, emphasised the need for unity among social and political forces and NGO workers to strengthen the movement to end all kinds of discriminations against the workers in agriculture sector and ensure their just wage.

Karmojibi Nari President Shirin Akhter moderated the meeting while Khetmojur Samity President Shamsuzzaman Selim, Jatiya Krishak Samity General Secretary Aminul Islam Golam, among others, also spoke at the meeting.

## N'ganj people cry for gas

Lay siege to Titas gas office

UNB, Narayanganj

Annoyed by the persisting gas crisis several hundred people laid siege to the regional office of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co. Ltd at Chasara Balurmath here yesterday.

The protesters at a meeting threatened to block two roads between Narayanganj and the capital if the gas crisis is not resolved soon.

Over 300 people of Isdair, North and West Masdair, Gabtoli and Alamin Nagar areas of sadar upazila alleged that gas connections were given to some industries from the residential areas which mounted the gas crisis.

They said although Titas Gas authorities assured them several times of resolving the crisis but they have yet to take any initiative.

Regional Manager of Tita Gas Sheikh Abu Raihan said necessary steps will be taken to resolve the crisis after a meeting between Titas authorities and local people today.

Huge police were deployed in front of Titas Gas office to avoid any untoward incident..

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