

Retrenched jute workers in Khulna getting back jobs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Reinstatement of retrenched workers of state-owned Crescent Jute Mills (CJM) and Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills (PJJM) in Khalishpur industrial belt began yesterday.

Earlier on Saturday, the state minister for Labour and Employment Begum Mannujan Sufian inaugurated the programme at two separate rallies held in front of the two jute mills.

Project Director of Crescent Jute Mills Mujibar Rahman Mallick said ten out of 1298 retrenched workers of his mills have been reinstated. All other retrenched workers will be reinstated

in phases, he added.

Ten out of 520 retrenched workers of Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills have been reinstated while the rest will get their jobs back in phases, said Project Director Md Jashimuddin.

Contacted, State Minister Begum Mannujan Sufian said closed Daulatpur Jute Mills and People's Jute Mills would be reopened shortly. Necessary works for this purpose are under process.

She said the government has taken positive moves to reopen closed industries, pay arrears to the workers and allocate necessary fund for jute mills to purchase raw materials.

Meanwhile, state-owned Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills (PJJM) and Crescent Jute Mills (CJM) incurred a loss of over Tk 20 lakh for suspending production for over three hours on Saturday.

Production work at Crescent Jute Mills remained suspended for three and a half hours from 1:30pm while production work at Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills remained stopped from 3:00pm to 6:30pm on Saturday to enable workers to attend the rallies held separately in front of the respective mills with State minister for Labour and Employment Begum Mannujan Sufian as chief guest.

CJM produces at least four tonnes

of jute goods per hour while PJJM produces at least three tonnes per hour. There are over 8,000 permanent and casual workers at CJM while total number of permanent and casual workers at PJJM stands at 6,000.

They are to work for eight hours a day in three shifts to reach the daily production target. The daily production target of CJM is 85 tonnes while PJJM's daily production target is 70 tonnes.

Project Director of Crescent Jute Mills Mujibar Rahman Mallick said loss of production will be made up by workers as they committed to the management before attending the rally on Saturday.

KIBRIA KILLING CASE

CID fails again to place report on further probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet



SAMS Kibria

Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal Judge of Sylhet Teribudal again deferred the date for filing the report on 'further investigation' in Kibria killing case to 29 August.

The decision was given as the Special Public Prosecutor Kishore Kumar Kar prayed for time extension stating that the CID could not finish the job and they need more time for that, court sources said.

It is the 41st time that CID failed to submit the report, they said.

The CID could not submit the 'further investigation report' during the last 40 months.

The then investigation officer of the case Senior ASP of CID Munshi Atiqur Rahman through a petition informed the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal about the necessity of 'further investigation' on 7 March 2007.

Munshi went on retirement

after a few months and ASP Md Rafiqul Islam was given the task.

Former finance minister SAMS Kibria, his nephew advocate Shah Manzurul Huda, local AL leaders Abdur Rahim, Abul Hossain and Siddique Ali were killed in a grenade attack at a public meeting at Baiddar bazar of Habiganj Sadar upazila on 27 January 2005.

Munshi Atique filed charge sheet in the case on 20 March the same year against 10.

Of the accused, eight were

arrested while two remained absconding as yet. The arrestees Habiganj district BNP vice-president Abdul Quayum who spent 3 years in jail, before coming out on bail.

The accused claimed they were falsely implicated in the case although they were innocent. Later, the CID started further investigation.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on 8 March 2010 caught alleged Huji operative Mizanur Rahman Mithu, who gave confessional statement before judicial magistrate in Habiganj the following day.

CID then remanded former state minister for home affairs Luthfuzzaman Babar in connection with the case.

CID ASP Rafiqul Islam, investigation officer (IO) of the case told this correspondent several weeks ago that they needed a little more time to submit supplementary charge sheet as the 'further investigation' was still on. However, he hoped that the job would be completed soon.



Women workers sorting collected hair at Satbaria village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila in Jhenidah, right, a worker drying hair at a house in the area. A large number of people in the district and other areas of the country are now engaged in collecting and processing women's hair, as the item, used for making wig, is being exported in large quantities.



PHOTO: STAR

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Fuli, Rina and Sheuly collect the fallen hair of women from houses and beauty shops and sell it to agents of a few companies. Working under an agent for six hours a day, each of them gets Tk 50 daily.

They are among hundreds of women engaged in the trade in Jhenidah.

Thousands others also do the work in different districts of the country.

ZCD Food and Craft International, a China-based private company, provides

They live by collecting and selling fallen hair

financial support for the work.

"Every day, hair worth around Tk one crore is exported to China, Europe and other countries. There are one lakh women workers and five thousand hawkers and 50 agents in the country," said Wang Ziao Pei, the owner of ZCD Food and Craft

International.

"It is a prospective item for the country. This hair is used to make wig in developed countries. Several companies collect the processed hair at Uttara in Dhaka. They send it to Korea, China and Burma in good quantities," he added.

Hawkers buy a kg of hair for

Tk 500/700 and they sell it to the agents for Tk 2000/2200. The agents sell the hair to the owner at Tk 2500/7000 as per quality.

"I work before or after my class hours and earn Tk 50 a day for my family," said Poppy Das, a school student.

Sagar, a local agent, said he

usually runs his trade in Dhaka but finding a huge potential in other districts, he invested more money for the purpose.

A number of traders are engaging the jobless women in the business, he added.

During a visit to Arappur village near Jhenidah town, this correspondent saw a number of women doing the work eagerly.

Housewives Jasoda Rani and Bharati Dasi of Satbaria village said they are now happy to get earning opportunity through hair collecting.



A weaver knitting an embroidered 'dotari silk' sari designed by Nilkomol Basak at Pathrail in Tangail district as the trendy items produced in the area are of great demand ahead of the Eid and Puja festivals.

Weavers look for trendy designs as festivals near

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Every year, the weavers of Tangail offer something new on the occasion of Eid and Puja, the biggest festivals of Muslims and Hindus.

Traditional Tangail sari is still the first choice of a large number of women on any occasion as the weavers are adept in making changes in their designs, keeping up with the current trends.

Weavers in Tangail produce different qualities and kinds of saris including cotton, jamdani, silk, half silk, khaddar etc.

Several weavers in Tangail said that they produce casual handloom saris as well as more expensive ones, with prices ranging from Tk 200 to Tk 10,000 and so on. Their products meet the demand of people from all classes and backgrounds.

It is necessary to bring about changes in the designs and colours every season to keep up with changing trends and tastes of customers, said

Raghunath Basak, a weaver of Pathrail, also president of Tangail Taant Sari Traders' Association.

Innovative designs and patterns introduced by Raghunath for jamdani, dotari silk, half silk and jute cotton saris are already drawing attention of the consumers. Prices of jamdani, dotari silk and half silk saris range from Tk 1000 to Tk 4000.

Nilkomol Basak, another weaver of Pathrail, has also introduced his new designs on jute silk, jamdani, dotari silk and half silk saris on the occasion of Eid and Puja.

He has unveiled his jute silk, jamdani, dotari silk and half silk saris. Prices of jute silk saris range from Tk 3,500 to Tk 6,000.

Some of his work features anchal (end) and paar (border) embroidered with jori (golden thread). Alpona (motif) adorn the cotton and half silk ones. Block prints also seem to be popular this season.

Most of the saris introduced this season feature shades of magenta, ash, black, red, yellow, orange, violet, white blue, saffron and green.

"Tangail saris remain popular, thanks to the innovation of the local weavers. Weavers in other parts of the country tried to emulate the style of Tangail weavers but the quality and variety of Tangail saris remain matchless," Raghunath Basak said.

Sale of Tangail products sees a boost on the occasion of two of the biggest festivals in the country, as these traditional items with varied designs and flexible prices continue to attract increasing number of buyers from home and abroad.

Around 3,50,000 workers are employed in around 75,000 handloom units in the district to meet the demand ahead of Eid and Puja, said sources at Tangail Weavers Rehabilitation Organisation.

Councillor, her son held on fraud charge

A CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Police arrested a women councillor of pourasava and her son yesterday on charge of cheating.

The arrestees were identified as Aleya Begum, 50, and Sajal, 22.

A team of capital's Mirpur police along with Sadar police raided their residence in Harinkhana area in the city in the early hours and arrested them.

Officer-in-Charge Shahidul Islam of Sadar police station said Aleya and Sajal were arrested after Nazrul Islam, a rent-a-car businessman, filed a fraud case against them on August 20 with Mirpur police station.

The plaintiff in his complaint stated that Aleya's son-in-law Rana was a driver of a microbus of his business.

On August 9, Aleya, her son Sajal and another unidentified person rented the microbus driven by Rana for going to Cox's Bazaar. After that, Rana did not return with the microbus till filling of the case.

Nazrul Islam talked to Aleya several times, but she could not give any satisfactory answer about Rana and the microbus.

On August 20, Nazrul filed a fraud case accusing four people with Mirpur police station in Dhaka.

Police foil JCD procession

UNB, Natore

Police foiled a procession of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and arrested three JCD activists in the town yesterday.

JCD activists, led by its district unit president Rabiur Rahman Titon, brought out a procession from Nimtola crossing of the town at 2pm in protest against government decision to cancel the parole of Arafat Rahman Koko.

Police barred the procession and dispersed it when the procession reached Kanaikhali Stadium area.

Police also arrested three JCD activists, Ripon, Sumon and Ankur, from the spot.

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