

Nilphamari EPZ workers stage protest, place 8-pt demand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

About two thousand workers of Uttara Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Shingalshi in Nilphamari staged demonstration in front of the deputy commissioner's (DC) office and handed over a memorandum to the DC yesterday demanding realisation of their eight-point charter of demands.

The demands include release of two arrested EPZ workers, stopping indiscriminate termination of workers and payment of salary as per the government's new pay structure.

They also demanded punishment of the officials who did not grant leave to a pregnant woman worker a few days ago. The woman, who had to attend her work at the factory due to refusal of the leave prayer, gave birth to a dead child in the factory toilet a few days ago, the agitating workers said.

The factory officials, however, denied the allegation.

On Saturday night, police arrested EPZ workers Noor Alam, 22, and Motiur Rahman, 26, as security officer of wig factory Evergreen Products Factory (BD) Limited filed a case under Speedy Trial Act on behalf of the factory accusing 11 workers for ransacking the



A large number of workers of Uttara EPZ stage a sit-in in front of Nilphamari deputy commissioner's office yesterday demanding release of two arrested colleagues and payment of salary as per the government's new pay structure.

PHOTO: STAR

factory, obstructing others to attend work and other charges.

Evergreen Products Factory (BD) Limited authority alleged that on Saturday noon a group of unruly workers from other factories ransacked their factory and obstructed workers to attend

work there.

A good number of Uttara EPZ workers, most of them belonging to Uttara Sweater Manufacturing Company Limited, the biggest factory in the EPZ.

Their eight-point demand also includes reinstatement of terminated worker Omar Faruk, right to enjoy holidays

as per government schedule and overtime according to ILO convention.

The agitating workers demanded expulsion of Golam Mostofa, a personal assistant of a high official of Uttara Sweater Manufacturing Company Limited, for harassing workers, especially females.

During the agitation programme, the president of district chamber of commerce and industry reached there. He along with three worker's representatives met the DC at his office where the workers handed over a memorandum.

Deputy Commissioner Zillur Rahman assured helping them to realise their legal demands. He assured that police will not harass innocent workers and he will try so that the arrested workers get bail as soon as possible.

When contacted, the General Manager of Uttara EPZ Hafizur Rahman said, "All factories of Uttara EPZ functioned normally today [Sunday]. A small number of workers staged agitation in front of the DC office. All their legal demands were met and the agitating workers resumed their work."

A large number of law enforcers including police and Rapid Action Battalion have been deployed in the EPZ area.



PHOTO: ANIS MAHMUD

Near and dear ones of the boat capsized victims in Dhanu River in Jamalganj upazila of Sunamganj district wait eagerly on the bank as rescue workers conduct search for bodies yesterday. (Story on Page 20).

Deserted, and now victim of acid attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A woman and her two-year-old daughter received serious burn injuries as her ex-husband threw acid on them at Hizli Pabnapara village under Bagatipara upazila of the district on Friday night.

The victims are Khushi Begum, 22, and her daughter Hashi Khatun of the same village. They were first admitted to Bagatipara Upazila Health Complex and then shifted to Natore Sadar Hospital.

Police arrested the culprit, Alek Sheikh, 30, son of Bishu Sheikh, at their house at the village yesterday.

Alek and Khushi were in love and they got married in 2007. As Alek's family did not accept it, he divorced Khushi in 2009.

Khushi's father Nur Islam filed a case with a Natore court demanding subsistence (khorposh) allowance the same year.

Khushi told this correspondent that Alek entered her room on Friday night and asked her to withdraw the case. "As I refused to withdraw the case, he (Alek) threw acid



PHOTO: STAR

Khushi Begum with her helpless child at the hospital.

on us and fled the scene," Khushi said.

Contacted, Dr Sakilur Rahman of Natore Sadar Hospital, said they will send Khushi and her daughter to Dhaka for better treatment.

Mirza Abdus Salam, officer-in-charge of Bagatipara Police Station, said they will press charges against the accused after investigation.

Alleged killer of Sylhet gas official remanded

Family members of the victim accuse police of playing foul to save killers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The young man, arrested in connection with the killing of gas official Anwara Abedin Chowdhury, was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

Earlier he gave his confessional statement before a magistrate here on Saturday.

Officer-in-charge of Sylhet Kotwali police station Khondaker Nawroz Ahmed, also the investigation officer of the sensational case said judicial magistrate Abdul Momen recorded his confessional statement.

The arrestee, a tenant of the victim, claimed that he met Anwara only two months ago and they developed an intimate relationship.

Heated exchange of words over a trifling matter had led to the murder, claimed Osman Gani in the confessional statement. He used a machete for killing the woman, police said quoting Osman.

"The lady hurled abusive words at me when I refused to go to the capital with her," Osman said adding that it made him angry.

"I slapped her first and then gave blows, but she became more furious using rough



Anwara Abedin Chowdhury

words again. At this, I could not hold myself and hit her with the sharp weapon severely," Osman claimed, said police.

However, in a sharp reaction to Osman's statement, Shamsul Abedin, husband of the deceased, accused police of playing foul.

"It is nothing but a ploy to save the killers", he said demanding proper steps to unearth the mystery with the help of a powerful team of officials other than Sylhet metropolitan police.

Decomposed body of Anwara Abedin Chowdhury, manager (purchase) of the state-run Jalalabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Company was recovered from her house in

the city's Lamabazar area on December 9 evening.

Police arrested Osman Gani, a tenant of the victim, from his village home at Jonigaon in Dakshin Sunamganj upazila on December 16 morning and recovered a laptop and a movie camera of the deceased from his possession.

Meanwhile, the family members at a press conference yesterday alleged that police were engaged in foul play with the matter.

They managed the lone arrestee for giving fictitious statement before the magistrate in the name of confessional statement under Section 164, they said.

In the written statement read out at the press conference, Shamsul Abedin termed it an attempt to save the killers.

They alleged that, since the recovery of the body, the law enforcers were pressing the family members not to talk with the mediamen for unknown reasons.

Abedin said, a CID team from the capital on 11 December collected fingerprints of three people from the victim's room.

"But why the police here were now telling that there was only one killer", he questioned.

আঙ্গিনন্দন

গত ৯ ডিসেম্বর -২০১০ তারিখে ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ এর নির্বাচনে অগ্রণী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর পরিচালক ইঞ্জিনিয়ার মোঃ আব্দুস সবুর সাধারণ সম্পাদক পদে নির্বাচিত হয়েছেন। এ উপলক্ষে ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পরিষদের সভায় তাকে ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পরিষদ ও সর্বস্তরের কর্মকর্তা কর্মচারীদের পক্ষ থেকে সম্বর্ধনা জানানো হয়। ছবিতে তাকে ফুল দিয়ে শুভেচ্ছা জানাচ্ছেন ব্যাংকের চেয়ারম্যান ড. খন্দকার বজলুল হক। এ সময় উপস্থিত ছিলেন পরিচালনা পরিষদের সদস্যবৃন্দ এবং ব্যাংকের ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক এবং সিইও সহ শীর্ষ নির্বাহীবৃন্দ।

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