



PHOTO: STAR

Uttara EPZ workers stage a sit-in in front of deputy commissioner's office at Nilphamari town yesterday demanding release of their ten colleagues arrested on Sunday.

Hundreds of Uttara EPZ workers stage sit-in

Demand release of 10 held on Sunday

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Several thousand workers of Uttara EPZ (export processing zone) at Shongolshi yesterday abstained from work and came to the district town by walking about 10 kilometers to demonstrate in front of the deputy commissioner's (DC) office.

As police obstructed them before the DC office premises, the agitated workers staged a day-long sit-in there demanding release of arrested workers and withdrawal of cases.

Earlier on Sunday, Jasimuddin Ahmed, manager of Diaz Spinning and Knitting Limited, a factory in the EPZ, filed a case under Speedy Trial Act accusing 10 workers of ransacking the factory and obstructing others from attending work.

Diaz authorities alleged that the unruly workers of another factory ransacked the unit and obstructed their workers.

The workers arrested in the case appeared before the chief judicial magistrate court yesterday and prayed for bail. The court rejected prayers of nine of them and sent them to jail.

The workers sent to jail are Md Farook Hossain, Selim, Joinal Abedin, Md Nur Alam, Md Montu Mia, Md Jahangir Alam, Md Motiur Rahman, Md Rabiul Islam and Md Mizanur Rahman.

Most of the accused are workers of Uttara Sweater Manufacturing Company Limited, the biggest unit at the EPZ.

As the news of their sending to jail reached the workers in front of DC office, they

became more agitated and demanded immediate release of their fellow workers.

Sunday's was the second case filed against the workers by another management in the EPZ since the workers staged their agitation programme on 13 December demanding their wage as per new government pay structure.

On 19 December, Evergreen Products Factory Limited filed a case against 11 workers bringing charges of ransacking, creating chaos and flexing muscle.

In that case police arrested two and later the court granted bail to all the 11 accused.

Following filing of the first case, the EPZ workers submitted a memorandum to the DC of Nilphamari on 19 December demanding

release of arrested workers and withdrawal of case against the accused. The DC assured the workers of securing the bail of the arrestees.

Yesterday, when the DC again met the workers and requested them to return to their work, the agitating workers remained unmoved. They were continuing the sit-in in front of the DC office till filing of this report at about 4:30 pm.

Hafizur Rahman, general manager of Uttara EPZ told this correspondent that the factory fulfilled most of the demands of the workers. But a small section of unruly workers is creating chaos in the EPZ to discourage the foreign investors. The investors have all the right to take legal steps to safeguard their assets, he added.

No headway yet as strike on at Sylhet Engineering College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Academic activities remained suspended at Sylhet Engineering College for the fourth day yesterday as the students went on an indefinite strike on Sunday.

The students have been demanding cancellation of semester fee rise and appointment of permanent teaching staff at the government-run institution.

Yesterday, they took out a procession in the city and handed over memos to the mayor and the deputy commissioner. They also formed

a human chain in front of the Central Shaheed Minar on Monday afternoon.

Their three-point demand also include introduction of electrical and electronics engineering department and civil engineering department at the college from the current session.

The students alleged that academic activities at the college is being run by 'guest teachers' as the authorities failed to arrange appointment of regular teachers.

Besides, the authorities all of a sudden raised the semester fee to Tk 4,000

from Tk 3400.

The students of all three batches of BSc Engineering urged the authorities to meet their demands time and again but to no effect, they alleged.

Principal of the college Syed Faruque Ahmed admitted that the classes are managed by some 9 guest teachers. The college has only three teachers since its inception in 2006. The director general of technical education as well as the education minister have been informed of the situation, he added.

Teachers protest 2 shifts in govt high schools

UNB, Jhalakathi

Teachers of non-govt high schools formed a human chain in front of the local press club Tuesday to protest introduction of two shifts in government high schools of the district.

After staging the human chain for an hour, the agitating teachers submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Biswas. They urged the government to meet their demand.

The teachers suggested that the two shifts could be introduced only in divisional level schools.

Councillors lock mayor office in Pabna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Agitated councillors of Faridpur municipality in the district locked the mayor's office on Monday afternoon protesting recruitment of 12 employees allegedly to woo votes in the upcoming municipality election.

Refuting the allegation, mayor Abul Hossain claimed that the recruitment was made through a long administrative procedure.

According to the sources, recruitment of 12 employees of the municipality was completed in December. Earlier the recruitment of the posts was postponed in 2004 as the councillors had protested the recruitment terming it a 'political recruitment'.

"The mayor recruited 12 employees belonging to BNP, Jamaat parties in 2004. We protested the political recruitment and the then district administration stopped the recruitment. After 6 years the mayor recruited them again last month targeting the upcoming municipality election." Md. Shahadat Hossain, councillor of Ward No. 2 of Faridpur municipality told this correspondent.

The mayor left the area when the news of agitation by the councillors spread in the municipality. All the 12 councillors went to the mayor's office and locked it on Monday, locals said.

Contacted, mayor Abul Hossain also the upazila unit BNP leader refuted the allegation.

"There was a long investigation into the disputed recruitment process. After the investigation I recruited them last month," Abul Hossain said.

Asked about the locking of his office, the mayor said that the councillors often harassed him for not heeding to their illegal proposals.

144 to vie for 31 mayor posts in Khulna division

QUAZI AMANULLAH, Khulna

One hundred and forty-four candidates will now contest for the post of mayor in 31 out of 33 municipalities of ten districts in Khulna division.

However, the election to Lohagarha municipality of Narail district remained stayed by the High Court.

On the other hand, election to Magura Sadar municipality will be held on January 27 as per schedule of the Election Commission as court quashed the stay order.

According to sources at Khulna divisional office of the Election Commission, 52 out of 196 candidates for mayoral posts withdrew their nominations on December 27.

The highest number of 17 out of 45 mayor candidates who have left the race are from Jessore district followed by 16 out of 44 candidates from Jhenidah district.

Only one out of 15 candidates withdrew nomination leaving 14 others in the race to vie for the post of mayor of Satkhira Sadar and Kalaroa municipalities in Satkhira district.

Sources said both Awami League and BNP failed to resolve intra-party squabbles to prevent more than one candidate from submitting nomination papers for mayoral posts in most of municipalities in 10 districts of Khulna division.

December 15 was the last date for submitting nomination papers while

December 27 was the date for withdrawal. The scrutiny of nomination paper was held on December 18 and 19.

The authorities will set up 500 polling centres having 2,864 polling booths for 33 municipalities in ten districts of Khulna division.

According to Election Commission office sources, the total number of voters for polls in Khulna division is 8,83,564.

Of them 4,36,341 are male and 4,47,223 female.

Meanwhile, 282 out of 500 polling centres in ten districts of Khulna division have been identified as most risky. These polling centres are located in the outlaw-infested districts, EC office sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

The mass grave at Chehelgazi village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, where bodies of over a hundred freedom fighters and detached limbs of many more unidentified others killed in January 6 tragedy in 1972 were buried, remains in utter neglect.

Memorial of mine blast victims in utter neglect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The memorial, built in honour of around 800 victims of the mine blast tragedy on January 6 in 1972 on the premises of Moharaja Girijanath High School at Balubari in Dinajpur town has remained in utter neglect.

Same is the condition of their mass grave at Chehelgazi village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila.

After the final victory against the Pakistan occupation forces on December 16 in 1971, a transit camp of freedom fighters under sectors 6 and 7 were set up at the school.

About eight hundred freedom fighters were staying at the transit camp while hundreds of mines and mortar shells left by the Pakistan occupation forces at different places were gathered and kept at the camp.

In the afternoon on the fateful day, an accidental mine blast led to a series of explosions, shaking several square kilometres of area and covering the school premises with thick smoke billowing high. Orgy of blood and blown up limbs of the freedom fighters created a pathetic scene in the area.

Around 200 freedom fighters died on the spot that day and many other injured

died later, said Dinajpur Municipality Mayor Md Shafiqul Haque, also an eyewitness freedom fighter.

Bodies of 86 martyred freedom fighters and detached limbs of unidentified others were buried at the place with state honour the following day. Later 27 more martyred freedom fighters were buried.

However, the exact number of the victims could not be known.

The memorial plaque contains names of 120 freedom fighters who became victim of the tragedy only a few days after the final victory over the occupation forces.

The monument area has turned into a garbage dumping station and cattle grazing field, showing utter callousness of the local administration and the authorities of Moharaja Girijanath High School.

During a recent visit to the site, this correspondent found goats roaming on its premises and garbage littering the area.

The school authorities would do a great job to honour the martyred freedom fighters if they arrange keeping the monument premises clean with the help of students of the school, said members of January 6 Smriti Parishad, a local committee that arranges functions in memory of the martyrs every year.

QUASEM DRYCELLS LIMITED
F.R Tower 32, Kemal Ataturk Avenue, Banani, Dhaka-1213

PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for kind information of the valued shareholders and all other concerned that the Board of Directors of Quasem Drycells Ltd. in its Board Meeting No.01 held on January 05, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. at its corporate office has taken the following decisions:

1. Revaluation of Assets
The Board approved the Revaluation of the following assets of the company certified by the valuer company G.K Adjusters Ltd. as detailed below.

Sl No.	Particulars	Location	Area	From Current Carrying Value (BDT)	To Revalued (BDT)	Revaluation Gain (BDT)
i	Land	Gorai, Tangail	756-50 decimal	22,792,075	302,600,000	279,807,925
	Land	Baimail, Gazipur	517 decimal	29,474,232	258,500,000	229,025,768
ii	Building & Other Construction	Gorai, Tangail	-	48,936,169	159,929,425	110,993,256
	Building & Other Construction	Baimail, Gazipur	-	12,252,669	47,280,850	35,028,181
iii	Building & Other Construction	Khilkhet, Dhaka	-	14,666,996	15,177,000	510,004
	Plant and Machinery	Gorai, Tangail	-	27,379,345	60,147,477	32,768,132
iv	Plant and Machinery	Baimail, Gazipur	-	22,728,000	178,388,512	155,660,512
	Commercial Space	Banani, Dhaka	17670 Sft	83,936,851	446,750,000	362,813,149
Total				262,166,337	1,468,773,264	1,206,606,927

2. Appointment of Credit Rating Company
The Board of Directors also decided to appoint a recognized Credit Rating Company to assess the credit rating of Quasem Drycells Ltd.

Dated: January 05, 2011
Dhaka

Sd/
A.T.M. Jahangir Hasnat
Company Secretary

Invitation for Expression of Interest

CONCERN worldwide

Concern Worldwide is an international humanitarian organisation dedicated to elimination of extreme poverty. We are inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced consultancy firm/agency to conduct an end line survey for one of its livelihood projects titled Nodi O Jibon (NoJ).

The overall objective of the NoJ project is 'Extreme poor families living on island chars in Bangladesh achieve improved livelihood security' and the specific objective is '10,000 extreme poor families in Nilphamari, Lalmonirhat and Pabna Districts benefit from expanded NGO services, improved GoB services, private sector linkages and foundation investments directed toward achieving services or investments of comparable quality to those provided on the mainland and proportional to the levels of poverty that exist in island chars'.

The consultancy firm/agency must meet the following criteria for submitting the EOI:

- Extensive knowledge on development and livelihoods context in Bangladesh
- Expertise in conducting baseline and end line surveys for development and livelihoods projects using both qualitative and quantitative methods
- Good understanding of the island chars, GoB services, safety net issues, business linkages and foundation donor
- Good track record of producing high quality report in English and sharing at national level

Interested firms/agencies are requested to collect "Terms of Reference (ToR)" from the reception of Concern Worldwide, House # 15 SW (D), Road # 07, Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212, from 9:00 am to 4:30 pm or by emailing request at nusrat.nigar@concern.net from January 06, 2011. EOI (Technical and Financial proposal) must be submitted within **January 15, 2011** addressing the Head of Human Resources.

Concern has a Code of Conduct and a Programme Participant Protection Policy to ensure the maximum protection of programme participants from abuse and exploitation.

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