

DEMAND FOR 8TH WAGE BOARD SSKOP sit-in before info ministry May 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of journalists and press workers' and employees' associations yesterday declared to sit-in before the information ministry on May 27 demanding formation of the 8th wage board.

"If our demand is not met by this time, we will hold the programme at 11:00am on that day," said Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, co-convenor of Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP).

He said this while announcing the end of a six-hour hunger strike, organised by SSKOP from 10:30am at Jatiya Press Club premises in the capital.

Iqbal, also president of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), warned of launching tougher movements if a gazette on the 8th wage board's formation is not issued immediately.

"We want to realise our demand through peaceful and disciplined movements. If we fail, we will be compelled to announce tougher programmes like shutting down newspapers and news agencies," he said.

Seeking the prime minister's support in solving the crisis, he said, "The information minister is dilly-dallying over this issue. We want your (prime minister's) kind intervention to end the problem."

Another president of BFUJ and SSKOP Co-Convenor Ruhul Amin Gazi alleged that some people inside the journalist community are hatching a conspiracy to foil the movement by spreading different rumours.

The wage of journalists and news workers should be consistent with the salary of government officials and employees, he said.

BFUJ Secretary General Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, Dhaka Union of Journalists President Omar Faruk and General Secretary Saban Mahmud, Jatiya Press Club President Kamaluddin Sabuj and Bangladesh Newspaper Employees Federation President Matur Rahman Talukder also spoke at the programme.

On April 3 and 4, SSKOP had observed a countrywide six-hour work abstention over the demand.

Journalists will also sit-in before the home ministry on May 15 demanding trial into the murder of journalist couple Sagar-Runi and security for journalists.

DoE fines Hua Thai Ceramics Tk 20 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday fined Hua Thai Ceramics Industry in Gazipur Tk 20 lakh for pollution due to its operation without effluent treatment plant.

The verdict that fined the amount to the ceramics industry in the district's Hotapara area was issued by the director (Enforcement) of DoE, said a press release of the department.

Under the ownership of a former lawmaker G M Fazlul Haque, the industry was reportedly running without obtaining environment clearance and had no waste treatment plant.

The factory produces about 60 metric tonnes of ceramics per day.



Journalists and press workers and employees observe a six-hour hunger strike organised by Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad from 10:30am at Jatiya Press Club premises in the capital yesterday demanding formation of the 8th wage board.

PHOTO: STAR

2 die as trains hit them

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Tangail

Two people were crushed under trains in two incidents in Tangail on Tuesday night and yesterday morning.

In an incident, a train ran over Momin Khan Rumu, 28, of Beltiabari village in sadar upazila at Gharinda Railway Station while he was getting down from Chitra Express around 9:30pm on Tuesday.

In another incident, an unidentified elderly man was crushed under Moitry Express, in Jokarchar area in Kalihati upazila when he was crossing the rail track yesterday.

CASE AGAINST SAYEDEE

IO cross-examined about March 7 speech CD

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A video clip of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's March 7 speech from 1971 kept the International Crimes Tribunal-1 occupied for a better part of its proceedings yesterday.

The clip, which was presented as evidence against Delawar Hossain Sayedee, became a topic of interest, as the Jamaat leader's defence pointed out that the speech in the video did not correspond to its transcription in the constitution.

Investigation officer Mohammad Helal Uddin, who is also the 28th and last prosecution witness, presented a CD of the Bangabandhu speech before the tribunal on April 12, while explaining the context of the Liberation War.

During cross-examination of the witness yesterday, the defence said the CD of the Bangabandhu speech presented by the prosecution was missing several lines from the transcription in the constitution.

Mizanul Islam, a defence counsel of Sayedee, went through the parts the CD did not contain.

The three-member tribunal of Justice Md Nizamul Huq, Justice Md Anwarul

Haque and AKM Zaheer Ahmed recorded the discrepancies between the two versions.

Mohammad Helal Uddin, the witness and the investigation officer, said he took the video clip from Bangladesh Film Archive, and he did not compare the speech in the clip with the one in the constitution.

The prosecution protested at the defence's line of questioning saying that the defence could not "scrutinise" an exhibit while cross-examining a witness.

The evidence does not have anything to do with the accused, Delawar Hossain Sayedee, who is facing 20 specific charges of crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of 1971, it added.

Sayedee's defence then moved on to a video clip of a NBC news report from 1972, which was also presented as evidence against the Jamaat leader.

The news footage, which contained a clipping of Bangalees being shot to death at Dhaka University during the war, was followed by some videos on Jamaat-e-Islami chief Motiur Rahman Nizami and the war atrocities.

Defence counsel Mizanul Islam asked the investigation officer whether he knew

the full meaning of NBC, the country it was based in and location of its office.

Helal Uddin said he did not know the answers to any of those questions.

He admitted that some video clips on Nizami were added to the NBC news report and said he did not know who edited the video file or when it was edited.

The line of questioning prompted another round of verbal spats between the prosecution and the defence counsels.

Tribunal chairman Justice Md Nizamul Huq had to intervene in keeping the situation under control.

"Can we please request the two senior counsels from both sides to control their anger and themselves", said the chairman.

The defence later questioned the witness about a sign and some comments that appeared in the video segment added to the NBC report before the tribunal adjourned the cross-examination until today.

Delawar Hossain Sayedee was produced before the court yesterday. He is among three Jamaat-e-Islami leaders and a BNP leader who are facing charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal-1.

Ashraful, Nanak join JS body meet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After remaining absent for over six months, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam and State Minister Jahangir Kabir Nanak finally attended a meeting of the ministry's parliamentary body at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday.

The eight members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on LGRD Ministry have been expressing disappointment over the absence of its remaining two members since December last year.

In the last meeting on April when a member walked out in protest over the lack of interest of the duo to attend the meetings, the committee asked the two to appear at the next meeting (yesterday's).

The parliament secretariat record states that the duo last attended the committee's 40th meeting on November 27 last year.

At yesterday's meeting, the 47th one, the members thanked the duo for their presence and mentioned that it was meaningless to hold the meeting without them, said meeting sources.

জমি নিয়োগ করুন

ব্যবসা করার ব্যক্তি অনেক, লাভ লোকসানভে আছেই। দেশে আজ হাজার হাজার কোটিপতি, যাদের অধিকাংশই আসলে জমির মালিক।

নির্ভেজাল ও নিষ্কটক জমিতে বিনিয়োগ মানেই লাভ

গত কয়েক বছরের মধ্যে এখনই হলো জমিতে বিনিয়োগের সবচেয়ে ভালো সময়। আর বিনিয়োগের স্থল যদি হয় ঢাকার আশে পাশের কোন এলাকায়-ও বছরেই লাভ হতে পারে ৫ গুণ। আমাদের কাছে নির্ভেজাল ও নিষ্কটক জমি আছে প্রায় ৭০ একরের মতো। ডেমডা ট্রাজ হয়ে ঢাকা-সিলেট মহা-পড়কে মাত্র ৪ কিলোমিটার। হাজের ডালে ৫০০ গজ ভেজনে, সড়ক ও অলপথের মাস্তান পানই। হাউজিং প্লট নয়। এককালীন কিংবা ০০% Down payment ব্রাংকিং ১৮টি মাসিক কিস্তিতে বিক্রয় করতে চাই।

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theDailyStar.net

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