

Pay commission for teachers sought

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE) demanded an independent pay commission for teachers yesterday.

It is not possible to improve education of the country while the teachers are deprived and disappointed, said leaders of the organisation.

They were speaking at a discussion at Jatiya Press Club in the capital.

The organisation demanded that the teachers and employees of institutions that fulfil all the criteria of monthly pay order (MPO) should be given MPO.

Md Azizul Haque, convener of the organisation, said the teachers and employees of non-government schools and colleges must be paid like teachers of government institutions.

If the non-government teachers have the same qualifications and do the same amount of work like the government teachers, they must have the same salary and other benefits, he said.

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BNP standing committee members Moudud Ahmed, right, and Rafiqul Islam Mia, left, sit right beside Barrister Abdur Razzaq, second from left, and Barrister Khandker Mahbub Hossain, second from right, defence counsels of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah, as the two lawyers give their reaction after the Supreme Court passed a death sentence on Mollah yesterday for his war crimes. The counsels briefed journalists at the Supreme Court Bar Association in the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

BISHWAJIT MURDER 2 IOs asked to narrate probe Sept 22

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday summoned two investigation officers (IOs) of the Bishwajit murder case to appear before it on September 22 to narrate what they found in their probe against 21 accused.

Proprietor of Amantron Tailors at the capital's Shankharibazar, Bishwajit, 24, was hacked to death allegedly by Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of Jagannath University while he was going to his shop during BNP-led opposition's road blockade on December 9 last year.

The IOs are Mahbubul Alam, a sub-inspector, and Tajul Islam, an inspector of Detective Branch of Police who submitted charge sheet against the accused on March 11.

After recording statements of 30 out of 60 prosecution witnesses, Judge (in-charge) Md Nuruzzaman of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 of Dhaka yesterday set the date.

Eight of the 21 are now behind bars and the rest are on the run.

The arrested are Mahfuzur Rahman Nahid, AHM Kibria, Quiyum Miah Tipu, GM Rasheduzzaman Shaon, Saiful Islam, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam alias Shakil, Golam Mostafa and Emdadul Haque Emdad.

Shakil, Nahid, Shaon and Emdad have already made confessional statements before the court and disclosed several names.

The fugitives are Md Alauddin, Obaidul Quader Tahsin, Imran Hossain alias Imran, Rajon Talukder, Khondoker Md Yunus Ali, Tarique Bin Zohor alias Tamal, Azizur Rahman, Noor-e-Alam Limon, Al Amin Sheikh, Monirul Haque Pavel, Mosharraf Hossain and Kamrul Hasan and Rafiqul Islam.

RU introduces digital ID cards

RU CORRESPONDENT

Rajshahi University authorities yesterday launched digital identity (ID) cards for students.

RU Vice Chancellor Prof Muhammad Mizanuddin launched the digital ID cards at a programme at the university Senate Bhavan yesterday.

With assistance from Higher Education Quality Enhancement Project (HEQEP), the RU authorities launched the ID cards under sub-project of Extension and Renovation of Network and Building Automated Office Management System.

Prof Rakib Ahmed, sub-project manager, said the digital ID cards will be used to identify students in examination halls, library, computer centre and others areas which contain radio frequency identification (RFID).

The digital ID cards will be given among the students of honours first year and then gradually all students will get them, said RU administration sources. Pro-VC Prof Chowdhury Sarwar Jahan also spoke at the event.

OVERSEAS WORKS

Job seekers asked to register online

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those interested in jobs in foreign countries under government and non-government arrangements have been requested to register their names online.

The Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) made an announcement in this regard through circulating an emergency advertisement yesterday.

The online registration will commence in Dhaka and Barisal divisions on September 22 and continue till September 28.

It will begin in Rajshahi, Rangpur and Sylhet on September 28 and continue till October 4 while the registration will start in Khulna and Chittagong on October 4 and continue till October 10.

The interested candidates, both male and female, can register their names online from all unions, municipalities and city corporations' ward information service centres and district employment and manpower offices.

The candidate has to pay Tk 250 as registration fee. The people who have already registered for Malaysia can register their names again.

After the end of this online registration, there will be no scope to register names till the registered candidates migrate abroad, mentioned the BMET advertisement.

Earlier, over 14 lakh migrant job seekers registered for Malaysian jobs across the country last January and over 40,000 female job seekers registered for Middle-eastern countries and other Asian countries including Singapore, Hong Kong last April.

Quader Mollah verdict hailed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Various organisations yesterday expressed their satisfaction over the Supreme Court verdict that sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Quader Mollah to death for committing crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

In a statement, Sector Commanders Forum, Liberation War-71 expressed their satisfaction over the verdict and said justice has been served through the verdict.

Communist Party of Bangladesh also expressed their satisfaction over the verdict, says a press release.

In another statement, Bangladesh Mahila Parishad demanded immediate execution of the verdict.

Socio-political organisation Uttaradhikar-71 in a separate statement also voiced the same demand for immediate execution of the verdict.

In another statement, Bangabandhu Sangskrtik Jot said a long-awaited expectation has been fulfilled through the verdict of the Supreme Court.

A celebratory procession of the Gonojagoron Mancha heading from Shahbagh intersection towards Bangla Motor in the capital yesterday, shortly after the Supreme Court sentenced Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abdul Quader Mollah to death. It was Mollah, a war criminal, whose life sentence on February 5 sparked widespread mass protests, leading to the birth of the Gonojagoron Mancha.

Dhaka, Delhi dredging 54 common rivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Even though the deals on sharing waters of Teesta and Feni rivers remain non-starters, Bangladesh and India are working in right earnest on riverbank protection and dredging of 54 common rivers which is expected to go a long way in providing respite from floods and bank erosion.

According to an update provided by the Water Resources Ministry to National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon at a meeting at the Prime Minister's Office last week, dredging work on the Ichamati river to restore navigability and prevent flooding in West Bengal and Bangladesh is almost complete. Dhaka and New Delhi had agreed to dredge the river on the Bangladesh side as well as the Indian side as a shoal or a sandbank had been causing floods on both sides.

Over the last two years, the river has been dredged over a 20-km stretch and will be widened by 7.5 meters on both sides. Besides checking floods, it will provide more catch to fisher-men on both sides of the international border and improve navigation.

Besides other issues, the meeting took stock of the progress made between the two countries on the issue of water resources.

On the issue of riverbank protection, the Water Resources Ministry informed the PMO that the work is continuing at 50 sites in Bangladesh and Tripura and West Bengal on the Indian side.

Bangladesh and India have 54 common rivers and riverbank protection will help protect against soil and bank erosion which often changes the geography of the international border.

The protection, which is in its advance stage, is likely to be completed in the next few months.

India already provides flood forecasting data to Bangladesh from two sites - Farakka and Sahibganj on river Ganga-to Bangladesh.

Shop staff shot by muggers in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A shop employee was wounded after being shot by muggers in the capital's Badda area yesterday.

Abul Bashar, 46, was shot while he was uploading goods on a rickshaw-van near his workplace, Prime Thai Glass House, on Progoti Sarani at north Badda.

With the right leg injuries, he is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police detained two alleged muggers - Bablu, 20, and Mizanur Rahman, 23 - and seized one pistol with two bullets and a knife from them on the spot, said Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Badda police.

On information, the law enforcers chased three criminals who attempted to mug people there around 2:30pm, he said adding that one of them fled the scene.

Joy to travel around the country

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, yesterday said he would travel throughout the country in phases to campaign for the Awami League ahead of the upcoming general election.

"I have a plan to visit the country as much as I can. My visits will be spaced a few weeks apart, and the process will go on," he said.

Joy was briefing reporters in the middle of a meeting with secretaries of Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) at the party's chief Hasina's political office at Dhanmondi in the capital.

"The next parliamentary election is very important for the country as we are halfway down our Vision-2021. It is necessary for us to win the next election to reach the vision of building a prosperous and developed Bangladesh," he said.

"I believe there is a huge vote bank for the Awami League. If the AL voters come forward and the party men work together, it is impossible to defeat us.

"We will have to work hard and go forward in a very planned and organised manner to gain victory," he viewed.

The meeting, which was chaired by AL's advisory council member HT Imam, was organised to discuss the plan on electioneering, Joy said without detailing further.

AL joint general secretaries Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Dipu Moni, AL lawmaker Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Sheikh Rehana's son Redwan Ahmed Boby, and AL deputy office secretary Mrinal Kanti Das, among others, attended the meeting.

New RCC mayor vows to create jobs

Tells The Daily Star ahead of his taking office today

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

New mayor of Rajshahi city Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul will take office today with the key aims to create jobs for the youth and drive drug menace out of his city.

"It will be one of my biggest challenges to create jobs for the unemployed youths or to help them find works," he said in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.

The 48-year-old, who was elected mayor for the first time through the June 15 election, said he would try to find scopes of jobs inside the city corporation and then elsewhere.

Bulbul, father of a boy and a girl,



Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul

observed that drugs had been the main concern of almost all families in the city. "I would do whatever it takes me to control the menace."

The Rajshahi University graduate said availability of Phensedyl and heroin had been widespread as the city was near Indian border. "I will sit with the department concerned and then take action with the help of people to eliminate the curse."

A leader of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, an associate body of the BNP, Bulbul, sought cooperation of all, irrespective of their political affiliations and ideologies. "My door will be open for all so that none can say the corporation did not listen to them."



PHOTO: STAR



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