

LALMONIRHAT BCIC GODOWN

Labourers start indefinite strike, stage sit-in

Demand seven months' arrears, raise

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Labourers of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) fertiliser godown at Mahendranagar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila called an indefinite strike yesterday, demanding payment of seven months' arrear salaries and an increase in their wages.

Listed fertiliser traders are not getting urea fertiliser from the godown as the labourers staged a sit-in in front of the godown, stopping loading of fertiliser. But the unloading of urea fertiliser under BCIC and loading-unloading of other fertilisers under Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADCO) are taking place as usual in

the godown.

Ninety day labourers who load and unload fertilisers in the godown have been not getting their wages for seven months, labourers said. They don't get any reply from the contractor or even BCIC officials when they ask about their arrears.

"We have been bearing our expenses by borrowing money at high interest from local money lenders," said day labourer Emdadul Haque, 52.

Maminul Islam Babu, president of the Labourers' Union of the godown, said they called an indefinite strike for getting their arrears and an increase in their wages. "We will not withdraw our strike until our demands are fulfilled," he said, adding

that they will go for tougher programme if they do not get any response from the BCIC authorities by Saturday.

Maniruzzaman Manir, general secretary of the district unit of Bangladesh Sangjukt Sramik Federation, said labourers of BCIC fertiliser godown face wage indiscrimination as they get only Tk 18 for loading one tonne of urea fertiliser whereas the wage is Tk 45 for loading the same amount in other BCIC godowns in the country. "Labourers should be paid Tk 40-Tk 45 for loading one tonne of urea fertiliser," he said, urging the BCIC authorities to take necessary steps in this regard.

Abdul Hakim, president of District Fertiliser

Association, said they are not getting urea fertiliser during peak time of IRRI-boro farming as godown labourers have gone on an indefinite strike.

Golam Faroque Farhad, the contractor of urea fertiliser loading labourers, said the labourers will be paid their arrears very soon.

Abdul Hanif, the in-charge of BCIC fertiliser godown at Mahendranagar, said payment of the arrears is under processing and the labourers will be paid their through their contractor soon. Increasing of labourers' wage depends on the rate given by the contractor, he said, adding that BCIC authorities will consider the labourers' demands.



PHOTO: STAR

Labourers of BCIC godown at Mohendranagar in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila gather in front of the godown yesterday after starting an indefinite strike to press for the demand of seven months' arrear payment and rise in wage.

Low cost herbal pesticide sees success

KM REZAUL HOQUE, Gaibandha

Use of herbal pesticide developed by a local farmer is gaining popularity among the farmers of Katabari union in Gobindaganj upazila under the district for producing poison-free crops and vegetables.

The introducer of the herbal pesticide, Abdul Latif, 40, of Bogda village under Katabari union of Gobindaganj upazila, said he started working in the agriculture field after passing the SSC examinations.

"With an aim to check

pests, worms and diseases in crop fields for low price, I started work in 2008. After long experiments with different plants and roots, I made the herbal pesticide in 2010," he said.

"I used it in my vegetable field successfully and later distributed it among the local farmers free of cost.

"A farmer needs to spend Tk 700 to 800 per bigha for chemical pesticides, whereas use of my herbal pesticide costs only Tk 100 for the same area of land. More

importantly, such pesticide is not harmful for humans and animals," said Latif.

He has raised a garden of herbal plants in his land.

Hazrat Ali, a vegetable grower of Bogda village, said they got miraculous results by using the herbal pesticide invented by Latif.

Locals said over 300 farmers of the union used herbal pesticide in their crop fields last year and got positive result.

Farmers from other unions are also coming to collect the herbal pesti-

cide.

Hearing the success story of Latif's herbal pesticide, Shahera Banu, upazila agriculture officer of Gobindaganj, visited Latif's herbal garden and the crop fields where the pesticide is used.

"The farmers looked happy to use the low cost herbal pesticide that seems harmless for human and animals, unlike chemical pesticides. Still proper laboratory testing is needed to ascertain its suitability and feasibility for extensive use in the crop fields," she said.



PHOTO: STAR

A brinjal grower sprays herbal pesticide, invented by Abdul Latif, at a field in Bogda village of Sadullapur upazila under Gaibandha district, left, and Latif instructs a worker about the application of the pesticide.

Housewife beaten dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A housewife was beaten to death by her husband for dowry in Abhaynagar upazila of Jessore district yesterday night.

The victim was identified as Nasima Begum, 43, wife of Omar Ali, son of late Mandar Ali of Uttarpara village.

Rezaul Islam, brother of Nasima Begum, said Omar used to torture Nasima for dowry since their marriage.

The couple locked in a quarrel over the issue on Wednesday morning. At one stage, Omar Ali beat up Nasima mercilessly with a stick at around 9:30pm, leaving her injured.

Locals rescued her and took her to a village doctor, who declared her dead. Omar Ali went into hiding after his wife's death.

A case was filed in this connection.

Three get life term for murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Additional District and Session Judge's Court in Nilphamari yesterday sentenced three youths to life imprisonment for killing their cousin eight years ago.

The case statement said the accused beat up Bodiuazzaman of Disco Molapara village in Saidpur upazila of the district on September, 15, 2008, during a quarrel over a trivial matter. He succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital.

The victim's brother Saiful Islam filed a murder case with Saidpur Police Station the next day, accusing eight close relatives of the victim.

After examining the witnesses and evidence, Mahbulul Alam, additional district and session's judge, sentenced the three accused and fined each of them Tk 10 thousand. In default, they have to suffer one year more in jail.

The court also sentenced five other accused to one-year jail and also fined them Tk 1 thousand each. In default, they have to suffer one more month in jail.

The three accused who were awarded life term are Moksedul, Mostakin and Emdadul, cousins of the deceased and from the same village.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Mohila Parishad forms a human chain on Debiganj-Boda road in front of Sri Sri Gaurio temple at Sonapota village in Debiganj upazila under Panchagarh district yesterday demanding punishment of the criminals who killed Jogeshwar Dasadhikari, priest of the temple, and injured two devotees on Sunday.

Killing of two cousins sparks protests

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Local people of Gobindol Uttarpara village in Singair upazila formed a human chain yesterday, demanding immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers of Aziz Mollah and his cousin Tendol Mollah.

They also brought out a protest procession from in front of the victims' house and paraded all the roads of the village before forming the human chain at Gobindol bus stand.

Among others, Aziz's wife Farida Begum, son

Imran Mollah, 16, Tendol's daughter Bachhia Begum, and local union parishad members Khorshed Alam and Awlad Hossain, addressed the rally.

Speakers at the rally urged the authorities concerned to arrest the killers immediately and demanded their trial under speedy tribunal.

On February 20, Tendol Mollah, 50, and his cousin Aziz Mollah, 55, of the village, were killed by their nephews Jahidul, Rashid, Jasim and their accomplices allegedly over a family feud.

They also injured

Tendol's brother Abdul Karim, who is now undergoing treatment at Savar Enam Medical College Hospital.

Aziz's wife Farida Begum filed a case with Singair Police Station, accusing 18 people, including Rashid, Jahidul and Jasim and their parents, the following day.

Contacted, Officer-in-Charge Saiduzzaman of Singair Police Station said they arrested Jahidul's father-in-law Jahir Uddin on Monday and produced him before a court.

The court sent him to the jail, the OC added.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals form a human chain at Gobindol bus stand in Singair upazila under Manikganj district yesterday demanding arrest and punishment of the killers of Aziz Molla and Tendol Molla.

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