

# LABOUR CONDITIONS IN BANGLADESH EU seeks further improvements

In its sustainability report

UNB, Dhaka

The European Commission has released its third annual report highlighting the pressing need for further action by the Bangladeshi authorities to improve labour conditions in the garment sector for sustainable trade.

While some improvements can be noted, sizeable efforts are still needed to ensure that real change takes place and is sustained over the long term, according to the report released from Brussels on Friday.

The report also highlighted progress achieved in the country's garment sector through the Bangladesh Sustainability Compact, an international response to the 2013 tragic collapse of the Rana Plaza factory.

Calling for further reinforcement of administrative capacities through recruitment and training of inspectors and for full transparency in the sector, the report underlined the need for continuous education and training and capacity building on issues such as labour rights, occupational safety and health.

The EU expects further development of labour-related legislation and enforcement of the existing rules, in full compliance with the fundamental rights to freedom of association and collective bargaining, as defined by International Labour Organisation.

## NEWS IN brief

### Ashulia worker 'killed by employer'

A CORRESPONDENT, Savar

A construction worker was killed yesterday allegedly by his employer at Ambagan in Ashulia outside the capital.

The deceased was Kawser Hosen, 25, of Barisal.

Police arrested the employer, Robiul Islam, a local contractor, in this connection.

Quoting witnesses, Officer-in-Charge of Ashulia Police Station Mohoshinul Qadir said Kawser and Rabiul locked into an altercation over arrear wages on Friday night. At one stage, Rabiul started beating Kawser, leaving him seriously injured.

Kawser was rushed to a hospital where doctors declared him dead around 12:00am. A murder case was filed.

### Ctg village police hold anti-militancy rally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Speakers at a rally of village police yesterday urged them to be cautious and resist any sort of suspicious activities in their respective areas.

The rally "Village police rally to resist terrorist and militant activities" was organised by Chittagong District Police in the port city, where about 1,500 village police from Chittagong district participated.

Mesbah Uddin, deputy commissioner of Chittagong, and Nure Alam Mina, superintendent of police, Chittagong, were present.

### JU recalls Prof Syed Saifullah

JU CORRESPONDENT

A memorial discussion in honour of chemist and environmental scientist Prof Syed Saifullah was held at Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Syed Saifullah, a chemistry professor and founder chairperson of JU environmental sciences department, died on June 11 at the age of 81.

The JU authorities organised the discussion where JU Vice-Chancellor Prof Farzana Islam spoke as the chief guest.

Born in 1945 in Bagerhat, Prof Syed wrote over 250 research papers and 60 reviewing articles which were published in different journals at home and abroad.

### JU shop owners to go on strike for shop rent increase

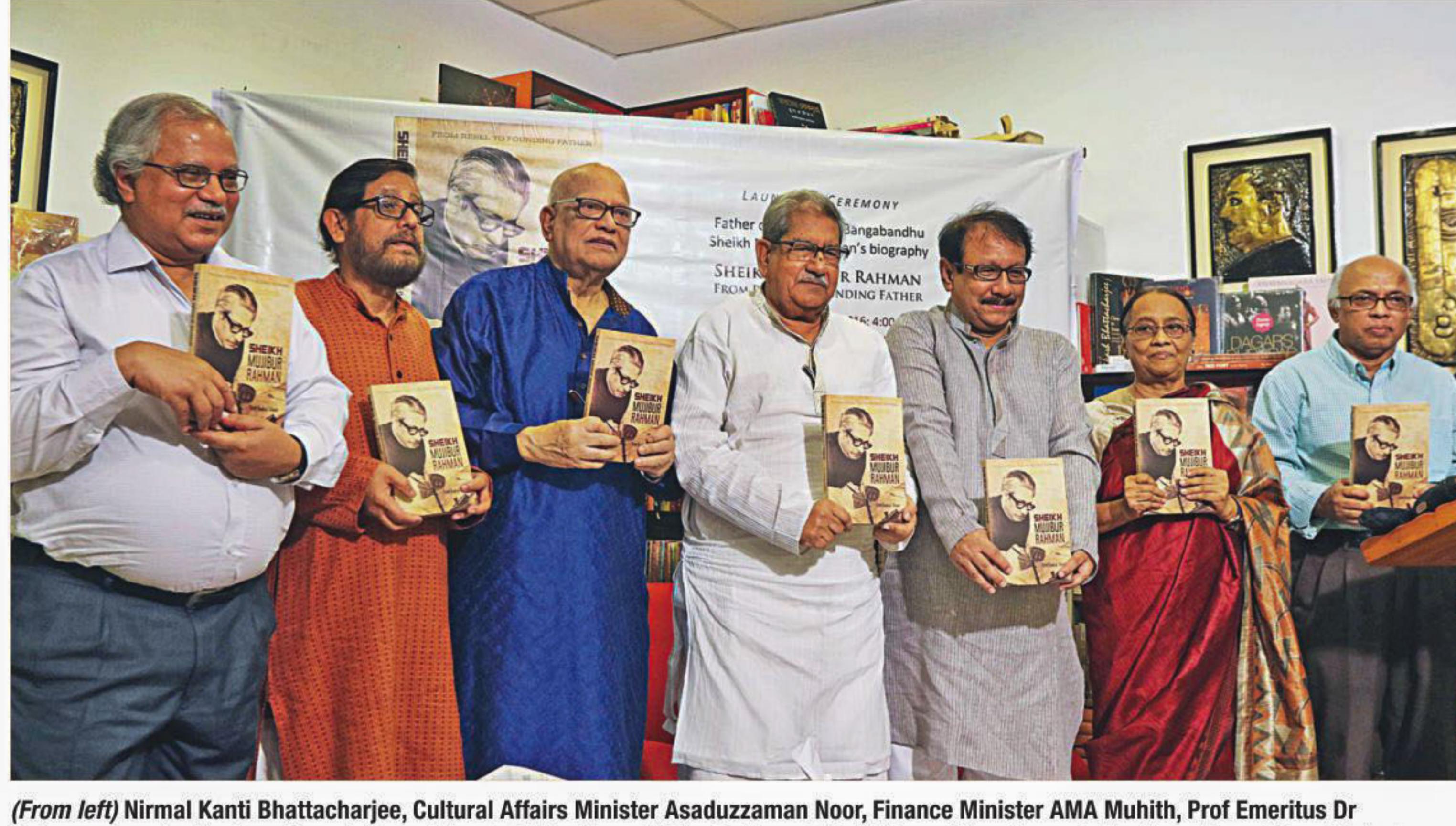
JU CORRESPONDENT

Shop Owners Association of Jahangirnagar University yesterday announced to embark upon a two-day strike from tomorrow on the campus protesting the university authorities' decision over shop rent increase.

The decision of strike came at a press conference at JU Journalist's Association's office.

Shop rent has been raised to Tk 1,250 from Tk 375 in December last year without any discussion with the association. Besides, fees for changing shop name and businesses has also been made double or triple, said Abdul Khalek, president of Bismail Gate Shop Owners Association.

The association also issued a four-point demand including cancellation of extra shop rent.



(From left) Nirmal Kanti Bhattacharjee, Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor, Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman, Senior Secretary at the public administration ministry Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, Selina Hossain and Syed Badrul Ahsan at Pathak Shamabesh Center in the capital yesterday during the launching ceremony of a biography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman written by Syed Badrul Ahsan.

PHOTO: STAR

## BANGABANDHU KILLING Masterminds patronising terror

Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor tells launching of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's biography written by Syed Badrul Ahsan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Those who masterminded the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman are now patronising militancy in Bangladesh, said Cultural Affairs Minister Asaduzzaman Noor yesterday.

"Those who led the attack at Holey Artisan Bakery mutilated female victims brutally which shows how perverted they were. This perversion had originated through the killing of Bangabandhu," he said.

He was addressing the launching ceremony of a biography of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman written by Syed Badrul Ahsan at Pathak Shamabesh Center in the capital.

The 280-page book, titled "From Rebel to Founding Father: Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman" and published by Niyogi Books, sensitively portrays Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's transformation to Bangabandhu or Friend of Bengal.

Syed Badrul Ahsan, associate editor of English newspaper The Daily Observer, traces Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's meteoric evolution from a young follower of All India Muslim League, driven by a zeal for Pakistan in the 1940s, to a mature political leader who clearly believed that the Bangalees of Pakistan needed to return to their secular traditions.

Finance Minister AMA Muhith said the book is written in lucid English which increases readability many times.

Awami League Presidium Member Nooh-ul-Alam Lenin said foreigners would learn a lot about Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman from this book.

"We could not control our emotions while writing on Bangabandhu and fail to portray him objectively. But Badrul tried to remain objective in writing the biography," he said.

Praising the writer, Prof Emeritus Dr Anisuzzaman said the book contains accounts of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the beginning of his political career unto death.

Syed Badrul Ahsan said, "It's painful for us, that we didn't come out of home on the night of August 15, 1975 (when Bangabandhu was assassinated). Forty years later, now we lament for his death. It's shameful."

Eminent writer Selina Hossain and Senior Secretary at the public administration ministry Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury, director of Niyogi Books, also spoke. The book costs Tk 1,200.

## Elephant rescue drive falters

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

To bring the wild Indian elephant back to dry land, a joint rescue team yesterday hired a pet elephant for luring the stranded pachyderm ashore, but the plan failed as it chased the other one away the moment it tried to get closer, said Ashim Kumar Mallick, wildlife inspector of the forest department.

Since the elephant entered Bangladesh, it has traveled over 300km of riverine routes in the last 40 days. Currently, the elephant is in a low-lying flooded area at Uttar Charhatian village in Jamalpur.

The rescue team, comprising forest and veterinary officials from Bangladesh and India, tried to tranquillise it in Shyamganj Kalibari, as they did not get a suitable place before, Ashim said.

"We hired a pet elephant to go near it hoping the elephant might come out of water," he said, adding, "If this had been successful, we could have carried it to Bangabandhu Safari Park," he said.

After the elephant gets back its energy, the team will decide where to release it, the wildlife inspector said.

The elephant got separated from her herd in Assam and entered Kurigram's Chilmari upazila, floating with the currents of the Brahmaputra river, on June 27.

## Ctg traders demand permanent solution to Chakta waterlogging

Expressing solidarity Mayor Nasir announces mega project to mitigate crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Traders, warehouse owners and workers of Khatunganj and Chakta, the two wholesale trading hubs in the port city, yesterday formed a human chain keeping their businesses closed for an hour demanding a permanent solution to waterlogging.

They also placed a three-point demand including the dredging of the Karnaphuli river evicting illegal structures, setting up a permanent protection dam and constructing a sluice gate at the mouth of the Chakta canal.

Chittagong city Mayor AJM Nasir Uddin later attended the programme to express solidarity and announced that the water resources ministry has taken a project involving Tk 2,500 crore to Tk 3,000 crore for constructing an embankment with 120-feet width along the river.

Sluice gates with pump-house will also be built at the mouths of the 26 canals under the project, he added.

Solaiman Badsha, president of Chakta-Khatunganj Aratdar O Sadharan Byabosai Kalyan Samity, said waterlogging has become a regular problem with the onrush of tidal water. "It worsens during the heavy rain," he said.

Puronjoy Krishna Mazumder, a warehouse owner and proprietor of Sree Laxmi Bhandar, told The Daily Star that he had to raise the floor of his storage several feet by spending Tk 1.5 lakh after the water damaged goods worth Tk 6 lakh.

"I still don't feel safe as the water level is increasing," he said.



Businesses in Khatunganj and Chakta, two wholesale trading hubs of Chittagong city, stay shut for an hour yesterday as traders, warehouse owners and workers formed a human chain demanding a permanent solution to waterlogging.

PHOTO: STAR

## A normal child

FROM PAGE 3

They have been given a cabin free of charge and the boy will be treated for free too, said Sen.

"Bayezid was born at Magura Maternity Hospital in a normal delivery in May, 2012 with wrinkled skin. But ultrasonography reports revealed that the fetus was a boy and a normal one," added his father.

They took him first to MSH and then to Faridpur Sadar Hospital, where he had been treated by child specialists, who assured them that their son would gradually become normal, added Lablu, who already spent over Tk 4 lakh and sold 20 decimals of land and four cows to meet his son's treatment costs.

He further said that Bayezid's physical condition improved slightly then and that he was also treated by late child specialist Dr MS Akbar, also an Awami League lawmaker from a Magura constituency.

Seeing him yesterday, Dr Sen, however, said they were yet to decide on the course of treatment.

Bayezid was brought to DMCH in line with suggestions of Hidayet Ali, an assistant professor of the institute, Sen mentioned, adding, "A facelift surgery may be done on him if it deems necessary."

Now, the boy is being attended by his parents and maternal grandfather Mashirul Rahman at the hospital cabin.

The word progeria comes from the Greek progeros meaning prematurely old. It is a rare genetic condition that accelerates ageing in children and occurs in one per 8 million live births.

Only a few people around the world could exceed 13

New cholera vaccine can be stored without refrigerator  
Says icddr,b  
UNB, Dhaka

Although vaccines need to be stored at cold temperature to ensure its effectiveness, a new icddr,b study has found that oral cholera vaccine is safe without refrigeration, which will help distribute the vaccine easily in rural areas.

The study showed that the affordable oral cholera vaccine Shanchol is still safe and stimulates significant immune responses even when stored at higher temperatures.

The findings of the study, which were recently published in the international journal "Vaccine", revealed that Shanchol, the first licensed oral cholera vaccine developed by International Vaccine Institute, does not require to be refrigerated during its distribution.



Participants at the first ever Dhaka Neuroscience Summit at the capital's BIAM Foundation yesterday, attended by well known neurosurgeons from Bangladesh and India. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## Road digging adds to

FROM PAGE 3

to do the digging work and had to suspend it for around a week. He said they have resumed the work and will try to complete it soon.

Contacted, Md Towhid Siraj, executive engineer of DSCC Zone-4, said that most of the workers were on Eid holiday, which is why they could not complete the work. "We will try to finish it by the end of the month," he said.

## Freedom of speech

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Debate for Democracy at the capital's Bangladesh Film Development Corporation yesterday.

Students of Stamford University Bangladesh played the role of the ruling party and those of Dhaka International University were the opposition party.

Debate for Democracy Chairman Hassan Ahmed Chowdhury Kiron presided over the debate competition, won by Dhaka International University.

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