

Work but no pay

Some 35,000 employees of 260 municipalities remain unpaid for up to seven years; total due Tk 642cr, but authorities have no fund

REJAUUL KARIM BYRON and MOUDUD AHMED SUJAN

More than 35,000 employees of 260 municipalities have not received salaries for up to seven years due to fund crunch of the local government bodies.

Of them, some 6,000 staffers have been without salaries for five years, around 12,000 for two years and another 5,000 for a year, show the latest statistics of Bangladesh Association of Paurashava Services (BAPS).

Two employees -- one from Santahar municipality in Bogra and the other from Bhagatipara municipality in Natore -- have not got salaries for around seven years.

There are 327 municipalities in the country, and the BAPS compiled data from all but one. The total amount of unpaid salaries now

stands at Tk 642.25 crore, said leaders of the association.

Besides, some 964 retired employees have not received any pensions. The amount of unpaid pension is Tk 120 crore, they mentioned.

Talking to this newspaper yesterday, BAPS President Abdul Alim Mollah said, "It is not possible for any of the municipalities to pay its staffers salaries from its own funds."

The officials and employees of the municipalities have been passing their days in severe financial hardship.

"I don't have any words to narrate my sufferings," said Mahfuzur Rahman, a sanitary inspector at Alamdanga municipality in Chuadanga.

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Students attending classes in the open at Shaheed Kazi Aref Ideal High School in the capital's Wari area on Tuesday. Claiming that the land belongs to them, the railway authorities demolished a part of the school building on January 29.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Rubel drives out Riders

SPORTS REPORTER

It was far from a cracker of a match between two high-quality sides as Shakib Al Hasan's Dhaka Dynamites sent Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's Rangpur Riders packing with a five-wicket victory in the second qualifier to set up a showdown with Comilla Victorians in tomorrow's Bangladesh Premier League final at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur.

Mashrafe applied a trick
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Govt can't do anything until court verdict

Says PM about banning Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has nothing to do about banning the Jamaat-e-Islami right now as a case in this regard is pending before a court, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday.

"Perhaps, we can do nothing here until the court delivers the judgment," she said in parliament while replying to a



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RAPE INCIDENTS

Children the most VULNERABLE

29 of the 46 reported victims in Jan are below 18

STAR REPORT

A staggering 29 of the 46 victims raped in January were below 18, showing that children remain vulnerable to sexual violence.

The shocking data is based on reports this paper published last month, but a rights body claimed that the numbers were even higher.

Among the 29, who constitute 63 percent of the total victims, 13 are aged between five and 12.

Three victims, including a five-year-old, were killed after rape and one died of injuries five days after being raped and tortured.

Eleven of the 46 victims were gang-raped.

At least five of the victims were physically challenged. Two belonged to indigenous communities.

In a recent report, legal aid and human rights organisation Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) claimed that the number of women and children raped in January was higher.

It said 71 women and children were raped and 32 were between six and 18 years old.

The rights body did not mention the age of the rest in the report based on its own findings and media reports.

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6 ex-ministers made House body chiefs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six former ministers will lead different parliamentary standing committees.

Of them, former foreign minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali was made the chairman of the committee on finance ministry, former industries minister Amir Hossain Amu and former commerce minister Tofail Ahmed on those ministries.

Besides, former health minister Mohammed Nasim became the

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On the road to enlightenment

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

December 17, 1978.

A study circle, comprising only 15 members, was formed in an auditorium of the then Bangladesh Education Extension Department (now National Academy for Educational Management). The members of the study circle pledged that every week they would read a book and reflect on it through a spontaneous, interactive discussion.

Forty years later, such study circles have been replicated in 14,000 secondary and higher secondary level educational institutions all over Bangladesh, engaging around 83,00,000 students in reading and reviewing some of the world's greatest literary works.



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed

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February 07, 2019

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