

Sidco Group to reopen factory, pay suspended workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

Sidco Group, a garment manufacturing company which had suspended 165 workers last week and shut its Ashulia factory following workers' unrest, has reached an agreement with the workers.

Following requests of workers and labour leaders, the authority has decided to reopen the factory on October 26 and provide paid benefit to the 165 workers.

In presence of Dhaka Industrial Police-1, officials of Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishments, workers' representatives of the factory and labour leaders came to an agreement on Thursday at a meeting held at a hall of Dhaka Industrial Police-1.

Confirming the matter, Sidco Group Assistant General Manager Nazrul Islam said on October 12, some workers vandalised the factory and beat up four factory officers. Following the incident, on October 13, authorities shut the factory for an indefinite period under Article 13/1 of the Labour Act. After finding out the miscreants, authorities suspended 165 workers and served them show-cause notice.

"As the suspended workers did not respond to the notice, we decided to give them benefits, and they were let go from work," said Nazrul Islam, adding that the workers accepted the decision, and authorities will pay their benefits on October 25.

On October 18, based on claims of workers and labour leaders, The Daily Star reported Sidco terminated 165 employees from its factory at Jamgora, as the workers demonstrated to demand arrears.

A family's

FROM PAGE 3

Borhan Uddin, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gouripur Police Station and investigation officer of the case.

The court granted three-day remand for prime accused Riyaduzzaman Riyad, while the others -- Jahangir Alam, Rasel Miah, and Mujibur Rahman -- were placed on two-day remand, the OC said.

They were taken to the office of Detective Branch (DB) of police, he informed.

Earlier, the victim's brother, Abidur Rahman, filed a murder case with Gouripur Police Station against 14 people, including Syed Rafiqul Islam and Riyad, joint convener of BNP Gouripur upazila unit and chairperson of Moilakanda union parishad, he said.

Police so far arrested four accused, including Riyad, while the others are on the run, he added.

Detectives also detained an auto-rickshaw driver from Gouripur, and he was being interrogated at DB office till filing of this report, said OC Shah Kamal Akanda of DB of police in Mymensingh. He did not disclose the detainee's identity.

Many people

FROM PAGE 3

Respondents emphasised on providing financial support (39 percent), social support (27 percent), and physical support (33 percent), Tapas said.

They emphasised on financial issues as the most important factor for them, as most victims suffer from financial hardship, he said. As financial support, they mentioned equal amount of daily wage, food and transport allowances, and compensation, he added.

Human rights lawyer Advocate Salma Ali said besides formulating the law, ensuring support services for its enforcement is also important. She said a person can lodge GD with police if they feel threatened by an accused, but police seldom inquire into such allegations.

It is a fundamental right of a victim to give their account without fear, said MIF Executive Director Shaheen Anam.

Besides, a witness also has strong role to play during the process of trial of a perpetrator in a rights violation case, she said.

Several well-thought suggestions have been generated during the conference which could help prepare a draft of the proposed law, she added.

Legal

FROM PAGE 3

College or separate unit for mental patients at district level hospitals. It also states that rehabilitation centre for mentally ill patients may be established with prior approval of the government.

The primary problem is that these provisions are not laid down in obligatory terms and they do not create accountability for the government in case of non-implementation.

The act does not address the economic burden of the mental health care system since it makes no reference to budgetary allocation.

Many experts stressed the need to rethink the definition of "mental disorder". The act fails to lay down mechanisms for ensuring the accountability of those who violate human rights of the persons with mental health issues.

Experts are also of the view that the new act fails to address mental health professionals or community focused psychiatrist and acknowledge issues such as maintaining confidentiality of patient's details.

The law needs to be made more inclusive and the budgetary allocation for mental health sector needs to be properly considered by the government, they added.

MUJIB BORSHO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid yesterday convened the special session of parliament on November 8, marking Mujib Borsho.

The session will start at 6pm on that day, said a release of the parliament secretariat. The president convened the special session, exercising power bestowed upon him by Article 72 (1) of the constitution.

The session will be prorogued with passage of a resolution on the political life of Bangabandhu, said sources at the parliament. The business advisory committee on parliament will finalise the duration and other activities of the session.

On March 21, the JS special session was postponed following coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Govt to

FROM PAGE 3

This is the first time an HSC candidate will be evaluated without the tests since they were introduced in the mid-60s. More than 13.65 lakh students were expected to sit for the exams.

On March 22, HSC and equivalent exams slated for April 1 were postponed due to the pandemic. This year's Primary Education Completion and its equivalent exams as well as JSC and its equivalent exams have also been cancelled.

Yesterday, the government also announced the decision to promote over one crore school and madrasa students of class six to nine without any annual exams.

37,000

FROM PAGE 3

general of the samity, said thousands are getting killed in road crashes every year.

Instead of observing this day like any other national days, its observance will bring success if the message of road safety can be reached by taking initiatives such as debate and art competitions at educational institutions as well as discussions.

The organisation said although the government started implementation of much-talked about Road Transport Act-2018, no significant changes were seen in the roads, where anarchy and passenger harassment still prevail.

Fishing

FROM PAGE 3
confluence of Bakhali river, the report said, adding that another source of the waste is Reju Khal which takes the waste of Ukhya and Ramu to the sea.

Contacted, Ashraful Afsar, convener of the committee and also additional deputy commissioner of Cox's Bazar, told The Daily Star that they spent around 26 days to dig out exact cause of the incident.

"We have submitted it to our high-ups and hope the recommendations we made will be implemented for the greater interest of our environment and sea," he said.

The recommendations include setting up a treatment centre for injured mammals, conducting thorough research on waste vortex at sea, its profundity and source, and making inventory of fishing vessels.

Asked, Al Amin, professor of Forestry and Environmental Science at Chattogram University, said, "The fishing community must be brought under awareness campaign so that they refrain from dumping waste in the sea. We need to give this a serious thought," he added.

AL activist

FROM PAGE 12

Shibganj Police Station, said, "Locals found Mostafizar's body around 300 feet away from his home. We recovered his body and sent it to hospital for autopsy."

Parts of his body had marks of repeated hacking, including his head, said the OC.

Mostafizar's family members are in the dark about the motive of the murder. However, Shibganj police found two drug cases filed against him with their station.

Quitting locals, the OC said, "He was a local drug dealer in the area before. In 2011, he was elected a UP member, after which he was not found to be involved in the drug trade any longer."

Mostafizar's family, however, has not yet filed a case.

"We detained one person for interrogation, but we still haven't found the motive behind the murder yet," he said.

Rohingya

FROM PAGE 12

The men started shooting at the BGB officials when the latter asked them to identify themselves, the release adds, the BGB men then retaliated.

After the intruders fled the scene, the BGB team found Adham lying on the ground. He was taken to Ukhya Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared him dead, the release reads.

Two BGB members were also injured, the release claimed.

Lost

Lost my registration card of Bangladesh Medical & Dental Council (No. 4956) and MBBS final professional exam admit card (Roll: 2699). GD filed at Ramna Model Thana on 19/10/2020 (No. 1016). D-127

24 more die, 1,545 test

FROM PAGE 12

rate is 78.56 percent of the confirmed cases.

Of those reported dead yesterday, 19 were male and five female. All of them, except one, died in hospitals.

One of them was aged between 21 and 30 years, two were between 41 and 50, eight between 51 and 60, and 13 over 60, added the release.

One each was from Rangpur and Khulna divisions while two were from Rajshahi, three from Chattogram and 17 from Dhaka divisions.

Over 51 percent of the people who died so far were from Dhaka division.

Yesterday afternoon, 2,369 Covid-19 patients were undergoing treatment on general beds and 279 on ICU beds at designated hospitals across the country.

Nasa to grab a piece

FROM PAGE 12

its first go at collecting asteroid samples for return to Earth, a feat accomplished only by Japan so far.

Nasa is looking to bring back at least two ounces (60 grams) worth of asteroid Bennu, the biggest such haul from beyond the moon.

The van-sized spacecraft is aiming for the relatively flat middle of a tennis court-sized crater named Nightingale - a spot comparable to a few parking places here on Earth. Boulders as big as buildings loom over the targeted touchdown zone.

"So for some perspective, the next time you park your car in front of your house or in front of a coffee shop and walk inside, think about the challenge of navigating Osiris-Rex into one of these spots from 200 million miles away," Nasa's deputy project manager Mike Moreau said.

Once it drops out of its half-mile-high (0.75 km-high) orbit around Bennu, the spacecraft will take a deliberate four hours to make it all the way down, to just above the surface.

Then the action cranks up when Osiris-Rex's 11-foot (3.4-metre) arm reaches out and touches Bennu.

Contact should last five to 10 seconds, just long enough to shoot out pressurised nitrogen gas and suck up the churned dirt and gravel.

Programmed in advance, the spacecraft will operate autonomously during the unprecedented touch-and-go manoeuvre. With an 18-minute lag in radio communication each way, ground controllers for spacecraft builder Lockheed Martin near Denver cannot intervene.

If the first attempt does not work, Osiris-Rex can try again. Any collected samples will not reach Earth until 2023.

While Nasa has brought back comet dust and solar wind particles, it has never attempted to sample one of the nearly one million known asteroids lurking in our solar system until now.

Japan, meanwhile, expects to get samples from asteroid Ryugu in December - in the milligrams at most - 10 years after bringing back specks from asteroid Itokawa.

Bennu is an asteroid picker's paradise. The big, black, roundish, carbon-rich space rock - taller than New York's Empire State Building - was around when our solar system was forming 4.5 billion years ago.

Scientists consider it a time capsule full of pristine building blocks that could help explain how life formed on Earth and possibly elsewhere.

The mission's principal scientist, Dante Lauretta of the University of Arizona, said: "This is all about understanding our origins."

Tk 785cr

FROM PAGE 12

at the meeting of their parliamentary party in Dhaka today. Presided over by Prime Minister Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the meeting considers the amendments along with the recommendations of the sub-committee, which scrutinised and examined them -- about 750 in total -- during the last four days.

ALLEGED COLLABORATORS SUMMONED

Sixty-four persons who have been absconding to avoid appearance in an enquiry under the Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunals) Order 1972 have been directed under Article 17 (1) of the Order to appear before their sub-divisional magistrate, Cox's Bazar on or before November 2, 1972. The immovable properties standing in the names of these persons or in the names of their benamards have also been attached under Article 17 (1) of the said Order.

SOURCES: October 23, 1972 issues of Bangladesh Observer, Dainik Bangla and Dainik Ittefaq.

Retailers still charge higher

FROM PAGE 12

received two truckloads of potatoes from a cold storage yesterday against his demand of eight truckloads of the tuber.

Shah Alam, another wholesaler at the market, said he received only one truckload of potatoes from a cold storage yesterday.

"The supply is quite poor against the demand," he added.

Alam, however, claimed that the wholesale price has dropped to Tk 34 a kg. "Tomorrow [today], the wholesale price might be go down to Tk 30 a kg."

Giving in to businessmen's demand, the Department of Agriculture Marketing (DAM) on Tuesday increased the price of potato by Tk 5 to Tk 35 per kg for retailers.

For wholesalers, the price was fixed at Tk 30 a kg and Tk 27 at the gate of cold storages.

Earlier on October 7, the DAM had fixed the potato price at Tk 30 at retail level and Tk 25 for wholesalers. It also set the price at Tk 23 per for selling the vegetable at the gate of cold storages.

After holding a meeting with businessmen at his office in Khamarbari on Tuesday night, DAM Director General Mohammad Yusuf said they increased the price following a demand from businessmen.

According to Bangladesh Cold Storage Association (BCSA), 85 lakh tonnes of potatoes were produced in the country this year. But only 40 lakh tonnes were preserved in cold storages due to transport and labour crisis amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

About 55 percent of 40 lakh tonnes potatoes have already been sold in the market. Of the remaining amount, 10 lakh tonnes are seed potatoes which will be used for cultivation next month.

Sources said the newly harvested potatoes are supposed to hit the market by the end of December as the cultivation was delayed due to flooding.

Dhaka-Siliguri train service

FROM PAGE 12

The press release said freight trains would be operated first through the Chilahati-Haldibari rail link and there is a plan to start operation of a passenger train between Dhaka and Siliguri marking the Independence Day (March 26) of Bangladesh next year.

Currently, passenger trains are being operated on Dhaka-Kolkata and Khulna-Kolkata routes, which remain suspended since March due to Covid-19 pandemic.

The minister and the high commissioner also discussed railway projects, which are being implemented under Indian Lines of Credits. The BR is now implementing six projects under LoCs while another project with Indian grants.

The Indian envoy has expressed his country's interest in developing Bangladesh Railway's catering services and training academy. The railways minister sought India's cooperation so that BR officials can receive training in India.

Railways Ministry Secretary Salim Reza and BR Director General Md Shamsuzzaman were present at the meeting.

Mysterious vandal attacks

at Berlin museums

AFP, Berlin

Vandals have damaged more than 70 artworks and artifacts at some of Berlin's most renowned museums, police said Wednesday, in a targeted attack kept quiet by authorities for more than two weeks.

Valuable paintings, stone sculptures and sarcophagi at three institutions on the German capital's UNESCO-listed Museum Island were sprayed with an "oily liquid", leaving visible stains, Berlin police told AFP.

German media called it "one of the biggest attacks on art and antiquities in German post-war history".

DHAKA THURSDAY OCTOBER 22, 2020, KART