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BJMC TEMPS

Leading miserable lives

Factories have not paid them dues since closure last year

MD SHAHNAWAZ KHAN CHANDAN

More than 32,000 substitute and temporary workers of the state-run jute mills, which were closed on July 1 last year for modernisation, are leading miserable lives as they have not received their dues yet.

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) owes these workers Tk 323 crore in arrears from 2015 to 2020 due to implementation of the new pay scale in January 2020 as per Productivity and Wage Commission-2015.

These workers are also yet to receive wages of eight weeks from 2020, when the factory was closed due to national lockdown, and six weeks wages from 2019, when there was a protest demanding implementation of the new wage scale.

According to worker leaders, the amount of due wages for each worker was not fixed but ranges from Tk 50,000 to Tk 4,50,000 as these workers used to be paid on "no work, no pay" basis.

While most of the 25,000 permanent workers of the jute mills have already received their wages and financial benefits, these temporary and substitute workers have

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Risking his life, a man leaps on to a ferry that left the pontoon yesterday. He managed to escape an accident by inches. Like him, many others crossing the mighty Padma are taking risks to attend Eid with their families. The photo was taken at Shimulia Ferry Ghat around 1:00pm yesterday. Story on page 1

PHOTO: SAJJAD HOSSAIN



Reasoning unacceptable, lame

Says Fakhru about not allowing Khaleda have treatment abroad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has termed "unacceptable" the government's reasoning -- on legal grounds -- for not accepting the application from BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's family to allow her to go abroad for treatment.

"They [government] said they can't allow Khaleda Zia to go abroad [for treatment]. They have given some reasons which are absolutely unacceptable and lame. They said there is no precedence of sending convicts abroad. They are trying to mislead people," said BNP Secretary General Alamgir yesterday.

He made the remarks at a press conference at the BNP chairperson's political office in Gulshan in response to remarks made by several ministers regarding the application for sending Khaleda abroad.

He said, "It is inhumane"

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MITU MURDER

PBI takes ex-SP Babul into custody

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Police Bureau of Investigation took former superintendent of police Babul Akter into custody yesterday for interrogation in connection with the murder of his wife Mahmuda Khanam Mitu in Chattogram on June 5, 2016.

Several PBI sources said Babul was taken into the bureau's custody in Chattogram from his residence in Dhaka's Mohammadpur.

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of PBI, Banaj Kumar Majumdar, told The Daily Star, "Babul is being interrogated over Mitu murder as investigators need to check some vital information."

The DIG refused to comment further.

Santosh Kumar Chakma, inspector of PBI Chattogram metro unit and also the investigation officer of the case, said, "We are interrogating him [Babul]. As he is the complainant in the case, we can interrogate him."

This is the second time Babul has been taken into police custody.

On June 25, 2016, he was interrogated in police custody for 15 hours. He was later relieved of his job on September 6, 2016.

Babul now works at a private company.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM

THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

US asked not to give aid to Pakistan

MAY 12, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZZA SAJEN

REHMAN SOBHAN REFUTES PAKISTAN'S CLAIM

Any American economic aid to Pakistan "will leave cash in their hands to pay their French arms bill and to step up arms purchases in the open market", Rehman Sobhan charged today, adding that the US should give no aid, except for relief to be dispensed by international agencies. Any other aid "would simply prolong the conflict at tremendous cost in direct deaths from military operations as well as deaths from the pending famine".

The Dhaka University Professor was in Washington seeking support from Capitol Hill and elsewhere for Bangladesh. State department personnel had been ordered not to see him. In an interview, he challenged the claims of MM Ahmed, a senior Pakistan government official now in Washington on an aid seeking mission, that central government's control of East Pakistan had permitted the resumption of normal administration.

"The government simply does not have the administrative control over Bangladesh to run an aid programme," he said.

He charged that the central government wanted to use relief as a political tool and for "coercion", not for humanitarian reasons. It was seeking boats, he said, not because there was any shortage in East Pakistan but to provide assault landing craft for the army. He said some had already been secured from Turkey "US supplied, inevitably".

And while the Pakistan government was talking about seeking reconciliation and turning over power to a civilian regime, said Rehman Sobhan, this should not be taken seriously.

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SUHRAWARDY UDYAN

HC asks AG to stop tree felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday asked Attorney General AM Amin Uddin to take necessary steps so that no tree at Suhrawardy Udyan is cut till May 20.

The court also fixed May 20 for further hearing on a contempt of court petition filed against the government.

The petition was filed on charge of clearing trees and setting up restaurants at Suhrawardy Udyan, ignoring an HC verdict that was pronounced in 2009.

The HC bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Dilrurazaman passed the order when petitioners' lawyer Manzill Murshid placed the petition and arguments before it.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin requested the court to fix May 20 for hearing the contempt of court petition saying that he has to talk to the government authorities for placing arguments on the issue.

Manzill Murshid prayed to the HC bench to hold a

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Migrants stuck in the middle

Return of 25,000 in Middle East uncertain as flights are suspended

RASHIDUL HASAN

The return of at least 25,000 Bangladeshi expatriate workers to UAE, Oman, and Kuwait has become uncertain due to the suspension of flights.

In the latest move, Kuwait has banned direct commercial flight operations from Bangladesh and three other South Asian countries on Monday.

According to sources, several thousand Bangladeshis became uncertain of returning to their workplaces in the Gulf country due to the decision.

The three other countries are Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Nepal, Kuwait's civil aviation department made the announcement yesterday.

Cargo flights will remain out of the purview of the suspension.

Expatriates of the four countries have been barred from entering Kuwait without staying in quarantine in a third country for at least 14 days.

A previous notification from the civil aviation department said only domestic workers and health workers were allowed to enter Kuwait on condition of a 14-day quarantine in a third country and after following all necessary health guidelines, including RT-PCR tests.

Earlier on Sunday UAE, a major destination of Bangladeshi workers, suspended entry for travellers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, and Sri Lanka which will come to an effect from today.

The UAE's National Emergency Crisis and Disasters Management Authority and Civil Aviation tweeted, "Suspension of entry for travelers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka on national and foreign flights, also for transit passengers, except for transit flights traveling to UAE and bound for these countries."

In late last month, Oman, Thailand, and Singapore had also announced a suspension of regular flights to and from

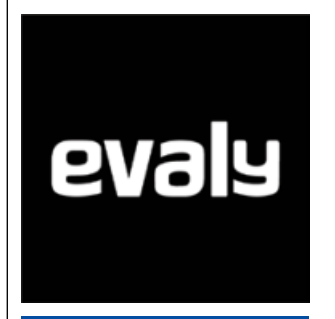
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PRAYER TIMING MAY 12

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrīb	Esha
AZAN 3-54	12-45	5-00	6-36	8-00
JAMAAT 4-04	1-15	5-15	6-46	8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN MAY SEHRI IFTAR

29	12	6:36
30	13	3:48 6:36

সন্ত্রাসবাদকে 'না' বলুন

প্রকৃত ধর্ম প্রচারক ও উগ্রবাদী রিক্রুটর এর মধ্যে পার্থক্য

উগ্রবাদে জড়িত হওয়ার নির্দেশকসমূহ (Indicators)

সহিংস উগ্রবাদে জড়িত হওয়ার নির্দেশকসমূহ (Indicators)

বিঃ দ্রঃ উগ্রবাদের কোন একক কিংবা সুনির্দিষ্ট লক্ষণ নেই। উল্লেখিত লক্ষণ সমূহের কেবল একটি বা দুটি লক্ষণ বিদ্যমান থাকলেই তা উগ্রবাদের সুনির্দিষ্ট প্রমাণ বহন করে না। তবে কারো মধ্যে বেশিরভাগ লক্ষণ বিদ্যমান থাকলে তিনি উগ্রবাদী বিশ্বাস দ্বারা প্রভাবিত বলে ধারণা করা যায়।

কাউন্টার টেরোরিজম এন্ড ট্রান্সন্যাশনাল ক্রাইম ইউনিট, ডিএমপি। অর্ধায়েনঃ বাংলাদেশ পুলিশের সন্ত্রাস দমন ও আন্তর্জাতিক অপরাধ প্রতিরোধ কেন্দ্র নির্মাণ প্রকল্প