

Specific pension plan for farm labourers

Demand rights activists, labourers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists, rights activists and labourers yesterday demanded the government include a specific pension plan for farm labourers in the universal pension scheme.

They said this at a discussion organised by Bangladesh Khet Mojur Union, titled "Non-contributory pension for farm labourers and rural workers", at the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

Speakers said farm labourers work only four months on their land, and so, have limited annual income and savings. They become jobless after reaching the age of 60. Therefore, they are unable to pay instalments of

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Cop imposters who kidnap, rob people

Six of a gang arrested, says DB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

They used to position themselves with a car in front of banks and commercial institutions to target businesspeople. Posing as law enforcers, they would intercept their target and put them inside the car, saying that the victim was wanted in cases. Then the criminals snatched away money and valuables, before dropping the target in deserted areas.

A team of Detective Branch of police (Lalbagh division) arrested six members of a robbery gang, which allegedly snatched away Tk 85 lakh from a businessman in Dhaka's Keraniganj on November 13.

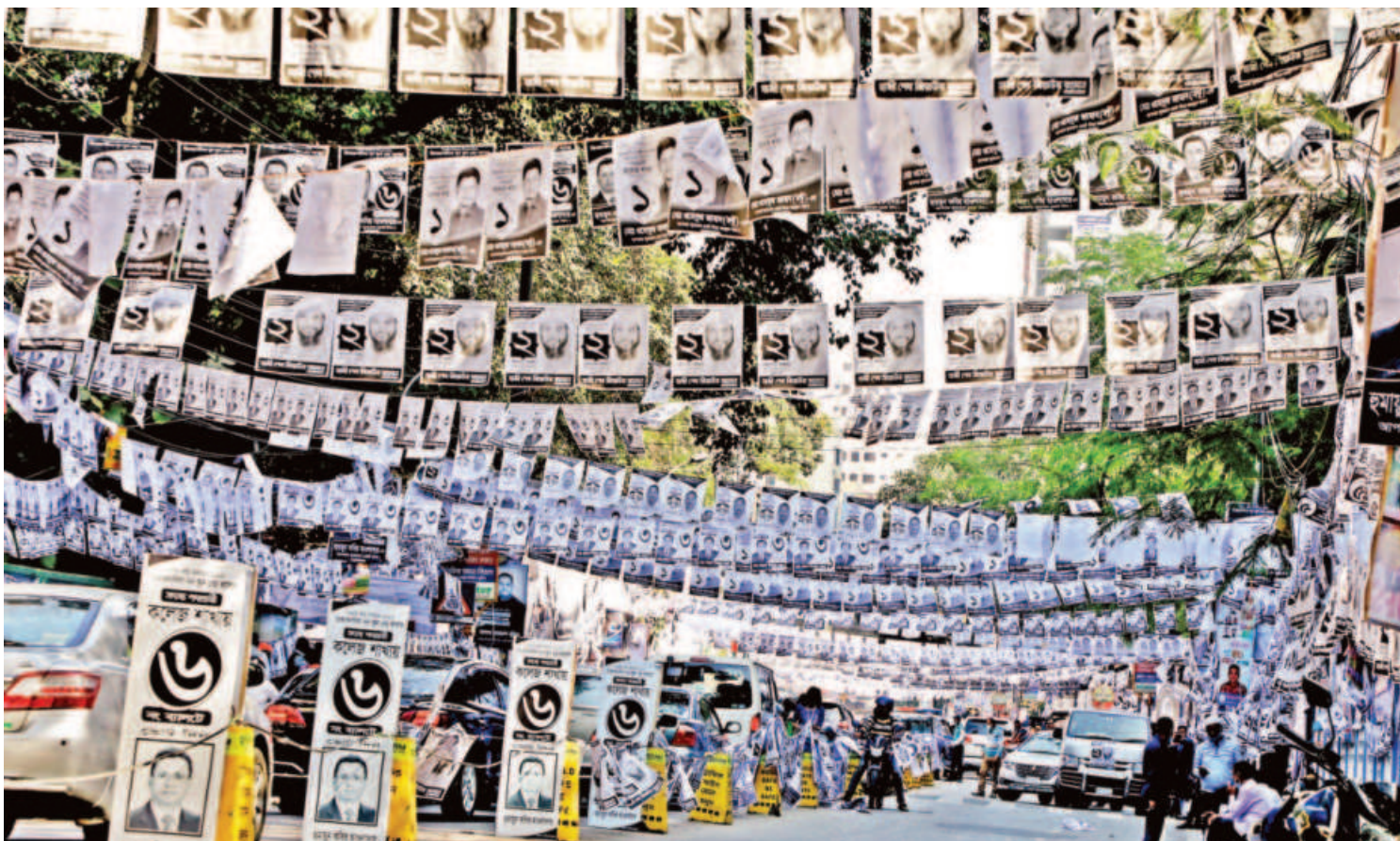
DB recovered Tk 20 lakh of the robbed money and seized a microbus and motorcycle from the arrestees' possession during drives in Dhaka, Savar and Patuakhali on Friday, DB chief Mohammad Harun Or Rashid told a press briefing yesterday.

The arrestees are Sohag Majhi (28), Delwar (26), Joynal Hossain (28), Soheli (27), Jony (32) and Md Aziz (57).

On November 13, a gang of 10 to 12 robbers, identifying themselves as DB men, intercepted the private car of Keramat Ali, owner of Marfat Ali Store, at Darigaon Bazar, when he

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PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 27					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha	
AZAN 5:10	12:45	3:45	5:19	7:00	
JAMAAT 5:45	1:15	4:00	5:22	7:30	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					



Hundreds of flyers hang above the road in front of Viharunnisa Noon School's main campus due to the institute's ongoing governing-body election campaign. Not only are these flyers an eyesore, they will eventually fall on the ground and litter the whole place. This photo was taken in Bailey Road yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

‘Militant Zia’: always a step ahead

Law enforcers struggling to catch him for years

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN

Whenever targeted killings and the resurgence of extremist outfits enter the conversation, the name of sacked army major Syed Ziaul Haque comes up. This has been the case for over a decade.

Zia, popularly known as Major Zia, a top leader of the Al-Qaeda-inspired militant outfit Ansar al-Islam, has been found to be directly involved in at least six murders of writers and bloggers.

In the latest, he has been named as the mastermind behind the recent snatching of two militants from court premises.

Moinul Hasan Shamim and

“ Zia is constantly changing his position. Whenever his location was identified, he changed it immediately. He also remains hidden from the surveillance of modern equipment.”

ASADUZZAMAN KHAN KAMAL
Home Minister

Abu Siddiq Sohel, members of the outfit's military wing, managed to escape from police custody on November 20.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman

Khan Kamal yesterday told reporters that Zia is constantly changing his position. “Whenever his location was identified, he changed it immediately. He also remains hidden from the surveillance of modern equipment.”

The home boss also said militants possess the same modern equipment or techniques that law enforcement forces use.

“We are trying to get hold of him. We are hopeful of arresting him soon,” he said.

According to investigators, Zia's activities were last noticed in the capital's Gulistan area last year.

He has collected a total of around Tk 6 lakh from a member of Ansar Al Islam behind Gulistan's Ahad police box, when he visited the area twice. He was supposed to collect funds again, said a police official, who has been following Zia's footprints for the last six years.

“We had created a trap to catch him after learning that Zia would go there to collect funds again, but he did not come,” said the official, requesting anonymity.

Asked why law enforcers did not try to catch him during his two visits, the official said even the outfit member, who delivers

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AL likely to introduce three leadership posts

Move comes ahead of govt announcing two more divisions

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League is likely to introduce three key leadership positions in the party – two organising secretaries and a joint general secretary – as the government is set to announce two new geographical divisions of the country.

However, top leaders of the ruling party confirmed that although three key positions will be added to the party, the size of Awami League's central working committee – the party's highest decision-making body – will not increase.

Sources said party president Sheikh Hasina is against making the apex body – which currently comprises 81 members – larger.

In that case, the party may deduct three members from the executive committee.

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As per the party's constitution, currently, there are 28 posts for executive members.

The issue was discussed at the first meeting of the subcommittee formed for constitutional amendments on November 12, with the agriculture minister and party presidium member Abdur Razzaque in the chair.

After the meeting, the committee sent letters to the party's grassroots leaders, seeking their recommendations for bringing amendments to the party charter, to modernise it and make it more time-befitting.

They were asked to send their suggestions within two weeks, after which, the sub-committee will scrutinise the suggestions.

The report prepared by the subcommittee

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Amid the wedding season, this fruit seller has picked up a unique business. He carves these fruits and vegetables for special ceremonies, and paints them with different colours. These items will eventually adorn tables as ornamental pieces. Based on the size of the fruit or vegetable, the price of per item varies. This photo was taken in Narayanganj rail gate area recently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



National unity crucial to restore democracy
Says Dr Kamal

STAR REPORT

Gonoforum founding president Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said a political crisis is present in the country, and this is due to the absence of democracy, rule of law and people's right to vote.

“Today, there is a conflict and crisis in the country ahead of the next national polls. People are living in insecurity,” he said.

He was addressing a meeting of

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বিশেষ সাধারণ সভা
উত্তরা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড

The founder and Executive Chairman of Aftab Group & The Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Azharul Islam presided The Extraordinary General Meeting of Uttara Bank held on last Thursday. The Managing Director of Aftab Group & The Vice-Chairman of Uttara Bank Mr. Iftekharul Islam attended the meeting. Other Directors & The Managing Director & CEO Mr. Mohammed Rabiul Hossain of Uttara Bank were also present. The Bank's name will now be Uttara Bank PLC and the authorized capital has been increased from Taka 1,000 (One Thousand) crore to Taka 1,500 (One Thousand Five Hundred) crore which were approved in the meeting.



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