'Pay up our dues'

Workers of closed RMG factory go on strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Demanding Tk 14 crore in compensation from the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority (Bepza), workers of Honour Way Textile and Apparels (Pvt) Ltd, a factory at Dhaka Export Processing Zone, went on a strike yesterday in front of Jatiya Press Club.

The RMG factory in DEPZ shut down fifteen years ago. However, the 1,400 workers who lost their employment are yet to receive their compensation.

Workers complained that despite being promised their due payments for the past 15 years, they have not received anything. The factory was sold out by EPZ (Export Processing Zone) since its owner, Alvin Di Lao, a Hong Kong resident, stopped showing up to work in 2008. However, the price at which the factory was sold has not been made public.

Rashed Khan Menon, president of Workers Party of Bangladesh, who joined the strike, said, "The carelessness of Bepza and DEPZ demonstrates their utter disregard for workers. The workers must receive their share of the proceeds since Bepza and DEPZ sold the property, factory building, and equipment."

Amirul Haque Amin, president of National Garments Workers Federation, said Bepza must take responsibility and pay the compensation. About 200 workers participated in the strike.

SYLHET ROAD CRASH Pick-up driver sent to jail after surrender

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Following a road accident, a Sylhet court sent a pick-up van driver to jail after he surrendered before it vesterday.

Abdur Rahim, 30, of Bajitpur village in Sunamganj's Dowarabazar upazila was driving the pick-up that collided with a truck in Sylhet's Dakshin Surma upazila around 5:00am on June 7. The accident claimed the lives of 15 of its 28 commuting construction workers.

Eleven of the injured died on the spot while the other four succumbed to their injuries while undergoing treatment at Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College

A case was filed under the Road Transport Act with Dakshin Surma Police Station on the day of the incident, accusing unnamed truck and pickup drivers.

Rab arrested Rahim from Patuakhali on June 10. He surrendered before the Sylhet Metropolitan Magistrate Court-2 which sent him to jail.



Commuters of the Saat Rasta spend hours in traffic as two rows of illegally parked buses near the Mohakhali bus stop take up almost half the road. This photo was taken near Nabisco intersection in the capital's Tejgaon vesterday.

They lose it all

Expelled for participating in Khulna city polls, BNP councillor candidates end up losing electoral race

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

Eight Khulna BNP leaders, who were expelled for running for councillor posts against the party directives, lost the electoral race. Only an expelled female BNP leader, Mazeda Khatun, won the reserved councillor post for women in ward 9.

Although no BNP candidates were successful in the election, a Jamaat-affiliated candidate was elected councillor in ward 12.

The remaining 30 general wards were won by members of the ruling party. Of them, 15 incumbent councillors were re-elected.

Locals and politicians told the Daily Star that BNP's defeat was primarily the result of an internal dispute. BNP's central leadership decided to boycott the city elections. Even, the party's senior leadership instructed its grassroots members not to run for office. Contrary to party directives, nine BNP executives ran for the city office in Khulna.

Consequently, many BNP activists collaborated with AL members to defeat the expelled BNP leaders in many wards. BNP even established a surveillance

cell to determine whether any BNP men participated in electoral campaigns or visited polling stations. As a result, many BNP men did not vote on election day.

Sheikh Sajjad Hossain alias Totan, Ashfaqur Rahman, Md Mahbub Kaiser, Muhammad Aman Ullah, Mushfiqus Saleheen, Kazi Fazlul Kabir, Imran Hossain, and Delwar Hossain Matubbar are the eight candidates who contested but lost the election.

Before expulsion, each of them held different posts

It was a govt decision

Says EC secretary on losing NID job to home ministry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commission nothing to say about the government's steps to task the home ministry with issuing national identity (NID) services, taking the job away from the commission.



The EC is following the government decision and will continue to do so, EC Secretary Jahangir Alam said yesterday while talking to reporters at

The cabinet on Monday gave the final nod to the draft of the National Identity Registration Act-2023, which will allow the home ministry to issue NID cards instead of the EC, which has been doing

"The state is now amending the law to put someone else in charge. The Election Commission has nothing say in this regard", he added.

20,988 foreign nationals work in country

Home minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

বিলেম পুলিল সুলার (ট্রান্ডগোর্ট)

পক্ষে/-জ্যভিশনাশ আইজি , স্পেলাল ব্ৰাঞ্চ

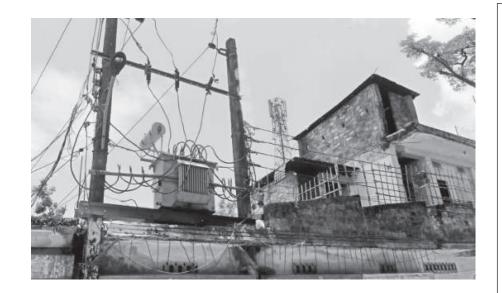
दालारमन जुनिन, एका

A total of 20,988 foreign nationals from 115 countries are currently working in Bangladesh with work permits.

"Of them, China has the largest while India has the second largest number of citizens working here," said Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal during a question-answer session in parliament yesterday.

In reply to a query from AL MP Mamunur Rashid Kiron, the minister, said foreign citizens are working in development projects, industries, local and foreign NGOs, and various other

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A electric transmitter that was placed on the edge of this building temporarily upon requests from locals and power division officials, remained there for the last 13 years, despite repeated plea for its removal. As a result, residents are now compelled to live in grave risks. This photo was taken in Sylhet city's Barokhola area recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Trial of two BNP leaders begins in sabotage case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday started trial against two BNP leaders in a case filed in connection with sabotage and conspiracy to create unrest against the government in 2018.

The court framed charges against the party's city unit convener Shahadat Hossain and Chattogram south district convener Abu Sufian. The accused were present at the court.

Police filed the case accusing BNP leader Shahadat and Abu Sufian and 38 others, saying that the party's leaders and activists gathered on the port city's Emdad Ali Road in Panchlaish to create unrest on November 2, 2018. After the investigation, police pressed charges against them on October 31, 2020.

Driver, helper get life term for yaba peddling in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a driver and a helper to life term imprisonment in a case filed over yaba peddling in the port city's Karnaphuli area in 2021. The court of 4th Metropolitan Magistrate Shariful Alam Bhuiyan passed the order.

The convicts are Md Taizul Islam Tazu, 29, a pickup van driver; and Md Rakib, 19, his helper.

According to the case statement, detectives arrested Taizul and Rakib with 5,000 yaba pills while they were smuggling the contraband drug from Cox's Bazar to Chattogram. Later, police filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station accusing them.

Dispose of application against Prof Zia in 2 months **HC orders DU** authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

High Court has ordered the authorities concerned of Dhaka University to dispose of in two months the application that sought an enquiry into allegations against Prof Zia Rahman, former chair of the Department

Criminology, irregularities in holding examinations and grading the undergrad students of the fifth batch in a course

The court stayed the issuance of provisional certificates to this batch of Local and Global Terrorism (CRM-411) course.

The HC also stayed the DU authorities' order that suspended Sakin Tanvir, an undergrad final-year student of the department, on the charge of sexually harassing another student without issuing any showcause notice to him.

The bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Showkat Ali Chowdhury passed the orders on Monday

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