

## **Mahala Spinning Workers Strike again in April for New Board**

Al Masry Al Yawm

By Adel Durah - Yasser Shemeis - Mohamed Mahmoud 2008/1/29

The Group of 30 representing the workers of the Mahala Spinning Company in Gharbia yesterday decided to hold a sit-in on April 6 for not meeting their demands, after they had agreed to end their last six-day sit-in of September 23.

They demanded to increase their wages and raise their food allowance from LE 54 to LE 90 in light of the recent wave of soaring prices. They also requested material transportation subsidies from the Holding Company for Spinning and Weaving.

Other demands included putting up kiosks at the company to be able to buy bread with their cards, and holding elections for a new board of directors as soon as possible, as the previous board was dismissed.

Union leaders Mohamed el-Attar and Sayed Habib said the workers decided to hold another sit-in, as promotion and housing committees were not formed, and as officials did not meet the promises they made at the previous protest.

In Beheira, 2000 teachers of the reward system protested before the Directorate of Education against not sending their names to the Ministry to be appointed as assistant teachers as per the new cadre law that was put into effect in July of last year.

Hazem Taha el-Shishini, one of the protesters, said that he is a graduate of the Faculty of Education in 1999 and that he had signed a contract with the Directorate in 2004. He expected to change his job title to assistant teacher, but found out that only the class of 2005 was chosen, although he met all pre-qualifications, including seniority.

Beheira Governor Mohamed Sharawi denied sending any lists to the Ministry, explaining that covering assistant teachers in the new cadre is done in accordance with the criteria set by the Ministry, not the Governorate.

He added that there was no reason to exclude the class of 2004, and promised to examine the problem with the Minister of Education.

In Qalyubia, 300 employees of the Bank of Development and Agricultural Credit in the province and its branches in the towns and villages protested against denying them incentives for five months, and allocating them to the insurance fund, which does not cover them.

They said they were promised the incentives in December but did not get anything so far, requesting the intervention of Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif and Minister of Agriculture Amin Abaza.