

Accords with workers hardly implemented

Garment owners agree to deals only to diffuse tension, finds study

MD HASAN

Garment factory owners are yet to implement fully any of the agreements signed between Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and workers' unions at different times.

Whenever the garment owners faced difficulties or problems, they made accords with the workers' bodies, says a study conducted by Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies (BILS).

Instead of implementing the deals, the owners even filed a writ petition against the government notification about minimum wages for labourers circulated in 2001.

Talking to The Daily Star, leaders of many labour organisations said when-

ever there is unrest, the owners reach accords with the workers just to defuse troubles.

According to the BILS study, successive presidents of the BGMEA signed at least four agreements with different labour federations but none of those has been implemented fully so far.

Earlier, the garment owners did not also implement the 24-point suggestion offered by the Department of Inspection for Factories and Establishment in November 2000. The Department pointed out 24 kinds of irregularities in garment industry that went against labour laws and suggested that the irregularities should be addressed to maintain a congenial working condition.

Inspection by the department also found that non-implementation of labour laws resulted in discontent and anger among the workers.

On July 8 in 2001, the government circulated a notification about minimum wages for workers of private sector industries. The notification said minimum wages should be at least Tk 1,200 a month if the number of workers in a factory is up to 10. And minimum wages should be Tk 1,250 and Tk 1,350 if the number of workers in a factory is up to 50 and over 50.

But the government notification was not implemented as New Age Garment Ltd filed a writ against it in August 2001.

According to the four agreements between garment owners

3 killed in 'encounters'

STAR REPORT

Three people including an outlaw were killed in two separate 'encounters' with law enforcers in the capital and in Meherpur district early yesterday.

The dead are Alamgir Sikdar, 22, an electrician, Faruq Hossain Jashim, 23, driver of a private car, and Saidur Rahman Sila, 36, Meherpur district commander of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) Janajuddha faction.

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UDICHI BLAST CASE

Judge for more arguments before verdict

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

The judgments of the sensational Udichi bomb blast cases were not delivered on the scheduled date yesterday, as the judge sought more legal explanations and arguments from both sides.

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JS SECRETARIAT

Tk 40.71 cr draft budget prepared for next fiscal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Parliament Secretariat has prepared a Tk 40.71 crore draft budget for fiscal year 2006-07 which is 14 per cent less than the revised budget of the current fiscal year.

The draft budget for the Jatiya Sangsad will be placed at a meeting

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SIRAJGANJ PLANT

12 companies vie for power project

UNB, Dhaka

Twelve private power companies yesterday submitted their pre-qualification (PQ) documents to win the bid for the proposed 450MW Sirajganj power plant.

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Prayer Timing		
May 31		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

ORGANOGRAM DISCORD

ACC sends letter to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in a letter to the government formally stated yesterday its stand against the proposed ACC organisational structure with 650 posts as prepared by the Cabinet Division.

Signed by ACC Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, the letter urged the Cabinet Division to accept the previous proposal of the ACC for 1,376 posts, said an official. A copy of the ACC-proposed organisational structure was also attached to the letter.

A source in the Cabinet

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PHOTO: STAR

Many non-government primary schoolteachers fell sick on the third day of their hunger strike at Muktangan in the capital yesterday.

Pry teachers start fast unto death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Failing to realise the one-point demand for nationalisation of their jobs even after observing 48-hour hunger strike, Bangladesh Non-government Primary Teachers Association began hunger strike unto death from 6:00pm yesterday at Muktangan in the capital.

After the end of their 48-hour hunger strike at 5:00pm, the teachers association declared their programme that also includes observing strike from today up to June 8 in about 23,000 non-government primary schools across the country.

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EU puts LTTE on terror list, slaps sanctions

Lanka rejects military option against Tigers

AFF, Colombo/Brussels

Sri Lanka's president yesterday ruled out military action against Tamil Tigers while police probed

a reported massacre of 12 civilians by the rebels as they were outlawed in Europe.

The European Union put Sri Lanka's Tamil Tigers on its list of terrorist groups on Monday, despite a

warning from the rebels that the move could force them back to war.

The EU ban, agreed in principle on May 18, was made official at a meeting of ministers from the 25-member bloc to discuss competition issues.

It will deprive the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of some of the vital funds they collect from members of the Tamil diaspora in Europe.

As well as freezing rebel funds, the

move, which came at the urging of the United States and the Sri Lankan government, also provides for special EU cooperation measures to combat the group.

President Mahinda Rajapakse's office said his government was ready to resume peace talks with the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) despite the ban

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Govt won't sell Sonargaon Hotel

Tells Saudi group at meeting

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The government has decided not to sell Sonargaon Hotel at this moment to the Kingdom Group of Saudi Arabia because the hotel is now a profitable concern.

"This chapter is closed...We have told the Kingdom Group about our decision," State Minister for Civil

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Boishakhi TV director files criminal case against Abbas

COURT CORRESPONDENT

One of the directors of Boishakhi, a private satellite channel, yesterday filed a criminal case against public works minister and the channel's managing director (MD) for threatening him with death to hand over his share.

MNH Bulu of the city's Gulshan Model Town filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's

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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, flanked by her cabinet and party colleagues, offers prayers after placing wreaths at the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman on his 25th death anniversary yesterday.



PHOTO: PID

Tributes paid to Zia

UNB, Dhaka

The ruling BNP and its front organisations paid rich tributes to president Ziaur Rahman on his 25th death anniversary yesterday.

On May 30, 1981, Ziaur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army personnel at Chittagong Circuit House.

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