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EC officials to revise voter list sitting in their offices

Information gathered during unlawful preparation of fresh voter list to be used for revision

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Experts on electoral laws said the procedure prescribed by the laws for revising the existing voter list is the same as the procedure for preparing a fresh voter list, which is -- going from door to door for collecting information about prospective voters.

But the EC decided that people who became eligible as voters since 2000 will have to go to the offices of election officials at the district, thana and upazila headquarters, a procedure the experts termed as unrealistic and unprecedented and which they fear will create further chaos.

According to the latest EC decision the same procedure will be followed to delete a name of a fake voter or names of the persons who died since the existing list was prepared in 2000. It has to receive

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36-hr hartal starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14-party opposition combine enforces a countrywide 36-hour shutdown from 6:00am today to 6:00pm tomorrow to press home its demands for electoral reforms, resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two 'politically appointed' election commissioners.

The hartal was called soon after the Awami League (AL)-led combine's 9:00am to 5:00pm Dhaka siege on Sunday also to protest 'police atrocities' on opposition leaders and workers during the siege programme that saw clashes between the law enforcers and opposition men, leaving around 500 injured.

Hospitals, drug stores, fire brigade, vehicles of journalists and ambulances will remain out of the purview of the hartal.

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Czech midfielder Tomas Rosicky, left, scores his second goal during the World Cup 2006 Group E match between Czech Republic and USA in Gelsenkirchen, Germany.

LABOUR RIGHTS, PEACEFUL WORKPLACE Govt, RMG workers, owners sign formal agreement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Following the severe labour unrest in the country's premier export-earning garment sector, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed yesterday by the government, garment owners and workers' leaders to ensure labour rights and peaceful atmosphere in the factories.

Meanwhile, a number of garment factories witnessed labour unrest yesterday on the question of salary hike although the 24-hour strike called by workers at the factories was withdrawn at the last moment.

Workers in many factories either did not join their duties or left the factory after signing the attendance register, sources said.

The ten-point MoU endorsed the wage board formed on May 31

that will declare the minimum wage for workers within three months of its formation. The other terms of the agreement would be implemented within one month.

The MoU committed not to terminate any workers for involvement in the recent agitation and all cases filed against them will be withdrawn.

The workers will be given appointment letters, identity cards immediately. The owners also agreed not to create any hindrance to formation of trade union in any factory.

All the factories will be opened for bringing normalcy in the premier export-earning sector.

The MoU was signed after a series of discussions on May 24, June 1 and June 4 among the stakeholders in the garment sector.

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Army, Rab raid kills 10 Indian insurgents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten alleged Indian insurgents are believed to have been killed in a joint raid by the army and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) on a remote dense forest at Baghaichhari in Rangamati yesterday, according to a primary report.

Director General of Rab MA Aziz

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30 hurt as workers fight with officials at DEPZ factory

JU CORRESPONDENT

At least 30 people were injured in clashes between workers and officials of Youngone Group in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) yesterday over beating up of a worker by a mid-level official.

Meanwhile, a number of garment factories remained closed yesterday despite the withdrawal of workers' strike.

The severely injured were taken to hospitals in Dhaka and Savar while others were given first aid at the factory medical centre.

The clashes erupted after several thousand female workers kept three factory officials including Azgar, deputy general manager of the factory, confined to a room on first floor from 11:00am to 3:00pm as Azgar allegedly beat up Lota, a pregnant worker.

Azgar hit Lota, sewing operator,

on the head with a stick as she stopped operations in her section. Factory staffs led by Azgar went on a rampage inside the factory beating up workers and reportedly smashed window glasses, computers and valuables to implicate the workers as vandals.

Youngone Group, in a press release, claimed a number of workers, who sparked off the May 31 half-day strike, instigated workers to refrain from work at its RMG units inside the DEPZ. Youngone Group said the agitating workers vandalised the factory and the group is unable to open their factories in DEPZ under the circumstances.

Worker discontent was brewing since Friday as owners did not give them the full salary and curtailed half-day's salary of May 31 for demonstrating for their three-

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Italy win in style

REUTERS, Hannover

Goals from Andrea Pirlo and Vincenzo Iaquinta gave Italy a 2-0 victory over Ghana in an entertaining World Cup Group E match on Monday.

Midfielder Pirlo's 40th-minute goal came after Ghana, looking sharp in their approach play, had wasted two good chances.

Italy rarely looked in danger after the break and coach Marcello Lippi will be well pleased with a solid performance.

Substitute Iaquinta secured victory when he raced through in the 83rd minute before rounding goalkeeper Richard Kingston and slotting the ball into an empty net.

Ghana, playing in their first World Cup finals match, looked nervous in the opening stages and almost fell behind in the 27th minute when Luca Toni wriggled free of marker Samuel Kuffour and blasted a shot against the underside of the bar.

That served as a wake-up call to

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Rosicky ravages USA

AFP, Gelsenkirchen

Tomas Rosicky scored twice as the Czech Republic enjoyed an impressive 3-0 victory over the United States in their World Cup opener on Monday.

Giant striker Jan Koller, who opened the scoring, had headed in the first goal but his afternoon

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TEAM	TIME	VENUE
Korea Rep v Togo	6:50 pm	Frankfurt
France v Switzerland	9:50 pm	Stuttgart
Brazil v Croatia	12:50 am (Wednesday)	Berlin

win exciting prizes!!
see inside for details

Chaos in parliament over remark against Hasina

AL walks out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed a pandemonium for about 15 minutes over a BNP lawmaker's remarks on Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

Before staging a walkout, Awami League (AL) lawmakers gathered in front of the Speaker's podium and asking the chair to expunge ruling BNP legislator Moshir Rahman's comment and compel him to apologise.

Led by Hasina, the AL lawmakers walked out of the House at 6:35pm as the chair did not respond to their demand immediately.

Moshir, taking the floor on a point of order, said, "Sheikh Hasina sought blessings from Golan Azam (former Jamaat chief) by touching his feet."

Later at a press briefing, the opposition leader said they would not return to the House in two days due to the opposition-called hartal from today. They would however come back on Thursday.

During the chaos, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid Siddiqui, who chaired the sitting, tried to pacify the agitating opposition lawmakers, saying he would examine the statement (of Moshir) and that if there are unparliamentary words, those would be expunged. "I can't force any member to apologise," he said.

Moshir's comment sparked instant protest from the main opposition party and its lawmakers threw files and papers in the air and asked the chair to halt Moshir's speech. As the BNP lawmaker continued, most of the AL lawmakers, except the leader of the opposition and her deputy, gathered at the space

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DHAKA SIEGE Thousands face cases after wholesale arrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police filed more than 20 cases against some 250 opposition leaders and activists, who were picked up during the Sunday's Dhaka-siege programme, as well as against several thousand unknown others.

Most of them were implicated in the cases filed for assaulting police, damaging and setting fire to vehicles and detonating explosives.

Two cases were filed under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act.

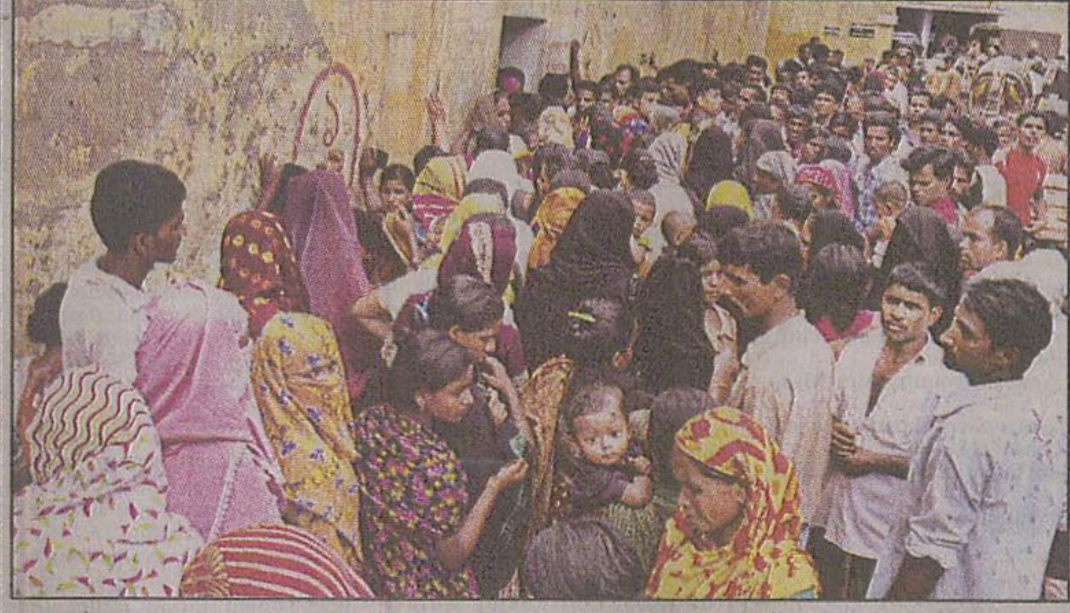
Besides, the police implicated many innocent people and opposition activists as suspected accused in different pending cases, in a bid to harass them and extract bribes, sources said.

Regarding the Dhaka-siege, police filed cases against Awami League (AL) leaders including Shahjahan Khan MP, Krishak League President Mirza Abdul Jalil, Alhaj Mokbul Hossain, Kamal Majumder and Haji Selim.

The two cases under the Speedy Trial (Law and Order Disruption) Act were filed with Mirpur and Ramna police stations.

According to police, five cases were filed with the Ramna Police Station alone where 24 accused were named and some 2000-2500 mentioned as unknown. Three

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Relatives of people arrested before and during 14-party's Dhaka-siege programme wait in front of Dhaka Central Jail yesterday to meet their near and dear ones.

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