

30 hurt as workers

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 point demand.
 The demands included wages at the current exchange rate of US dollar and transport arrangement for female workers.
 Workers of the factory refrained from work as the factory officials hung a notice on factory gate saying no demands of the workers will be met.
 The factory authorities also served warning notices to 15 factory representatives of Workers Representative Welfare Committee (WRWC) on Saturday, restricted their movement inside the factory and stopped allowing them to talk to each other.
 "I got Tk 3,050 as salary of last month while my salary is Tk 4,000," said Sufia, a second floor worker of the factory. Rasheda and Shazeda also got Tk150 less in their last month's salary. On the other hand, staffs above the post supervisor got their full salaries of the last month.
 Verbal abuse by staffs has taken the worst turn after resumption of operations following the workers' unrest," said Razia adding she earns Tk 2,900 per month after working in the factory for seven years.
 The authorities increased the salary by 30 per cent for workers who are fair and beautiful while our salary increased only by 10 per cent as we are not beautiful," alleged Runa who works on the third floor in the factory.
 The male officers intimidate or force female workers to take rides with them and if they protested or refused they are threatened with expulsion or are expelled, alleged Sufia. Dalia and Hena, sewing section workers.
 Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) Brigadier General Ashraf Abdullah Yussuf managed to ease the situation around 3:00pm after discussions with the workers.
 In the meeting with the workers he said, 'Action will be taken against the people responsible as per law of

Govt, RMG workers,

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 The government also formed 15 inspection teams for monitoring workers' condition in the factories. Ten teams will work in Dhaka and five in Chittagong. A team will visit 15-20 factories in a week and submit weekly reports to the labour ministry, sources said.
 The representatives from the government, Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and trade union leaders signed the MoU following a final round of discussion with the State Minister for Labour and Employment Aman Ullah Aman at his ministry.
 The agreement was signed to give a permanent shape to the understandings on various issues reached during the previous discussions," BGMEA President Tipu Munshi said last night.
 State Minister for Employment Aman Ullah Aman signed the MoU on behalf of the government while BGMEA President Tipu Munshi, BKMEA President Fazlul Hoque, former BGMEA president Anisul Haq and four other BGMEA directors signed from owners side.
 Seventeen workers' leaders including Rof Romesh Chandra, Zaful Hasan, Nurul Islam, Shaifur Rahman Majumder, Dr Wazedul Islam signed the agreement on behalf of the workers.
 Representatives from other 39 labour organisations were present during the signing of MoU.
 As per the agreement, garment workers will get one day weekly holiday and enjoy the other government holidays according to the existing labour laws.
 The female workers will also get maternity leave with regular salary. The workers will get overtime if they work more than eight hours a day, according to the MoU.
 The labour leaders said all their demands except the minimum wage have been fulfilled by the MoU.
 The wage board will hopefully submit its report before the end of the present government's tenure, government officials said.
 The MoU signing meeting pre-

36-hr hartal

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 Meanwhile, the government has taken adequate measures to maintain law and order during the hartal period. Around 7,000 police, BDR and Ansar personnel will be deployed in the capital to avert any untoward incidents.
 Protesting the police atrocities, the opposition line-up yesterday staged demonstrations across the country.
 The AL and its allies and their front organisations also brought out processions in the city under tight police vigilance and elsewhere in the country to drum up support for the shutdown.
 They demanded immediate unconditional release of their leaders and activists arrested in connection with the Dhaka siege and withdrawal of 'false' cases filed against them.
 Leaders of the 14-party at a rally in front of the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday urged the people to make the hartal a success. They also threatened to go for up to a weeklong hartal across the country if the government uses law enforcers against opposition men during the hartal.
 Left-leaning 11-party, a component of the AL-led combine, at an emergency meeting at the Workers' Party office called upon all to make the hartal a success.
 Addressing the 14-party rally, AL

Experts slam

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 of preparing a flawless voter list has been diminished and the EC has stepped into a fresh controversy regarding preparation of the voter list for the next parliamentary election.
 Names of many eligible people will remain out of the list and names of many fake voters will not be deleted from the list due to the decision, they said.
 "It is an unrealistic and wrong idea to revise the voter list without going from door to door. People have been accustomed for decades to register their names to election officials when they come to them. But the Election Commission for the first time is asking people to go to election offices to register their names," former adviser to a caretaker government, M Hafizuddin Khan told The Daily Star yesterday.
 Echoing the same view, former election commissioner M Munsef Ali said a dangerous situation will be created if election officials do not go from door to door to prepare the voter list, and many eligible people will remain out of the list. "Voters are not accustomed to the new practice," he said.
 Another former election commissioner Justice Naimuddin said, "Enumerators should go from door to door to register eligible people as voters. No voter has any business going to election offices to register his or her name on the voter list. He termed the EC's decision 'illogical'.
 Usually, to prepare a fresh voter list, enumerators collect information about prospective voters by going from door to door. Then the EC publishes a draft voter list inviting claims and objections about it and after settling the claims and objections the EC publishes the final list.
 The EC followed this procedure during preparation of the now defunct fresh voter list ignoring the High Court directives, which had asked it to revise the existing list and which were upheld by the May 23 Supreme Court verdict.
 But this time around, the EC will not follow this procedure in revising the existing voter list.
 The procedures for revising the existing voter list and for preparing a fresh voter list is the same, Justice Naimuddin said.
 M Munsef Ali said the EC had a chance to prepare a flawless voter list after the Supreme Court verdict. "But it will not be possible to prepare a fair voter list without going from door to door," he said.
 The court asked the EC to prepare a flawless voter list and it should follow proper procedures so the voter list is flawless, the former election commissioner said.
 Hafizuddin Khan said it will not be possible to hold a fair election using such a controversial method to revise the existing voter list.

Israel

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 In Israeli missile strikes in Gaza in 2004.
 Hamas, which formed the Palestinian government in March after winning a January election, is sworn to Israel's destruction.
 Speaking to reporters in Gaza, Haniyeh shrugged off Hanegbi's threat as indicative of "a type of political madness from some Israeli leaders."
 Hamas carried out nearly 60 suicide bombings in Israel after the start of a Palestinian uprising in 2000 but halted such attacks in mid-2004 and largely abided by a ceasefire reached in early 2005.
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Rosicky

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 suffered a painful end when he was stretched off injured on the stroke of half-time.
 Koller found the net in the fifth minute and new Arsenal signing Rosicky was on target in the 36th and 76th minutes in the crucial Group E match.
 American skipper Claudio Reyna said the early strike had put his men on the backfoot.
 "The first goal put us back on our heels," he said.
 "We played well and hit the post but we then made some tactical changes which didn't work. We needed some width and couldn't get it."
 Reyna is convinced that the team's young players need to use the experience of the match when they face mighty Italy on Saturday.
 "They will be tough to beat but we have to bounce back and learn from this. Some of the guys in the team are new to the World Cup and they were a little nervous."
 "Now we must look forward and see what we are made of. We will have to be aggressive and not hesitant."
 Koller scored when he met a right wing cross from Zdenek Grygys that eluded two defenders. The 201m attacker's 43rd goal in 69 matches came from point-blank range.
 Midfielder Rosicky struck in the 36th minute, blasting a right-footed 25-metre shot past goalkeeper Kasey Keller, who dived to his left in vain.
 Rosicky struck again in the second half to seal the triumph, flicking a left-foot shot past Keller eight minutes after smashing a shot off the crossbar.
 Next for the Czechs will be Ghana on Saturday, the same day the US team faces Italy.

Outlaw killed

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 recover the hidden firearms.
 When they reached the area at about 3:20am, Rafiq's men opened fire on the law enforcers, forcing them to retaliate. According to a Rab press release, Rafiq received bullets during the "shootout" and died on the spot, while his accomplices managed to flee.
 The outlaw was wanted in a number of several criminal cases including five for murder recorded with Rampal and Mongla police stations, the press release added.
 One pipe gun and six bullets were recovered from the scene.

EC officials

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 Referring to the EC's decision its acting secretary also said a massive campaign will be launched to create awareness among the people about the legal provisions to prevent inclusion of fake voters on the list.
 The EC that had continued the preparation of the fresh voter list ignoring the HC directives and published a draft voter list on May 3 finally suspended that activity on June 7 but did not cancel it. Its appeal against the HC directives however was rejected by the Supreme Court.
 "The election commission should have canceled the whole procedure initiated for the fresh voter list before taking the decision to revise the existing list," immediate past election commissioner M Munsef Ali told The Daily Star yesterday.
 The unilateral decision by CEC MA Aziz to continue preparing the fresh voter list cost the EC at least Tk 38 crore.
 The CEC and two election commissioners, Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria did not talk to the media and rather assigned the acting secretary to brief the journalists waiting at the EC Secretariat.

CHT accord

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 Morshed Khan, the association also said "the EU has emphasised its strong concern at the need to ensure that the human rights and legitimate expectations of the indigenous people in the CHT are fully safeguarded, in line with Bangladesh's international obligations under ILO Convention 107 and other instruments."
 While acknowledging the complexity of the legal and institutional regimes, which covers the CHT Peace Accord, the EU noted that only by implementing the accord fully, long-term peace and prosperity could be secured for all Bangladeshis citizens in the hill tracts.
 Key issues in the accord include the establishment of land rights through the effective operationalisation of the Land Dispute Resolution Commission and the conduct of free and fair elections to the Hill District Councils.
 As the next parliamentary elections draw near, the EU said it is also imperative that citizens from the indigenous communities are registered and their voice heard at the polls.
 According to a EU release, the union's commitment to the region is reflected in the financial assistance, which it is providing to the UN CHT Development Facility, with a contribution to the second phase of the programme, which runs until 2009, of 16 million euros.
 This is in addition to bilateral development projects supported by EU member states, for example in the fields of water and sanitation, and human rights, the release added.

Block allocation

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 for poverty reduction and development of Chittagong Hill Tracts.
 Of the Tk 3,024 crore, agriculture ministry is to get the highest Tk 741 crore, education and religious affairs ministries Tk 537 crore, communications ministry Tk 292 crore, power Tk 405 crore, oil, gas and natural resources Tk 295 crore and rural development ministry Tk 101 crore.
 Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at his post-budget press briefing on Friday said many new projects were yet to get allocation and that they would be provided with funds from block allocation.
 He mentioned that the present government has just over four months of its tenure and it will not be possible to release the block allocation during this period because of the lengthy procedure needed for this.
 But Awami League leader and former state minister for planning Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir refuted Saifur's claim regarding block allocation.

Harbin gets project

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 power to inquire into how the EGCB is handling the project, which is being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and implemented under its strict guideline. The Daily Star report said the EGCB might violate the ADB guideline if it approves the Harbin bid.
 The EGCB in a letter to the state minister said that though Harbin hid prices of various equipment, the weighted average cost of per kilowatt power is in favour of Harbin. Bhel quoted Tk 41,337 per kilowatt while Harbin quoted Tk 40,599.
 The letter added that Kema rejected Harbin's bid as non-responsive on the basis of the ADB guideline on bid evaluation, 2000. The Tec claimed that the tender document did not incorporate the particular clause of ADB guideline and therefore this criterion cannot be considered in evaluation.
 "This is a lame excuse. There are innumerable documents showing that this tender is being implemented under the ADB guideline," said a source.
 Besides, Harbin's act of hiding 17.5 per cent of the project cost itself should be a good enough reason to disqualify its bid, with or without the ADB guideline, the source said, adding, "It has done the same with the Tongji project, Chandpur project and the Fenchuganj project. We have seen the Tongji plant's performance."

Dhaka siege

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 cases were filed with Dhanmondi Police Station where 12 people were named as accused and 400-500 others mentioned as unidentified people.
 Similar cases were also filed with Sonargaon, Savar and Tongi police stations accusing several hundred people.
 Police yesterday produced 286 people, arrested during the siege programme and overnight raids, before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court showing them arrested mainly in police assault cases, explosive cases and for damaging government and public properties.
 Very few of them were also shown arrested in the cases filed earlier with different police stations.
 When the defence lawyers sought bail, the court fixed the date of hearing on the bail petitions and other issues after the end of 36-hour hartal.
 This came as a blow to several hundred relatives of the arrestees, who have been waiting on the court premises with hopes for release of their near and dear ones.
 Taking advantage of the situation, many middlemen made brisk money.
 Victims alleged that they paid Tk 300 to Tk 500 to these people, who promised them to get the detainees released, but later did nothing.
 The lawyers said most arrestees are innocent and they have been implicated in false cases.
JAIL GATE
 Like other days, several hundred people were seen collecting tickets at the jail gate to meet their detained relatives.
 Many of them alleged that police picked up their young relatives ahead of the Dhaka-siege programme and implicated them in cases, some of which were filed even a year back.
 They were worried that many of the detainees have been shown arrested in non-bailable cases, like murder, explosives and arms cases, although they are innocent.
 They also alleged that only those who could bring the police in time, managed to release their dear ones before they were implicated in such cases.
 "After my son was arrested on June 8 from Ramna area and implicated in an explosives case, I consulted a lawyer and he told me that it will take around Tk 25,000 for my son's release," said father of a detained shopkeeper wishing not to be named.
 Shahabuddin have been coming to jail gate almost daily after Pallabi police arrested his son Mohammed Jewel, joint convener of ward 5 unit of the Awami League (AL), on June 5.
 He yesterday alleged that Jewel's brother-in-law went to the police station after his arrest and the sub-inspector who arrested him demanded Tk 10,000 for his release, threatening to implicate him in a murder case.
 "My son-in-law gave the police officers and they implicated Jewel in a theft and an assault case," he said.

BB terms

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 adding that the organisation has already removed many papers and documents from its office.
 The BB report said Jubok collected deposit promising benefits like special bonus programme under which a depositor, be he a member of Jubok or not, can immediately draw a profit of Tk 20,000 after depositing Tk 1 lakh while the capital may be refunded after one year.
 On May 24, the BB on the basis of its report issued a show cause notice on Jubok for its alleged involvement in unauthorised banking business, such as collection of deposits and borrowing from the common people offering interests.
 In its response on May 31 to the BB show cause notice, Jubok urged the central bank to hold a hearing on its explanation. In the explanation, Jubok said it is doing business like other NGOs.
 Yesterday, Jubok's representatives appeared before a three-member BB committee led by BB Executive Director Murshid Kuli Khan for hearing. Jubok Karmasangsthan Society Chairman Abu Mohammad Syed and its Executive Director Hossain Al Masum and another high official were present on behalf of Jubok.
 The Jubok representatives in the hearing repeated what they wrote in the answer to the BB's show cause notice, sources said, adding that after examining Jubok's answer to the show cause notice, its replies in the hearing, and the BB's findings after the investigation, BB will take its next course of action.

Nagorik Committee

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 length. The committee suggested that the brief on 'Electoral and Political Reforms' should be disseminated through print media.
 Besides, eight goals were formulated and decided upon in the meeting. These are -- to attain true democracy, to be a middle-income country, to have a more equitable society, to have a skilled and a healthy population, to have a publicly accountable and transparent government, to offer necessary infrastructure to be a regional commercial hub, to be environmentally sustainable and to be effectively integrated in regional and global economy.
 It may be noted that the vision paper is being prepared keeping the needs in mind, when in 2021 Bangladesh will celebrate its 50 years of independence.
 The meeting was chaired by M Syeduzzaman and was attended by Laila Rahman Kabir, Anisuzzaman, Mahmuda Islam, Syed Manzoor Elahi, Mahmudul Islam, Sultana Kamal and ASM Shahjahan. Debbarpia Bhattacharya facilitated the meeting as the member secretary of the body.

British envoy

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 the press yesterday.
 "We also express our grave concern about the level of politically-motivated violence which risks tarnishing Bangladesh's reputation as a democracy," said Anwar Chowdhury, who himself became victim of a grenade attack in Sylhet in 2004.
 For elections to be free, fair and acceptable, politicians must also be peaceful, he said.
 "Personal security for genuine protesters, voters, activists, leaders and the media is a fundamental right. The world is watching," said the Bangladesh-born British diplomat.
 He said the British government believes that the coming months are critical to the future of Bangladesh, a country with which the UK has close ties.
 The British High Commission intends to continue its discussion on the conduct of the forthcoming elections with all parties, including on the necessity for dialogue on reform and the matter of personal security, he said.
 "Respect for the rule of law means there can be no violence, intimidation or manipulation. We call on all sides to ensure this," continued the high commissioner.
 Another issue of concern to the British High Commission is accountability, he said.
 "A crucial measure of the fairness and acceptability of this election will be the existence of an accurate and inclusive voter list that achieves consensus; all eligible Bangladeshis deserve the right to vote in this election.
 "We look to the Election Commission to address this in a transparent, independent and competent manner, in accordance with the Supreme Court ruling," the High Commissioner said.

Chaos in parliament

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 between the opposition and treasury benches, and shouted at the BNP lawmakers.
 Senior ministers including Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain stopped some junior BNP legislators, who were rushing towards the opposition benches.
 "You can't dictate me to run the House," Akhter Hamid told the opposition lawmakers.
 Amid the noisy scene, Hasina took the floor and reiterated her party lawmakers' demand for expunging Moshirur's 'untrue' statement.
 "The government doesn't want to see us in the House and that is why it investigates the back benches to use abusive words in every session," Hasina said.
 "Not me... It is Khaleda Zia (leader of the House) who has relations with Golam Azam, and people know this," Hasina said.
 "We don't need Golam Azam, you (ruling coalition) need them. BNP and Jamaat are now members of one family," she went on.
 After the AL walkout, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, took the floor and termed the opposition leader's statement indecent and unparliamentary. "We are worried. It (chaos in the House) is an unprecedented incident. They (AL) did it to destroy democracy," he added.
 The acting Speaker said acts of the opposition go against decency. What they did is not good for democracy. If they continue this, it will not be possible to run parliament, he added.
 At the press briefing, Hasina said BNP engages its 'hoilgan' lawmakers to use indecent words against the opposition to keep it away from the House. "They did the same thing in the past and continues to do so now."
 "If the opposition stays in the House, their (ruling coalition) corruption and misdeeds would be exposed... But we will not spare them. We will join the House again and expose those," she told journalists.
 "We are not looking for a decision at this week's board," Schulte said.
 "The next decision is to be taken not in Vienna but in Tehran."

Italy win

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 the Africans who then produced their best spell of the game, twice giving the Italians a scare.
 Asamoah Gyan should have done better when he drove wide after being set up by Matthew Amoah.
 Emmanuel Pappoe then blasted high and wide from a promising position in the 32nd minute.
 Italy responded with a thundering drive from 30 metres by Francesco Totti which Kingston tipped over.
 Five minutes before the break Totti played a quick, short-corner to an unmarked Pirlu who had the space to line up a shot which whistled through a crowded penalty area to give Lippi's side the lead.
 Albertino Gilardino forced Kingston into action again in the 51st minute with a low drive after racing on to a delightful Totti pass but again Ghana replied, Michael Essien's 20-metre drive forcing Gianluigi Buffon to full stretch.
 Totti limped off in the 56th minute to be replaced by Mauro Camoranesi and Italy continued to look the more dangerous, Simone Perrotta bringing a good save out of Kingston.
 Ghana had an appeal for a penalty turned down in the 79th minute when Gyan went down under challenge inside the area.

Justice Naimuddin

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 The Daily Star after High Court (HC) order to ban the opposition's Dhaka siege.
 "In this particular case the opposition announced their Dhaka siege a month ago, they made open announcement and repeated it several times and said they would siege Dhaka on June 11 if their demands were not met," said Justice Naimuddin.
 "About a month after the announcement, the writ was filed only a few hours before beginning of the programme. I am saying only a few hours because June 11 literally begins after 12:00 midnight of June 10. So, filing the writ on June 10 means filing it only a few hours before the programme."
 One lawyer appeared before the chief justice with a petition and appealed for forming a bench. The HC Division Bench imposed the ban just few hours before the siege was scheduled to begin, he added.
 The man who filed the petition knew about the programme for a month, he said. "A question will arise obviously in the minds of those who know the law as to why the petitioner did not file the application with a reasonable time in hand and sufficiently ahead of the programme so that the opposition party had the opportunity of being heard by the HC Division Bench and why he applied for an interim prohibitory order only a few hours before it was due to begin," he added.
 The meaning of imposing an interim ban is that the writ petition would become inoperative after June 11. It would not be necessary to continue with the petition anymore, he said.
 "I don't know how he explained before the court about the delay in filing the petition," he said. In order to invoke the writ jurisdiction of the HC, the aggrieved person must come before the court at the earliest opportunity and the petition will be rejected according to the law if he makes unnecessary delay to file it, he said adding, "This has been established by series of precedents in various cases decided by the superior courts not only in the Indian subcontinent but all over the world."
 According to the convention, the petition filed without any satisfactory cause for delay is liable to be summarily rejected by the bench without entering into the merit of the case of the petitioner, said Justice Naimuddin.
 "However, I do not like to say anything about the legality or otherwise of the Dhaka siege programme announced by the opposition parties or the legality or otherwise of the advertising order passed by the HC Division Bench because the matter is sub-judice."
 There are innumerable instances of rejecting writ petitions due to delay in filing. The Appellate Division a few days ago pronounced if the court finds that the writ petition has been filed with some oblique motive, the petitioner will not be entitled to get any remedy from the court in its extraordinary original jurisdiction because it is a basic principle that in a writ petition the petitioner must come with a bona fide motive and with clean hands."
 In other words, a petition is liable to be summarily rejected if the court finds the objective of filing it is not honest or there is any oblique motive behind it, he said. "My little knowledge about law says there are such instances in the history of constitutional law and higher judiciary over the last few hundred years" he added.