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Canada envoy for reduced graft, greater transparency

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh needs to decisively tackle corruption and lack of transparency in the government decision-making process, Canadian envoy David Sproule told a meeting yesterday.

He felt it is essential to remove infrastructure bottlenecks, reduce bureaucratic obstacles, and improve decision-making and transparency.

"Canadian companies have experienced frustrations in efforts to win contracts for large projects in power and telecommunications where technically sound and low priced bids have lost out to technically suspect, higher priced bids,"

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800 storm Bangladesh mission in Kuwait

Non-payment of expat workers alleged, 2 wounded, embassy extensively damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 800 Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait stormed the Bangladesh embassy in Kuwait City yesterday over non-payment of their salaries, injuring two people and causing extensive damage.

The protest was reportedly linked to the workers not being paid by a Kuwaiti cleaning company they work for and the embassy's inaction to resolve the problem, but the embassy officials said they had not received any complaint about it.

"Around 150 workers armed with iron rods, hockey sticks, stones and bricks attacked the embassy office at around 10:30am. They were part of around 800 Bangladeshi workers who arrived on the embassy premises in seven to eight buses," Nazrul Islam Khan, Bangladesh ambassador in Kuwait, told The Daily Star by phone last night.

The protesters pelted stones and bricks to damage doors and windowpanes of the embassy office. "They also damaged furniture and tore up documents and passports of the Bangladeshi nationals submitted to the embassy for various reasons," Khan said.

The workers were employed in the Kuwaiti cleaning company Nibray and living in Angara area, a suburb of Kuwait City, some 45 kilometers off the embassy located in Surrah area of the capital.

A spokesman for the worker told the AFP that their employers had not paid them their wages for the last five months.

The BBC says the workers were able to get inside the building and

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Nothing beyond constitution will be allowed

Says Khaleda about caretaker govt

UNB, Gangni, Meherpur

Prime Minister (PM) Khaleda Zia yesterday said people will not accept the Opposition's caretaker government issue, because nothing outside the constitution will be allowed.

She said free and fair election will be held in due course and according to the provisions of the constitution and that the BNP will win elections each time a free and fair election is held.

Addressing a big public meeting at Gangni football field in the afternoon, the prime minister, also chairperson of the ruling BNP, urged the people to vote for her party's election symbol sheaf of paddy for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



WRATH OF PROTESTERS: A city bus goes up as an angry mob in Mirpur sets ablaze several public vehicles to protest the death of a schoolboy in a road accident yesterday.

Anti-Ahmadiyya move engineered by Jamaat

Sect's top leader also hints at a foreign hand in fanning the issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A top Ahmadiyya leader yesterday said that Jamaat-e-Islami, a key component of the ruling coalition, is the brains behind the countrywide Khatme Nabuwat movement to ban the Ahmadiyyas.

"Originated in the undivided India, Jamaat is trying to establish the ideology of its leader Syed Abul Ala Moududi to brand us non-Muslim," said Prof Meher Mobashwer Ali, Ahmadiyya Nayeb National

Amir.

He also claimed they have evidence that a neighbouring Muslim country has been using its agencies to incite hatred towards the Ahmadiyyas in Bangladesh.

According to him, Moududi first launched the anti-Ahmadiyya campaign in 1934 under the banner of Majlis Aharar Movement. After India and Pakistan split, he settled in Pakistan and resumed the movement there in 1953, naming it

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

JS body blames owners, Rajuk; suggests action

BDNEWS, Dhaka

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday blasted the owners of the collapsed Spectrum Sweater Industries Ltd in Savar and Rajuk and asked the departments concerned to take proper action against them.

The parliamentary standing committee on the Ministry of Labour and Employment at a meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad also directed authorities to provide each family of the dead workers Tk 1 lakh in compensation.

It held the Spectrum owners

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

SAVAR FACTORY COLLAPSE Workers' warnings of cracks overlooked

Probe team finds, may submit report today

MORSHED ALI KHAN

The nine-storey Spectrum Sweaters Industries Ltd building in Savar had developed 'serious cracks' in its supporting columns in the early hours of April 11, but the owners ignored workers' warnings and continued production to meet an export deadline.

The probe committee formed to investigate the collapse made has come up with the findings.

Workers detected the cracks about 16 hours before the building caved in and immediately reported the matter to the higher authorities of the Shahriyar Fabrics Industries Ltd and the Spectrum Sweater Industries Ltd, according to an official source.

"But no step was taken to evacuate the building or to have it inspected by an expert. Instead, workers were asked to continue production to meet a deadline for export," the source said.

The five-member committee is scheduled to submit its report today.

A top-level member of the committee, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the building collapse was the result of various causes, among them the fact that "the owners built nine storeys on a foundation approved for four storeys".

According to official sources, the seven owners of the company had received a huge order worth over Tk 20 crore from a European country. They urgently needed space to expand their facility to cope with the order and immediately decided to convert the four-storey building into a nine-storey structure without seeking an approval.

"The four-storey capacity foundation immediately became vulnerable with a dead load of an

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Violence erupts over schoolboy's death

9 vehicles set on fire, 50 damaged in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mirpur burst into violence yesterday afternoon as marauding locals set fire to at least nine vehicles and damaged more than 50 after a schoolboy was killed in a road accident near Mirpur Section-10 in the capital.

Several thousand people took to the street and went on the rampage on Rokeya Sarani, between Kazipara and Mirpur-10, for about one hour suspending traffic movement for

about three hours until 3:15pm.

The violent protests started immediately after a passenger bus ran over Saiful Aziz Omi, a class VII student of Shahid Abu Taleb High School in Mirpur, when he was trying to get on the vehicle at about 12:15pm.

Witnesses said the bus crushed the 12-year-old boy while trying to overtake it from the wrong side.

"The boy slipped from the gate and fell under the rear wheel of the

bus. One side of his head was crushed," pushcart-puller Mohammad Mozammel, who witnessed the accident, told The Daily Star.

Omi was returning along with a friend to his East Kazipara house after taking Islamic Studies examination at his school.

As the mob started damaging and setting fire to vehicles, riot police rushed to the spot and fired at least 15 teargas canisters to disperse

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

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PRICE SENSITIVE DISCLOSURE

This is for kind information of the valued Shareholders of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited and others that the Board of Directors of the Bank in its 134th Meeting held on 24th April, 2005 took the following Price Sensitive decisions :-

SL.No.	Particulars	Decisions
01	Date of 22nd Annual General Meeting	16 September, 2005
02	Record date in connection with 22nd Annual General Meeting	15 August, 2005
03	Proposal for declaration of Stock Dividend for the Year 2004	20% Stock Dividend i.e., 1 (One) Bonus share will be issued against 5 (Five) existing shares (Share holding on 15 August, 2005) (To be approved by the Bangladesh Bank & Annual General Meeting).

By Order of the Board
Md. Shouquat Ali
Executive Vice President & Secretary

Date : 24-04-2005

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চট্টগ্রাম: ১০৭, বেপারী পাড়া, আখারাবাদ এডিন্ডু রোড। ফোন: ৭১৩৩১১-৮৫০০, ০১৮৯ ৩৮০৬৩৩, ০১৭৫ ০৫২৩৯৭

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