

## RMG factory

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Apparels Ltd at Agrabad commercial area near BGMEA regional office turned violent around 8:00am when the authority declined to pay their lastmonth's salaries.

Around 10:00am when the factory managing director (MD) announced his inability to pay the arrears and asked for few more days, the workers flew into rage.

They vandalised different machineries including over 40 sewing machines and windowpanes and damaged most of the Thai-glass partitions of office rooms in presence of police and BGMEA officials.

The rampage paused for a while when the BGMEA officials from its nearby regional office arrived but it started again around 1:30pm when the MD once more expressed his inability.

The workers said they were facing acute financial crisis as the factory authority had been making such delay persistently every month for last two years.

Sanwari Begum, 30, single-mother of an eight-year-old daughter and a sewing operator of the factory for two years, said she had to vacate her house as she failed to pay rent.

Rajab Ali, 18, another sewing operator, said he had been staying at one of his friend's shanty as his house-owner forced him out for the same reason.

Showing his injured hand Sohel, a quality control worker, alleged that some factory officials beat him on April 20 when he demanded his arrears.

MD of the factory Nazmul Hossain told The Daily Star that he incurred a loss of Tk 70 lakh in March 2008 as one of his buyers cancelled its order. He is still struggling and trying to recover the loss, he added.

Nazmul said they had also lost few more contracts recently as they failed to meet the delivery deadline due to acute power shortage in Chittagong. The MD burst into tears watching the workers vandalising his valuable machineries.

Assistant Commissioner (AC) Nirmalendu Bikash

Chakrabarti of Double Mooring Zone said police mediated negotiations between the owner and workers regarding the problem several times but the factory owner could not keep his word.

The workers came out on the street demanding their salaries a few months ago but police calmed them down, he added.

BGMEA Secretary Md Mainuddin said the factory has been constantly suffering with the problem. It might ultimately be closed as the owner sustained huge losses, he feared.

The workers finally left the factory around 2:30pm after the MD held a meeting with police, BGMEA officials and workers representatives and promised to pay the last month arrears on April 28 and this month's wages on May 11.

**Myanmar vows**

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ministries in 1998, BDR sources said.

Nasaka also warned Bangladesh of "not making excesses regarding construction of the embankment," said a source.

The meeting was held at Dhekhikonia Nasaka outpost in Mondouatnoon. Cox's Bazar 17 Rifles Battalion Commander Lt Col Sakhat Hossain led the Bangladesh delegation while No. 3 Sector Commander Major UWang Yiled Nasaka.

After the meeting Sakhat Hossain said, Nasaka presented a one-page paper written in English with some conditions' before him but no signature on behalf of Bangladesh government put on it adding, "I think the paper is fake."

He said Bangladesh side proposed to suspend the construction of the dam for 15 days for more talks but Nasaka did not agree.

Nasaka informed the BDR delegation that they are constructing the embankment through Mondou municipality but not by their (Myanmar) army. Nasaka said barbed fence wire would also be hung over the embankment.

## BDR Mutiny

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It also discussed how the electronic media could play their role more responsibly and professionally in future if such an incident occurred.

The committee will sit with the heads of news of different satellite TV channels on April 25 at the same place to discuss how the electronic media can cover such events more professionally.

It also had talks with the chief senior newsmen separately.

Head of News of ATN Bangla Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul who attended the meeting said, "Coverage of the February 25-26 mutiny by the electronic media came up in the discussion in a congenial environment.

The committee said the first two days' coverage helped BDR draw public sympathy as the demands of BDR jawans were telecast unilaterally.

The newsmen, however, said it would have been better if we had received comments from the government and the army but no statements were available from the government or the Inter Services Public Relations.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) yesterday arrested 50 more BDR members from the Pilkhana headquarters while three more people including a civilian confessed to their involvement in the mutiny before magistrates.

Senior Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Abdul Kader Akand of CID, also the investigation officer of the

## JS body asks

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generation of power during the BNP-led government's regime, HN Ashique Rahman, chairman of the committee, said.

"We have also asked the authorities concerned to place a report on how much money was allocated at the time," Ashique told reporters after a meeting of the JS body at the parliament building.

"We will be examining how much of that allocation was spent during the immediate past government's term," he added.

The committee members expressed anxiety at the present power crisis prevailing all over the country.

The committee also said the prevailing sorry state in the power sector has arisen because BNP did not take any realistic initiatives to facilitate the power situation during its regime.

Committee members ABM Golam Mostafa, Mohammad Sirajul Akbar, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Mohammad Rafiqul Islam, Fazle Hossain Badsha, among others, were present at the meeting.

## Shamim Osman

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AL leader's main source of income was commission from jut (garment waste) traders in BSCIC area and Narayanganj town, said sources.

Besides, he would make huge bucks from extortion in the transport sector.

Shamim and his family fled the country after the BNP-led four-party alliance came to power in October 2001.

He returned home in 2006 only to leave again shortly before 1/11.

Despite being wanted by the Interpol, police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), he got back to the port town after the grand alliance swept to power in the December 29 general election last year.

As his moveable property was confiscated during the caretaker government, he is now living in his son's house.

The former MP however denied all the allegations against him. He said, "If anyone can prove a single allegation against me, I will quit politics forever."

He said as the High Court has stayed all the cases and no court has issued arrest warrant against him, there's no barto his movement.

Shamim also claimed the cases were filed to harass him as he has been vocal in demanding trial of the war criminals.

About his being wanted by the Interpol, he said, "It was the former BNP state minister for home who had my name put on the Interpol website."

"It's unfortunate that the website does not display any photographs of Bangabandhu's killers and the war criminals."

Bishwas Afzal Hossain, superintendent of police (SP) in Narayanganj, told The Daily Star, "Shamim Osman is no more wanted by them in any case as he has obtained stay orders from the High Court."

Citing HC orders, Lt Col Sazzad Hossain, commanding officer of Rab-11, said, "He is beyond our reach now."

## Boro purchase

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low price of rice. Razzaque said they would fix the price on April 26.

"Farmers will be harmed if we buy Boro anything lower than Tk 20 per kg, which will benefit the millers not the farmers," said the food minister adding that the price would be fixed preserving the interests of both farmers and the consumers.

He said the government is giving priority to farmers as they immensely contribute in the country's economy and the gross domestic product (GDP). "The government has decided to buy Boro from this point of view."

Terming agriculture a very important sector, Razzaque said they would also keep an eye on whether the ongoing global meltdown put any adverse impacts on the sector.

Earlier Razzaque met Dutch ambassador to Dhaka Bea Ten Tusscher at his office and discussed many challenges of the new government including food security and water management.

Tusscher said Bangladesh should immediately formulate a policy on water management for better agricultural production. He offered his government's assistance in this regard.

## Khaleda

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"Soon after the assassination of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on May 30, 1981, pursuant to a decision of the government, a lease in perpetuity was executed between the President of Bangladesh and our client in consideration of a yearly rent for the aforesaid property demised in favour of our client," Barrister Khokon said in the notice.

He said the notice served on Khaleda Zia for vacating the residence is "illegal, mala fide and without jurisdiction."

It said the lease of Khaleda Zia's cantonment house was duly registered on July 13, 1981 with the office of the sub-registry, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

"Our first priority now is to remove the sunken vessel from the accident site and drag it near the riverbank so that the main channel gets cleared," said Captain S Arif Mahmud, member (harbour and marine) of the CPA yesterday.

Sources said a total of 28 vessels out of 43 are now waiting at the outer anchorage for permission to berth at the Chittagong port.

The authorities earlier on Wednesday allowed only the lighter vessels to ply on the river for two hours.

The MV Seven Circle-25 was carrying around 950 metric tonnes of cement clinker when it sank at the Karnaphuli estuary at about 8:00pm Tuesday, said Abu Hasnat, owner of the vessel.

Meanwhile, the four-member committee headed by Engineer Sirajul Islam, chief ship surveyor of Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), is expected to submit its report today.

## JS probe finds

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However, the sub-committee disclosed that former speaker Jamiruddin Sircar appointed 42 peons for standing committees after the eighth parliament was dissolved.

They were paid salaries during the two-year tenure of the last caretaker government.

It also revealed that Sircar recruited a total of 256 third and fourth-class employees flouting the law.

At least 42 personal assistants attached to various standing committees, were paid salaries for eight months after 18 years back but their jobs are yet to be made permanent. But he (Sircar) made permanent the jobs of several employees who were recruited on master roll basis during his tenure."

"He (Sircar) ignored the then prime minister Khaleda Zia's decision of not recruiting any third-class employees for a certain period in any government office as the former speaker had appointed several third and fourth-class employees for parliament," he said.

Chunnu said Jamiruddin Sircar also violated the quota rules in recruiting employees for parliament.

"In all-party parliamentary probe body was formed on April 13 to investigate the allegations of corruption, misuse of power and financial anomalies against Jamiruddin Sircar."

"Besides, of the 103 third-

class employees he had appointed, 17 were from his locality," said the sub-committee chief.

Chunnu said the former speaker appointed several security guards for the parliament without following the age limit mentioned in the job circular.

"He (Sircar) appointed a security guard named Arzu Akhtar aged 39 while age limit for applicants was 30 as per the job circular."

"There are employees in parliament who were appointed on master roll basis 18 years back but their jobs are yet to be made permanent. But he (Sircar) made permanent the jobs of several employees who were recruited on master roll basis during his tenure."

"An all-party parliamentary probe body was formed on March 19 to investigate the allegations of corruption, misuse of power and financial anomalies against Jamiruddin Sircar."

"Iraqi police were distributing aid to displaced families when a suicide bomber blew himself up," an interior ministry official said. "At least 10 police and five children are among 28 dead."

"The main committee on

April 13 formed three sub-committees headed by SK Abu Bakr, Shahjahan Khan and Mujibul Haq to enquire into the matter thoroughly."

**CUFL's ex-MD**

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not aware of the arrival of the two engine boats carrying the deadly consignment.

"As soon as Mobin Hossain Khan, the then assistant secretary of CUFL, informed me of the offloading I directed him to beef up the security and made a phone call to the then BCIC Chairman.

However, he did not receive the call," said the sources quoting the confessional statement.

"Later in the next morning I met the industry secretary at breakfast and informed him of the offloading of the two successive fours by Chris Gayle as the Knight Riders scored 15 for one, with Gayle caught off the last ball.

"At this, the BCIC chairman rebuked me for not informing him of the matter at night at the meeting, told newsmen that India and its people believe that if a 'stable and strong society builds up in Bangladesh, it would be good for all'."

"Both sides hoped that 'parliament should be active so that all can give and listen to one's opinion'."

The high commissioner expressed sorrow over the killings that took place at the BDR headquarters, Shamser said.

Sources said, before making the statement under 164 Mohsin Talukder also gave the same statement to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) investigators at Chittagong divisional headquarters.

Meanwhile, two witnesses - Sheikh Ahmed, a Kodomtala based transport broker, and Salim Ullah, an accountant of the Dewanhat overbridge adjacent to Greenways - also gave statements under 164.

Asked whether the matter of eviction of Khaleda from her cantonment residence came up during the meeting, the Indian high commissioner said, "We did not discuss internal issues."

Replies to couple of questions regarding recent surprise visit by Indian external affairs secretary to Dhaka, he said it was nothing secret and everybody knew it and it was a formal visit. This matter of visit was also not discussed in the meeting, he added.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain, BNP chairperson's adviser Reaz Rahman and the Indian deputy high commissioner were also present at the meeting.

Speaking at the joint briefing, the envoy said, "The leader of the opposition has an important role to play in parliament."

He said what they discussed encompassed what is happening in India and Bangladesh and in its surroundings. He termed his meeting with Khaleda "excellent and productive talks".

Asked whether the matter of eviction of Khaleda from her cantonment residence came up during the meeting, the Indian high commissioner said, "We did not discuss internal issues."

They identified arrested NSI Field Officer Akbar Hossain Khan as the person who hired seven trucks and a crane from Greenways Transport Agency, which were to carry the seized consignment.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abur Rob recorded their statements, sources said.

Meanwhile, the IO of the case ASP Muniruzzaman of CID filed a petition at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court, Chittagong yesterday praying for a fresh 10-day remand for Akbar Hossain as they failed to extract anything from Akbar in his earlier two-day remand that ended last Tuesday evening.

The organisation in a press release said that authorities concerned could not avoid the responsibility of such deaths in custody as it was made public through media that dead BDR jawans had bruises and torture marks on their bodies.

Issuing a press release from the BDR headquarters confirming unnatural deaths of some BDR jawans is a positive gesture but it is not adequate to remove the anxiety and suspicion in people's minds, the release said.

The government must take strong measures to dispel the suspicion and concern in people's mind over the unnatural deaths, it added.

The press release issued by BDR headquarters on Wednesday confirmed that between March 9 and April 16 a total of 16 BDR jawans died. Of them four jawans committed suicide, six died of cardiac arrest and six others died of other diseases.

The press release also expressed concern over the statement of a sepoys Harun Rashid before the court saying that he was tortured for a week by Rapid Action Battalion.

Soon after the pre-qualification bid, Powertek and Kepco announced a merger as a single bidder and AES announced its withdrawal. Finally when the bid submission date arrived in July, Powertek appeared as the lone bidder.

Summit, which had previously qualified for the Sirajganj 450 mw power project, repeatedly requested the Cell to reconsider its decision, but vainly.

Stakes are high for both Congress and BJP in the states that went to polls yesterday as the results there could indicate which way the wind is blowing across the country's political landscape.

Congress main aim is to retain its strength in Andhra Pradesh where the party had won 29 of the 42 Lok Sabha seats and its allies TRS and Left parties had secured another seven. But this time, Congress is without any allies and waging a tough battle against TDP-TRS-Left combine.

Congress is also hoping to

## 73 killed

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southeastern Baghdad, defence and interior ministry officials told AFP