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RMG factory set ablaze amid labour unrest

Cops fire blank shots to disperse demonstrators demanding payment of arrears; 10 hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers demonstrating for arrears allegedly set fire to a garment factory at Hemayetpur in Savar yesterday, damaging all the machinery of the factory and garment products.

Witnesses said the workers of Mohammadi Fashion 2000 Ltd, a sister concern of Mohammadi Group, torched the factory around 1:00pm and the fire continued till evening.

Police fired around 40 blank shots and charged batons on the agitating workers, leaving at least 10 persons injured.

Local sources said some 550 workers burst into violence at about 12:30pm, as the factory authorities were not paying their dues. At one stage, they set fire to the three-storey building of the factory.

Police blamed the workers for the arson. But the factory authorities and fire fighters could not tell anything clearly about the cause of the fire.

The agitating workers brought out processions protesting against the non-payment by the factory authorities and put barricades on Hemayetpur-Shingair road during the violence causing traffic jam.

Sources said the workers had been demonstrating for the last several days demanding their payments, including overtime and other allowances.

Several units of fire fighters in presence of the members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police doused the blaze after a long struggle. A group of workers initially prevented the fire fighters from reaching the spot of the fire.

When contacted, Reazul Huq Reaz, compliance manager of Mohammadi Group, said, "Though the factory is running at a loss, we have been paying salaries of the employees. But we made two

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Khaleda slates disclosure of BDR probe report partially

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The opposition leader in parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday slammed the government for partial revelation of the probe report on the mutiny at the BDR headquarters.

Khaleda, also the BNP chairperson, demanded that the government make public the entire enquiry report.

"It is unacceptable that they (the government) made public parts of the report which suit them," Khaleda said at the publication ceremony of party bulletin Dhaneer Shish (sheaf of paddy) at her Gulshan office.

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Nobody in govt to pressurise me

New ACC chief tells The Daily Star, vows not to deviate from the act

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Newly appointed chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission Ghulam Rahman has said it is not that the ACC is alone accountable to parliament; lawmakers must also be answerable to the anti-graft body for their illegal activities.

Currently chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission, Ghulam Rahman aims to deal with the issue of corruption in cooperation with every department of the government.



None will be spared from the drives against corruption, he said in an interview with The Daily Star on Tuesday.

"As the Anti-Corruption Commission is run by people's money, it must be accountable to some authority. But the members of parliament must also be accountable to the commission if they carry out any activity against law," he said when asked about the commission's appearing before the parliamentary standing committee on

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JS body formed to probe Ctg Port container handling graft

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry yesterday formed a sub-committee to investigate alleged corruption and irregularities against former shipping adviser Maj Gen (ret'd) MA Matin in awarding contract of container handling at Chittagong Port.

Headed by lawmaker Shah Alam, the four-member sub-committee has been asked to submit its report to the standing committee within the next 30 days.

"The former shipping adviser did not award the contract of container

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Hungry and homeless people throng a boat carrying the army bringing relief materials to Khelpetua village under Gabura Union in Khulna district yesterday, two days after Cyclone Aila hit the coastal areas.

PHOTO STAR

Tipaimukh may cause a disaster

Warn environmentalists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Environmentalists yesterday said Bangladesh must immediately assert that India's proposed Tipaimukh dam will be a disaster for Bangladesh's river system, livelihood and environment.

India must also consult with Bangladesh on the proposed dam and comply with the international conventions before embarking on construction of the dam over the cross-boundary river Borak Project, they said.

Addressing a press conference organised by Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) at

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All-party JS body to visit Tipai site

Decision after the trip, PM tells Indian HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister (PM) Sheikh Hasina said a parliamentary committee comprising lawmakers from all parties will be formed to visit the site of Tipaimukh dam before the government takes any decision in this regard.

Hasina said this when Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Pinak Ranjan Chakravarty called on her at the PM's Office yesterday. "After visiting the spot, the committee will submit a report in parliament and the House, after thorough discussion, will decide whether to give clearance for constructing the dam," the PM was quoted as saying by her Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

Putting emphasis on regional peace, stability and development, Hasina pointed out that poverty is the main enemy of this region and regional cooperation a must to resolve it.

"We will have to work through regional cooperation to eradicate poverty. Bangladesh wants to develop people's life by keeping friendly relation with the neighboring countries," PM told the Indian envoy.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

3 'criminals' killed in shootouts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three alleged criminals were killed in separate incidents of shootout between their cohorts and members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the city yesterday and early today.

Rab sources said two criminals aged around 20 to 25 years opened fire at a Rab check post at Manik Mia Avenue as Rab members intercepted them around 12:30am today when they walked past the check post.

The Rab men also fired back leaving the two unknown youths dead on the spot, Rab sources said.

The elite force recovered

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Voter list updating starts June 15

First phase to cover 153 upazilas

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) will begin the task of updating the voter list with photographs from June 15.

Enumerators will start making door-to-door visits the same day and continue it for 10 days to collect necessary information.

The EC yesterday announced that the nationwide tasks, which include registering fresh voters, deletion of names of the deceased and transfer of names from one electoral area to another would be completed on or before December 31 this year.

As per the plan, the task of updating the roll in 481 upazilas, six city corporations and 17 unions of Dhaka circle will be completed in four phases. The task will begin on September 15 in Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) and five other city corporations in the last phase.

Brig Gen Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury, project director of 'Preparation of Electoral Roll with Photographs and Facilitating the Issuance of National Identity Cards' yesterday disclosed the schedule for the task at a press briefing at the EC Secretariat conference room.

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Clarification

Beximco Group in a clarification of The Daily Star news headlined "Beximco Textiles tops dubious list" published Wednesday said the report was based on the central bank's Credit Information Bureau (CIB) that used data of February.

Bextex Ltd including all its amalgamated units (erstwhile Padma Textile Mills Ltd, Beximco Textiles Ltd, Beximco Knitting Ltd and Beximco Denims Ltd) have regularised all outstanding loans after February, it added.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Car bombing kills 30 in Lahore

250 also injured in the deadly blast

AP, Lahore

Gunmen detonated a car bomb near police and intelligence agency offices in eastern Pakistan yesterday, killing about 30 people and wounding at least 250 in one of the country's deadliest attacks this year.

Attackers with rifles stepped from the car and opened fire on the intelligence agency building in the city of Lahore, then set off a massive blast when security guards returned

fire, officials said.

Interior Minister Rehman Malik suggested the attack could be retaliation for the government's military offensive to rout Taliban militants from the northwestern Swat Valley.

Lahore, Pakistan's second-largest city, sits near the Indian border and is considered a liberal, cultural capital. Assaults there have heightened fears that militancy in nuclear-armed Pakistan is spreading well beyond the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Shake-up in admin

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

In an important reshuffle in the civil administration, the government yesterday made three secretary-rank officials OSD while transferred and appointed 10 other high officials.

Three secretary-rank officials--Executive Chairman of Board of Investment Kamaluddin Ahmed, Chairman of Land Reforms Board Monirul Islam and member of Privatisation

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Online Poll

In view of the death toll in cyclone 'Aila', do you think government's cyclone preparedness is adequate?

Yes (20.2%)
No (75.7%)
No Comments (4.0%)

Total votes: 573

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think formation of a cell at the Home Ministry to expedite efforts in combating extortion through telephone calls will be effective?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

May 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrb	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

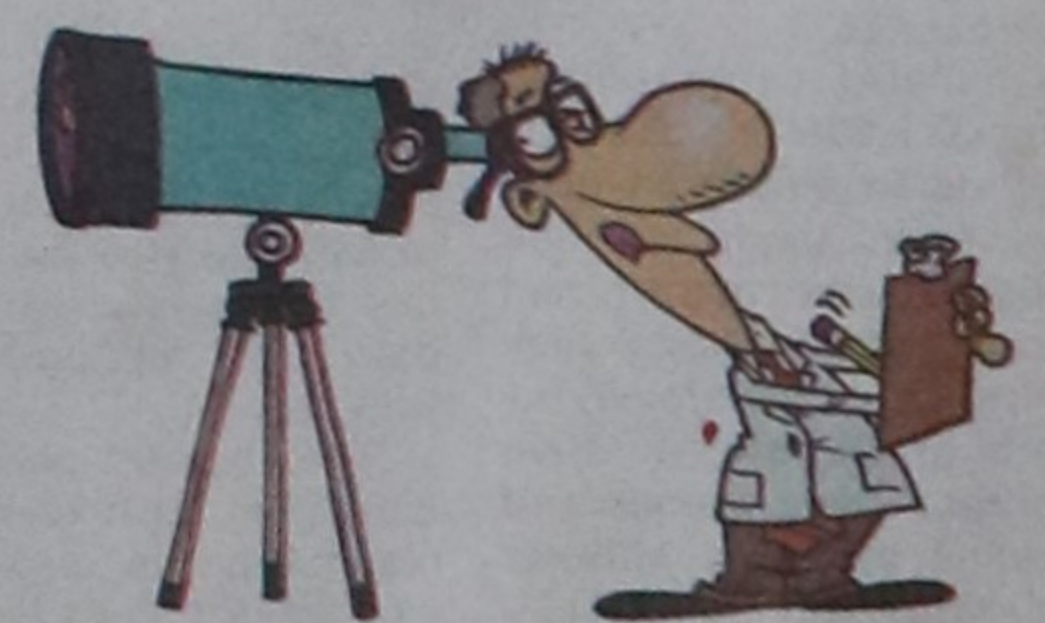
Source: Islamic Foundation

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The Daily Star website

the daily star net



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