# Garment sector

FROM PAGE 1 might be nearly impossible for many factory owners to

meet the delivery deadlines.

According to a report from drapersonline.com, a fashion news website, international buyers Marks & Spencer, H&M, and Zara are facing the threat of severe delays in stocking deliveries following the closure of garment factories in Bangladesh.

Ifty Islam, managing partner of Asian Tiger Capital, an investment bank, said the minimum wage in Bangladesh's garment sector is the world's lowest. The cost of living has been increasing 10 to 15 percent a year, but salaries have not been adjusted, he added.

"The owners must compromise, and need to cut profit to raise workers' wages to a level which is acceptable."

The only solution is to increase wages for workers, but it will squeeze the profit margin for garment factory owners. So, foreign buyers should understand that they need to raise order prices as well, Ifty Islam said. "We all should pay a little

more. It will be a good balancing act.' PROTESTS

The workers damaged some vehicles, burnt tires, and vandalised some factories in Ashulia yesterday protesting the shutdown, police said.

They put up barricades at Jamgora and Baipail on Dhaka-Tangail highway as

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) rushed to the spot, and brought the situation under control at noon. Road communication was restored after the demonstrators were removed from the highway.

During the demonstration 30 workers were injured, said local residents.

Meanwhile, Labour and Employment Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain in a meeting with leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and BGMEA said an initiative is underway to announce an acceptable wage scale for the workers before July 28.

He however issued a warning saying any chaos in the garment or any other industrial sector over wage raise will not be tolerated.

The government formed a minimum wage commission for the garment workers in January, headed by Ikteder Ahmed. The commission held some meetings, but could not reach any decision

DEMANDS

An alliance of 14 garment workers' associations vesterday reiterated its demand that the government must fix the minimum wage at Tk

has been made new chairman

also appointed six new mem-

bers of the commission, as its

incumbent Chief Justice

Amirul Kabir Chowdhury will

go into retirement this week

and two members have

commission are--former

secretary Kazi Reazul Haque,

also executive director of Legal

Education and Training

Institute; advocate Fawzia

Karim Feroze, a Supreme Court

lawyer; Dr Giasuddin Mollah, a

professor of the department of

political science of DU; Aroma

Dutta, executive director of

PRIP Trust; Selina Hossain,

executive director of Faria Lara

Foundation and also a former

director of the department of

research, anthology and folk of

Bangla Academy; and Niru

Kumar Chakma, a professor of

DU and also a former member

Mizanur Rahman in a

reaction to the appointment

told The Daily Star that his

office will work with a view to

making people aware about

human rights and establishing

the rule of law to ensure peo-

ple's welfare like the human

rights commissions of other

The government will have

to tolerate criticism if any of its

offices violates human rights

mentary affairs division of the

ministry of law, justice and

parliamentary affairs yester-

day issued a gazette notifica-

tion in this regard, a law minis-

the appointments as per the

National Human Rights

The president has made

The legislative and parlia-

of the people, he added.

try press release said.

of the NHRC.

countries.

The new members of the

President Zillur Rahman

of the commission.

already retired.

5,000 immediately.

At the same time, it urged the government to take necessary steps to open the closed factories in Ashulia, and to stop arrests and harassment of workers who have been protesting for the last four days.

WC MADNESS

countries

UNB, Sangsad Bhaban

No legal basis

flags of other

There is no legal basis for

hoisting flags of other coun-

tries in Bangladesh, as seen

these days, for supporting the

teams in World Cup Football,

said Law, Justice and

Parliamentary Affairs Minster

Barrister Shafique Ahmed

Shafique was replying to a

But the Minister said that

the government has no plan to

take action against the youths

who hoisted flags of their

favourite countries as this is a

for a move to create awareness

through television, radio and

newspapers so that the youths

Father-in-law

On Monday night, he told Rab

that Farzana got very upset in

the first week of May when she

heard the news of Smriti's

pregnancy. Smriti is the sec-

ond wife of her husband

According to Chief of Rab

intelligence wing Lt Col Ziaul

sought help from her parents-

in-law for getting her husband

back but the family favoured

Rashedul, which led to a series

Amid such situation, in

presence of police and

Farzana's relatives they forced

her to sign an agreement on

her leaving the house by June

married Smriti in 2008 with-

out their consent, but at times

he used to come and put

pressure on Farzana to evacu-

ate the house so that he could

move in with Smriti, Shafiqul

duced Shafiqul Kabir, his wife

Noor Banu, their daughters

Sukhon and Kabita and

Kabita's husband Delwar

Hossain Patwari before a

Dhaka court. The court placed

each of them on three-day

case Sheikh Mahbubur

Rahman in the remand for-

warding said the arrestees

needed to be interrogated to

unearth the reasons behind

the deaths and to arrest other

two accused Rashedul and

none of the Farzana's in-laws

passed the night in the build-

ing on June 9, the day the

tragedy took place, although

Sukhon and her daughter were

to stay on the ground floor of

the three-storey building as

spending that night in the

He said that mysteriously

Investigation officer of the

Detectives yesterday pro-

Rashedul left house after he

of altercations that week.

refrain from such activities.

In this regard, he advocated

written question from Awami

League lawmaker Apu Ukil

(women seat-2).

"sensitive" matter.

FROM PAGE 16

Rashedul Kabir.

30, he added.

remand.

yesterday in the Parliament.

for hoisting

At a media briefing in the afternoon, Mahbubur Rahman Ismail, president of Bangladesh Textile Garment Workers Federation, said the government must protect the rights of all workers.

"The government took a three-month time from April 27 to fix the minimum wage for ready-made garment workers. But no progress has still been made," he complained.

Criticising BGMEA for closing all factories in Ashulia, he said, "According to the existing labour law, the association or an owner must give notice prior to any closure or production suspension." He also complained that

the factory owners in Ashulia have been harassing protesters using police and hired goons for the last couple of

The alliance announced a demonstration at Muktangon of the capital today at 4:00pm, and demonstrations across the country on Friday.

Idrish Ali, president of Garment Sramik Trade Union Kendra, and Moshrefa Mishu of Bangladesh Garments Workers Unity Forum also spoke.

### RMG units

factory in the name of demonstrations for pay hike. In the wake of severe labour

unrest, owners closed down at least 250 factories at Ashulia in Savar on Monday. At the hurriedly-called press

meet, the BGMEA boss demanded that the labour leaders responsible for the unrest be identified and ousted from the unions. He also urged the home

secretary to retract his newspaper statement where he said "owners do not pay wages". He called for legislation to

stop labour unrest and provoca-FBCCI President Annisul Huq, president-elect AK Azad, BKMEA President Fazlul Haq

and former BGMEA president Tipu Munshi, among others, spoke at the briefing. BGMEA has formed a crisis management committee

headed by local MP Murad Jong. Meanwhile, Labour and Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain in an interview with BBC yesterday said committees have been formed with local lawmakers in

Commission Act, 2009, it said.

been appointed as the perma-

nent member of the NHRC

while five others as its honor-

facilities including salary and

other allowances equivalent

to those of a judge of the

Appellate Division of the

Supreme Court, and Kazi

Reazul Haque will get facilities

equivalent to those of a judge

of the High Court Division of

will get fixed honorarium and

allowance for attending the

meetings and for discharging

other duties of the NHRC, the

Manjur told reporters after the

meeting that Mohiuddin

assured his all out support.

Manjur said he has intention

to make Mohiuddin his

and my respect for him is

eternal. I worked with him

closely for a long time. He was

CCC mayor for 17 years and

has huge experience which I

[Mohiuddin's] support

through the media and I came

here myself today to seek his

the future plans and develop-

ment work of the corpora-

not appear before journalists.

His son Chowdhury Mohibul

Hasan Nouphel said the two

leaders shared experience and

exchanged views on develop-

ment projects of the CCC.

tion," he added.

"We discussed a lot about

Mohiuddin, however, did

cooperation," said Manjur.

"Earlier, I sought his

need most," said Manjur.

"He is like my elder brother

adviser for CCC activities.

The honorary members

the Supreme Court.

release added.

FROM PAGE 16

ary members.

Kazi Reazul Haque has

Mizanur Rahman will get

Shafiqul and Noor Banu went to village. Deputy Commissioner of charge to make sure RMG the Detective Branch of police violence does not recur. Monirul Islam said they are also investigating the "coincidence" of the in-laws no Mizanur new chief

Farzana's mother on June 11 filed a case with Kadamtoli Police Station against eight people including driver Al Amin under Women and Children Repression

#### Power deals

Prevention Act.

FROM PAGE 1 requested Bangladesh to final ise an agreement within two weeks for appointment of

The officials also reviewed the progress of establishment of a coal-based power plant on joint venture between NTPC and BPDB. The NTPC has sent a 'Term Sheet' for joint venture agreement and it would be finalised when MoU is signed, sources said.

In connection with the technical assessment of old power stations for efficiency, improvement and renovation and modernisation, the BPDB has already furnished the details for Ghorasal power station, official sources said.

The two sides are likely to sign the "Bulk Power Tariff Agreement" in July when an Indian delegation visits Dhaka. The Power Grid Corporation of Bangladesh and the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited earlier signed an agreement to construct electrical interconnection between Bheramara, Bangladesh and Baharampur

The Bangladesh side felt that preparation and finalisation of Power Purchase Agreement for purchasing 250-megawatt power from India need to be stated soon.

Mofazzel Hossain, Joint Secretary, Power Division, of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, led the Bangladesh side while Dr M Ravi Kant, Joint Secretary of Power Ministry, led the Indian



A model of the Gulistan-Jatrabari flyover. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the construction of the much-awaited project yesterday.

# Jatrabari-Gulistan

government after a conces-

FROM PAGE 1

sion period of 24 years.

The concessionaire would be quick in completing the flyover construction within the tenure of the incumbent government, said the PM, adding that the DCC is the executing agency of the pro-

Ahsan, Shafiqul said Farzana LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said, "Revival of the Jatrabari flyover project would not be possible without the prime minister's initiative, as there were many complications." The revised design of the

> flyover is of international standard, which would be the most convenient road link, he Chairman of the conces-

sionaire company Mohammad Obaidul Karim said the construction would be completed in two years after the relocation of Wasa, Titas Gas and BTTB utility

Toll for using the flyover would be collected manually and digitally, he added.

The nine-kilometre dual carriageway flyover includes 13 slip roads (exit and entries) and will stretch from the Dhaka-Chittagong highway to Palashi. The minimum height of the flyover would be 5.5 metres while 7.2 metres at level crossing, according to sources.

The facility is also expected to provide faster road connectivity with 30 districts and the Chittagong port. In 1996, the then Awami

League government initiated the Jatrabari flyover and conducted a feasibility study but the succeeding four-party alliance government could not implement the project due to corruption and inefficiency, said the PM. State minister for LGRD

Jahangir Kabir Nanak, local lawmaker Md Habibui Rahman Molla and DCC's Chief Executive Officer Md Abul Kalam Azad, among others, spoke at the inauguration ceremony chaired by Monjur Hossain, secretary of Local Government Division.

# AL's anniversary

historic Rose Garden in Old Dhaka. Later, the word 'Muslim' was dropped from the name of the party to give it a secular colour.

The AL led all democratic movements of the then East Pakistan starting from the Language Movement of 1952 to War of Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971 under the leadership of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

To observe the day, AL has chalked out a day long programmes including hoisting of national and party flags atop at AL offices across the country at 5:15am, placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in front of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at Dhanmondi at 7:30am and a discussion at 4:00pm at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital.

AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the discussion as chief guest while leading political leaders and intellectuals will also speak.

AL General Secretary and added.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Syed Ashraful Islam vesterday urged all the party leaders, workers and activists to observe the day across the country in a befitting manner through holding discussion, placing of wreaths at the portrait of Bangabandhu among others.

Both the AL president and general secretary gave separate messages on the occasion greeting party leaders, workers, supporters and wellwishers.

The AL president, in her message, congratulated party leaders, workers, supporters well-wishers and said that the nation remembers with respect the struggling role of AL in every great achievement of the Bengali nation, reports

"Insha Allah, the party will remain beside the people in future as it was in the past," she said.

Awami League, a symbol of glory of giving leadership during the long struggle for independence and the Liberation War, has now become an institution, she

of the agreement will feature in

Agreement, reached at the Saarc

Summit in Colombo in 2008,

has not yet been ratified by

Pakistan, Afghanistan and

greater scope for cooperation

among the security forces of the

member countries in hunting

arresting and handling over of

terrorists and criminals to their

tion on maritime security

mooted by Sri Lanka and

Maldives will also be discussed

discuss Saarc Visa facility and

review possibilities for its cate-

The conference will also

A new proposal for coopera-

respective countries.

said official sources.

The agreement will create

The Mutual Legal Assistance

nextweek's discussion.

### Saarc home ministers

Nepal.

FROM PAGE 16 scheduled for June 26 in Islamabad.

The proposal to strengthen police cooperation, women and children trafficking, prevention

of smuggling of counterfeit notes and drugs will be highlighted at the meeting said diplomatic sources. They said the Home

Ministers of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will discuss ways to strengthen the Colombo-based Saarc Terror Offences Monitoring Desk and Drug Offences Monitoring Desk, which are the nodal agencies to fight against these problems, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Home Secretary is expected to represent Bangladesh though no decision has yet been made regarding the Home Minister's presence at the conference said Foreign Ministry sources. A meeting of Police Chiefs

and Home Secretaries of the Saarc countries will precede the conference on June 24 and 25. DG of RAB Hasan Mahmud Khandaker will represent IGP of Bangladesh Police.

Earlier, the eight member countries of the Saarc agreed to build up a network among their

police forces. Implementation meeting.

gory expansion. At present members of parliaments, judges of higher courts, top ranking business leaders, prominent sports persons and senior journalists can avail the facility. The first meeting of its kind

was held in Dhaka in 2006 and the second in New Delhi in 2007. The 3rd SAARC Home Ministers' conference has been postponed numerous times due to inability of certain member countries to attend the

1991, led it, the official said. They also instigated the mutineers saying that such a rebellion took place in 1991, but none faced any trouble,

Aziz added.

Pilkhana mutiny

after the special court-5 read

out individual charges against

played key-role during

mutiny, while some senior

members who were involved

in the attempted revolt of

Young soldiers mainly

the 192 more accused.

FROM PAGE 16

Referring to a young soldier Moniruzzaman, Aziz said he was among the group who went to meet the prime minister for negotiation during the mutiny. The court headed by BDR Director General Md Rafigul

charges against 375 accused of the total 667 from 24 Rifle Battalions. The three-member court began hearing shortly after 10:00am and continued up to

Islam has so far read out

2:30pm when all the accused were produced before the court. Other judges of the court are Lt Col AKM Golam Rabbani and Maj Syed Hasan Taposh.

Of the 668 accused, the court exempted Naik Jainal Abedin from the charges as he died in the meantime. Two BDR majors and seven

lawyers were present at the

court to assist the defendants as "friends of the accused". During the February 25-26 bloodbath at Pilkhana in 2009, some 74 people including 57

army officers were brutally

#### Ctg AL

killed.

The ex-mayor might be placed at the central advisory council.

AL high-ups believe apart from other reasons, internal feud in the Chittagong city unit has contributed to the polls debacle. Over the years, Mohiuddin had created a distance with most of the leaders there and paid dearly for that in the election.

Talking to The Daily Star, Nurul Islam said the committee must be reconstituted with leaders having clean image and those who can resolve the internal feud. Replying to a query, he

said, "I'm not interested to be a candidate. If the party gives me any responsibilities, I'll carry those out." AJM Nasir said, "Only a

new committee can turn around the anti-Awami League sentiment that pervades the port city in the wake of the election." The present committee

was formed on June 26, 2006. Mohiuddin and Danu were supposed to declare names of the remaining committee members within a month. Though four years have

gone since then, the city AL has yet to have a full 71member committee. **CITYAL MEETS** 

#### In a late development,

Chittagong city AL last night said four lawmakers and some leaders had worked against Mohiuddin so they can press for changes in the port city AL leadership. Briefing reporters after an

extended meeting at the exmayor's residence, city AL General Secretary Enamul Haque Danu said they would recommend the high command expel the leaders who had campaigned against the party candidate. The two-and-half-hour

meeting started at 7:00pm with Mohiuddin in the chair.

the election.

At least 13 leaders of the city unit were present as the ward-level leaders submitted reports identifying causes behind Mohiuddin's sentences. defeat in the polls.

Danu said they will During their investigation, the inform the party chief about FBI traced the purchase of the controversial role played by a Nissan Pathfinder SUV to 14-party lawmaker during Shahzad, a transaction that eventually led to his arrest.

## Transparency

FROM PAGE 16

People know nothing about the military budget and how the money is spent, they said, adding, even lawmakers don't know about the allocation for the Armed Force Division (AFD) in the new budget.

Speaking at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop on "Civil-Military Relations: Trust Building" at Sheraton Hotel in the city yesterday, the speakers suggested revitalising and redefining the role of ISPR (Inter Services Public Relations). The ISPR can take proactive

steps for more interactions with civilians and improve relations with them, they added. The Bangladesh Institute of

International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) organised the workshop with the support of the Defence Institute Reform Initiative (DIRI), the USA. Speaking as the chief guest,

lawmaker and chairman of parliamentary standing committee on defence ministry M Idris Ali termed the military spendinga "blackhole". "The defence allocation is

more than \$1 billion, but people don't know what happens with the money. There should be transparency about whatever takes place in the area of military," Idris, also a former defence secretary, said. He added the draft defence

policy has been sent to the AFD to incorporate opinions. "There are many ideas that

may be included in the policy, one of which is creating a national service body under which youths aged between 18 and 35 will be given military and other training to serve the country," he said.

"Much of the routine activities of Bangladesh military are shrouded in secrecy away from the public. There is no discussion about how the money will be spent," Registrar of BRAC University Air Commodore Ishtiaq Ilahi Choudhury said in his presentation on "Improving Military's Ability to Relate with Civil Society in Bangladesh".

He said healthy civil-military relations based on mutua respect and understanding is important for building a democratic society. "A strictly apolitical military institution acts as a pillar of democracy rather than a threat to it," he observed.

In his presentation styled "Identifying and Promoting Common Goals to Build Confidence and Trust in Civil Military Relations in Bangladesh", Prof Syed Anwar Husain of Dhaka University

#### Pak-born

Judge Miriam Goldman

FROM PAGE 16

Cedarbaum, in Manhattan's Federal District Court, asked Shahzad a series of questions to ensure he understood his rights.

She asked him if he understood he might spend the rest of his life in prison, to which he said he did. Asked by Judge Cedarbaum

if he was sure he wanted to plead guilty, he launched into a statement, saying he wanted "to plead guilty and 100 times more" He said he wanted to let the

US know that if it did not get out of Iraq and Afghanistan and stop drone attacks and meddling in Muslim lands, "we will be attacking US". Shahzad, 30, who wore a

white skull cap, told the packed court: "One has to understand where I'm coming from. I consider myself... a Muslim sol dier." He said he had chosen a

warm Saturday night because Times Square would be crowded with people whom he could injure or kill. He said he had packed the car with three separate bombs,

hoping to set off a fertiliserfueled bomb packed in a gun cabinet, a set of propane tanks as well as gas canisters rigged with fireworks to create a fire-He told the court he waited

between two and a half minutes and five minutes for the bombs to erupt. "I was waiting to hear a

sound but I didn't hear a sound So I walked to Grand Centra [station] and went home," he

coming from the vehicle and alerted the police. Shahzad was arrested two days later as he tried to take a

A street vendor saw smoke

flight to Dubai from New York's John F Kennedy airport. He co-operated with investi-

gators for two weeks, waiving his rights that protect arrested suspects from incriminating themselves, before requesting a lawyer, justice officials say. Sentencing was scheduled

for 5 October. The most serious charges against Shahzad, including

attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and attempted act of terrorism transcending national boundaries, carry mandatory life 'BOMB-MAKINGTRAINING'

captain Giorgos Karagounis was just too long for Glasgow

half-time to deny a curling Messi shot and leave the match goalless at the break. The second half followed a similar pattern with Argentina continually pressing only to be denied by a series of Tzorvas

and turned scorer.

# highlighted different phases

relations since independence. He explained the issue of politicisation of military from 1972 to 1990 and militarisation of politics between 1975 and 1990 and the civil-military relations in post-Ershadera. "Over the four decades

and topsy-turvy in civil-military

Bangladesh has had both the worst and hopeful times in the relationship and the responsibility, for which devolves on both the civil and military segments of the society," he "Burying the past civil-

sary changes of mindset involving both sides are in order to keep pace with the fast changingtimes," said Prof Anwar. Ambassador Harun-or Rashid also raised the issue of

military relations needs to be

forward-looking and the neces-

military spending. He said people want to know what the military do in peace time. Prof Shahiduzzaman, Prof

Amena Mohsin, former army chief Lt Gen Mabbubur Rahman, Chief Information Commissioner Mohammad Zamir, Chief General of Staff Lt Gen Md Mainul Islam and Editor of New Nation Mostafa Kamal Majumder also addressed the workshop presided over by Chairman of BIISS Board of Directors Maj Gen Muhammed Firdous Mian.

#### FROM PAGE 1 were eliminated from the World

South Korea

Cup along with the Greeks. The Super Eagles, who have never beaten an Asian side at

before South Korea hit back in the 38th minute through Lee Jung-Soo. In a free-flowing game, the Koreans took the lead in the 48th minute through a Park Chu-Young freekick, but

the World Cup, opened the

scoring through Kalu Uche (12)

Yakubu Ayegbeni converted a penalty with 20 minutes to play. The Everton striker, however, was guilty of missing two clear-cut chances, including one sitter, as the game ebbed and flowed from one end to

another with attempts aplenty South Korea started brightly and Lee Chung-Yong had an excellent chance in the first minute after capitalising on a

woeful attempt at a clearance from Rabiu Afolabi. Against the run of play in the opening quarter, Nigeria's Chidi Odiah made a determined run down the right flank and squared the ball which Uche tapped in after holding off

a feeble defensive effort by Cha But South Korea hit back through Lee Jung-Soo, who got around the back of Rabiu Afolabi to scramble the ball past goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama

from a Ki Sung-Yeung freekick. Almeria midfielder Uche had almost doubled Nigeria's lead just before the Asian team's equaliser but his wellstruck shot rebounded off the post with Jung well beaten in

South Korea took the lead after Park Chu-Young curled a freekick around the wall and past Enyeama into far side of the

Some careless defending saw Ayegbeni gifted a chance but Lee Jung-Soo just managed to get back and steal the ball away, and then came the Everton player's horrendous miss as he failed to bury an inchperfect Yussuf Ayila cross into the back of an empty net.

Another Nigerian attack did pay dividends, however, as Kim Nam-Il brought down Obasi in the box. Up stepped Ayegbeni to convert the penalty but Nigeria could muster no more attempts on target and the South Koreans went through.

#### Argentina **FROM PAGE 1**

that was tipped over. These close shaves were

the signal for sustained pressure from the South Americans, whose goalkeeper Sergio Romero was a virtual spectator at chilly Peter Mokaba Stadium. Greece finally showed

some attacking intent when a

superb lobbed pass from

Celtic striker Giorgos Samaras to reach. Tzorvas was fast becoming the busiest footballer on the field as he foiled Maxi Rodriguez and made another superb save on the stroke of

saves until Demichelis abandoned his defensive duties