

RMG workers'

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"I've talked to the minister concerned and he told me that the new wage structure for garment workers will be announced soon," Hasina said at the function.

She was critical of those employers who discriminate against women in giving wages though they give the same labour and in many cases more than the male workers.

The PM said the government will take necessary steps to stop such discrimination against women.

She reiterated that her government's commitment to make Bangladesh a corruption-free country saying that the ongoing drive against corruption will continue.

The PM said development is not possible without eliminating corruption.

On recent unrest in the RMG sector, she said a vested quarter is active in instigating the hard working garment workers. "But the garment workers must realise that by vandalising garment factories, they are doing their own harm."

Hasina urged the garment workers to keep patience and assured them of government's sincerity about taking steps for their well-being.

She mentioned that the recent government initiative towards introducing rationing for the garment workers.

The PM called upon the NGOs and development organisations to utilise the government's loan schemes on making dormitory for the garment workers, especially for the womengarmentworkers.

She said her government is determined to establish women's rights in every sphere of the society.

In this regard, Hasina recalled that Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman arranged quota facilities for women in government jobs and free primary education for girls.

She urged the country's women community to enrich them with education and knowledge in order to uphold their dignity in the society.

"Women must establish their dignity in the society," she said.

The PM said it was the Awami League government, which introduced female army officers, judge, Superintendent of Police and full-fledged secretary. "BNP-Jamaat elements tried to discourage this initiative but failed in their bid."

BNP's human chain

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A human chain will be formed between Gabtoli and Jatrabari in the capital. Party leaders will attend the demonstration at 17 spots between 11:00am and noon.

The opposition has made an all-out effort to observe the programme while the police said they would prevent any sort of untoward incident deteriorating law and order in the name of a political programme.

BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said the government would be held responsible for any untoward incident if it hinders the opposition's peaceful programme.

Briefing the press at the party chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday, Nazrul hoped the government would not create any obstacle to foil the demonstration.

Party insiders said they might announce fresh agitation programmes including protest rallies and mass sit-ins at today's programme.

Meanwhile, the police headquarters has asked all its unit branches and intelligence agencies to go tough on oppo-

She assured that Awami League would continue to work for political empowerment of women. "In the last general election, we gave direct nomination to 19 female candidates. And women are acting as important ministers in the government now," she said.

Hasina urged all to bring change in their outlook and work for women empowerment as well as to establish their equal right in the society.

Mahila Jubo League President Nazma Akter MP and General Secretary Apu Ukil MP, Mahila Sramik League President Rawshan Jahan Sathi and General Secretary Shamsunnahar also spoke at the function.

Meanwhile, the garment workers' organisations yesterday called off their demonstration till July 28.

They took the decision at a view-exchange meeting with Munnunjan Sufian, state minister for labour and manpower, at Sramo Bhaban in the city.

"The minister said the government will announce new wage for garment workers by July 28. She requested us to stop agitation and we accepted that," Towhidur Rahman, coordinator of Garment Sramik Oikya Parishad, told The Daily Star.

They however told the minister they would not accept the minimum wage if set below Tk 5,000 a month, he added.

Munnunjan assured the worker leaders the board formed to fix minimum wage would take a rational decision.

She asked them to exercise restraint during the period.

All 22 workers' bodies attended the meeting.

Israfil Alam, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on labour and manpower ministry, labour leaders Montoo Ghose, Abul Hossain, Mustafa Mishu and Mahbubur Rahman were present, among others.

PM OFF TONIGERIA

Hasina left for Nigeria early today on a special flight of Biman Bangladesh Airlines to attend the 7th Developing-8 summit, where she will place proposals for enhanced cooperation between the member countries.

She will meet leaders of major Muslim countries on the sidelines of the D-8 summit in Abuja, the Nigerian capital, tomorrow, reports our staff correspondent.

Heat blankets US as workers return after holiday

AP, New York

Temperatures soared toward 100 degrees or more Tuesday along much of the East Coast, sending utilities into peak operation as air conditioners strained to cool the sweating masses and sending the unlucky into cooling centers or anywhere else they could beat the heat.

After an extended Fourth of July weekend when temperatures inched into at least the 90s from Maine to Texas, The National Weather Service issued heat advisories until 11 p.m. Wednesday for much of the Northeast, mid-Atlantic and parts of Michigan and Kentucky. Wednesday was forecast to be the most humid day of the stretch.

The heat was expected to put a heavy load on the power grid. Utilities in New York and Philadelphia could break records for electricity use, spokesmen said. Utility workers in New York and Westchester County were working 12-hour shifts because of the increased demand.

In Philadelphia, the increased load from the heat blew fuses at transformers run by the Peco utility, said spokeswoman Karen Muldoon Geus. About 8,000 customers lost power, but it was restored Tuesday.

Those without air conditioning were left to cope as they could.

In the Bronx, Gardenia Childs, 72, walked to the store early and bought herself an extra fan, but swore off any more exercise for the day as she wheeled it home in a shopping cart.

Leaflets

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Police Abdullah Al Mamun said the leaflets were distributed more than a week ago.

The police authorities have launched a probe into the matter, he added.

The demands include salary rise of constables, Tk 3,000 a month to each constable for food, risk allowance at the rate of 50 percent of salaries and counting their training as part of service.

They also called for an end to irregularities in their transfer and posting and criticism of police in media.

Sources said the leaflets also gave a deadline of June 30 for meeting these demands and threatened to announce work stoppage from July 1 otherwise.

Abdullah Al Mamun also said their headquarters have sent messages to all the wings and units of police to provide information and opinion on the issue.

Railway link

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link with the proposed Trans-Asia Railway corridor. However, the minister avoided a direct reply as to when the government will join the corridor.

Tk 1,182 crore, more than half needed for the project, will come from foreign assistance, a planning ministry official said.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) has been in talks with Asian Development Bank, China and other donor agencies for the assistance.

The official also said the project also aims at connecting Cox's Bazar, the country's top tourist attraction, with the rest of the country.

The Trans-Asian Railway network, which was initiated in the '60s, comprises 1,14,000 kilometer of rail routes of international importance. It aims to offer efficient rail transport services for goods and passengers between Asia and Europe.

The link offers immense potential to shorten the distances and reduce transit time between countries and regions facilitating trade expansion, economic growth and cultural exchanges.

If completed, countries to be benefiting from the Trans-Asia Railway networks are Cambodia, India, Mongolia, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Thailand, among others.

The Ecenc also approved another seven projects worth Tk 3,192 crore including the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara Lake Development project. The cost of lake development project has been estimated at Tk 410 crore.

The main aim of the project is to protect the lake from the grabbers, reclaim its land and thereby restore the water capacity and enhance beauty on its four sides, the planning ministry official said.

JS body roots

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forces to review thoroughly the existing laws and regulations and come up with proposals for amendments to make the laws time befitting," M Idris Ali, chief of the parliamentary body, said after the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

In a press briefing at parliament's Media Centre, Idris, also former defence secretary, said the Army Act 1952, Air Force Act 1953 and Navy Ordinance 1961 were made in light of the colonial armed forces' laws.

"Therefore, the laws should be updated to meet the need of the time," Idris, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said.

He said the committee has received applications from many "deprived" officers and soldiers seeking "justice" on their removal from services during the BNP-Jamaat led alliance government.

Idris said the existing acts for the three forces do not even have the provisions of knowing the reason for the termination of a soldier or staff.

"We have got many letters claiming that the complainants were sacked from service without giving any reason," said Idris.

He said the committee asked the forces' headquarters to keep human rights in mind while making reform proposals.

The Navy headquarters in their report said it has moved to introduce summary trials against up to commanders, which is currently up to lieutenants.

It said once introduced, the summary trial up to commanders would bring dynamism and ensure justice in the force.

The report said the navy headquarters had earlier sent a proposal in this regard to the defence ministry, which later sought opinion from the navy. The navy headquarters would soon send its opinion to the ministry.

It has also sent proposals for amendment to the Navy regulations for recruitment

and promotions of honorary sub-lieutenant, honorary lieutenant, master chief petty officer and sailors. The headquarters recommended that the Navy Ordinance 1961 be placed in parliament to upgrade it as Bangladesh Navy Act 2010.

In a report the Air Force headquarters said a process of bringing amendments to the regulation on service age and promotions of the force's officers is underway.

The army headquarters in its letter said they are working on amendment to the army act to keep consistency with various international charters, as Bangladesh government is a signatory to those and to ensure internal discipline at topmost level.

The parliamentary body also discussed the current state of Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARSO) and observed that previous governments have neglected this vital organisation.

The committee asked the authorities concerned to take measures to fill vacant posts in the organisation.

A source in the meeting said the chief of the parliamentary body proposed that SPARSO be brought under the science and ICT ministry from the defence ministry.

In response, a defence ministry official said they would consider the proposal and inform the committee whether it could be done in the next meeting, the source said.

The standing committee also asked SPARSO to conduct a feasibility study on setting up a satellite station or whether the set-up could be done jointly with other south Asian countries.

29th BCS exam

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cadre, 1,718 in technical cadre and rest 2,450 candidates are placed in the both cadres.

The results are available on www.bpsc.gov.bd, and Bangladesh Public Service Commission website.

Rab told

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death of three persons allegedly in police custody since July 1.

The commission had for the first time asked the Rab chief to appear before it following allegations from people regarding disappearance of their near and dear ones after being picked up by Rab.

"There are allegations that people have gone missing and their whereabouts are not known. Allegations of such disappearance have been made recently," Mizanur Rahman said referring to his discussions with the Rab chief.

The commission now has five complaints of disappearance filed with it with four of those made by the victims' family members.

The commission chairman mentioned that he asked the Rab chief to take initiatives to ensure that none dies in the custody of Rab, and to find out the missing persons and take action against those responsible for the incidents.

"The allegations deserve to be probed. Legal actions will be taken after investigation," said the Rab chief after his meeting with the NHRC chairman.

He also said he is doing his best to ensure transparency in the activities of his force, and punishment was already given to over 900 of its members on different allegations. And about 400 of them got severe punishment like dismissal from job, he added.

One of the complaints of disappearance filed with the NHRC is concerning Tusher Islam Titu. He was picked up allegedly by Rab-3 personnel in Sirajganj on July 22 in 2008, and has been missing since then.

Following media reports on it, the commission had a meeting with family members of Titu recently.

Moreover, a person named Monayem was allegedly picked up by Rab in Barisal on December 1 in 2007, and his whereabouts are not known till now. His father lodged a complaint with the NHRC.

Another victim, Babu, was allegedly picked up by Rab on May 13 in 2009 from Mirpur in the capital, and has been missing since then. Babu's brother filed a complaint with the commission on January 3 this year.

Dutch storm

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with players suspended and in chilly conditions at Green Point Stadium it was the Dutch who adapted the best.

They had a decent chance as early as the third minute when Robben whipped in a teasing cross which Fernando Muslera punched straight to Dirk Kuyt on the edge of the box, but the Liverpool winger skied his shot.

The dangerous pair created another opportunity soon after when Kuyt sent in a cross that the Bayern Munich star headed at the keeper.

With the pressure on, it was only a matter of time before the deadlock was broken and it was their hugely experienced captain who did it with a contender for goal of the tournament.

The 35-year-old van Bronckhorst picked up the ball some 35 yards out and let rip with a stunning drive that tore into the top corner of the net past the outstretched fingertips of Muslera.

It should have been 2-0 on the half-hour when Arsenal's Robin Van Persie made an excellent turn to pick out Robben on the edge of the box, but Martin Caceres made a timely intervention.

Uruguay were struggling to create openings before Forlan

produced his own piece of magic with a left-foot screamer that swerved past keeper Maarten Stekelenburg, who should have done better.

Holland looked to up the tempo in the second half but it was Uruguay who nearly took the lead when Khalid Boulahrouz's back-pass fell short and Edinson Cavani challenged the keeper.

Stekelenburg's clearance hit Cavani and he teed up Alvaro Pereira, but his floated effort was headed away from danger.

The match was finely poised with both sides creating chances but it was Sneijder who did the damage with his fifth goal of the tournament.

The Inter Milan star unleashed a low right foot drive that took a deflection to put his team in front on 70 minutes.

Uruguay were stunned and Robben took advantage of their guard being dropped with another goal three minutes later with a fabulous header from a Kuyt cross.

The South Americans threw everything they had at Holland as the clock ticked down and got their reward with Pereira's goal in the second minute of injury time but by then the match was over.

DCC budget

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10:00am tomorrow, hours before the budget announcement, to seek their suggestions, a councillor said.

Of the revenue income, the corporation is also expected to get Tk 100 crore from government's block allocation, Tk 50 crore from special allocation and Tk 7.05 crore from other sources.

The DCC earns taxes and revenues from holdings, lighting and conservancies, trade licence, advertisements, rickshaw licenses, markets and community centres.

It spends in maintaining roads, drains, footpaths, hospitals, markets, bus terminals, public toilets and libraries, among others.

Apart from the revenue income, Tk 1,254.49 crore is expected to come from government, private, public private partnership (PPP) and foreign finance. The amount is Tk 713.71 crore higher than the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The income from the aforesaid sources was Tk 297.18 crore last year.

The DCC is going set an expenditure target of Tk 2,116.34 crore for the next fiscal year, which was Tk 1,351.58 crore last year.

Allocation for mosquito controlling programmes remains Tk 16 crore as the last fiscal year.

8 bodies found

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recovered so far and all of them were floating in the river.

The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA), local administration, Fire Service and Civil Defense were jointly carrying out the rescue operation.

An engine boat capsized with 100 passengers in the mid-stream of the river Shitalakkhya following a collision with a sand laden cargo on Sunday night.

Missing

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on June 25, two days before the opposition's hartal across the country.

BNP leaders alleged that the plain-clothes law enforcers picked up Alam from the capital's Farmgate, but police denied his arrest.

Following a writ petition filed by Alam's son Abu Sayeed Chowdhury, the HC yesterday fixed the date for giving order. In his petition, Sayeed prayed to the HC to declare the arrest of Alam illegal.

During hearing yesterday, petitioner's counsel barrister Moudud Ahmed told the court that the lawmen illegally detained Alam and they did not produce him before an appropriate court as per the rules of law.

Additional Attorney General Murad Reza opposed the writ petition, saying that there is no scope to file such a petition as the missing of Alam is under investigation.

After hearing the arguments, the HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain fixed Wednesday for passing an order on the petition.

Earlier on June 25 night, BNP Assistant Publicity Secretary Emran Saleh Prince told UNB that Alam was arrested around 9:30pm as he was leaving the party's central office at Naya Paltan.

But, Dhaka City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka claimed that plain-clothes Rab picked Alam from Farmgate on June 25.

Since then, Alam's whereabouts are not known and police also deny his arrest.

Govt asked

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he was in jail in connection with some other cases.

However, the four other staff-publisher of the newspaper Hashmat Ali, deputy editor Syed Abdal Ahmed, news editor Mustahid Ahmed and staff reporter Aliullah Noman-were present in the court yesterday in connection with this contempt of court petition as per the earlier order of the court.

The court also asked them to appear before it tomorrow.

SC lawyers Riaz Uddin Khan and Mynul Hassan jointly filed the petition on May 2 for publishing a report in the Amar Desh with the headline "Chamber manei sarkar pakke stay" meaning "Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government" as per the earlier order of the court.

The court also asked them to appear before it tomorrow. SC lawyers Riaz Uddin Khan and Mynul Hassan jointly filed the petition on May 2 for publishing a report in the Amar Desh with the headline "Chamber manei sarkar pakke stay" meaning "Chamber bench means stay order in favour of the government" as per the earlier order of the court.

Feds to file lawsuit over Arizona immigration law

AP, Phoenix

The US Justice Department is filing a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of Arizona's new law targeting illegal immigrants, setting the stage for a clash between the federal government and state over the nation's toughest immigration crackdown.

The planned lawsuit was confirmed to The Associated Press by a Justice Department official with knowledge of the plans. The official didn't want to be identified before a public announcement planned for later Tuesday.

The lawsuit will argue that

Arizona's new measure requiring state and local police to question and possibly arrest illegal immigrants during the enforcement of other laws, like traffic stops, usurps federal authority.

Tuesday's action has been expected for weeks. President Barack Obama has called the state law misguided. Supporters say it is a reasonable reaction to federal inaction on immigration.

The law requires officers, while enforcing other laws, to question a person's immigration status if there's a reasonable suspicion that they are in the country illegally.

Money-laundering

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To conceal his identity while drawing the money, Tarique used a supplementary debit card issued against Mamun's account with Citibank Singapore.

Besides the amount shown as laundered, Tarique drew \$54,982 (Tk 38.49 lakh) and Mamun \$79,542 (Tk 55.68 lakh) from the account on different dates in 2003-07.

Both avoided straight answers to queries on the matter, the charge sheet said. On February 23, Tarique mailed a written statement to the commission.

In a press briefing yesterday, BNP standing committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said the charges are "totally false" and designed to keep Tarique from politics.

Charge Sheet Summary The ACC came to know about Tarique's debit card from his health statement submitted to the commission on June 7, 2007.

In the statement, Tarique mentioned that he has a supplementary debit card with Citibank Singapore.

The ACC investigation later found the card was issued against Mamun's Citibank account.

Mamun too was asked by the anti-graft body to submit wealth accounts, but he did not comply.

In interrogation by the joint forces during the caretaker government rule, he however confessed to having ill-gotten money in Citibank Singapore and NatWest Bank in UK.

Following the confession, the ACC found euros worth Tk 1.19 crore, dollars worth Tk 19.02 crore and pounds worth Tk 19.51 lakh in his Citibank account.

Citing a few sources from where the laundered money came, the charge sheet said Hosaf Group Chairman

16 BCL men

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Sheikh Mujib, Shaheed Salam Barkat, Al-Beruni and AFM Kamal Uddin halls.

Home Minister Sahara Khatun ordered law enforcers to arrest those involved in the factional feud that led 35 injured. Earlier in the evening, Abdul Malek belonging to JU unit's president group filed a case with Ashulia Police Station against 12 named and 30 to 35 unnamed persons of their rival faction.

General secretary group's Atikur Rahman Himu filed another case against 24 named and 20 to 25 unnamed rivals with the same police station.

Sub-Inspector Aminul Islam placed the arrestees before court seeking a weeklong remand.

UNB reports, Sahara Khatun told newsmen, "Shibir-BNP elements intruded into Chhatra League...I will not spare them and I have asked police to arrest the troublemakers."

Following the conflict, the university authorities suspended 17 students while BCL central committee expelled its 13 members and stopped activities of the unit.

JUREJOINDER
Jahangirnagar University authorities yesterday sent a rejoinder to The Daily Star regarding a news item headlined "BCL infighting at JU leaves 33 hurt" published on the newspaper's yesterday issue.

The news report stated that JU VC Prof Sharif Enamul Kabir was assaulted during the clash, which is not true, the rejoinder noted.

The rejoinder claims the piece of information was published to tarnish the image of the university authorities. The VC and the proctorial body brought the situation under control, it added.

OURREPLY
The Daily Star came to know about the vice-chancellor's assault from witnesses.

Moazzem Hossain deposited \$11.67 lakh (Tk 8.2 crore) as "power plant consultancy fee" in the Citibank account on January 16, 2003.

On August 1 the same year, Nirman Construction Chairman Khadiza Islam sent \$7.50 lakh (5.25 crore) to the account from OCC Bank in Singapore. The firm was trying to get the work of building an 80-MW power plant in Tongi.

A Mayer Cie-Re paid \$4.20 lakh (Tk 2.94 crore) on June 5 and Merina Zaman paid \$30,000 (Tk 21 lakh) into the Citibank account on September 26 the same year.

Besides, \$4.11 lakh (Tk 2.88 crore) was put into the account from unnamed sources.

Mamun brought Tk 20.41 crore to his Sonali Bank account back home during the caretaker government rule. The amount was later deposited in favour of the government with Bangladesh Bank.

The charge sheet said Tarique and Mamun have committed crimes by receiving money in foreign currencies in a foreign bank account and concealing information about it.

Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case with Dhaka Cantonment Police Station on October 26 last year.

The two were arrested during a massive drive against corruption in 2007.

On bail from the Supreme Court, Tarique is now in London for treatment. He stands accused in 14 criminal cases.

Mamun, accused in a dozen cases, is now in jail custody and convicted in three cases including an arms case and two graft cases.

Nizami

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The Detective Branch headquarters in the city.

Asked what he knows about the smuggling of the biggest consignment of arms and ammunition in Chittagong, Nizami