



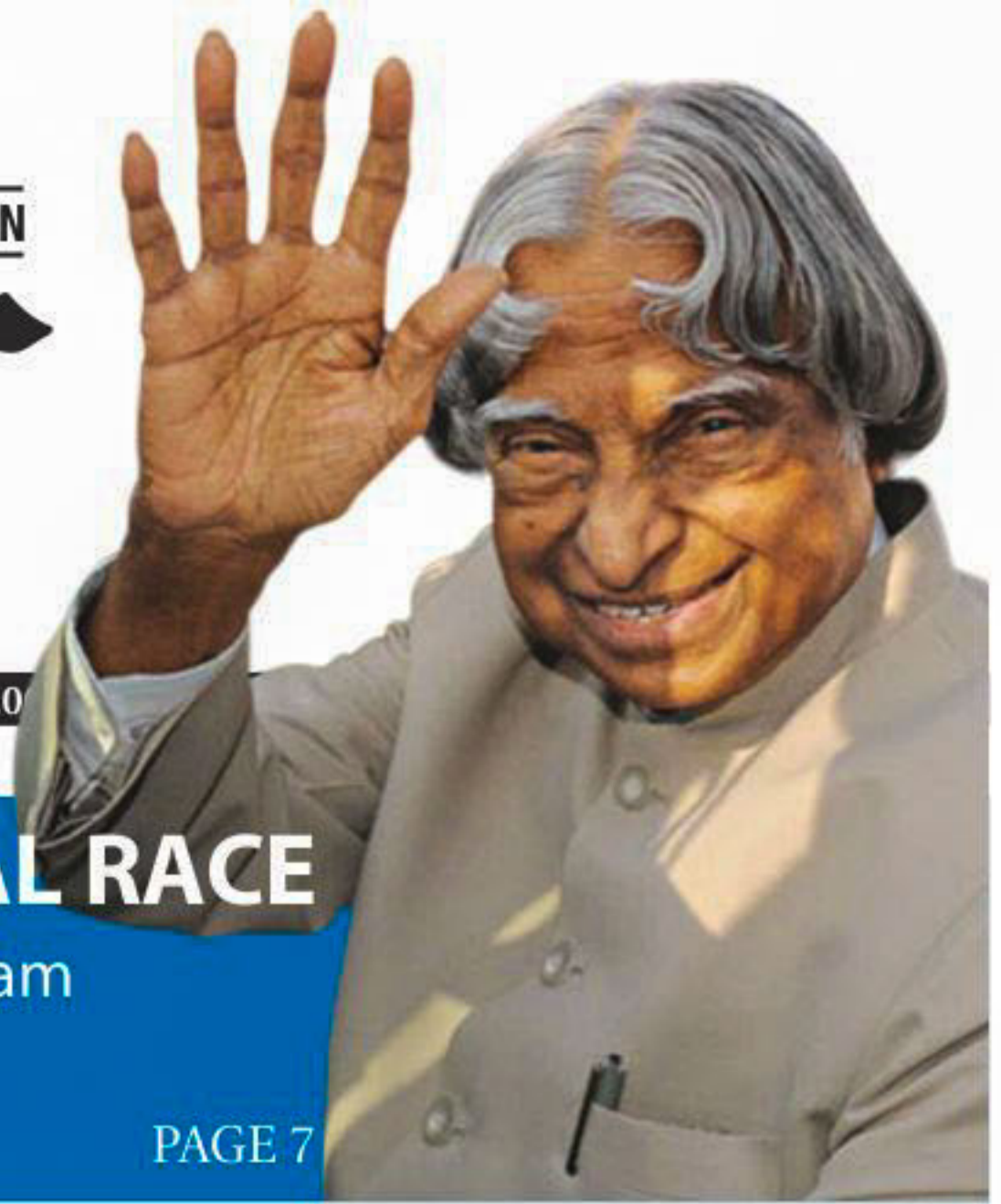
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Former president APJ Abdul Kalam decides not to contest

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8th Wage Board for journalists, staff formed

Asked to place report in 6 months

BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday constituted the 8th Wage Board for journalists, employees and workers of newspapers and news agencies.

The 13-member body to suggest enhanced wages and benefits is headed by a former Supreme Court judge and will submit its report to the government in the next six months.

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Manik violated constitution

Says Speaker in his ruling; observes disparaging remarks of a judge cannot upset relations between state's 3 organs; asks MPs to drop motion for his removal; leaves the matter to CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday said High Court Judge AHM Shamsuddin Choudhury Manik had violated the constitution by making derogatory remarks about parliament and the Speaker.

He, however, urged the lawmakers to withdraw their proposal for adopting a resolution seeking Justice Manik's removal and let the matter end there.

"I doubt if a conscientious person can make remarks like the ones an honourable High Court judge [Justice Manik] has made about parliament and me by violating Article 78



Abdul Hamid



Justice Manik

(1) of the constitution," Hamid said in a ruling in parliament.

Article 78 (1) of the constitution says the validity of the proceedings in parliament shall not be questioned in any court.

Putting the onus on the chief justice, the Speaker said, "We will sup-

port whatever steps the chief justice may take with regard to such behaviour by a court. Hopefully, that will prevent a recurrence of such incidents."

He added, "...I want to humbly say that improper behaviour of a judge cannot hamper the existing good relations among the three organs of the state. Being representatives of 16 crore people, we cannot evaluate the entire judiciary on the basis of one judge's conduct."

Ruling alliance lawmakers supported the Speaker's ruling by thumping their desks.

During a court hearing on June 5,

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Anxious workers look for a notice on the closed gates of a garment factory at Ashulia to know when they might be able to resume work.

PHOTO: STAR

Summit to give up Bibiyana-1 power project

SHARIER KHAN

Local power company Summit has primarily agreed to a government proposal to give up the stalled gas-fired Bibiyana first phase (341 MW) power project.

The Power Development Board in a meeting with power ministry, Summit and Power Cell asked the company to give up the project to let the government explore other ways to implement it.

Summit won three large power projects, Bibiyana-1 and 2, and Meghnaghat, last year. But it could not arrange the financing for the projects as initially expected, as the World Bank that had pledged the government Partial Risk Guarantee (PRG) two years ago did not provide it. The

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GARMENT WORKER UNREST Exporters in Dhaka threaten shutdown

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment owners yesterday threatened to shut down all their units in Dhaka and its adjacent areas should the labour unrest in the sector continue.

The warning came in the aftermath of the closure of more than 300 garment factories at Ashulia for an indefinite period from Sunday following a weeklong spate of street violence by the workers in the area demanding a pay raise.

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) on

Saturday announced the shutdown.

Yesterday, Syed Faizul Ahsan Shamim, managing director of the Gazipur-based Dotcom Sweater Ltd, handed over a token key to BGMEA President Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin at the association's office to express solidarity with the factory owners of Ashulia.

Shamim also submitted a memorandum to the BGMEA chief on behalf of garment owners in Dhaka, Gazipur, Tongi and Narayanganj, warning they would close their units if the impasse of Ashulia was not over soon.

"This means all the factory owners

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Troubles never shot; managed

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

Stopgap measures backed up with no permanent solution have made unrests and strikes in the county's apparel industry a common phenomenon, say analysts.

The most visible reason for the unrest is the demand for better wages that would ensure a life of minimum standard for workers amid the inflationary pressure.

According to analysts, there were a lot of reforms in different areas, including the financial sector, but nothing has been done for the labour and manpower industry.

The wage related reasons for labour unrest include mismanagement in the industry, partial payment of salaries, zero pay for overtime, no festival bonus and factory closures without prior announcement.

Besides these, lack of congenial work environment and fire safety measures have also added to the workers' resentment.

Against such backdrop, the owners have now shut

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Act fast to quell unrest

PM asks ministry to offer workers rice at lower price

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the state minister for labour and employment to take action

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PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Rohingyas eat ravenously under the watchful eyes of BGB members at Shah Porir Dweep jetty of Teknaf yesterday. Though they are not welcome in Bangladesh, border guards offer them a meal before sending them back.

'Bangladeshi girl' found on incoming boat

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, from Teknaf

A girl who was among 19 boat people trying to enter Bangladesh on Sunday night claimed herself to be Bangladeshi, according to BGB.



Sharmila Akter

Sharmila Akter Saida also said she lived at Halishahar in Chittagong with her family and had gone for treatment to a village at Maungdaw in Rakhine state of Myanmar just on the other side of the

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Rohingyas coming in again

BGB men offer lunch, dry food, water before sending them back

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and DWAIPAYAN BARUA, from Teknaf

After three days of almost no intrusion attempts by Rohingyas, around 148 boat people from Myanmar tried to enter Bangladesh from Sunday night till yesterday afternoon.

A small group of seven attempted to flee into Teknaf from June 14 to early Sunday, while yesterday alone eight fishing boats full of 140 headed for Teknaf shores.

All the 140, except for a minor girl who claimed to be Bangladeshi, were male Rohingyas and they left their villages fearing "arrest by Myanmar army".

Locals and officials, who breathed a sigh of relief thinking that Rohingyas had stopped

escaping the neighbouring Myanmar state of Rakhine to Bangladesh, became worried at this fresh influx bid.

The Rohingyas were sent back to Myanmar by boats with dry food and water. The girl was kept in BGB custody for identity verification.

The intruders came from the villages of Maungdaw, a town of the Western Rakhine state, bordering Teknaf upazila of southern Cox's Bazar district.

It was around 11:00am yesterday when the BGB and coast guard saw from the Shah Porir Dweep coast some five Rohingya boats bobbing in the river.

After the Rohingyas had ignored directives to

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Germany keen to invest more

Renewable energy potential sector, envoy tells The Daily Star

REZAUL KARIM

Germany is prepared to invest in the areas of energy and renewable sources of energy where it has a "high technological competence", German Ambassador in Dhaka Holger Michael has said.

In an exclusive interview with The Daily Star recently, the outgoing envoy said German investment in Bangladesh is already at a reasonably good level and it can be more.

In the last two to three years, Michael said, there has been an increase in German companies' interest in investments. "We already have investments not only in RMG, but also in cement, automotive supply, ship

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FULL INTERVIEW ON PAGE 15



Holger Michael

No space for more refugees

Reiterates Dhaka

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has reiterated its stance that it has no physical space to accommodate refugees from Myanmar anymore and urged the international community to share the burden of refugee pressure.

"Sharing burden doesn't mean we are seeking money to feed the refugees. We [Bangladesh] don't want money for this purpose... We want the international community to play an effective role so that no Myanmar are

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