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INT'L LABOUR CONFERENCE Dhaka faces hard time

ILO mission due on May 1

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Following the Rana Plaza disaster, the government may face a hard time at the International Labour Conference scheduled for early June this year, said officials concerned.

The tragedy, which claimed the lives of 384 people as of yesterday evening, caused by lack of safety standards would be the main agenda of the conference, said officials of the labour ministry and the International Labour Organisation office in Dhaka.

A high level mission led by Gilbert Fossoun Houngbo -- ILO deputy director general for field operations and partnership, and the former prime minister of Togo -- would be sent to Dhaka on May 1 to assess safety measures in the apparels sector and determine its next course of actions, said an ILO senior official from Dhaka seeking anonymity.

The group would meet the government's top officials

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Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim (C) swaps high five with paceman Robiul Islam after victory was confirmed in the second and last Test against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club yesterday.

PHOTO:
AFP

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Rana owes Jong one

15-day remand granted for him; father arrested



HELEMUL ALAM and BELAL HOSSAIN BILOB

Sohel Rana, owner of the collapsed Rana Plaza, has risen to the top of Savar's underworld in the last four years under the direct patronage of local MP Murad Jong.

A dropout at class-VIII and born to a very poor family, Rana emerged as one of the richest men in Savar in a decade or so. His

power and money drew the attention of the local politicians and law enforcers.

As a reward for his loyalty to Murad Jong and Fakhru Alam Samir, president of Dhaka district Chhatra League, Rana was made general secretary of its Savar municipality unit in 1998.

Watched over by local political leaders,

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Jubo League Savar units dissolved

Murad Jong not seen during PM's visit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jubo League yesterday dissolved its Savar upazila and municipality unit committees following the controversy over the involvement of Sohel Rana, owner of Rana Plaza, with the organisation.

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Call off hartal

42 trade bodies urge opposition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders yesterday urged the opposition alliance to withdraw the May 2 hartal to help the nation fast recover from the Savar tragedy and for the sake of economy.

"The rescue operations at the collapsed Rana Plaza are still continuing. At least on humanitarian grounds, BNP should withdraw the hartal," the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry said in a statement also signed by 42 other chambers and trade bodies.

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Workers stage rowdy protests

Many factories forced to stop production amid vandalism on streets

STAR REPORT

Many garment factories faced an unannounced shutdown yesterday after thousands of apparel workers took to the streets of Gazipur, Savar, Narayanganj and Ashulia to protest the deaths of their fellow workers in the Savar building collapse.

The agitating workers blocked highways, vandalised vehicles and disrupted traffic, forcing factory owners to send their workers on leave for the day.

The authorities in Gazipur and Narayanganj deployed

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1



Agitated apparel workers set alight a car in Gazipur yesterday during a demonstration demanding capital punishment to the owner of Rana Plaza, which collapsed on Wednesday leaving at least 384 dead.

PHOTO:
STAR

Shirin to be first female speaker

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury is going to be the country's first female Speaker as Awami League Parliamentary Party at a meeting nominated her unanimously for the post last night.

Born in 1966, Shirin Sharmin, currently state minister for women and children

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The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was justified for the BNP-led 18-party alliance to call a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal again for May 2 in this crucial moment of the nation?

Yes (41%)

No (59%)

TOTAL VOTES: 415

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think lawmakers' pressure on the finance minister for inclusion of new schools under the government's Monthly Payment Order (MPO) list is justified?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews



BASIC Bank donated Tk. 15 Million to Hon'ble PM's relief fund for Savar tragedy



BASIC Bank donated Taka 15 Million to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's relief and welfare fund for the affected people of Rana Plaza tragic incident. Hon'ble Chairman of the Bank **Mr. Sheikh Abdul Hye Bacchu** handed over the cheque to the **Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** in her office at the Parliament on 28 April, 2013. Among others Mr. Md. Anwarul Islam, FCMA, Director of the Bank, Mr. Kazi Faqurul Islam, Managing Director, Mr. Fazlul Sobhan, Deputy Managing Director, Mr. A. Monaem Khan, Deputy Managing Director and Mr. Md Ruhul Alam, General Manager were also present.



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