

A life= Tk 1 lakh

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Activists demand that a dead worker's family should be given compensation equal to at least his lifetime's earnings, taking into consideration the bonuses and increments the worker would have got over the years.

In their view, a worker who dies at the age of 20 earning Tk 5,000 a month should get around Tk 24 lakh in compensation, assuming he would have retired at 60. The amount would be much higher if the benefits and pay increases he would get all these years are considered.

The same method should be followed to calculate compensation for permanently disabled workers, they insist.

Garment owners, however, maintain it is impossible for them to pay such a big sum.

"How will the industry run if we pay such a large amount?" a garment owner asked, requesting anonymity.

Abu Sina, director of Areana Garments, reiterated the labour secretary's assertion that workers would now be paid Tk 2 lakh through group insurance. "Besides, most owners pay more than Tk 1 lakh anyway."

In most countries, especially in developed ones, workers and their families can file cases against owners in civil courts over workplace accidents.

"In Bangladesh, too, workers can theoretically do that. But the process is so lengthy and expensive that it often takes more than 20 years for a case to be resolved," said rights activist

Sara Hossain.

Unlike civil cases where the court takes into account an individual's extent of loss, his annual income and the extent of culpability of the owner before settling the compensation, the labour law offers just a fixed lump sum amount.

Many countries, including India and Pakistan, have separate laws which clearly set out workers' right to compensation for injury or death.

In Bangladesh, the Workers' Compensation Act 1923 has instead been repealed with the enactment of the labour law.

The current compensation provisions do not even comply with the standards set by the International Labour Organisation, said Mojibor Rahman Bhuiyan, vice-president of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies.

And although stipulated by law, most companies do not have group insurance for workers. The very few that do often pay only a few instalments, he added.

According to the ILO Convention 121, a worker or his family is entitled to at least 60 percent of his prior earnings as periodical payment for temporary or permanent disability, and 50 percent for the death of a breadwinner.

According to a calculation done by the ILO after the Tazreen Fashions fire in November last year, each victim's family should be given at least Tk 28 lakh in compensation, considering inflation, bonuses and children's education.

Go ahead with nuke

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state atomic corporation Rosatom, in his presentation on "Atomic Energy: tendencies and perspectives of XXI century".

"I never said nuclear power is a unique solution to all problems. Nuclear will have to be considered in the mixes of all available sources in a particular country. In some countries nuclear may be a good solution, in some it may be not so good," he said.

Explaining the pattern of energy consumption in different countries and impact of fossil fuel and coal on the climate, he said nuclear power is cost-effective, safe and sustainable.

Following the Fukushima disaster, the International Atomic Energy Agency assumed that the use of atomic energy would go down. But a number of indicators show its use is still on the rise in Asia, said Sokolov.

He, however, said Germany, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Italy had been phasing out nuclear power plants.

Currently, 67 reactors, including 47 in Asia, are under construction, and 40 countries have plans to build nuclear power plants. At least 437 nuclear reactors are in operation in 31 countries with a combined capacity of 370GW (gigawatt) electricity.

In his presentation on "Nuclear Power and Industrial Development", M Casanova, vice president of Tecnicas Reunidas in Spain, described his

country's successful experience in adopting nuclear reactors and developing technologies and human resources. He said nuclear power plants are viable in meeting energy deficiency.

On the role of atomic energy in the country's economy and socio-economic development, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof Arefin Siddique said a huge amount of energy would be needed in developing countries to accelerate and sustain economic growth. And nuclear energy as a safe option is a solution to that, he added.

Speaking in a session on "Environmental Protection and Safety in Atomic Energy", Emmanuel Gout, head of international consulting alliance Stratinvest, said it became very important to educate people about nuclear plants after the Fukushima accident. Nazarov Anatoly of the Public Council of Rosatom said, "In Bangladesh, a lot is left to be done in explaining strategies for setting up a plant."

Rosatom's Communication Director Sergey Novikov said people fear nuclear plants for not having experience of the facilities.

Elena Melikhova, head of the department of risk assessment and communications issues of the Nuclear Safety Institute in Russia, said though there had been concerns about nuclear plants, statistics show that only 28 people died in accidents at nuclear

power plants in the last 60 years.

Rosatom in collaboration with Bangladesh's science and technology ministry organised the two-day seminar to shed light on the current trend of nuclear power, safety issues and other hazards in Bangladesh's context.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the seminar and gave an assurance that there would be no compromise over safety issues in the construction of the nuclear power plant.

"We will have to gain competence in all areas, including nuclear reactor management," she said.

Yeafesh Osman, state minister for science and technology, and Alexander A Nikolaev, ambassador of Russia to Bangladesh, also spoke at the inaugural ceremony.

Bangladesh has signed several deals under which Russia will provide both technical and financial support to set up a 1000MW nuclear power plant in Rooppur in Pabna.

Moscow is providing \$500 million under a loan agreement for pre-construction works. The plant's construction is expected to begin in 2016 with a target for starting operation in 2021.

Probe finds

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committed in Nagarkanda between April 21 and July 30, 1971," Sanaul Huq, a senior member of the agency, told The Daily Star yesterday.

"We will submit the probe report to the prosecution tomorrow [Thursday] for the next step," he told reporters at the agency's Dhanmondi office in the capital.

Abdul Hannan Khan, coordinator of the agency, said the agency would also request the prosecution to take necessary action in arresting Khokon.

Khokon was a close associate of Abul Kalam Azad, a condemned war criminal from Faridpur, he said, adding that 50 people had been made witnesses to prove his crimes.

Sanaul Huq said Khokon, his elder brother Zafar, Azad and other anti-liberation people welcomed the Pakistan army in Faridpur on April 21, 1971 and received arms from them.

The armed Razakar Bahini, led by Khokon and Zafar, began killing people, looting houses and temples before setting those on fire, forcibly converting Hindus to Islam and committing other genocidal acts in different areas of Nagarkanda.

Zafar and some Pakistani army men were killed in a battle at Chandhaat on May 29, 1971, Sanaul said.

After Zafar's death, four

Razakar groups, including that of Khokon and Azad, were involved in looting, arson and killing in many villages for three subsequent days, he said, adding: "We have no information about Khokon's activities after July 30, 1971."

According to a handout of the agency, Khokon was "involved" in the killing of 50 persons, injuries to eight, rape of two, torture of 17, forced conversion of nine Hindus, setting fire to numerous houses and two temples, and deportation of seven persons.

Satya Ranjan Roy, the investigation officer, said Khokon in a single incident had "killed" 16 women and children at Kodalia village in Nagarkanda during the war.

Sanaul said Khokon took part in an election campaign for a Jamaat-e-Islami candidate in 1970, and was involved with the party. Later, he got involved with the BNP.

As vice-president of Nagarkanda BNP unit, Khokon took part in the municipality election in 2011 and became its mayor, he said.

"After taking the oath, he went into hiding," Sanaul said, adding, "We assume he is now in Sweden with his son. But we have no concrete information in this regard."

Hannan said the agency was conducting investigations against 10 more war

crimes suspects in different localities.

They are Syed Mohammad Qaisar of Habiganj, Gias Quader Chowdhury of Chittagong, Shakhawat Hossain of Jessore, Maulana Abdus Subhan of Pabna, ATM Azharul Islam of Rangpur, Amjad Mina of Khulna, Lahar Ali Shah of Rajshahi, Rustam Sikder of Patuakhali, Abdul Jabbar of Pirojpur and Sheikh Sirajul Islam of Bagerhat.

The two war crimes tribunals have delivered verdicts against four war criminals. The trials of ten others accused have been going on.

Bhutan to begin voting on second ever government

AFP, Thimphu

Voters in the isolated Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan will begin electing their second ever government this week, five years after the country's Buddhist "dragon kings" gave way to democracy.

The electorate of less than 400,000 people will choose from four parties on Friday when the primary round of voting for the lower house of parliament, the National Assembly, commences.

Violence in districts

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shutdown, sixth this month, intensified woes of the people, particularly the daily wage earners, besides disrupting normal life and wreaking havoc on the economy and education.

The opposition called the hartal demanding withdrawal of the cases against BNP Senior Vice-chairman Tarique Rahman.

Hartal supporters torched and vandalised more than 60 vehicles at different parts of the country, including the capital.

Two crude bombs were hurled at the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) compound in the capital, leaving police constable Ratan Kumar Dutta injured.

They exploded in front of the ACC media centre around 9:40am, said Pranab Kumar Bhattacharya, public relations officer of the com-

mission. ACC Deputy Director Lutfur Rahman filed a case with Ramna Police Station in this connection.

Frequent shutdowns have been taking a heavy toll on students by disrupting academic activities at all levels.

More than 10 lakh candidates of the ongoing Higher Secondary (SSC) and equivalent exams are the worst victims of the situation as their exams are being postponed one after another, putting a psychological pressure on them. O-level and A-level examinees are taking their examinations even at midnight due to hartals.

In Dhaka, shopping malls and roadside shops were closed yesterday. The presence of vehicles, including buses and CNG-run three-wheelers, however,

was more than that in previous shutdowns. Private cars were kept off the streets in fear of vandalism. Long distance buses were grounded.

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the main opposition BNP, clashed with police at Segunbagicha, Bijoynagar and Green Road in the capital but no major incidents were reported. The law enforcers fired blank shots to disperse JCD men.

Pro-hartal activists vandalised several vehicles and exploded crude bombs at various parts of the city, including Badda, Jatrabari, in Tejgaon, Laxmibazar and Mirpur.

In Chandpur, pickets vandalised more than 35 vehicles, blocking roads with logs in Mahamaya and Palli Bidyut areas of sadar upazila in the morning.

Some drives sustained injuries at that time.

At least six vehicles were vandalised at Boropul in Pirojpur town around 8:00am when those were going to Pirojpur old bus terminal from Togra ferry terminal, said police and witnesses. Hartal supporters also blockaded different roads by logs.

Pickets torched two vehicles and vandalised five others at Mowlavir Dighir Par in Chandgaon area of Chittagong around 9:30am, said police.

The Dhaka-Chittagong highway was also blocked at Bishwa Road point in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla for four hours.

Explosions of crude bombs and chase and counter chase between law enforcers and pickets took place in Narayanganj during hartal hours.

Executions

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Samajtantrik Dal, was addressing a meeting of the convening committee of his party at the Samajtantrik Dal central office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

He went on to say, "The appeals process of one or two war criminals will be completed by June 30 as per law. If the Supreme Court upholds their punishment, the government will carry out the judgment in July and August."

Inu made these remarks after Home Minister Muhiuddin Khan Alamgir and minister without port-

folio Suranjit Sengupta had been cautioned by the international crimes tribunal, set up to judge war criminals, earlier this year.

The two had apologised unconditionally before International Crimes Tribunal-2, which asked them to be more careful about their statements.

However, Inu later told The Daily Star over the phone, "The government has no option but to carry out the verdict, if the appeals process is completed at the Supreme Court by June."

At the convening com-

mittee meeting of his party, Inu alleged that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia had called for hartals to protect war criminals, money launderers and "great thieves".

He urged Khaleda to sever the opposition BNP's ties with the Jamaat-e-Islami and sit for an unconditional dialogue in parliament over the formation of an election-time government.

The left-wing leader said the Jamaat should be banned immediately for its "terrorist" activities following the delivery of verdicts in war crimes cases.

Super sherpa

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1,700km Great Himalayan Trail last year.

Sixty years after Sir Edmund Hilary and Tenzing Norgay first summited Sagarmatha, the 51-year-old 'Super Sherpa' has been awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Utah for his dedication to the mountain.

Apa's overwhelming life achievements began when he escaped death from an avalanche that flung him from his mother's arms down a Himalayan ice ledge at just two months old.

His faints cries were heard by his mother and he made a miraculous recovery -- he has had a special connection

with the mountain range ever since but never intended to climb Everest's 8,848 metres.

Since then he has become the only man in history to reach the top of the world 21 times. Ironically, summiting Everest was never a goal for Apa.

At 12 years old he began working as an expedition porter to earn money following the death of his father.

Trekkers immediately noticed the child who, despite his exceedingly small stature, carried loads greater than his own weight with strength, quickness and a wide smile.

Apa said: "The job of a Sherpa for both men and

women is very risky because we never know if we'll live -- but they have no choice they have to make money to live and for their families and kids' education."

Coming from Thame, the hometown of Everest legend Tenzing Norgay, it was almost inevitable that Apa would become a high altitude Sherpa guide on Everest.

He began carrying loads on Everest in 1988, but it wasn't until May 10, 1990, that he reached the summit for the first time along with Rob Hall, Gary Ball, and Peter Hillary.

Since that memorable day, Apa has participated in 22 Everest expeditions and reached the summit 21 times.

EASTERN HOUSING LIMITED

Islam Chamber 125/A Mothjeel C/A Dhaka-1000



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)

As at April 30, 2013

	30.04.2013 Taka	31.07.2012 Taka
ASSETS		
Non-Current Assets		
Property, Plant and Equipment (at cost less accumulated depreciation)	161,195,018	158,664,324
Deferred Tax	3,199,170	3,199,170
Total Non-Current Assets	164,394,188	161,863,494
Current Assets		
Stock of Land, Apartment & Materials	14,029,537,465	12,893,716,475
Advance, Deposits and Prepayments	2,626,661,876	2,158,333,165
Interest Receivable	19,406,117	55,625,300
Deposit into BB under duress	350,000,000	350,000,000
Investments	300,904,368	865,834,130
Cash and Bank Balances	81,181,615	100,087,807
Total Current Assets	17,407,691,441	16,423,596,877
TOTAL ASSETS	17,572,085,629	16,585,460,371

EQUITY		
Issued, Subscribed and Paid up Capital	716,756,040	651,596,400
General Reserve	254,500,000	234,500,000
Dividend Equalization Reserve	125,000,000	105,000,000
Retained Earnings	342,511,046	333,750,474
Total Equity	1,438,767,086	1,324,846,874

LIABILITIES		
Non-Current Liabilities		
Long Term Loan - Secured	36,376,784	125,185,830
Sponsors' Loan	202,500,000	202,500,000
Lease	8,304,523	10,646,939
Total Non-Current Liabilities	247,181,307	338,332,769

Current Liabilities		
Long Term Loan-Secured-Current	170,568,432	180,383,578
Maturity	3,999,140	9,562,069
Advance-Current Maturity	846,851,455	543,251,562
Dividend Equalization Reserve	11,639,447,089	11,602,279,628
Advance Received Against Allotment	3,208,950,280	2,562,735,670
Creditors	16,320,840	24,068,221
Provision for Taxation	15,886,137,236	14,922,280,728
Total Current Liabilities	16,133,318,543	15,260,613,497
TOTAL LIABILITIES	17,572,085,629	16,585,460,371

Sd/-	Sd/-
Md. Asadul Islam Chief Financial Officer	Dhiraj Malakar Managing Director

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (UNAUDITED)

For The Period from August 01, 2012 to April 30, 2013

	Aug 2012 - April 2013 Taka	Aug 2011 - April 2012 Taka	Feb 2013-April 2013 Taka	Feb 2012 - April 2012 Taka
TURNOVER	1,271,355,020	1,219,793,061	540,334,528	249,266,561
COST OF SALES	(801,650,970)	(874,800,641)	(367,469,740)	(145,146,891)
GROSS PROFIT	469,704,050	344,992,420	172,864,788	104,119,670
OTHER INCOME	7,740,302	3,439,809	2,708,148	829,909
ADMINISTRATIVE & SELLING EXPENSES	(171,395,141)	(163,958,724)	(50,199,930)	(46,722,424)
OPERATING INCOME	306,049,211	184,473,505	125,373,006	58,227,155
Finance Income	41,910,564	86,907,923	7,837,123	29,576,323
Finance Expense	(101,145,168)	(67,457,574)	(24,847,610)	(17,069,674)
NET PROFIT	246,813,607	203,923,854	108,362,519	70,733,804
Tax	(67,733,755)	(43,645,741)	(29,865,917)	(2,665,841)
NET PROFIT AFTER TAX	179,079,852	160,278,113	78,496,602	68,068,163
Earning per Share (par value Tk.10/-)	2.50	2.24	1.10	0.95
Number of Shares used to compute EPS	71,675,604	71,675,604	71,675,604	71,675,604

Sd/-	Sd/-
Md. Asadul Islam Chief Financial Officer	Dhiraj Malakar Managing Director

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY (UNAUDITED)

For The Period from August 01, 2012 to April 30, 2013

Particulars	Share Capital	General Reserve	Dividend Equalization Reserve	Surplus	Total
Balance as at August 1, 2012	651,596,400	234,500,000	105,000,000	333,750,474	1,324,846,874
Net profit for the 9 months ended April 30, 2013	-	-	-	179,079,852	179,079,852
Dividend Equalization Reserve	-	-	20,000,000	(20,000,000)	-
Appropriation to General Reserve	-	20,000,000	-	(20,000,000)	-
Issue of Bonus Shares	65,199,640	-	-	(65,199,640)	-
Payment of Dividend	-	-	-	(65,159,640)	(65,159,640)
Balance as at April 30, 2013	716,756,040	254,500,000	125,000,000	342,511,046	1,438,767,086

For The Period from August 01, 2011 to April 30, 2012						(Figure in Taka)
Particulars	Share Capital	General Reserve	Dividend Equalization Reserve	Surplus	Total	
Balance as at August 1, 2011	620,568,000	234,500,000	105,000,000	220,800,600	1,180,868,600	
Net profit for the 9 months ended April 30, 2012	-	-	-	160,278,113	160,278,113	
Dividend Equalization Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	
Appropriation to General Reserve	-	-	-	(31,028,400)	-	
Issue of Bonus Shares	31,028,400	-	-	(62,056,800)	(62,056,800)	
Payment of Dividend	-	-	-	-	-	
Balance as at April 30, 2013	651,596,400	234,500,000	105,000,000	288,693,213	1,280,189,613	