



Labour unrest intensifies

Around 200 factories shut; govt warns of stern action against anarchists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government warned of tough steps against anarchy as around 200 factories suspended production yesterday amid labour unrest in Gazipur, Savar and Ashulia.

Local government ministry Adviser AF Hassan Arif yesterday said most of those causing the unrest are outsiders.

"We have not forgotten that a government does not use force against the citizens. But in the given situation, stern action has to be taken against certain people in order to save factories, workers and the economy. We discussed it," he said after an emergency meeting.

Five other advisers, top police and intelligence officers attended the meeting at the home ministry yesterday, the fifth consecutive day of labour unrest.

Khandoker Rafiqul Islam, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association, said at least 167 factories remained shut in Ashulia, Zirabo, Savar, and Gazipur.

Besides, over a dozen pharmaceutical factories also remained closed.

According to the BGMEA, the factories would resume production today.

At least 50 factories were closed on Tuesday and 100 the day before.

Hundreds of workers and "outsiders" have been demonstrating since Saturday, demanding better pay and regularisation.

The unrest is mainly affecting the garment and pharmaceutical companies.

Yesterday, at least 60 factories closed in Ashulia, reports our Savar correspondent.

From 8:00am, workers of different factories at Baipail and Zirabo began marching and demonstrating.

By 11:30am, there were demonstrations at multiple places on Baipail-Abdullahpur road, causing long tailbacks.

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Vehicles in a long tailback on the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover in the capital's Wari. Buses stop on the flyover's exit ramps to pick up and drop off passengers, leading to gridlocks. Slow collection of tolls at the toll plazas also contributes to congestions. The photo was taken around 2:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

ONE MONTH INTO HASINA'S FALL

Students to hold 'Shaheedi March' today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Discrimination Students Movement will take out "Shaheedi March" across the country today to mark the one month of the fall of the Hasina regime.

"We think it is time to remember those who lost their lives for the cause. That's why tomorrow, a month after the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government [on August 5], we'll commemorate the martyrs with marches across the nation," said Sarjis Alam, one of the movement's coordinators, at TSC auditorium yesterday.

"I invite the families of every martyr to the march."

In Dhaka, the procession will begin at Raju Memorial Sculpture at 3:00pm and parade through Nilkhet, New Market, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

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How Hasina's playbook was undone

The ex-PM's edifice fell apart a month ago today amid a student-led mass uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In her final days, Sheikh Hasina desperately clung to power as if she had full legitimacy, unmindful of a big crack in her armour. Her edifice crumbled a month ago on August 5. She fled Bangladesh, ending her iron-fisted rule of 15 years and leaving behind a legacy that established brutal authority over almost everything. A generation, to say the least, will remember her as a byname for intolerance to dissent, destruction of democratic institutions, rigged elections and utmost savagery in

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Many barely hanging on to life

Families losing hope; hospital bills pile up

SAJJAD HOSSAIN and AHMED DEEPTO

The sudden twitches of his left hand and his attempts to speak in too weak a voice are just about the only signs that 16-year-old Raiyan Ahmed is still alive.

Over the last one month, he has been losing strength gradually.

Raiyan was marching in a victory procession celebrating the Awami League government's fall on August 5 when he was shot in the head twice. One bullet went through his head and another is still lodged in his skull.

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Though floodwater receded from Kuthir Haat in Fen's Sonagazi upazila three to four days ago, the family of Nikhil Barua has not returned home as the house is badly damaged. The family is staying in an under construction building nearby. The photo was taken yesterday morning.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Star INTERVIEW

'People's pent-up anger fuelled the movement'

It's been a month since the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government was overthrown by a student-people uprising. Noted economist **Anu Muhammad** discusses the movement, the regime's fall, and the interim government's tenure, tasks and challenges in an interview with The Daily Star's **Sharif M Shafique** and **Sadi Muhammad Alok**.

DS: Why is the student-citizen movement that toppled the previous government important in history?

Anu Muhammad: The movement is significant because of its success in toppling the party that has done everything to perpetuate its power for 15 years. The failure of other political parties created helplessness among the people.

Corruption led to price rises while people's real income along with employment opportunities fell. Crores of dollars have been laundered. All these together created a suffocating situation and rage against the previous government. The movement reflected the accumulated anger of the people.



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CEC, all four deputies likely to resign today

Announcement may come this noon, say EC officials

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal and all four other election commissioners are likely to resign today.

Several top Election Commission officials yesterday said the CEC and his four deputies — Brig Gen (ret'd) Ahsan Habib Khan, Rashida Sultana, Md Alamgir and Anisur Rahman — may announce their resignations at a press conference at the EC secretariat at noon today.

Asked about it, Habibul yesterday afternoon told reporters, "I will hold a press conference on the matter tomorrow [today]."

A few minutes after the CEC's remark, the EC's public relations department informed the media that the commission will "exchange greetings" with the media

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সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

৫ আগস্ট, ২০২৪ তারিখে 'বৈষম্য বিরোধী ছাত্র আন্দোলন' এর নেতৃত্বে ছাত্র জনতার গণঅভ্যুত্থানে কর্তৃত্ববাদী সরকারের পতন হলে দেশে অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকার দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করে। গণঅভ্যুত্থান দমন করতে পতিত সরকার নিষ্ঠুর বল প্রয়োগ করলে বহু প্রাণহানি ও হতাহতের ঘটনা ঘটে। দীর্ঘদিনের দুঃশাসনে বহু মানুষ অপহরণ, গুম ও বিচার বহির্ভূত হত্যাকাণ্ডের মতো নানা নির্যাতনের শিকার হয়েছে। ফলে বিদায়ি সরকারের প্রতি জনমনে প্রচণ্ড ক্ষোভ বিরাজমান। অন্তর্বর্তীকালীন সরকার এসব নিপীড়নের বিচার করতে বদ্ধপরিকর।

উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, সরকার যখন বিচারের সুস্পষ্ট অঙ্গীকার নিয়ে জাতিসংঘকে সত্য অনুসন্ধান আহ্বান জানিয়েছে এবং বিচার প্রক্রিয়া শুরু করেছে, ঠিক সেই সময়ে কিছু অতিউৎসাহী এবং স্বার্থান্বেষী মহল আইন নিজের হাতে তুলে নেবার এবং বিভিন্ন ক্ষেত্রে প্রতিবাদের নামে প্রতিষ্ঠান ঘেরাও, জোরপূর্বক পদত্যাগ, ভাঙচুর, অগ্নিসংযোগ, বেআইনি তল্লাশি, লুটপাট, চাঁদাবাজি, টেন্ডারবাজি, ঢালাওভাবে মামলা গ্রহণে পুলিশের উপর চাপ প্রয়োগ, আদালতে আসামিকে আক্রমণ করে অস্থিতিশীলতা সৃষ্টির চেষ্টা করছে। এ প্রসঙ্গে সরকার সকলকে আশ্বস্ত করতে চায় যে, মামলা হওয়া মানেই যত্রতত্র গ্রেফতার নয়। এ সকল মামলার ক্ষেত্রে সঠিকভাবে যাচাই-বাছাই করে যথাযথ পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে স্পষ্ট করে জানিয়ে দেওয়া যাচ্ছে যে, জননিরাপত্তা বিঘ্নকারী এসব কার্যকলাপের বিরুদ্ধে উপযুক্ত আইনগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে। সরকার সকল দুষ্টকারীকে চিহ্নিত করে তাদের বিরুদ্ধে অচিরেই অভিযান চালাবে এবং দল-মত নির্বিশেষে আইনি ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করবে।

কারো বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ থাকলে উর্ধ্বতন কর্মকর্তা এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট দপ্তরে জানাতে হবে, কোনভাবেই কোনো প্রতিষ্ঠান ঘেরাও বা কোনো রকম সহিংস আচরণ করা যাবে না। সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে তল্লাশি ও মামলা গ্রহণে প্রচলিত আইন যথাযথভাবে মেনে চলা হবে এবং হয়রানিমূলক পদক্ষেপ দূর করার ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

আইন-শৃঙ্খলা রক্ষায় সরকারকে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য সকলকে আন্তরিকভাবে আহ্বান জানানো যাচ্ছে।

স্বরাষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়