

Jute workers block Dhaka-Ctg road

CU CORRESPONDENT

Hundreds of workers of four jute mills put a barricade on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Baro Awlia under Sitakunda upazila for three hours yesterday demanding implementation of their eight-points, including payment of arrears and Eid bonus.

Hundreds of buses, trucks and other vehicles were stuck up in a

gridlock on both sides of the road during the blockade that caused immense suffering to thousands of passengers.

However, the agitating workers withdrew their barricade at around 10:00am after an assurance by the concerned authorities.

According to sources, several hundred workers of Hafiz Jute Mill, Gul Ahmed Jute Mill, RR Jute Mill

and MM Jute Mill gathered at the area at around 7:00am and barricaded the road.

Later, after a meeting with the workers leaders led by CBA Oikya Parishad Convener Tofazzal Hossain, Bangladesh Jute Mill Corporation (BJMC) Chittagong Divisional Coordinator Mojammeel Haque assured them of fulfilling their demands in 24 hours.

SSMC classes on Jan 10

Bss, Dhaka

Sir Salimullah Medical College will start introductory classes for the students of the first year MBBS course (2006-2007 session) at 10:00am on January 10 next year.

Other classes of the course will begin the same day.

All students of the course have been asked to attend the classes in time.



PHOTO: STAR

Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad stages a demonstration at Muktangon in the city yesterday demanding need-based salary and payment of bonus before Eid-ul Azha for the garments workers.

BARISAL SEAT

No deal with grand alliance

Says Islami Shashantantra Andolon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Islami Shashantantra Andolon yesterday protested the media report that the Awami League-led grand alliance had allocated Barisal-5 parliamentary seat to the party for the forthcoming elections following an electoral understanding between them.

"We did not even have any formal meeting with the AL or grand alliance so far, let alone any electoral understanding. So the issue of seat allocation is simply out of the question," Andolon presidium member Syed Muhammad Fazlul Karim said at a press conference.

Fazlul Karim, who was supposed to contest the election from Barisal-5 with Andolon ticket, said, "To avoid any confusion in this regard, our party advised me not to submit nomination paper and I acted according to their suggestion."

He also categorically said, "We would not go for any understandings with any alliances by compromising on Islamic values and accepting the leadership of women."

About the electoral deal signed between Awami League and Khelafat Majlish, he said, "We welcome the move initially, but we have to wait for the outcome of the understanding."

Andolon Secretary General Muhammad Nurul Huda Fayezi and Abu Zafar Ahmadullah were also present at the press conference held at its office.

Foreign liquor worth Tk 7 lakh seized in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) in a drive seized 2,904 can foreign beer and 48 bottles of liquor worth around Tk 7 lakh and arrested two traders from city's Jakir Hossain Road in the early hours of yesterday.

Sources said that a squad of Khulshi Police Station seized the liquor and beer searching a city-bound covered van at around 5:30am.

They arrested Nurul Islam, driver of the covered van and his helper Mohammed Selim in this connection, sources said.

Pay salary, bonus before Eid

Demand RMG workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several labour organisations yesterday held rallies in separate places of the city demanding salaries and bonus ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha.

They urged the concerned authorities to provide them the

arrear salaries and salary of the current month before Eid.

Bangladesh Sanjukta Sramik Federation in a statement yesterday said though the holy Eid is just knocking at the door, the workers of many garment factories, including EPZs are yet to get the arrears and wages of the current month.

Biplobi Garment Sramik Sanghati at a meeting demanded an announcement of Tk 3000 as minimum wage for workers.

They also demanded withdrawal of false cases against the garment workers and leaders and urged the concerned authorities to provide them due salaries and bonus before Eid.