

## 50 hurt as outsiders beat up RMG workers in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 50 workers of a garments factory in the city's Tejgaon Industrial Area were injured yesterday afternoon when over 200 outsiders, allegedly hired by the factory authorities, attacked the workers who were protesting the repression of two of their leaders by the authorities.

The attackers, led by police informant and local hoodlum Mobarak, beat up the workers, mostly women, and also confined five workers to the office of an executive on the third floor of the seven-storey Padma Poly Cotton Knit Fabrics Ltd.

Police rescued the five -- Joynal, Ashraf, Momin, Yousuf and Rakib -- in unconscious state five and a half hours after

the incident. However, they came round shortly afterwards.

The workers alleged that the outsiders also molested the women workers during the two-hour attack from 4:00pm.

The police team stepped in after the attackers left the factory at around 6:00pm.

The workers alleged that they informed and pleaded with Sub-Inspector Abdul Bari, who was patrolling the area at that time, to come to their rescue, but to no avail.

When contacted, Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Tejgaon Industrial Area Police Station Mahbubur Rahman said that SI Bari informed him of the incident after 6:00pm. He also said it is clear that the outsiders were hired by the factory authorities.

When the attackers left the factory, over 2000 workers and

their relatives laid a siege to the factory following a rumour that the five workers were beaten to death inside the office room.

However, they were found lying unconscious when the security guard unlocked the room following pressure from the workers.

The police arrested Executive Director of the factory Shahid Ahmed Zia and three others.

The workers said they did not do any work in the factory yesterday in protest as the authorities sacked Majibar Rahman, one of their leaders on Sunday and the outsiders beat up two other leaders -- Sayeed and Ashraf -- on Monday night who were protesting the termination.

The workers also said Sayeed has been missing since the Monday's incident.

### Threat to kill Rupsha UZ journos

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A newly floated underground party on Monday threatened to kill Rupsha upazila correspondents of all national and local dailies and blow up Rupsha Press Club in bomb attack.

Rupsha Press Club president and crime reporter of local 'Dainik Probaron' received a letter on Monday afternoon mailed to him from Khulna GPO by 'Purbo Bangla Mission Juddho (PBMJ)', a newly formed underground party.

The computer composed letter signed by one Abir Hasan said PBMJ has been formed only in Khulna district with Faruque Rashid as operation commander. It has already formed units in all upazilas in the district, the letter said.

The letter said Rupsha upazila correspondents of local and national dailies will be killed in phases. The killing mission will be conducted at an opportune time.

Murders of Journalists Humayun Kabir Balu, Manik Saha and Sheikh Belaluddin committed by other underground parties are not enough. More murders of media men are badly needed in the southwestern region, PBMJ letter added.

Khulna Police Super has been informed of the death threat given by the outlawed party.

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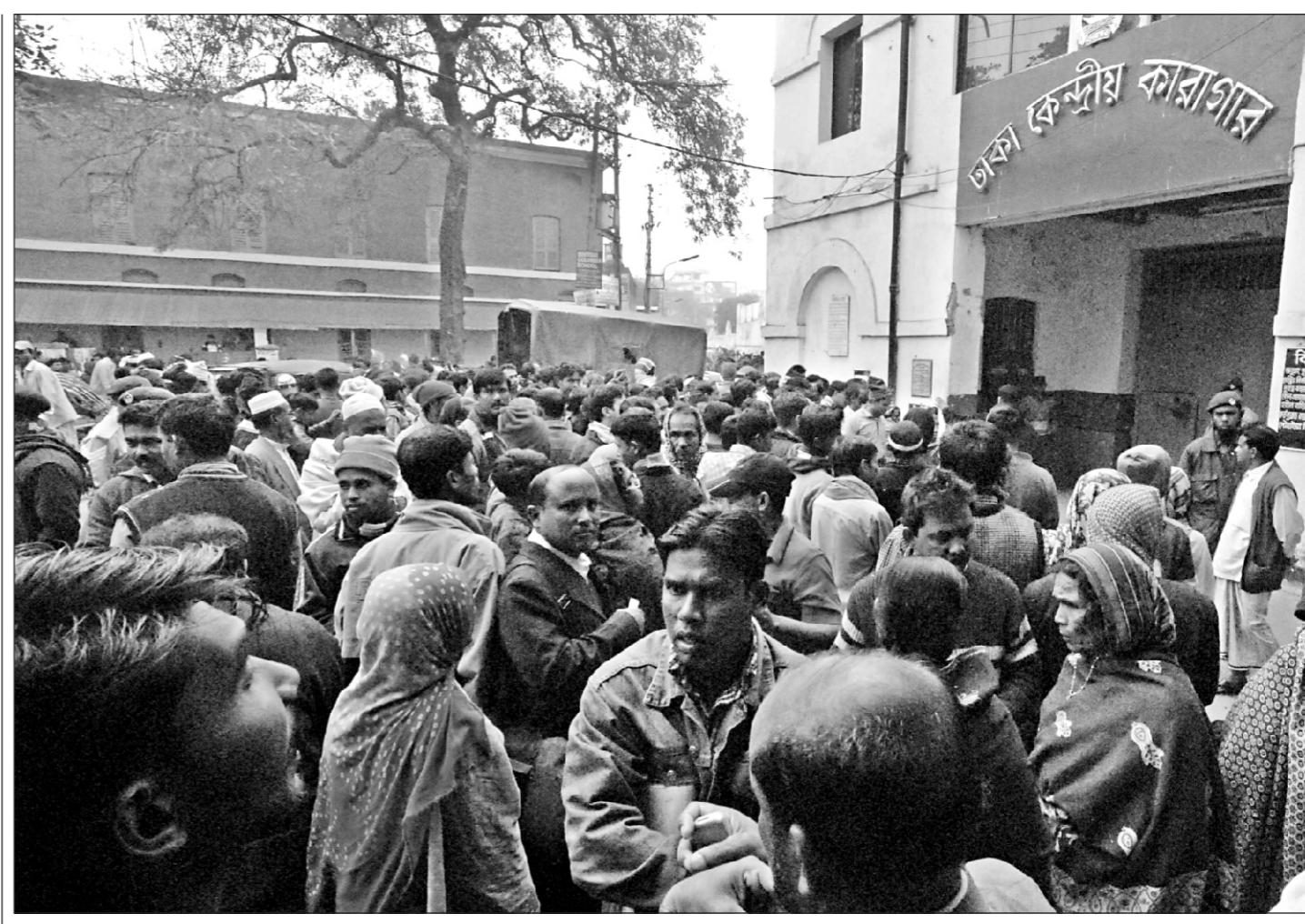


PHOTO: STAR

Relatives of the victims of mass arrest crowd in front of the Dhaka Central Jail in the city yesterday.

## POLITICAL CRISIS Govt, parties urged to take well thought out steps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ten retired army officials yesterday appealed to the government, major political parties, the armed forces and senior retired army officials to uphold the spirit of the constitution, ensure security of the country and its citizens, show respect to political views and protect reputation of the army.

In joint statement, the retired army officials also urged them to keep in mind that "the constitution is for the people" while taking any decisions to resolve the political crisis.

Expressing concern over the political stalemate, they said security of the country and its people, economic progress, the image of the army and, above all, the image of the country abroad depend on the future course of the present crisis.

They called on the government and major political parties to contemplate any steps involving the army before its implementation.

Referring to the laudable role of the army at home and abroad, they hoped that the members of the armed forces would do everything in the greater interest of the nation.

They also appealed to the senior retired army officials to come forward and use their intellect to solve the

present crisis.

The signatories to the statement include Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim, Maj Gen (retd) Masudur Rahman and Maj Gen (retd) SM Shahab Uddin.

### 'Hold polls with participation of all parties'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Pro-Awami League Dhaka University (DU) teachers yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) not to hold the ninth parliamentary elections without participation of all political parties.

Teachers staged an hour-long sit-in in front of the High Court holding a banner that read -- teachers are ashamed with the activities of the president/chief adviser to the CG Prof Iajuddin Ahmed.

Former DU Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Dean of Social Sciences Faculty Prof Dr Harun-or-Rashid, Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, Prof RIM Aminur Rashid, Prof Sadeqa Halim, Prof Abul Barakat and other teachers joined the programme.

They also appealed to the senior retired army officials to come forward and use their intellect to solve the

problem.

Dr Anisuzzaman is the chairman and Biswajit Roy is the member-secretary of the mela.

Co-chairmen Golam Quddus, Jhuna Chowdhury, Mahmud Selim, Babul Biswash and others were present at the press conference.

### CPB calls for continuous agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

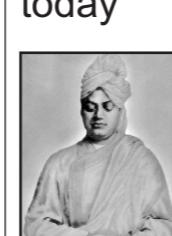
Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) President Monjurul Ahsan Khan has called for continuous demonstration including hartals on January 21 and 22 if the farcical election is not cancelled.

Speaking at a rally in the city yesterday, he said those who have opted for oppression to complete the farce in the name of election will have to face public court someday.

The rally was organised to press for CPB's 53-point demand including cancellation of polls schedule, preparation of correct voter list and radical reforms of electoral system.

Presided over by CPB Dhaka Committee President Abdul Kader, the rally was also addressed by CPB central leaders Morshed Ali and Ahsan Habib Lablu.

### Birth anniversary of Vivekananda today



The 145th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda will be observed at Ramakrishna Math and Mission in Dhaka today, says a press release.

On the occasion, the Mission has taken up various programmes, including special puja, reading from the scriptures and devotional songs.

Anil Kumar Saha will perform classical music at 4:00pm and a discussion on 'Swami Vivekananda: Ideal of Harmony' will be held at 5:00pm, with Justice Gour Gopal Saha in the chair. Prof Kabir Chowdhury will be present as the chief guest while Swami Aksharananda Maharaj will deliver welcome address.



PHOTO: STAR

Syed Yusuf Hossain speaks at a press conference organised by Samilita Karmakarta Karmachari Oikya Parishad at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Mohammad Nurul Huda and on his left is Nazrul Islam.

### Cold wave may continue

UNB, Dhaka

Dry weather will prevail over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may also occur over the river basins and light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country during late night until morning, said Met Office.

It said mild or moderate cold wave sweeping over Rajshahi and the regions of Tangail, Faridpur, Srimongal, Sylhet, Jhansi and Chuadanga may continue and spread further up to Barisal division.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Highest temperature 26.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jhansi and lowest 0.75 degree Celsius at Ishwardi and Rajshahi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:29pm today and rises at 6:44am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in Celsius	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	20.7	12.1	100	85
Chittagong	25.5	12.0	97	69
Rajshahi	24.7	0.75	67	59
Khulna	24.3	10.5	71	59
Barisal	25.6	0.96	92	77
Sylhet	25.2	14.5	82	70
Cox's Bazar	25.2	13.2	75	59

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has taken up a plan to distribute 9000 blankets among the distressed people as a cold wave has been sweeping the country.

As part of the programme, Chairman of the BDRCS Professor Md Abdur Rob distributed 500 blankets among the distressed people of Kamalapur Railway Station and Sadarghat Launch Terminal at 11:00pm on January 7, says a press release.

BDRCS chairman requested the wealthy people and organisations to donate warm clothes or money to the BDRCS for distribution among the poor.

Treasurer of the BDRCS SM Munir Lablu, members of the Managing Board and the secretary general and Bangladesh Chief of the International Federation Selvaratnam Sinnadurai were present at the time of distribution.

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Relatives of the victims of mass arrest crowd in front of the Dhaka Central Jail in the city yesterday.

## Help uphold Constitution Khaleda urges journalists

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the journalists to play their professional role in upholding the constitution through creating mass awareness in the prevailing situation.

She made the call when a delegation of the newly elected office-bearers of National Press Club led by its new president Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamaluddin Sabuj made a courtesy call on her at her Hawa Bhaban office in the evening.

Reiterating her party stand on election on time, Khaleda said none is beyond the Constitution--all have to comply with the

Constitution.

"Those are carrying out movement don't obey anything--Constitution, Election Commission, democracy," she said.

The meeting over, Shawkat told newsmen that they assured the BNP chairperson of carrying out their effort to protect the Constitution.

He said Khaleda and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan assured us of enacting Right Information Act if they formed the next government.

He said the BNP chairperson also assured us of cooperating in the development of the Club.

Party sources said Khaleda is scheduled to go to Dinajpur on January 12 and Barisal on January 13 for election campaign.

## Obituary

Emdad Hossain, retired chief engineer of PWD, passed away at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital in the city on Monday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His namaz-e-janaza will be held today after Zohr prayers at Gulshan Azad Masjid.

## Ramanda Mallik

Ramanda Mallik, former general secretary of Bangladesh Polytechnic Institute and educationist, passed away on January 7 at his residence at Tiktoli in the city at the age of 76, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was cremated at his village home at Keraniganj.

Bangladesh Polytechnic Teachers' Association (BPTA) organised a meeting to condole his death yesterday.

Mustafa Hussain, Kafil Uddin Mollah, Abul Kashem Majumdar and Shah Alam Majumdar spoke at the meeting with Mohammad Shamsur Rahman in the chair.

## Death anniversary

Today is the sixth death anniversary of eminent educationist Prof Nurul Islam, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his Dhanmondi residence.

## Thomas F Gomes

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Knight Thomas F Gomes, an eminent religious and social worker, says a press release.

On the occasion, a prayer meeting will be held at Thomas Tower at Kakrail in the city at 6:00pm. Prayers will also be held beside his grave at Wari Christian Cemetery.

## Prayer meeting

A prayer meeting in honour of late Isabella Gomes will be held at Thomas Tower at Kakrail in the city at 6: