

## Uttara garment workers ransack vehicles over salary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers ransacked vehicles and blockaded Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Uttara in the capital yesterday for due salaries.

Sources said employees of a sweater factory got furious as the owner started disbursing salaries below the actual rates. The factory reopened 15 days back after a closure for two and a half months.

Over six hundred workers came out on the street at 2:30pm, ransacked around ten vehicles and blockaded the highway for 15 minutes creating a huge traffic jam, locals said.

Later, police dispersed the workers and arrested six of them.

## 2 cops killed in wave of Afghan blasts

APP, Kandahar

Four suicide bombings struck Afghanistan yesterday, killing two policemen as military officials announced more than 10 Taliban commanders were killed in major battles a week ago.

One of the commanders killed was believed to have been among five Taliban freed from Afghan jails last month in exchange for an Italian hostage, the US-led coalition said, citing intelligence reports.

"Two other senior Taliban commanders, believed to have been killed in the battles, were known enemies of the Afghan government for the past three years," it said.

A senior Afghan defence ministry official agreed with the statement about the April 27 and 29 fighting in the western province of Herat.

"A big number of senior Taliban commanders were among those killed," he said on condition of anonymity. "A Taliban commander swapped for the Italian journalist was also killed."

The late-March swap was widely condemned with critics saying it could result in copy-cat kidnappings. Less than a week later an Afghan medical team was snatched; two French aid workers and three Afghans were captured April 3.

In both cases, the Taliban said it wanted some of its prisoners to be freed in exchange for the hostages. It has also demanded the withdrawal of French troops in Afghanistan for the release of the French group.

The militants released one of the French hostages a week ago; on Saturday it said it would decide on the fate of the Frenchman and his colleagues after France's May 6 presidential election.

The Herat battles involved US Special Forces, other coalition soldiers and Afghan troops.



A worker without any protective gear lowers himself into a manhole to clear the sewer in the city's Shahbagh area, risking his life. Such practice is still going on even after several workers died in the manhole in previous years. The picture was taken on Thursday.

## China firm to build Myanmar hydro-power plants

APP, Yangon

A Chinese firm will help military-run Myanmar build seven hydroelectric plants with combined power capacity likely to be the biggest in the Southeast Asian country, state media said yesterday.

The junta will team up with China Power Investment Corporation (CPI), one of China's biggest power producers, to construct the plants in northern Kachin state on the border with China, the state-run daily New Light of Myanmar said.

"Upon completion, all projects are expected to generate 13,360 megawatts in total," the paper said without giving further details.

It would surpass power capacity of 7,100 megawatts from Myanmar's biggest hydro-power project between the junta and Thailand, the state-run daily New Light of Myanmar said.

The MDX project, worth six billion dollars, is expected to be ready in 2012, with 95 percent of the electricity from the plant going to Thailand, with the rest for Myanmar.

Myanmar, one of the world's poorest nations, is under a series of US and European economic sanctions imposed over the junta's rights abuses and the house arrest of 61-year-old democracy icon and Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

## 150m-yr-old dinosaur unearthed in Argentina

APP, Buenos Aires

Palaeontologists unearthed a flesh-eating dinosaur some 150 million years old in southern Argentina with all its joints in place, the first time such a beast has been dug up so intact, one of the finders told AFP on Friday.

The seven-metre (23-foot) tall, two-legged dinosaur, dubbed the Condorraptor, was found fossilised with parts of its jaw and head showing in rock near the village of Cerro Condor in Patagonia, at a site where palaeontologists had been working for five years.

"It is an unprecedented discovery. It is the first time in the world that a carnivorous dinosaur of the Middle Jurassic period has been found fully jointed," said Pablo Puerta, a palaeontologist at the Egidio Feruglio museum in the town of Trelew.

Working in the southern province of Chubut, the team led by the German dinosaur specialist Oliver Rauhut uncovered the fossil using a giant crane to shift rock.

Puerta said it will take about a year to fully uncover the dinosaur. It could then go on display at the Trelew museum.

## Better management of migrants' remittance stressed

International Banking Wing of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, suggested measures in reducing these problems.

He strongly recommended on appointing bank representatives at the sending countries and to provide more customer-friendly services to the remittance receiving families.

Andrew Hook, from the Remittance Payments Partnership (RPP) of Bangladesh Bank, discussed the services provided by different exchange houses and other agencies.

He also spoke about other methods that will have impact on future remittances flow such as Instant Cash, Door-to-door Services, Mobile-to-Mobile Services, etc.

The participants of the workshop included bank officials from Dhaka, Tangail, Comilla and Chittagong.

Md Nazir Hossain, principal officer of Training Institute of Janata Bank, A K M Mosharraf Hossain, AGM of the International Department of Bangladesh Krishibank, and Md Nazrul Islam, AGM of F/C Management Division of Agrani Bank were among the other resource persons to conduct the training sessions.

## Workshop on Job Interview and Assessment

Organized by: Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)  
Victoria University, Melbourne, Australia  
University & Industry Alliance, University of Dhaka



Participants at a workshop on "Job Interview and Assessment Centre" at Victoria University seminar hall at Dhammendi in the city yesterday. Sitting from left are Prof G M Chowdhury, president, U & I Alliance, Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury, vice chancellor of IUB and Dr Tanvir A Khan, registrar & director, Career Guidance & Placement, IUB.

## Workshop on job interview held in city

A workshop on Job Interview and Assessment Centre was held at Victoria University seminar hall at Dhammendi in the city yesterday, says a press release.

It was jointly organised by Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), Victoria University, Melbourne and University & Industry Alliance, University of Dhaka.

Over 90 final semester students and recent graduates from Dhaka University, IUB, BRAC University and Victoria University participated in the workshop.

IUB Vice Chancellor Prof Bazlul Mobin Chowdhury in his address as special guest of the ceremony urged the participants to turn themselves with the time to cope up with the fast-changing global scenario.

Prof GM Chowdhury, president of U & I Alliance, and Dr Tanvir A Khan, registrar and director, Career Guidance and Placement of IUB, also spoke on the occasion.

Shamsia I Mutasim, head of HR, Arab Bangladesh Bank Limited made her presentation of Assessment Centre while Fatema Rizwana, director, HR, Reckitt Benckiser Bangladesh Limited spoke on preparation for successful interviews.

## Strike in Kashmir over arrests, mosque

APP, Srinagar

Demonstrators shut down Indian Kashmir's main city yesterday to protest against the jailing of hardline separatists and alleged damage to a mosque, witnesses said.

Protesters shouted "set free the separatists" and "God is great." Some pelted stones at police, who retaliated with batons, but no injuries were reported.

There have been demonstrations for nearly two weeks against the arrest late last month of four separatists being held in Kashmir's second largest city Jammu, which serves as the winter capital.

The four were arrested for holding an unauthorised rally to welcome back Syed Ali Geelani, leader of the hardline wing of the region's separatist alliance, who had undergone cancer treatment in Mumbai.

The strike shut all educational institutions and businesses in the summer capital Srinagar.

Although Saturday is a normal working day in Muslim-majority Kashmir, traffic was light and attendance at government offices was thin.

"I urge people to observe a total

shutdown to express their resentment against the arrests," said Geelani, who sponsored the call.

Police complained that "anti-national" slogans -- a euphemism used for anti-India and pro-separatist slogans -- had been chanted at the rally.

Use of such slogans is nothing new in Kashmir, where anti-India sentiments have been running high since Muslim rebels launched an insurgency against New Delhi's rule in 1989.

Geelani said the strike was also a response to damage to a 199-year-old mosque housed in a fort controlled by Indian troops.

Muslim visitors have said a Hindu and a Sikh temple inside the recently reopened fort overlooking Srinagar remained intact. But they said the mosque had been damaged and blamed paramilitary forces in charge of the fort.

Authorities denied the allegations, saying the mosque had been in a "dilapidated" state for a long time.

The Hari Parbat Fort, built in 1808 when Kashmir was under Afghan rule, was thrown open to the public last month, 17 years after the revolt forced it to close.