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People's Right to Know

STUDENTS DEMO

### Sher-e-Bangla agri university closed sine die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University (SAU) was closed yesterday for an indefinite period following violent student demonstrations over their 7-point demands.

The agitating students gave a 24-hour ultimatum for meeting their demands, defying the SAU authorities' order to vacate dormitories by 5:00pm.

However, at around 8:00pm, a number of students were seen leaving their dorms, said witnesses. Dr Ruhul Amin, proctor of SAU, told The Daily Star that last week, when the university was officially open, students of levels 2, 3 and 4 went on vacation without approval

from the authorities. As a disciplinary measure, the academic council of the university SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

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JAMADIUL AWAL 29, 1429 HIJRI

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# RMG workers go berserk in Savar

More than 30 factories, 2 banks, 3 markets vandalised over death rumour

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment workers vandalised over 30 factories, two banks and three markets and set fire to a lorry and damaged over 40 vehicles in Savar yesterday following the rumour of a fellow worker's death in a road accident.

Over 100 workers and pedestrians were injured during the attacks garment workers who also blockaded the Abdullahpur-DEPZ road for five hours causing immense sufferings to commuters.

Rupali, factory operator of

Sharmin Group, and her sister Dipali of the same factory were hit by a lorry while they were crossing the road in front of the factory at Narasinghapur at about 8:00 am yesterday.

A doctor of Sharmin Group rescued and arrested the driver. rushed seriously injured Rupali to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) from where she was later shifted to a clinic.

Sub-Inspector Mazharul Islam launched by several hundred of Ashulia Police Station, who rescued the victims, told The Daily Star last night that the two workers had not died although at first he thought Rupali did.

Hearing the news of the acci-

dent, over 1,500 workers of Sharmin Group came out on the street and set fire to the lorry that hit the two workers and beat up its driver Abul Hossain. Later, police

Firefighters rushed to the spot to douse the fire but they had to leave the scene soon in the face of protest by the workers.

Meanwhile, over 3,000 workers of nearby Mettler Apparels, who had gathered in front of their factory to protest its closure two days ago, joined the agitating workers of Sharmin Group.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

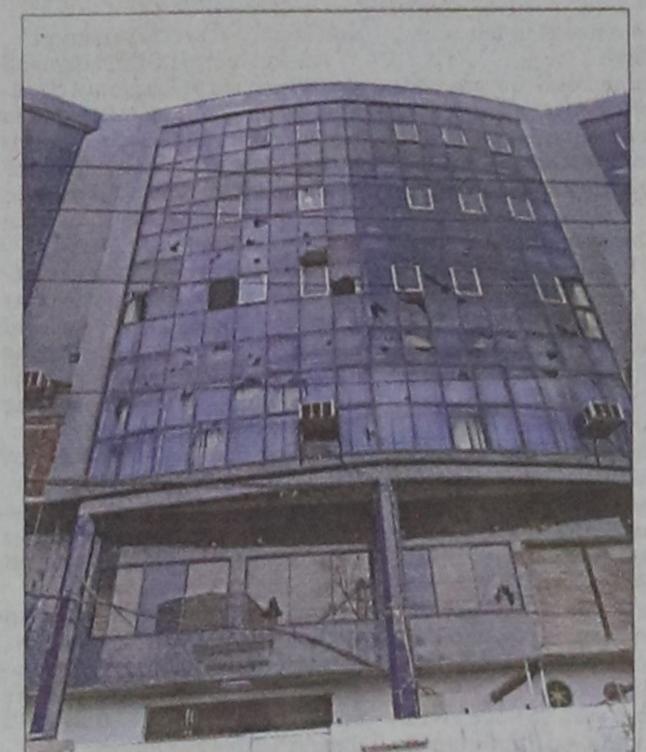




PHOTO: STAR

A garment factory that came under attack of angry workers, left, on DEPZ-Abdullahpur highway in Ashulia yesterday; and firefighters douse the flames in a truck the protesters set afire.

### Obama effectively clinches.

nomination

AP, Washington

Barack Obama effectively clinched the Democratic presidential nomination yesterday, based on an Associated Press (AP) tally of convention delegates, becoming the first black candidate ever to lead his party into a fall campaign for theWhite House.

Campaigning on an insistent call for change, Obama outlasted former first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton in a historic race that sparked record turnout in primary after primary, yet exposed deep racial divisions within the party. The AP tally was based on public

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

### No wholesale arrest being made

IGP rules out law, order slide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Inspector General of Police (IGP) Nur Mohammad yesterday denied any slide in the law and order and claimed that no 'wholesale arrest' is being made.

"The law and order situation is under control. There has been some murders and robberies in the recent weeks which gave the impression that the situation has deteriorated," the IGP told reporters after a meeting with Home SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

### Arrest figure crosses 10,000

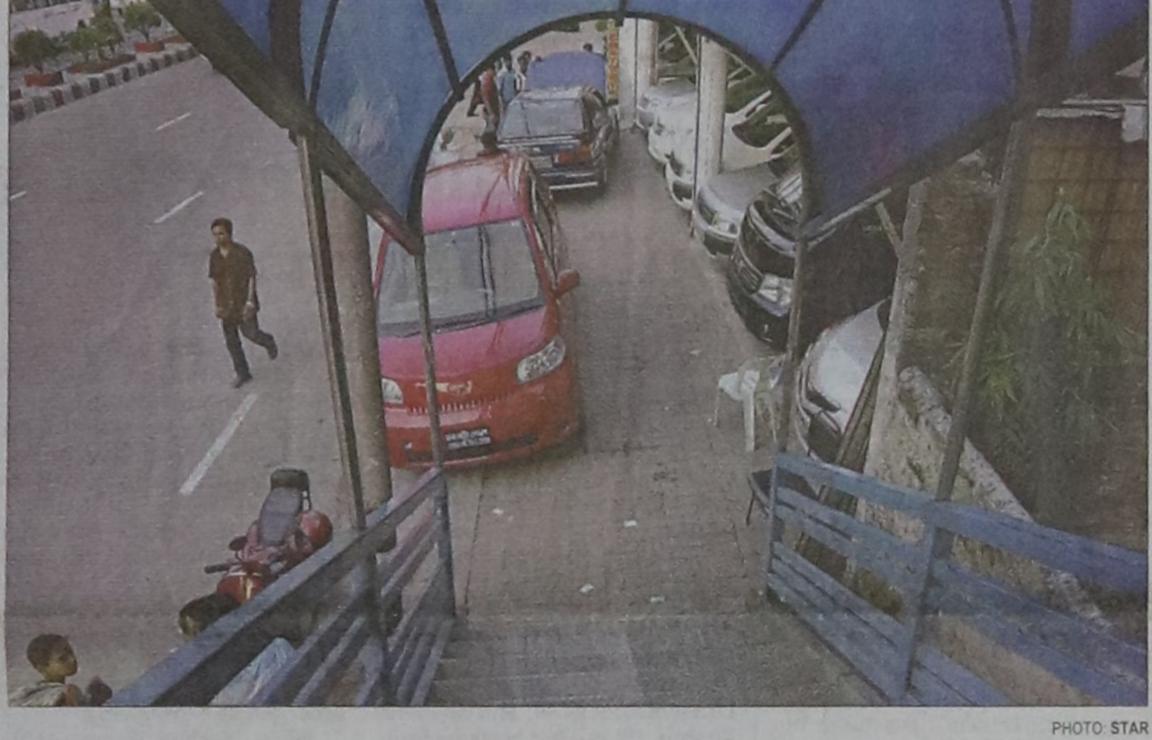
1729 more held in 24hrs STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The joint forces arrested 1,729 persons including 97 in the capital in the 24 hours preceding 8:00am yesterday, in the ongoing nationwide special anti-crime drive that had begun on May 28. With the latest arrests, the total

number of detainees in the drive now stands at 10,054, including some leaders and activists of political parties, officials in the police headquarters said. Meanwhile, Commerce Adviser

Hossain Zillur Rahman told reporters at the chief adviser's office that the arrests are being made to prevent violence in the run up to the local and general elections. During the drive the crack forces

also recovered 17 firearms, two bombs, and 36 rounds of bullets raising the total number of recovered firearms and explosives to 50 | foreign funding, planning ministry SEE PAGE 15 COL 4 | sources said.



A showroom parks its cars on the pavement obstructing entrance to a foot-bridge in Kakrail in the capital. The photo was taken yesterday.

## Govt working on ways to 'release' 2 ex-PMs

Khaleda, Hasina won't accept any condition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

unconditionally to ensure their for the two top leaders. participation in the ongoing diaboth want unconditional release.

either on parole or on bail within a The authorities have taken an few days but they have to accept initiative to find out how to release several conditions. One source ministers either conditionally or might consider anticipatory bail

In the last few weeks, unofficial logue with political parties, but talks between the two leaders and the authorities at various levels, Sources said the two former also caretaker government advispremiers -- Sheikh Hasina and ers, took place at the special jail

Khaleda Zia-- might be released where both (two leaders) have been kept detained, the sources said seeking anonymity.

Talks were held with Hasina also the two detained former prime however said the government at Square Hospital on Monday when she was taken there for eye check-up. The Awami League (AL) president might be taken to the hospital again shortly.

AL acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam on Monday SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

### Govt set to propose Tk 25,600cr ADP

57pc to be implemented with foreign funds

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government is going to propose Tk 25,600 crore outlay for the Saturday with Chief Adviser next fiscal year's Annual Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair. Development Programme (ADP), 57 percent of which will come from 2008-09 will be placed on June 9.

The draft ADP will be placed

before the National Economic

Council (NEC) meeting on

The national budget for the FY

The government will provide SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

COALMINE GRAFT CASE

### HC rejects Mojahid's bail petition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday rejected a petition for anticipatory bail filed by Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General and former minister Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid in Barapukuria coalmine graft case.

An HC bench comprising Justice Khondker Musa Khaled and Justice Moyeenul Islam SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

### MAH Salim jailed Convicted of amassing illegal wealth, extortion

Former state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed was sentenced to 13 years' rigorous

imprisonment (RI) on two counts

STAR REPORT

in a corruption case yesterday. Meantime, a Dhaka court yesterday jailed detained former BNP lawmaker MAH Salim alias Silver Salim for five years' RI on charge of extorting Tk 10 lakh from a construction firm owner in 2003.

Judge AKM Arifur Rahman of Special Court-10 also fined the detained ex-state minister Tk 2 crore, defaulting on which will hand him one more year in jail.

His wife and co-accused Hasina Ahmed was acquitted on all charges. Salahuddin was jailed for 10

years for amassing wealth illegally

and for three years for hiding infor-

mation about his wealth in the SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

### Ex-MP Salahuddin, Business leaders fear political instability

Want talks with parties to succeed, return to democracy soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders yesterday told the government that they fear the current political crisis will give rise to political instability jeopardising the possibility of holding a credible general election.

They also demanded a return to democracy through credible elec-The government, in turn,

assured the business leaders that there is no reason to have doubts regarding the upcoming elections or the ongoing politico-electoral dialogues, but said political parties also have a responsibility to break the stalemate, for moving forward towards the elections.

In the first meeting of a series of

and citizen groups, the business: dialogue a success since it was leaders also offered to work as : actually their proposal, two advismediators between the govern- ers of the caretaker government ment and political parties, to break : said yesterday.

the poll should be held regardless : political parties, to make the diaof the success or failure of the : logue a success for stability and ongoing dialogues, Chief Adviser : advancement of the country," Fakhruddin Ahmed assured them: Education Adviser Hossain Zillur that the general election will be : Rahman said. held by December 31 at any cost.

current political crisis because we : to communicate with the former fear that political stability and prime ministers Sheikh Hasina and conditions for credible elections: Khaleda Zia to make sure that could be jeopardised," said : Awami League (AL) and BNP, the Federation of Bangladesh: two major political parties, attend

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1 :

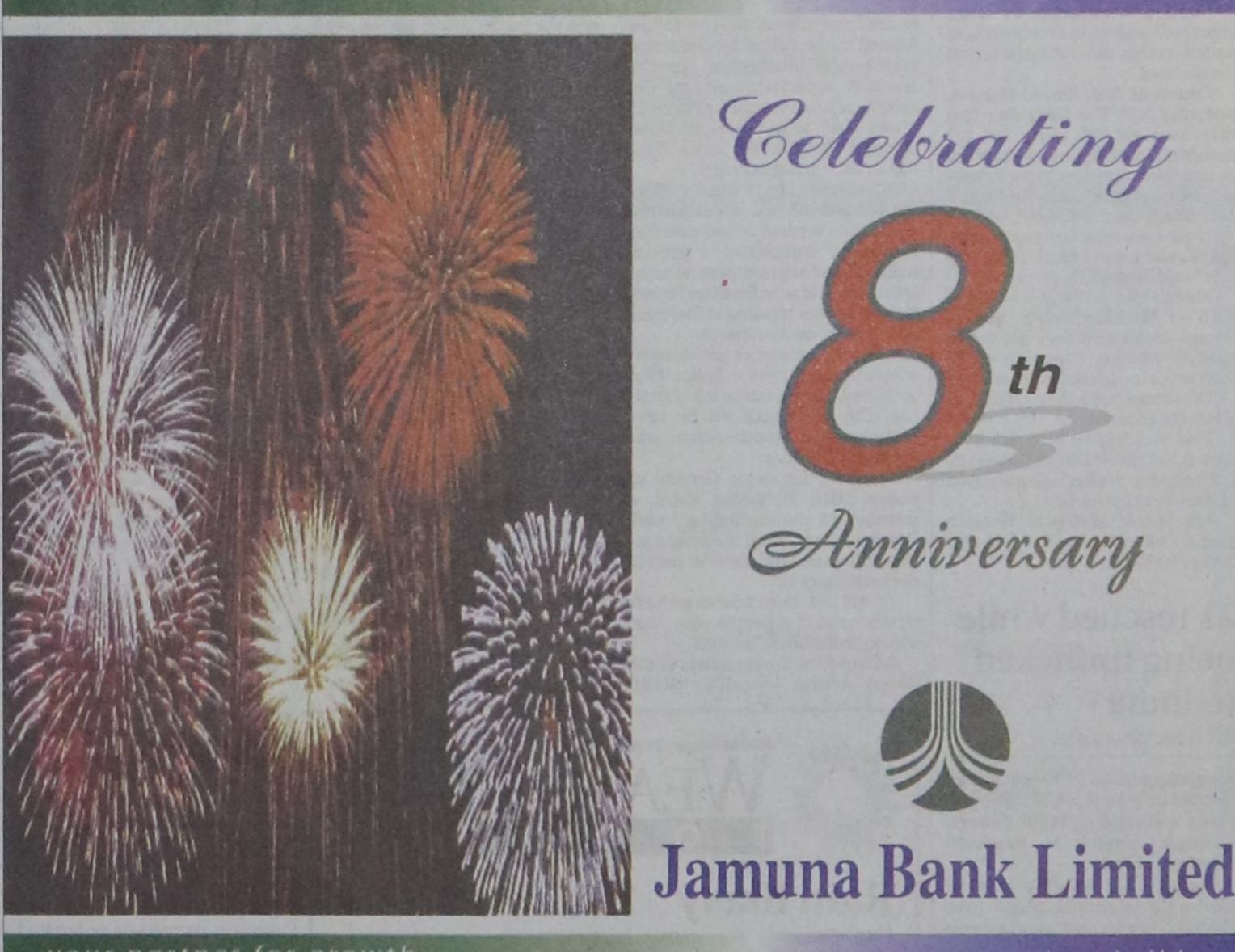
#### Parties have key role to make talks a success

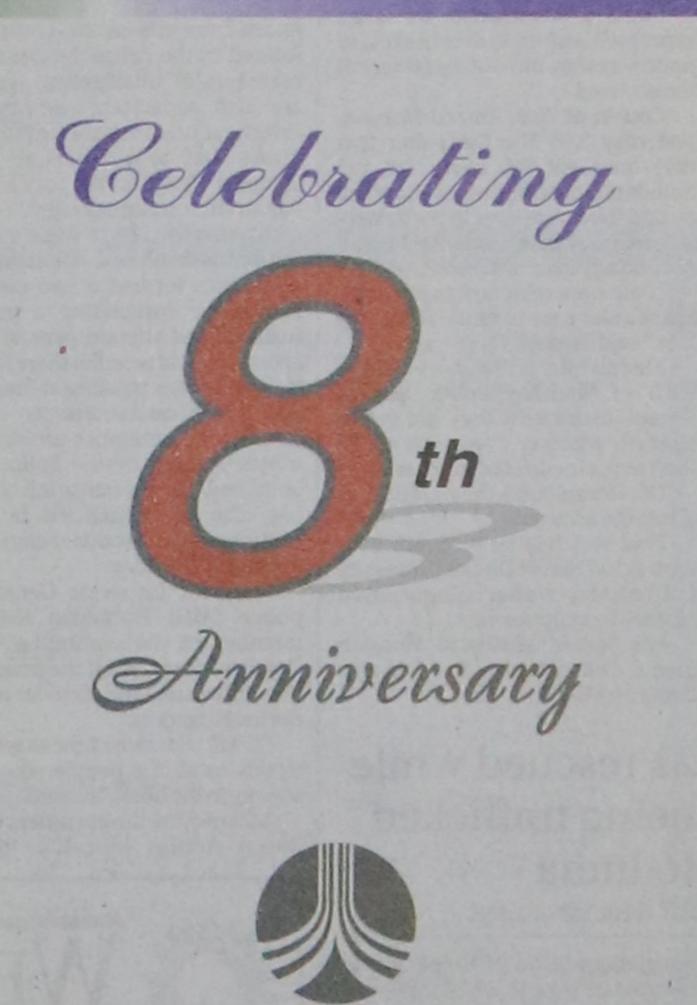
Say two advisers STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political parties have a greater role dialogues between the government : to play in making the ongoing

"The political parties proposed In response to a number of : the dialogue ... it is the responsibilbusiness leaders suggestion that : ity of all quarters, especially of the

He made the remarks when "We are concerned about the : asked if the government was trying SEE PAGE 15 COL 3





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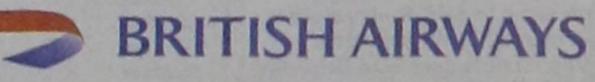






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