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RMG owners threaten closure

Garment owners yesterday threatened to shut their factories in the trouble-torn Gazipur district for an indefinite period if the government fails to provide security for the industry by September 25.

The owners issued the ultimatum in a memorandum to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association President Anwar-Ul-Alam Chowdhury Parvez.

Apparently affected by bouts of violence, the owners have handed a key to Parvez in a symbolic threat to close the factories.

Ninety-one Gazipur-based RMG owners signed the memorandum.

READ MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

25 agree to return Tk 10cr for clemency

UNB, Dhaka

Some 25 corrupt individuals have so far agreed to deposit more than Tk 10 crore to the national exchequer in return for clemency by the Truth and Accountability Commission (TAC).

Sources said the three-member commission, headed by Justice Habibur Rahman Khan, heard their pleas during the first four days' hearing.

Of the 25 individuals, one is businessman while the rest are government officials of different

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Man beaten to death in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob beat up a trader to death in front of his residence at Badda in the capital in the early hours yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Jan-e-Alam alias Janu Sheikh, 38, owner of Shaheen-Shamoli Aluminum Store in Madhyha Badda area.

Witnesses said around 10/12 people beat up the man indiscriminately by calling him a thief at about 12:15am. Police later recovered the body of Janu from Borotek in Adarshanagar area in the morning.

However, police and the victim's family members could not say why he was killed.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

HACKING Rab website partially restored

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The website of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), hacked on Thursday by an unknown person, was partially restored yesterday.

Talking to The Daily Star, a top Rab official last night said, "We have restored the website partially and will be able to restore it fully by late night."

Rab Media Wing Director Commander SM Abul Kalam Azad said their IT experts are working to restore the website and they are hopeful that the hacker will be detected soon.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
6	7	8	6-14
7	8	4-21	6-13
8	9	4-22	6-12

Prayer Timing		
September 7		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:45	4:21	4:27
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:14	6:24
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Dhaka should ask for compensation, not aid

Dialogue blasts developed countries over climate change

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh should not ask for charity or aid from industrially developed countries to combat climate change but demand compensation from them, speakers at a dialogue in the city said yesterday.

The reason for this, they said, is that the industrially developed countries are themselves causing the change in climate.

The comments came at a dialogue arranged by BBC Bangla Sanglap (Dialogue) at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre on "Bangladesh Sanglap on Climate Change" yesterday.

Rezaul Karim Chowdhury,

convener of Equity-BD and a panel member at the dialogue, said, "We should not be seeking help from developed countries. It is a question of justice and reparation."

"The developed countries have caused loss to Global Public Goods and they must compensate," he said.

The effects of climate change are causing a huge loss to the government economically, speakers pointed out, citing the example of Sidr.

Bangladesh received US\$ 600 million in foreign aid though the loss caused by Sidr is estimated at US\$ 3 billion. Bangladesh has an existing bank loan of Tk 17,000 crore while natural disasters like cyclone, flood and other climate change effects add to the deficit

every year.

Dr Atiq Rahman, chairman of South Asia Climate Action Network, Prof Shahnaz Haque Hossain, dean of environment sciences faculty of Dhaka University, Prof Mominul Haque Sarker and CEGIS Head Morphologist Mominul Haque Sarker were the other panel members of the dialogue, while BBC's Masud Hasan Khan moderated the event.

Dr Atiq Rahman pointed out that "the sea level will rise by at least one metre by 2050 -- with possibilities of rising upto 1.5 metres," causing unthinkable damage to the world.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Rickshawpullers queue up at an Open Market Sale (OMS) stall in Mirpur-10 yesterday to buy rice at a subsidised price as an employee weighs rice.

PHOTO: STAR

24 Tamil Tigers killed in fighting

AP, Colombo

Sri Lankan soldiers captured three Tamil Tiger rebel bunkers and killed 24 guerrillas in fighting across the island's restive north, the military said yesterday.

Troops captured the three bunkers and killed eight rebels in fighting Friday along the northeastern front of Welioya district, military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Other fighting broke out Friday in Vavuniya district, where 14 rebels were killed, and in Kilinochchi district, where two

guerrillas were killed, Nanayakkara said.

On Saturday, air force helicopters bombed rebel bunkers in the rebel-held Mullaitivu district to support advancing ground troops, the military said in a statement.

It did not give details of damage or casualties suffered by rebels in the raid.

With communication all but cut with the northern areas, rebel spokesman Rasiah Ilangthirayan could not be reached for comment.

Independent verification of the fighting and casualties was not

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Nuke suppliers clear landmark Indo-US deal

AFP, Vienna

The United States, following weeks of tough negotiations, finally secured the approval of nuclear supplier nations yesterday for proposals to lift a 34-year-old embargo on nuclear trade with India.

The US described the breakthrough -- on the third consecutive day of crunch talks -- as an "historic" and "landmark" deal that would boost nuclear non-

proliferation, while at the same time enabling India to meet its huge energy needs with low-polluting energy.

India, for its part, described the deal as an "important step" in the normalisation of its relations with the rest of the world and would help meet the challenge of climate change and sustainable development.

The so-called Nuclear Suppliers Group, which controls the export

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

'JMB threat' to bomb Rab offices

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A fax to Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) headquarters purportedly sent by Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) threatened to bomb the headquarters and offices of all the 12 Rab battalions within this month.

The message sent from Rajshahi yesterday said bomb attacks would be made also on the offices of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Chittagong Metropolitan Police and Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, and that of all the superintendents of police.

It also said Obaidur Rahman Giasbi of Rambhadrapur of Channainabaganj took over charge of JMB after the death of Bangla Bhai. And its main task is to carry out bomb attacks on those offices.

Rab media wing director MAK Azad admitted receiving the faxed message and said there is nothing to worry. Efforts are on to track down those who sent it.

7 WONDERS OF NATURE Govt yet to move to bring Cox's Bazar, Sundarbans back to race

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has yet to take any steps to get the names of the Sundarbans and Cox's Bazar beach back on the list of nominees for election as seven new wonders of nature.

On September 3, the country's two premier natural sites were thrown out of the contest on charges of "vote rigging and manipulation".

Organisers of the competition however said the wonders of Bangladesh would be allowed to be back in the race if there is an end to vote manipulation.

Before being dropped, Cox's Bazar, world's longest natural beach, and the Sundarbans, the largest halophytic mangrove forest in the world, were in the first and second positions.

Bangladesh Tourism Promotion

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

Lidless manhole claims life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A lidless manhole cost a young man his life at Motijheel in the capital yesterday.

Identity of the victim aged around 25 could not be known.

The ill-fated pedestrian fell into a manhole on the road in front of Madhumita movie house around 6:00pm. Other people who saw the tragic incident tried to rescue him but failed.

Later, on information from them, fire service divers reached the spot and recovered the victim's

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Vehicles stuck in the insufferable traffic jams that have become a regular phenomenon in Ramadan in the capital. The picture was taken in front of the Chief Adviser's Office around 3:00pm yesterday.

Flood factor imperils food output target

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The government has fixed an ambitious target of food grain production for the current fiscal year 2008-09 with a 24 percent rise in total output although the target may be missed if the current flood situation deteriorates.

According to food ministry sources, the government has fixed 41 percent increase in Aman output for the current fiscal year to achieve the food grain production.

Monitoring the prices and production of rice on global and local markets, the fortnightly Foodgrain Outlook of the food ministry in its August issue forecast that food grain prices would come down steadily both globally and locally.

But ministry sources and local traders yesterday said food grain

production and the rice price situation in the coming months would depend on occurrence of any natural calamity and its impact on local rice production.

In this fiscal year, the government targets producing 3.66 crore tonnes food grain while the target in FY2007-08 was 2.97 tonnes, according to a food ministry report.

This year the target for Aus production is 23.69 lakh tonnes; in the previous season, it was 15.1 lakh tonnes. The ministry sources, however, said they have not yet fully estimated the total Aus output but they expect it to be close to the target.

On the other hand, the target for Aman in FY2008-09 has been set at 1.36 crore tonnes. The target was 1.30 crore tonnes in the last fiscal year but only 96.62 lakh tonnes

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

TOUR OF AUSTRALIA Tigers shot down 3-0

AFP, Darwin

Bangladesh's batsmen again failed as they fell to another demoralising defeat in their one-day series against Australia at the TIO Stadium here on Saturday.

After the tourists fielded well to restrict Australia to 198 for five from their 50 overs, they were unable to capitalise on a fine half-century from opener Tamim Iqbal and were dismissed for just 125 in 29.5 overs in reply.

The 73-run win meant Australia completed a clean sweep in the three-match series, in which the Bangladesh's batting was well below the standard required of an international side.

In the first match they were dismissed for just 74 and lost by 180 runs, then they were bowled out for 117 in the second match on their way to an eight-wicket defeat.

Bangladesh were again in big trouble early in the chase Saturday, slumping to 22 for three before Iqbal and Shakib Al Hasan, who had also done well with the ball, steadied the ship.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পবিত্র রজমানে ইফতার, তারাবী ও সেহরীকালীন সময়ে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ পরিস্থিতি

পবিত্র রমজান মাসে রাত্রিকালীন বিদ্যুৎ পরিস্থিতি উন্নতির লক্ষ্যে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর পদক্ষেপ নেয়া হয়েছে। এর ফলে বিদ্যমান গ্যাস ঘাটতি সত্ত্বেও গত ওরা সপ্তেম্বর সর্বোচ্চ ৩৭৫৭ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন করা হয়েছে। যা অব্যাহতি পূর্ববর্তী সপ্তাহের যে কোন দিনের তুলনায় প্রায় ৪০০ মেগাওয়াট বেশী। এতদসত্ত্বেও ইফতার, তারাবী ও সেহরীর সময় বিদ্যুতের চাহিদা বিপুল পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধির কারণে দেশের সর্বত্র লোড-শেডিং করতে হচ্ছে। এ জন্য বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের কাছে আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

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