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# RMG workers go on the rampage

A dozen factories vandalised in N'ganj, 30 vehicles damaged in Savar for wage hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred ready-made garment (RMG) workers vandalised more than a dozen garment factories at BSCIC industrial area in Fatullah of Narayanganj yesterday morning demanding a hike in their salaries.

Meanwhile, another group of workers in Savar put up blockades on Dhaka-Aricha highway and damaged around 30 vehicles halting traffic movement for over an hour.

Workers at both places clashed with police in which over 100 people, including police were injured. Police also lobbed teargas canisters and charged batons to disperse the agitating workers.

Our Narayanganj correspondent says: The workers also took to the Dhaka-Narayanganj and Dhaka-Munshiganj roads to realise their demand. At least 50 people were injured when they locked in clashes with police and the workers of a neighbouring factory.

The workers of Rupasi Sweaters came out of their factory around 9:00 in the morning and asked the workers of adjacent garment factories to join hands with them in the demonstration.

They ransacked at least 13 factories including Rupasi Sweaters, NR Group, Bay Cotton, Madina Group, Pioneer Garments and Shovon Garments in the area and also damaged over 15 vehicles.

Witnesses said two groups of workers chased each other during the clashes creating a panicky situation in the area. They hurled brickbats and stones while some others used sticks during the clashes.

At one stage of the clashes, police resorted to baton charge to disperse the troublemakers. The injured workers were taken to different hospitals and clinics in the area.

Meanwhile, authorities of many factories in the area announced their factories closed due to the clashes.



Clashes between two groups of garments worker erupt yesterday when workers of Shovon Garments at Masdair Graveyard in Narayanganj tried to defend their factory from being vandalised by workers of other factories in the area.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

## BDR CARNAGE PROBE BNP human chain now on Thursday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP will form human chains across the country on Thursday demanding quick and fair trial of the perpetrators of BDR headquarters carnage and protesting the government's attempt to hide the real culprits of the massacre.

The party yesterday announced fresh date for the human chain programme and also brought some changes in its month-long agitation programme. The party declared the long programme protesting crises of utility services including power and water and 'worsening law and order'.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Pakistan troops kill 52 more in Swat

Over 3.6 lakh already fled the trouble-torn districts

AFP, AP, Islamabad/ Mardan

The Pakistani military said yesterday that 52 militants had been killed during an offensive against Taliban militants in the northwestern district of Swat over the last 24 hours.

"(The) operation against miscreants by security forces is making headway... In the last 24 hours, 52 miscreants have been killed and five wounded during the exchange of fire," the military said in a statement.

Security forces have been pounding the Swat valley and, since late last month, several nearby districts after armed Taliban fighters advanced to within 100 kilometres of Islamabad in violation of a February peace deal.

Earlier Pakistani planes bombed suspected

militant positions in a stronghold close to the capital Monday, pressing ahead with a fierce offensive the government claimed had killed 700 insurgents and had the Taliban on the run.

The United Nations said 360,600 refugees had fled Swat and neighbouring Dir and Buner districts since operations began last week. That figure is on top of some 500,000 people registered as displaced due to past offensives a major humanitarian challenge for the weak government that could test public support for the offensive.

In one camp in the town of Mardan, just south of the battle zone, hundreds of displaced people waited for hours to register with the UN, something they must do before getting tents, food and access to medical facilities.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Aminul seeks withdrawal of 5 cases against him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Former post and telecommunication minister Aminul Haque, a fugitive convict, through his attorneys yesterday applied to the government for withdrawal of five cases filed against him in two districts during the caretaker government.

Aminul's lawyers M Nazmul Alam and Ashrafuzzaman Mollik submitted separate applications to the office of deputy commissioners of Rajshahi and Naogaon districts.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## PARTIES' POLL EXPENSES Reports beyond public still

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Election Commission (EC) has not yet disclosed polls expenditure reports submitted to it by the political parties and candidates who contested the last parliamentary election although electoral laws make the disclosure mandatory to ensure people's access to those.

Representation of the People Order (RPO) provides that copies of polls expenditure of the parties and candidates shall be put on the EC's website, and also kept open for public view.

Most of the contestants in the December 29 general election submitted their expenditure reports by January 31, within 30 days of publication of election results in the official gazette on January 1, EC officials said.

Similarly, most of the 38 registered political parties which participated in the polls submitted expenditure reports by March 31, and the others did so by April 30.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

## BIRD FLU 3,000 fowls culled in Cox's Bazar

A CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Some 3,000 chickens were culled at a poultry farm in Pahartoli area in the town on Sunday night after receiving confirmation that the chickens of that farm were infected with bird flu.

District Livestock Officer said the local administration carried out the culling at Al Akbar Poultry Farm.

Dr Zaker Ullah, district livestock officer, said they collected samples from the poultry farm on Saturday and sent to Regional Livestock Research Centre in Feni.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## 4-PARTY RULE LGRD ministry asked to report graft, anomalies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary standing committee yesterday asked local government and rural development (LGRD) ministry, its organisations and Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to submit detailed reports on corruption and irregularities occurred there during the BNP-led four-party and caretaker government rule.

The parliamentary body in its meeting also expressed dissatisfaction over the present activities of the ministry and DCC and asked the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

This endangered Baghair fish was caught in the river Jamuna yesterday. The fish weighing around 105kg amazed hundreds of people at Merul Badda kitchen market in the capital.

## Giant Baghair caught in Jamuna

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A rare-breed 105 kg Baghair (Bagarius bagarius) fish caught from the river Jamuna stole the spotlight as it was brought from Chilmari ghat in city's Merul Badda market yesterday.

"It is the largest Baghair sold in the city market in last 15 years. We bought it at Tk500 a kg and sold up to Tk800," said Haider Ali, the seller of the fish. Even the fish traders of the market wanted a share of this rare fish, he added.

"In rivers, fish usually grow three kilograms a year which suggests this one to be at least 30 years old," he said.

Fishermen of Ful Miah's boat netted the giant fish

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Swine flu hits China, global cases rise

US reports hundreds more cases

AFP, Chengdu

China confirmed yesterday its first case of swine flu on the mainland, underlining the outbreak's global spread, as the United States reported hundreds more cases and warned of further deaths.

Worldwide, the death toll passed 50 after Costa Rican authorities reported its first fatality from the virus, officially known as A(H1N1) influenza, and the United States confirmed a third death.

Fears that infections would gather pace were heightened when China said it had detected its first mainland case in a man who had recently travelled back from the United States.

The 30-year-old was hospitalised with a fever after arriving in the Sichuan provincial capital Chengdu, in southwestern China, from the United States via Tokyo on Saturday afternoon, the health ministry said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## UN denounces SL 'bloodbath'

Up to 1,000 killed in shelling, confirms govt doctor

AFP, AP, Colombo

The UN condemned yesterday the killing of civilians in Sri Lanka at the weekend as a "bloodbath" in which more than 100 children died, as the government and rebels traded blame for the attacks.

Two days of shelling across Sri Lanka's northern war zone killed at least 430 ethnic Tamil civilians and likely as many as 1,000 a government doctor in the area said Monday.

About 6 pm Sunday, a new round of shelling less intense than the first pounded a newly demarcated "safe zone" where the government had urged civilians to gather, according to Dr V Shanmugarajah, who works at a makeshift hospital in the war zone.

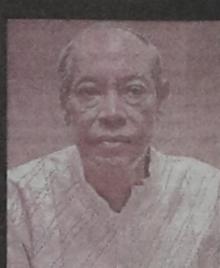
A total of 393 people were either brought to the hospital for burial or died at the facility Sunday, while another 37 bodies were brought in Monday morning, he said. More than 1,300 wounded civilians came to the hospital as well, he said.

Artillery strikes in the small stretch of coastline still held by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas caused major casualties among the tens of thousands of non-combatants, both sides reported.

"The large scale killing of civilians, including the death of over 100 children, over the weekend shows that the bloodbath scenario has become a reality," Gordon Weiss, the United Nations' spokesman in Colombo, told AFP.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## আমরা গভীর শোকাহত



খ্যাতিমান পরমাণু বিজ্ঞানী ও আর্থিক শক্তি কমিশনের সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান, জাতির জনক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমানের জামাতা এবং গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার স্বামী ড. এম এ ওয়াজেদ মিয়া

মিয়ার মৃত্যুতে (ইন্সলিগ্না... রাজিউন) সোনার বাংলা ইন্স্যুরেন্স লিমিটেড-এর পরিচালনা পর্ষদ, সকল কর্মকর্তা-কর্মচারীগণ গভীর শোকাহত। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী দেশরত্ন শেখ হাসিনা, মরহমের পুত্র ও কন্যাসহ সকল আত্মীয় স্বজনকে এ গভীর শোক সহিবার শক্তি মহান আল্লাহ রাক্বুল আলামীন দান করুন। আমরা তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

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SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



## আমরা শোকাহত

মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনার স্বামী এবং দেশের বিশিষ্ট পরমাণু বিজ্ঞানী ডঃ এম. এ. ওয়াজেদ মিয়া মৃত্যুতে সমর্থ জাতির সাথে আমরাও গভীরভাবে শোকাহত (ইন্সলিগ্না... রাজিউন)।

আমরা মহান সৃষ্টিকর্তার কাছে মরহমের বিদেহী আত্মার শান্তি ও মাগফিরাত কামনা করছি।

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