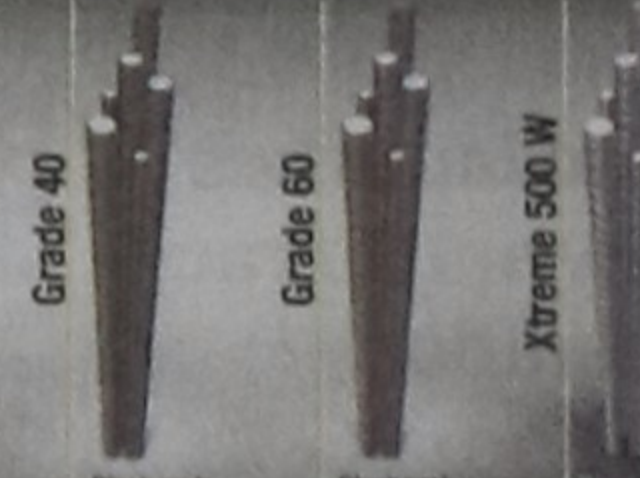


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Over 25 RMG units suspend production

Owners in Ashulia industrial belt fear further labour unrest

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Over 25 owners have suspended production in their garment factories for the last two days fearing fresh labour unrest that has taken place in Ashulia and Jamgarah areas for the second time in one and a half months.

The agitating workers ransacked 25 garment factories on Sunday to realise their demand. But the factory owners are still blaming the jhut (garment scrap) traders for such unrest.

Earlier in June 29, some unruly outsiders in collaboration with the local influential persons set fire to some factories of Ha-Meem Group burning down valuable worth over Tk 150 crore, according to the Ha-Meem authorities.

Workers of the Envoy Group's woven factory said they have been observing work abstention for the last two days to realise their 10-point demand including wage hike, four bonuses in a year and 10 days' leave against an Eid festival.

"We have already suspended produc-

tion in our factory to avert any untoward incident. We are trying to negotiate with the workers to overcome the impasse," said Kutubuddin Ahmed, chairman of the group.

He said they will sit with the workers on Wednesday to resolve the issue.

Ahmed, also the former BGMEA president, claimed that the group has no unpaid wage and overtime bill to their 6,000 workers, as it is one of the most compliance factories in the country.

Siddiqur Rahman, chairman of the Sterling Group, a garment production house at Ashulia, said during a minor unrest, the agitating workers from other factories have damaged a part of his factory by throwing bricks.

"But, I did not suspend production in my factory though many owners have already announced suspension of their production to avert further workers' unrest," Rahman said.

A managing director of a renowned garment factory at Ashulia requesting anonymity said some factory owners

from Ashulia, Savar and Jamgarah areas met with Home Minister Sahara Khatun on Sunday to discuss the latest labour unrest.

During the meeting, the home minister again assured the owners of extending all-out cooperation to save the garment factories at any cost, he told The Daily Star quoting the minister.

About the latest labour unrest, he said a section of local influential people of Ashulia and Jamgarah areas have been abusing the sentiment of the workers for the sake of their jhut trading.

"Jhut trading has become a threat for us. Almost all the undesirable incidents took place over the business in the factories. The government must do something for stopping mismanagement in jhut trading," the managing director said.

When asked, a trade union leader said they have been maintaining communication with the workers of the Envoy Group to resolve the dispute but local influential people are making troubles to establish control over the jhut trading.



Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus shakes hands with world-renowned physicist Stephen Hawking at White House recently. Yunus met Hawking while in the US to accept the Freedom prize from US President Barack Obama.

PHOTO: COURTESY

Jet Airways flight veers off runway

Halts operations at ZIA for 3 hrs

RASHIDUL HASAN

A Jet Airways aircraft went off the runway while taxiing and got stuck in the greens at Zia International Airport, halting the airport for three hours.

The 121 passengers, mostly Indians and Bangladeshis, and 10 crew members on board the Boeing-737, flight-9W 271, escaped injuries.

The flight was heading for New Delhi around 10:30am.

Why the aircraft failed to make the final turn getting onto the runway could not be known immediately. The airport authorities, however, said the incident could have happened due to technical reasons or pilot's error.

ZIA was declared fit for flight operations around 1:30pm.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh formed a four-member committee headed by Wing Commander Quamrul, director (flight safety), to probe the incident.

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'TOXIC' PARACETAMOL INTAKE
Yet another child dies of renal failure

Fresh order issued to arrest 5 Rid officials

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Brahmanbaria court yesterday issued arrest warrant against five officials of Rid Pharmaceuticals Ltd as another child died of renal failure at Dhaka Shishu Hospital raising toll from paracetamol intake to 27.

Brahmanbaria District and Sessions Judge A F M Mustafa issued the arrest warrant against Rid's Managing Director Mizanur Rahman, directors Sheuli Rahman, who is also the MD's wife, and Abdul Gani and pharmacists Mahbulul Islam and Enamul Haque. The court fixed September 3 for next hearing of the case.

This arrest warrant, the second after a Dhaka court issued one on August 11, came at a time when yet another child is undergoing treatment at Dhaka Shishu Hospital.

Despite repeated warrants from different courts, police could apprehend none in this connection.

Last week, two children with renal failure had been admitted to Dhaka Shishu Hospital after taking Rid Pharma's paracetamol syrup. Of them, two and a half-year-old Cynthia died yesterday, hospital sources said. She was admitted to the hospital on August 9.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Paltan killing case withdrawn

Govt terms it politically motivated

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday withdrew the Paltan killing case against Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and 45 others, saying it was "politically motivated" and "meant for harassment."

The case was filed for killing five Jamaat-e-Islami activists and injuring several others on October 29, 2006.

The other accused included former AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil, Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Haque Inu, Home Minister Sahara Khatun, former home minister Mohammad Nasim, and AL leaders Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Metropolitan Magistrate Dilara Alo Chandana passed a withdrawal order after Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Mohammad Abdullah Abu submitted a petition with a

SEE PAGE 12 COL 4

Shopping time relaxed for Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed that markets and shopping centres would remain open till 10:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays during the month of Ramadan.

The decision was taken at the 35th meeting of the council of ministers held at the secretariat yesterday.

The prime minister came up with the direction in a bid to facilitate shopping of the city dwellers ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told a news

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Criminals shoot doctor for money

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers shot a physician and snatched Tk 3 lakh from him at Green Road in the capital yesterday afternoon.

In another incident, a group of extortionists shot a sand trader on refusal of paying Tk 1 lakh in the city's Darussalam.

Injured Sakhawat Hossain Monir, 28, a doctor at Salahuddin Hospital in Tikatuli area, and sand trader Zahir Uddin, 36, a resident of Diabari in Darussalam, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Dr Sakhawat said eight criminals intercepted him near Lab-aid Hospital when he was going to Green Road branch of Commercial Bank of Ceylon on foot to deposit the money at around 3:00pm.

The criminals shot in his right leg while snatching his bag as he tried to resist them, he said.

At Darussalam, locals said, a gang of four to five extortionists opened fire on Zahir at around 1:00am in front of Zannat Enterprise.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

SQ Chy sued for offensive remark on Bangabandhu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

BNP's senior central leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury was sued yesterday in a Khulna court for making derogatory comments on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the National Mourning Day.

Sultana Rahman Shilpi, a government pleader, filed the petition against Salauddin Quader Chowdhury with the court of Additional Chief

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FARIDPUR GANG RAPE
Police yet to make any headway

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Police have begun questioning three people, including two relatives of the two men accused in the FIR, in the gang rape case at a Faridpur court.

The police however have not been able to make any headway in the case a week after it was filed.

The incident has grabbed the attention of all across the country.

The arrestees were yet to give any information regarding the whereabouts of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing		
August 18		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-25	6-00
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-45	6-00
Maghrib	7-38	7-41
Esha	9-00	9-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



Car owners argue with the police in city's Motijheel area yesterday when a police tow truck arrived to tow away cars parked illegally on the roadside. Police failed to remove the cars, which remained parked in their places for the remaining of the day.

PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi forced to stay in Taiwan

WASIM BIN HABIB

Taiwan has barred a Bangladeshi marine officer from leaving the country until the completion of a trial on allegations of hitting a sea trawler, despite maritime experts' opinion that he should be sent to Panama or returned to Bangladesh as the alleged incident happened in international waters.

The marine officer, Mohammad Rezaul Karim, was given bail on July 20 after serving two months in a Taiwanese jail but he fears getting an unfair trial.

"How can I be sure about fair trial," said Rezaul when contacted over the phone by The Daily Star from Taiwan last Friday.

He said Bangladesh government, which does not have



Mohammad Rezaul Karim

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

3 bullet-hit in attack on Khasia family

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three members of an indigenous family sustained injuries after armed miscreants attacked their house in the early hours yesterday at a remote Khasia habitat called Khasia Punji in Gowainghat upazila of Sylhet.

The house owner's son-in-law sustained a bullet wound injury on his leg during the attack.

The gang fired more gunshots before fleeing the scene

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

31 militants killed in Pak offensive

Taliban bomb kills 7 civilians, bodies of 9 police hostages recovered

AFP, Peshawar/Quetta

A bomb blast claimed by Taliban militants killed seven people including children in northwest Pakistan Monday, police said, as 31 insurgents were reported dead in a fresh wave of unrest.

Three young boys, two women and a driver were killed when the pick-up truck they were sitting in blew up in Charsadda district, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) northeast of Peshawar, the capital of the North West Frontier Province.

An injured man later died on his way to hospital, district police chief Mohammad Riaz Khan told AFP.

Safwat Ghyur, a Peshawar police official, said the vehicle had pulled up at a petrol station on its way to neighbouring Mohmand tribal district, where the government has tenuous control and Taliban militants are active.

"It was a timed device. Somebody gave baggage to a passenger and the device was hidden in that baggage," Ghyur said in remarks

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Bolt shatters world mark

AGENCIES, Undated

Jamaican Usain Bolt smashed his own 100 metres world record with a scintillating time of 9.58 seconds to win the world championship final on Sunday.

The scarcely believable performance beat the 9.69 mark he set winning gold at last year's Beijing Olympics and took the race into a time

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

OnlinePoll

Do you think the government should hold talks with the US government to bring back Brig Gen Chowdhury Fazul Bari who has been declared deserter?

☐ Yes (59.9%)
☐ No (35.3%)
☐ No Comments (4.8%)

Total votes: 979

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support the Prime Minister's decision of keeping markets and shopping malls open till 10pm on Fridays and Saturdays during Ramadan?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net