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RMG workers go berserk

Vandalise factory for arrears; block busy road

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several hundred garment workers, demanding arrears, vandalised a factory at Hajipara in the capital and barricaded the DIT Road disrupting traffic for over an hour yesterday morning. The agitating workers also held hostage the officials of the factory inside it for over eight hours. The authorities have closed the factory for today. Witnesses said over 400 workers of Wills Group's Super Shaheen Garments Ltd went on the rampage at around 8:00am and vandalised the windowpanes and machinery on four floors of the five-storey factory. The agitating workers said they went into the action when they came to know that the factory authorities would not pay their salaries on Wednesday as the authorities promised on Tuesday evening. Witnesses said the agitating workers took to the streets at around 10:00am and blocked the road in front of the factory. A severe traffic jam was created on the road causing sufferings to thousands of people for over an hour. Beauty Begum, an operator of the factory, told The Daily Star that they staged demonstra-

tions inside the factory earlier on Tuesday for their salaries of the month of September. In the evening the authorities, in presence of law enforcers, had assured them of paying the dues by Wednesday morning. As the authorities were not keeping their promises, they opted for the agitation, she said. "For the last six months, we have to stage demonstrations every month for realising our salaries", Beauty Begum alleged. Mohammad Sohrab, maintenance manager of the garment factory, said "Since the Eid-ul-Fitr, we had received no foreign work orders and we are running the factory with sub-contracts incurring losses. We can't pay the salaries in time but we pay regularly the salaries of over 400 employees." He said the agitating workers vandalised sewing machines, computers, furniture and windowpanes of the floors. Officer-in-Charge Shiblee Noman of Ramna police station said on information they reached the spot and lifted the barricade at around 11:00am with the assurance that the authorities would disburse their salaries within few hours.

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Agitating workers of Super Shaheen Garments Ltd vandalise machines of the factory at the city's Hajipara yesterday morning. Inset, an angry worker with a cover on his face.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

JCD leader arrested for provocative comments

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Criminal Investigation Department arrested a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leader in connection with making provocative statements at a procession against the government during the February 25-26 Pikhana carnage. CID arrested Mohammad Ullah Palash, Hazaribagh Chhatra Dal unit president, at his home on October 19.

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BDR MUTINY

Trial in 6 divisional courts by early Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Shafique Ahmed yesterday said six separate courts would be constituted in six divisional headquarters to begin Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) mutiny trial at the end of this month or beginning of November. Briefing newsmen at his secretariat office, the minister said the BDR Director General Maj Gen Mainul Islam would lead the mutiny trial in the new courts. He said government-appointed lawyers and the Attorney General's office would assist chief

of the border guards so that the trial is fair and transparent. "Names of some lawyers, who are to conduct the cases, in the new courts, have already been sent to BDR headquarters," said the law minister, adding that the decision to form the courts came up in an inter-ministerial meeting on Tuesday. He said trial of serious offences like killings and looting would be held under the Speedy Trial Tribunals on completion of the investigation into the February 25-26 mutiny by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID).

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Delwar urges president to bring parties to dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Welcoming the president's call for unity on national interest, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday urged the President to bring all political parties in discussion table on the national issues. He also urged President Zillur Rahman to ask Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step forward in creating the unity

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Dhaka to ask Male to regularise workers

Up to 50,000 Bangladeshis in Maldives face hurdles in job

PORIMOL PALMA

The government will raise the issue of regularising an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 unauthorised Bangladeshis with the Maldives. The migrant labourers who are working mainly in tourism and construction sectors there are very often subjected to abuses of various forms. "I will request the Maldives authorities to regularise our people and solve their prob-

lems," said Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Minister Khandker Mosharraf Hossain who is leaving for the Maldives tonight. The three-member delegation led by the expatriates' welfare minister will hold talks with the president, home and labour ministers of the Maldives during the five-day visit. The other two members of the delegation are Bureau of Manpower Employment and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Fire fighters close to dousing fire 'Chemicals' found at NCTB warehouse

WASIM BIN HABIB

Eighty-four hours after a fire broke out; fire fighters with their relentless effort have come really close to dousing it at the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) warehouse at Tejgaon. "The fire is confined to a small area and we are hopeful of dousing it completely by midnight," Maj Shahjalal, director operations of the fire department, told The Daily Star last night. Unidentified white chemical was discovered at a corner of the warehouse last night. Maj Shahjalal told The Daily Star the chemical was found

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An official looks at the damaged textbooks at the board's warehouse in Tejgaon yesterday. The textbooks were meant for being delivered to primary level students in 2010. Inset, a fire fighter examines the unidentified powdered substance found at the warehouse.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Another rapist let off the hook

Village arbitrators in Kalapara fine him Tk 5,000, whip 50 times

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Village arbitration on Monday let off an alleged rapist of a thirteen-year girl with a mere fine in Kalapara, one month into the orchestrated release of a band of alleged rapists in a similar fashion. The victim's family alleges a local public representative arranged the arbitration apparently to ensure escape of the rapist. In another incident, a 12-year girl was gang-raped in Galachipa in the district on Tuesday night. Earlier on Sunday night, shopkeeper Hanif Mollah, 30, of Dholir Bazar, Kalapara allegedly raped the thirteen-year-old girl when she came to buy goods from him. Hearing her cries, locals held the culprit and handed him over to village defence police member Kawsar at around 8:45pm. The next evening local Union Parishad member Anwar Hossain arranged the arbitration in presence of over 200 people where Hanif was handed down a fine of Tk 5,000 in addition to a whipping 50 times. Family sources say Anwar forced the victim's father not to go for legal action and also pocketed the Tk 5,000 fine money.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Muggers kill realtor staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers stabbed to death an employee of a property developer at Madhya Badda while a listed criminal was shot dead allegedly by his rivals at Mirpur in the capital yesterday. Police recovered the body of Abhijit Biswas, 36, accountant

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

22 killed in Indian train collision

AFP, Mathura

A Delhi-bound Indian express ploughed into the back of another passenger train near the Taj Mahal town of Agra early yesterday, killing 22 and injuring 17, police said. Senior police officer Vijay Kumar told AFP that 22 had died in the early morning crash on tracks outside the town of Mathura, 50km north of Agra. "The death toll has risen to 22 and the number of injured is 17," he said by telephone. "They (the injured) have been admitted to local hospitals." Rescuers, working with mechanical cutters amid a huge crowd of onlookers, battled to free people trapped in the badly mangled carriage that bore the brunt of the collision. Local railway manager Rajendra Dutt Tripathi said a train travelling from the southern state of Goa to New Delhi had run into the back of the stationary Mewar Express, an overnight service from western Rajasthan to the capital.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Pakistan closes all schools, colleges fearing attacks

Stiff resistance slows military advance, blast kills 3 in militant hotbed

AFP, Peshawari Islamabad

Pakistan kept millions of pupils at home yesterday as it shut all schools and colleges after a suicide attack at a university, as the army became bogged down in an assault against the Taliban. As ground troops pressed their offensive in a remote tribal region, police in cities went on heightened alert against yet more attacks from al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists in which 185 people have died so far this month. Pakistan shut schools and colleges nationwide Wednesday a day after a

suicide attack on a prestigious Islamic university as ground troops pressed home an anti-Taliban offensive. Pakistan went on heightened alert against attacks from al-Qaeda and Taliban extremists after a month of carnage that has left around 185 people dead in the nuclear-armed Muslim power bordering Afghanistan. Millions of students faced disruption as the federal and provincial governments, along with private school associations and the military, decided to close schools, colleges and universities. Some schools shut earlier this week

and the rest of the country followed suit after two suicide bombers Tuesday blew themselves up at Islamabad's International Islamic University, killing five people. "There are around 414 schools, colleges and universities run by the federal government. All have been closed because of security threats received in recent days," education ministry spokesman Atiqur Rehman told AFP. "Similar orders have been issued by the four provincial governments. We will assess the situation and hopefully they

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Prayer Timing
October 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-50	6-25
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-39
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

OnlinePoll ✓

Do you think it is necessary to form a new high-powered body to implement the recommendations of the Regulatory Reform Commission?

Yes (56.1%)
 No (39.1%)
 No Comments (4.8%)

Total votes: 859

TODAY'S POLL

Do you support BNP's move to form 'Group-2009' consisting of non-political pro-BNP personalities to guide the party and its lawmakers on different issues?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net