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Strike on waterways goes on as talks fail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The water transport strike that began Saturday midnight across the country continues, as the government and transport workers have yet to reach an agreement.

"Our strike will continue as we are yet to reach a settlement of our demands with the secretary of the shipping ministry," said Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam, general secretary of Bangladesh Nujan Sramik Federation, after a meeting with shipping

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AL men set fire to BNP office at Lalmonirhat

RAFIQUE SARKER, Rangpur

Activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jubo League yesterday set fire to the BNP office at Lalmonirhat over assault of a BCL leader by Chhatra Dal activists.

They vandalised five shops, a counter of Bablu Paribahan and a restaurant owned by BNP leaders at Mission intersection.

Witnesses said several Chhatra Dal activists beat up Murad, district BCL secretary

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Launches moored in the Buriganga opposite Sadarghat terminal in the capital yesterday as a countrywide water transport strike began Saturday midnight paralysing river communication.

Islamic bodies raise some objections

Nothing anti-Islam will be there: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming secularism irreligious, Islami Shikha Rakkha Jaitya Committee, a forum of Islamic organisations, yesterday said most pious Muslims in the country are concerned about some issues in the draft education policy.

"There is nothing called secularism in the world. It's a vague term that refers to irreligious beliefs," said committee convener Maulana

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Spot orders slip at Batexpo

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Spot orders at the just-concluded 20th Batexpo declined from last year, due to global recession, said BGMEA President Abdus Salam Murshedy yesterday.

At a press conference at the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association office, Murshedy said exhibitors received \$41.64 million in spot orders from international buyers, compared to \$55.45 million last year.

The BGMEA chief said 140 international buyers and 2,016 representatives visited

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Anti-crime drive counts more on unwanted means

M ABUL KALAM AZAD and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The present government believes, like its predecessors, that "crossfire", "encounter" and "gunfight" are effective means to combat criminals, especially outlaws, home ministry sources said.

As a result, extra-judicial killings continue unabated despite widespread criticism by human rights organisations.

There have also been instances of killing wrong people, often innocent, just because of flawed tip-offs from Rab's sources.

The death of Kaiser Mahmud Bappi is a clear enough evidence of this.

Rab picked Bappi after a source had identified the BCom graduate as a notorious criminal. The elite force killed Bappi in its own controversial style on September 9.

It later claimed that a young man named Kamrul Islam Bappi was killed during a "gunfight" in Rampura. A relative identified the victim at Dhaka Medical College morgue and

pointed out the mistake in the name Rab provided.

Bappi's family termed the killing a state-sponsored terrorism and demanded investigation into the killing and trial of those responsible.

Bappi's death is an eye-opener to the government regarding how dangerous these practices of crossfire, encounter and gunfight can be.

Unfortunately, the government is not considering any alternative to these forms of combating criminals and is rather intensifying the practice to improve law and order, said sources in the home ministry. Many ministers and ruling party leaders have expressed support to it, they said.

The Awami League-led government, however, took office early January with the promise to stop extra-judicial killings.

Over 100 suspected criminals and outlaws have since died in incidents of crossfire, encounter and shootout. One-third of them

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Outlaw killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A central leader of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (Haque Group) was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and police at Defolbaria village in Sadar upazila here early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Sarajit Ghosh, 48, son of Mander Ghosh of Defolbaria village.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

2 outlaws held with 8 bombs

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police arrested two top cadres of outlawed Gono Bahini and recovered eight powerful bombs from Shantidanga village in Sadar upazila yesterday night.

They are Emdadul, 42, son of Ibad Ali of Juripara in Saikupa

SEE PAGE 7 COL 3

Anti-Taliban mayor among 12 killed in Pak bombing

Troops kill 20 militants in offensive

AFP, Peshawar/ Islamabad

A suicide car bomber struck near a busy cattle market in Pakistan's Peshawar city yesterday, killing 12 people including a former Taliban supporter turned anti-militant mayor while 20 militants were killed in ongoing offensive in northwest, police said.

The bomber also wounded 36 people outside a property of Mayor Abdul Malik on the outskirts of the northwest city troubled by Islamist militancy. Malik, one of a number of city mayors, had raised a militia against Taliban rebels.

Pakistan is currently waging a military offensive against the insurgents in their northwest mountain hideouts, incurring the wrath of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) group, which has retaliated with a wave of deadly attacks.

"The suicide bomber came in a car and exploded it when the mayor was standing with some visitors outside his guesthouse near the local livestock market," district administration chief Sahibzada Anis told AFP.

Doctor Muslim Khan at Peshawar's main Lady Reading hospital said that 12 people were killed and 36 wounded in the attack. Hospital officials said that two children were among the dead.

"Abdul Malik and a commander of the local anti-Taliban force are also among the dead," Peshawar police chief Liaqat Ali Khan told AFP.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Obama wins big on healthcare bill

House passes his trillion-dollar plan to overhaul health system

AFP, Washington

The US House of Representatives has approved the broadest overhaul of US health care in four decades, handing President Barack Obama a hard-fought victory for his top domestic priority.

Heeding Obama's appeal to "answer the call of history," lawmakers late Saturday capped 12 hours of bitter debate with a 220-215 vote.

The bill amounts to a 10-year, trillion-dollar plan to extend health coverage to some 36 million Americans who lack it.

"Tonight, in an historic vote, the House of Representatives passed a bill that would finally make real the promise of quality, affordable health care for the American people," Obama said in a statement.

The fight to remake health care in the world's richest country shifted to the US Senate, where its fate remained unclear amid a tense intra-party dispute among Democrats anchored on what role the US government should play.

Obama said he was "absolutely confident" the Senate would pass its own bill, stressing: "I look forward to signing comprehensive health insurance reform into law by the end of the year."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has faced tough criticism from Republicans over the proposal, said the health care bill "improves quality, lowers cost, expands coverage to 36 million more people and retains choice."

But Republican Minority Leader John Boehner said the measure

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CONDOLLENCE



We are deeply shocked to inform that **Engr. Mir Zahir Hossain**, Ex. President, **BACI**, and Secretary General, IFAWPCA (International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors' Associations), and Member-Executive Committee of BACI and Managing Director, Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd. expired on Saturday 07 Nov.-09 at 01:30 PM (Bangladeshi Time) at Pittsburgh, USA, where he was undergoing medical treatment (Inna Lillahi Rajeun).

It is an irreparable loss for BACI, of which he was a torch-bearer.

We pray to the Almighty for his departed soul.

Bangladesh Association of Construction Industry
Phone: 912 2703, 913 4418, Fax: 811 9353
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OnlinePoll

Do you agree with Khaleda Zia that the recent unrest in the country's garment sector might have happened at the instigation of foreign countries?

Yes (28.2%)
 No (60.6%)
 No Comments (11.2%)

Total votes: 678

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think political influence is the main reason behind the sluggishness in government machinery?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

November 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	6-00	6-35
Zohr	1-45	2-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrb	6-25	6-30
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Mehnaz sent to jail

Another nephew of Huda held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent to jail Khandaker Mehnaz Rashid, eldest daughter of Bangabandhu murder convict Lt Col (retd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, in a case filed in connection with the bomb attack on Awami League lawmaker

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

US fire kills 3 Bangladeshis

STAR REPORT

Three Bangladeshis were killed and four injured in a fire in the basement of a house in Queens in New York City early Saturday.

Two of them were identified as Abdul Kuddus and Sd Jahan. Kuddus from Titas in Comilla went to the USA winning a diversity visa lottery

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

We Mourn



The Board of Directors and the employees of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited convey their heart-felt sympathy and profound condolence to the bereaved family members at the sudden demise of Mr. Mir Zahir Hossain (Inna Lillahi.....Rajeun), a renowned industrialist and businessman of the country. Late Mir Zahir Hossain, Managing Director of Mir Cement Ltd. and Mir Akhter Hossain Ltd. was a valued client of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited. He was as good as a member of Dutch-Bangla Bank family.

May the departed soul of the deceased rest in the eternal peace.

Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited
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