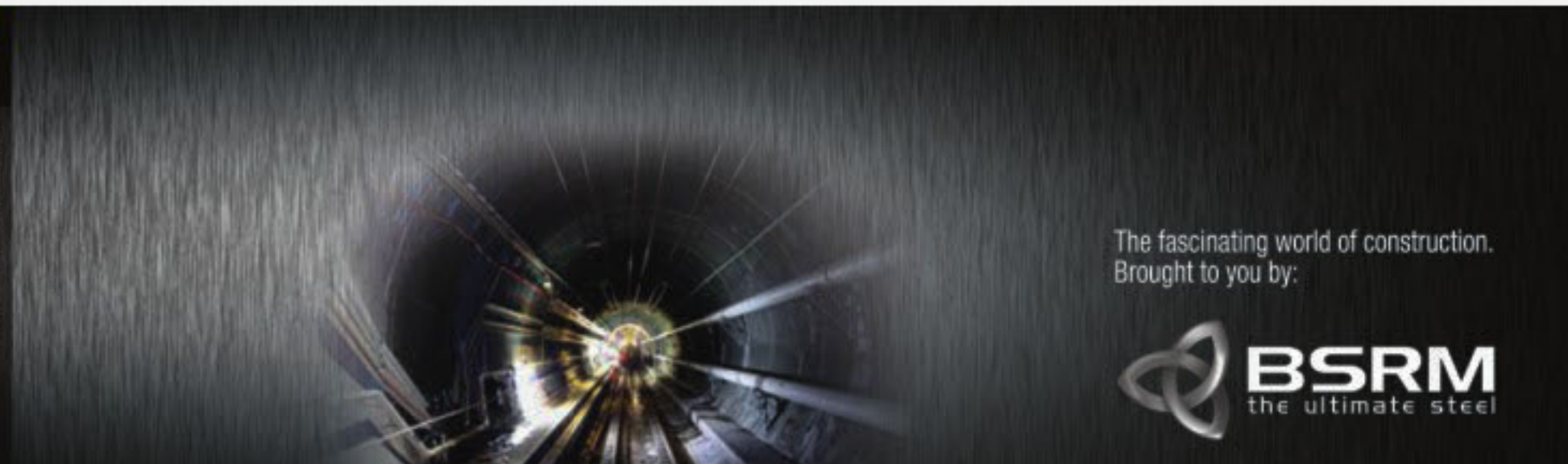


Did you know?

The Channel Tunnel is a 50.5-kilometre (31.4 mi) undersea rail tunnel linking the UK with mainland Europe. At 37.9 kilometers (23.5 mi), it has the longest undersea portion of any tunnel in the world.



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CU shut after 8 days of clashes

70 injured in student-cop clashes during protests against fee hike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The authorities yesterday closed the Chittagong University till September 16 following a series of violent clashes between agitating students and police that left over 50 students and 20 policemen injured.

Police detained around 50 students during clashes in the morning and held 200 more after raiding three male dormitories in the afternoon.

The CU syndicate in an hour-long meeting that started around 3:00pm took the decision of closing the university in the wake of the violent situation, said CU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Abu Yusuf.

Male students were asked to vacate their dormitories by 6:00pm yesterday and female students by 10:00am today, he said.

A three-member committee headed by Law Faculty Dean Prof Zakir Hossain was also formed to probe yesterday's violence, the VC said.

Earlier in the morning, over 1,500 students brought out a procession from Chittagong University Central Students' Union (CUCSU) building around 10:00am to continue their protest for the eighth consecutive day to press home their three-point demand including cancellation of fee-hike.

As police intercepted the procession near Arts Faculty the agitating students were locked in a clash with them.

At least 15 students, including a journalist were injured as police charged batons on the demonstrating students. The journalist

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Police baton-charge Chittagong University students demonstrating for the eighth consecutive day to press home their three-point demand including cancellation of fee hike yesterday. PHOTO: STAR

Khaleda for withdrawal of cases against 3 BNP leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded withdrawal of cases filed against the party's secretary general and two other leaders, condemning the government for repressing opposition.

In a statement, Khaleda strongly protested the cases filed against BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and two party men Rafiqul Islam Mia and Shah Moazzem Hossain, on charges of "death threats" to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The opposition leader also

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ARREST WARRANTS Law expert's contradictory remarks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Famed criminal law expert Anisul Huq yesterday made contradictory remarks over issuing arrest warrants against four detained top Jamaat-e-Islami leaders by the International Crimes Tribunal.

He made the remarks while talking to reporters at a press briefing at his Supreme Court Bar Association chamber.

The veteran lawyer said the decision of the International Crimes Tribunal to issue arrest warrants against the Jamaat leaders was not proper as per

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Food prices push inflation up again

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

After a steady fall for two months, inflationary indexes started rising in May with an increase in food prices especially rice.

In May, inflation stood at 8.65 percent, up from its previous figure by 0.11 points.

According to data of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), food inflation rose 0.25 percent to 10.72 while non-food inflation went down to 5.34 percent after a decrease of 0.12 percent in May.

In the last fiscal year, the government had a target of containing inflation, on average, within 6.5 percent, but in May, inflation stood at 6.78 percent.

Inflation started increasing from July last year and reached 9.06 percent in February this year. But from March it started falling.

A high official of Bangladesh Bank (BB) said price hike of rice is the main reason behind the rise in inflation.

Though boro crop started coming on the market in May, the prices of rice went up.

According to a report of Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, in May this year, prices of different varieties of rice were 18 to 32 percent up in comparison with May last year.

The BB official said that even a slight increase in the prices of rice makes the lives of the poor tougher.

A Bangladesh Bank Monetary Policy Statement (MPS) released last month reads "Even a moderate rise in inflation (particularly in the food prices) attracts concern disproportionate with their macro-economic significance, because gains from inflation go to the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

5 acquitted of graft cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday acquitted former Jamaat-e-Islami lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury, Awami Swachchasebak League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath, and three others of corruption charges for which lower courts sentenced them to imprisonment for different terms.

The three others acquitted are former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain, Faisal Morshed Khan, son of former BNP foreign minister M Morshed Khan, and Mir Helal Uddin, son of BNP leader and former state minister Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin.

An HC bench comprised of Justice Syed Muhammad Dastagir Husain and Justice AKM Zahirul Hoque acquitted the five in separate judgements in response to appeals filed by them against the verdicts of lower courts.

Special courts set up during the tenure of caretaker government sentenced them in separate graft cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

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MANIKGANJ CAR CRASH Bus driver sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A Judicial Magistrate court sent the driver of the rashly-driven bus Druti Paribahan to Manikganj jail custody yesterday.

The bus driver Anwar Hossain, son of late Md Hanif of Bhadai village at Balibhadra bazar union in Savar upazila appeared before the Manikganj Judicial Magistrate court around 11:00am and sought bail.

The Judicial Magistrate Md Delwar Hossain denied the bail prayer and sent him to the jail.

Earlier, secretary (in-charge) to the ministry of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

OnlinePoll

Do you think the violence in the RMG sector is linked with the war crimes trial?

Yes (69.79%)
No (28.98%)
No Comments (1.23%)

Total votes: 1301

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with LGRD Minister Syed Ashrafur Islam that local government elections should be held with candidates contesting under the banner of political parties?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Prayer Timing

| August 3 | | |
|----------|-------|--------|
| | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-20 | 4-55 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-47 | 6-50 |
| Esha | 8-15 | 8-45 |

Source: Islamic Foundation

BDR court jails 14 for mutiny in Sunamganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Special Court-3 of Bangladesh Rifles yesterday sentenced 14 BDR soldiers of 8 Rifles Battalion to different jail terms for their involvement in Sunamganj BDR mutiny on February 26 last year.

The rebels were handed down prison terms between four months and six years and were also fined Tk 100 each.

The convicts are subedar major Gouranga Chandra Das, nayek subedar Abul Hossain, havildars Md Abdul Jalil, Md Badiul Alam and Md Maniruzzaman, nayek Md Harun Ur Rashid, nayek assistant Md Abdul Wahid, lance nayeks Md Hiru Ullah Khan, Md Abdur Rahim, Biplab Kumar Pandit and Omar Faruque and sepoy Maniruzzaman Sheikh, Sumon Marma and Toriqul Islam.

The 3-member panel led by BDR Director General Major General Rafiqul Islam delivered the judgment at 12:05pm

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Tk 775cr loss, orders at stake

RMG owners count cost of ongoing unrest

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Garment factory owners estimate the latest spell of labour unrest cost them a loss of Tk 775 crore, while the ready-made garment (RMG) sector will struggle to meet the deadlines of international buyers.

The Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has detected that the \$13 billion sector incurred three major types of loss following the Tk 3,000 minimum wage announcement on Thursday.

It identified the losses as production time lost, costly air shipment instead of sea shipment, and damages done to factories during the spates of vandalism.

Siddiqur Rahman, chairman of Sterling Group based in Ashulia, said production halted in four of his factories during the unrest.

"At least 70,000 pieces of trousers are produced in four factories every day. Now I have to ship my production via air for the delay," he said.

He added he has been asking his buyers for an extension on deliveries of goods.

According to BGMEA, production was suspended in the majority of 250 Ashulia-based factories during the labour unrest started after the wage announcement.

The manufacturers will definitely face trouble now, said a major buyer requesting anonymity. "We are now focusing on the coming season. If we see work environment has been restored in the sector, we are ready to place fresh orders in increased number in Bangladesh," he added.

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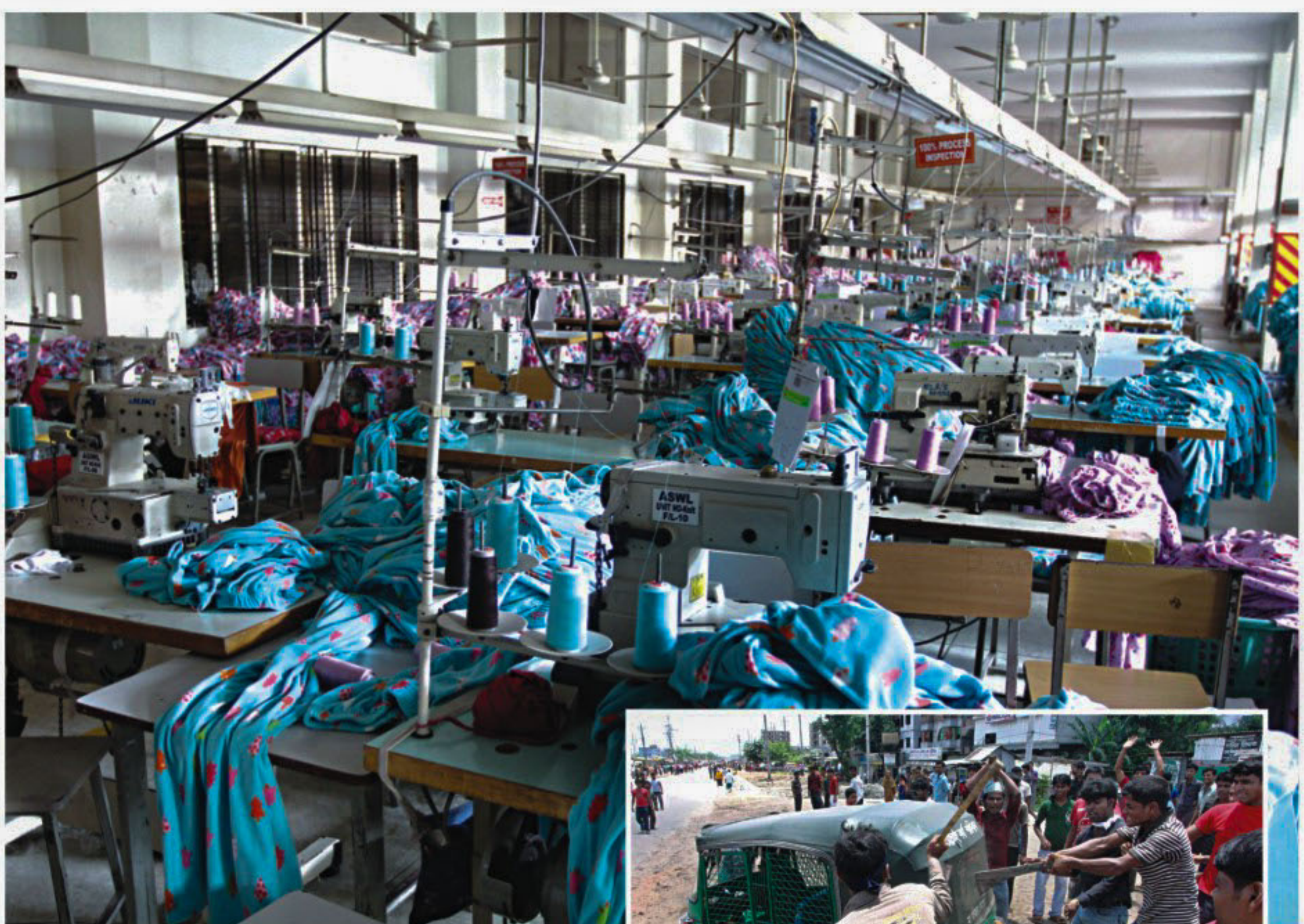


PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

The interior of Arunima Sports Wear Ltd at Ashulia on the outskirts of the city yesterday after the management shut it down following some outsiders' attack. Inset, agitating garment workers vandalise a three-wheeler at Fatullah, Narayanganj.

অবিচল আশ্রয়

১১ বছর

৩রা আগস্ট ২০১০

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