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Rowdy way to fulfil demands

Jagannath students block roads for hours, vandalise at least 20 vehicles

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Disgruntled students of Jagannath University staged rowdy protest on Dhaka streets yesterday demanding government funding of the university beyond 2012 and ridding its dorms of illegal occupiers.

They blockaded roads for several hours and vandalised 20 vehicles setting off a chain reaction that paralysed many Dhaka streets with severe traffic jams from 10:30am.

Around 30 students were injured when police charged truncheons to disperse the agitating students. Shahbagh police detained 18 students from Jatiya Press Club and High Court areas while Kotwali police picked up two in front of the university campus in Old Dhaka.

Witnesses said over 3,000 students brought out two processions—one at 10:00am and another at 11:00am—from the university campus obstructing transport movement on the roads from the campus to the Jatiya Press Club.

They also demonstrated in front of the Jatiya Press Club around noon triggering severe traffic jams. A handful of

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Students of Jagannath University vandalise vehicles near High Court in the capital yesterday, demanding continuation of government funding for their university. The students also stopped the sports utility vehicle, inset, of the lawmaker from Mymensingh-6 constituency during the demonstration.

PHOTO: STAR



Saudi women to get right to vote

AGENCIES

Women in Saudi Arabia are to be given the right to vote and run in municipal elections, the Gulf Kingdom's King Abdullah announced yesterday.

He said they would also have the right to be appointed to the consultative Shura Council.

The news will be welcomed by activists who have long called for greater rights for women in the ultra-conservative kingdom.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4

Chaos over hiked bus fare

Operators charge passengers at will due to lack of monitoring

PANKAJ KARMAKAR

Bus operators charge commuters more than the government-fixed fares in the capital cashing in on the recent hike in fuel prices.

Lack of monitoring to enforce the government-fixed fare has made travelling by bus an unpleasant experience for commuters, who often get involved in altercations with transport workers over bus fare.

The government on September 19 increased transport fare 5 paisa per kilometre for bus and minibus, and 14 paisa a km for CNG-run auto-rickshaw following its decision to hike fuel prices.

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No room again for unconstitutional rule

PM asks people to remain vigilant

UNB, New York

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon all people to remain vigilant so that no unconstitutional form of government can rule the country in future.

"Bangladesh could not be freed from poverty as unconstitutional forces ruled for a long time after the assassination of the Father of the Nation," she said addressing a meet the press programme at the Bangladesh Mission office in New York yesterday.

Since then, Hasina said, she had been fighting for democracy and for the first

time in 1996, people could realise that the government is meant for their service.

Asked about possibilities of sitting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to discuss national issues, the prime minister said, "Meeting corrupt people do not bring any good."

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said it is true that her party had waged movement for the caretaker government, but the nation has already endured the "weird experience" of the system.

She reminded that after the first caretaker government, there was a military

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

Alarm rings over world economy

Europe aims to beef up crisis fund

REUTERS, Washington

Europe is working to ramp up the firepower of its bailout fund, top officials said on Saturday, as the United States, China and other nations raised the alarm about its debt crisis hurting the world economy.

Financial markets plunged last week on fears that Greece's near-bankruptcy could spread to other euro zone countries, heaping pressure on European policymakers to prevent a repeat of the chaos that swept the world in 2007-2009.

The European Union's top economic official, Olli Rehn, said as soon as the region's governments confirm

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The hills of Chandanish in Chittagong are well known for guavas and this small place provides the tasty fruits for people across the country. They may be pricy anywhere else in Bangladesh but farmers sell these red sacks of guavas to wholesalers for Tk 250-300. The photo was taken in Raozan Haat yesterday.



1 shot dead in Rangamati

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Unknown assailants shot dead an activist of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3



No talks without halt to settlements

Says Abbas in Palestine; Netanyahu to accept Quartet plan

AFP, Ramallah

The Palestinians will not hold peace talks without a "complete halt" to Israeli settlement building, Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas told cheering crowds yesterday.

"There will be no negotiations without international legitimacy and a complete

halt to settlements," he said in an address to thousands who gathered to welcome him back from his bid to secure full UN membership for a state of Palestine.

The comments appeared to be a rejection of a proposal for new talks from the international peacemaking Quartet, which on Friday proposed renewed negotiations

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CANAL RECOVERY Wasa knocks down illegal structures

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Wasa knocked down 20 illegal makeshift shops and two concrete structures on the Ramchandrapur canal in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday, the second day of its three-day drive.

The drive is aimed at

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মহিলা ও শিশু স্বাস্থ্য উন্নয়নে তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহারের সীকৃতি স্বরূপ ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশের রূপকার বঙ্গবন্ধু কন্যা প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনাকে জাতিসংঘ সাউথ সাউথ পুরকারে ভূষিত করেছে। তাঁর এই অনন্য অবদানে আমরা গর্বিত। এ পুরকার জাতিকে অনুপ্রেরণা যোগাবে। উদ্বৃদ্ধ করবে দেশ ও জাতির কল্যাণে অবদান রাখতে। মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা এ বিল সম্মানে ভূষিত হওয়ায় বিডিবিএল-এর পক্ষ থেকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।



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