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Violence, Shutdown at Ashulia again

KAILASH SARKAR
After a quiet Friday, the garment factory zone of Ashulia yesterday erupted in violence again as thousands of workers demanding pay hike clashed sporadically with law enforcers.
The entire industrial area turned into a battlefield since 8:00am leaving around 100 people, including 10 policemen, injured during the four-hour-long clash. Police fired rubber bullets, used teargas, water cannons of riot trucks and charged truncheons to disperse the agitating workers.
Traffic movement on Dhaka-Tangail highway and Ashulia-Baipail road had
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Frustrated garment exporters declare indefinite closure of factories; lament lack of security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Garment factories in Ashulia will remain closed for an indefinite period from today due to the ongoing labour unrest there, owners announced yesterday.
The leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association and Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, two apex platforms of the garment sector, jointly took the decision at a meeting at the BGMEA office in the capital.
After the meeting, BGMEA President Shafiul Islam Mohiuddin told a press briefing that they had decided to keep closed more than 300 factories in Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, due to the labour unrest.
"We have become victims to a conspiracy. It is not possible to run factories without adequate

security. Nevertheless, we have decided to shut down the units in Ashulia only, not in the whole country," said Mohiuddin.
He urged the government to ensure security for garment factories as it is provided for key point installations.
The BGMEA president believes this unrest did not stem from the demand for salary hike. He said the unrest and vandalism in the factories were not the acts of regular workers. A few vested groups were trying to destroy the garment sector, as perhaps they were benefiting from the unrest, he alleged.
"We can hardly bear it any longer," said Mohiuddin, urging all not to be confused by any propaganda.
He said it was the government's responsibility
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A notice hangs on the gate of a garment factory in Ashulia on the outskirts of the capital saying it is closed. Garment factory owners yesterday decided to keep their factories in Ashulia closed for an indefinite period due to workers' unrest. PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Fishing resumes in Naf

DWAIPAYAN BARUA, from Teknaf
After a four-day embargo, fishermen here went on fishing in the sea and Naf river yesterday as the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) thought the situation along the border has improved considerably.
Many fishing boats were seen sailing in the Naf in the morning. Though the sea was rough, an increased number of boats plied the route between Shah Porir Dweep and St Martin's island.
The BGB, meanwhile, on Wednesday sent a
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Fishing resumes in the Bay and in the Naf river yesterday after the authorities withdrew a ban on the plying of boats and trawlers near the border with Myanmar. The authorities had imposed the ban to stop the stream of Rohingya refugees fleeing the sectarian violence in Myanmar. PHOTO: ANURUP KANT DAS

Teknaf learnt a refugee lesson

It was quick to come forward with help during Rohingya influx in 1978 and 1991, but reluctant this time

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK, from Teknaf
Mir Ahmed, a former banker in Teknaf, helped Rohingyas during their influx in 1978 and 1991.
But after suffering the consequences of allowing in the Rohingyas from Myanmar, he now sees it as a huge burden on people in the southern upazila of Cox's Bazar.
Born and brought up here, he was a young officer of Agrani Bank in 1978 when



Mir Ahmed

for the first time Bangladesh let Rohingyas in.
"During Ziaur Rahman's rule [in 1978], we the employees of Agrani Bank [all branches] created a Tk 10 lakh fund from our one day's salary and gave relief to the refugees," Mir, now 60, told The Daily Star yesterday.
"Again in 1991, when there was another Rohingya refugee influx, I was another Rohingya refugee in -- PAGE 2
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PM URGED TO LET MYANMAR REFUGEES IN -- PAGE 2

Judges too are nominated by people

Says Speaker
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday said judges should remember that they too are nominated by the people.
Explaining this, he said the president appoints judges in consultation with the chief justice. And the president is elected by parliament that represents the people. This way, judges too are nominated by the people.
The Speaker was addressing a programme at the Jatiya Sangsad
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Electricity bill shocking

Household bills go up by 50pc for change in tariff structure
MD FAZLUR RAHMAN
Residential electricity users have seen at least 50 percent rise in their bills since March due to a change in the tariff structure.
The government hiked power prices on March 1 and withdrew the common lowest slab facility that had been enjoyed by all residential users.
Households now pay Tk 3.05 for per kilowatt of power consumption if their total monthly usage is below 100 units. However, they have to pay Tk 4.29 per unit for electricity usage above 100 units and below 400 units a month. Households consuming more than 400 units
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GERMAN ENGINEERING

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