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DEATH IN CTG ROAD CRASH Workers stage rowdy protest

Road blocked; vehicles torched, vandalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Several thousand readymade garment workers staged a rowdy protest, torching and vandalising vehicles in Chittagong city yesterday following the death of a fellow worker in a road accident.

Thee RMG workers and seven policemen were injured during a chase and counter-chase between law enforcers and the protesters.

A speeding minibus bound for Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) ran over Pintu Das, 35, a sewing supervisor of Anwar Dress Makers, in Double-Mooring area around 7:40am when he was on his way to work on a bicycle, witnesses said.

His fellow workers and locals rushed Pintu to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), where doctors declared him dead, said Jahurul Islam, sub-inspector of CMCH Police Outpost.

As the news spread, garment workers of the factories in the area came out and blocked Sheikh Mujib Road, causing suffering to city dwellers.

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A supposedly garment worker hits a policeman at Agrabad of Chittagong with a bamboo stick so hard that it shatters. Workers and law enforcers clashed on the city streets following the death of a fellow factory employee in a road accident yesterday. The garment workers also torched several vehicles, inset. More photos on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Shab-e-Barat on July 5

UNB, Dhaka

Shab-e-Barat, a holy night for the Muslims, will be observed on July 5 as the new moon for the month of Shaban was not sighted anywhere in the country yesterday.

The decision came at a meeting of the National Moon Sighting Committee, held at the Islamic Foundation office in the evening.

Secretary of Religious Affairs Ministry and Vice Chairman of the

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Power cuts at tolerable level before Ramadan

Assures PM in JS; tells of govt efforts to cut load shedding

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday assured that load shedding will come to a "tolerable level" before Ramadan begins in the third week of next month.

"Because of price hike of furnace oil, electricity price has increased a lot. But we have taken a number of decisions to resolve the problems centring high prices of oil. I hope all power



stations will go for full production very soon, and load shedding will come to a tolerable level before Ramadan," she said in parliament.

With this assurance, the premier apparently admitted that load shedding is at an intolerable level at present. She and her colleagues both in the cabinet and in the ruling Awami League, however, have been claiming that power

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SQ Chy fired 2-3 bullets at Natun Chandra

Victim's son testifies at war crimes tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP leader Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, accompanied by Pakistani army men, took a lot of gold and money from Nutan Chandra Sinha minutes before killing him in 1971, said Nutan's son Praphulla before the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday.

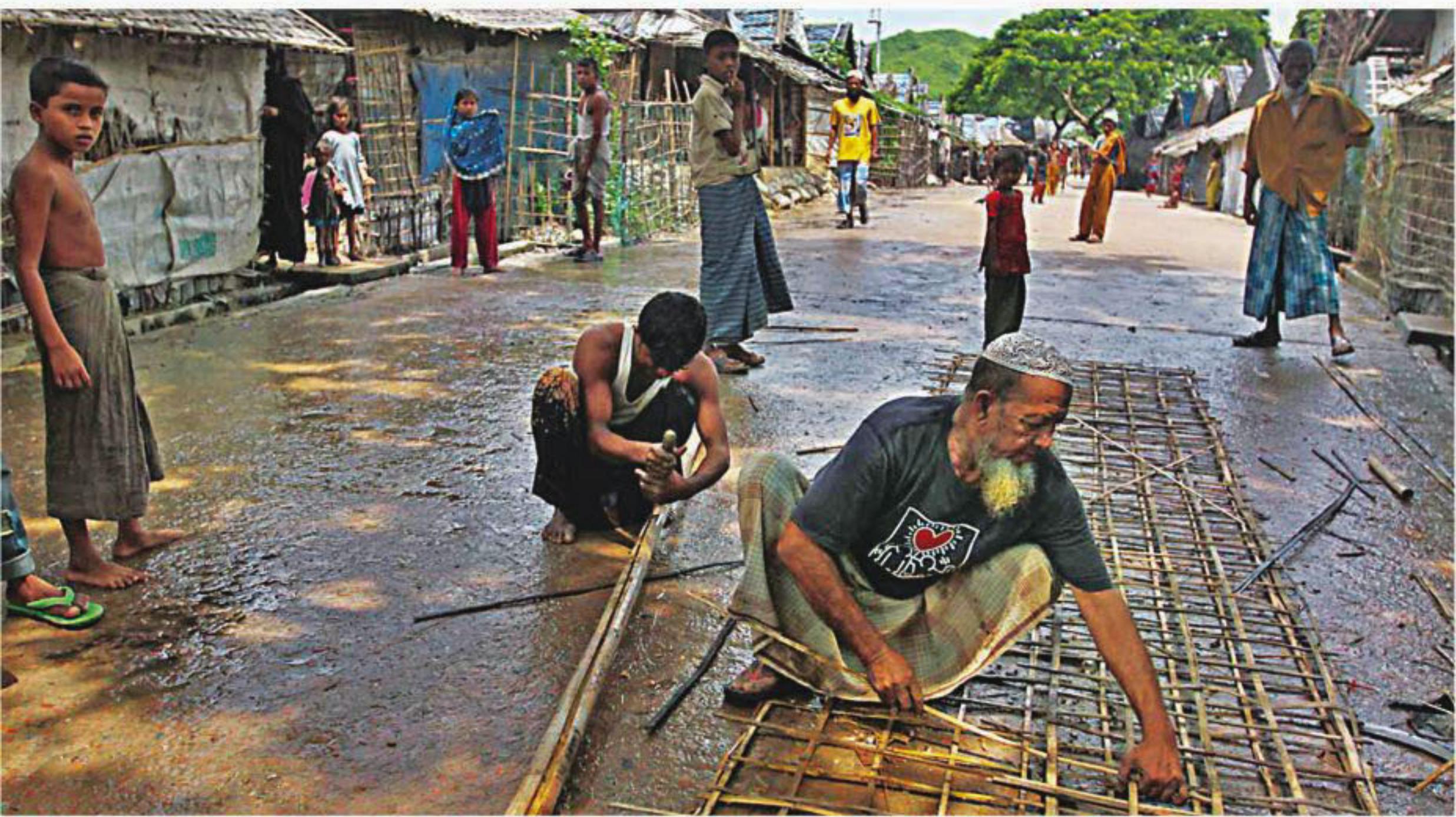
Praphulla Ranjan Sinha was the fifth prosecution witness in the case against Salahuddin, who is facing 23

counts of crimes against humanity charges at the tribunal.

During the Liberation War, Praphulla was in Kolkata and he heard about what had happened to his father on April 30, 1971, from eyewitness Brojohori Karmakar.

In his one-hour-and-40-minute deposition yesterday, Praphulla said Salahuddin pumped two to three bullets into his father to ensure his

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It may have been the World Refugee Day yesterday but at the Rohingya refugee camp in Nayapara of Teknaf it was business as usual. The Myanmar refugees, who had been living there for years, neither felt any significance of the date nor were any programmes held there.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Bangladesh improves in 'failed state' index

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has marked slight improvement on the list of failed states compared to last year having been ranked 29th in Failed State Index (FSI), according to a new study.

The Fund for Peace yesterday released the eighth edition of its annual FSI on its website highlighting global political, economic and social pressures experienced by the states.

Bangladesh has

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Pakistan to get new PM tomorrow

Shahabuddin likely to be PPP candidate

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's president summoned parliament to meet tomorrow to elect a new prime minister, with the outgoing textile minister emerging as the likely candidate for the job.

In a statement yesterday, the presidency said the national assembly would be convened on June 22 afternoon. A government official confirmed that the purpose of the meeting was to elect a new premier.

The official said that Makhdoom Shahabuddin, the outgoing textile minister, was the likely candidate, as did another member of the ruling PPP. They didn't give their names because they weren't authorised to speak on the record about internal party decisions.

Shahabuddin is from Rahim Yar Khan, a conservative Islamic city in south of Punjab province. He is considered

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SC for saving Bhola forest

Asks authorities to stop construction of roads in Char Kukri Mukri

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday ordered to stop construction of roads and felling of trees in the reserve forest in Char Kukrimukri of Bhola in order to protect environment and ecology of the coastal belt.

Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain imposed the ban following a petition by Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday.

The local government authorities have taken initiatives to chop down around 15,000 trees for constructing a road in the forest defying an earlier order by the apex

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