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CLOSURE OF FACTORY RMG workers stage demo

50 hurt in clash with cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Garment workers yesterday staged demonstrations at three points in Gazipur district over several issues, including a pay hike, which was followed by clashes with law enforcers and production suspension.

At least 50 people with 12 policemen were injured in a clash between police and garment workers at Panisail on the Kaliakoir-Nabinagar highway.

Around 10:00am, workers blocked the road in protest against the shutdown of Machhitha Sweater Factory.

The demonstration was a sequel to Thursday's incident when a group of employees of the factory beat up an official following an altercation over their demand for a pay hike, said Shah Mohammad, an assistant sub-inspector of Gazipur Industrial Police. The workers had been agitating for higher pay for the last three weeks.

Thursday's incident prompted an announcement through which the factory was closed for an indefinite period.

Enraged by this, around 4,000 workers, including employees of adjacent factory units, blocked the highway yesterday for about two and a half hours, local people said.

They also broke down glasses of at least 15 factories.

Clashes took place when police tried to move them from

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The Snake Temple, built in 1937 on BK Ganguly Lane in Old Dhaka, has been eyed by land grabbers, who tried to construct a concrete structure around the place of worship. Locals resisted the move of two people who identified themselves as Juboraj and Devraj. The duo first appeared in the area and sought permission to renovate the temple. But locals were alarmed to find out that the duo was in fact building a house around the temple. They urge the government to take necessary action to save the famous Hindu temple.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hafajat defends Shafi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid widespread condemnation of Hefajat-e Islam Ameer Shah Ahmed Shafi's sermon denigrating women, the Islamist organisation yesterday defended its chief's remarks.

In a statement, it said that atheist bloggers and their patrons, scared of the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Mass promotion in civil administration

200 deputy secretaries to become joint secretaries

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government is set to give promotion to around 200 deputy secretaries to the rank of joint secretary this week although the number of joint secretaries has already doubled the approved 250 posts.

The Ministry of Public Administration last week sent a summary to the Prime Minister's Office containing names of the officials to be promoted.

"The summary did not get the nod as the prime minister was on an overseas trip. It is expected to be approved soon," said a senior official of the ministry asking not to be identified.

Currently, there are 625 joint secretaries, many of whom are holding the previous office even after being elevated to this rank one and a half years ago.

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JS session resumes today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 18th session of parliament resumes this morning after an adjournment of 11 days.

The House is likely to pass some important bills, including the much-discussed labour law (amendment), during the rest of the budget session, sources in the parliament

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SNOWDEN'S ASYLUM

Russia faces US wrath

AFP, Moscow

Russia yesterday faced stark warnings from the United States against granting asylum to fugitive US leaker Edward Snowden after he broke three weeks of silence to tell activists he wanted sanctuary in the country.

In an indication that already tense US-Russia ties could strain further over the affair, the White House warned Russia not to grant Snowden a "propaganda platform" as top allies of President Vladimir Putin argued he should be given sanctuary.

US President Barack Obama spoke to Putin by telephone Friday on issues including the Snowden affair, the Kremlin and White House both said, but no further details were forthcoming.

The Obama-Putin call had been scheduled for several days. Obama is due to travel to Moscow in September for a

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PIRACY IN SOMALIA 7 Bangladeshi crew alive, shifted to another boat

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

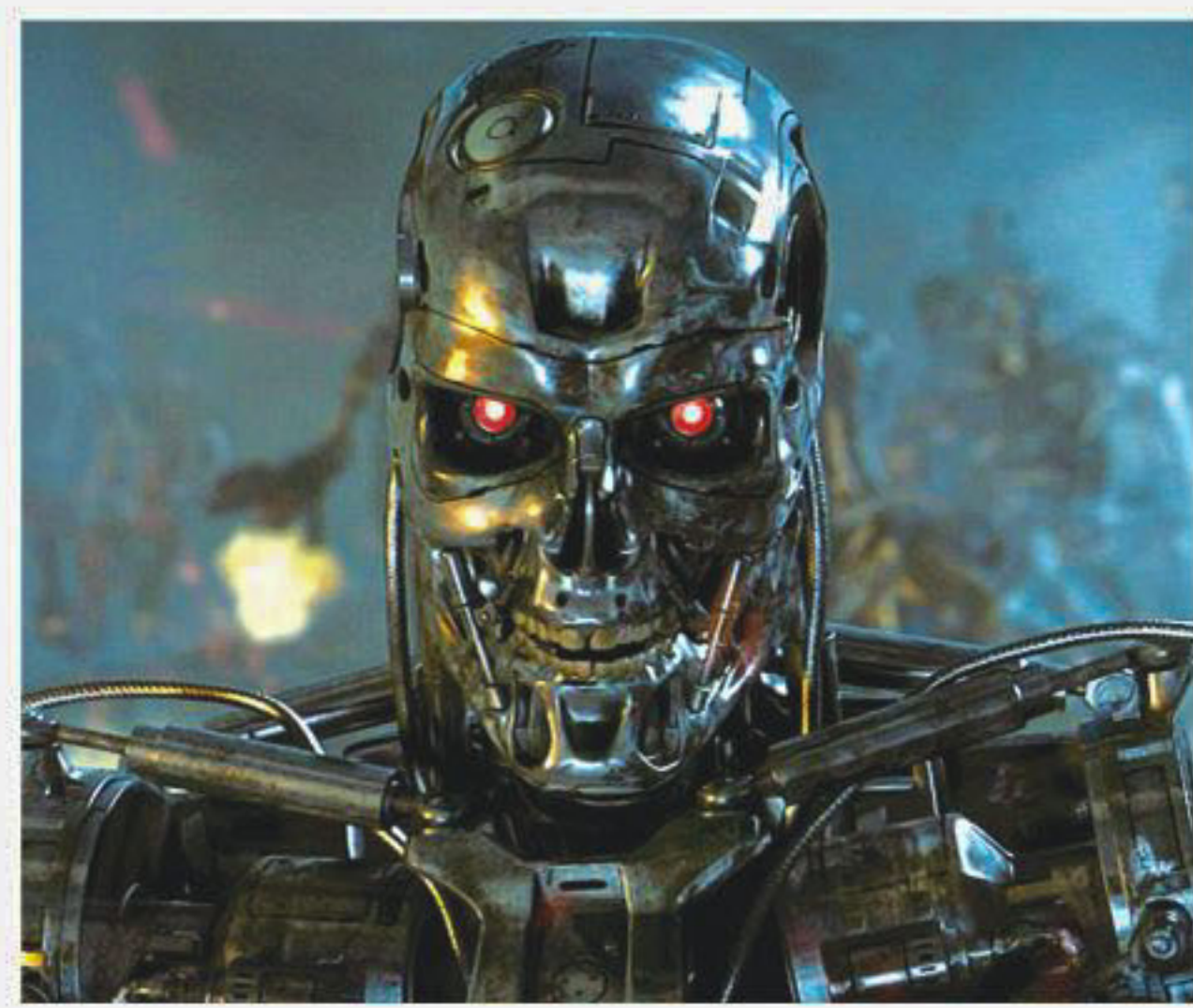
The seven Bangladeshi crew members, who had been abducted from a sinking vessel off Somali coast on July 7, are alive and have been shifted to another hijacked fishing boat by pirates, claims the government.

According to the foreign ministry, the update has been primarily confirmed through London-based Maritime Piracy and Humanitarian Response Programme (MPHRP) that contacted sources in the UN office for Somalia, Nairobi.

In a press release the foreign ministry yesterday said it had learnt that the Bangladeshi crew members of the Malaysian flag vessel MV Albedo that reportedly sank on July 7 off the coast of Somalia were on board before the ship had capsize.

Apart from Bangladesh, the crew of the ship were

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The real life Terminator

MAIL ONLINE

At 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighing 330lb Atlas is a formidable figure. And with 28 hydraulically actuated joints and stereo vision, it is one of the most advanced robots ever.

Although the robot, designed by DARPA and Boston Dynamics, is built to help respond to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

আল-আরাফাহ
ইসলামী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড
العرفه اسلامى بنك لىمىٲٲڊ
Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited

Credit Rating

	Rating-2012	Rating-2011
Long Term	AA₃ (Very Strong Capacity & Very High Quality)	AA₃
Short Term	ST-2 (Strong Capacity)	ST-2
Date of Rating	30 June 2013	
Validity	30 June 2014	

Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) Limited has retained the long term rating of **Al-Arafah Islami Bank Limited** to **AA₃** (Pronounced Double A Three) and the short term rating at **ST-2** based on audited financial statements of 31st December 2012 and other relevant qualitative & quantitative information.

Commercial Banks rated **AA₃** in the long term belong to **"Very Strong Capacity & Very High Quality"** cohort. Banks rated **"AA₃"** have very strong capacity to meet their financial commitments. **AA₃** rated banks are judged to be of very high quality and are subject to low credit risk.

The short term **"ST-2"** category are considered to have **strong capacity** for timely repayment of obligations. Commercial Banks rated in this category are characterized with commendable position in terms of liquidity, internal fund generation and access to alternative sources of funds.

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BRB

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	July	Sehri	Iftar
4	14	3-54	6-53
5	15	3-49	6-53
6	16	3-50	6-52

PRAYER TIMING July 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	3-49	3-54
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-53	7-03
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Star FASHION
عيد 2013

HITTING NEWS STANDS THURSDAY, JULY 18

YOUR BEST GUIDE TO CHOOSE THE BEST, FROM THE BEST COLLECTION, FOR THE BEST OCCASION

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited ONLINE POLL

Do you think it was necessary to review the results of the 34th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examinations for the Public Service Commission?

Yes (78%)
No (22%)

TOTAL VOTES: 230

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Communications Minister Obaidul Quader that Finance Minister AMA Muhith's stance is delaying start of Padma bridge construction?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

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