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Children toil in sweatshops

Aged between 10 and 18, they work in Keraniganj garment factories, but get no pay

AKRAM HOSEN

While apparel stores in the capital are doing a roaring trade before Eid, the workload for thousands of unpaid children in tailoring factories on the outskirts of the city has multiplied.

Eleven-year-old Jewel works 14 to 18 hours every day at a jeans tailoring factory at Kaliganj Bazar, Keraniganj.

Like him, many children, mostly aged between 10 and 18, work as apprentices at jeans factories in the area. Because they are apprentices, they do not get any salary. For Eid, however, they receive a small, one-off payment, which is decided by the tailors they work for.

When they finish toiling away at the sewing machines in the dead of night, they sleep in the dim, dank factories.

Jewel was brought here by his mother from his hometown Shariatpur two years ago. He had then no idea as to why he had been brought here or what was expected of him.

Another child worker, Md Bojlu, 16, said he had been living in the jeans factory since he had left his village in Bhola six months ago.

Although he does not get paid, Bojlu is glad to have the opportunity to work with a tailor. He hopes that with this experience, he will soon become a tailor himself.

"Besides, depending on the size of his profit, my master will pay me an amount before Eid," he said with a broad smile.

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The number of children working at different tailors' shops in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital increases manifolds ahead of Eid. The children, some preteens, work only for tips and get no salaries in small businesses that have no fire safety measures. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Govt plans to appeal after Eid

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The government is preparing to appeal to the Supreme Court against the "inadequate" sentencing of war crimes convict Ghulam Azam.

On July 15, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 sentenced the former Jamaat chief to 90 years in jail for masterminding crimes against humanity, genocide and other war crimes during the Liberation War.

In the verdict, it had said Ghulam Azam deserved the death penalty but he was given jail terms considering his old age and poor health.

As for the appeal, Additional Attorney General and Chief Coordinator of the war crimes prosecution team MK Rahman claimed that the Tribunal-1 had acted beyond the law by not awarding the death penalty to Ghulam Azam even

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Nuke plant work starts in October

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the foundation stone for Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant at Pabna in October, formally kicking off its construction work.

The decision for laying the foundation was taken at the third meeting of the national committee on nuclear power plant project with Hasina in the chair.

"The premier is expected to lay the foundation stone in the first week of October," State Minister for Science and Technology Yeafesh Osman said after

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Accused identifies 4 'killers' of Milky

Describes the killing before magistrate

COURT CORRESPONDENT

An accused in the Jubo League leader Riazul Haque Khan Milky murder case yesterday identified four men involved in the killing.

The accused, Jahangir Mondol, identified the four -- Tarek, Sohel, Aminul and Shahidul -- in his confessional statement before a Dhaka court.

Police have yet to arrest any of the four.

Jahangir, 30, is the driver of Jubo League leader Shakhawat Hossain Chanchal, one of the top suspects in the murder.

Rab picked up Jahangir from Uttara's Fortune Hospital around 5:30am on July 30, hours after the killing around 1:07am

before Shoppers World in the capital's Gulshan.

Jahangir told magistrate Amit Kumar Dey that from the CCTV footage that captured the murder scene, he identified the person in white cap as Tarek.

The Daily Star has obtained a copy of his confessional statement.

"Tarek got on Sohel's bike after the shooting," he said. "From the footage, I identified the person wearing white shoes as Aminul."

He said that another person wearing jeans and T-shirt and his hair tied at the back of his head was Shahidul.

"On the night of the murder, Chanchal told me to be at Gulshan's Bidyut Office

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Counsel for SQ Chy alleges misuse of law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes (Tribunals) Act, 1973 was being misused to harass Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, claimed his defence yesterday.

Defence counsel Ahsanul Huq Hena argued that the Act was formulated in 1973 to try the war criminals, not the collaborators. He said this while placing argument over the delayed commencement of war crimes trial at the International Crimes Tribunal-1.

He added the Collaborator Order, 1972 [repealed] was formulated

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Torture evidence found at Azmeri Osman's office

Rab conducts raid in connection with Toki murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

In a raid on the city office of Azmeri Osman, son of Jatiya Party lawmaker Nasim Osman, Rapid Action Battalion personnel yesterday found some evidence of torture there.

A team of Rab-11 busted Winner Fashion on Allama Iqbal Road from 12:00 noon to 2:00pm and seized a pair of blood stained jeans pants, three sticks, some CCTV cameras, LCD monitors and a corner show case bearing bullet marks, among other evidence of torture.

Law enforcers also detained two drivers of Azmeri and a security guard at the office for interrogation. The MP's son was not at the office.

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RISKY JOURNEY Three die falling off train roof

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three passengers died after falling off the roof of a train at Gandaria railway station in the capital yesterday morning.

They have been identified as Zakir Hossain, 30, Nuru Mia, 40, and Nazrul Islam, 35.

Having started from Narayanganj, the train was slowing down at the station around 10:15am, said Sub-Inspector Anwar Kamal of Dhaka Railway Police Station.

The train was bound for

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Travelling garden atop a bus

MAIL ONLINE

Stopping and smelling the roses is now a matter of simply waiting at a bus stop, thanks to an idea which sees gardens planted on top of public transport vehicles.

A prototype range of the adapted buses are aiming to purify air in cities that have a lack of urban green areas.

Landscape artist Marc Granen's system, dubbed PhytoKinetic, uses condensation from the vehicle's air conditioning system to water the roof. The garden can also be manually watered.

His first bus is currently

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SUSPECTED ROBBERS Mob beats three youths to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Three suspected robbers were beaten to death at Raonaut village under Kapasia upazila in Gazipur in the early hours of yesterday.

The deceased are Ramjan, 25, son of Nayamat Ali of Kamalpur village in Mymensingh district; Masum, 22, of Palan area under Haridebpur in the district's Kaliganj upazila; and Babul, 24, of Raynanda village in the upazila.

Quoting the locals, Md Delowar Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kapasia Police Station, said a group of robbers numbering 12 had stormed into the house of Niranjana Das at Mirar Tek in the village around 4:30am.

The robbers chopped the house owner and his mother as they tried to resist the robbery attempt, the OC added.

Hearing the hue and cry, locals rushed to the house. Announcement was also made using the loudspeaker of a local mosque.

The robbers also chopped one Russel when they were fleeing.

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Diplomatic move fails to end Egypt crisis

Govt blames Islamists; vows to disperse protest camps

AFP, Cairo

Egypt's government vowed yesterday to break up Islamist protest camps after foreign mediation failed, sparking fears of a violent end to the month-old standoff since president Mohamed Morsi's ouster.

"The cabinet affirms that the decision to disperse the Rabaa Adawiya and Nahda sit-ins is a final decision, on which all agree, and there is no going back on it," prime minister Hazem al-Beblawi said on state television.

Protesters have been camped out in two Cairo squares and insist they will stay until the Muslim Brotherhood's Morsi is reinstated as president.

"We call on them now, anew, to quickly leave, and return to their homes and work, without being chased if their hands have not been soiled by blood," Beblawi said.

"The government's solicitude for the holy month of Ramadan ... in which it hoped the crisis would be resolved without the intervention of security, did not mean the cabinet had

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BRB

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMINGS

Ramadan	Aug	Sehri	Iftar
29	8		6-41
30	9	4-06	6-40

PRAYER TIMING August 8

Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-41	6-51
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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