

# RMG workers go bersek, clash with Tongi cops

*10 hurt in protest over fellow worker's injury in road crash*

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

At least 10 workers of a readymade garment factory at Mill Gate area in Tongi were injured after they clashed with police following the injury of a fellow worker in a road crash yesterday.

The agitating workers also vandalised as many as 50 vehicles before the clash began.

Sharmin Akter, 30, a worker of Tops and Bottom Fashion, succumbed to her injuries around 1:00pm while being transported to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Earlier around 8:00am, she was hit by a BRTC bus near her workplace on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway, Gazipur Industrial Police confirmed.

Around 2,000 workers of Tops and Bottom

Fashion took to the street around 8:30am as the news of the accident spread, witnesses said.

They blocked the highway at Mill Gate area for two hours and went on vandalising vehicles before0020police intervened, triggering a clash. The agitating workers hurled brickbats at police and, in retaliation, the law enforcers charged batons, fired rubber bullets and lobbed teargas canisters.

Traffic movement on the highway resumed around 10:30am after police managed to drive out the workers from the highway, said the Officer-in-Charge of Gazipur Industrial Police station.

Tops and Bottom Fashion and two other RMG units suspended production for the day fearing vandalism, the OC added.

# 48 missing Egypt migrants found in Libya desert

AFP, Benghazi

Forty-eight Egyptian illegal immigrants who went missing in the desert of eastern Libya at the start of the week were found by the Libyan air force on Friday, a security official said.

Dozens of Egyptians entered Libya but were abandoned on Monday by smugglers on the desert road between Tobruk and Ajdabiya.

One of the group managed to reach a town and alert the Libyan authorities, who launched a search.

# War game nearly

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"These papers document a pivotal moment in modern history – the point at which an alarmed Thatcher government realised that the cold war had to be brought to an end and began the process of persuading its American allies likewise," he said.

"The Cold War is sometimes described as a stable 'balance of power' between east and west, but the Able Archer story shows that it was in fact a shockingly dangerous period when the world came to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe on more than one occasion."

Able Archer, which involved 40,000 US and Nato troops moving across western Europe, co-ordinated by encrypted communications systems, imagined a scenario in which Blue Forces (Nato) defended its allies after Orange Forces (Warsaw Pact countries) sent troops into Yugoslavia following political unrest. The Orange Forces had quickly followed this up with invasions of Finland, Norway and eventually Greece. As the conflict had intensified, a conventional war had escalated into one involving chemical and nuclear weapons.

The exercise took place amid heightened international tension. In September 1983 the Russians shot down a Korean Airlines Boeing 737, killing all 269 people on board, after the plane had mistakenly strayed into their airspace. There is evidence to suggest that the Russians thought the Boeing was an American

spy plane.

Earlier in the same year the US president, Ronald Reagan, made a high-profile speech describing the Soviet Union as "the evil empire" and announced plans to build the "Star Wars" strategic defence initiative. With distrust between the US and USSR at unparalleled levels, both sides were operating on a hair trigger.

As Able Archer commenced, the Kremlin gave instructions for a dozen aircraft in East Germany and Poland to be fitted with nuclear weapons. In addition, around 70 SS-20 missiles were placed on heightened alert, while Soviet submarines carrying nuclear ballistic missiles were sent under the Arctic ice so that they could avoid detection.

Nato and its allies initially thought the Soviet response was the USSR's own form of war-gaming. However, the classified documents obtained by the NIS reveal just how close the Russians came to treating the exercise as the prelude for a nuclear strike against them.

Burt stressed that the end of the cold war did not mean that the risks had gone away. "Even though the cold war ended more than 20 years ago, thousands of warheads are still actively deployed by the nuclear-armed states," Burt said. "We continue to face unacceptably high risks and will continue to do so until we have taken steps to abolish these exceptionally dangerous weapons."

# Jamaat thrived on zakat

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constitution and the RPO.

The Jamaat brought some provisional changes in its charter to get registered before the 2008 parliamentary polls. The party promised to amend its charter in line with the RPO by January 24, 2010 to retain its registration, but didn't deliver on the pledges.

Even on expiry of the deadline, it ignored EC's repeated calls for amending its charter in the last three and a half years.

According to the EC's findings, Jamaat's charter contains a number of provisions, including the call for establishing the rule of Islam and refusal to accept parliament's plenary power to enact laws, which don't conform to the country's constitution and the RPO.

Though the party was supposed to lose its registration according to the RPO, it managed to retain its status as a political party due to the EC's inaction.

The RPO says a political party will not be qualified for registration if the objectives and provisions in its charter are at variance with those of the country's constitution and the RPO.

Referring to Jamaat's registration with the EC, the HC said court can interfere in the matter if it thinks that anybody has obtained something through fraudulence, which makes all activities impure and ineffective.

"Its objectives as laid down in its party constitution are ex-facie violation of the basic structure of the constitution," observed the HC.

Public interest and the country's security have been exposed to grave danger by Jamaat's activities based on its express objectives in the party's charter "which in fact purports to subvert and overthrow the constitution of the republic," it said.

Mentioning Jamaat's active role against the nation's struggle for independence, the verdict said Jamaat members were in the enemy's war cabinet and soiled their hands with the blood of unarmed civilians.

During the 1971 Liberation War, they committed genocide, crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, mass rape, acts of arson, and eliminated the nation's prominent intellectuals and professionals.

They also perpetrated other gruesome acts through Al-Shams, Al-Badr, Rajakars, the Peace Committee and other auxiliary forces, and helped the Pakistan occupation forces commit genocide in the name of Islam, said the court.

In their verdicts, International Crimes Tribunals identified the Jamaat as a criminal

# DR Congo army urges rebels to yield ahead of final assault

AFP, Bunagana

The Democratic Republic of Congo army on Friday urged rebel fighters who fled to the hills after being ousted from their last stronghold, to surrender and avoid a final offensive.

Some 200 die-hard fighters were holed up in the mountains, at an altitude of about 2,000 metres, near the eastern town of Bunagana, their final base captured by troops on Wednesday, said government spokesman Lambert Mende.

After over a week of heavy fighting around the town in the lush green, hilly region bordering Uganda, army spokesman Olivier Amuli told AFP the rebels were "caught in a vice".

"We are giving a final chance to all M23 fighters to surrender," Amuli said, as the army carried out mopping up operations in a bid to put an end to an insurgency in the restive, mineral rich North Kivu province.

UN patrols on Friday streamed through on the road leading to Bunagana, a small town without electricity or running water, secured by about 100 army troops.

Some 5,000 people have taken refuge across the border in Uganda since the beginning of the week according to the UN's refugee agency.

Bunagana mayor Leon Bitegeka said "streams of people continue to cross into Uganda" due to the heavy fighting which began eight days ago.

North Kivu governor Julien Paluku said "the objective is to dislodge M23 from the hills overlooking Bunagana".

# Call off hartal

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added the premier.

She also complained that the "opposition leader killed" members of the police, Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and army in the name of movement in the country.

"She [Khaleda] wants to create an anarchic situation in the country to save war criminals.... During the tenure of her last government, the opposition leader had allowed war criminals to fly the national flag in their cars," mentioned the AL chief.

The opposition leader has become desperate to free war criminals who had helped the Pakistani occupation forces to kill people, rape women and carry out arson attacks during the country's Liberation War in 1971.

Organised by the district unit of Awami League, the rally was chaired by its president Zillul Hakim, MP.

Deputy Leader of the House Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, AL leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Minster Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Railways Minister Mojibul Huq addressed the rally, among others.

The BNP-led 18-party alliance yesterday called a 60-hour countrywide hartal from tomorrow morning pressing for a non-party caretaker government to oversee the next national polls.

# Onion prices

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would be Tk 91-95 each kg under the new export price set by India, he added.

Following the abrupt hike in export prices, several hundred trucks carrying onions were left stranded at the Indian territory as traders demanded the new export price.

Alamgir Hossain, an onion importer at Bhomra Land Port, said the export price hike by India along with problems of transportation brought on by countrywide shutdowns have caused a price spiral at the land port.

"Delivery to Dhaka and other wholesale market of the country will be seriously affected by the hartal from Monday," he added.

Meanwhile, TCB yesterday sold the cooking ingredient through 174 trucks in divisional cities and district towns, including 25 trucks in Dhaka, said Humyaun Kabir, spokesperson of the government agency.

Asked the reason behind the higher price, Kabir said the import cost was higher.

He said the open market operation would continue until the newly harvested onion hits the market.

# Graft, politics

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Inclusion of unqualified students in the scheme had caused dropouts, he added.

A total of 56,054 participants were selected for the programme at a cost of Tk 816 crore from the public treasury, though the number of participants was supposed to be around 2,000 as per the original concept of piloting, said Neena Shamsun Nahar, who prepared the research report for the anti-graft body.

In one instance, seven members of a family were selected for the programme, she added.

The programme aimed at making the unemployed youths self-reliant, but it could not achieve the goal due to lack of future plan, resulting in public frustration, said Sultana Kamal, chairperson of the TIB.

A participant received Tk 9,000 as training allowance and Tk 96,000 as work allowance; it was made mandatory for each of the participants to save Tk 48,000 during the period of two years.

The youths above the age of 15 constitute one-third of the country's total population, the report said, adding that 26 lakh of them were unemployed in 2010.

Talking to The Daily Star on October 31, Nur Mohammad, secretary to the youth and sports ministry, said that the government did not take any new project under the programme due to "some problems."

# War crimes verdict today

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If convicted, they might be sentenced to death.

Right after the war and liberation of Bangladesh, newspapers carried photos of Mueen and Ashraf asking people to help capture the two "killers and Al-Badr leaders".

The trial had to be held, after 42 years, in their absence as the International Crimes Tribunal-2's efforts to get then in the dock failed.

Alleged Al-Badr operation-in-charge Mueen is now in London where he has made his name as a community leader. Apart from serving as the chairman of Tottenham Mosque, he also became the director of Muslim spiritual care provision in the National Health Service of the UK, the prosecution said.

Ashraf, alleged chief executor of Al-Badr, is now in New York and has been involved in the conservative Islami Circle of North America.

Their trial was done within just over three months largely because the tribunal-appointed defence lawyers did not have the cooperation of the families of the accused. The lawyers could not even get one defence witness to testify whereas the prosecution brought in 25.

Thirty days after completing the case proceedings, Tribunal-2 on Thursday fixed today for announcing the verdict.

The prosecution and the defence placed their closing arguments between September 23 and September 30.

In their closing arguments, the prosecution said the duo "deserved" capital punishment for



Ashraf

Mueen

the crimes "they had committed" in 1971 while the defence sought acquittals claiming that the prosecution "failed to prove the charges".

The charges are related to the abduction and killing of 18 intellectuals and professionals. The victims were: Dhaka University teacher Prof Mofazzal Haider Choudhury, Prof Munier Chowdhury, Prof Giasuddin Ahmed, Prof Sirajul Haque Khan, Dr Abul Khayer, Dr Faizul Mohiuddin, Prof Rashidul Hasan, Prof Anwar Pasha, Prof Santosh Chandra Bhattacharyya, journalists Serajuddin Hossain, Syed Najmul Haque, ANM Golam Mostafa, Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Selina Pervin, Shahidullah Kaiser, and physicians Fazle Rabbee, Alim Chaudhury and Mohammad Martuza.

This is the second war crimes case that had been held with the accused absent.

The first case was against expelled Jamaat-e-Islami member Abul Kalam Azad who was awarded capital punishment.

# Our four brave martyrs

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less than three months following the assassination of the Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and most members of his family in a bloody coup d'etat on 15 August 1975.

There was hardly any difficulty understanding why these four leaders of the Mujibnagar provisional government were done to death by the very men who had murdered Bangabandhu. The murder of the four leaders, who had been taken into custody by the usurper regime of Khondokar Moshtaque Ahmed and his murderous cabal of majors and colonels soon after the coup in August, was a well-calculated move to prevent them from playing any role in a future Bangladesh. It was the fear among the Moshtaque circle that in the event of a positive change coming into politics, it would be these very four political leaders who would shape the future of Bangladesh anew after the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

And indeed there were all the signs of change in the early days of November 1975 as Brigadier (soon to be promoted to Major General) Khaled Musharraf, along with Col Shafaat Jamil, Col Khondokar Najmul Huda and Major ATM Haider and others, went into action to free Bangabhahan, the presidential office, of the coup makers of August 1975. In effect, Khaled Musharraf was in charge from 3 November, having led a coup that placed Major General Ziaur Rahman, the army chief of staff, under house arrest and that resulted in Musharraf's taking over as the new army chief. The majors and colonels who had committed

the murders of August 1975 were forced from power and Moshtaque had, by 3 November, lost power to all intents and purposes. And in one of the major twists of irony in the new nation's history, the men who had only moments earlier murdered the Mujibnagar leaders in prison, were allowed to fly out of Bangladesh and to Thailand on 3 November. It was after the assassins were safely out of the country that their newest misdeed became known.

Today, the nation pays homage to these four brave men without whose courageous leadership and enlightened politics the history of Bangladesh would not be what it came to be in 1971. In the absence of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who had been flown to West Pakistan by the Pakistan occupation army soon after the Yahya-Tikka regime launched its genocide against the Bengali nation, these four men shaped battlefield strategy against the state of Pakistan. Their spirits kept the nation going. Their dedication to the cause of Bangladesh, as able lieutenants of Bangabandhu, led the people to victory in December 1971.

Today, it would be well to recall that Syed Nazrul Islam as acting president of Bangladesh, Tajuddin Ahmad as prime minister, and M Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman as ministers were instrumental in achieving a first for this nation: for the very first time in Bengali history, they forged a government comprised of and administered by Bengalis, the overarching goal being the liberation of Bangladesh. They did the job well, which is why history honours them every living moment in time.

# Pran finally withdraws

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after The Daily Star published an investigative report yesterday that Pran's turmeric powder sold in the local market contains high level of lead -- between 40 parts per million (ppm) and 55 ppm -- far exceeding the permissible limit of 2.5 ppm set by the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).

The findings came just weeks after the US Food and Drug Administration found as high as 53 ppm of lead in the turmeric powder that Pran exported to the US. The FDA warned consumers that they should avoid the product on health grounds.

Following the disclosure, the company got

tested its products at internationally-accredited organisations such as BSTI and Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR).

The company admitted that some tests confirmed the presence of excess level of lead in its turmeric powder and some tests could not find its presence.

"It seems from our primary assessment that the level of lead might be higher in turmeric produced in some certain areas of Bangladesh, whereas such excess level of lead cannot be found in turmeric produced in other parts."

"Whatever the reasons are, we are committed to delivering quality products to our consumers," said the statement.

# Women flowers, not tamarinds

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tamarind, you want to taste it. No one understood the difference."

The Hefajat chief was addressing a rally in Hathazari Parbati High School ground in Chittagong.

He claimed the video of his sermon, which went viral after being uploaded on YouTube five months ago, did not contain some important points.

"For example, the video did not contain the part of the sermon where I had compared women not to tamarinds, but to flowers. Whenever people see flowers, they want to smell the fragrance. So I was asking women not to go outside without purdah [veil]," he said.

He also denied yesterday that he is against women education, saying, "I only say they must adhere to purdah."

Shafi added, "A journalist once came to me and asked why I say so. I told him I would bring a beautiful woman in front of him to see what effect it has on him. I will do the same for the ministers who refute my argument. A beautiful girl will sit in front of him for two to four minutes. If the minister is a man, he will be able to describe what effect it has on him."

He also denied the allegation that he is opposed to women employment. "Once again, I only want them to have purdah in the workplace," he said.

In the YouTube video, the Hefajat chief in fact says, "Women go to schools, colleges and universities; let them study up to class four or five. They should only learn enough to be able to keep records of their husbands' finances after marriage."

He further tells the crowd in the video, "You are spending lakhs of taka to send them to

schools, colleges and universities. But after a few days, your daughter will get a husband of her own, enter into a love marriage or a court marriage and elope. She will not remember her father."

He went on, "You women should stay within the four walls of your houses. Sitting inside your husband's home you should take care of your husband's furniture and raise your children, your male kids. These are your jobs. Why do you have to go outside?"

He says of a typical garment worker, "She goes to work after Fajr at 7/8:00am and does not come back even at 8/10/12 at night. You do not know which man she is hanging out with. You do not know how much zina [unlawful sexual activity] she is getting involved in. Through zina, she is earning money, which does not bring prosperity."

At the event yesterday, other Hefajat leaders said they would organise a grand rally in the capital on November 15 to press home their 13 demands.

They will also demand a judicial enquiry into the "mass killing" in Shapla Chattar on May 6, compensation for the families of the "martyred", withdrawal of all the "false cases" against Hefajat leaders and activists and release of the arrested.

Hefajat will also stage rallies at Sylhet on November 7 and at Khulna on November 8.

Shafi, who also heads the Qawmi Madrasa Education Board, urged the government not to pass the Qawmi Madrasa Education Authority Act, 2013, in parliament.

"The Qawmi madrasa was never under anybody's control, and will not go under anybody's control in future," he said, referring to the government's initiative to bring Qawmi madrasas under its control.