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Harsh blow to vendors

Blockade cuts sales

HELEMUL ALAM and JAMIL MAHMUD

Street vendors at the entrance and exit points of the capital face a harsh blow during blockades as the number of their customers, mainly inter-district passengers, drops significantly.

On a regular day, thousands of people use five main roads, rail and waterway to enter and leave Dhaka. But the points were seen virtually empty yesterday, the second day of the latest 72-hour blockade, with very few passengers, fewer vehicles and closed counters.

Abu Taher, 42, was selling newspapers at Gabtoli bus terminal that linked the capital with northern and southern parts of the country.

Taher said he usually sold more than 150 copies of daily newspapers on a regular day, but his sale hardly hit 50 in the afternoon yesterday.

"There have been almost no passengers here during the last two days. I have lost almost the entire day," he said.

According to Bangladesh Hawkers Federation, there are around 2.6 lakh vendors in the city who do businesses on footpaths and other places. Of them, 40 percent cannot run their businesses during agitations like hartal and blockade.

Those who dare to continue in such a hostile situation

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



Burnt and half burnt cartons of apparel are unloaded from torched lorries and dumped on the factory yard of Standard Group in Konabari of Gazipur yesterday as garment workers of the lone surviving unit in the building leave after work.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Govt opens probe into Standard Group fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday formed a high-level investigation committee to find out the reasons behind the fire at a Standard Group factory on Friday.

The nine-member committee comprises members of different intelligence agencies and will be headed by Main Uddin Khandaker, additional secretary to the home ministry. The committee will submit its report in seven days.

"It was an act of sabotage. The committee will find out who were behind the fire," Labour Secretary Mikail Shipar said.

The arsonists wanted to dent the image of Bangladeshi garment industries abroad, Shipar said.

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MINISTRY OFFICIALS HT Imam's meeting sparks controversy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former public administration affairs adviser to the prime minister HT Imam yesterday held an "informal meeting" with the officials and employees of the public administration ministry, sparking controversy.

Questions have been raised whether Imam, also co-chairman of Awami League Election Steering

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Green light for food courts

Govt clears way for judicial magistrates to run the courts to check adulteration

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Food courts are finally going to be functional as the government has recently cleared the way for judicial magistrates to run the courts at each district and metropolitan city to check food adulteration.

These courts are meant for dealing with the cases filed in connection with adultera-

tion of food items to relieve consumers across the country of worries.

This court can fine anyone up to Tk 3 lakh for food adulteration and sentence him or her to three years' rigorous imprisonment as per the relevant law.

The law ministry issued a gazette notification on November 20, asking the judicial

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PM accuses Khaleda of 'mass killing'

UNB, Dhaka

Referring to the killing of people in arson attacks on passenger buses as "mass killing", Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia was involved in the crime.

The prime minister came up with the remarks while talking to reporters after visiting the burn victims at Burn and Plastic Surgery Unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

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600 Hindus killed on a single day

Yusuf ordered the killings, freedom fighter testifies at tribunal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A freedom fighter yesterday testified that Razakars had killed 500-600 Hindus at the directive of Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf on a single day at Rampal in Bagerhat in 1971.

Sudhangshu Mandol from Rampal also told the International Crimes Tribunal-2 that Razakars had killed at least seven people near Chulka Bazar in Bagerhat on October 14, 1971 at Yusuf's order.

The 13th prosecution witness in Yusuf's case said cohorts of Yusuf had looted Hindu houses immediate after the war crimes accused made an

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Tamanna Rahman and her troupe perform Manipuri dance on the closing day of the Bengal classical music fest yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Violence shakes Thai capital

4 killed as anti-govt protests spread

AFP, Bangkok

Thai police yesterday fired tear gas and water cannon at protesters trying to storm the government headquarters to overthrow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, after violence in the capital left four dead and dozens wounded.

The bloodshed is the latest in a series of outbreaks of civil strife in the kingdom since royalist generals ousted billionaire tycoon-turned-premier Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck's brother, seven years ago.

The leader of anti-government protests in Thailand called for a general strike for today, amid

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ONLINE POLL

Do you think the two major political parties will be able to reach consensus on holding the next general election?

Yes (17%)

No (83%)

TOTAL VOTES: 333

TODAY'S POLL

Do you think it is justified for the ruling Awami League to nominate controversial candidates and local godfathers for the next parliamentary elections?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING December 2

Azan Jamaat

Fajr 5-15 5-50

Zohr 12-45 1-15

Asr 3-45 4-00

Maghrib 5-19 5-22

Esha 7-00 7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Leading Bangladesh to Prosperity

বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১ পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

জরুরী মতবিনিময় সভা

বিজিএমইএ, বিকেএমইএ ও বিটিএমএ'র যৌথ উদ্যোগে সাম্প্রতিক রাজনৈতিক পরিস্থিতি ও তৈরি পোশাক শিল্পে নাশকতামূলক অগ্নিসংযোগ বিষয়ে আজ ০২ ডিসেম্বর ২০১৩ তারিখ (সোমবার) বিকাল ৩:০০ ঘটিকায় নুরুল কাদের অভিটরিয়াম, বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১ পাছপথ লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-তে এক জরুরী মতবিনিময় সভার আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।

সভায় উপরোল্লিখিত সংগঠনসমূহের সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যগণকে উপস্থিত থাকার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

মহাসচিব, বিজিএমইএ

We Deeply Mourn

We are deeply shocked at the sudden demise of our beloved colleague **Arun Chandra Paul**, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of the Bank, on 30th November, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital & Research Institute, Dhaka due to massive cardiac arrest.

Arun Chandra Paul had a distinguished career in banking service for over twenty years. We request all who might have known him to graciously extend their forgiveness and pray for eternal peace of his departed soul.

- Southeast Bank Family.

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