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UNREST AT CTG EPZ FACTORY

Worker killed in police firing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A female worker of a shoe factory was killed and 12 others were injured during a demonstration in the Korean Export Processing Zone in the district's Anwara upazila yesterday.

The dead worker, Parvin Akter, 20, was a worker of Karnaphuli Shoe Industries Ltd, a company of Korea-based Youngone Group.

Workers alleged she was shot in the head as police without any provocation opened fire during their rally in front of the factory around 1:00am yesterday.

Police, however, said they fired gunshots when the workers hurled brickbats at them.

Earlier in the morning, the workers received monthly wages as per the new pay scale.

But their monthly travel allowance of Tk 400 was reduced to Tk 200, said Jahedul Islam, a production helper of the factory. Besides, their Tk 50 monthly charge for lunch was also increased to Tk 650.

Agitated, they came out of the factory and held the rally. At one stage, the authorities called in the police.

The law enforcers fired live rounds, rubber bullets and teargas shells, leaving Parvin and 12 others wounded, workers said.

The workers fought back using brickbats and sticks, injuring three constables. They also vandalised a factory unit, two trucks and a police microbus and torched the security room.

The situation came under control around 3:00pm, said Mohiuddin Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Karnaphuli Police Station.

Meanwhile, Parvin was taken to Chittagong Medical

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He tucked his limbs inside the flimsy T-shirt torn in places. He managed to fall asleep in a corner where the draught was “bearable”, albeit in a very awkward position. The photo of the boy was taken at Kamalapur Railway Station at 2:30am in the shivering cold yesterday. City in Frame -- page 16.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Enact law, protect us

War crimes witnesses plead for govt move

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

Amid recurrent attacks on war crimes witnesses and people involved with the war crimes trial, several prosecution witnesses yesterday urged the government to enact a witness protection law to ensure their long-term security.

They also demanded the government provide financial assistance to the witnesses as earning a livelihood has become quite difficult for many of them due to fear of fresh attacks by Jamaat-Shibir men for testifying against top Jamaat leaders.

They made the appeal to Barisal Divisional Commissioner Nurul Amin when he went to distribute warm clothes among 20 witnesses and also gave nine

witnesses Tk 5,000 each at the programme at Parerhat Rajlaxmi School and College in Pirojpur, the home district of Sayedee.

“Our family members can’t go out freely as we fear attacks by Jamaat-Shibir men,” said Mahabubul Alam, a witness in Sayedee’s case.

He urged the government to develop a special residential area for the war crimes witnesses.

On October 28, alleged Jamaat-Shibir men stormed Mahabubul’s house. The witness, however, managed to escape the attack hiding in an attic room.

Another prosecution witness in Sayedee’s case, Mostafa Hawlader was hacked in his Pirojpur home on December 8 and

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Three killed in Sirajganj road crash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people were burnt to death as two separate vehicles caught fire in a road accident in Konabari area of Sirajganj last night.

The identities of the dead could not be known immediately as they were burnt beyond recognition.

Superintendent of Police SM Amran Hossain said a head-on collision occurred between a Dhaka-bound vegetable-laden truck from Bogra and another carrying

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Cops to quiz 7 BNP leaders at jail gate

Mahbub's remand stayed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two Dhaka courts yesterday rejected remand and bail petitions of seven BNP leaders including Moudud Ahmed, but allowed police to grill them at jail gate in seven days.

The other BNP leaders are MK Anwar, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, barristers Rafiqul Islam Miah and Mahbubuddin Khokon, BNP chairperson’s adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo and special assistant Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas.

Moudud, Anwar, Khoka, Rafiqul, Mintoo and Biswas were sent to jail for the fourth time, while Khokon for the second time.

A total of four cases were filed against them with Motijheel and Mohammadpur police stations in the capital.

Rafiqul told the court that police did not allow him to take his medicine for diabetes and food on time. He sought justice before the court.

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LINKS WITH MOSSAD

Shoaib jailed for sedition

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Salahuddin Shoaib Chowdhury, controversial editor of the obscure English weekly Blitz, to seven years’ rigorous imprisonment in a case filed against him for sedition.

Mohammad Abdul Hanif, the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Airport Police Station in Dhaka, filed the case against Shoaib on January 24, 2004 for his involvement with the Israeli intelligence

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Shoaib Chowdhury



Tired of the arson, vandalism, violence, blockades, and hartals of the last few months, city dwellers yesterday ignored all risks and went about their business. The shot of the gridlocks was taken at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

HRW protests 'crackdown' on opposition

STAR REPORT

International rights watchdog Human Rights Watch has urged the international community to mount pressure on Bangladesh authorities to end arbitrary arrests while allowing

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Mars recreated in Utah desert!


MAIL ONLINE

Life on Mars doesn’t seem so alien now that a team of scientists have set up a Martian camp in a US desert.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4



The Daily Star



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ONLINE POLL

Do you think that the government would be able to take stern action against the persons responsible for the attacks on minority community?

Yes

No

(22%)

(78%)

TOTAL VOTES: 534

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with BNP standing committee member Mahbubur Rahman that the ongoing movement of the BNP-led opposition alliance is “democratic and peaceful”?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT

www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING		January 10
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:30	5:35
Esha	7:00	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation