



# 5 more RMG factories shut

Cases filed against 239 workers over Ashulia unrest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five more garment factories were shut yesterday in the face of labour unrest in Ashulia, raising the number of closed factories to 60.

The factory owners are suffering a loss of Tk 100 crore a day due to the temporary closure, according to the BGMEA.

Considered one of the important industrial hubs, Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, saw labour protests over the demand for wage hike for the last few days. More than 350 garment factories are located in the area.

Officials of two closed factories -- Windy Appeals Ltd and Fountain Garments -- yesterday filed two cases with Ashulia Police Station against 239 workers, 39 named and 200 unnamed, for looting and vandalising the factories, Mohsinul Kadir, officer-in-charge of the station, told journalists.

Police arrested two workers of Windy Apparels Ltd.

Talking to The Daily Star, State Minister for Labour Mujibul Haque Chunnun said, "We don't know the motive behind the unrest, as neither the labour leaders nor any

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Seventeenth Bohmong Circle King engineer U Chaw Prue collects jhum taxes and traditional gifts from the headmen of 109 mouzas and 1,200 karbaris. A three-day celebration of Rajpunyah, a traditional festival of the Bohmong Circle, began in Bandarban yesterday.

PHOTO: SANJOY KUMAR BARUA

# SUST closed for 15 days after BCL clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) was declared closed yesterday for 15 days after several factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League engaged in a clash the day before.

Soon after the decision of the university Syndicate was announced around noon following an emergency meeting, a group of aggrieved general students launched a demonstration in protest at the decision and they later besieged the vice chancellor inside the administrative building.

The decision was taken after three factions of the BCL grouped up and attacked another faction to overpower the latter at the Shah Paran Hall, a dormitory of the SUST, on Tuesday evening.

Immediately after the clash, the university authorities also asked resident students except the ones staying in the women's dormitories to vacate their rooms and leave the campus by 8:00am yesterday.

In its decision the Syndicate suspended all academic activities including classes and examinations and prohibited all sorts of rallies and processions till January 5, said Prof Dr Kabir Hossain, a member of the Syndicate.

A five-member committee, headed by Prof Dr Jahir Bin Alam, was also formed to investigate the incident, he said, adding that admission and administrative activities will continue during the closure.

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## First Sahara desert snow in 40 years

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

An amateur photographer has captured rare and beautiful images of the first snowfall in the Sahara desert for nearly 40 years.

Karim Bouchetata photographed the fleeting scene on Monday in the small Algerian town of Ain Sefra, which lies in the

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## EU for strong, impartial EC

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The European Union has urged Bangladesh to form an independent, impartial, non-partisan and highly qualified Election Commission to hold the next general elections in a fully participatory way.

The call was made during the biennial meeting of the EU Sub-group on Good Governance and Human Rights in the framework of the EU-Bangladesh Cooperation Agreement in Brussels on Tuesday.

In a press release, the EU expressed concerns on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances, freedom of

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PRAYER TIMING DECEMBER 22

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-25 12-45 3-45 5-28 7-00

JAMAAT 6-00 1-15 4-00 5-27 7-30

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