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LABOUR UNREST IN ASHULIA

Garment factories reopen today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 59 Ashulia-based garment factories reopen today after remaining closed for over two weeks following labour unrest.

Siddiqur Rahman, president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), announced the decision at a press conference at the association's office yesterday.

"In a written statement, 30 workers' associations requested us to reopen the factories as soon as possible. The workers at the factories have also been making the same request.

"Because of the requests and also because of a directive from the prime minister, we decided to reopen the factories tomorrow [Monday]," Siddiqur said.

The workers of factories started work abstention on December 11 demanding their minimum monthly wage be increased to Tk 16,000 from Tk 5,300.

Later, the factory managements decided to shut down their units fearing a massive labour unrest and spillover of the demonstrations at the neighbouring factories.

Replying to journalists' queries, Siddiqur said the factory managements shut down their units as per labour law's 13(1) provision that says "no work no pay".

After the reopening of the factories, the managements will follow the same provision under which the workers might not receive their pays for the

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RELATED STORY IN STAR BUSINESS



The two-stroke Baby Taxis, as they were popularly known, were banned from cities due to their emissions but they are still plying city streets, with many traffic police persons knowing about it. Some of them have been turned into cabriolets to attract passengers. The photo was taken in front of Martyred Intellectuals Memorial at Rayerbazar.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Christmas celebrated

STAR REPORT

The Christian community in the country celebrated their biggest religious festival Christmas yesterday with due religious fervour and gaiety, seeking peace and prosperity of mankind all over the world.

According to Christian beliefs, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, took birth on this day as a man and sacrificed his life for the salvation of mankind.

The day was celebrated in the country with special prayers, decoration of Christmas trees, distribution of presents among children by Santa Claus and exchanging greetings among each other.

Churches across the country were illuminated with colourful lights and festoons to mark the occasion. Churches also organised prayers and cultural

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Recruitment at RU Poor show in job test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A good number of job seekers was absent from a recruitment test held at Rajshahi University yesterday.

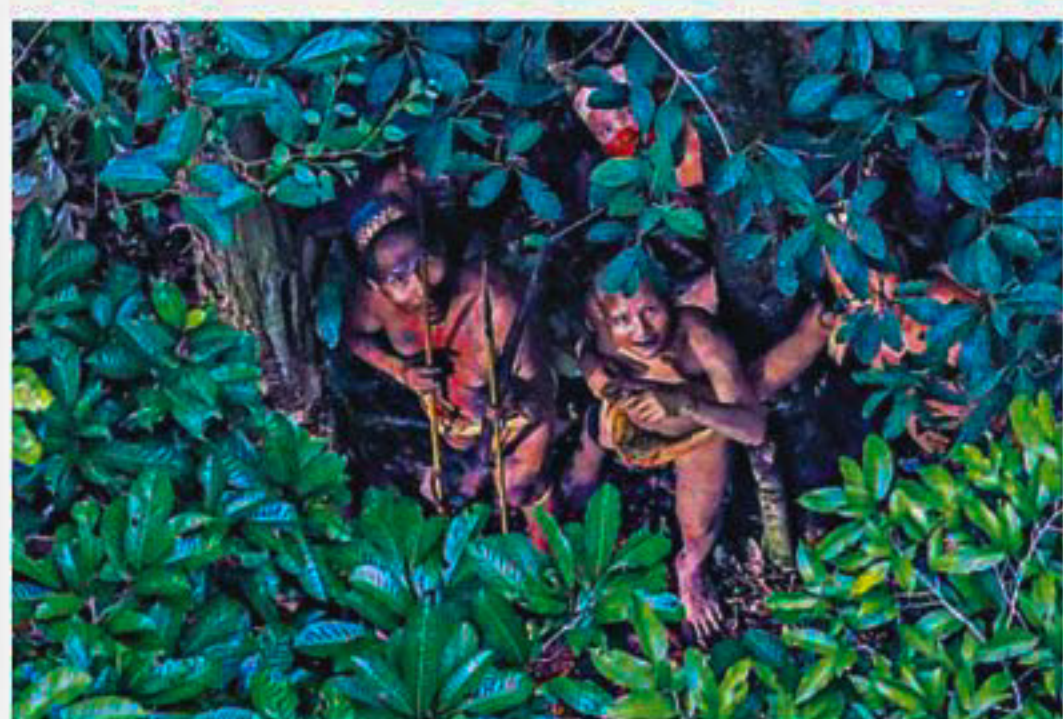
Around 37 percent job seekers, who had applied for 13 posts at Sheikh Russel Model School under the university's Institute of Education and Research (IER), did not sit for the test, said IER Chairman Prof Ansar Uddin.

When asked why the applicant's did not show up, he said they expected more participants. The applicants might have had doubts whether the test would be held in a peaceful manner.

The test began at 9:00am

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Rare Amazon tribe sighted



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Bird's-eye view photographs of an entirely isolated Amazonian tribe have revealed a rare insight into a lost Neolithic way of life.

Brazilian photographer Ricardo Stuckert captured high-resolution images from a low-flying helicopter above members of the indigenous tribe in a jungle in Jordao, close to the Brazil-Peru border.

"I felt like I was a painter in the last century," said

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

JSD to meet president over EC formation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Abdul Hamid this afternoon will sit with Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Inu) at the Bangabhaban for a dialogue on the formation of a new Election Commission.

A 12-member JSD delegation would meet him at 4:00pm, Shirin Akhtar, general secretary of JSD told The Daily Star.

The JSD will be the first political party, among the ruling Awami League-led 14-party grand alliance, to sit with President Hamid on the Election Commission formation.

Party insiders said the JSD would call upon the president to form a strong and independent EC and it

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RAPE IN BANDARBAN Police arrest one suspect

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Police arrested a youth yesterday on suspicion of his involvement in Friday's gang rape incident of an indigenous teenage girl in Rowangchhari.

The arrestee, Kajol Barua, 30, is a leader of the local unit of Jubo League.

Police quoting relatives of the 17-year-old victim said four unidentified men raped the girl in Rowangchhari bus station area around 11:20pm on Friday when her boyfriend and she were going home after attending the Rajpunyah festival.

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AL tries to quell infighting

Looks to do some housekeeping to prepare for next national polls

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and PRANABESH CHAKRABORTY

The ruling Awami League has taken initiatives to resolve intra-party conflicts for keeping its unity intact ahead of the next general elections in 2019.

As part of the initiatives, the new central committee of the AL will hold meetings with district-level leaders in phases. The move also aims at bringing back party discipline at many places, say party insiders.

The party made the move after it had some bitter experiences during local government elections held in the past when rebels, stemmed from intra-party feuds, posed serious threats to party-nominated candidates.

The AL does not want any such repetition during the general elections, they say.

The party insiders also said the recent

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Suicide bomber kills two at Xmas market

AFP, YAOUNDÉ, Cameroon

A suicide bomber apparently targeting a religious site on Christmas day killed two civilians in northern Cameroon, a region often hit by Boko Haram jihadists from Nigeria, the local governor said yesterday.

"The suicide bomber was

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Heartiest Congratulations

Barrister Sumaiya Aziz

Amber Group congratulates its Director Barrister Sumaiya Aziz for being elected as a Director of the Board of Directors of BTMA (Bangladesh Textile Mills Association) for the term of 2017 & 2018.

She presently holds the position of Legal Consultant-Amber Group, Legal Consultant- IBAIS University, Legal Consultant- Chefonline, Director - Amber Group, Director - St. Peter's School of London, Managing Director- News Bangladesh, Arbitrator - Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) Member -Dhaka Bar Association

She has been leading all the organizations very successfully and believes that her excellence will also take BTMA further ahead.

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