

“Getting treatment is one of the fundamental rights of people and the physicians should discharge their responsibilities with utmost devotion...”
PRESIDENT ABDUL HAMID TO DOCTORS AT THE BANGABHABAN (PAGE 5)

“The government is trying to bring back all fugitive convicts, including Tarique Rahman, for putting them on trial.”
LAW MINISTER ANISUL HUQ WHILE TALKING TO REPORTERS (PAGE 3)

“Doing so would be a catastrophic and unforgivable breach of trust in our democracy.”
UK PM MAY WARNS MPS AGAINST FAILURE TO DELIVER BREXIT (PAGE 8)

Workers' wages rise in 6 grades

RMG workers' pay structure revised after PM's directive amid unrest for eight days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After eight days of labour unrest, the government yesterday announced a revised pay structure for the garment sector, with a slight increase in both basic and gross wages in six of the seven grades.

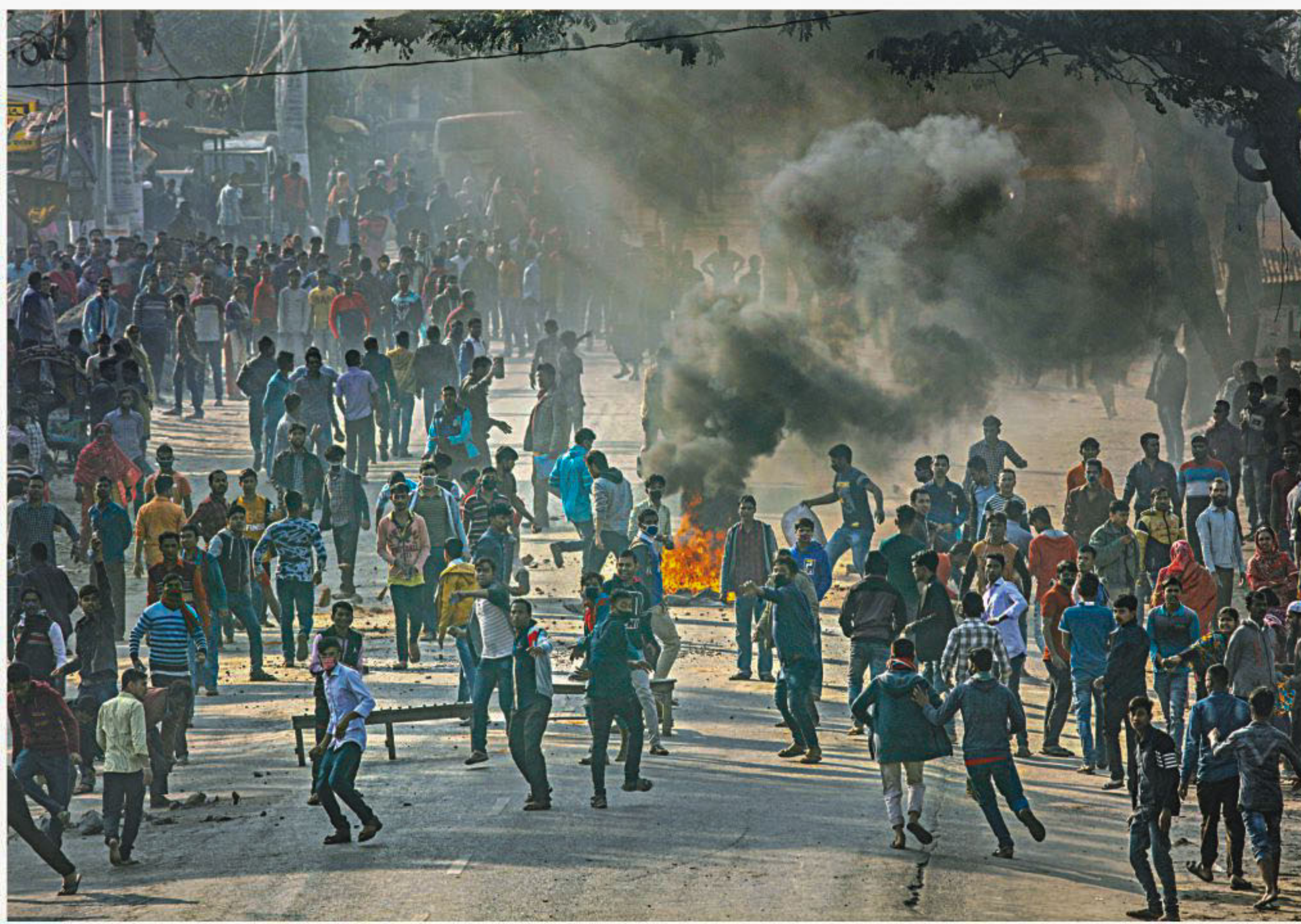
The gross hike ranges from a token Tk 15 to a modest Tk 747, effective from December last year and to be adjusted from February.

In the new pay scale, which comes after years, the annual increment has been fixed at 5 percent.

Workers, protesting since January 6, had been demanding pay raise in three grades in particular -- grade 3, 4 and 5.

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REVISED INCREASE IN WAGE (IN TAKA)						
GRADE	BASIC WAGE 2018 GAZETTE	REVISED BASIC WAGE	RISE IN BASIC WAGE	GROSS WAGE 2018	REVISED GROSS WAGE	RISE IN GROSS WAGE
7	4,100	4,100	No rise	8,000	8,000	No rise
6	4,370	4,380	10	8,405	8,420	15
5	4,670	4,683	13	8,855	8,875	20
4	4,930	4,998	68	9,245	9,347	102
3	5,160	5,330	170	9,590	9,845	255
2	8,520	9,044	524	14,630	15,416	786
1	10,440	10,938	498	17,510	18,257	747



A tire burns on a road in Ashulia while readymade garment workers protest the disparity in the new wage structure yesterday. Workers first signed in at their workplaces before taking to the streets for the eighth day.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



PM vows to carry on fight against graft

BSS, Dhaka

Reiterating her government's firm stance against corruption, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would continue its fight against graft to keep up the country's development spree and uphold its achievements.

"Though it's not possible for any country to root out a hundred percent corruption, it is a responsibility of our government to check corruption so that it cannot impede the country's progress and ruin our all success," she said.

Hasina was exchanging views with senior officials of

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Kamal hails PM's offer of dialogue

To join talks if invited

STAR REPORT

Jatiya Oikyafront Convener Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday appreciated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's decision to hold fresh talks with political parties, saying it was a positive step, the UNB reports.

Talking to UNB, he also said they would take a positive decision about joining the dialogue with the PM after discussions with their alliance partners.

"I called upon the government to hold talks with political parties to find an effective way for holding a

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Opposition can exist outside JS

Khaleda says at hearing in makeshift court

JNU CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said the opposition could exist outside the parliament if they worked for the masses.

Khaleda made the remarks during a hearing on the Niko graft case yesterday at the makeshift court set up inside Old Dhaka Central Jail.

The comment came during the hearing when BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed, an accused in the case, told the court prior to Khaleda's statement, "We are out of the parliament. We are in danger as we are in the opposition party."

At this, one of the lawyers asked, "Are you (BNP) even in the opposition at present?"



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Wear burqa at colleges, universities

Says Hefajat's Shafi about girls pursuing higher education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chattogram

Women have to wear burqas if they want to go to colleges and universities and those institutes have to be run by women, Hefajat-e-Islam's chief Allama Ahmed Shafi said in a statement yesterday.

The statement signed by Shafi which was sent to the media yesterday claimed that his speech on Friday in an annual gathering of Darul Ulum Moinul Islam Madrasa at Hathazari upazila was "distorted with

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Subarnachar rape 'not linked to polls'

NHRC probe finds; victim says the opposite

STAR REPORT

The fact-finding committee of National Human Rights Commission did not find any link between the general election and the gang rape of a housewife in Noakhali's Subarnachar the following day, contradicting the claim of the victim herself.

The woman has all along been alleging that 10 to 12 accomplices of Ruhul Amin, a former member of Char Jubilee Union Parishad, raped her for casting vote for "sheaf of paddy", the electoral symbol of the BNP, in the December 30 polls.

This newspaper obtained video clips of the victim and her husband making the allegation on December 31. She gave similar statements when she talked to journalists

later on.

Ruhul, who had been the publicity affairs secretary of Subarnachar Awami League, was sacked by the party following his arrest in connection with the case.

Evidence of raping and severely beating the victim and inflicting grievous injuries on her has been found, says the report of the committee. "But no link of beating and rape with the 11th parliamentary polls were found during investigation."

The incident took place as a sequel to previous enmity with the accused as cited in the statement of the case filed by the victim's husband, added the report.

After the case was filed, the complainant claimed to have told police that accomplices

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Fizz, Mushy steal the show

SPORTS REPORTER

Bowling figures could hardly tell you anything about what Mustafizur Rahman did to secure a five-run victory for the Rajshahi Kings in the day's first Bangladesh Premier League encounter against Rangpur Riders at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

The left-arm seamer

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Russel, 10, with bruises on his face and bandaged arms, sits in a ward at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was rescued from a rail line in Kamalapur Railway station in a bad condition and was reunited with his mother after almost two months.

PHOTO: HELEMUL ALAM

Govt open to criticism from media

Says new info minister

STAR REPORT

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday welcomed all types of constructive criticism from the media.

"But blind and one-sided criticism is not useful," he told journalists at his secretariat office, reports UNB.

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In absence of proper system, only the lucky ones find loved ones admitted to hospitals as unidentified

HELEMUL ALAM and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Some good Samaritans rescued 10-year-old Russell from the rail lines in Kamalapur Railway Station and rushed him to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on November 8 with serious injuries.

The injuries left him all bloodied and

unable to speak. There was nobody to identify him. Russell was put in Ward-206 of the hospital as an unidentified male patient.

He was arguably lucky as the attendant for the patient in the next bed took care of him. She also raised money to pay for additional costs that came with the surgery

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