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DEMAND FOR PAY HIKE

RMG workers' demo turns violent

They block roads, torch motorbikes, attack AL office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Readymade garment workers yesterday blocked streets in Mirpur, vandalised an office of the Awami League and torched two motorcycles of the party activists during their demonstration -- for the fourth consecutive day -- for salary hike and other demands.

With sticks and machetes, the demonstrators ransacked the AL office of unit-9 at ward-4, located across Kafrul Police Station, witnesses said.

Police could not intervene as the incident involved a huge number of workers.

The protesters also vandalised a nearby restaurant and several vehicles on the street, witnesses and protesters said.

The RMG workers attacked the AL office as some leaders and activists of the ruling party allegedly beat up several of them during their demonstration yesterday, they said.

Witnesses said while vandalising the AL office, protesters also hurled brick chunks towards the nearby Kafrul Police Station.

Some local ruling party men alleged the protesters attacked the local AL office. They immediately sought police support, they said.

Although the police station was nearby, policemen reached the spot after the protesters ended their vandalism, SEE PAGE 5 COL 4



Garment workers demonstrate in Mirpur-13 yesterday demanding salary hike among others. They torched two motorbikes and vandalised an Awami League office for what they said was beating up of fellow workers.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

PHASE-3 UP POLLS

Some MPs violating codes

says an election commissioner

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

A section of lawmakers is violating the electoral code of conduct during campaigning for the third phase of union parishad polls, an election commissioner said.

Subsequently, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda has asked election officials and law enforcers that steps should be taken against lawmakers found violating the electoral code of conduct.

The Election Commission yesterday held a special meeting with top officials of the home ministry, local government division, police, the Rapid Action Battalion and others on the law and order situation ahead of the third phase of UP polls slated for November 28.

A total of 1,000 union parishads of 63 districts will go for polls in the third phase of the election. A total of 2.01 crore voters are expected to cast the vote at 10,059 polling centres.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Point of no return: Yahya

NOVEMBER 25, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

RUSSIA WARNS PAKISTAN
The Soviet Union made a new urgent appeal to Pakistan to desist from escalating the situation in the Indian subcontinent. It warned Pakistan against disastrous consequences should that country persist in its present war like course in total disregard of international counsel for peaceful means of resolving its problems.

The Soviet note delivered to Pakistan demanded the Pakistan military regime to come to political terms with the parties fighting for East Pakistan's independence.

YAHYA ACCUSES INDIA OF DISTURBING PEACE
Pakistan President Yahya Khan said today that the "current situation" had brought his country's relations with India to a point of no return. Inaugurating a China-aided heavy machinery factory at Taxila, he said Pakistan would defend the "honour and integrity" with all forces at its command.

Yahya accused India of having committed aggression against East Pakistan and of disturbing the peace in the subcontinent.

Meanwhile, Pakistan today officially asked Britain to use its influence to prevent a worsening of the India-Pakistan situation.

The Pakistan high commissioner in London General Mohammad Yusuf called on British Prime Minister Heath and handed to him Yahya's message in which the Pakistan president expressed the hope that Britain would use its influence to "restrain India".

ON THE WAR FRONT

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



Bangladesh not invited to Biden's summit

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has not been invited to US President Joe Biden's Summit for Democracy when its South Asian neighbours India, Pakistan and Nepal have made it to the list.

Afghanistan and Sri Lanka also did not make the cut, according to the list published by the White House yesterday.

A total of 110 countries will be joining the summit, which will be virtually held on December 9 and 10.

Israel, considered a major non-Nato ally by the US, and Iraq are the only two countries invited from the Middle East.

Traditional Arab allies of the US -- Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Qatar and the UAE -- have not been invited.

The list also includes Brazil even though its president, Jair Bolsonaro, SEE PAGE 5 COL 1

Nasa launches spacecraft to kick an asteroid off course



AFP, Washington

A Nasa mission to deliberately smash a spacecraft into an asteroid -- a test run should humanity ever need to stop a giant space rock from wiping out life on Earth -- blasted off Tuesday from California.

It may sound like science fiction, but the DART (Double Asteroid Redirection Test) is a real proof-of-concept experiment, the goal of which is to slightly alter the trajectory of the asteroid Dimorphos.

The SpaceX rocket carrying the mission spacecraft lifted off at 10:21 pm Pacific Time SEE PAGE 5 COL 4

The HC has turned into a criminal court: CJ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court is no more a constitutional court now. It has become a criminal court, Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain said yesterday.

"This is not the court [High Court] I had hoped to see before I leave at the end of my service," he said without elaborating.

The chief justice was responding to a plea moved by lawyer Md Ruhul Quddus Kazal to grant bail to a number of convicts in a criminal case. He said this while presiding over a full bench of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division.

Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, who is to retire on December 31, told Ruhul, "We will not grant bail in such a case."

Justice Muhammad Imman Ali, a senior judge of the bench, asked Ruhul why he was seeking bail for his clients from this court when they had earlier lost the case in other courts.

The apex court dropped the bail petition from its cause list.

Contacted, Ruhul told The Daily Star that the chief justice made the comments after he sought bail for his clients who have been sentenced to 14 years in prison.

"We will move the bail petition before the Appellate Division further in January," he said.

Ruhul, however, refused to give details of the case.

Asked about the chief justice's comment, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin refused to comment.

SC lawyer and Editor of Dhaka Law Reports Khurshid Alam Khan said the chief justice perhaps made the comments out of anger or resentment as more and more criminal SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 25

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-10 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00
JAMAAT 5-45 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Zahangir now faces contempt of court rule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a contempt of court rule against Gazipur City Corporation Mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam and three others on charges of grabbing land ignoring its directives.

In the rule, the court asked them to explain within a week why the contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against them for violating its orders.

On Friday, Zahangir, the general secretary of Gazipur city Awami League, was expelled from the party for his controversial comments on Bangabandhu and Liberation War martyrs. His party primary membership was also cancelled.

The bench of Justice Mamnoon Rahman and Justice Khandaker Diliruzzaman yesterday issued the rule after a contempt of court petition was filed by Ashraf Uddin Ahmed, a resident of the SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



Mostly children and teens have a day of fun catching fish with their bare hands in a canal in Baliarpur of Savar yesterday. With the onset of winter, rivers, canals, lakes and ponds have started drying up across the country and festive scenes like this have become common.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

EU considers booster shots for all adults

REUTERS, Brussels

The head of the European Union's public health agency Andrea Ammon yesterday said that Covid-19 vaccine boosters should be considered for all adults, with priority for those above 40 years, in a major change to the agency's guidance.

Recommendations issued by the European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) are not binding on EU governments but are used to make health policy decisions.

"Booster doses should be considered for all adult individuals prioritising persons above 40 years of age," Ammon said in a recorded statement, noting that boosters should be administered at least six months after completing the primary vaccine schedule.

In its previous guidance issued in September alongside the European Medicines Agency (EMA), the ECDC said there was no urgent need for the administration of booster doses to fully vaccinated individuals in the general population, but suggested that additional doses should be considered for people with weakened immune systems and could be used as a precaution for older frail individuals.

"Available evidence emerging from Israel and the UK shows a significant increase in protection against infection and severe disease following a booster dose in all age groups in the short term," the ECDC said in a report published yesterday.

It advised giving boosters to all adults with priority "for those aged 40 years and over".

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