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14 held over workers' unrest in Savar, Ashulia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

The Bangladesh Army, police, and Industrial Police detained 14 people in a joint operation on Thursday night over vandalism and assaults on factory staffers amid garment workers' unrest in Ashulia and Savar.

Ahmad Mueed, Dhaka district superintendent of police, said that 11 of the suspects were held in Ashulia and three in Savar, reports our Savar correspondent.

"We have detained a total of 14 suspects for their involvement in creating unrest in the industrial area, attacking garment factories, and committing acts of vandalism," said Mueed.

He added that authorities are investigating the detainees' connection with the unrest. Their names were not immediately available.

The operation came after the interim government warned of tough steps against anarchy as around 200 factories suspended production amid the worker unrest for better pay in Gazipur, Savar and Ashulia.

After a meeting on Wednesday, SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Parked trucks and makeshift shops have more than halved the room for vehicles to pass on Dhaka-Chattogram highway in the capital's Jatrabari, leading to traffic snarls. The photo was taken around 1:00pm yesterday from the Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover.

Ex-bureaucrats to be under ACC scanner

DIPAN NANDY

The Anti Corruption Commission has recently decided in principle to investigate corruption allegations against those former top bureaucrats who served during the Awami League rule over the last 15 years.

The ex-bureaucrats used their office for personal gains, senior ACC officials told The Daily Star.

A high-ranking ACC official said, "The former bureaucrats worked for the last three full-term governments to grant legitimacy to many wrongdoings by those governments. In exchange for providing benefits to the government, they got special privileges.

"Numerous complaints have been filed with the ACC against those former bureaucrats. They have amassed huge wealth," he told The Daily Star, wishing not to be named.

The graft watchdog could not take any action against those bureaucrats previously due to pressure from the AL-led governments, the official said.

An ACC investigator said they will probe corruption allegations against former cabinet secretaries, principal secretaries to the prime minister, secretaries at the Prime Minister's Office, a public administration secretary, and a secretary of the Energy Division. The ACC will also investigate the assets of the ex-bureaucrats' wives and children.

On August 25, the graft watchdog decided to launch SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

New species of titanosaur discovered

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK



Paleontologists have discovered a new species of dinosaur that lived in Spain some 75 million years ago.

The sauropod — dinosaurs that are characterized by their long necks and tails, four thick legs, and small heads — was an herbivore that

lived in Cuenca, around two hours outside of what is now the nation's capital, Madrid.

It has been named Qunkasaura pintiquiniestra, a reference to the area it lived in, the Latin name for lizard, contemporary Spanish painter Antonio Saura, and a character from the novel Don Quixote.

Nicknamed "Qunka," the species is a medium-to-large-sized titanosaur, reaching nearly 50 feet long and weighing more than 10 tons. The distance from its shoulder to its foot was around 10 feet.

Researchers with the Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia's Evolutionary Biology Group published their findings Tuesday in the journal Nature Communications Biology.

Alive during the Cretaceous Period, Qunka was found at the fossil site of Lo Hueco, or "The Hollow." The quarry was first discovered in May of 2007, and was excavated during the construction of a high-speed railway between Madrid and Valencia. Archaeologists collected more than 12,000 fossils during the installation of the tracks, which has become one of the most relevant collections of fossil vertebrates from the Upper Cretaceous period in Europe.

Ex-minister's son held with gun, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

The son of a former minister was arrested in Pabna's Ishwardi early yesterday on charges of attacking a student-led mass protest on August 4.

Shirhan Sherif Tomal, son of former land minister late Shamsur Rahman Sherif Dilu, was detained from a house in Alobag area under Ishwardi municipality.

Acting on a tip-off, a team from Rab-12 (Pabna camp) conducted the drive in the early hours, according to a press release.

During the drive, Rab also seized a foreign-made pistol, a magazine, and four rounds of bullets from his private car.

Tomal is a key accused in a case filed with Ishwardi Police Station for attacking students and protesters on August 4 that left many injured.

Besides, Tomal is also accused in five other cases, the Rab press release said.

The arrestee has been handed over to police for necessary legal measures, the press release added.

Trail of destruction as Israeli forces leave Jenin

Netanyahu denies US claim that '90 percent of truce agreed'

AGENCIES

Israeli forces pulled out of the Palestinian city of Jenin yesterday, leaving a mass of damaged buildings and infrastructure, following one of the biggest security operations in the occupied West Bank in months.

Road diggers began clearing piles of debris and rubble left by the operation, which involved hundreds of troops and police backed by helicopters and drones entering all areas of the city and the adjacent refugee camp as well as surrounding villages.

Thousands of residents were displaced from their homes during the nine-day operation, during which troops fought running gunbattles with Palestinian fighters from factions including Hamas and Islamic Jihad and Fatah.

"When they entered, they used bulldozers and began destroying everything. They left nothing," said Jenin resident Samaher Abu Nassa.

Water and electricity services remain cut and around 20 km of roadway was dug up by Israeli bulldozers, a tactic the military said was aimed at neutralising roadside bombs but which has ripped up much of the centre of the city.

A statement from the military said 30 explosives planted under the roads had been dismantled.

The Palestinian foreign ministry accused the

military of transferring the tactics used to level the Gaza Strip into the West Bank.

There was no official confirmation that Israel's military had withdrawn from Jenin, a bastion of Palestinian armed groups, but AFP journalists reported residents returning home.

The pull-out came with Israel at loggerheads with its main ally the United States over talks aimed at forging a truce in the Gaza war, now nearly in its 12th month.

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken urged both Israel and Hamas to finalise a truce deal, saying: "I think based on what I've seen, 90 percent is agreed."

But Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu denied this in an interview with Fox News, saying: "It's not close."

Washington and fellow mediators Qatar and Egypt have been pushing a proposal to bridge gaps between both sides.

Netanyahu insists on a military presence on the border between Gaza and Egypt along the so-called Philadelphi Corridor.

Hamas is demanding a complete Israeli withdrawal, saying it agreed months ago to a proposal outlined by US President Joe Biden.

In Israel, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock yesterday said that "a purely military approach is no solution to the situation in Gaza", after the recovery of six dead hostages

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Hasina, Quader, 124 others sued in Nilphamari

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, Awami League General Secretary and former minister Obaidul Quader, former home minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, and 123 others have been sued on charges of arson and vandalism.

Mokbul Hossain, district superintendent of police, told The Daily Star yesterday that the case was filed by district Swechchhasebak Dal leader Abdus Salam Babla with a court in the district on Thursday.

With this latest case, Hasina is now facing at least 130 cases, including 12 complaints related to crimes against humanity and genocide. Most of the other cases are related to murder charges.

This spree of cases filed against Hasina and others has prompted experts and the interim government to issue warnings. She is currently in India, having fled Bangladesh on August 5 in face of a mass uprising.

Other accused in the case include Central Chhatra League President Saddam Hossain, former Nilphamari-2 lawmaker Asaduzzaman Noor, and several other district-level leaders of the Awami League, Swechchhasebak League, and Chhatra League.

An additional 300 unidentified persons were also named as accused in the case, read the case statement.

According to the details of the case, on August 4, students along with the general public, staged a rally.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3

Ukraine needs more weapons

Says Zelensky at military aid meet in Germany

AFP, Ramstein Air Base

President Volodymyr Zelensky joined a meeting of Ukraine's international backers in Germany yesterday, appealing for additional weapons as Kyiv faces advancing Russian forces in the east and devastating strikes by Moscow.

He was also due to meet German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and then head to Italy, following the meeting at Ramstein Air Base, which comes days after 55 people were killed and 300 wounded in a Russian missile strike on the city of Poltava.

"We need more weapons to drive Russian forces off our land," Zelensky said.

He also urged Kyiv's supporters to follow through on previous commitments, saying: "The number of air defence systems that have not been delivered is significant."

And he again called for restrictions on the use of long-range Western weapons to hit targets inside Russia to be lifted.

"We need to have this long range capability, not only on the occupied territory of Ukraine, but also on the Russian territory," Zelensky said.

The meeting at the base southwest of Frankfurt is being hosted by US defence chief Lloyd Austin, who announced that Washington will provide \$250 million in new military aid for Ukraine.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



This recent undated handout photograph, released by the Presidential Brigade of the Armed Forces of Ukraine on September 5, 2024, shows the ruins of the Ukrainian town of Vovchansk, in the Kharkiv region, located approximately five kilometers from the border with Russia.

PHOTO: AFP

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Gazi Tyres factory set on fire, again

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Criminals again looted and torched the Gazi Tyres factory in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila yesterday afternoon, a day after a similar incident at the plant.

A building of the plant had been gutted nearly a week ago.

Some people again broke into the factory and set it on fire after the waste section after looting goods yesterday, said Abdul Mannan, deputy assistant director of Narayanganj Fire Service and Civil Defence.

It took one and a half hours for the firefighters to douse the fire.

Around 1:30am on Thursday, some miscreants set fire to the factory's east portion.

Factory officials said people looted the factory and set it on fire after the Awami League government's fall on August 5 amid a mass uprising. The factory's owner Golam Dastagir Gazi was a minister of that government.

They torched a six-storey building on August 25. The blaze was brought under control after around 22 hours, and doused after five days.