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DEFAULTED LOANS Not possible to reopen Beximco's 16 RMG factories

Says labour adviser following
laid-off workers' demand for
resuming operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Considering the sheer volume of Beximco's debt, the government does not think it's feasible to reopen the textile and garment factories that were taken out of production by the group, Labour Adviser Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussain said yesterday.

"Although the employees of the group are demanding the reopening of the closed production units, it cannot happen now because these factories have so much debt that it's no longer viable to have them in operation," he said at a press conference at the Secretariat in the capital.

The adviser said Beximco Group's total bank debt stands at over Tk 40,000 crore, including Tk 29,925 crore taken against 32 factories in Beximco Industrial Park.

"Of those 32 factories, 16 exist only on paper. But these factories were used [as collateral] to take loans."

And of the total debt, Janata Bank alone is owed Tk 23,285.42 crore.

In December last year, Beximco laid off thousands of workers across its 16 textile and garment units, citing a decline in work orders from international clothing retailers and brands.

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80 shrines, Sufi centres attacked in last 6 months Says Global Sufi Organisation, demands judicial probe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 80 mazars (shrines) and darbar sharifs (Sufi centres) were attacked by extremist groups across the country over the last six months, according to "Global Sufi Organisation".

The Bangladeshi organisation said the attacks involve vandalism, arson, looting, and murder.

During a press briefing at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the organisation placed a four point demand -- an immediate judicial probe into all attacks, enhanced security for those religious structures, prohibition of anti-Sufi sermons at mosques and religious gatherings, and compensation for the damaged structures and the families of those affected in the attacks.

The organisation also sought executive orders directing law enforcement agencies to ensure the safety of the religious establishments and their followers.

Hasan Shah Dipu Noore, a member of the organisation's central executive committee, said followers of Sufism are peace-loving and are not involved in any criminal activities. Every person in this country has the freedom to practice their own religion, he said.

"It is a matter of grave concern that followers of the Sufi saints are being attacked."

The Global Sufi Organisation said it represents 5,000 shrines, darbar sharifs, and their followers across Bangladesh. It warns that any attacks on Sufi followers and

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Risking life and limb, people cross the Tongi flyover. Buses frequently stop on the flyover to pick up and drop off passengers, blatantly ignoring a sign (not seen in the photo) that reads "No stopping here". This dangerous practice poses a serious risk to people. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

84 students
suspended
from CU
Univ says they
attacked students,
journos during
uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,
Chittagong

The authorities at Chittagong University have suspended 84 students on charges of attacking students and a journalist during the July mass uprising.

While the CU authorities did not disclose the duration of the suspension or the specific departments and academic years of those suspended, they confirmed that the students were affiliated with the recently banned Chhatra League.

The decision was made during a meeting of the university's Board of Residence, Health, and Discipline Committee on Monday.

The matter was disclosed to the media yesterday.

Pro Vice-Chancellor (Administration) Prof Md Kamal Uddin said 73

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Produce in US or pay tariffs Trump tells Davos elites

AFP, Davos

US President Donald Trump issued a blunt warning to global elites in a video message to the World Economic Forum yesterday: Make your product in the United States or pay tariffs.

Beamed on a giant screen in the Swiss Alpine village of Davos, Trump received a loud round of applause from political and business A-listers who had eagerly awaited his appearance all week.

Speaking from the White House, Trump touted his plans to cut taxes, deregulate industries and crack down on illegal immigration.

But he also had a tough message.

"Come make your product in America and we will give you among the lowest taxes of any nation on earth," Trump said.

"But if you don't make your product in America, which is your prerogative, then very simply you will have to pay a tariff."

In his wide-ranging speech, Trump made a link between the war in Ukraine and oil prices.

Trump said he would ask Saudi Arabia and the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to bring down crude prices.

"If the price came down, the Russia-Ukraine war would end immediately," he said.

The US leader then fielded question from the top executives of Bank of America, Blackstone investment firm, Spanish group Banco Santander and French oil and gas giant TotalEnergies.

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Federal judge
blocks Trump's bid
to restrict birthright
citizenship

S Arabia promises
Trump \$600b trade,
investment boost

Israel continues West Bank raids after Gaza carnage

Hundreds flee Jenin; 10 Palestinians
killed, 40 more injured

AFP, Jenin

A Palestinian official said hundreds of residents of the occupied West Bank's Jenin refugee camp were leaving their homes yesterday, days into a large-scale Israeli raid in the area.

"Hundreds of camp residents have begun leaving after the Israeli army, using loudspeakers on drones and military vehicles, ordered them to evacuate the camp," where Israel's military launched an intense military operation this week, Jenin governor Kamal Abu al-Rub told AFP.

The army told AFP that it was "unaware of any evacuation orders for residents in Jenin as of now".

Saudi Arabia has condemned Israeli forces' attack in the occupied West Bank's Jenin area, the Saudi Press Agency said early yesterday.

The Israeli military said yesterday it killed two Palestinians overnight during the raid in Jenin.

The Ramallah-based Palestinian health ministry said Israeli authorities had informed it of the deaths of Nazzal, 25, and Shalabi, 30. "The bodies are being withheld" by the army, it added in a statement.

Salim Saadi, a Jenin resident who lives on the edge of the refugee camp, told AFP that the army had asked camp residents to leave between 9:00 am (0700 GMT) and 5:00 pm.

"There are dozens of camp residents who have begun to leave", he said. "The army is in front of my house. They

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Spot-bellied Eagle-Owl spotted in the wilderness of Hazarikhil in Fatikchhari of Chattogram. The majestic bird with a formidable appearance is also known as forest eagle-owl. The owl is nocturnal and often spends its day hidden in the dense foliage of large forest trees.

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Ziaul Ahsan got Antiguan citizenship for \$2 lakh

ACC finds he also
invested \$1.35m there

DIPAN NANDY

Ex-Major General Ziaul Ahsan and his family members got the citizenship of Antigua and Barbuda by spending \$200,000 and investing another \$1.35 million in the twin-island state in the eastern Caribbean Sea, investigators said yesterday.

There were transactions of at least Tk 170 crore in his accounts with banks in the US, UAE, and Malaysia, the Anti-Corruption Commission has found in an investigation.

Ziaul, who was the director general of the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre, was relieved of his duties by the army after the fall of the Awami League regime in early August.

The anti-graft body

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HASAN AHMED
5 March 1964 - 24 January 2022
Former Managing Director & Director

Today 24th January 2025 is the 3rd death anniversary of Mr. Hasan Ahmed. His bereaved mother, brothers, sisters, officers and employees of the company seek forgiveness from Allah subhanahu wa ta'ala for his departed soul.

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