METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

Khulna jute

mill workers

resume work

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Agitating workers and employees of

eight state owned Jute mills of

Khulna-Jessore industrial belt

resumed their work vesterday

following an agreement between

the government and the Khulna

regional unit of Patkal Sangram

BJMC head office in Dhaka. The

workers had been observing the

strike since September 5 to realise

The meeting was presided over

by Jute Secretary AFM Solaiman

Chowdhury and were attended by

Chairman of BJMC Md Shafiqul

Islam, Director (Finance) of BJMC

Kamaluddin, Joint Convener of

Patkal Sangram Parishad Hafizur

Rahman Bhuiyan, President of

People's Jute Mill Workers' Union

Abdul Malek, President of Crescent

Jute Mill Workers' Union Siddigur

Rahman, President of Jessore Jute

Industry (JJI) Workers' Union

Golam Kibria, President of

Khalishpur unit of Sramik Dal Abul

Kalam Zia and President of Star

Jute Mill Workers' Union Molla

A statement issued yesterday by

Patkal Sangram Parishad (PSP) said

the strike was called off as the gov-

ernment has agreed to fulfill their

demands for payment of all arrears,

appointment of casual workers as

permanent ones and payment of

Jessore Industrial belt had been

observing the strike for 152 hours

since September 5, causing a loss

of Tk 12 crore to the government

HC grants bail

Jute mill workers of Khulna-

wages of the agitating period.

Abdus Sattar

their eight-point demand.

The bilateral talks were held at

Parishad.

Entire nation wants electoral reforms

14-party leaders tell grand rally

stated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition combine yesterday said if the prime minister hands over power to Justice KM Hasan the probable chief of the caretaker government, without carrying out electoral reforms, it would be a crime for which she will have to face trial. Dr Kamal Hossain

They alleged that Khaleda Zia is violating the constitution in a bid to make BNP partisan KM Hasan as chief of the caretaker government.

The 14-party leaders were addressing a grand rally at Paltan Maidan in the city with Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina in the chair

The opposition combine organised the rally to force the government to bring reforms in the caretaker government and the Election Commission (EC) in order to hold a free and fair election in the country. Tens of thousands of people from

across the country joined the rally turning it into a human sea. Asking the prime minister to

accept the reforms within the tenure of the present government, the opposition leaders reiterated that they would not take part in any election if their demand for electoral reform is not met.

They vowed that they would not allow any election to be held in the country without the implementation

raised their hands to say yes while Dr Kamal asked them whether they of electoral reforms. "Whenever Khaleda speaks on want a free and fair election? reform proposals, she always refers Addressing the rally, Workers' to the constitution. But she is giving a Party President Rashed Khan wrong explanation of the constitution

Menon said the BNP-Jamaat governto mislead the countrymen for politiment has been hatching conspiracy cal gain," said Gono Forum President to rig the next election. The right to holding elections "It is clearly stated in the constitu-

under a democratic system is the tion that election should be held result of a long struggle by the under a neutral and non-partisan masses, he said, adding, "To protect caretaker government. As per the this democratic rights, the masses constitution, election could not be held under the current partisan EC," will again take weapons in their hands like 1971. said Dr Kamal, also the president of Senior leaders including Motia

National Unity Front. Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta, The eminent jurist urged the prime Bimal Biswas, Sheikh Fazlul Karim minister to accept the opposition's Selim, ABM Mohiuddin demand before facing trial on charge of violating the constitution. "Violation Chowdhury, Obaidul Quader, Hasanul Haque Inu, Badruddin and opposing constitution is tantamount to crime of sedition," the jurist Ahmed Kamran, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Abdur Rahman, Nurul Islam, Mokbul Dr Kamal asked the government to seek apology for torturing the Hossain, Mainuddin Khan Badal, opposition demonstrators and Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Fazle

female workers. Hossain Badsha, Syed Jafar He warned that the government Sazzad. Qamrul Islam and would have to be accountable for all Sayeed Khokon also addressed these extra-constitutional crimes. the rally "We have got mass support in

now in favour of the electoral reforms

During the month, the office Tens of thousands of people prayers.

The cabinet meeting, chaired by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, also approved the drafts of Shaheed Ziaur Rahman University Act, 2006, Carmichael University Act, 2006 and Sylhet Agriculture University Act, 2006. The universities will be set up in Barisal, Rangpur and Sylhet.

The meeting also approved necessary amendment proposals for Jail Code formulated during the British rule in 1864. It approved the proposals for amendments to 418 sections and abolition of 230 sections of the Jail Code, out of its 1388 sections

The draft of Administrative Tribunals (Second Amendment) Act, 2006, aiming to bring Employment Bank under the administrative tribunals, was also approved at the meeting.

DU JCD declares 12 BCL activists

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of the ruling BNP, yesterday declared 12 BCL activists unwanted, who are responsible for the attack on journalists on Dhaka University (DU) campus on Saturday

organised by the DU unit of JCD in front of the Arts Building to protest the attack

"Those who destroyed the politi-

cadres on the campus.

Bari Babu said attack on journalists by BCL cadres is their "common behaviour.

Rashid Mamun, the rally was addressed by Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Abdul Kader Bhuiyan Jewel and Saiful Islam Firoz.

At least five reporters were



PHOTO: STAR Police charge baton on the demonstrators who tried to remove barbed wire fences at Paltan intersection in the city vesterday after the 14-party opposition combine's grand rally.

MINIMUM WAGE FOR RMG WORKERS Minister calls for agreement between owners, workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Garment owners and workers should reach an agreement on workers' monthly minimum wage creating a win-win situation for both of them, said Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain vesterday.

He was speaking at a function organised to handover cheques for insurance money to the families of the garment workers who died during their service. The function

was held at BGMEA Conference Room in the city. Speaking as chief guest, the

minister said workers should demand as much as the owners can afford and at the same time the owners should consider that wage of all section of people including

day labourers increased over the

BGMEA has a joint programme last few years with United Nations Population Terming the recent unrest in the apparel sector a 'conspiracy', he Fund (UNFPA). said when the country's export Besides, group insurance is a increased after the post-MFA must for every garment industry so

period, a vested quarter had plotted that families of deceased garment to destroy the industry. workers get some support, he The minister warned the added. BGMEA President Fazlul Huq BGMEA leaders that it would be

unfortunate if the industry becomes lamented that a section of civil a victim of conspiracy again. society consider garment owners Speaking on the occasion, as exploiters.

In the face of a conspiracy against the sector, it is the respon sibility of all to protect the industry from ruination, he added. A total of 26 families received

in Ctg 'vulnerable'

So far 10 medical centres have cheques for Tk 1 lakh each at the

Matin said to ensure better treatment for garment workers,

function Eight other families would receive the same amount from BGMEA's Chittagong office. All 260 Puja mandaps

instruction, the 12 police stations

under CMP prepared a list of only 89

mandaps as 'most vulnerable' but

the Additional Deputy

Commissioner (Special Branch)

AKM Mosharraf Hossain Meazi

made another updated list, identify-

ing all the city Puja mandaps as

nel are asked to report by

September 27 to the assistant

commissioners of the CMP

zones concerned, Mosharraf told

Shadhona and Unesco jointly organise

a semi-classical musical soiree titled

'Gaaner Jhawarna Tawlai'. Venue:

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Time:

Bangabandhu Sanskritik Jote

organises a memorial meeting to pay

tribute to poet Shamsur Rahman.

Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time:

Memorial meeting

The designated BDR person-

vulnerable, sources said

reporters yesterday.

to ex-MP lqbal, Lotus Kamal **UNB**, Dhaka The High Court granted bail to former Awami League lawmaker Dr

HBM lobal and the party's Comilla district convener AHM Mostafa Kamal alias Lotus Kamal in separate criminal cases after they surrendered before the court yesterday.

A vacation bench of Justice Salma Masud Chowdhury and Farid Ahmed granted Dr Iqbal ad-interim anticipatory bail and Lotus Kamal a

regular bail on separate petitions. Iqbal secured bail in connection with a case of vandalism in the capital's Tejgaon area during the dawn-to-dusk hartal enforced by the 14-party opposition combine on September 10 to press home the demand for electoral reforms.

Lotus Kamal, who remained



favour of free and fair election," he

said, adding that the entire country is

Members of visiting European Union Election Observation Exploratory Mission meet Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad at the party's Banani office in the city yesterday.

Harrowing tale of false death convict

New office timing during Ramadan

UNB, Dhaka

The cabinet at its weekly meeting yesterday approved new office timing for all government, nongovernment and autonomous bodies for the month of holy Ramadan.

hours will be from 9:00am to 3:30pm from Sunday to Thursday with a 15minute break from 1:15pm for Zohr

ATTACK ON JOURNALISTS

unwanted

DU CORRESPONDENT

The declaration came at a rally

cal environment of the university and the dignity of Modhu's Canteen, have lost their right to continue their activities on the campus," said Azizul Bari Helal, JCD central unit

president He said JCD would resist 12 BCL

Indian water JCD General Secretary Shafiul resources

minister "Earlier their mother organisation (Awami League) banned all newsarrives today papers in the country, now the student body is following them to UNB, Dhaka gag the press," he added.

Presided over by Mamunur Indian Water Resources Minister Prof Saifuddin Soz arrives in Dhaka today to attend Bangladesh-India official talks aimed at resolving problems relating to common rivers.

BGMEA Vice-president Lutfur Rahman Matin said they have taken up a number of steps to ensure medicare of garment workbeen set up at different garment

factories, he added

STAFE CORRESPONDENT

The harrowing days in a condemned cell, where a false death convict spent more than two years, still haunts him

Shah Alam Babu who was falsely implicated in a murder case and condemned to death is yet to recover from his mental shock though he has returned to his nearer and dearer ones.

"I had lost my faith in the judiciary and was engulfed with the only thought of death during the last two vears." he told The Daily Star. adding that it seemed the death was just waiting in front of the door of a tiny dark room.

"I was never allowed to go outside the room and had to bear in mind that I would embrace death without proper justice," he said.

Babu, a poor fellow, said he still could not believe that he is freed and staying with his close relatives.

While talking to this correspondent. Babu gave a blank look as he could not sleep even after being freed from the condemned cell

The innocent man was wrongly

Illegal factory

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Police yesterday unearthed an illegal

He went into hiding as he sensed

Manager of the factory Arup

Police recovered machines and

They also seized 400 litres of

spurious shampoo contained in two

tin-made jars, 10,000 empty packets

A case was filed with Khulna

of orsaline and 30 litres of chemical

Sadar Police Station in this connec-

required for making lotion.

raid by police in the early morning of

Kumar Das was arrested on the spot.

materials required for making spuri-

ous hair shampoo, vermicelli,

unearthed

in Khulna

hair shampoo and sugar.

vesterday

orsaline and sugar.

identified as Sundar Babu, the main in Dhaka in 2004

without any evidence against him.

Sundar Babu in the murder case to take revenge against him for a dispute over money. As Babu did not give Rezaul a

murder case.

the court.

accused in a murder case, and sentenced to death by a lower court

transport workers, was shot dead at his house in Sutrapur on March 14, 1998. Rezaul Karim. now officer-incharge of Hazaribagh Police Station, investigated the case and submitted the charge sheet implicating Babu

> The media had earlier reported that the IO had put Babu in place of

HC comprising Justice Iman Ali and Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman directed bribe for storing alleged Indian clothes in his block factory, he threatthe government and police authorities to take stern action against Rezaul Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights moved for Babu challenging the

On July 2003, he surrendered before the court and was granted

Later he was arrested on August 18, 2004 as he went to appear before

Gazi Liaqat Hossain, a leader of others

> September 14. completion of a hearing of the death

August 29.

ened him to take revenge, said family members of Babu who soon came to know that he was implicated in a

Although Liagat's wife Rokeva Begum had testified in the lower court

and general secretary attacked a that Babu was not among the killers press conference of rival faction at of her husband. Third Additional Modhu's Canteen. Metropolitan Sessions Judge DU authorities directed police to hamsul Alam Khan awarded death

arrest the 12 BCL leaders and penalty to three persons including activists if any one of them is seen in Babu, and life imprisonment to five and around the campus. On Sunday the authorities tem-

A High Court (HC) order, however, porarily expelled four BCL activists released Babu from Kashimpur for attacking the journalists on the Central Jail at Gazipur on campus.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan The HC delivered its verdict on Ripon told The Daily Star that they are going to form a probe committee reference and appeal in the case on to find out the responsible BCL men A death reference bench of the

for attacking the reporters. About JCD's declaration, he said, "What the JCD had said is not our concern. If JCD tries to hatch any conspiracy, BCL will resist it politically.

One stabbed to death, another dies of gas poisoning in Ctg STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A garment worker was stabbed to death, allegedly by his brother in-law, in the city's South Halishahar area on Sunday night while a worker died of gas poisoning at an aluminium factory in Kalurahat Heavy Industrial Area early yesterday.

The garment worker, Belal Hossain, 24, was stabbed by his sister's husband Lokman Hossain during an altercation at his house, injuring him critically, police said.

They said Belal, a worker of Siraj and Sons Garments, took Tk 5 thousand from his sister Sabina a few days ago. Since then, Sabina's husband was insisting him on returning the money.

A patrol team of Bandar Police Station took injured Belal to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where the doctors pronounced him dead at around 10:30pm.

Lokman went into hiding soon after the incident. Sabina filed a case in this connection yesterday.

In the other incident, four workers of Aramit Thai Aluminium Factory fell sick due to gas poisoning at around 11:00pm on Sunday. Of them, Shyamol died at around 3:00am yesterday.

The three others -- Ali Akbar, Suman Mian and Mashiur -- were undergoing treatment at CMCH. sources said

morning at Sonargaon Hotel. Water and workers backed by its president Resources Minister Hafizuddin Ahmed will lead the home side at the talks

Ministry sources said various problems centring 13 cross-border rivers, riverbank protection works, minor lift- irrigation schemes, drinking water-supply scheme and the dredging of Ichamati River may come up for discussion.

The talks will start tomorrow

Prof Soz's trip follows the visit of Water Resources Minister Hafiz Uddin to Northeast India last week.

The talks are taking place within the ambit of the Joint Rivers Commission as part of a vigorous effort to remove the irritants that often lead to border clashes between the two countries

Hotel boy gunned down, phone-fax shop owner shot in city STAFF CORRESPONDENT

> Unknown criminals gunned down a hotel boy and wounded another at a residential hotel at Banani last night. The dead is Mohammad Nazim,

30, and the injured is Mohammad Jewel, 15. Several armed youths

stormed into the hotel, Fancy Inn, at about 7:30pm and sprayed bullets on them at the reception counter.

Nazim received two bullets in his legs and Jewel in his right leg.

They were taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital, but the doctors declared Nazim dead

Meanwhile, a gang of criminals shot and injured the owner of a phone-fax shop at Maghbazar in the city yesterday as he refused to give them phone cards for free.

The gang shot Mohammad Farhad, 25, in his head at around 6:00pm when he tried to prevent them from taking away mobile phone pre-paid cards.

The condition of Farhad, who is now undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College hospital, is stated to be critical

the assessment of situation at the instruction of the home ministry. They also sent a letter to the ministry yesterday seeking deployment of required number of BDR personnel during the festival, police sources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctq

Chittagong Metropolitan Police

(CMP) have identified all 260 Puja

mandaps in the city as 'most vulner-

able' and planned a security blanket

in and around the port city during the

greatest religious festival of the

The CMP administration made

Hindu community.

said As part of the security measures, five platoons of BDR and six platoons of Armed Police Battalion (APBN) will be deployed at the puja and during Ramadan and Durga mandaps, in addition to five policemen in each mandap. Puja

Following the home ministry



7:00pm

4:00pm

Roundtable

View exchange meeting **Musical soiree**

Bangladesh Institute of Planners organises a view exchange meeting on Increasing urbanisation, planning and the stand of the planners of the country'. Venue: Planners Tower. Time: 11:30am.

Roundtable

Shaheed Dr Milan Sangsad organises a roundtable titled 'Flashback on the upheaval in '90'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Prize giving ceremony

Citizens Rights Movement will organise The prize giving ceremony of 'Citigroup a roundtable on 'The importance of Microentrepreneurship Award 2006' will BRTC for the bus riders of the country'. be held. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Venue: National Press Club. Time: Time: 12:00noon 10:00am

Training

Participants of a training programme on 'Current issues relating to GMP' for pharmaceutical industries pose for photograph at the certificate award ceremony held in the city recently. Marketing Services & Promotions organised the two-day programme sponsored by Asia Pacific Consultants Pty Ltd., Australia

fugitive, got bail in a murder case. Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud and Barrister Mustafizur Rahman appeared for the petitioners.

On Saturday, Cabinet Secretary Abu Solaiman Doctor dies in Chowdhury during a visit in Chittagong ordered the top offiroad accident cials of the administration to maintain law and order before

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A doctor died and another person was critically injured in a road accident at Savar in the early hours of yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound private car lost control over the steering and hit a road divider near Aminbazar area under Savar upazila at around 2:00am.

Rumana Rashid Ruma, 26, a doctor by profession, died after she was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Sheikh Rubel was admitted at Shikder Medical College hospital in a critical condition.

Family sources said Rumana who worked in a hospital in Chittagong was coming with Rubel from Khulna.

Meanwhile, Abdul Quddus, 55, was hit by a speeding truck while crossing the road near Titipara bus stand at Kamalapur at around 12:45am.

He was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

APPOINTMENT OF PROF PGDA concerned over PSC move

Post Graduate Doctors' Association (PGDA) yesterday expressed concern over the PSC's move to appoint professors directly from the lecturers in the medical colleges and institutions.

In a statement, association President Prof Kazi Shahidul Alam and Secretary General Dr Ragibul Islam Litu said such appointments would destroy the future of medical science in the country.

Patients will also suffer if the lecturers having no proper training and higher degrees are appointed as professors, they said.

Terming the decision suicidal. they urged the Public Service Commission (PSC) to cancel it.

Otherwise, the association would launch a tougher movement, they warned.



verdict of the lower court.

Babu now wants to get back his

lost two years and punishment to the

Judge and the IO for mental torture,

financial loss and defamation.

factory for making spurious orsaline,

SS Enterprise at West Tootpara under Khulna thana was owned by a senior leader of Khulna city BNP Saidun Nabi Khan, who is also a divisions in the next 12 hours till 6:00pm today. lecturer of Khulna College.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.0 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:58pm today and rises at 5:47am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.8	26.2	63	59
Chittagong	34.2	26.3	76	96
Rajshahi	35.2	26.3	87	76
Khulna	34.6	26.7	79	75
Barisal	35.0	26.4	84	80
Sylhet	35.0	24.8	67	74
Cox's Bazar	31.5	26.2	73	92