RMG workers

protest assault

colleague in Ctg

Workers of a garment factory yes-

terday staged demonstration and

refrained from work protesting

physical assault on a female col-

florescent bulbs and chairs of the

12.30pm at Yousuf Fashion located

on the third floor of Apollo Shopping

Centre at city's Kazir Dewri area

under Kotwali Police Station when

Mohammad Selim, production

manager of the factory, first admon-

ished and then beat operator

Taslima Begum accusing her of

Witnesses said during routine

Taslima defended herself saying

At this Selim rebuked and

The incident soon angered other

workers who took no time to sus-

pend work and went on demonstra-

On receipt of information police

and members of Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) rushed to the scene

and in a bid to appease the workers

assured them of taking action

against Selim who fled away imme-

seriously lack managerial skill and

don't know how to handle workers or

employees of an organisation. They

often create embarrassing situation

for us by indulging in idiotic activities

like what happened today," said

Parvez Mohammad Yousuf, factory

of taking action against the culprit

and said a decision in this regard

He assured the agitating workers

"Mid-level officials or staffs

inspection Selim found some

trashes near the machine of Taslima

that she couldn't clear the trash due

They also damaged few

The incident occurred at around

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

on female

league by an official.

factory, witnesses said.

negligence of duty.

slapped her.

tion inside the factory.

diately after the incident.

owner, in the afternoon.

Ctg port

for which he charged her.

METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

Perform duty efficiently 'Over 2.28 lakh cases under trial, to earn more praise

PM asks army

UNB, Savar

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who also holds the Defence portfolio, hoped that the Army would earn more praises from all concerned by efficiently performing their duties.

Addressing a Darbar of Army of Nine Infantry Division and Savar area at Savar cantonment yesterday, she said the armed forces have acted as sentinels protecting national sovereignty, dignity, democracy and people's rights to earn love and respect from the

She lauded the role of the Army in various activities inside the country, including setting an example of success by curbing terrorism through "Operation Clean Heart".

Khaleda said the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) comprising military and police personnel is keeping a significant contribution in containing "bomb terrorism" as well as overall improvement of law and order situation in the country.

"The countrymen are also grateful to the Army for their strong role in facing floods and natural calamity alongside the civil administration," she told the function

The PM said Bangladesh army today is acclaimed worldwide as an international peacekeeping force and they are working for establish-

ing peace in various conflictstricken regions of the world. "Now the glorious presence of Bangladesh Armed Forces is in

almost all the regions. Taking part in the UN peacekeeping activities Army members have been making contribution in establishing peace, restoring democracy, education, healthcare and social development activities in the host countries, she noted.

Khaleda believed that the Army's reputation would further increase in the days ahead, saying that her government would keep up the trend of sending army for UN peacekeeping mission in the future.

She said her government, after assuming power this time, has implemented various programmes for modernising and increasing efficiency of the Army

"Our objective is to build a patriotic, well-disciplined, well-educated and professionally

skilled multidimensional army in safeguarding independence, sovereignty, integrity of the state," she

She listed some implemented schemes, including increasing manpower and capability in the Army through forming new units and acquiring latest military equipment and hardware.

"So, nearly 9,000 new recruits

have been taken in the Army. Apart from creating employment, it also increased scope for promotion," she

She said the process of modernisation of all corps of army has been continuing, and as part of the process, a remarkable quantum of weapons and equipment has already been procured.

She said her government has also taken programmes for modernising the infantry, the main fighting

Army Chief Lt General Moeen U Ahmed and GOC and Area Commander Maj Gen Masududdin Chowdhury received the Prime Minister at the venue.

High civil and military officials were present at the function.

Farlier, Khaleda laid the foundation stone of'Savar Sena Palli Prokolpa', a low-cost housing project of Bangladesh Army for retired and in-service junior commissioned officers (JCO) and sol-

The project site on 632 decimal land is located near Savar cantonment. A total of 40 five-storied buildings will be constructed with 685 flats. Price of each flat would be between Tk 9 lakh and Tk 10 lakh.



Members of Kreta Sartha Sangrakkhan put up black flags at Khulshi Greed Substation in the port city during their siege programme yesterday demanding uninterrupted power.

Uninterrupted power during Durga Puja demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Hindu community yesterday demanded the government ensure uninterrupted power supply during their biggest festival Durga Puja beginning September 28.

They said celebration will be greatly hampered if outage goes on during the five-day festival at the Puja Madaps and the adjacent areas.

Leaders of Mohanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee, Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad and Bangladesh Hindu Youth Welfare Foundation were speaking at a press conference at the Dhakeswari National Temple in the

They urged the government to take special measures in this regard.

They said around 19,000 puja mandaps have been erected across the country. Of them, 156 have been set up in the capital.

Official sources said around 2600 puia mandaps have been set up across the country to celebrate the Durga Puja.

They said "Durga Puja is now a socio-cultural festival as people from all walks of life irrespective of religion

visit the Puja Mandap." "It is responsibility of the government to provide all of kinds of facilities so that people can celebrate the festival peacefully," Mohanagar

Sarbojaneen Puja Committee President Joyanta Sen Dipu said. He urged the government to supply power on priority basis to the Puja Mandaps and adjacent areas during

the period as it is the biggest festival of the Hindu community. General Secretary Joyanta Kumar

Deb urged the government to provide food and residential facilities to the onduty law enforcers at the Puja

Mandaps during the festivals. Advocate Subrata Chowdhury, an adviser to Puja Committee, said government should take especial measures, including uninterrupted power supply, deployment of additional traffic police on the roads near the Puja Mandaps and supply of additional water and removal of garbage at the Mandaps and adjacent areas during the Puja.

2 die in Cox's Bazar shopping complex collapse

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's

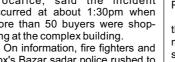
A shopping complex building in Cox's Bazar collapsed yesterday, killing two people and critically injuring 10 others.

Police said two people, Nikongha Bihari Sharma, 50, son of Baykuntha Sharma, of village Notun Mohal, Choupaldhondy in Cox's Bazar and Abdul Qader, 35, son of Fayez Ahmed, of village Kharoliya, sadar upazila in Cox's Bazar, died on the spot.

Six critically injured are Monir

Ahmed, Alam, Minto Miya and Zahangir Alam. They were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital

Abdur Razzak, owner of Shopping Complex named Farid Crocarice, said the incident occurred at about 1:30pm when more than 50 buyers were shopping at the complex building.



Cox's Bazar sadar police rushed to the spot, rescued the injured and sent them to the hospital



Light to moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over

Chittagong, Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, Met Office said. Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country,

Highest temperature 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

at Sylhet and lowest 22.5 degree Celsius at Feni. The sun sets in the capital at 5.52pm today and rises at 5:48am tomorrow.

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

Humidity in Temperature City/Town in Celsius percentage Morning Evening 31.6 25.0 83 Dhaka 76 Chittagong 32.2 24.7 95 30.4 96 Rajshahi 25.3 83 25.2 Khulna 25.5 59 83 Barisal 31.2 86 33.5 24.3 69 Sylhet Cox's Bazar

8156 pending at **High Court'**

Bss, Dhaka

A total of 2,28,306 cases are under trial at the High Court and 8,156 cases are pending before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court at present, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

In a written reply to a question from BNP lawmaker Advocate Ferdaus Akhter Wahida (Woman seat-305), the minister also told the Sangsad that the number of benches to try the under trial cases are not adequate.

Veena Sikri meets Hasina

Indian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Veena Sikri held an exclusive meeting with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence yesterday evening.

It could not be known what issues were discussed in the hour

Three killed in Jessore road accident

UNB, Jessore

Three people were killed and 10 others injured as a bus ran them over on Jessore-Khulna highway in Abhaynagar upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Fatema, 50, and Abdus Samad, 52, and Meherjan, 35, of the upazila.

Police said a Khulna-bound bus ploughed through 13 people waiting at Bhanga gate level-crossing to get into another bus at about 10:00am, leaving Fatema and Samad dead on the spot 11 others injured. Meherjan succumbed to injuries on the way to hospital.

Witnesses said the accident occurred as the bus driver lost control over the steering at the level-

On information, police rescued the injured and took them to

Noapara Health Complex The bodies were sent to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy

Rajshahi PDB besieged for smooth power supply

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Rajshahi City Jubo League yesterday laid a siege to Rajshahi Power Development Board office in the city demanding regular power supply during Ramadan.

Several hundred Jubo League activists marched to PDB office at around 1:30am and held a rally inside the PDB compound for one

The city Awami League Vice President Moshtaque Ahmed Labu and former district Jubo League president Asaduzzaman addressed the rally with City Jubo League

President Ramjan Ali in the chair. The speakers threatened that they would launch tougher movement if their demands were not met

Gayoom shocked at loss of life

Bss, Dhaka

President of Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom yesterday condoled the loss of lives and devastation in some parts of Bangladesh by the recent storm in the Bay of Bengal.

In his message, the President of Maldives expressed profound sympathy for the victims and conveved sympathy to their bereaved family members

He also extended his deep empathy to the government and the brotherly people of Bangladesh.

Qulkhwani



Mahmuda Haq will be held at 86/2 New Eskatan in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Qulkhwani of

_ i o n e s s

AKM Emdadul Haq and his family members have requested all her relatives, friends and admirers to attend the Qulkhwani to pray for salvation of the departed soul



Workers of Yousuf Fashion at Kazir Deuri in the port city stage a demonstration in front of the factory yesterday protesting assault on a female worker named Taslima, inset, allegedly by the manager.

AL blasts govt for distorting history

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL) yesterday said the BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government has shown extreme arrogance by distorting the history of the War of Liberation and undermining the contribution of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to country's independence by airing a 'controversial' documentary through state-run Bangladesh Television (BTV).

Addressing a press conference at AL Chief Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office in the capital, the AL leaders held Hawa Bhaban information ministry and BTV authorities responsible for the 'wrong doings' and demanded apology publicly from those involved with the documentary titled 'Bangladesh Amar Bangladesh' which was aired on September 22 and 23 in

Demanding immediate ban on the documentary, they warned that the government would have to pay a

The AL will also go for legal action soon' if the government does not ban the documentary, they threat-

"When the countrymen have been spontaneously demonstrating to press home the demand for reforms in the caretaker government and the Election Commission and to get rid of the misrule of the present regime, the coalition government has engaged itself in playing an evil game of distorting country's history to divert the people's attention from the ongoing movement," said AL

Presidium Member Abdur Razzak. "Time is not far when people will give a sharp reply for this controveradding "We firmly want to say that although the anti-liberation forces were forgiven, the history-distorters will be brought under trial on the soil of this country.' Senior Presidium Members

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed vester-

day said there will be no change in the

constitution and the next general

elections will be held in line with the

and cry demanding reforms in care-

taker government system and elec-

toral process, are doing so just to undo

the country's democracy as well as to

the chief quest, Moudud said they are

doing so with an ulterior motive to

truncate' the discussion sensing their

'Awami League (AL) won the

general elections in 1996, but it did

not feel for any reform at that time,' he

said, adding, 'They had raised the demand for caretaker government

after the defeat in 1991 general

defeat in the general elections.

Speaking at a roundtable here as

He said those who are making hew

existing constitution.

destroy the constitution.

Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil also blasted the prime minister for her 'evil game' in distorting the country's glorious Quoting many books and docu-

and Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam said Ziaur Rahman was merely a Major who declared independence on behalf of Bangabandhu on the morning of March 28. They said it was Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who was the architect of Bangladesh's inde-

ments Gen (Retd) KM Shafiullah

Razzak, Shafiullah and Rafiq, whose interviews were included in the documentary, said they had not given any interview to the BTV for the programme during the tenure of

the four-party alliance government. The BTV had 'cut a portion of their interviews' recorded during the previous AL government, they alleged, demanding broadcasting of their entire interviews.

Tofail Ahmed, showing US declassified reports on Bangladesh's independence, said the US secret report had clearly mentioned that Bangabandhu declared the independence of Bangladesh on March 26. Even Zia in his own write-up

mentioned that Bangabandhu first declared the independence of the country, he added. "Zia during his lifetime had never claimed that he declared independence," Tofail said, alleging that the

published in the weekly Bichitra

Hawa Bhaban had produced the Besides, during Zia's regime a national committee wrote a 15volume book on the War of Independence which clearly men-

tioned that Bangabandhu declared

The law minister said that after

their defeat in the elections in 2001,

they termed all, including the chief

election commissioner, appointed by

them, and the head of the caretaker

lack of public support as well as their

self-contradictory role. The CEC or

the head of the caretaker govern-

ment had nothing to do about the

defeat as people are the source of all

other country in the world that meets

the demands of the opposition party.

'And we cannot open the 'Pandora

box' by considering their demands.

eager to resolve the ongoing political

dispute through amicable discus-

sions. But the preconditions of AL are

'The government is very much

The law minister said there is no

'They lost the elections following

government as traitors.

elections.

been no claim in those books that Zia announced it, he added. Rafigul Islam, who was the then

chief of EPR (East Pakistan Riffles) in Chittagong, said Bangabandhu in the early hours of March 26 declared independence through EPR wire-After this, AL leader M A Hannan

Betar on March 26, and finally Ziaur Rahman declared it on March 28, he "The war of independence was a people's war. It was not a war of the armed forces. We took up arms at

declared the same from Chittagona

the instruction of people's elected representative," Rafiq added. Senior AL leaders Suranjit Sengupta, Obaidul Quader, Abdul Mannan, Abdur Rahman, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan, BM

Mozammel Hossain, SM Kamal and

Ajoy Kor Khokon were present on the occasion. Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) has also protested and condemned the distortion of history of Bangladesh, Liberation War and Bangabandhu in a documentary aired by state-run

television recently. Duta, in a statement yesterday, said the documentary Bangladesh Amaar Bangladesh, produced by one Shairul Kabir Khan, has distorted history and sparked a contro-

The statement, signed by Duta President Prof Sharif Ullah Bhuiyan and General Secretary Prof Dr Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman demanded ban on the documentary and its destruction.

Duta also demanded punishment to the persons related to it.

hindering the discussions,' the law

political parties, including AL will have

to take part in the next general elec-

tions. "If any party does not do so,

they will be vanished politically, which

is the demand of the age," he

Parishad (BFSP) organised the

discussion on 'Which one is urgent:

Public confidence or reform?' at the

National Press Club with BFSP

Chairman Abdullah Al-Mamun in the

Council Justice Habibur Rahman

Khan, Agriculturist Jabed Iqbal, Dr

GM Rabbani, Dr Anwar Chowdhury

and Bangladesh Sarkari Sramik

Karmachari Samannaya Parishad

President M Abdul Mannan also

Former chairman of Press

Bangladesh Federal Sanskritik

Moudud, however, said all the

minister said.

dockers call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The scheduled strike of the dockworkers at Chittagong port was called off here vesterday following a fruitful meeting held on Saturday

The tripartite meeting that continued for five and a half hours since 7:00am discussed the 24-point demand of the dockers and reached an understanding on some of them including 17 per cent rise in the

wages of the dock workers. The meeting was held in presence of Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman and lawmaker Amir Khasru Mahmud

Chowdhury.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain, Moudud says no to electoral reform Saifuzzaman Chowdhury, Bangladesh Masters Stevedores Association (BMSA) Chairman Manzurul Alam, Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation and Dock Sramik Union (CBA) President Golam Mohammad Chowdhury took part in the discus-

> sion among others. The meeting decided on withdrawal of audit objection to the newly registered workers, gratuity for sweeping workers, and inclusion of four workers' representatives in Dock Workers' Management Board.

It also reached understanding on the salaries of the 13 technicians of Chittagong port.

CPA Member (finance) Ahmad Abul Kashem, Director (traffic) Ehsanul Kabir, Chittagong Chamber Vice-president Abdul Latif, Director Amirul Haq, BMSA Vice-Chairman Mohammad Ibrahim, former director of FBCCI Tareg Kamal and leaders of Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation and Bandar Sramik Union leaders participated in the

Night coach robbery in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jessore

A gang of robbers looted cash and valuables worth about Tk 3 lakh from two night coaches on Jessore -Magura highway near Khajura Bazar under Jessore Sadar upazila at around 2:00am yesterday.

Passengers said Dhaka-bound night coaches of Druti Paribahan and Sonali Paribahan found the road blocked with tree trunks when they reached Khaiura Bazar area. As the buses stopped, a gang of

about 25 robbers entered the buses and looted 29 cellphone sets and Tk 1.2 lakh in cash from the passengers.

The passengers alleged that police came to the spot but went away after preparing a list of the

Navy ship salvaged, death toll rises to 91 the fishermen cannot listen to radios

The report also adds that fisher-

the land depression is still remaining stationery with no virtual movement over West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh border area. The met office still requested to hoist the local cautionary signal number three for all. The weather might remain gloomy today, the met office said. Bangladesh Naval Chief Rear

Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan yesterday visited the spot where patrol boat BNS Shaheed Farid had run aground in the shallow water of the Pashur River near the Sundarbans. Twelve navy ships, two ships of

Coast Guard, three ships of Mongla Port Authority are now engaged in the search and rescue operation under the supervision of the navy. Our Patuakhali correspondent reports, several hundred relatives of the missing fishermen are still waiting on Kuakata beach as no less

remain missing. Trawler Owners' Association could not send any trawler to the bay to conduct a search operation for its missing trawlers and crew due to a very rough sea, Nimai chandra, secretary of the association said.

than 200 fishermen from Kuakata

men of Kuakata demanded that the government modernises the weather forecast and warning systems, and provide cell phone and radio networks in deep sea in order to reduce loss of life during natural calamities. Fazlu Gazi and Nimai Chandra,

president and secretary of Mohipur Fishing Trawler Owners Association announced the demands while talking to local journalists in the association's office yesterday. They said about 50,000 men are

involved in fishing and about two lakh maunds of fish including Hilsa are netted annually in Kuakata area alone, all of which are exported but the sector is ignored by the government. They demanded a mobile net-

work covering 50 kilometres offshore, which would allow fishing trawlers to maintain communications with law enforcers and trawler owners as most of the piracy take place within 50 kilometres from the

They also demanded radio network for the same area in order to listen to weather forecasts and warnings without interruption. Now

smoothly because of poor network in the deep sea. They also demanded a modern-

ised warning system as the current one is hard to understand for the fishermen. The demanded measures would enable them to reduce the number of deaths and destruction caused by such storms, they

reports, a search team with 20 trawlers went to deep sea to search for the missing fishermen but they could only recover broken parts of some trawlers. They found those on According to sources nearly 500

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent

fishermen from the district still remain untraced. Our Chandpur correspondent

reports, rainfall for four consecutive days created severe water logging inside three big irrigation project embankments including Meghna-Dhongoda irrigation project. Official sources said at least 1500 hectares of paddy, fruit and vegetable fields are inundated in the district.