

# Clash over collection of toll: 3 injured

CHITTAGONG, Mar 29: Three persons were injured and communication through Patiya-Anwara-Bapskhali Road was suspended following a clash between transport workers and toll collectors at Shahmirpur under Patiya upazila this morning, police said, reports BSS.

The injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. The clash ensued when transport workers refused to pay toll demanded by agents so-called Patiya-Anwara-Bapskhali Mini Bus Malik Samity. A micro coaster was also allegedly damaged during the clash.

In separate statements Arakan Road Transport Workers and Mini-Bus Malik Samity condemned the attack on the transport workers and demanded punishment to the illegal toll collectors.

## A rickshaw for Harun

Harunur Rashid, husband of Hasina Begum who was killed during the anti-Ershad movement last year, was handed over a brand new rickshaw Friday in fulfillment of the promise made by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

Begum Zia went to the house of Harunur Rashid at Hazipara of Rampura immediately after the fall of former President Ershad and consoled the bereaved family. During the visit Begum Zia promised to provide financial assistance to the family of Hasina Begum who left behind two minor children aged two years and a half and five months respectively.

It was an occasion of great joy for Harunur Rashid, a rickshaw mechanic, when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handed over the rickshaw to him at a simple ceremony at the Banani office Friday night.

Begum Zia enquired about the welfare of the two children of Harunur Rashid and hoped that this gift would be of some help to his family. The Secretary General of BNP Abdus Salam Talukdar and other BNP leaders were present at the handing over ceremony.

## Democratic Lawyers Assoc

A meeting of the organising committee of the Democratic Lawyers Association of Bangladesh was held on Friday at the Dilkusha office of the organisation, says a press release.

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regime and its corrupt ministers, bureaucrats and others. Presided over by the City President Abu Sayeed Khan the meeting was addressed by Anwar Hossain, Giasuddin Chowdhury Khokon and Nasruddin Patwary.

## Sagir dead

By Staff Correspondent  
Abdullah-al-Sagir, Editor of daily Naya Bangla published from Chittagong died on Friday at Chittagong Medical College Hospital. He was suffering from lung cancer. Sagir was 65.

A veteran journalist Sagir edited the daily Naya Bangla since its inception in late seventies. He was a strong defender of freedom of press and worked relentlessly for the development of newspaper industry and growth of the profession.

An amiable person Sagir was friendly to all. His namaz-e-janaza was held at Lal Dighi maidan and Chittagong Press Club. He was laid to rest at his village home.

Sagir was the Vice-President of Bangladesh Editors' Council and was the President of Chittagong Press Club. He was connected with innumerable social welfare organisations.

## Death condoled

His death is an irreparable loss for the profession. Reazuddin Ahmed and Amanullah Kabir, President and Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists, Zahurul Huq and Ruhul Amin Gazi, President and General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists and Mozammel Huq and Shaikat Mahmud, President and General Secretary of Jatiya Press Club in a joint statement paid tributes to late Sagir whose absence will be felt in the profession for long time. They expressed their sympathy with the bereaved members of the family and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul of Abdullah-al-Sagir.

The leaders in separate statements here said Abdullah al-Sagir was a politician, a social worker and a journalist who always upheld the right of the people and ideal of Islamic Tamuddun. He kept on publishing this daily in spite of various difficulties only to serve the people and the society.

Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza, Convener of Principal Abul Kashem Smriti Parishad, Advocate Badul Alam and Principal Muhammed Taher, President and General Secretary of Sammilita Peshajibi Sangsad, Shah Nurul Alam and Khalequzzaman, President and Acting Secretary General of Chittagong Mahanagar Unnayan Parishad, AKM Rafiq Ullah Chowdhury and Advocate Shamsuddin Ahmed Mirza, President and General Secretary of Kashmir Mukti Andolan Sanghati Parishad, Journalist Kamrul Alam Chowdhury of the Datnik Meilatt, Moinuddin Kaderi Shawkat and Helal Humayun, Joint Convenors of the movement for press freedom, Prof Abdul Mannan, convener of Sammilita Peshajibi Sangram Parishad, Dr AQM Serajul Islam of BMA were, among those, who expressed condolences at the death of Sagir. They also prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.



The workers of BEXIMCO Garments Factory staged a sit-in in the city on Friday protesting closure of the factory. — Star photo

## Garments team leaves for Washington today

# Dhaka to lose \$30m due to US quota on three items

A seven-member team leaves Dhaka today (Saturday) for Washington at the invitation of the US government for consultation on the recently-given call notice to impose quota restriction on export of three garments and textiles products of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The team will also visit Canada later to review bilateral agreement on textile quota, official sources said.

Headed by Commerce Secretary Nasim Uddin Ahmed, other members of the team are Messrs. Abu Syed Chowdhury and Manzur Mannan, Vice Chairman and Director-General (Textile) of EPB, Mohammad Fazlul Azim, senior Vice President of BGMEA, Engr. M. A. Taher a quota expert of BGMEA, Lt. Col (ret'd) M. Anisuz-zaman, Maj (ret'd) Sayeed Eskander, both terry towel and shop towel manufacturers and exporters.

The US government at the end of last year gave a call notice fixing maximum quantity of export of Bangladeshi terry towel, shop towel and fibre coat to USA on the plea that the export of those products were disrupting

## Solution of jail problems demanded

The First Secretary In-charge of the Samrik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Nirmal Sen, Friday demanded of the authorities concerned to take permanent measures towards resolving the problems of jails and their inmates, reports BSS.

In a statement issued in Dhaka, Sen said violence began anew in different jails with undesirable incidents and deaths. The jail authorities are trying to solve the problem locally but to no avail, he said.

Sen suggested the concerned ministry to take initiative for the solution of this long standing problem.

## Sajeda demands enquiry

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury General Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League on Friday demanded a judicial enquiry into the firing at Comilla Central Jail on Wednesday in which eight prisoners were killed.

In a statement Begum Sajeda Chowdhury demanded that those responsible for the killing be brought to book and legal actions be taken against them.

US market for its own products. After the Bangladesh government refuted the plea with facts and figures the US side called for consultation on the matter under the provision of the Multi Fibre Agreement (MFA), sources said.

Garments and textiles manufacturers and exporters say that, Bangladesh, being already hard-hit by the Gulf war, will lose about 30 million US dollars in trade per year if the call on three items is not withdrawn.

The country will incur a loss of about 100 million US dollars in remittances due

to the Gulf war. The total loss due to the Gulf war was earlier estimated at about one billion US dollars including the remittances, repatriation, rehabilitation and export earning. Besides, the country has lost millions of dollars in other businesses due to the impact of the Gulf war.

The US government has recently doubled the garments export quota of Turkey to help develop the economy of the country wrecked by the Gulf war and it increased earlier the export quota of the Philippines to help the democracy in that country.

## Ban on synthetic industries urged

Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan on Thursday said the new government within the short span of its rule had tremendously earned the confidence of donors who are now coming up with generous investment offers, reports UNB.

The BNP government would utilise it for optimum benefit of the country, he told a function arranged to accord him reception by the Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association (BJSJA) in Dhaka Thursday afternoon.

Khan, himself an industrialist and founder-member of the association, said the coming industrial policy would take in serious consideration the suggestions regarding development of jute industry.

Contribution of jute sector to the economy has not yet been properly evaluated, he said, adding the BNP government would attach special importance to the growth of the sector.

The function was presided over by BJSJA chairman M. Mahmood. Some members of the association apprised the minister of various long-standing problems crippling the sector.

second largest donor of Bangladesh, has recently waived 300 million dollar development assistance loan of Bangladesh and offered another grant worth 12.472 million US dollars for two projects. On both occasions the US government has mentioned its intention to help develop the economy of Bangladesh being affected by the Gulf war and to encourage the newly-emerged democracy.

Observers on US-Bangladesh bilateral trade here referring to the plight of the economy of Bangladesh due to Gulf war and the growing US interest to help develop its economy and nourish the hard-earned democracy, hoped that the US government will be sympathetic to double the quota of 25 items on which restrictions had been imposed earlier. The US side will also withdraw the recent call notice on three items, they added.

## Call to reduce dependence on foreign aid

Speakers at a discussion meeting on Tuesday hoped that the new government elected through a free and fair election would resolve the problems confronting the nation.

The discussion meeting organised by Swadesh Social Welfare Society at Lalbagh in observance of the Independence Day and its second founding, anniversary was addressed by Gias Kamal Chowdhury, former president of National Press Club, as chief guest, Amanullah Kabir, Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Ziaul Huq, Assistant Editor of Itihaq as special guests. They said, to make independence, meaningful we would have to build up self-reliant economy by reducing dependence on foreign aid.

Earlier Thursday, the annual general meeting of the union was held with Bimolendu Barua in the chair. The meeting passed annual report and treasurer's report. Abu Sufian, Chairman of the Election Committee declared the election results.

Banabhumti of Rangamat Hill District, hoped that under the guidance of Begum Khaleda Zia newspaper industry would be developed under a pragmatic policy. Bangladesh Railway Employees League Central President M Arkan Ali and General Secretary Abu Taher Khan congratulated Oli Ahmad and Barrister Rafiqul Islam Meah on their inclusion in the cabinet as Minister of Communications and State Minister for Manpower and Labour respectively.

In a joint statement in Chittagong on Thursday, they said, "we congratulate you and assure you of our cooperation in discharging your great responsibilities as ministers. We hope, both of you will do every thing possible in finding solution to the problems of railway workers and employees."

## CUJ executives

Election of office-bearers of

## Ban on synthetic industries urged

Criticising the economic policies of the previous regime, the Industries Minister said both the industrial policies framed between 1982 and '86 were a "total failure." Production in mills and factories declined and growth in the industrial sector dropped from 10.2 per cent in 1980-81 to 8 per cent in 1989-90, he pointed out.

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# 'Autocracy routed in Feb 27 polls'

By Staff Correspondent  
Reazuddin Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) has said democracy, nationalism and sovereign economy were the spirit of liberation war. He was speaking as chief guest at a discussion organised by Performing Art Centre on Friday. He said independence was meaningless if there was no democracy. Making economy self-reliant was impossible in absence of democracy, the BFUJ President added. He said people routed autocracy in last parliament elections. People have rejected the killers of democracy, and given their verdict in favour of nationalist forces, he pointed out. Reazuddin said if nationalist forces fail to fulfil the expectations of people autocracy would one again stage a comeback. Poet Al-Mujaheedy called upon the people to foil hegemonistic designs. He said it was sad that the man who led the liberation later turned a fascist. Jahid Hasan Chunnu, General Secretary of Jatiyatobadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangatha said those who demand to have led the independence war actually did not want independence. It was valiant freedom fighter Ziaur Rahman at whose call people joined the War of Liberation, he said.

## Decision to relax age-limit hailed

Bangladesh Jatiyatobadi Jubo Dal (BJJD) Friday congratulated the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for her decision to relax the age-limit for government service, reports BSS. In a resolution adopted in an emergency meeting of the city unit, the BJJD recorded that it had fulfilled the election commitment of Begum Zia. The BJJD urged the Prime Minister to engage the youth community in production oriented activities.

## Plea to make parliament sovereign

Bangladesh Peoples' League has urged the new government to take steps to make the parliament sovereign. Reazuddin Stalin presided over the discussion. One minute silence was observed to condole the death of Nafis Gazi, a worker of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal and one of the organisers of the discussion who died Friday in a road mishap. The cultural function which to follow the discussion was cancelled to pay respect, to the soul of Nafis.

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কর্তৃপক্ষ  
পূবালী ব্যাংক লিঃ

**Dateline Chittagong**

**30 arrested on various charges**

CHITTAGONG, Mar 29: Chittagong Metropolitan and the Government Railway Police (GRP) rounded up 30 persons on various charges from different areas of the city Thursday, police said, reports BSS. Of the total, CMP arrested 24 persons and GRP arrested six persons. GRP also recovered ten cartons of foreign cigarettes from the possession of one Abdul Malek from Railway Station area. Separate cases were filed against them.

**Felicitation**

A K M Maksud Ahmed, President of Jatiya Sangbad Partra Parishad in a statement Thursday felicitated Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on her assumption of office and accepting charges of the Ministry of Information in addition to her others portfolios. Maksud, who is also Editor of Daily Girdarpan and weekly

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