

DOWN TO EARTH

Industrialisation of city residential areas

By Khalilur Rahman

Mushroom growth of factories and engineering workshops in various parts of the metropolis has caused both health hazards and annoyance to the inhabitants. Concentration of these small to medium size industrial units in the densely-populated localities is also responsible for damages to the contiguous buildings or other concrete structures, according to several affected residents.

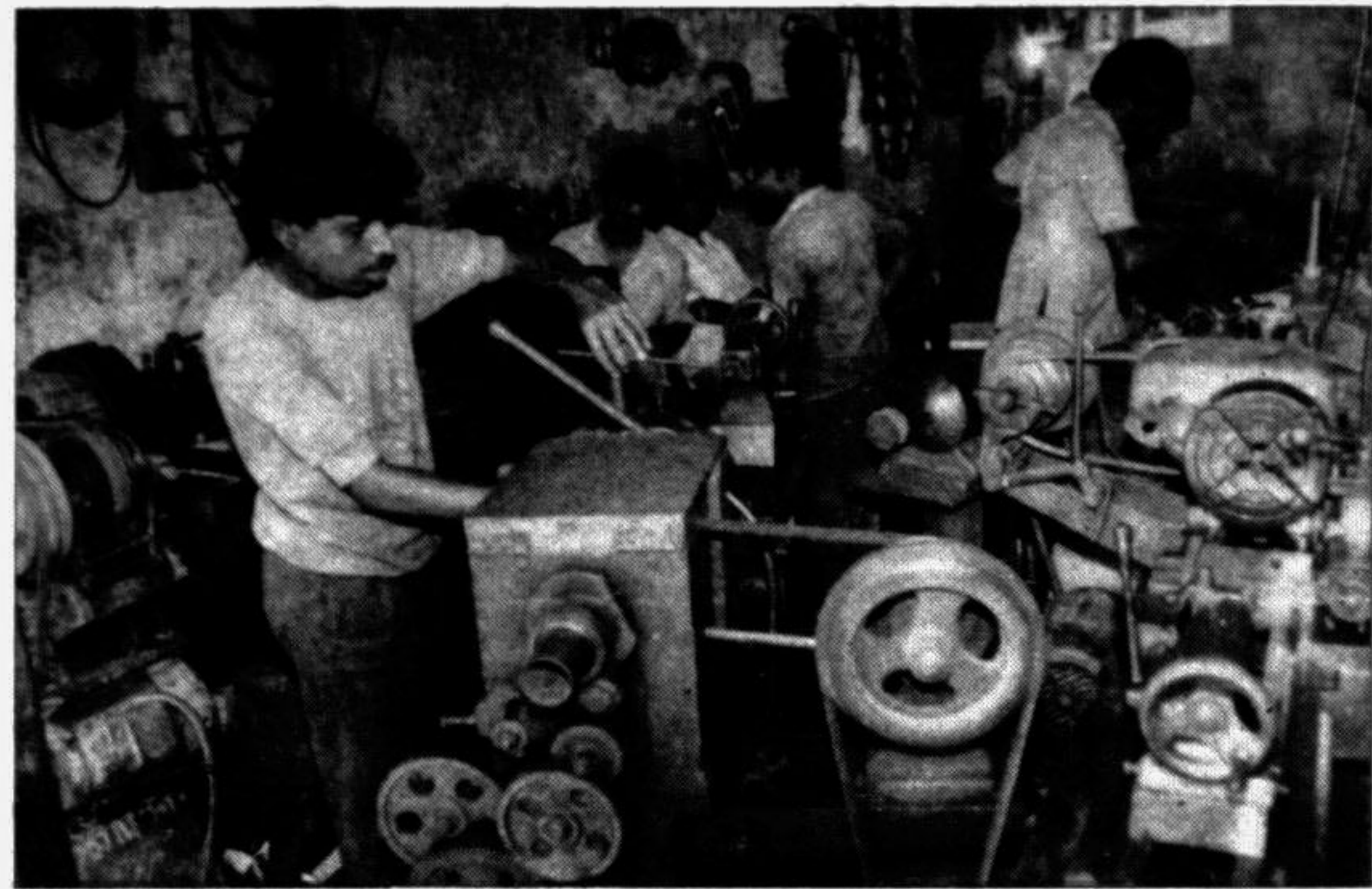
The fast-expanding garments industries within municipal limits has, of late, increased the volume of air and sound pollution much to the inconvenience of the towns

soon as the factory was opened. The chemical waste from the factory is disposed of at the site exposing the local people to serious health hazards. Some residents complained that all their efforts for the removal of the factory from this thickly-populated zone yielded no result. A section of the unscrupulous staff members of the concerned department has allowed the industry to function, they alleged.

Residents of Raj Narayan Dhar Road under Ward No 23 in the old city have similar problems with chemical wastes from factories operating non-stop for a long time.

gated into the matter on specific complaints and asked the management of the factories in writing to remove those within a month. Moreover, the DCC also issued a show cause notice on the owners for alleged breach of contract with the Corporation. But till now the factories are functioning as usual.

A college teacher at congested Banogram Lane has been moving for over a decade to remove an engineering factory adjacent to his residence. The factory has thrice changed its nomenclature and category of products under different ownership during this period



people. Despite repeated public complaints to remove the factories from the residential areas the concerned authorities are yet to take effective measures to solve the problems.

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is primarily responsible for issuing trade licence for running the business in areas under its jurisdiction. Setting up of factories or any other industrial units in residential zone is prohibited under law. The pollution control board which looks after the proper maintenance of environment has very limited authority to order for the closure of a 'harmful factory'. Most often the board's instructions are violated with impunity.

The Daily Star correspondent conducted an investigation into the operation of factories in some residential areas of the city on the basis of complaints from the dwellers of the concerned localities recently. In all these places inhabitants have been suffering for quite a long time with very little hope for an early redress. Here are some instances of public grievances as gathered by the Star staffer.

Several years ago a factory for manufacturing plastic bags was set up at Ulan Road in Rampura residential area. The inhabitants reacted sharply as

Smoke and waste released from the factories have not only polluted the atmosphere but big bangs of the running machines seriously disturb the peace. The students are the worst sufferers. Many affected people of the locality appealed to the authority for removal of the factories but to no effect.

An aluminum factory has been set up at Kabirabagh in Dholaiapur under Demra police station. Huge sound, poisonous black smoke and bad smell are some of the 'major troubles' that the factory offers to the local people everyday. Some residents said that since the establishment of the aluminum factory the whole atmosphere has been completely vitiated. Repeated complaints to the authorities made on behalf of the people appear to have fallen on deaf ears, the residents resented.

Tekjuni para in Tejgaon is a residential area. At the middle of the locality a metal industry has been set up which operates till 10 pm from early morning regularly. Three other allied units of the industry also function at a little distance from the main factory. Chemicals are used in two units which have harmful effects on living beings, many residents complained. They also informed that the environment department investi-

ated the matter on specific complaints and asked the management of the factories in writing to remove those within a month. Moreover, the DCC also issued a show cause notice on the owners for alleged breach of contract with the Corporation. But till now the factories are functioning as usual.

An official of the DCC told the Daily Star that concerted effort to weed out factories from residential areas by the relevant agencies was always lacking. The DCC takes initiative in case of specific complaints but the result is not satisfactory for so many factories, he added.



Cabinet ministers (above) and state ministers (below) being sworn in at Bangabhaban yesterday.



Hasina's security

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of the Leader of the Opposition during her stay outside Dhaka city, the Police headquarters said Superintendent of Police of the concerned district take necessary steps under relevant rules for the personal security of the Leader of the Opposition like other important personalities (VIP) during their stay outside Dhaka. So, withdrawal of her personal security could not arise and no order had been issued in this regard.

It may be mentioned here that as per rule a total of seven police personnel were engaged as house guard for the personal security of the Leader of the Opposition. A total of seven police personnel had been engaged in her residence at No. 32 Dhanmondi under special arrangement in addition to seven more police personnel engaged in her residence at Minto Road.

Besides, during her movement within Dhaka city security measure was there

Shahabuddin

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the office of President till October 8, when a new President will be elected by the Members of Parliament under the 12th Amendment.

Justice Shahabuddin inherited the power of the chief executive of the country under the presidential system when he took over the office of the President following H M Ershad's resignation last December in the face of mass movement against him.

Administering oath to the new BNP Government under the 12th Amendment was his last job as the chief executive empowered under the presidential system and he is the last beneficiary (though appointed) of that system that ended Thursday after 16 long years.

Just after the completion of the swearing-in ceremony of the new cabinet yesterday afternoon, Justice Shahabuddin when asked said that he was happy to see the installation of the democratically elected government.

When asked how he would like to pass the rest of his life, Justice Shahabuddin made his answer brief saying, "Only God knows."

There is a speculation though that Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will return to his previous position as the chief of the judiciary but will not continue in the office for a long period.

Presidential poll

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der Section 5(1) of the Presidential Election Act, 1991.

Nomination papers are to be filed with the Chief Election Commissioner in his office on Wednesday (September 25) between 8-00 am and 2-30 pm.

Nomination papers will be examined on Thursday (September 26) at 10 am. The last day for withdrawal of candidature has been fixed on Monday (September 30). The time for withdrawal of candidature will expire at 2-30 pm on that day.

The polling day has been fixed on Tuesday (October 8), polling will be held between 2-00 pm and 5-00 pm on that day in the Assembly Hall of the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

through engaging plain clothes.

Police personnel with a vehicle as a special step. All these measures were in addition to the existing rules.

The news published earlier that police camp from in front of the residence of the Leader of the Opposition had been withdrawn was not correct.

In fact the police camp was set up for checking law and order situation in the Dhaka city and it had no connection with the security arrangement of the Leader of the Opposition. Such camps were set up in different areas of the Dhaka city as a part of checking law and order situation on temporary basis and they were withdrawn when their necessity were no more.

Badruddoza

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in of a new cabinet.

Talking to The Daily Star immediately after the ceremony he said that he recalled the name of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on the occasion, because the late President had changed one-party system to a multi-party democracy. Now Zia's party BNP has established parliamentary democracy under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia, he said.

Textile accord

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(EPI) Abu Sayeed Chowdhury led the Bangladesh side at the negotiations while the US Deputy Textile Negotiator Rosebaum led the visiting US delegation. They signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

Besides, discussions on three 'call' categories were also held in a cordial atmosphere in the negotiations between the two sides.

The agreement will remove uncertainty in export of garments from Bangladesh to the US and will help in sustained growth of garments industries in Bangladesh, the sources said.

The sources however declined to give details about the new agreement.

Hasina

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are starving . . . the ruling party is locked in power struggle," she told unscheduled gatherings in the affected areas in Syedpur, Taraganj, Mithapukur, Domar and Niphamari Sadar upazilas.

The Awami League leader said villagers were passing days in agony under open sky amid shortage of food, water and medicine.

Hasina alleged relief materials received by the government in cash and kind from foreign countries and donor agencies after the April 29 cyclone were not properly distributed among the victims.

Despite repeated demands from Awami League for white paper on the relief supplies, the government didn't publish it. Those relief goods were bungled and utilized during the parliamentary by-elections, she blamed.

Hasina said her party, as an organisation of the downtrodden, would fight for the cause of the deprived multitude whether it is in or outside power.

Dhaka to project case of LDCs in UN

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh will seek to project in the United Nations the case of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) which need continued support from the countries of the North to develop themselves.

In the backdrop of unprecedented changes in the global situation the aid climate now looked uncertain. Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman told The Daily Star on Wednesday hours before his departure.

The Foreign Minister left Dhaka last night for New York to attend the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly. He is being accompanied by three Members of Parliament. New Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman is expected to leave Dhaka on September 23 to join the Foreign Minister in New York.

Heroin worth Tk 50 lakh recovered

From Our Correspondent

FARIDPUR, Sept 19: A special team of the Department of Narcotics Control Department, Faridpur sub-zone, recovered 500 grams of heroin worth about Taka 50 lakh from Alipur area of the town this afternoon.

Acting on a secret tip off, the team managed to catch one Mujibur Rahman (17) of Dayarampur and recovered the heroin in a packet at about 3.30 pm.

AL, JP

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Chowdhury, MP, said the people are incapable of bearing the expenses of a large cabinet like the one sworn in Tuesday.

In her reaction to the 40-member cabinet of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, she said induction of such a large number of ministers was but ridiculous at a time when people were starving, poor and fixed-income groups overburdened with tax and VAT and unemployment was increasing due to lack of public funds.

"It's the manifestation of self-centred attitude of those who do not think of the well-being of the people," Sajeda Chowdhury said. This cabinet, she said, was designed to "feed the ruling party."

Awami League Publicity Secretary and Chief Whip of Opposition in parliament Mohammad Nasim said that his party did not feel the necessity of attending the swearing-in ceremony.

Giving the reason for staying away from the oath-taking ceremony, Nasim said that AL was not happy about the recent attitude and behaviour of the ruling party. He mentioned the untoward incidents during by-elections when there was an attempt on the life of Sheikh Hanina. He also deplored the withdrawal of security for the AL chief.

When asked about Jatiya Party's absence at the swearing-in ceremony, Tajul Islam Chowdhury, office secretary of the party, told The Daily Star that his party leaders were in a party central committee meeting, which was in session since Thursday afternoon. He mentioned that they got the invitation Wednesday night, but the party's meeting was scheduled much earlier.

The Midnight File

Cambodian groups reach agreement

NEW YORK, Sept 19: Rival Cambodian groups have reached agreement over the electoral system to be followed in forthcoming general elections and it will be ratified today by the Supreme National Council, informed sources said, reports AFP.

24 killed in Kashmir clash

SRINAGAR, Sept 19: Twentyfour persons, including an area commander of outlawed Hizbul Mujahideen, were killed in continuing clashes between militants and security forces in the Kashmir valley since last night, reports PTI.

15 killed in Shimla road mishap

SHIMLA, Sept 19: At least fifteen people were killed and sixteen injured when a bus rolled down a ravine near Mandri, 32 kms from here this afternoon. The HRTC bus was on its way to Tattapani from here. Twelve people died on the spot and three in hospital, reports PTI.

Portfolios

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Shamsul Islam	: Food.
Nazmul Huda	: Information.
Abdul Matin Chowdhury	: Home.
Dr Khandker Mosharruf Hossain	: Energy and Mineral Resources.
Barrister Rafiqul Islam	: Works.
Miah	: Labour and Manpower.
Abdul Mannan Bhutyan	: Education.
Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar	: Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock.
Abdullah Al-Noman	: Jute.
Hannan Shah	: Planning.
A M Zahiruddin Khan	: Planning.

State ministers

Mid Yunus Khan	: Education.
Kabir Hossain	: Land.
Mujibur Rahman	: Finance.
Prof Abdul Mannan	: Religious Affairs.
Sadeq Hossain Khoka	: Youth and Sports.
Mid Nurul Jhuda	: Establishment.
Major (Retd) M A Mannan	: Textiles.
Abdul Mannan	: Civil Aviation and Tourism.
Lutfur Rahman Khan	: Relief.
Prof Jahannara Begum	: Culture.
Mrs Sarwar Rahman	: Social Welfare and Women Affairs.
Harun-Al-Rashid	: Shipping.
Fazlur Rahman Patal	: Communications.
Mosharruf Hossain	: Irrigation and Flood Control.
Shahjahan	: Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock.
Gayeswar Roy	: Environment, Forest, Fisheries and Livestock.

Deputy ministers:

Abdul Haq	: Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.
A B M Zahidul Huq	: Law and Justice.
Serajul Huq	: Health and Family Welfare.

Swearing-in

From Page 1 Col. 7
M Sayem, Justice Ahsanuddin Chowdhury, members of parliament, secretaries of ministries, three services chiefs and other high civil and military officials and members of foreign diplomatic missions.

With the introduction of parliamentary form of government, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has become the first woman head of government in Bangladesh. Under the amended Constitution she as Prime Minister is the chief executive, and the (Acting) President has become a titular head of state.

The Constitution 12th Amendment Act unanimously passed in the Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) on August 6 and subsequently endorsed by the people through the September 15 referendum provides for switchover to parliamentary form of government.

The swearing-in ceremony of the new Council of Ministers was marked by the induction of three new cabinet ministers — Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Brig (Retd) Hannan Shah and Zahiruddin Khan, elevation of eight state ministers to the rank of ministers, inclusion of six new state ministers and three deputy ministers, and dropping of Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and two state ministers — Osman Ghani Khan and Anwar Ali Siddiqui.

Earlier, the Prime Minister tendered her resignation as the Prime Minister of the President's Council of Ministers. Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed then appointed Begum Khaleda Zia as the new Prime Minister and invited her as the leader of the majority party in parliament to form her government.

The state ministers who were elevated to the rank of minister in the new cabinet are: Tariqul Islam, Shamsul Islam, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Dr Khondaker Mosharruf Hossain, Rafiqul Islam Mia, Abdul Mannan Bhutyan, Zamiruddin Sircar and Abdullah Al-Noman.

The new state ministers are: Prof Jahannara Begum, Begum Sarwar Rahman, Harunur Rashid, Fazlur Rahman Patal, Mosharruf Hossain Shahjahan and Gayeswar Roy.

Abdul Hye, Zahidul Huq and Serajul Huq took oath as deputy ministers.

Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury who was dropped was present at the oath-taking ceremony and congratulated the new ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers shaking hands with them.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas was seen exchanging greetings with members of parliament and high government officials just before the oath taking ceremony.

Members of parliament belonging to Awami League and Jatiya Party were absent.

Begum Zia entered the Darbar Hall right at 4 pm, the scheduled time for oath taking. Then bugles were played as Acting President Justice Shahabuddin graced the occasion. The national anthem was played before the start of the oath taking.

First, Begum Zia was administered two oaths of office and official secrecy by the Acting President. Twenty-one cabinet ministers, 15 state ministers and three deputy ministers then took oath in three batches.

Begum Zia told newsmen she felt it was a happy occasion because establishment of democracy for which the people had fought was formalised, but at the same time she felt the absence of those who had sacrificed their lives in the democratic movement. They will be remembered by the people, she added.

Begum Zia and the newly sworn-in ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers visited the Central Shaheed Smriti Soudha at Savar and placed wreaths. They also visited the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman and offered فاتحه.

OP-1 lottery winners to go on hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

The US OP-1 immigration lottery winners who failed to get visas due to early suspension of the programme in Bangladesh, would start hunger strike from September 28 to press home their demands.

Members of OP-1 winners association in a press conference on Thursday said that over 1,000 winners were not issued visas and the US Embassy in Dhaka announced on August 21 that the programme was completed.

Earlier, they handed over memorandum to the US Ambassador, the Acting President, the Prime Minister, and to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs comprising of their demands but did not get any positive reply from any quarter.

The lottery winners said that most of winners who failed to get visas were frustrated since they had spent lot of money for preparation to migrate to USA.

Govt to do everything for people's welfare : Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Thursday reaffirmed her government's determination to improve health condition of the people by the year 2000, ensuring pure water supply and proper sanitation, reports UNB.

"Our resources are limited. But despite this limitation we can achieve the desired objective by adopting pragmatic programmes and through their timely implementation with assistance from our development partners", she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing a national seminar on 'Future Strategies for the Water Supply and Sanitation Sector in Bangladesh' organised by the Local Government Division in collaboration with UNDP and UNICEF.

Inaugurating the seminar, the Prime Minister said development of water supply and sanitation was unavoidable to reach the goal of 'Health for All by the Year 2000' declared by the United Nations.

Begum Zia assured that the present representative government would do everything necessary for the welfare of the people.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, LORD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder and State

Minister for LGRD Mohammad Kabir Hossain were special guests at the inaugural function held at a local hotel.

The Prime Minister recalled that the government of late President Ziaur Rahman allocated 2.1 per cent of the national allocation for the water supply and sanitation sector in the Second Five-Year Plan (SFYP). But, she regretted that the following government reduced it to 1.2 per cent in the Third Five-Year Plan.

Begum Zia pointed out that the present government has increased the allocation in the Fifth Five-Year Plan and sanctioned special allocation as emergency aid in the sector for the recent cyclone affected areas of the country. She hoped that the water supply and sanitation facilities in rural and urban areas will increase due to the added allocation.

The Prime Minister said, "Our valuable manpower is being lost due to water borne diseases caused by scarcity of drinking water and inadequate sewerage system."

Begum Zia said Public Health Engineering has to play a leading role to help train necessary manpower to ensure proper administering of water supply by the municipality.

Editor : S. M. Ali