

## 35 injured as protesters, police clash in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 6: At least 35 persons were injured, including two policemen, today in a day-long clashes between angry protesters and police following the death of a rickshawpuller in a road accident in the morning.

Nine of the injured were admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital. Police arrested six protesters and two separate cases were lodged with the Narayanganj thana.

The protesters damaged 12 vehicles during the clashes as most shops in the city centre remained closed throughout the day. All rickshaws stayed off the roads and only a few buses plied on the Dhaka-Narayanganj highway.

Police resorted to lathi charge, used more than 10 rounds of teargas shells and fired rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

Witnesses said, numerous cracker blasts were heard during the clashes which spread across the city's Mondolpara, Ukilpara, Chashara and Demra bus stand areas and continued up to 6 pm.

According to police, Setar Hossain Gazi (25), a rickshawpuller, was killed on the spot when his rickshaw was run over by a speeding truck near the DIT Market area at around 11 am.

Immediately after the incident, a protest rally was brought out in the area and the protesters damaged a truck near the Railway Gate No 2.

Later, the protesters carried the body of the rickshawpuller in a procession from Narayanganj Hospital. When the procession reached the Chashara area police forcefully took the body away from the protesters, witnesses said.

Soon the clashes between the protesters and police spread all over the city.

Talking to The Daily Star, the secretary of the Narayanganj Rickshaw Chalok Samity, Shambal Mian, alleged that although a police sergeant was present near the place of incident, he allowed the truck driver to escape from the scene.

The body of the rickshawpuller was later buried by police at the local Pykepara graveyard in the evening, police said.



Growth of population is problem number one of Bangladesh. Not so always. Growth in the number of inmates of the National Zoo at Mirpur is an enriching thing — not only the zoo gets richer by way of its exhibits, but it can sell the new 'accessions' at a premium price to zoos around the world or exchange them with species not yet on our zoo. The other day the National Zoo was doubly blessed by the birth of four cubs to a Royal Bengal tigress and another four to a Gujarati lioness brought from India. Both the mothers are doing fine and the cubs frolicking and fooling around. Caution: The rare picture that their cages present of filial love — is also specially dangerous for the eager viewer. These predator mothers are the most ferocious when they are nursing their cubs.

— Photo Mohsin

## Cabinet body discusses jail reform projects

A cabinet committee meeting yesterday discussed 66 projects involving some Tk 9.63 crore to meet the basic needs of prisoners as part of a jail reform programme, reports UNB.

The Jail Reform Cabinet Committee meeting stressed the need for immediate implementation of priority ones of the proposed projects.

Held in Home Ministry's conference room with Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury in the chair, the meeting was attended by Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam and State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Barrister M Aminul Haque.

It reviewed the reports of Bangladesh Jail Reform Commission headed by Justice F K M A Munim and Brigadier Halim's study and recommendations on it.

The meeting expressed concern over the existing condition in different jails and sub-jails across the country and decided to improve it as early as possible.

Upgrading the basic necessities of the jail inmates such as food, sanitation, toilets, water supply, accommodation, bedding, healthcare came up for discussion in the meeting.

On the proposed shifting of central jail from Dhaka city to Gazipur and Keraniganj, the meeting emphasised implementation of the gigantic task on "modular" basis.

The committee also proposed that a separate revenue head be created for jails.

It asked the concerned authorities to maintain strictly jail disciplines and jail code and take drastic action against corrupt officials.

On Thursday, a division bench of the High Court ordered a commission to probe the allegation of deposed President H M Ershad, now in Dhaka Central Jail, about lack of amenities in prison.

## The Midnight File

### Traffic disrupted for three hours in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 6: Vehicular traffic of the port city was disrupted for more than three hours today (Sunday) as transport workers put barricades on different routes protesting arrest of a bus driver. Witnesses said transport workers blocked the roads as driver Yakub and his helper were picked up by security personnel after his bus hit an army jeep at Fatehabad in Hathazari this morning, reports UNB.

### 20 killed, 50 hurt in German bus accident

DONAUESCHINGEN (Germany), Sept 6: At least 20 people were killed and 50 injured in a bus accident near this southwestern German city today, a police spokesman said. The accident occurred on an exit ramp leading from a main highway to Donaueschingen. Many of the injured were in serious condition, reports AFP.

### Rafsanjani arrives in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD, Sept 6: Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani arrived in Islamabad today for his first official visit to Pakistan. Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan embraced Rafsanjani as he stepped onto the airport tarmac at the start of his four-day visit. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was also present, reports Reuter.

## Hasina : SAARC

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regional grouping.

The AL General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury MP and Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP will accompany Sheikh Hasina on the four-day trip to Pakistan, her first to the country since her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman led Bangladesh to Liberation in 1971.

The Bangladesh Opposition Leader is scheduled to meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the visiting opposition leaders will fly to Islamabad, where they will be treated as guests of the Pakistan government.

In Karachi, Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) will host the leaders. The Ramada Renaissance Hotel of the city will be the venue for the seminar.

Meanwhile, Dr Kamal Hossain, a member of the Awami League presidium, will also attend the seminar. Hossain has been invited by the organisers as a former presidential candidate, according to a source.

Dr Hossain formally informed the party of his going to the Karachi conference at Saturday's AL Working Committee meeting.

Sheikh Hasina has reportedly told him that he is free to become part her delegation when in Karachi or to continue remaining out of the team.

The other opposition leaders to attend the conference are former Indian prime minister VP Singh, Nepalese Communist Party leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Panchayat Manmohan Adhikari and Sri Lankan Freedom Party leader and Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Naura Bandaranatke.

According to a diplomatic source, Indian Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BJP leader L K Advani requested shifting the earlier date, September 17, so that he could attend.

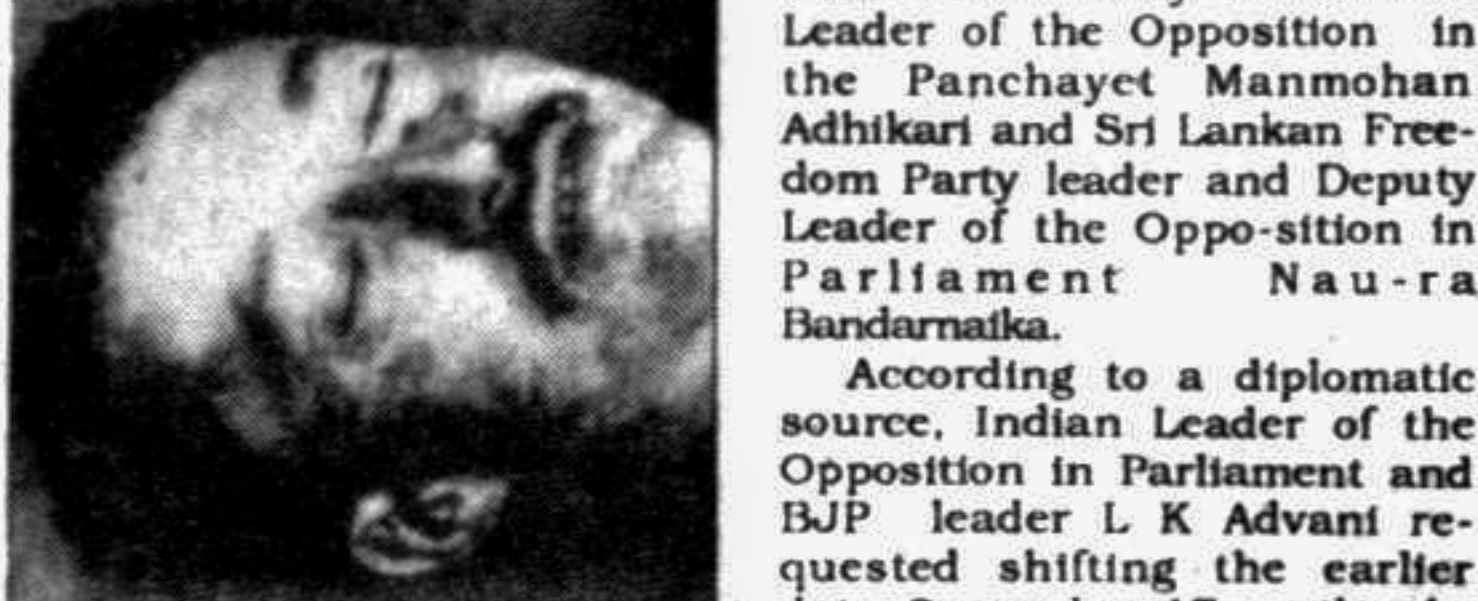
The organisers did so but the Indian leader is not making it to the conference yet reportedly due to his preoccupation at home.

## Headman

From Page 1 Col 7

As the news of his death reached Babu Bazar and Badamtoli, the two biggest rice wholesale markets in the city, the owners and workers instantly shut the godowns and marched to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a procession. They later held a rally near the Jatya Press Club in the afternoon.

The rally was addressed by labour leaders Khalibur Rahman Dewan, Akhter Hossain, and Abu Saleq, Publicity Secretary of the rice godown owners association.



Abdur Rahim Sardar

The leaders announced strike for an indefinite period. They also demanded punishment of the killers and security for market places.

The claimant of the money, Shah Alam, a rice merchant, who went to the Uttar Banga Rice Agency to buy rice, lodged a case with Kotowali police in this connection.

Kotowali police said, they raided several places but were yet to make any arrest.

Local people said that another rice merchant, Mesbauddin, was also robbed of Taka 57,000 at Babu Bazar about two weeks ago.

## AL council session may be shifted

Star Report

The dates of the biennial council session of Bangladesh Awami League (AL) may be shifted to September 19-20, according to sources.

The council session was earlier scheduled for September 18-19. Sources said the dates may have to be changed as the venue for the council session is not available on September 18.

The council session will be held at the Engineers Institution, Dhaka.

## Small industries

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that the loan be utilised only to set up small industries in the private sector, sources in the Economic Relations Division (ERD) said adding that the government had finally accepted the condition.

They said that the WB was unwilling to sanction the credit for large-scale industries as sanctioned loans were not utilised properly over the past years and consequently the authorities failed to realise huge amount of loans from the defaulting entrepreneurs. The government is due Tk 2800 crore in loans from the large-scale industrialists.

The new loan, according to sources, would be distributed among bonafide entrepreneurs through the private scheduled banks to set up small industries.

## NAM summit

From Page 1 Col 7

The draft reaffirmed NAM's support of basic human rights, but added that no country "should use its power to dictate its concept of democracy and human rights or to impose conditionalities on others."

NAM was determined to play a role in revitalising, restructuring and democratising the United Nations, including the establishment of a working group designed to set out concrete ways it could happen.

The movement's coordinating bureau at the United Nations should "define priority issues ... including those related to the functioning of the Security Council and the strengthening of the role of the General Assembly."

The Jakarta Message urged greater coordination between NAM members at the United Nations.

"Through dialogue and co-operation, we will project our movement as a vibrant, productive and genuinely interdependent component of the mainstream of international relations," it said.

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## Classes of Sylhet Polytechnic Instt suspended

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 6: The classes of Sylhet Polytechnic Institute have been suspended with the apprehension of further deterioration of situation following a night-long firing on the campus.

Election to the students union of the institute which was scheduled to be held on September 9 had also been declared postponed. The students vacated hostel.

The decision came following firings and cracker explosions on the campus from the Friday midnight to early morning of Saturday.

## Rickshawpuller stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

A rickshawpuller was stabbed and robbed of Taka 3500 near Gabtoli at 12 pm Sunday.

The victim Md Belal, 24, was attacked by four to five miscreants on way to Shyamoli from his residence at Mirpur.

He was immediately rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with injury on abdomen and was operated upon.

Sources close to Belal said that he was carrying money of his vehicle owner Shajeb Mahajan.

A case has been filed with the Mirpur police station.

## Saifur: Sick units

From Page 1 Col 7

best policy support package in the whole South Asian region," the Finance Minister said adding we were trying to accelerate the economy with our best efforts without endangering the bank money.

Rahman made it clear that there were no dearth of funds in the country financing industrial and agro-based projects but the entrepreneurs had to come up with sound project proposals to help the government boost production, create more employment opportunities and build a self-reliant Bangladesh.

The Finance Minister said the government had "more than enough money" to finance industrialisation and agrarian revolution. There has been more inflow of money than outflow in the banking system indicating sufficient fund at the banks which can be easily channelised to finance our industrialisation and agricultural development, he added.

Rahman asked the bankers to identify and advance loans to the sound projects to propel the economy. Bangladesh economy is not expanding despite a lot of reforms and policy changes as things are not moving he said adding but we had to expand the economy for the sake of economic emancipation of the people.

The Finance Minister asked the bankers to reactivate at least one hundred industrial units by December next. Give the industrial units working capitals and other assistances to make them viable and expedite the loan sanctioning procedures, he repeatedly told the bankers.

He, however, made it clear that all the non-performing industrial unit owners had to go to the banks if they need money for revitalising those enterprises.

Spelling out the mechanism of processing and financing of these non-performing units, Rahman said "if you bankers and Board Of Directors find any unit commercially not viable to finance, only then the state will take step to salvage that unit. But if it is within your reach and according to your assessment commercially viable to finance than for God's sake finance it and help the guy," he said.

He also asked the bankers to get rid of the regulations

## Another case against Mosharraf

A case has been filed against A K M Mosharraf Hossain, Industries Secretary during Ershad regime, for smuggling luxurious crystal items, wine glasses, flower bases, ashtrays and other materials from abroad evading duties, reports BSS.

## AIDS

From Page 1 Col 5

and Myanmar (Burma).

A recent AIDS conference in Amsterdam revealed that 10 million or more were estimated to have been infected with HIV, 80 per cent of those now catching the virus live in the world's poorest regions, largely in Africa and Asia.

Scientists, still unable to invent a drug to halt AIDS' deadly sweep worldwide, advise safe sex that would require men to use condoms, among other safeguards.

Though mainly a sexually-transmitted disease, AIDS is also caused by blood transmission.

An alarming aspect of the disease is, infected mothers pass it to their babies, a phenomenon causing new concern.

## Sick Industries Assoc postpones programme

The Sick Industries Association has postponed its programme of demonstration in front of the Industries Ministry today (Monday) in view of government initiative to solve the problems of non-performing industries, reports UNB.

## AL: Stop terrorists

From Page 1 Col 5

life and property and the government will have to take responsibility of any consequences.

It held the government solely responsible for creating a "disastrous" situation in the country and said it is the responsibility of the government which controls the law enforcing agencies to end terrorism.

"Henceforth, people do not want to witness any acts of terrorism", the resolution said warning that they will not tolerate it in future.

The meeting said the government did not pay any heed to repeated appeals in and outside parliament by the opposition parties, including Awami League, for taking non-partisan steps in halting terrorism.

Rather, politicisation of administration and continued patronisation of armed hoodlums have plunged the society into a state of insecurity.

Social crimes, including killing, hijacking, dacoity and repression of women, have made people scare and public life miserable. Ratan Sen was killed, businessman Fazur Rahman Mona murdered and Rashed Khan Menon shot and wounded, the resolution said.

In this context, the meeting recalled that the situation was not so bad immediately after the independence of Bangladesh when anti-social elements possessed huge arms although freedom fighters had surrendered theirs at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib.

The resolution said Awami League President Sheikh Hasina had ordered postponement of activities by her student front in Dhaka University and

requested the Prime Minister to do the same in a bid to help restore academic atmosphere.

"But without responding to the gesture of the Opposition Leader, the Prime Minister entertained branded terrorists in her Sugandha office".

Referring to the killing of students at Tejgaon Polytechnic and Dhaka University due to internal conflict in the Chhatra Dal, the resolution said the Prime Minister left for Jakarta instructing reconciliation of the two terrorist groups of her party without taking legal action against them.

The "anility" between the Prime Minister and the terrorists encouraged the identified armed hoodlums to go for shooting and killing, it said.

In a separate resolution, the meeting said the BNP government had failed to take steps in the interest of farmers and production, and criticised withdrawal of subsidy from agriculture sector.

It expressed concern at the unabated price hike of essentials and smuggling of jute across the border. The meeting called for waiving agricultural loans upto Taka 5,000.

It alleged that eligible voters were not being enlisted in electoral rolls with evil political motive before the municipal election and called for preparing a correct voter list to make future elections meaningful.

## Bomb hurled at city school

A country-made bomb was hurled into the premises of the Green Herald International School at Mohammadpur in city yesterday morning.



Soldiers stand guard in front of a polling station as South Lebanon went to its final round of polls yesterday. Story on Page 5