

# Croats still blocking UN food convoy to Mostar

SARAJEVO, Aug 23: Bosnian Croats are still blocking a United Nations food convoy from reaching the Muslim sector of Mostar where 35,000 people are under siege, a UN official said today, reports Reuter.

Lyndall Sachs, spokeswoman for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said the UN had been unable to contact anyone on the Bosnian Croat side with enough authority to allow the convoy in.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has called on the United Nations Security Council for help in getting emergency aid through to Muslims trapped in Mostar, Sarajevo radio reported today.

In a letter to the United Nations, Izetbegovic said Bosnian Croat forces had violated the human rights of Muslims blockaded on the eastern side of the city in what he termed a "true catastrophe," the radio said.

The President appealed to the United Nations to send officials from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to investigate conditions in the southwestern city of Mostar.

AFP from Brussels adds: NATO countries expressed alarm today at the deteriorating situation in Mostar.

Diplomats said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was keeping a close eye on discussions at the United Nations aimed at making Mostar a "safe area," which would give it a measure of NATO air protection.

They were speaking after a meeting of NATO's senior political committee, which was briefed by high-level US officials on the siege of Sarajevo and Bosnian peace talks in Geneva.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition that they not be identified by name or country, said there was general agreement to keep alive NATO's threat of air strikes against Bosnian Serb forces besieging Sarajevo and five other Muslim areas.

The air strike threat, issued by the 16-nation NATO on August 9, does not apply to Mostar, 80 kilometres southwest of Sarajevo, which the United Nations has not so far named a "safe area."

"If the situation continues to deteriorate, it would be necessary to include Mostar as a safe area," one diplomat present at the meeting said.

Another said that the situation at Mostar had been described as "desperate," and that the meeting had noted proposals that the European community should take over the administration of the divided city.

Izetbegovic called a meeting of his republic's parliament and other public figures next Friday to discuss the latest Bosnian peace deal proposed in Geneva. But he told a news conference on Sunday that he would not be able to recommend that the assembly endorse the plan to divide the former Yugoslav republic into three ethnic mini-states.

"I will not propose that they vote for such a proposal," the Muslim leader said, "I believe that such a proposal will not be acceptable, no matter what my suggestions will be."

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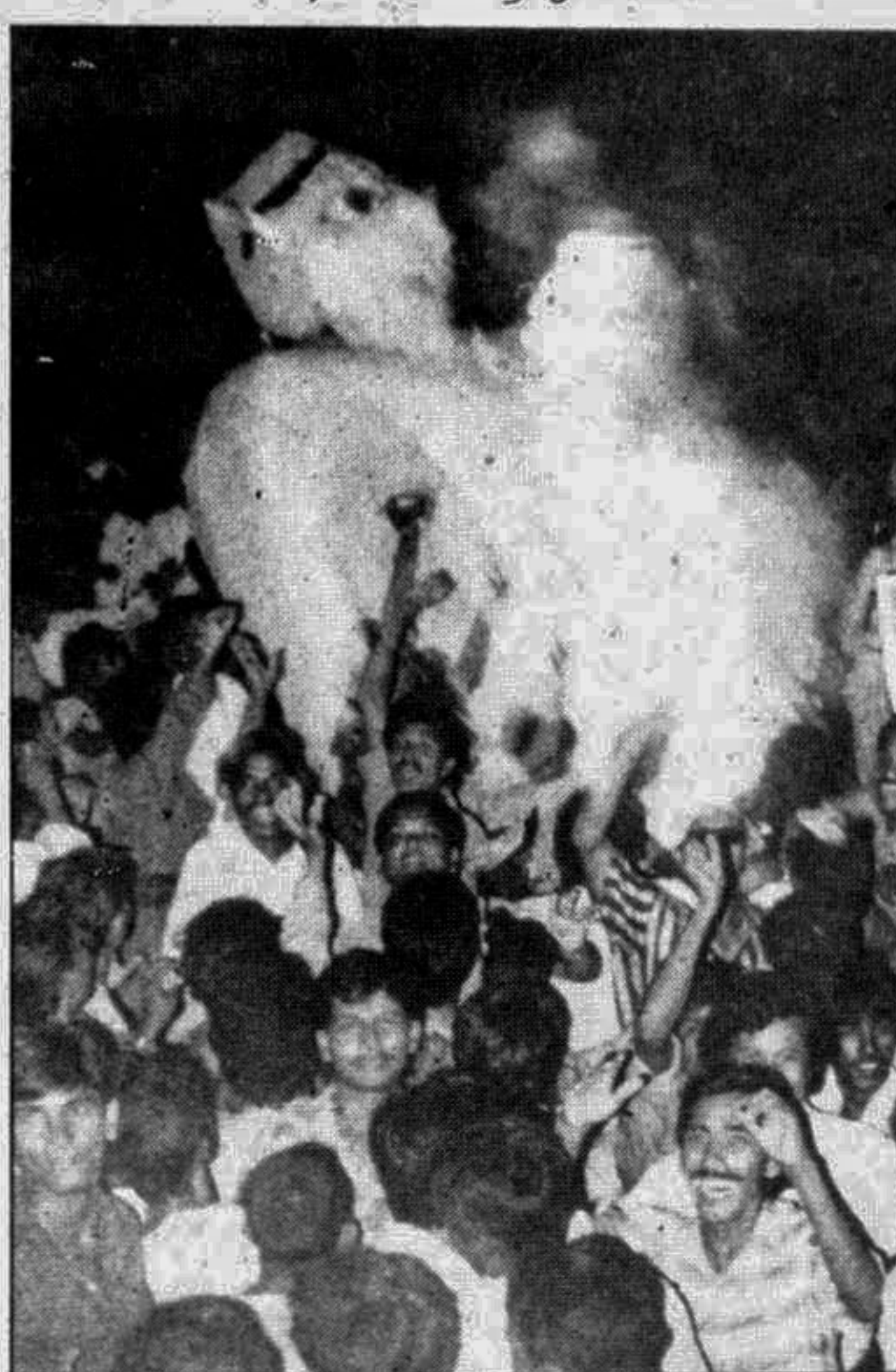
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An effigy of Jamaat leader Golam Azam was burned yesterday by activists of the Ghatak-Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

## PM reviews pryd programme of Barisal today

BARISAL, Aug 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate a review meeting on primary and mass education of Barisal division here tomorrow.

Officials said the Prime Minister will be apprised of the enrolment position in the primary schools and progress of the mass education project in the division.

The Primary and Mass Education Department has arranged the meeting at the Aswinkumar Town Hall at 11 in the morning.

A district-level review meeting with the Thana Education Officers on August 11 revealed that 3,07,404 children of the 6-10 years age group out of the total 3,61,364 under the ten thanas of the district had enrolled in different schools this year.

There are 945 government and 225 non-government primary schools in the district.

However, primary education officials pointed out that 40 to 60 per cent of the enrolled students have dropped out of their schools because of poverty and other reasons.

Financial crisis of the primary schools, lack of teaching staff and furniture had also forced the students to discontinue their studies, they said.

## HC adjourns contempt of court hearing

By Staff Correspondent

The counsel for novelist Humayun Ahmed yesterday argued before a division bench of the High Court that a published newspaper statement made by the writer does not constitute a contempt of court.

Ahmed is charged with contempt of court for statements he made in an interview with a vernacular daily in February last. Mafur Rahman Choudhury, Editor of the Bangladesh Patrika, and two journalists of the newspaper are also co-accused in the case.

The hearing began before Justice FHM Habibur Rahman and Justice Mafur Reza Choudhury. All the defendants were present in court.

Advocate Md Gazul Huq, on behalf of Ahmed, submitted that the statement made by the defendant in the interview was not scandalous. He argued that since the writer only attempted to make some "constructive" criticisms about the prevailing conditions in the courts, his statements did not fall within the mischief of contempt.

However, Assistant Attorney General Syed Abu Kawsar, appearing for the state, firmly opposed the defence argument. He asserted that the impugned statement regarding judges is scandalous and contemptuous of the judges and the courts.

Dr Kamal Hossain, appearing on behalf of the newspaper editor and other journalists, submitted before the court that he could not prepare for an adjournment.

The court granted the prayer and adjourned the hearing till November 9.

## Arafat must quit, says Fatah commander

SIDON (Lebanon), Aug 23: The commander of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah forces in Lebanon said today the Palestine Liberation Organisation chief should step down because financial crisis had reduced its fighters to beggars, reports Reuter.

Lieutenant-Colonel Munir Maqdash said Arafat should resign also because of Palestinian concessions at peace talks with Israel, internal PLO problems and "the tragedy" of Palestinians dependent on the PLO.

His call came a day after the PLO's veteran representative to Lebanon, Sahf Al-Hoot, withdrew from the PLO executive committee saying the organisation was being wrecked by problems over leadership, peace talks and finance.

"I want to tell Mr President Abu Ammar (Arafat) where is the independent Palestinian decision-making?" Maqdash told reporters in Ain Al-Hilweh Palestinian refugee camp near the southern port of Sidon.

"He who is tired let him take a rest, others will continue with the revolution," Maqdash said. "For how long will he (Arafat) just look at the tragedy the

## Another State Dept official quits over Bosnia issue

WASHINGTON, Aug 23: A State Department official who specializes in Eastern Europe resigned on Monday, saying he could no longer accept US support for what he called genocide and aggression in Bosnia, reports AP.

Stephen Walker, 30, is the fourth official to quit since last August to protest the Clinton administration's approach to the conflict in the former Yugoslav republic.

"Palestinian people are living? He said families of killed PLO guerrillas were suffering for a sixth month because the PLO was not paying pensions or salaries and hundreds of fighters and dozens of officers had become beggars."

"If there is no choice in front of him but Gaza, let him resign," said the mainstream Fatah faction commander of demands that Israel leave the occupied Gaza Strip in a trial pullout.

Maqdash, referring to Arafat saying last week discussion on the status of east Jerusalem would be raised during a third year of interim Palestinian self-rule, said Palestinian concessions "have reached the taboos: Jerusalem."

## Nirmul's sit-in in front of JS Bhaban Sept 26

By Staff Correspondent

The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Jatiya Samannaya Committee will hold a sit-in demonstration in front of the Jatiya Sangsad building on September 26.

Announcing this at a rally of students and youths in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening, committee chief Jahanara Imam said two to three lakh people would be mobilised in the capital to make the September 26 programme a success. Besides, she added, demonstrations would also be organised on the day at every thana and district of the country to press for trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam as a 'war criminal'.

According to committee sources, the sit-in demonstration was hurriedly decided after the police reportedly snatched away a 30-foot-tall effigy of Golam Azam Sunday night from the Arts Institute students who had made it.

Announcement of a dawn-to-dusk hartal is expected to be made on September 26.

Yesterday's rally was organised as part of the Samannaya Committee's nationwide programme of burning Azam's effigy.

The rally over, an effigy of Azam was set afire. This effigy was hurriedly made after police allegedly took away a bigger one the previous night.

Addressing the gathering, Jahanara Imam called on the student bodies to maintain unity and strengthen further their resolve against the 'war criminals, communal forces and their protectors.'

Reminding the students of their glorious role starting from the Language Movement of 1952 to the anti-autocracy agitation of 1990, Jahanara Imam told the rally, "No force can stand before you."

Imam wondered how the killers of Sheikh Mujib remained untried and a law like the Indemnity Act was allowed to remain in the country's Constitution.

The Nirmul Committee leader reiterated her accusation that the government was backing the Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party-Juba Command clique which dared to attack the independence people.

She told the rally that eight more 'war criminals' were being investigated and the charges would be made public before the Victory Day, Dec 16.

The committee will also organise a series of rallies in front of the Press Club from today until September 4.

Presided over by Awami Juba League president Nurul Majid Humayun, the rally was also addressed by the leaders of 14 student bodies and three youth organisations.

Our Chittagong Correspondent adds: Several hundred Nirmul Committee supporters marched through the 'city streets yesterday demanding trial of Golam Azam and his associates for his alleged war crimes in 1971.

Earlier, the local Nirmul Committee organised a student-youth rally at the Shahid Minar premises in the city calling for execution of the verdict passed during 'public trial' of Golam Azam last year.

## Babangida to quit tomorrow

LAGOS, Aug 23: Nigeria's military ruler General Ibrahim Babangida will step down on Wednesday, a senior aide said today.

"I can assure you that he is leaving on Wednesday," the aide, who asked not to be named, told Reuters.

Gayoom elected for another term

COLOMBO, Aug 23: Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom was today elected by the country's parliament as the sole candidate for another five-year term in office, Maldivian officials contacted over telephone said, reports AFP.

Gayoom, 55, polled 28 votes while his main contender and brother-in-law Ilyas Ibrahim mounted a serious challenge getting 18 votes in the 48-member Mujlis or parliament.

His nomination means he is almost certain to be re-elected when he goes before the 100,000-strong electorate where he needs 51 per cent of the popular vote to be confirmed in office.

Lahore HC

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Minister Moeen Qureshi's government.

Qureshi assumed office after president Ghulam Ishaq Khan and prime minister Nawaz Sharif agreed to step down July 18 to pave the way for mid-term polls under an army mediated formula to end mutual hostility and political rivalry between the country's two top men.

Immediately after his takeover the caretaker administration in the federal government and the provinces reshuffled top bureaucrats, fearing they might influence the elections scheduled for October 6 and 9.

Justice Malik, hearing a petition challenging the government order by a highway engineer Abdul Qayyum, stopped any further transfer of government officers until fresh orders from the court.

Flood situation in Ctg, Cox's Bazar improves

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 23: Flood waters began to recede from the inundated areas of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts, marking an overall improvement in the situation following a respite in the rainfall, administration sources said.

The Met Office recorded only 2 mm of rainfall here in the past 24 hours up to 6 pm today. Met officials said the skies here had now cleared considerably.

## City experiences heavy rainfall

By Staff Correspondent

Incessant downpour yesterday paralysed city life for the second successive day.

The Met Office recorded 30 mm of rainfall in the capital which left most low lying areas submerged under knee-deep water. It started raining from early yesterday morning and continued until afternoon.

An active low over the country was responsible for the downpour, the Met Office said.

Gandaria, Narinda, Shantinagar, Malbagh, Kakrati, the Dhanmondi Road 27 crossing, Sobhanbagh, Nazmuddin Road, and parts of Mirpur Road were the most affected areas. Many vehicles were seen stuck in the middle of the submerged roads.

Traffic jams were acute as many drivers opted for alternate routes to avoid the roads under water. Supply of vegetable and fish were also inadequate in the city markets due to the downpour. Attendance at schools, colleges and offices was also thin. The only rush was noticed at the video shops with people forced to stay home seeking ways to pass the time.

Reports received from different parts of the country say heavy showers were experienced in most of the country on the day.

The highest fall, 120 mm, was recorded in Dinajpur and Bogra.

# The Midnight File

## Mugabe to call fresh meet with UNITA

HARARE, Zimbabwe, Aug 23: President Robert Mugabe agreed Monday to lead a new initiative to get Angolan peace back on track, a top United Nations official said. UN special envoy to Angola Aloune Beye said Mugabe will call for a meeting with UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi to try and persuade him to honour a cease fire in the embattled southern African nation, reports AP.

## Liberian guerillas block food convoy

MONROVIA, Liberia, Aug 23: A Liberian guerilla group has blocked a convoy of food meant for thousands of starving people in territory held by a rival faction, aid workers said Monday. Six major relief organizations sent the convoy on Saturday from Monrovia, but it was blocked at the frontier town of Kakata by guerillas belonging to the United Liberation Movement of Liberia, reports AP.

## Greece-Macedonia talks Sept 28

UNITED NATIONS, Aug 23: The governments of Greece and the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia agreed Monday to begin formal, direct negotiations Sept 28 on improving relations and resolving constitutional issues, reports AP.

## Govt's textiles plan lauded

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Specialised Textile Mills and Powerloom Industries Association (BSTMPIA) and the Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Tanti Dal, in separate statements yesterday hailed the Textiles Ministry's 16-point plan to revamp the textiles sector.

BSTMPIA said different vested quarters are already active to foil the programme and urged the Prime Minister to take steps to implement it.

The association said vested quarters are demanding a raise of duties on yarn and other raw materials to destroy the textiles sector.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Jatiyabadi Tanti Dal said that if the duties on textile raw materials are brought down, as per the 16-point plan, the textiles sector would benefit immensely.

Convener of the Tanti Dal, Shahidullah Khan, in the statement, also demanded prompt implementation of the programme.

## Golam Azam

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appeal against the High Court verdict initially came up for hearing before the Appellate Division. The Attorney General then sought an adjournment for four weeks.

The same day, the Appellate Division lifted the stay order on the High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of Golam Azam.

## OIC confce

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generally hosted every year by the Turkish government, Bangladesh has been participating in this meet for the past several years. Saifur Rahman also led a delegation to the meet last year.

The Finance Minister is also expected to call on the Turkish president and discuss matters of technical and economic cooperation. The possibility of setting up a technical institute with Turkish cooperation will also be discussed.

He is also expected to seek permission for the possible use of Turkish land route for sending Bangladesh commodities to neighbouring CIS countries. Saifur Rahman will later fly to Bonn to discuss with his German counterpart matters of bilateral interest.

## Hasina

From page 1 col 7  
the well-being of the people. "We want to reduce our dependence on foreign aid, increase investment, production and export. We want to revitalise the sick industries and set up new ones," she added.

She said overall development cannot be achieved until the misery of the vast section of the poor people is removed. She called for creating markets for agricultural products and setting up agro-based industries.

Among the Awami League leaders who addressed the meeting were Abdus Samad Azad, MP, Abdur Razzak, MP, Tofael Ahmed, MP, Abdul Jalil and Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP.

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries Mahbubur Rahman, President of the Dhaka Chamber Wazi Ullah, President of Chittagong Chamber SM Abul Kalam, President of Metropolitan Chamber Laffur Rahman, Begum Laila Kabir of the Employers' Association, President of the Jessore Chamber Abdur Razzak, Vice-President of the Rajshahi Chamber Mushtaq Ahmed Labu, President of the Handicraft Exports Association Maleka Khan, President of the Association of Consulting Engineers Shahidullah, and President of the Bangladesh Salt Mill Owners' Association Shamsul Islam Shajhahar also spoke.

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## Nurses' strike

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Bangladesh Nurses' Association, in a statement, protested the remarks made by the Health Minister while talking to The Daily Star Monday.

They rejected the arguments of the Minister, saying the authorities could have taken steps much earlier to appoint a DG as well as fill the 38 vacant posts in the Nursing Directorate, which would have averted the present situation.

"The burning question is, why are so many posts lying vacant in the Directorate? Was it only to create a situation like this one?"

The statement, jointly signed by the Association president Rezina Islam and secretary general Hosne Ara Begum, added: "Did the government in 1977 (a BNP government) commit a wrong by setting up the Nursing Directorate which the present administration thinks must be righted?"

Leaders of the Bangladesh Nursing Teachers' Association termed the statements of the Health Minister "illogical and unfounded."

The recent decision to place the jobs of the nurses under the Health Directorate was "a deep-rooted conspiracy," they observed.

## Fenchuganj Fertiliser to be closed in Dec

The urea fertiliser factory at Fenchuganj will be closed from December 31 next to facilitate the construction of a new urea factory there, which is expected to be commissioned for production in the first half of 1996, reports BSS.

## Govt college teachers threaten strike

By Staff Correspondent

Some 11,000 government college teachers will observe a two-day token strike from September 1 protesting the dilly-dallying of the authorities in solving the problems of the education cadre.

A press release of BCS General Education Association said if the demands of the teachers are not met by August 31, they will go for a greater agitation after September 3.

The teachers alleged that the Ministry of Finance is sitting on various decisions relating to higher scales and creation of jobs.

They also alleged that the Public Service Commission is holding files on proposals for promotion of 29 Laboratory demonstrators to lecturership without any reasons.

The teachers also alleged unplanned nationalisation of educational institutions on the recommendations of influential quarters.

## Child labourers

## Action against 2 garments factories

Authorities during surprise visits to 23 garments factories found only 73 child labourers working in two factories out of the total number of 7,684 workers engaged in those firms, reports BSS.

Legal actions had already been taken against the two factories for employing child labourers.

Regular surprise visits to the garment factories and legal measures against employing child labourers by garment factories will continue.