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Serbs remain defiant

West sends troops to rescue peacekeepers

SARAJEVO, May 29: Increasing pressure on rebel Serbs who are holding 367 peacekeepers hostage. Western nations sent thousands more troops toward Bosnia today and tried to salvage the confused UN mission, reports AP.

Isolated and desperate, the Serbs showed no signs of releasing hostages until they get promises there will be no more military action like the NATO air raids against Serb ammunition dumps on Thursday and Friday.

European Union foreign ministers assembled in Brussels to debate the next step, the United States reaffirmed its support for the UN pres-

ence in Bosnia, and the United Nations promised new suggestions to revamp the mission within 24 hours.

Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, en route to The Hague for a meeting with his US, British, French and German counterparts, issued Moscow's strongest condemnation yet of the treatment of UN peacekeepers. Russia has been traditionally allied with Serbs.

Meanwhile, a shell slammed overnight into the headquarters for the UN commander in Bosnia, the first time the headquarters had been shelled. Spokesman Lt Col Gary Coward said the United Nations considered it

an errant shell. No one was hurt.

Heavy fighting was reported north of Mostar in southwest Bosnia-Herzegovina. Local army sources said Serbs appeared to be trying to cut the road between Split and Sarajevo, the key artery for any new troops getting into Bosnia.

Personnel on the ground in Sarajevo were unimpressed with the dispatch of more troops, urging a quick and unified decision on what to do.

Britain has announced that it would send up to 6,200 more troops to Bosnia, including some crack units.

Britain's ministry of defense warned the Serbs of 'very

Writ filed against anomalies in registration form

A writ was filed in the High Court yesterday challenging certain provisions of the voters' registration form as illegal and unconstitutional, reports UNB.

Advocate Aminul Gani Tito filed the petition while Advocate ABM Nurul Islam moved it on behalf of the petitioner.

The petitioner pointed out mainly two points — fixation of the date, January 1, 1995, to be eligible to become a voter upon attaining 18 years of age, and place of registration of a voter.

Advocate Nurul Islam, submitting before the court wondered how the Election Commission could set the date with retroactive effect to count 18 years for a person to become a voter when the voter registration began about five months later, on May 25.

Under this provision, about 22 lakh people will miss the

AL rejects JP's demand for updating old list

By Special Correspondent

The Awami League has dismissed the Jatiya Party's demand for updating the existing voter list, saying that the electoral roll prepared under the Ershad regime was faulty.

"There is no scope to update and use the voter list prepared during the rule of the past government — that, too, was faulty", said AL general secretary Zillur Rahman.

"We need a flawless new electoral roll where all the eligible voters will be enlisted." The 1991 JS and 1993 city corporation polls were held under that list.

Zillur was giving his reaction to the Daily Star yesterday on the JP demand, contained in a memorandum submitted by its leaders to the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Sunday. The JP demanded cancellation of the ongoing voter registration and

asked the Election Commission (EC) to prepare the electoral roll by updating the existing one, prepared in the late '80s, to ensure "timely" holding of the next general elections.

The AL general secretary, however, was critical of the present voter registration process, terming it 'very much complicated'.

He feared that due to flaws in the registration system, about 50 per cent of the eligible voters would remain out of the list.

"A large number of voters would also be deprived the right of casting their votes according to their choice," said Zillur, especially pointing to the 'anomalies' in Item 11 of the registration form.

He said that the clarification issued by the EC on that



Anniversary of Zia's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The 14th anniversary of the death of President Ziaur Rahman will be observed today.

On this day in 1981, Zia was killed by a group of army officers at the Chittagong Circuit House.

The ruling BNP, its front organisations and different socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes.

The BNP programmes include hoisting the party flag at half mast, placing wreaths at the mazar of Zia and offering *fateha* there at 9 am.

The party will also hold a discussion meeting at the auditorium of Shilpakala Academy at 4 pm today.

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3 ministers meet PM to discuss situation in admin

Three ministers yesterday had a meeting with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reportedly discussing with her the present situation in the administration, reports UNB.

Agriculture Minister Major Gen (Rtd) Majid-ul-Haq, Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam attended the meeting, sources said.

The meeting is believed to have discussed the situation arising out of the transfer of Secretary Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and action programme threatened by the BCS (Admin) Cadre Association.

The sources indicated that the government might revise its order regarding the transfer of Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

Barisal Medical College closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, May 29: The Sher-e-Bangla Medical College here was closed *sine die* today.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the College Academic Council held with Principal Abdul Karim Mollah in the chair.

Resident students were asked to vacate their hostels by 2 pm today. However, the examinees were asked to appear at their examinations in the college.

Clashes, explosions of bombs, chase and counter chase were continuing for the last four days between the BCL and the JCD activists on the college campus, at the hostels and outside the college area. Two students were stabbed and at least 15 to 20 injured. Sporadic clashes were going on even though police was present on the campus.

It is learnt that a meeting was held at the college last night, attended by representatives of the college authority, district administration, political parties and student bodies, to stop the unrest but it

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Titumir College student shot on BUET campus

By Staff Correspondent

A student received bullet injuries during clashes at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in the city yesterday morning.

The victim Qamrul Huda, 22, was identified as a student of Titumir College.

Around 15 gunshots were fired by unidentified persons near the Ahsanullah Hall of the University at about 10:30 am. The cause of firing could not be known.

BUDGET '95-96

Business leaders speak out
Today: Mansurul Aziz,
President of Bangladesh
Cement Traders' Association.
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STOCK MARKET

DSE price index 705.06 (+1.05%)
Market capitalisation Tk 41.76 billion
Turnover in volume 91337
Turnover in value Tk 14.17 million

Supplement

Special supplement on
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Ziaur Rahman
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NEWS BRIEFS

Bangladesh troops in Bosnia safe

According to the latest report received from Bosnia, all members of the Bangladesh military contingent including military observers are safe and sound there. In view of the present tense situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bangladesh army headquarters is maintaining constant contact with them, reports BSS.

Khaleda condemns Irfan's killing

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday condemned the killing of Bosnian Foreign Minister Irfan Ljubijankic by the Serbs. In a message to the Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Begum Zia called upon the international community to use all its influence so that peace and order could be restored in Bosnia-Herzegovina maintaining its sovereignty, unity and independence, reports UNB.

32 hurt in Sirajganj College clashes

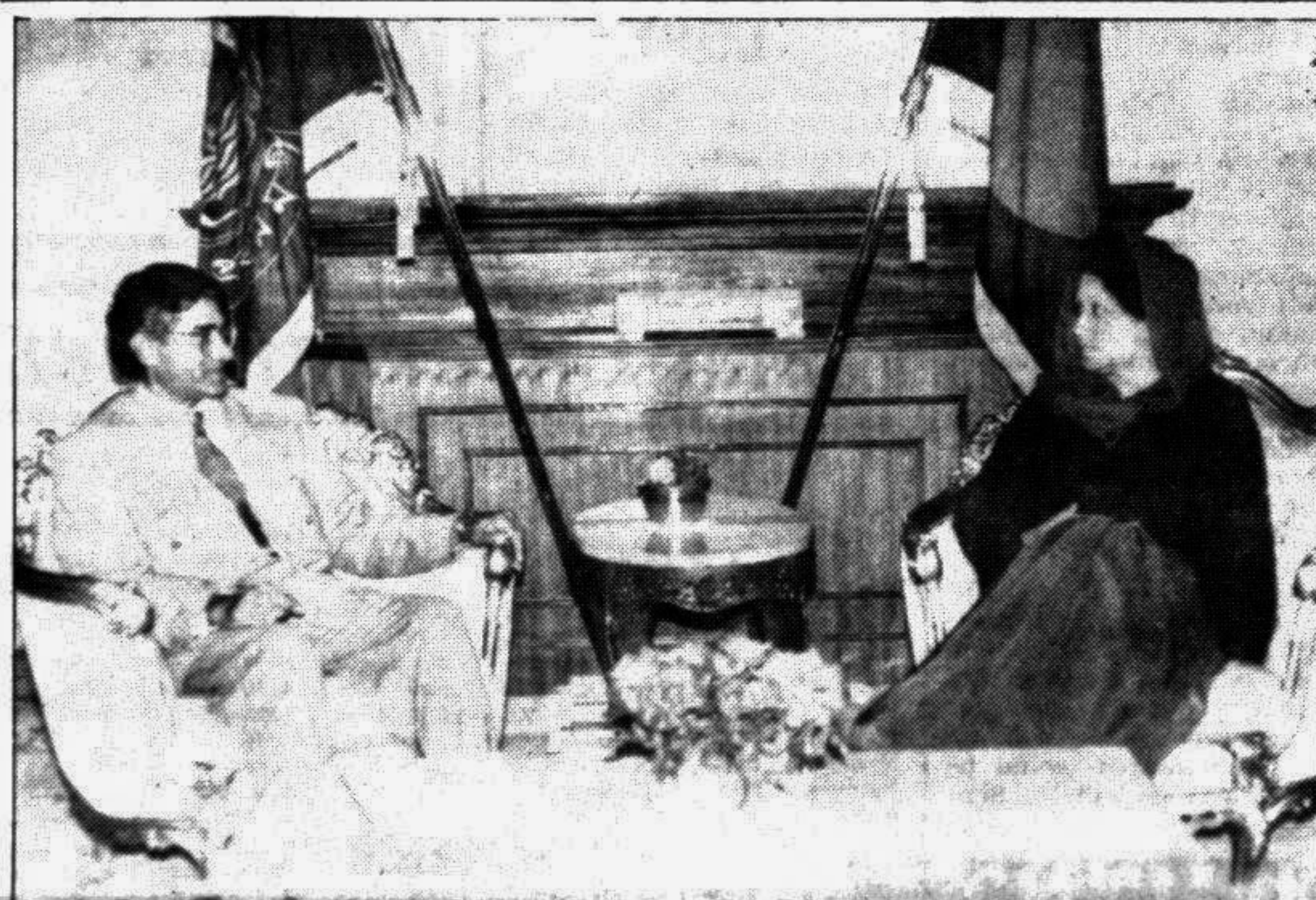
SIRAJGANJ, May 29: Post-election clashes between supporters of the Chhatra Dal and the Chhatra League at Sirajganj University College compound left 32 students injured today. The clash erupted following today's students union election in the college. Rival groups used guns and cocktails during the clash. Eight supporters of the JCD and seven of the BCL were seriously injured with splinters, police said. According to unofficial result, the BCL captured three of the 18 posts of the college unions including VP, GS and Assistant Female Secretary while JCD bagged the rest posts, reports UNB.

Shahjalal varsity reopens

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, May 29: Classes in the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology resumed today, after a 24-day Eid-ul-Azha, Buddha Purnima and summer vacation.

Boy killed

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, May 29: An unidentified minor boy was killed when a speeding truck hit him at Chiknagol on the Sylhet-Tamabil road this morning. Police recovered the body and sent it to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical college hospital morgue.



Professor Nabi Dad Khan, special emissary of Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Over \$1b ROK investment in 5 years likely

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan yesterday said that South Korea's investments in Bangladesh could easily cross one billion US dollars in the next five years due to the 'tremendous response' being shown by that country's entrepreneurs.

Giving a wrap up of the recently concluded visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of South Korea, accompanied by a

40-plus business delegation, the Foreign Secretary said at a press briefing. There has been some remarkable progress in the direction of attracting Korean investment.

The current level of South Korea's investment is around 100 million US dollars and Bangladesh has welcomed South Korea's plan to build an industrial estate in Chittagong which would bring an investment of another 100 million dollars.

A team of 16 leading Korean entrepreneurs led by the President of Yongone Company, the largest entrepreneur operating in Bangladesh, will arrive in the capital today to look into the prospects of further investments.

Among the other proposals already mooted during the visit of the Prime Minister is setting up of a large composite textile mill by a reputed Korean company.

The Foreign Secretary said several Korean investors have expressed their interest in setting up cement plants. The Prime Minister had useful discussions with Daewoo on setting up cement plant by processing limestone at Jaypurhat.

Hyundai group, one of the largest Korean conglomerates, is already involved in the Jamuna Bridge project and the

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Officials say 300 Russian quake death toll now 1500

TOKYO, May 29: The death toll from the Sakhalin earthquake in the Russian Far East reached 1,500 today. Kyodo news service quoted government officials on the stricken island as saying, reports AFP.

They said its correspondent in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk collected the toll from local officials.

Earlier, the island's Deputy Governor, Victor Gurevich, said there were 300 dead and 3,000 missing, the Russian ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Gurevich added that around 300 people had been hospitalised after Sunday's quake, which measured 7.5 on the Richter Scale and destroyed 80 per cent of the town of Neftegorsk, in the north of the island.

AP adds: Rescue workers desperately dug through collapsed apartment buildings today for hundreds of people buried by a major earthquake on Sakhalin island.

Moans could be heard from under the rubble in Neftegorsk rescue workers said.

The quake was one of the largest in Russia's history, and the casualty toll was expected to rise as rescuers combed the remote Pacific island site.

Pak special envoy briefs PM on Kashmir situation

Pakistan Prime Minister's special envoy Prof Nabi Dad Khan yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and apprised her of the latest situation in the Kashmir valley following the Char-e-Sharif carnage, reports UNB.

Pak Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Prof N D Khan, who arrived here in the morning as special envoy of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, said Indian leaders were issuing threats which created a 'serious situation' in the Indian-controlled Kashmir.

The envoy informed the Prime Minister that he would also fly to Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei to brief the leaders of those Muslim countries on the prevailing situation in Kashmir.

He said Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmed Ali is also requesting an emergency meeting with the Prime Minister.

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Prof Yunus gets Freedom Prize

Prof Mohammed Yunus of the Grameen Bank has been awarded Freedom Prize 1995 of the Max Schmidheiny Foundation of Switzerland for his outstanding contribution to the drive for breaking the vicious circle of poverty, reports UNB.

Prof Yunus, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank, is the first Asian to get the prize along with the Prime Minister of Portugal, Anibal Cavaco Silva, and President of the Institute of Liberty and Democracy of Peru Dr Fernando de Soto.

The prize, worth 41,000 US dollars, was given at a formal ceremony at the St Gallen University near Zurich on May 22, said a press release here yesterday.

President of the Swiss Federal Council Cadpser Villiger was

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Two-day transport strike ends College student dies in bomb explosion

By Staff Correspondent

The two-day strike by a section of road transport workers ended yesterday with another person getting killed in a bomb explosion at Bijoynagar in the capital.

A bus helper died at Sayedabad in a bomb explosion on the first day of the strike Sunday.

Abdul Kader, a second year honours student of the city's Siddheswari Degree College, was seriously injured when some transport workers, supporting the strike, hurled crackers at a town service bus in Bijoynagar at around noon.

Kader expired at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 3:00 pm, our DMCH Correspondent reported.

In the incident, five other bus passengers — Ripon, 30, Wazul Islam, 40, Rehanuddin, 32, Manarajan Biswas, 25 and Abdur Rab Sarkar, 32, — were injured. All were admitted to the DMCH.

The Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation (Wazuluddin Khan-Habibur Rahman Khan) had called the strike to press its 11-point demand while the Biplobi Paribahan Samik Federation opposed the programme.

The demands include: is-

suance of appointment letters and service books to transport workers, reduction of punishment for driving offences, stop to harassment of the transport workers by the law-enforcing personnel and an end to terrorist activities at the bus depots.

Most of the inter-district buses operating from the city terminals at Sayedabad, Mahakhali and Galtul went off the roads, disrupting transportation between the city and other parts of the country.

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Private aircraft operation soon

The passenger carrier aircraft in the private sector will soon start operation from the Tejgaon Airport, a press release issued by the Civil Aviation Authority said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

In view of this all have been asked to refrain from driving motor vehicles, grazing cattle and walking through the runway.

The civil aviation authority has reminded that the area is a restricted one and that unauthorised entry there is a punishable offence.

Berthing congestion at jetties hampering export, import

By Staff Correspondent

Many cargo vessels have remained stranded at the outer anchorage of Chittagong port for the last few days due to a serious berthing congestion caused by shortage of adequate container-handling equipment and increased volume of imports.

Expressing concern at the situation, Redwan Ahmed, MP, president of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), said in a statement yesterday that inadequate container-handling capacity of the Chittagong port is creating serious dislocation and delay in clearance of imported consignments for the garments industry. Consequently, the shipment of garments has

been suffering.

The BGMEA president said currently the port has an inventory of over 13,500 containers, whereas the space designated for the purpose at the port could accommodate only 8,500 containers.

The dearth of holding space for containers has been compounded by the shortage of container-handling equipment in the port, Redwan said.

Our Chittagong Correspondent reports, berthing congestion at the jetties has forced most of the foreign vessels, between 20 and 30 including the feeder vessels, to wait at the outer anchorage for five to seven days, incurring huge demurrage.

When contacted, a senior

Port Authority official told The Daily Star that the berthing congestion for the past three months has been especially acute because of a sudden rise in the volume of foodgrain imports caused by a bad Aman harvest and persistent drought. The government issued emergency instructions to give berthing priority to vessels carrying cereals.

In his statement, the BGMEA chief added that owing to the congestion incoming ships remain at the outer anchorage for a minimum period of six days while unloading takes another five to six days because of poor handling facilities.

Redwan Ahmed mentioned that while a vessel requires six

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The city's Gulistan area on the second day of the transport strike yesterday. — Star photo