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Inhabitants of Dahagram and Angorpota returning to the enclaves after their day's work. — Star photo By AKM Mohsin

People in 94 enclaves yet to be voters Delhi asked to allow entry of enumerators

Star Report

The government has asked the Indian authorities to allow enumerators to enter Bangladesh enclaves to enrol eligible voters there.

"We have taken up the issue strongly with Indian authorities and asked them to give round-the-clock access to the enclave," a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The Indian authorities have assured that they would look into the matter," the spokesman said.

"More than one lakh eligible voters in 96 enclaves, excepting Dahagram and Angorpota, could not enrol themselves as voters as Indian authorities are yet to permit the enumerators to enter the enclaves."

Under the new provision, eligible voters have to remain present before the enumerators for their registration and all these enclaves are situated inside Indian territory along the border belts of the northern region.

The Election Commission officials, when contacted, said that they recently requested the Foreign Ministry to contact Indian authorities to settle the issue so that eligible voters in the enclaves could be enrolled.

"Our men are ready to enrol the eligible voters in the enclaves as soon as transit permission is obtained," said S M Zakaria, additional secretary of the Election Commission.

Our correspondent in Rangpur quoting local authorities said, the Indian authorities were contacted and requested well ahead of the beginning of voter registration programme on May 25 to provide transit permission. But there is no response till date, sources said.

On previous occasions, people of these enclaves had exercised their franchise both in national and local body elections having adequate transit facilities, informed our correspondent.

Hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis living in the enclaves undergo sufferings because they virtually remain deprived of keeping touch with the main land.

Jute-textile workers' strike receives poor response

By Staff Correspondent

The five day strike, called by the private sector jute, textile and spinning mills across the country received poor response on the first day yesterday.

The alliance of five trade unions called for the work stoppage to press their eight-point demand including pay rise, implementation of the National Wage Commission report for the non-government industrial units, halting the government's disinvestment move and reopening the closed mills.

The organisers of the strike programme claimed that over one lakh workers observed the strike peacefully at about 80 private jute-textile spinning mills in Tongi, Narayanganj, Chourasah, Bhairab and Chittagong on the first day yesterday.

However, according to reports from the industrial zones, the strike was observed partially. All jute-textile mills

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Hearing adjourned till July 16 Ershad, others not produced in court

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 1: Former president H M Ershad and four retired army officers chargesheeted in the Gen Manzur murder case were not produced in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) here today.

The hearing of the case was adjourned till July 16 and the court issued fresh directive to the authorities of the jails concerned to take the five accused to Chittagong on that day for their appearance before the court.

The CMM S M Matiuur Rahman said this morning he received "an wireless message addressed to the court" from the authorities concerned that due to shortage of escort force the accused including Ershad could not be brought here.

Assistant commissioner of police (prosecution) Bakhtiar Hossain Bhuiyan said that due to inclement weather and shortage of required police force the five accused could not be produced before the court today.

The CMM said, "The court has accepted the grounds shown by the jail authorities and set the next date — July 16 — for escorting the five accused to this court." He added that after the five accused were produced before the court, the case would be transferred to trial court.

The CMM said seven persons were chargesheeted in the case but two of them — Brigadier A K M Azizul Islam and Naik Subedar Abdul

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FBUTA meets PM, demands amendment to '73 Ord

Leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association (FBUTA) last night called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and highly praised the different on-going programmes of the government to attain the desired goals in the country's educational arena, reports BSS.

The delegation of the leaders, headed by the Federation President Prof M Aminul Islam, while exchanging views with Prime Minister, during their meeting at the International Conference Centre, said the sense of responsibility among the students were increasing because of democratic practice in society.

They urged the Prime Minister to keep on her uncompromising role in eliminating terrorism from the campus.

The teachers also under-

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New master plan for Ctg to be implemented in 25 years

CHITTAGONG, July 1: Fisheries and Livestocks Minister Abdullah Al-Noman said here today that a Taka 1,000 crore new master plan had been prepared for the development of Chittagong city, reports BSS.

The plan, he said, has been prepared keeping in view the future needs of the growing Chittagong city including its environment, drainage, flood control, industrialisation and habitat. The plan will be implemented in phases in 20 to 25 years, he said.

Speaking at a review meeting of Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) at its conference room this morning, the minister pointed out that the first master plan for Chittagong city was prepared in 1961 and that plan had now become obsolete and ineffective.

The circumstances have changed and we need to develop cities and towns according to the need of the time, he said. A modern city can not ignore its drainage and flood control systems, environment and condition of human habitation and infrastructural facilities for investment and trade while preparing a master plan, he added.

CDA Chairman LT Col (retd) Muhammad Ziauddin placed before the meeting a massive drainage and flood control respective plan for Chittagong. This is part of the new master plan.

The review meeting of CDA was attended by Local MPs Seratul Islam and Begum Rosy Kabir, chief engineers of Water Development Board and Power Development Board besides Chittagong Port and CDA officials. Harold B Senter, Project Coordinator of UN Centre for Human Settlement, was also present at the meeting.

The Fisheries and Livestocks Minister said that the new master plan would lay due emphasis on development of drainage, flood control, environment and building of infrastructures and manpower for facilitating industrialisation and expansion of trade in the port city.

Noman stressed the need for afforestation and ban on hill cutting in the city to improve the environmental condition saying separate allocation had been made for planting trees in the divisional cities of the country.

The minister pointed out that no master plan could be successfully implemented without cooperation and coordination among the different agencies. In this connection he asked CEA, WDB, PDB, Chittagong City Corporation and Chittagong Port officials to develop and maintain coordination while implementing development programmes.

The minister said that no minor obstacles should stand in the way of executing the master plan or any other development plans. Problems and obstacles must be solved through coordination of different agencies.

The minister said that the

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6 killed, 35 hurt in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Six persons were killed and thirtyfive injured in road accidents in the country yesterday.

Of them 3 were killed and five others injured in road accidents in the city.

Babul Ahmed, 32, died when a truck ran over him at Nayabazar at about 2:30 pm. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Mozamm, 15, was killed as a truck, hit by another truck from behind, jumped on a footpath near Palashi and knocked him down.

Five labourers on the truck were also injured.

An unidentified man, aged about 50, was killed when a mini bus hit him at Paikpara in Mirpur. His body was kept in the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet says: A young man was crushed under the wheels of a speeding minibus at Pathanpara near the central Bus Terminal at Sylhet. The victim Attab Hossain, 22, was

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Egypt rules out military action against Sudan

CAIRO, July 1: Egypt today ruled out taking any military action against Sudan even if it was proved the Khartoum government was involved in an assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak, reports AFP.

The two neighbours had appeared on collision course since Mubarak accused the Islamist government in Khartoum of involvement in last Monday's attack in Addis Ababa and threatened retaliation.

But the president's political advisor Osama Al-baz said today, "Egypt will not carry out military operations against Sudan, even if it is proved that there was official or semi-official Sudanese involvement in the assassination attempt on President Mubarak."

If Sudan was involved "we have the political and legal means for dealing with the situation," Baz said. Sudan has strongly rejected the Egyptian accusations.

He explained that "semi-official" involvement was a reference to the National Islamic Front of the Khartoum government's powerful spiritual leader Hassan Al-Turabi, whom Mubarak singled out personally for blame.

In Khartoum, there were also signs that the authorities were beginning to turn the heat down after a war of words during the past five days.

Loudspeaker vans toured the capital announcing the postponement until Monday of a mass rally called to denounce Egyptian "provocations."

Sudan said two of its policemen and a soldier killed in skirmishes in the disputed Halaib region this week, while Egypt confirmed the two dead, and said three of its own soldiers were wounded.

Egyptian television returned to normal programmes today after a week devoted entirely to patriotic and martial slogans accompanying speeches by Mubarak threatening reprisals against Sudan.

The change in tone was re-

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Sonali Bank will also collect VAT in city

The Sonali Bank will soon be authorised to operate as a treasury bank in the capital city to reduce the existing complexities in the payment of Value Added Tax (VAT), reports UNB.

This was disclosed by National Board of Revenue Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan during a post-budget parley yesterday with the members of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

At present, only Bangladesh Bank is authorized to collect VAT in the capital and other cities where it has branches. The Sonali Bank collects the tax in places where the Bangladesh Bank has no branch.

Apprising the chamber leaders of some upcoming measures aimed at easing tax payments, Dr Khan said the proposed Tax Settlement Tribunal, scheduled to start functioning from October, would quicken resolving tax

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20 more killed, 10 mutilated bodies found in Karachi

KARACHI, July 1: At least 20 people were killed and 28 injured today during a strike called by the ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), raising the death toll to 34 in two days of violence, police and hospital sources said, reports AFP.

The MQM had called the strike for yesterday and today in a programme of two-day weekly protests against alleged persecution of its supporters.

The party is blamed by the government for terrorism and violence in the city.

Police said three people were shot dead in Orangi township, in the west of the city, and a bullet-riddled body was found in the same area.

Five more were shot dead in south district, while another two were killed in the industrial area of Korangi, while four others were shot dead in Gulbahar and Li-aquatabad areas in the central district.

AP says, mutilated bodies of at least 10 people were found early today dumped in different neighbourhoods of the city, police said.

They said the mutilated body of a man with his head and penis cut off was found in a park in the city's central district.

More than 16,000 paramilitary rangers and thousands of police have been deployed to curb the terrorism and violence in the city, where more than 1,900 people have been killed since last year.

Security forces patrolled the streets in armoured personnel carriers while militants fired from rooftops and at times from cars and motor-cycles at the police or at other targets, witnesses said.

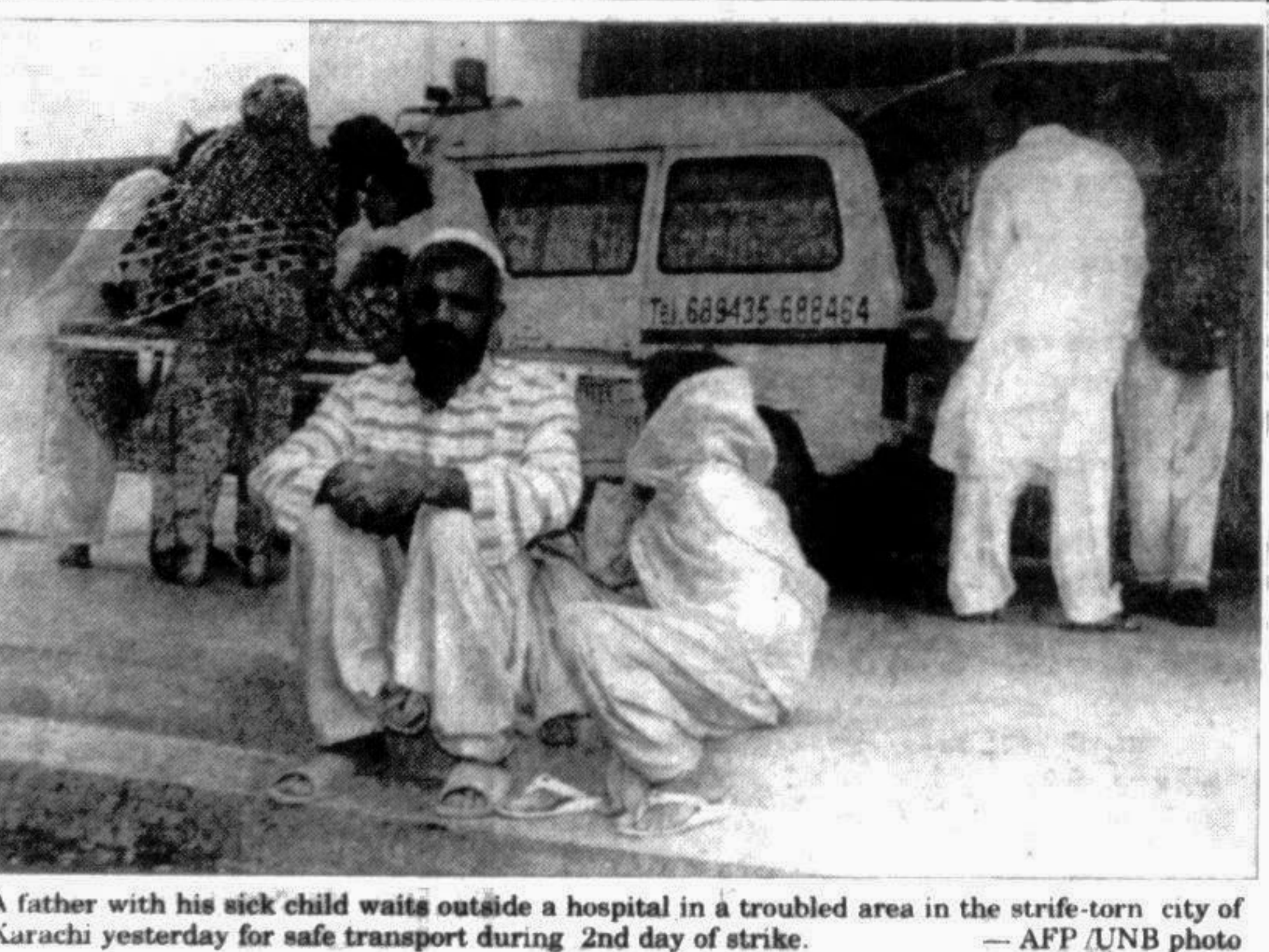
In several areas which have been in their control, the armed militants did not permit even private clinic to function, resident said.

The shutdown has badly hit the local population.

Residents reported food shortages in the worst-affected parts of city with shops and markets shut and transport off the roads.

"We feel like prisoners," said Shehla Liaquat, a housewife in a locality in the central district of the violence-wracked city.

"My daughter fell down from a staircase and bled from her head, but I could not take her to a doctor," said a terrified resident.



A father with his sick child waits outside a hospital in a troubled area in the strife-torn city of Karachi yesterday for safe transport during 2nd day of strike. — AFP (UNB photo)

25 DU senators blame VC for 'partisan role'

Some 25 senators of the Dhaka University yesterday condemned Vice Chancellor Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed for his alleged partisan role in the DU Senate session held on June 28-30, reports UNB.

The DU senators elected from Registered Graduate category, who walked out of the Senate session on Friday, also blamed Prof. Emajuddin Ahmed for hatching conspiracy to make the Senate inactive.

"The VC has lost his legal right of holding the post of chairman of Senate because of his partisanship and pro-government attitude," the senators further said in the joint statement.

Housewife falls from roof, dies

By Staff Correspondent

A housewife, Rukshana Begum, died after falling from the sixth floor roof of a building in Paribagh area in the city yesterday.

Mother of a 12-year old son, Rukshana, 32, was the sister of Abul Hasnat, former Mayor of Dhaka. She fell from the roof of the under-construction building belonging to one of her brothers, family sources said.

Her husband Habib Ahmed is a businessman.

Dr Abul Kashem, one of Rukshana's brothers, told this

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Wimbledon Result HIGHLIGHTS
 Courtesy
 Royal Dutch Airlines

Men's singles (3rd round):
 Boris Becker (Germany) Def Jan Siemerink (Netherlands)

Wayne Ferreira (S Africa) def Mark Woodford (Australia)

Women's singles (3rd round):
 Lindsay Davenport (USA) Def Christina Singer (Germany)

Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) def Miriam Oremans (Netherlands)