

# 11,000 child workers in garments factories

By Staff Correspondent

Some 11,000 underage children were identified as child workers in the country's garments factories by an ongoing survey.

The survey is being conducted by teams comprising selected and trained researchers and BGMEA officials, under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), the ILO and the UNICEF on July 4 this year.

The MOU is aimed at removing child labour from the garments sector. The implementation of the MOU was being carefully monitored by a steering committee comprising officials from BGMEA, UNICEF, ILO, the US Embassy, and the Bangladesh government.

The number of the child labourers was ascertained after a single visit to some 1830 garments factories and two visits to some 600 factories, said a UNICEF release yesterday.

According to the press release for factories for which data is available, the planning of schools is already underway. "The survey has identified approximately 11,000 underage workers thus far. Enough survey data is expected to be processed in the next few days so that steps could be taken to begin accommodating the first complement of child workers in schools," the UNICEF release said.

It said, "The survey teams visited all factories in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna on a random basis to make a rapid

assessment of the incidence of underage workers following the terms laid down in the MOU. Later, factory managers were given the responsibility to list all underage workers and fill out a questionnaire for each.

A second visit was also made without prior announcement to verify the number of child labourers and the accuracy of the questionnaire, said the press release adding that the process includes checking age, educational level, address and income. The views of children on the education and support programme were also solicited.

The UNICEF clarified that ILO was designing the verification programme to ensure that the terms of the MOU are observed, including that no underage workers are re-trenched before placement in education programmes, and that no new hiring of underage workers takes place.

The programme also includes the provision of stipends for re-trenched workers who are placed in schools. According to the press release, the parties to the MOU were investigating the most effective means of implementing the MOU complement.

In addition, steps have been taken by UNICEF and ILO to identify the ways of providing food supplementation and income-generating opportunities to adult family members as well as vocational orientation and related options for the children.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Narayanpur in Ghoraghat thana of Dinajpur district yesterday. — PID photo

## JCD rivals clash at Bangla College

By Staff Correspondent

Gunshots and cocktail explosions rocked the Mirpur Bangla College campus yesterday as two groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) clashed over admission of its activists to the college.

The clash started reportedly when a group of youths from Dhaka College entered the Mirpur College at about 2:30 pm in a bid to get some students admitted.

But the Dhaka College boys, said to be the JCD members, were resisted by the activists of the same organisation.

One person was injured in the clash. But his identity could not be known. A vehicle was also set on fire. When contacted, Mirpur police said they had heard about the incident, but could not give details.

## ADP funds

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during first quarter against disbursement of Tk 189.50 crore. Last fiscal's project aid expenditure for the same period was Tk 574 crore.

A source in the implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (IMED) of the Planning Ministry attributed the increased expenditure in project aid was due to down-payment of huge amounts for some high priority projects like the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP).

Explaining the reasons for higher disbursement of funds during the first quarter of this fiscal, the State Minister for Planning, Dr A Moyeen Khan, told the Daily Star that his ministry had paid special attention to make funds available to the line ministries.

Earlier, there had been allegations that the implementation rate remain slow because of delay in release of funds.

"The higher fund disbursement figures prove the administrative efficiency brought to the project implementation system," he added.

"We are aiming to improve the implementation rate by involving the people in the project formulation," Dr Khan said. "We have already initiated the process from this year."

"Our objective for this year is to attain better implementation rates because this is the terminal year for the BNP government," he pointed out.

This year's ADP allocation is Tk 12100 crore of which Tk 7070 crore is in taka component and Tk 5030 crore in foreign aid component.

## HC rule on BB

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and fundamental rights of the petitioners as guaranteed under Article 27, 31 and 40 of the Constitution.

Earlier, the concerned bank authorities served notice under Section 17 of the Banking Companies Act, 1991 on the petitioners with a forwarding letter from the Bangladesh Bank.

Upon receipt of that notice the concerned directors replied to it.

But the Bangladesh Bank did not consider it satisfactory and by another notice dated October 2, 1995 informed the defaulters that if they fail to pay the overdue loans within the stipulated period the decision of the Bangladesh Bank shall be final.

Barrister Rafiqul Haq, Barrister Rokunuddin Mahmud, Advocate Shah Abu Naem Mominur Rahman, Advocate Mahmudul Islam, Advocate Murad Reza, Advocate Faisal Mahmud and Advocate Naïma Haider appeared for the petitioners.

Dr Rafiqur Rahman appeared for the Bangladesh Bank.

## Tour of northern dists ends We have overcome first phase of calamity: PM

RAJSHAHI, Oct 31: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today visited vast flood-hit areas of Bogra, Gaibandha, Dinajpur and Rajshahi districts expressing her satisfaction at the smooth progress of the post-flood relief and rehabilitation programmes across the affected areas, reports BSS.

"With the cooperation of the people and all out effort of everybody concerned including the district administration and the army, we have overcome the first phase of the calamity. Now, different types of works will be initiated to create income-generating jobs," she said.

The Prime Minister visited five northern districts in two days. Today she visited Gobindaganj, Katabari and Puhlahar of Gaibandha, Narayanpur Ghat and Goraghat under Dinajpur, Tanor and Samashpur of Rajshahi district. She talked to the flood victims and distributed relief materials.

She also addressed a number of spontaneous gatherings.

Begum Zia saw the conditions of 515 families who took shelter on the Water Development Board embankment in Gaibandha. The

flood washed away their houses.

Speaking at spontaneous gatherings in different flood-hit areas Begum Zia said, "I had also come to see you during the flood. Now again I have come to see your conditions and the progress of the post-flood relief and rehabilitation programmes."

She gave a list of measures undertaken by her government immediately after the beginning of the flood, including the rescue and relief operations, building shelter centres, regular supply of food to the affected people at the shelter centres, medical and post-flood relief and rehabilitation programmes.

## Housewife gangraped

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 31: The wife of a rickshawpuller of Khalishpur was allegedly gangraped by five young men in the presence of her husband on Monday night.

Police said two of them — Sattar and Faruque — were arrested. Three others are absconding.

## Hasina' letter to PM

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sought an appointment with the PM to deliver the reply to her on the same day. But the designated leaders of the AL could not get an appointment and the PM left the capital to visit the flood-affected northern districts later that day.

The AL leaders waited for a response on their request after the PM returned to Dhaka yesterday evening. AL chief Sheikh Hasina, general secretary Zillur Rahman and other central leaders discussed the matter at the party's Dhanmondi office last night and decided to send Hasina's reply through the BNP acting secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan.

Accordingly, AL Presidium member Tofael Ahmed contacted Mannan Bhuiyan over telephone at around 9.30 pm. Soon, Prof Abu Sayeed and Hasina's APS started for Mannan Bhuiyan's house carrying Hasina's reply.

Before their departure from the AL office, a disappointed Sheikh Hasina told reporters, "The Prime Minister is not giving us any appointment. They (the BNP leaders) seem unwilling to accept our reply. We've now decided to deliver the reply to Mannan Bhuiyan."

After his telephonic talks with Mannan Bhuiyan, Tofael Ahmed told waiting reporters, "We hope the PM would accept the proposal of our party chief (made in her letter) in the greater national interest and resolve the political crisis by arranging a meaningful dialogue."

Tofael also quoted the BNP acting secretary general requesting him to wait until today to get an appointment

with the PM. "I told him that the matter is very important and we cannot wait any more," the AL leader said.

Tofael further told the journalists that they hoped that the Prime Minister would realise the gravity of the current political crisis and accept the concept of a caretaker government to hold the next general elections.

After receiving the reply from Hasina, Mannan Bhuiyan told waiting reporters that he would inform the PM of the matter and send the letter to her this morning.

Replying to questions, he said, "We will take the next steps after studying Hasina's reply."

"The PM was not in the city and she never refused any appointment with the AL leaders regarding the handing over of the AL chief's reply to our leader," he said reacting to the AL allegation that Begum Zia was unwilling to give an appointment to the AL leaders.

## Chakma

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being supplied to them. Papum Pare district deputy commissioner Amit Yadav said today.

He said prohibitory orders under 144 CrPC had been promulgated from Sunday last at Kokila in Balijan circle of the district. The police was trying to nab the culprits.

He denied a statement of the deputy commissioner of Sonitpur district of Assam that more than 300 Chakmas had entered the Assam forests.

## Trade resumes through Tamabil check post

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 31: Cross-border trade and other activities through the Tamabil check post resumed today and normalcy returned in the border after six days of tense situation.

The situation had become tense when BDR protested an attempt by Indian authorities Wednesday last to construct a Customs office, building just yards off the "no man's land".

After three rounds of BDR-BSF flag meetings in the last five days, it was agreed yesterday that the construction work would remain suspended till the dispute was resolved at a higher-level meeting.

## Border conctce concludes

Officials of the border forces of Bangladesh and India have reached an understanding to further consolidate and strengthen the efforts for keeping the borders free from crime and disorder, reports UNB.

The understanding came at the two-day annual border coordination conference between the two countries which concluded at the BDR headquarters in the city yesterday.

## Beximco money snatching: 2 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested two youths in connection with the snatching of Tk 16.20 lakh of Beximco and recovered Tk 1.27 lakh from them, said a police press release.

The youths are Mozaffar Hossain alias Babu, 25, and Mohammad Jahangir, 24. The press release did not say when and from where they were arrested.

They gave their confessional statement before the magistrate of CMM court A K Nazmuzzaman, said the press release.

The money was snatched on October 5.

## Jessore Shibir activist killed in bomb attack

JESSORE, Oct 31: An activist of the Islami Chhatra Shibir was killed in a bomb attack at Baghachara in Sharsha thana of the district today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Akhtaruzzaman, 18, was critically injured when a bomb allegedly thrown from a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) procession hit him near Darul Aman Trust building at about 1 pm.

Akhtaruzzaman, a student of Baghachara College, died on way to Jessore General Hospital.

About a dozen of people, including five Shibir activists, were injured in the attack. Of them five were admitted to local thana health complex. Four shops were also set on fire during the trouble.

Meanwhile, Sharsha thana unit of the Chhatra Shibir called a half-day hartal in the thana on November 2.

## Korean EPZ

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preneurs. Sung said "we are contemplating investments on textile machinery, sports shoes, textile accessories, plastic factories, factories linked to shoes and apparels, stainless steel, electronics, cutleries, nylon and jute products."

Sung also stressed the need for supportive government policies on the way to achieving their mission.

He pointed out the necessity of bringing technology by sending workers from Bangladesh to Korea for training.

Earlier, the president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry Sarwar Jamal Nizam delivered his address of welcome highlighting the opportunities available in Chittagong favouring foreign investments.

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, and Honorary Consul of South Korea in Chittagong, Salman Isphani, Anis A Khan and Ali Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

Amir Khosru in his speech said "it is really a very pragmatic and bold decision taken for setting up a Korean industrial zone in Chittagong."

He hoped that positive results would come out by the end of the year.

## The Midnight File

### 11 Uzbek generals killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Oct 31: Eleven commanders of general Abdul Rashid Dostam's Uzbek Militia have been killed by members of a rival faction, the Bakhtar Information Agency (BIA) said today. The 11 generals were gunned down on Monday after attending the funeral of a commander of another Afghan group, the Hezb-i-Islami, in the northern town of Baghlan, the news agency said, reports AFP.

### Minority rights leader, 3 others to die in Nigeria

PORT HARCOURT, Nigeria, Oct 31: Minority rights leader Ken Saro-Wiwa and three others were sentenced to death by hanging today by a special court. The court sentenced five other members of the opposition Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (Mospo) to death by hanging Monday after finding them guilty of murder, reports AFP.

### Pabna JCD goes on rampage Dist BNP leaders meet Nov 3

From Our Correspondent  
PABNA, Oct 31: Activists of a student organisation went on a rampage here tonight following the arrest of a youth.

Witnesses said, some members of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) damaged a number of grocery shops, hotels and about 30 vehicles at Chartala in the town to protest the arrest of one of their activists Siddiqui Rahman alias Siddique.

Earlier in the afternoon, police picked up Siddique, an accused in a case, from the Sweepers' Colony area.

All shops of the Pabna town were closed immediately after the incident.

### Jilted lover

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Chairman. Lovely said that she had come to Dhaka about a fortnight ago to join her boyfriend who lived in Mirpur. Both lived in a house at Bailey Road in the city for about ten days, she added.

At one point her boyfriend 'rejected' her and she chose to 'finish her life' by becoming a prostitute.

On her way to Narayanganj on Sunday last, she told her grievances to a young man in the bus who took her to a friend's house. As she became desperate to go to the red-light area, Liton handed her over to the Narayanganj thana.

She also claimed that she had undergone a troubled family life in Naogaon.

Police put her under safe custody by a court order and she would be there till she meets her parents.

An emergency meeting of the leaders of Dhaka and Chittagong divisions and some district units of BNP will be held on November 3 at the party central office in the city at 5:00 pm, reports BSS.

### Cancer Institute's

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other relevant departments several times but to no effect, he said.

The Director General of Health, when contacted, told this correspondent that he was aware of the situation. "Necessary measures will be taken in this regard," he added.

According to sources in the locality, soon after the land was allotted for the CRI, some local people constructed a *katcha* mosque there overnight. The mosque was later made *pucca*. "It is an unscrupulous practice to grab land," commented an elderly man in the area.

A group of local people realises money from the shops in the *bazar* in the name of "bazar committee".

One person identifying himself as the leader of the government employees living in the slum said, "We will leave the area after we are provided with quarters now being constructed for us."

The official said that the unauthorised occupants were evicted during the Ershad regime but they regrouped and occupied the area again.

Established in 1986, the Institute has now 39 doctors including specialists and a 50-bed hospital. A total of 268 operations were conducted at the Institute till June this year.

## Attention

### Cellular Telephone Subscribers

This notice is to inform our valued subscribers that we are in the process of transferring our subscriber base from the existing exchange to a new Motorola 2500G technologically advanced exchange with a capacity of 1,00,000 subscribers. Due to this transfer, customers in certain areas are likely to face problems with service. In our constant endeavor to provide better service we are working to resolve the issues at the earliest. We regret the inconvenience.



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## বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

বিটিএসপি ভবন, ৭-৯, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

## বিজিএমইএ'র সদস্যগণ লক্ষ্য করুন

সেকেন্ড এ্যাঞ্জেইজমেন্ট পদ্ধতির মাধ্যমে মাল খালাসের ত্বরিত ব্যবস্থা কাস্টমস কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক পৃথীত হইয়াছে যা বিজিএমইএ'র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ৭৬/৯৫ তারিখ ২৬/১০/৯৫-এর মাধ্যমে সকলকে অবহিত করা হইয়াছে। সেকেন্ড এ্যাঞ্জেইজমেন্টের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করিয়া ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে মাল খালাস করুন।

সচিব  
বিজিএমইএ

Editor: Mahfuz Anam