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Samad Azad meets Kuwaiti Amir

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, now on a visit to Kuwait, yesterday paid a courtesy call on Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed and conveyed him Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's greetings, reports BSS.

According to a report received in Dhaka they discussed matters of mutual interest and termed the relations of the two countries as fraternal and cooperative during 'good times as well as in adversities.'

The Amir of Kuwait praised the contributions of Bangladeshi workforce there. He also mentioned the services of Bangladeshi Armed Forces personnel now working in mine clearance.

Samad Azad extended invitation on behalf of Bangladesh Prime Minister to the Amir of Kuwait to visit Bangladesh at a convenient date which was accepted by the Amir. The Amir requested Azad to convey to Sheikh Hasina his greetings.

Samad Azad also held a meeting with Acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-

Jaber Al-Sabah at an hotel in Kuwait.

The two ministers exchanged views on the area of the bilateral interests. Sheikh Sabah expressed his deep satisfaction at the visit of Bangladesh Foreign Minister.

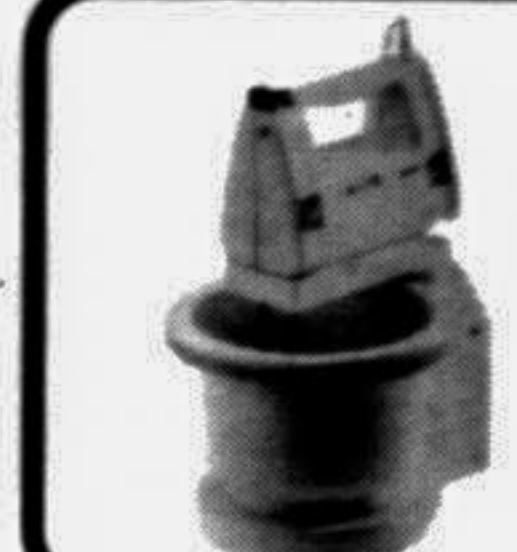
The Foreign Minister later visited the headquarters of Bangladesh Military Contingent (BMC) to Kuwait.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister also called on Kuwaiti Minister for Labour and Social Affairs, Abdur Rashid Koulad and discussed ways to enhance export of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled manpower from Bangladesh to Kuwait.

They also discussed issues of developing the condition of employment of the Bangladeshi working force in Kuwait.

The Kuwaiti minister said that Kuwait has been giving preference to Bangladeshi manpower in keeping with the assurance given by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister of Kuwait.

Azad thanked the Kuwaiti minister for the initiatives and invited him to visit Bangladesh at an early date. The Kuwaiti minister accepted the invitation with pleasure.



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210 mw power plant to be set up in Khulna

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Muzaffar Khan yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had planned to set up a 210 mw power generation plant at Khalishpur of Khulna district, reports BSS.

Replying to a call attention notice moved by Kazi Sekendar Ali Dalim (AL-Khulna), the minister said the proposal for power plant was awaiting the approval of the Planning Commission and National Economic Council.

The minister said after the approval, the installation work would start with availability of foreign funds. He, however, said plant could be established through private or joint venture initiatives.

Kazi Sekendar Ali also proposed for repairing the existing 60 mw power generation plant in his constituency. He said the disruption in power supply was seriously affecting production in all the industries in the area.

The minister said the government had already taken up the work to repair one 60 mw and one 28 mw power plants which would be put into operation soon.

Plan to construct 91 flats for govt employees

State Minister for Works Asrar Ahmed Khan yesterday said the government has a plan to construct 91 flats in Dhaka city for government employees, reports UNB.

Replying to Ahmed Tafiz Uddin (AL), Khan said the plan will be implemented during the current fiscal year.

Responding to a question from Kamal Ahmed Majumder (AL), he further told the House that some 131 industrial plots were allocated in Mirpur-Palali area during 1991-96.

British minister

From page 1 see the current economic condition and debt and tax situation in the country.

Replying to a question, the British Minister said he will visit various UK-aided projects in Bangladesh, the second largest recipient of British aid.

During his stay here, Liam Fox will call on the ministers for finance, commerce and industry and home affairs, and the state minister of foreign affairs as well as business leaders.

He said he will discuss with them investment, trade and other related issues.

Besides, Dr Liam will meet with Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury to acquaint himself with the business and proceedings of the Jatiya Sangsad.

He will also visit Sylhet, from where most of the Bangladeshis living in Britain originate, and see for himself with British aid, consular and immigration operations in Bangladesh.

The British minister is also expected to meet BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Replying to a question regarding the killing of Siraj Mia at JLA, the minister said this is a very important issue in term of relationship between the two countries.

He said he will discuss the issue with concerned authorities to 'know the fate of the case and latest situation.'

Khaleda's house

From page 1 cooker: 1,35,102 on furniture which included, one steel almira, three tables, two cushion chairs, 10 arm Cain chairs, one double bed and one side rack (all old) and one wood almira, one table, two cushion chairs, one side rack, one double bed, one double zaxim, one double toshak, one hanger, one sofa set, 35 feet curtain roll and 676 square feet of carpet.

Besides, Tk 19,09,750 was spent on construction and repair works.

The State Minister told the House that except two air coolers, 24 ceiling fans and one changeover switch, all electronic goods and machinery had already been brought back by the works ministry. All wooden furniture except one wooden almira and two chairs have also been returned, he said.

Earlier, answering to another question from AL deputy Mirza Azam, the state minister informed the House that since independence, family members of only one ex-President got allotment of house in exchange of a token price. Afsaruddin said, Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of late Ziaur Rahman and their two sons, Tareq Rahman and Arafaat Rahman got the allotment of the cantonment house on July 17, 1982 at a token price of Tk 101.

Responding to another question from BNP legislator Md Mashiur Rahman, the State Minister said since June 13 this year, Tk 19,95,776 has been spent for renovation of Ganobhavan.

Mentionably, state guest house, Karotoa has been re-verted to its original name Ganobhavan and renovated to make it the official residence of the Prime Minister.

Sangsad tidbits

From page 1

As Golandaz stood again to finish his speech after the Maghreb prayers break, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, chairing the sitting then, said, "Mr Golandaz (meaning gander), trigger your gun."

Soon, the AL lawmaker once again said "Bhayera Aamar" which generated more laughter than the previous time.

This time, Golandaz apologised to the Chair. He also explained, "We're habituated with the style by addressing public rallies. I've called you honourable brothers... it's nothing insulting."

The Opposition BNP lawmakers, specially the former ministers, seemed to be enjoying the speech by State Minister for Land, Revenue, Mosharraf, who was castigating the past BNP regime for corruption, irregularities and nepotism but in a very entertaining manner.

The more the minister was speaking on such issues, the more the BNP leaders were seen encouraging him by laughing and showing gestures.

Referring to BNP lawmaker Alamgir Kabir's deliberation, Rashed Mosharraf said, "I don't find any reason for the frustration as has been expressed by the Opposition MP."

The minister hastened to add, "Yes, you may be frustrated since you're no more in power and are deprived of the Hala-Rooti."

Several BNP lawmakers in the front bench were then heard saying, "We've given you the 'Hala-Rooti, you can eat those now.'"

"Do you know that at the moment Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid is the most popular personality among the TV viewers

for his excellent performance in the House." BNP lawmaker Maj (ret'd) Hafiz told the Deputy Speaker in the chair prior to reading out his notice.

In response, the Deputy Speaker told the BNP MP, "You please read out your notice."

"I beg your permission to present my notice the way veteran member Abdul Mannan (of AL) did it yesterday," Hafiz said.

"You first become a veteran member like Mr Mannan. Then you'll also be allowed," was the reply from the Chair who also added, "I also allowed another veteran member (of your party) Dr Alauddin to speak the same way."

Getting Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak's reply to his notice, Maj (ret'd) Hafiz recalled his university days with the minister and said, "We used to play football. I was a striker while he (the minister) was a goalkeeper. But now he is trying to play the role of a striker."

Criticising the proposed budget for "lacking proper planning," Mahabubur Rahman of BNP said, "If a budget lacks proper 'Parikalpana' (planning) then the 'Pari' (fairly) will fly leaving behind the 'Kalpana' (imagination)."

Speaking on the declining standard of education, Delwar Hossain Saidee mentioned that an interviewee recently replied, "I will eat you" when asked to translate in English the Bangla sentence - "Ami Apnake Khawabo. When advised to answer after proper thinking, the interviewee said, "I must eat you."

Indian cultural festival in Nov

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed here yesterday for holding Indian cultural festival in Bangladesh in November, reports BSS.

Acting Secretary of the Cultural Ministry Anisul Haq Chowdhury and Indian High Commissioner Dev Mukharjee signed the MOU on behalf of their respective governments, a government announcement said.

The signing ceremony was also attended by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Obaiddul Kader and visiting Director General of Indian Centre for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Meera Sankar.

Under this agreement, an Indian cultural festival will be held in Bangladesh in November in which prominent Indian dancers will take part.

An Indian film festival will also be held under the accord.

Leader of spurious cement producers held in city

Police arrested the alleged leader of a well-organised gang involved in producing and marketing spurious cement from Ramna thana area in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as Golam Mostafa who escaped a police raid at Shaheenbagh on August 11. On the day police unearthed a spurious cement factory there.

Mostafa had been wanted by police in several cases filed against him with different aliases in the port city of Chittagong on the same charge.

AL, BNP agree

From page 1 Referring to Monday's incidents at the Dhaka University campus, Badruddoza Chowdhury alleged that the ruling party backed armed terrorists left 20 students injured. He further alleged that police took side with them and raided some selected dormitories.

Later, two ministers - Mohtashem Nazim and Abdur Razzak - sought floor to speak on the issue. Upon request from the chair, Razzak opted for not speaking on that point and Nasim took the floor.

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim said "We also like to discuss about the terrorist activities." He said, during the last five years, 'hooligans' belonging to BNP-backed students from let loose rain of terror on the campus and turned a number of DU halls into virtual 'cantonments'.

Nasim said that people are yet to forget the terrorist activities of JCD. He alleged that many BCL boys were ousted from their dormitories and they were yet to be rehabilitated.

CTBT

From page 1 for it to be implemented.

In an initial reaction, the US Ambassador to the talks, Stephen Ledogar, called the move "most regrettable" and "a distortion of the conference's rules of consensus."

Ledogar said that despite the Indian veto, the draft treaty could still be force through to the General Assembly next month.

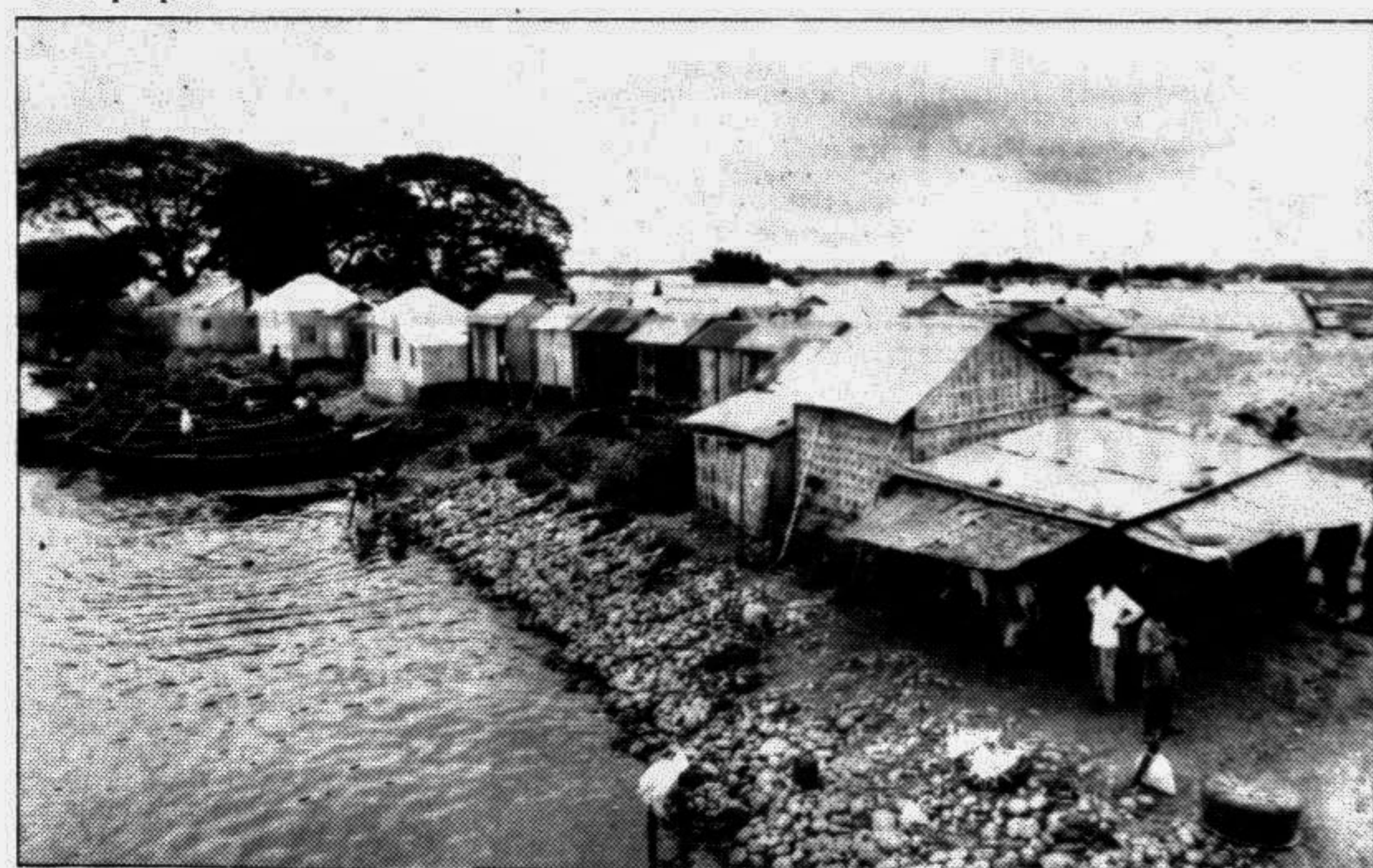
Pakistan, meanwhile, denounced the move by India as 'hypocrisy', saying its demands were 'obviously unrealistic and unreasonable,' and accusing India of opposing the draft treaty to keep its own nuclear options open.



The Meghna ghat, the place from where Tareq and his two companions climbed on an identical vessel seen in the photograph. The Meghna bridge is seen in the background.



The kutcha road from the Dhaka-Chittagong highway leading up to the ghat just by the river. The three youngsters parked their vehicle somewhere on this road, according to local people.



The nearby bazar from where local people rushed to help after hearing screams for help. - Star photos by Amran Hossain.

Tareq

From page 1 the scene immediately. Despite a strong current in the river, some local people jumped in and continued searching for about half an hour.

"The river gets so fierce during this time of the season particularly in the morning hours, that we ourselves, having grown up here, do not dare to have a swim," said a local resident.

A cloth trader in the area, quoting the employees of the cargo vessel, said that the staff of the vessel had requested the three persons to get off the cargo as they were preparing to start the voyage.

After the search for about an hour the girl and the boy left the place and later in the morning again returned to the spot with two other young men. They again searched the river with the help of the local people but failed to trace the missing young man. They all left the ghat area and again came to the spot at around noon with one of their parents, according to the local residents.

In the afternoon, in the presence of the parents and some youths, police from Gazaria thana conducted an extensive search but failed to trace the missing boy, they said.

According to reports, Tareq, along with his friends Rocky and Lubna, went for a long drive on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway after a dinner at a restaurant in Banani area under Gulshan thana. They made a stop-over at the Meghna Ghat.

Rakib Mohammad Fakhru alias Rocky son of former deputy minister Fakhru Islam Munshi, the main accused in the complaint lodged by Tareq's father at Gazaria thana, was sent to jail custody and was not granted bail Monday. The two others arrested were released on bail.

Tension at DU

From page 1 fired and several home-made bombs were blasted during a clash between BCL and JCD activists on the campus.

After the clash, a huge contingent of police raided F Rahman, Mohsin, Surjansen, Zia, Jasimuddin, Bangabandhu, Zohurul Huq and Salimullah halls of the university between 3 am and 5 am Tuesday. But police could neither recover any illegal weapons nor arrest any person.

Police forces were deployed on the campus to avert further violence.

Chhatra Dal enforced a day-long strike on the campus yesterday protesting 'terrorist' activities of BCL and failure of the police and university authorities in keeping peaceful academic atmosphere. No classes and examinations were held. The strike will continue today, JCD activists said.

During the strike, JCD brought out a procession on the campus and held rally at the main entrance of the Arts Faculty building. The meeting addressed by Shaheeduddin Chowdhury Anney, Habibunnabi Shohel, urged the university authorities to take necessary steps for maintaining peaceful academic atmosphere on the campus.

In the evening, a chase and counter chase between BCL and JCD activists took place in the TSC area following a procession by JCD. One gunshot was heard during the chase and counter-chase. Chhatra League activists then brought out a counter-procession chanting slogan against the JCD-called strike. Police lobbed teargas shells and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the rival student activists.

The general students are fearing that clash between the

two rival groups may erupt any moment as both have consolidated their strength in their respective halls, sources in the campus said.

UNB adds: The Dhaka University Syndicate at an emergency meeting yesterday urged law-enforcing agencies to play an effective role to maintain law and order on the campus.

Expressing concern at the deteriorating law and order situation on the campus, the meeting urged the law enforcers to act as directed by the Prime Minister to arrest the 'miscreants.'

Vice-Chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting, said a DU press release.

The VC informed the meeting about the latest situation of the campus, including the incidents that took place at Fazlul Haque Hall and F Rahman Hall on Monday night.

The Syndicate also expressed deep concern over the incidents that occurred on the National Mourning Day.

Meanwhile, the Provost Committee of the university at a meeting urged the law enforcing agencies to take necessary action against the terrorists for maintaining congenial atmosphere on the campus.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed was in the chair.

Schoolgirl commits suicide in city

By DMC Correspondent A schoolgirl and a housewife reportedly committed suicide in and around the city yesterday.

Shilpi, 14, a student of class seven committed suicide by hanging from a ceiling fan in their house at east Islambagh under Lalbagh thana at about 1:30 pm hospital sources said.

The body of Shilpi, daughter of one Abu Bakar, was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Meanwhile, Jotsna, 23, wife of one Abdul Hakim of Madhyapara, Savar, committed suicide by taking insecticide the body was sent to the DMCH for autopsy, hospital sources said.

Soccer fans

From page 1 Police lobbed several tear gas shells and resorted to lathi-charge to bring the situation under control inside the stadium. But the agitated spectators became more violent. Hundreds of violent spectators, mostly young men, got out of the stadium through its gates in different sides, witnesses said.

The mob then started damaging motor vehicles passing through Motijheel, Paltan, Bangabandhu Avenue and

Gulistan areas. Some shopkeepers claimed that their shops were looted during the violence.

A huge contingent of police on riot gear outside the stadium also lobbed tear gas shells and resorted to lathi-charge to disperse the mob.

Witnesses added that the violence spread to Fulbaria, Bokshibazar and other adjoining areas.

Traffic came to a halt on the roads in Paltan, Motijheel, Dilkhusha and Gulistan areas while shopkeepers at the stadium market, Baitul Mukarrom Market and other shopping centres downed their shutters.

A large contingent of police personnel were deployed in the area to check further violence.

Police picked up five persons during the violence but declined to identify them.

The body of the youth was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Garments workers' memo to Speaker

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Garments Workers' Unity Council submitted a memorandum to the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday to press home its demands including implementation of labour and factory laws and the wage board award in the garments sector.

To hand over the memorandum, garments workers started marching from the Mirpur Square in a big procession towards the Parliament building in the morning.

But police intercepted them near Kazipara where they later held a protest meeting condemning, what they said, the undemocratic attitude of the police.

Later, police allowed a 5-member delegation to hand over the memorandum to the Speaker.

According to the garments workers, the wage board fixed in 1994 Tk 930 as their minimum wage but no garments factory implemented the award.

Their 8-point demand also include full implementation of the ILO convention 81, weekly holiday and maternity leave.

It also urged the government to start construction of an alternative dam in the country to offset the adverse impact of Farakka and resolve the water crisis during dry season.

The WB: Reforms

From page 1 in deregulating interventionist industrial policies, and in improving the domestic tax system. Bangladesh also initiated some steps to improve the quality of public expenditures.

Despite all the achievements, economic growth in Bangladesh has remained below 4.5 per cent, the report observed. This is well below what is needed for rapid poverty alleviation in Bangladesh.

Strong export growth, particularly that of ready-made garments, contributed to a relatively strong growth in the manufacturing sector. But this was not sufficient to compensate for the substantial adverse growth effect of the fall in food-grain production in '94 and '95 fiscal years, the WB report said.

The production and export bases of the economy are still too narrow.

Such structural weaknesses and the existing pervasive infrastructure bottlenecks limit the economy's supply response capacity.

Notwithstanding recent improvements, the savings and investment rates are still too low to support the much higher levels of employment-creating growth needed for sustained poverty reduction, the WB observed.

Don't give transit facility to India: Jamaat

The Jamaat-e-Islami urged the government to refrain from giving transit facility to India and to realise due share of the Ganges water through a permanent agreement before the next dry season, reports UNB.

Expressing concern at what he said readiness of the present government for providing India with the facility, Jamaat Secretary General Matiuur Rahman Nizami in a statement yesterday also urged the countrymen to remain vigilant against the 'conspiracy.'

"We think we have a sovereign right to the Ganges water. Giving India transit in exchange for Ganges water is infringement of Bangladesh's sovereign right," the Jamaat leader said.

Jamaat thinks the question of national security also is very much linked with the transit issue and the people of Bangladesh are united not to give India any concession in realising their due share of the Ganges water.

Nizami said any government, specially a democratic one, could not disregard the sentiment of the countrymen.

The statement said India had always been bargaining with Bangladesh for undue advantage depriving it of its due share of the water of the common river.

"The people of Bangladesh are no more ready to bargain with India the issue of giving transit facility in exchange for Ganges water," it added.

The Jamaat urged the government to raise the issue in international fora, including the United Nations, and to sue India in the international court for realising compensation for the losses caused by Farakka barrage.

It also urged the government to start construction of an alternative dam in the country to offset the adverse impact of Farakka and resolve the water crisis during dry season.

Earlier on August 9, the same officers were given another notice asking them to explain their unauthorised absence following their recall. But they failed to respond to both of the notices till yesterday, the source added.

The five former army officers are K M Mohiuddin Ahmed, earlier serving as CDA in Baghdad, Abdul Aziz Pasha, formerly serving as Counsellor in Harare, Rashed Chowdhury formerly Counsellor in Brasilia, Ahmed Sharful Hasan, formerly minister in Bangladesh mission in Riyadh and Nur Chowdhury, formerly Commissioner in Hong Kong.

5 officers

From page 1

that the CID had applied for his remand to the Home Ministry which was yet to be granted.

Highly placed jail official also said that they did not receive any orders from the authorities concerned for handing over any of the detained former officers to any agency for interrogation.

Three retired officers - Col Farooqur Rahman, Col Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major Khairuzaman - were picked up by the police for alleged involvement in activities that could threaten the lives of some very important persons.

They were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail on a 30-day detention under Special Powers Act of 1974.

Farooq

From page 1

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