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Members of the leftist All Nepal Women's Unity Centre demonstrating in Kathmandu yesterday against the Indo-Nepal Mahakali River Integration Development Project — AFP/UNB photo

## Ruby, a mother of three, now rickshawpuller

Papiya Sultana Ruby, finding no other job, opted finally for pulling rickshaw and came out to the street of the capital to earn her livelihood, reports UNB.

A mother of three — her last child born just a month and 15 days ago — Ruby, as she claims, is the wife of a terrorist, Mohammad Israf, belonging to 'Nazem-Munna group' of Syedabad.

Israf forcibly married her in 1985 when she was just a schoolgirl at South Moushundi Bangla School in the capital, she said.

As people avoid hiring a rickshaw plied by a woman, Ruby tries to hide her female identity by wearing male dresses. A UNB reporter saw her yesterday near the National Press Club wearing panjabi and jeans trousers. Her head was veiled with a scarf.

The female rickshawpuller, rare in a city dotted with rickshaws, said she resorted to dragging the triwheeler as her husband does not take care of her and the three children. He did not provide any money for them for the last nine months.

## JP has not become AL, says Mizan

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Chairman of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said yesterday that his party "is yet to become Awami League," a party press release said last night.

The JP leader made this observation while addressing a parliamentary be-election rally at Laxminagar-2 constituency, the release added. Colonel (Retd) Zafar Imam of the party is contesting from the constituency.

"The JP has not become Awami League," Chowdhury said adding, "providing support to a party in forming government does not necessarily mean that the former has staged a merger with the latter."

According to a separate press release, the JP's jailed chairman, H M Ershad, has formed a two member party diplomatic cell yesterday.

JP President member Major General (Retd), Kazi Golam Dastagir has been appointed chief of the cell, while the party's publicity secretary S M Salam has been made its member.

## Samad Azad in Myanmar

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, now on a three-day visit to Myanmar capital Yangon, visited the mazar of Bahadur Shah, the last independent emperor of the Indian sub-continent, yesterday evening, reports BSS.

Azad, who is leading a six-member delegation, offered fete at the mazar and placed a glapa at the tomb.

Earlier on arrival at the Yangon Airport yesterday, Azad was received by Myanmar Foreign Minister U Oh Gay, according to a message received here last night.

Later, he attended a reception hosted by Bangladesh Ambassador in Yangon Brig (retd) Chowdhury Khalequzzaman at a hotel. High officials of Myanmar including its foreign minister, planning and economic minister and Bangladeshi nationals in Yangon attended the reception.

## Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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## 20 injured in pre-polls violence in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: At least 20 persons were injured in sporadic pre-polls violence in Chandanaish constituency this evening sources said.

They were admitted to the local health complex.

According to the district administration and police, the clashes took place between the supporters of Awami League and BNP.

Police lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the rival groups and bring the situation under control.

The clashes erupted when the supporters of Awami League and BNP brought out processions at Gasbaria, Baitoli, Satbaria, Kanchanababu and Kharab villages under Chandanaish thana in support of their respective candidates. Motajal Begum, wife of former minister Oli Ahmed is contesting the by-election with BNP ticket while Awami League candidate is Nazrul Islam Chowdhury.

The Chandanaish-Satkania (Chittagong-13) seat was vacated by Oli Ahmed of BNP.

## Grand mufti of Deoband dead

Maulana Mahmud Hasan, grand mufti of Darul Uloom, Deoband, India, died in South Africa on Monday at the age of 91, said a press release of Jamia Sharayeh Malibagh in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

He left behind his two daughters and many followers.

Maulana Hasan visited Bangladesh along with 600 followers from USA, UK, Saudi Arabia, India, Pakistan and South Africa and spent the month of Ramadan at Malibagh Jamia Jame Masjid early this year.

## 2 die in city

By DMC Correspondent

A young man died after falling from the roof of a four storied building and an eight-year-old boy was killed in a road accident in the city yesterday.

Shomir, 20, a sanitary worker was fatally injured after he fell from the building at Toyenber Circular Road at about 5pm. He died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Sagor, 8, son of Abdul Karim of North Jatrabari, was ran over by a bus and killed on the spot near his house. DMCH sources said.

Except high land, all low lying areas of the district are under water.

Official sources said that over half a million people of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj districts have been affected by flood. Over fifty unions of eight thanas of Rajshahi and Chapainawabganj have been affected.

The flood damaged standing crops on over twelve thousand hectares and over three hundred kucha and pucca roads.

Meanwhile, fresh areas of paba, Godagari, Charchhat and Bagha of Rajshahi district have been inundated by flood waters with the rise of water level of river Padma. Several hundred people of low lying and char land areas left their homes for shelter in different vacant places and some schools of the city.

Chittagong adds: A flood Information Centre bulletin's warning message yesterday said the flood situation in Natore, Manikganj, Munshiganj and Dhaka districts is likely to deteriorate in the next 24 hours ending 6 am Wednesday.

## Hajis

From Page 1

A PID handout said under no circumstances the date for depositing the advance rent would be extended.

It said the per head cost per haji was Taka 78,815 in 1996, while it would be more or less the same in 1997.

The PID handout said those who would fail to deposit the money for advance house rent within the fixed date, may perform Hajj outside the government arrangement subject to the visa availability.

Speaking at the review meeting on development review activities of Chittagong division at the same venue, the Prime Minister

# The Daily Star

## Triangular contest in Sylhet-4 likely

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Sept 3: The by-election in the Sylhet-4 constituency is likely to witness a triangular contest among the nominees of the ruling AL, BNP and Jamiat, according to local people.

A good number of central and district leaders of the leading political parties had already held meetings, rallies and door-to-door campaign to woo the voters. Awami League leaders Surya Sengupta and Dewan Parid Gazi alongwith a number of party MPs and BNP stalwart M Saifur Rahman also attended a number of programmes in the different areas of the constituency.

The seat (Sylhet-4, comprising Jaintapur and Gowainghat thanas) was vacated by former BNP minister M Saifur Rahman who was also elected from Moulvibazar-3 constituency in the June 12 elections. In Sylhet-4 Saifur polled 23,944 votes and defeated AL's Imran Ahmed who polled 22,715.

BNP has fielded its district vice-president Advocate Nurul Haque while Jamiat-e-Ulam-e-Islam has nominated Advocate Mohammad Ali. Jatiya Party has nominated M A Hannan, who was elected in the 1988 election as Mukti Joddha Sangbad candidate. Two others are also in the race, Mostala Alama of Jatiyatabadi Awami

League and Khondaker Mominur Rab, independent.

The total number of candidates contesting for the seat stands at seven.

According to official sources, the total number of voters stands at 1,50,213 in the constituency. It includes 76,202 male and 74,011 female voters. There will be 64 polling centres including 22 in Jaintapur and 42 in the Gowainghat thana, the source added. A good number of polling centres have been identified as 'vulnerable,' an official said adding there would be special arrangement for these centres. Sufficient number of BDR, armed police, Ansars will be deployed in all the polling centres.

Barisal, Sept 3: A tough contest among Awami League, BNP and Jatiya Party candidates is likely in the by-election in Pirojpur-2 constituency, according to observers.

The seat was vacated by JP general secretary and Communications Minister Anwar Hosain Manju who had returned from two constituencies in the June 12 parliamentary elections.

Manju's wife, Taslima Hosain, is in the fray with JP ticket against former bureaucrat turned minister Maturi Rahman of AL and Abdul Barak of BNP.

Maturi Rahman was commerce minister in Ershad regime.

The Pirojpur-2 constituency covers Bhandaria and Kawkhali thanas.

Taslima had taken a very active part in the June 12 polls campaign for her husband who returned from the constituency with a wide margin. Manju had scored 33,519 votes against his nearest rival from AL with 13,811 votes.

Maturi Rahman hails from Kawkhali thana.

There are 65,000 voters in Bhandaria and 33,000 in Kawkhali. Polling will be held in 64 polling centres.

Meanwhile, some sporadic clashes took place today during election campaign between the supporters of Awami League and Jatiya Party.

## PM recalls role of Hannan

CHITTAGONG, Sept 3: The Prime Minister today claimed that Chittagong Awami League leader Abdul Hannan was the first to announce the proclamation of Liberation War on behalf of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1971, reported UNB.

Bangabandhu's message, Sheikh Hasina said, was sent through wireless and Hannan was the first to make the announcement from Kalurghat. Later, many others made the announcement, she added.

Addressing a function of the Janmashami at JM Sen Hall here this afternoon, Prime Minister Hasina picked up the background story as she recalled a prophetic prediction late Abdul Aziz about country's liberation war.

Hasina said away back in 1961, when they were passing by Kalurghat, late Abdul Aziz confided to her that the proclamation of the Liberation War would be made from this place.

Late Aziz also showed Tiger-paw area of the city and said the war to liberate the country would start from this point, she added.

"What an oracular utterance ... it all came true just after 10 years," the Prime Minister said with a note of wonder.

Jubo League worker shot at Tejgaon

By Staff Correspondent

A leader of Jubo League, Saiful Islam alias Babu, 30, was shot by an unidentified gang at Tejgaon industrial area in the city Monday night.

Saiful, son of Siddiqui Rahman of 221, North Begun, Tejgaon, was attacked when he was returning to his house at about 8:30 pm, police said quoting the FIR filed with Tejgaon thana.

General Secretary of Ward 17 unit of Awami Juba League, Saiful sustained bullet injuries in his thigh and back. He was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) immediately.

"More importantly, with the ageing of loans, the share of bad loans among the classified loans have experienced a sharp increase (55 per cent in 1993)," it added.

The review also pointed out that the local private banks were more burdened with classified loans than the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs). During 1992-95, the average share of classified loans for the former was 40 per cent while the comparable figure for the latter was less than 32 per cent.

Regarding energy consumption, the review said the growth rate of electricity consumption in industrial services for the third consecutive year from 1992-93 reached the peak figure of 14.37 per cent, crossing the earlier record figure of 1991-92 (13.52 per cent).

Consumption of gas in manufacturing processes and fertiliser units as raw materials continued to increase in absolute terms, but remained stagnant in relative terms during the last three years (1992/93-1994/95).

The share of capital goods in the total imports increased from 20.01 per cent in 1993-94 to 21.05 per cent in 1994-95. In 1995/96, the share further increased to 23.1 per cent and it appeared that import of capital goods in terms of value doubled in the past financial year.

He said the rescue had been hampered by huge crowds which gathered after the de-credit four-storeyed building in the city's oldest business district caved in.

Bombay Sheriff Subirkumar Choudhury said the city had more than 18,000 old buildings in dangerous condition, housing more than 1.2 million people.

Stressing the need for access to investment financing and uninterrupted power supply, the review noted that sustained high rate of growth would critically depend on these two important factors.

From Page 1

ernment would take all measures to augment electricity generation in the country.

Responding to few other demands from the Mayor, Hasina said special importance and priority would be given to the development of Chittagong.

She said a special cell would be set up in LGRD Ministry to coordinate the works of all service organisations in the city corporations. The coordinating bodies will be headed by city mayors for ensuring coordinated development works.

Brushing aside rumours, the Prime Minister announced that the head offices of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation and Tea Board would not be shifted from the port city.

Addressing the function city Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury placed a 17-point charter of demands, which include construction of crossdam to protect the port city, expansion of city area from 60 square km to 120 square km, adequate budgetary allocation to build port city as commercial capital, a tunnel under the river Karnaphuli, construction of a deep-sea port in Moheshkhali island and giving final shape of the monument for Liberation War at Batali Hill.

The Prime Minister assured that the demands would actively be considered along with 28-point demands placed by the city Mayor to the previous government.

Earlier, the mayor presented the key of the city to the Prime Minister at the function, which was attended by city elite.

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