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# The Daily Star

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## Steps soon to hand over Baridhara J-Block plots to allottees

By Staff Correspondent

The government may soon take steps to evict the occupiers at Baridhara J-Block and hand over the plots to the original Rajuk allottees, Rajuk sources said.

With nearly 400 plots, the J-Block, which came under a Rajuk development project along with Banani, Gulshan and Baridhara, could never be handed over to the allottees although most had paid for them in full. The allottees have been waiting to get their plots since 1985.

Works Minister Mohammad Nasim, in a recent public hearing, said.

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## ADB chief due in city today

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mitsuo Sato arrives in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The ADB chief will be accompanied by his wife. During his first visit to Dhaka, Sato will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and discuss with her issues relating to the Bank's operations in Bangladesh.

He will also meet Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, and State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.

Sato's itinerary includes a meeting with the members of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex trade body of the country.

The ADB chief will visit the under-construction Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge of which the Bank is a co-financier, and an ADB-funded poverty alleviation project in the capital.

Sato will also address a press conference on Tuesday at a city hotel.

## Mostafiz to take over as Foreign Secy Sept 17

New Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman will take over on September 17, said a senior official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday, reports UNB.

Present Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan will go on retirement from September 16 after completing a 33-year diplomatic career. He joined the then Pakistan foreign service in 1964.

Mostafizur Rahman, now Bangladesh Ambassador to China, joined the Pakistan foreign service the same year (1964).

## Prof Nazrul new KU VC

The President and Chancellor of Khulna University Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has appointed Prof SM Nazrul Islam Vice-Chancellor of the university for a four-year tenure, a press release of the university said yesterday, reports BSS.

Born in Kotalipara of Gopalganj district in 1948, Prof Islam graduated from the Mechanical Engineering Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in 1969.

He joined BUET as a member of faculty in 1969 and obtained PhD from Windsor University of Canada in 1979.

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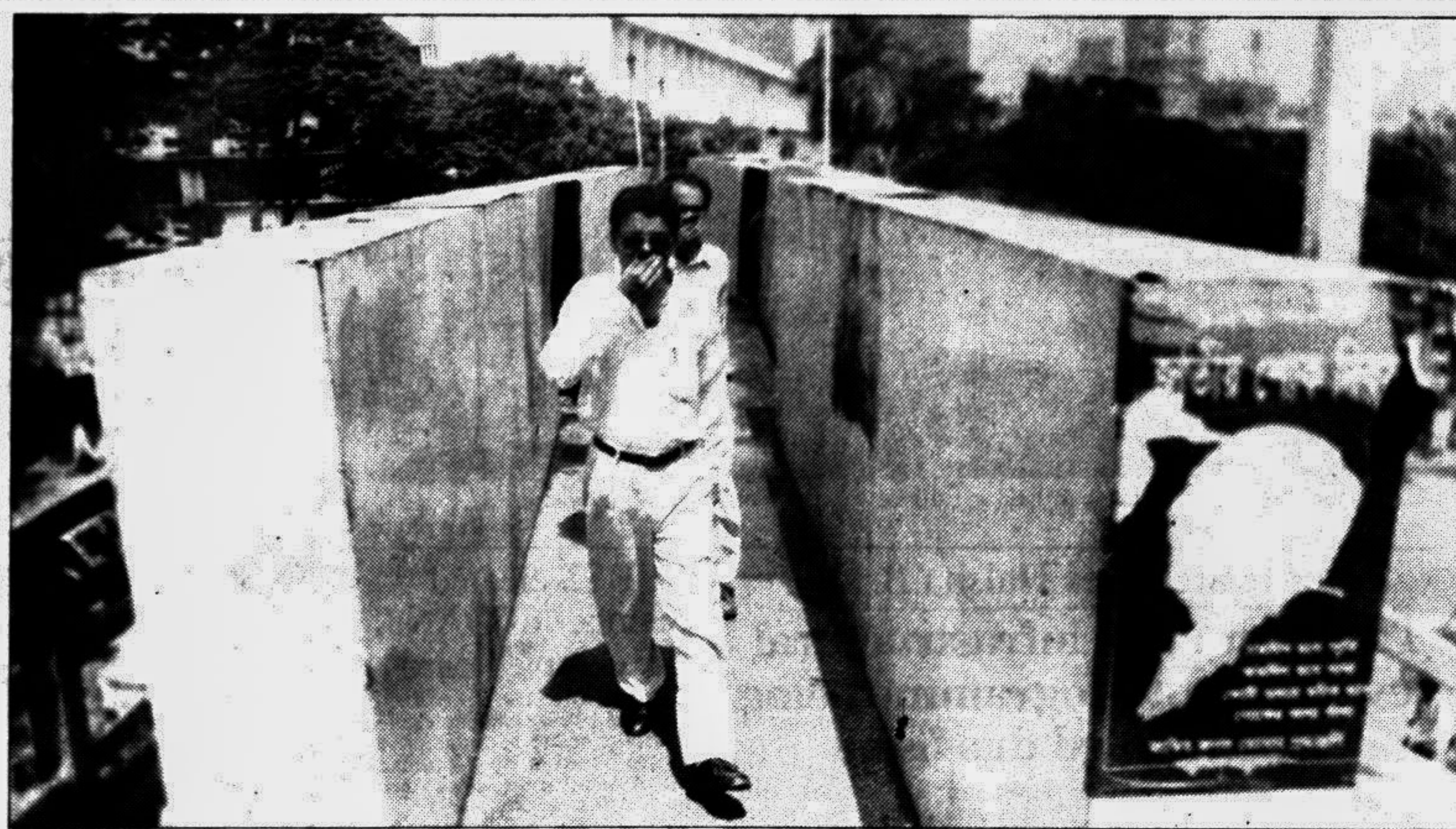
Nostalgia improves  
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## Business

Capital market  
becomes critical  
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AN OPEN AIR TOILET IN CENTRAL DHAKA: When the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) erected the pre-fabricated footbridge over the road between GPO and the Secretariat at the Zero Point, it was hoped that people would safely cross the busy road. But it virtually turned into a toilet for the *tokai*'s and other floating people when the DCC rented the space for advertisement bill boards. Hardly any one can pass through the narrow space between the bill boards littered with human excreta. The stench is so overbearing that even beggars who normally occupy footbridges in the city do not show any interest in using this one.

— Star photo: Sheikh Enamul Huq

## Killers of Zia will be tried: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said the trial of Zia murder, this government will stage the trial because Awami League does not believe in the politics of murder, coup and conspiracy, he said.

The Foreign Minister strongly criticised Begum Zia for celebrating her birthday on August 15, the national mourning day.

He said papers and documents clearly say that August 15 is not her birthday, but she deliberately arranged the birthday celebration to undermine the mourning day.

Though BNP did not arrange the trial of Zia murder, this government will stage the trial because Awami League does not believe in the politics of murder, coup and conspiracy, he said.

The Foreign Minister strongly criticised Begum Zia for celebrating her birthday on August 15, the national mourning day.

He said papers and documents clearly say that August 15 is not her birthday, but she deliberately arranged the birthday celebration to undermine the mourning day.

The AL Presidium member said the day is not far off when people will see Begum Zia celebrating her birthday on May 30, the day that marks death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman.

"Her birthday should be on May 30, because she could not be the Prime Minister if Zia was not killed," Samad Azad said.

He said the red passport issued for Begum Zia in 1978 when Zia was the President clearly showed that her birthday was in September, 1946. "So her birthday cannot be in August,"

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## Make tomorrow's hartal a success: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the people of all strata to join the movement against government's undemocratic and anti-people acts and make tomorrow's hartal against price-hike of gasoline a complete success, reports UNB.

"The government has proved to be a complete failure in running the state affairs and resolving people's problems in last 14 months," she said in a statement.

During this period, she said, it was proved that independence, sovereignty, economy, culture, and people's fundamental rights are not safe in the hands of this government.

The Leader of the Opposition said that although the government speaks of making parliament a centre of all activities, it failed to constitute parliamentary committees in last 14 months.

As a result, transparency and accountability of the government is totally absent, she said.

Begum Zia said normal life has been paralysed following the sudden price hike of petroleum products. A spontaneous protest has started across the country against the government's anti-people decision, she observed.

The BNP leader said all sectors are paralysed.

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## Bodies of 2 more BUET students recovered

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 22: Two more bodies of the students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), who were missing in the Bay on Wednesday, were recovered today, reports UNB.

Four BUET students were washed away by ebb-tide in the Bay here on Wednesday. The body of one identified as Maruf Hossain was recovered the same day.

Police recovered the body of Mohammad Shahajalal from Bakkhali river in Majher Ghat area in the morning and sent it to Dhaka.

A rescue ship of the Naval Force found another body float.

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Garbage carrying vehicles of the DCC awaiting repair at its Dhalpur workshop.

— Star photo

## Half of DCC garbage carriers out of order

By Morshed Ali Khan

Garbage collection in the city has been severely disrupted as nearly half of the Dhaka City Corporation's (DCC's) garbage carriers are out of order and awaiting repair at its workshop for over six months, an on-the-spot visit has revealed.

Out of DCC's 214 garbage collecting trucks, 104 are out of order. With the remaining 110 trucks on road, the collection and dumping of garbage is difficult, a DCC official told this correspondent.

There were many areas in the city where DCC's garbage collection operation could not be conducted at all. Conser-

vancy officials admitted that the 110 trucks on road were doing 'overtime' to clear about 3,000 tonnes of city garbage every day.

At the DCC's workshop at Dhalpur near Syedabad bus terminal, a few hundred trucks and cars lay under the shades.

The workshop, on an area of about three acres, was 'modernised' in 1990 under a World Bank-aided project. Officials there said that all they received under the modernisation project were some manual tools.

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## Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent  
Dacoits took away cash, gold ornaments and valuables worth about Tk 1.40 lakh from a house on Elephant Road under Dhanmondi thana in the city early yesterday.

A gang of about five dacoits entered the house of one Asanul Haque at about 3:30 am by cutting the iron grill of a window.

The dacoits aged between 25 and 30 tied up all the inmates of the house and took away Tk 50,000 and gold ornaments worth about Tk 90,000, said Dhanmondi police quoting the FIR.

The dacoits left the house at about 5 am.

A case was filed with Dhanmondi thana in this regard.

## IOJ announces action plan, supports BNP hartal

By Staff Correspondent

The Islamic Oikya Jote has announced a five-point action programme to press for its 10-point demand.

The IOJ also announced its support for the hartal called by BNP tomorrow demanding withdrawal of the price enhancement of petroleum products.

The announcements were made at the IOJ rally at Manik Miah Avenue in the city yesterday.

The Jote will gherao the BTJ station in the city on September 18 as part of its action programme.

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## IOJ, Shanghai supporters clash : 10 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people including a press photographer were hurt when supporters of Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) and Mukti-joddha Sanghati Parishad (MSP) exchanged brickbats near Sonargaon crossing yesterday evening, witnesses reported.

Police dispersed the confronting groups quickly before the trouble could flare up into a full-scale battle. Sanaul Huq, a staff photographer of the independent was taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was given first aid.

The trouble began when a group of IOJ supporters were returning from their rally at about 2 pm, they went to

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## 80 ambulances of govt hospitals out of order

From Staff Correspondent

As many as 80 ambulances out of the total 424 allotted for district hospitals and thana health complexes throughout the country are out of order, according to records available from the Directorate of Health at Mohakhali in the city.

Twenty-six ambulances out of 116 are out of order in Dhaka Division, 14 out of 74 in Chittagong Division, 6 out of 32 in Sylhet Division, 20 out of 125 in Rajshahi Division and 14 out of 52 are out of order in Khulna Division.

But all the 25 ambulances in Barisal Division are in "running condition," the records showed.

Most of these 'unfit' vehicles need replacement. Some of these 'unfit' vehicles will have to be towed to workshops with cranes.

## India plans to raid ULFA, Bodo bases inside Bhutan

NEW DELHI, Aug 22: The Indian government is planning to launch operations in neighbouring Bhutan where the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) and major Bodo groups have established bases, reports BSS.

A leading daily 'The Pioneer' in a report today quoting Home Ministry sources said the Home and Defence ministries have drawn up action plan to flush out the militants from Bhutan where they have homed after being shunted out by the Bangladesh government.

Sources said, the Indian government was in touch with the Bhutanese government to seek a clearance to launch operations.

Getting the clearance, the report said, is only a formality as the Bhutan government has an agreement to cooperate with India to prevent militant groups of the north-east from setting up bases in their country.

The joint operations to be launched after a green signal from Bhutan would include over 200 Bhutanese soldiers who have been imparted

counter-insurgency training in India, the report said adding that at least two more regiments are on stand-by.

In the context of the recent escalation of violence the central government of India reportedly expressed dissatisfaction over the "performance" of the Assam government in fighting militancy in the state.

The report said the "soft attitude" of the Assam Gana Parishad government headed by Prafulla Kumar Mahanta had led to the escalation of violence in the state.

However, Mahanta, who was initially against having the united command structure operating in Guwahati, has now intimated that it should be extended to the state capital.

PTI from Assam adds: The Assam police and the CRPF have arrested four hardcore militants of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland and also recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition from two other arrested ULFA activists in the last 24

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## 5 of 7 Hucks and Tom Sawyers back home



By Staff Correspondent

Five of the seven schoolboys who were missing from the city's Khilgaon Taltoia area since Wednesday returned to their homes yesterday.

The two others were now at their relative's house in Chandpur.

The seven, aged between nine and thirteen, had gone on an 'adventure' in Chandpur, police said, and their family members said.

The fear and anxiety of the families ended when the five — Hannan, Roni, Nasir, Mustafa and Sumon — came back at about 4:30 pm.

Their family members and police said they got information that the two others, Sohel and his cousin Russel, were at their grand father's house near Chandpur town.

The five boys went to the house of Sohel and Russel at noon. The seven then went to the nearby Taltoia Jheel for boating.

At about 2 pm, they went to

the city's Ramna Park and had a picnic. Then they again got on a boat in the Ramna Lake and had fun till the afternoon.

Police said, the group went to Sadarghat launch terminal at about 6 pm and reached Chandpur by a launch at about 9:30 pm.

Chandpur police picked up all of them from near the launch terminal. A man known to one of them freed them from police custody. Then they all went to the house of the grandfather of Sohel and Russel. They spent the whole of Thursday there.

Yesterday, five of them left Chandpur at about 8 am and reached Dhaka. They roamed around for some time and returned to their houses in the afternoon.

Their guardians said the seven boys were very close friends. They always played together and often go for boating

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## Expansion of Eastern Refinery Accord with Malaysian co likely by year-end

By Sharier Khan

The government is negotiating with a Malaysian oil company for expansion of the Eastern Refinery to increase its refining capacity from the present 1.2 million barrels of petroleum products to four million barrels a year.

The expansion work will involve an estimated expenditure of Tk 500 crore.

Sources in Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) which runs the Eastern Refinery said that an agreement between BPC and a Malaysian company, Petronas, is likely to be signed by the end of the year.

The investment equity ratio for Bangladesh and Petronas will be about 30:70.

A feasibility study is being conducted now to expand the production capacity of the country's only oil refinery.

Currently, the Eastern Refinery refines 33000 barrels of petroleum products per day. The expansion will allow it to refine another 60,000 barrels per day.

"If the agreement is signed by the end of the year, the expansion work will be completed by the year 2000," a source said.

The Eastern Refinery refines imported and local crude and produces slightly less than half the demand for petrol in the country.

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## Commissioner of KCC shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Aug 22: Ikhtiaruddin Bablu, 44, a Commissioner of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) and local leader of opposition BNP was killed by unidentified assailants near his residence in city's Banorgati area this morning.

Police said the assailants stopped his private car exploding hand bombs, about 100 yards of his residence and shot him from a close range. He died on the spot.

The killers left the place firing blank shots and exploding bombs.

An accused in JP leader Abul Kashem Murder Case, Bablu was granted bail by the High Court recently.

A shrimp cultivator, Bablu was also a Deputy Mayor of KCC during Ershad regime. He joined BNP quitting the Jatiya Party Youth Front, Jubo Sanghati, before the June 1996 general election.

The tragic death of BNP leader triggered high tension in the city. Security measures have been beefed up to avert any untoward incident.

## Ansars, truckers clash at Ctg port: 10 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 22: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between Ansars and truck workers at Chittagong port this evening, port and police sources said.

Of them, two persons with bullet wounds were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while others were rushed to private clinics.

According to sources the clash erupted at 6:30 pm inside port jetty No. 11 when a truck driver, suspected for pilferage of wheat from sheds, was confined at Ansar's barrack.

The truckers allegedly attacked the Ansars barrack to free the confined driver and pelted stones at the Ansars who in retaliation opened fire, police and port sources said.

Additional police forces

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## Keep garments sector out of hartal: BGMEA

By Staff Correspondent

President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Mostafa Golam Quddus has urged the BNP Chairperson, and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia and other opposition leaders to keep garments sector out of the purview of Sunday's hartal.

In a press release yesterday he said the hartal will greatly affect production in the sector.

Bangladesh Christian association has also requested the leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia not to enforce hartals and similar political activities on Sundays as the Christian community goes to the churches to say prayers on the day.

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## Sales commission for oil dealers may be raised

By Staff Correspondent

The negotiation between the government and the dealers of petroleum products over sales commission is likely to be finalised in a couple of days, official sources said.

Representatives of dealers and Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) at a meeting yesterday reached a verbal agreement in this regard. A written agreement may be signed in a couple of days.

"The government is going to enhance dealers' commission," an official said, without specifying how much.

Since the government increased the prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene and octane on Tuesday, dealers have been pressing for 7.5 per cent commission on the prices they pay to the BPC, which is the only authorised importer of petroleum products.

So far, the dealers were getting 33 paise per litre (about 2.4 per cent) as commission.

## Transport strike in Tangail today

TANGAIL, Aug 22: Transport owners and workers unions called a transport-strike in all routes of the district tomorrow demanding immediate repair of the Tangail-Mymensingh road, reports UNB.

The strike was announced today as a meeting between the Deputy Commissioner and the union leaders ended without any solution.

Local transport owners and workers have been demanding repair of the road for a long time as it has become unfit for movement of vehicles.

Transport owners and workers also observed a strike in the district during the rule of the previous BNP government on the same issue.

## No emergency treatment for poor Joynals in put clinics

By Naimul Haq

A patient with serious head injury arrived at a private clinic at Uttara in the city in a tempo, helped by four youths. The patient was profusely bleeding while his frightened five year old daughter cried helplessly.

"Where is the stretcher, doctor?" shouted one of the four youths. "Is you attending doctor in?" asked another youth. "Let me see if he is here," came the reply from a man at the small counter at the clinic entrance.

The patient, accompanied by his anxious mother, was then fighting for his life in a small congested room. A nurse

cleaned the blood from the patient's ruptured skull.

The doctor arrived after a few precious minutes from a room where he was busy with other official matters. He looked at the patient and instantly gave a prescription.

"I cannot treat this patient. It is a very risky case. I suspect he has a fatal head injury which may cause other complications. He must be taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)," the doctor said helplessly.

"I am providing the patient with all necessary first aid but I

cannot take risk. Besides there is no other doctor here with me who can help," he told this correspondent who happened to be present at the clinic at the time on Saturday.

The patient, in the meantime, moaned while his old mother looked on. They had met with a road accident about half an hour ago.

A minibus, at its top speed on the Tongi-Mahakhali road, hit Joynal while he was crossing it near the airport. He was accompanied by his mother and daughter. They came to visit a

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