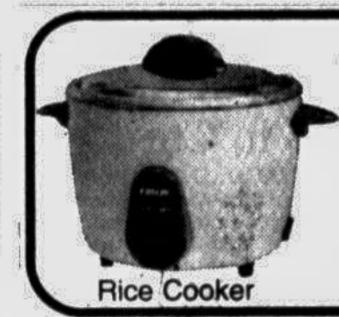


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PHILIPS

Let's make things better.

Delta Life policyholders feel 'insecure', want administrator to run company

Some 100 policyholders of Delta Life Insurance Company have petitioned the government to declare the company's present board of directors illegal and appoint an administrator to run the company.

They told the Controller of Insurance last month that the present board had been constituted in violation of the Insurance Act. With an illegal board running the business, "we feel very insecure with our deposits," they said.

Expressing their 'no confidence' on the present board, the policyholders also alleged that some of the directors "had been illegally drawing money from the company funds since long before they were eligible for taking dividends".

Meanwhile, the Controller

BGMEA clarifies,

UNB stands

by its report

yesterday said its attention has

been drawn to a news item.

creeded by UNB and published

by newspapers on October 1, on

its meeting with Board of In-

stated that the BGMEA presi-

dent in the meeting said the

non-cooperative attitude of a

section of people in the service

oriented establishments like

banks, customs and police are

undermining the image of the

agencies concerned as well as of

also mentioned in the meeting

that the enormous success in

readymade garment sector for a

third world country like Bangladesh has been possible

following the cooperation of

these service oriented agencies,

the concerned agencies would

continue to extend their helping

hand to further develop the

cooperation of Patriotic offi-

cials of these agencies, said the

didn't contradict the UNB news

item as such, and UNB stands

"As in the past, he hoped that

He particularly sought the

UNB version: The BGMEA

It should also be categori-

cally mentioned here that the

BGMEA president in the meet-

ing with BOI on September 30

did not convey such a soft-spo-

ken version of what the clarifi-

cation tried to say. Rather, he

categorically brought allega-

tions of bribery against the

bribery when the BOI executive

chairman wanted to know how

the concerned officials demand

money from the garment own-

MEA president also didn't men-

tion anything about coopera-

tion of the service-oriented

agencies for boosting the RMG

a reporter who was present at

the closed-door meeting and

also talked with the BGMEA

World Habitat

Day today

served in the country as else-

where in the world today, re-

ports BSS.

mark the day.

Cities."

World Habitat Day will be ob-

The theme of this year's

Different government and

non-government organisations

have drawn-up programmes to

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina is expected to be the

chief guest at the inaugural cer-

emony of the day at the Osmani

Memorial Hall. She will also

release a commemorative

postage stamp marking the day

Rice trucks

From Page 1

The incident angered the ex-

porters and truck owners who

put up barricades stopping all

sorts of vehicles engaged in ex-

port trading through Benapole

border and demanded the re-

be known if export activities

restarted following a meeting

between the administration of

the Bongaon subdivision and

exporters, truck owners and

mained jammed with loaded

trucks till Saturday night, said

a source at Benapole customs

office. Trading though the land

port also remained suspended

on September 29 and 30 on the

source added.

Petrapole land port re-

border steering committee.

Till this evening, it could not

said a press release.

Bongaon thana.

lease of the 13 trucks.

World Habitat Day is "Safer

president after the meeting.

The UNB report was filed by

sector in Bangladesh.

During the meeting, the BG-

Even, he cited examples of

It said the BGMEA president

the country abroad.

including police.

garment industry.

BGMEA clarification.

by its report.

agencies

In the clarification, it was

vestment.

BGMEA in a clarification

of Insurance served a showcause notice on the managing director of the DLICL on September 27 as to why legal proceedings would not drawn against the company for violating the provisions of the insur-

The Insurance Company Act, 1913 says that on the board of directors of a private sector insurance company, one third of its total members will come from the sponsors, one third from the policyholders and the rest from the shareholders.

But in the case of the DLICL, the law has been ignored. On the 36-member board of the company, there are 20 directors from the sponsor category, only ers and nine the public share-

the MD of DLICL to reply to the show-cause notice within seven days of receipt of the letter. The deadline expired yesterday, but it could not be ascertained whether the DLICL has duly replied. Neither the MD of the company, nor the Controller of Insurance could be contacted despite repeated attempts.

However, the Controller had earlier written to the company's MD three times between September '96 and December '96 complaining that the company did not have the legally required proportion of representation of policyholders and share holders on its board of di-

The office of the Controller is yet to make any decision on the request of the policyholders

Members of the Grameen Bank, however, have savings amounting to some Tk 400 crore. The bank officials are now encouraging them to utilise the money for rebuilding their

central bank was yet to respond.

Bank (GB) said the money had

been sought to restart various

types of programmes after the

big amount to the villagers

whose houses were damaged in

the severe flooding, and who

now need money to rebuild or

repair their shelters, they said.

provided Tk 750 crore for build-

ng five lakh units of homes in

the rural areas. Many of those

houses were partially or fully

damaged by this year's flood.

Over the years, the Bank has

The GB wants to channel a

devastating floods.

Officials of the Grameen

"But Grameen Bank does not have such a big amount in idle money. Now the Bank will have to arrange funds so that its members can withdraw their savings in their days of extreme need." an official said.

And finally, he said, the GB wants to channel fresh microcredits to the rural areas to en-

Hartal observed

at Faridpur

hartal, called by opposition

BNP to protest the arrest of

party leaders KM Obaidur Rah-

man and Nurul Islam Manjur,

radic clashes, reports UNB.

here today was marked by spo-

Witnesses said supporters

and opponents of hartal

clashed with brickbats and

chased each other at

Goalchamot, East-Khabaspur,

Chakbazar crossing, Jhiltuli

Clashes and bomb explosions

were reported from Talma and

Nagarkanda thana headquar-

ters. None was, however, in-

During the hartal hours, al

kinds of vehicles were off the

road, and schools, colleges

shops and business establish-

Jail killing

From Page 1

leader of BNP, Nurul Islam

Manjur, a leader of Barisal BNP

and Shah Moazzem. Co-Chair-

man of a faction of Jatiya

Party, were sent to the jail on

expiry of their four-day re-

mand. They were arrested from

their respective residences in

the arrested leaders urged the

Ministry of Home Affairs to

grant them division on grounds

of their health condition. Be-

sides, they also prayed to the

District Magistrate for the

same, members of the families

Jail authorities said that they

did not receive any order for

granting division to the three

leaders accused of involvement

in the jail killing of four na-

tional leaders on November 3,

Hartal observed

From Page 1

tions leaving five persons in-

the thana headquarters to avert

protest rally during hartal

hours with ex-UP chairman

speakers demanded immediate

arrest of those responsible for

Siddik Ali in the chair

Section 144 was imposed at

Taslu supporters held a

Addressing the rally, the

When contacted, the Central

Meanwhile, the families of

the city on Tuesday.

said.

jured.

further clash.

the incident.

Obaid, an MP and a central

and Niltuli in the town.

jured in the clashes.

ment remained closed.

FARIDPUR, Oct 4: A half-day

Tk 475 cr from BB able the borrowers to start life

Grameen Bank has sought Tk 475 crore from Bangladesh Bank to continue lending in the Unless the borrowers restart flood-hit rural areas, reports their activities, it would be very difficult for them to pay in-stallment of loans which would Official sources said other ultimately affect the health of institutions that extend small credits to the rural poor also the Grameen Bank, the sources urged the BB for funds, but the

Grameen Bank seeks

According to the sources, the Grameen Bank is unwilling to have funds from donor agencies because many of their 'conditionalities are very hard to comply with.

'Also, such agencies do not give such large funds to meet the needs of Grameen Bank, they

However, the Bank is considering borrowing from the international debt market on commercial terms, the sources said but indicated that it would take time.

The Bank is also negotiating with International Finance Corporation (IFC), the commercial lending arm of World Bank, for a large amount, they said, without disclosing the size of the fund.

OMS of rice From Page 1

The meeting discussed the matters relating to procurement of foodgrains on commercial basis and their distribution. The issue of speedy arrival of foodgrains received as relief from abroad also came up for discussion.

ADB team due today to assess flood damage

A 12-member ADB Flood Rehabilitation Appraisal Mission arrives in Dhaka today, reports UNB.

The Mission will meet senior government officials and other agencies including the major donors and make several field trips to assess this year's flood damage and the need for postflood rehabilitation programme.

The ADB has responded positively to the government's appeal for international assistance in the flood rehabilitation programme.

A consultation mission from the ADB already visited Bangladesh in mid-September to make a preliminary assessment of the flood damage.

The Flood Rehabilitation Appraisal Mission will conduct a detailed assessment of priority rehabilitation work and discuss new loan assistance for a possible flood rehabilitation The components of the flood

rehabilitation project and the size of new loan will be determined in consultation with the government and other agencies concerned and in coordination with the donors.

The Mission will also finalise an action plan for the use of loan savings and any possible reallocation from ongoing projects for rehabilitation pur-

Sharif denies any progress in talks with Vajpayee DUBAI, Oct 4: Pakistani without it there can never be Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif peace, Sharif stressed. Sharif and Vajpayee issued a

said in an interview published here today that his meeting last month with his Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee had not brought about any progress, reports AFP.

recently met the Indian Prime Minister, but nothing resulted from our meetings, Sharif told the Arabic daily Al-Khalee

India is still intransigent and ignores the two most important questions for us both, peace, security and Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

As we realise the danger of escalation of a major war, we have proposed to India to undertake promptly discussions to prevent a nuclear conflict, said Sharif. India and Pakistan an-

nounced in New York during the UN General Assembly on September 23 that they had agreed to resume talks from October 15-18 in Islamabad.

The question of Kashmir is the root of the problem, and

a safe environment, and agreed that peaceful settlement of all outstanding issues including Kashmir was essential for this purpose. Sharif also confirmed that Pakistan was working to defuse

joint, statement after their

meeting last month, which

reaffirmed their belief that an

environment of durable peace

and security was in the supreme

nation to renew efforts to secure

They stressed their determi-

interest of India and Pakistan.

the tension between Iran and the Taliban militia in power in Afghanistan, because no country in the region will benefit from a war between them. We hope that these two

neighbouring Muslim countries will keep their cool to maintain the region's interests, he said, adding that if an armed conflict starts, Pakistan will do everything it can to protect its interests and to stop the conflict.

Pill to conquer chronic shyness LONDON, Oct 4: A Pill to

conquer chronic shyness is to be faunched on the British market this week, the Sunday Times reported, says AFP. Developed by scientists at

Bristol and Southampton universities, and marketed by Smithkline Beecham the pill, called Seroxat, could help more than three million people in Britain, the paper said. Initially approved as an anti-depressant, the drug in-

crease the level of seratonin in the brain, creating a feeling of well-being and self-confidence. The Sunday Times said the

pill transformed the life of a 29year-old London woman who did not dare leave her home for fear of encountering strangers. She now spends every weekend pubbing and clubbing to make up for lost time, the paper

Dam opens

From Page 1

AKM Shamsul Huq, JRC member Khalilur Rahman and WDB member AFM Nurul Alam were present. Both India and Bangladesh

had made embankments in their own lands on the right bank of the Teesta river. But a 38.32-metre portion of

the embankment in Bangladesh's Dimla thana and 1.8 kilometres in India were not built.

Rivers Commission (JRC) in its fourth meeting in 1973, took the decision to connect the embankment in the frontier, officials said. Yet the decision could not be implemented for

ments in the borders of the two countries.

ter urged the local people and directed officials concerned to take care of the embankment.

Prior to such exercises, the leaders would also meet separately today with their colleagues.

told The Daily Star that the labour leaders assured them of all-out assistance to free the AJM from violence. "If they honour today's agreement, clashes between the rival groups could be avoided at the Asked for comment, AL

backed CBA leader Ismail Hossain said similar deals were made 7-8 times in the past but eventually those produced no results.

lam Kader also expressed doubts about today's under-

But all the three leaders said they would back the authorities

Puthia

From Page 1 case on Friday against 150 BNP leaders and activists.

A tense situation was pre-

at Shaheb Bazar crossing today protesting filing of "false" cases against its local leaders and activists.

High-powered body to ease city traffic jam A 12-member high-powered

at a meeting held yesterday at the Home Ministry with Home Minister Rafiqul Islam in the Inspector General of Police

the committee. The committee will take rapid and realistic steps to ease

traffic congestion at major points including Amin Bazar. The meeting reviewed the

the decisions taken in 11 meetings held earlier. Home Secretary Shaffur

Rahman, Inspector General of Police. Director Generals of BDR, Ansar, BRTA, Provost marshal of Army, Chief Execu-

Chairman of the Task Force on Traffic Alhai Makbul Hossain MP was also present.

Mintoo

From Page 1

Bangladesh Aluminium Manufacturers Association, Zafar Bangladesh Dokan Malik Samity. Enayet Hossain Chowdhury of Bangladesh Electrical Merchandise Manufacturers Association, AFM Fazle Rabbi of Bangladesh Jute spinners Association, Tareq Kamal of Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association, Alauddin Ahmed of Bangladesh Nut, Bolt, Screw & allied products Mfg Association, Khoka Sikder of Bangladesh Paduka Samity, Md

From Page 1 only to the business community, but to the nation at large," Chowdhury also vowed to forge a grand coalition of

He also promised to identify areas of weaknesses in industrial sector and remove them by following a strategic master plan "which should give a definite sense of direction and details".

From Page 1 hanced THC from October 1 at the rate of Tk 2300 for a 20 feet FCL container of import cargo as against Tk 700 earlier. Similarly, THC stood at Tk

from only Tk 2700, he said. APB adds: The association has already written to the

shipping lines for reconsidering the new THC rates through discussion, but they are yet to respond.

BGMEA leaders Lutfi M Ayub, M Akbar Khan, SM Abu

By Nurul Kabir

ance law.

seven represent the policyhold-

The Controller also asked

Tk 3533 cr in 6 months

been earned in the first six months of the current year as remittances from Bangladeshi workers employed abroad, a high level meeting was told yesterday, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, who chaired a Cabinet Committee meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on employment of Bangladeshis in foreign countries, was further informed that in the first eight months of 1998, 166,446 people were sent abroad through official and recognised channel. The government has fixed a target to send 202,900 people abroad with jobs during the current year.

Earnings from manpower export last year stood at Tk 6709.15 crore.

The meeting decided to lift the blanket ban on the export of women workers, except house maids, for employment abroad, including to the Middle East. On special cases, where the employer is a financially well-off Bangladeshi national, permission to take housemaids could be given after proper scrutiny.

Adding pain to injury

From Our Correspondent MAGURA, Oct 4: When the wounds caused by the century's worst flooding are still hurting them, the farmers of Lohagora thana in Magura received the 'final notice' from the local manager of Janata Bank to pay their original loans in 25 days. Farmers failing to comply will face a certificate case, the

issued on September 6. trying hard to get to our feet.

ernment to protect them from

the

Death decree against Rushdie 'still v alid'

Tehran Radio said, reports Reuters.

Deputies of the 270-seat Mailis, which is controlled by conservatives, in their open letter "stressed the continuation of the path of the founder of the Islamic revolution," it said.

the world that in this issue, nothing is valid but god's and Imam Khomeini's verdict, and no one has the ability to follow any other path," the radio quoted the letter as saying.

From Page 1 - Advani said the federal government would consult the legfederally administered territo-

changes in criminal laws. "There is a feeling of public outrage whenever a woman is raped, and the minister is articulating his views to gauge public opinion," Home Secretary BP Singh told The Associated Press in a telephone inter-

Singh said the changes in rape laws had been part of regular discussions between federal

occasion of Durga Puja, the and provincial officials. **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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Expat Bangladeshis remit

About Tk 3533.47 crore has

Ministry of Labour and Emprepare a policy paper on emthe next meeting of the cabinet committee. Education Minister ASHK

Sadeque, Home Minister Rafigul Islam, Labour and Employment Minister MA Mannan, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain and State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader attended the meeting

bank official said in the notice. The affected farmers expressed their grievances and said they were totally broke because of the devastation caused by the recent flood. "We are

said a farmer whose farmlands went under water. They are requesting the immediate attention of the gov-

manager's hook and not to deal them a rotten hand.

TEHRAN, Oct 4: Some 160 members of the Iranian parliament said in a letter today that the death decree against British author Salman Rushdie remained valid and irrevocable,

"We assure the Muslims of

islatures of India's 31 states and ries before making the required

Council. They also discussed the future jurisdiction of the councils. view in New Delhi. According to sources, the

> have told the meeting that the Regional Council will be a coordinating body without executive power. All the development activities will be carried out through the district councils. Held at the Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry in the morning, the

> meeting was presided over by

Kalparanjan Chakma.

concerned, sources said.

sources attending the meeting The meeting also discussed at length the ways of exploring new markets for Bangladeshi workers. It also discussed a na-

tional policy on manpower ex-The meeting also decided that Bangladeshi workers could not be sent to Saudi Arabia with a salary less than 300 Saudi

Later talking to newsmen. Foreign Minister Azad said the ployment has been asked to ployment abroad and place it in

7-party

From Page 1 mismanagement of postflood relief activity, was decided at an alliance meeting at the Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition. M. Shamsul Islam of BNP chaired the meeting.

Meanwhile, BNP organised street protests in the divisional headquarters vesterday demanding release of arrested leaders and withdrawal of cases against party chief Khaleda Zia. The party is also scheduled to hold similar programmes in the district headquarters on Thursday and a public meeting in the capital sometime later.

BNP decided to consult its alliance partners on the issue as they were not happy about its going alone. The smaller parties in a meeting last week said they would not participate in "any agitation programme" decided

by BNP unilaterally. In another development BNP units in greater Barisal district vesterday formed Obaid-Manzur Mukti Parishad to mobilise support for release

of the two party leaders. Led by ABM Altaf Hossain Choudhury, the Parishad comprises all the five MPs and other leaders of the party in the region. "The Parishad will publish posters and write graffiti to publicise the demand for the release of two BNP leaders and back up the party's central programmes in this regard," said

Najimuddin Alam, a BNP MP from Bhola A similar committee was also formed in greater Faridpur

on Saturday. **PCJSS**

From Page 1 agreement. Replying to question on granting amnesty to the arrested Shantibahini men, the minister said many of them have already been released from jail.

"Only 19 of the arrested are still behind the bar. The legal process to release them is on." he added. About the outcome of yesterday's meeting with the chairmen of the three hill districts. Kalparanjan said they dis-

cussed the whole gamut of the Chittagong Hill Tracts. He said the issue which dominated the meeting is about the authority of the Hill District Councils in the development activities of their respective areas in a changed scenario after the formation of the Regional

minister assured the Hill Council chairmen that they would enjoy the similar freedom and authority as before. The minister was learnt to

Abducted young man rescued:

Police resorted to lathi charge on IOJ activists in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat

6 arrested By Staff Correspondent A young man abducted on Saturday for ransom was res-

cued from a hotel vesterday and six alleged abductors were arrested. The arrested are Shamim Mizan, Palash, Jahangir, Delwar and Ahsan. They had demanded Tk thirty thousand as ransom from relatives of the

victim, Sahabuddin, 28, police The kidnappers forced Sahabuddin into an autorickshaw in front of the BSIC Bhaban. took him to a residential hotel on Outer Circular Road and held

him hostage in a room. In a joint operation by the Detective Branch and Ramna police, he was rescued and the six were arrested from the hotel

room, police said. Earlier, a case was filed with Motijheel thana by the victim's cousin in this connection.

Genuine FFs

From Page 1 number of real freedom fighters, the BMS Chairman said though the figure would not exceed three lakh, some 30 lakh people have certificates distributed during different regimes.

of selecting genuine freedom fighters, Ahad Chowdhury said: "We'll be very careful so that none of the fake muktijoddhas can sneak into the list. He told a questioner that the Sangsad had distributed some 4.6 lakh forms among those

who claimed themselves as

freedom fighters and received

Elaborating on the process

some 3.43 Takh forms filled up. Asked about the budget for the nationwide exercise. Ahad Chowdhury said Tk 15 lakh had been earmarked to make the event a success. The newsmen were informed

cially in the last two years. BMS Central Command Council leaders, including MA Rashid, Maj (Retd) Shah Alam Talukdar, Ismat Quadir Gama, Mobarak Haque Lablu, Kabir Ahmed and Mannan Chowdhury, were present.

that BMS had helped some

4,500 freedom fighters finan-

Star photo IOJ supporters, police clash: 12 arrested

By Special Correspondent Police used batons and teargas to disperse supporters of Islami Oikyo Jote (IOJ) yesterday when they tried to march towards the Secretariat demanding arrest and execution of fem-

inist writer Taslima Nasreen. IOJ supporters hurled rocks and returned a couple of gas shells back at police during the clash on the busy Topkhana Road near Jatiya Press Club. Police arrested 12 IOJ supporters after the clash that also

led to disruption of traffic for

sometime on the busy street in

the early afternoon as many passers-by and vehicles were caught in the melee. Windshields and windows of some cars were smashed. Police had earlier managed to stop the demonstrators near the second gate of the Secretariat where they arrived from

near the Baitul Mukarram Police agreed to allow an IOJ delegation to go inside and hand over to the home minister a memorandum demanding capital punishment to the

Purana Paltan holding a rally

government build or erect no statue in any part of the coun-The delegation, however, could not deliver the memorandum, signed by IOJ chief Maulana Azizul Huq and Maulana Fazlul Huq Amini. As

the six-member delegation had

been preparing to go inside,

some of their militant support

ers tried to force their way

They also demanded that the

through the police cordon. Earlier Maulana Fazlul Huq Amini blasted Nasreen, describing her as a 'murtad' (infidel) said: "The government would collapse in October. After the collapse, Nasreen would be executed on the precincts of Baitul Mukarram inshaallah.

demonstration after Juma prayers on October 9. The beleaguered writer has sought government's protection to ensure her safety and security, BBC Bengali service reported last evening.

Amini said there would be

more protests -- a countrywide

But Home Secretary Shaffur Rahman said he had received no petition from her in this regard. "I have just heard from the BBC as you have," he said.

sources Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda, WDB chairman

The Indo-Bangladesh Joint

various reasons. Subsequently, the JRC mee in Dhaka in July '97 renewed the decision for filling the vacuum in flood-control embank-

The Water Resources Minis-

AJM deal

From Page 1 other since long.

Officer-in-Charge of Siddirganj thana, Saiful Islam,

Pro-BNP workers' leader Go-

standing. Approached by The Daily Star, JP's Delwar Hossain termed the arrangement "a government tactic to suppress the volatile atmosphere in the

in restoring normalcy in the AJM area.

BNP MP Nadim Mostafa is the principal accused in both the cases, police said. vailing in Puthia thana.

President Eklakh Hossain, it

Meanwhile, BNP held a rally Presided over by city BNP

was addressed by RCC Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Advocate Qamrul Monir, Azizur Rahman, Tofazzal Hossain and Matiur Rahman Montu.

committee has been formed to take emergency measures for improvement of traffic system in the city, reports UNB. The committee was formed

AYBI Siddique was made the Convenor and representatives from Army, BDR, Ansar, City Corporation, RAJUK, BRTA, Railway, Roads and Highways Department, DMP and Home Ministry are the members of

Kawran Bazar, Sayedabad and Jatrabari. progress of implementation of

tive and Additional Chief Engineer of DCC and officials concerned were present.

Ahmed Chowdhury of Bangladesh Association of Banks, Md Shahjalal Majumder of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies, Alhaj Mohammed Abbas Ullah of Bangladesh Chalachitra Projojak Paribeshak Samity. Amir Hossain Khan of Nawab Mia of Bangladesh Pipe & Tubewell Merchants Association, ASM Kamal Uddin of Bangladesh Plastic Association, Abdul Haque of Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Association and Khandker Ru-

hul Amin of Bangladesh Restaurant Malik Samity. Rouf

politicians, bureaucrats and the civil society to formulate policies on key national issues.

Ctg: THC

18.760 after enhancement for a 40 feet container of export cargo

"A joint meeting of BGMEA and Commerce and Industries Ministries will be held very soon to frame strategies against such evil design," Mahboob told a questioner.

Tayeb, Ameer Humayun Mahmood Chowdhury, Sahabuddin Ahmed Chowdhury also addressed the press conference.