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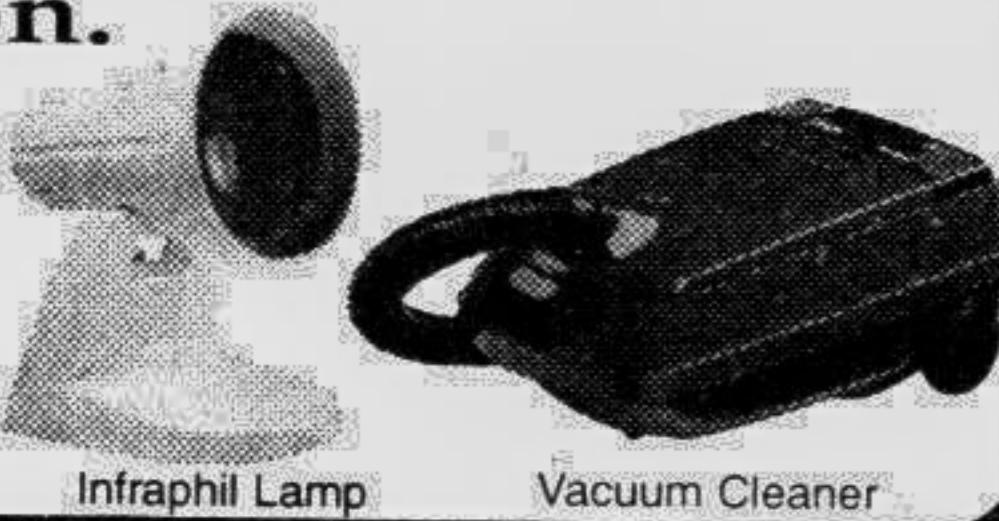
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## Tarar suspends PCB for losing WC final

ISLAMABAD, July 17: Almost one month after losing the World Cup Cricket final to Australia, President Rafiq Tarar suspended Pakistan's top cricket body, the Pakistan Cricket Board, replacing it by a two-member ad-hoc committee, officials said today, reports AP.

In a notification issued late Friday night, Tarar, who is the patron-in-chief of the PCB, appointed Mujeeb Ur Rehman as its chairman, they said.

The PCB has been under fire from the national press and senior players after the team lost to Australia in the World Cup final at Lord's on June 20.

The newspapers charged senior players, including Captain Wasim Akram, of betting, match fixing and indiscipline. But the out-going PCB officials denied these allegations.

Rehman is the younger brother of Senator Saifur Rehman — the chief of government's Accountability Bureau which is probing match-fixing allegations against senior players.

(See page 13 for details)

**Ananda Mohan College closed sine die**

MYMENSINGH, July 17: Mymensingh Government Ananda Mohan College has been declared closed sine die and the students asked to vacate the hostel by 9 am today, reports UNB.

Academic Council of the college took the decision at an emergency meeting Friday night following a violent protest on the college campus the previous day.

On Thursday, a group of agitated students, in protest against what they said illegal toll collection by outsiders, ransacked the residence and office of the Principal, students union office and burnt the college bus.

The students, however, rejected the decision of the closure and staged a protest rally on the campus today. They also submitted a memorandum to the principal demanding immediate reopening of the college. The students have decided not to leave the dormitories.

Meanwhile, the college authorities alleged that they did not get any police protection even after repeated requests. They filed a case with Kotwali in connection with the ransacking of college property.

**Two held with arms in city**

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Police arrested two persons with arms and ammunition from the city's Green Road in the early hours of yesterday.

The arrested were identified as Al-amin alias Niton and Sharif, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Dhanmondi police arrested the two with two revolvers and 42 bullets in their possession.

A case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana in the connection.

**Naogaon BNP calls 48-hr hartal from tomorrow**

NAOGAON, July 17: District BNP has called a 48-hour hartal in the town beginning Monday morning in protest against the refusal by police to take a case in connection with the murder of Chhatra Dal leader Renu, reports UNB.

JCD leader Renu, 22, was stabbed to death by unidentified assailants at Tajer More Sunday night.

The district BNP and JCD blamed Chhatra League activists for the killing.

Acting officer-in-charge of thana himself filed a case as plaintiff as nobody came to file case after two days of the killing.

Police, however, refused to take case when Renu's elder brother Zillur Rahman came to the thana for filing case the day after officer-in-charge filed the case.

The BNP leaders said police filed the case to save the killers of Renu.

**15-minute hartal called in Rajshahi city today**

**From Our Correspondent**

RAJSHAHI, July 17: Rajshahi, Managar, Nagarik Committee has called a 15-minute hartal in the city from 10 am tomorrow demanding proper investigation into the murder of businessman Sirajul Islam Selim.

Selim, owner of an electronics shop and a colour lab was murdered on May 16 in his bedroom at Shabab Bazar in the city.

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## Sludge, stink & traffic jam

The other name of Gabtoli terminal

By Shehab Ahmed

The bus and truck terminals at Gabtoli have virtually been abandoned by their users who load and unload their vehicles on the Mirpur Road, making a mess of the traffic moving to and from the city.

Police watch the scene, sometimes trying to plead for the drivers.

"They do not care because they are so organised that they would simply leave their vehicles blocking the road if we try to enforce discipline", a policeman said about the bus and truck drivers there.

Vehicles entering the city and going out often have to take the wrong side of the two-way highway, creating a maze. Hours-long traffic jam is a usual phenomenon.

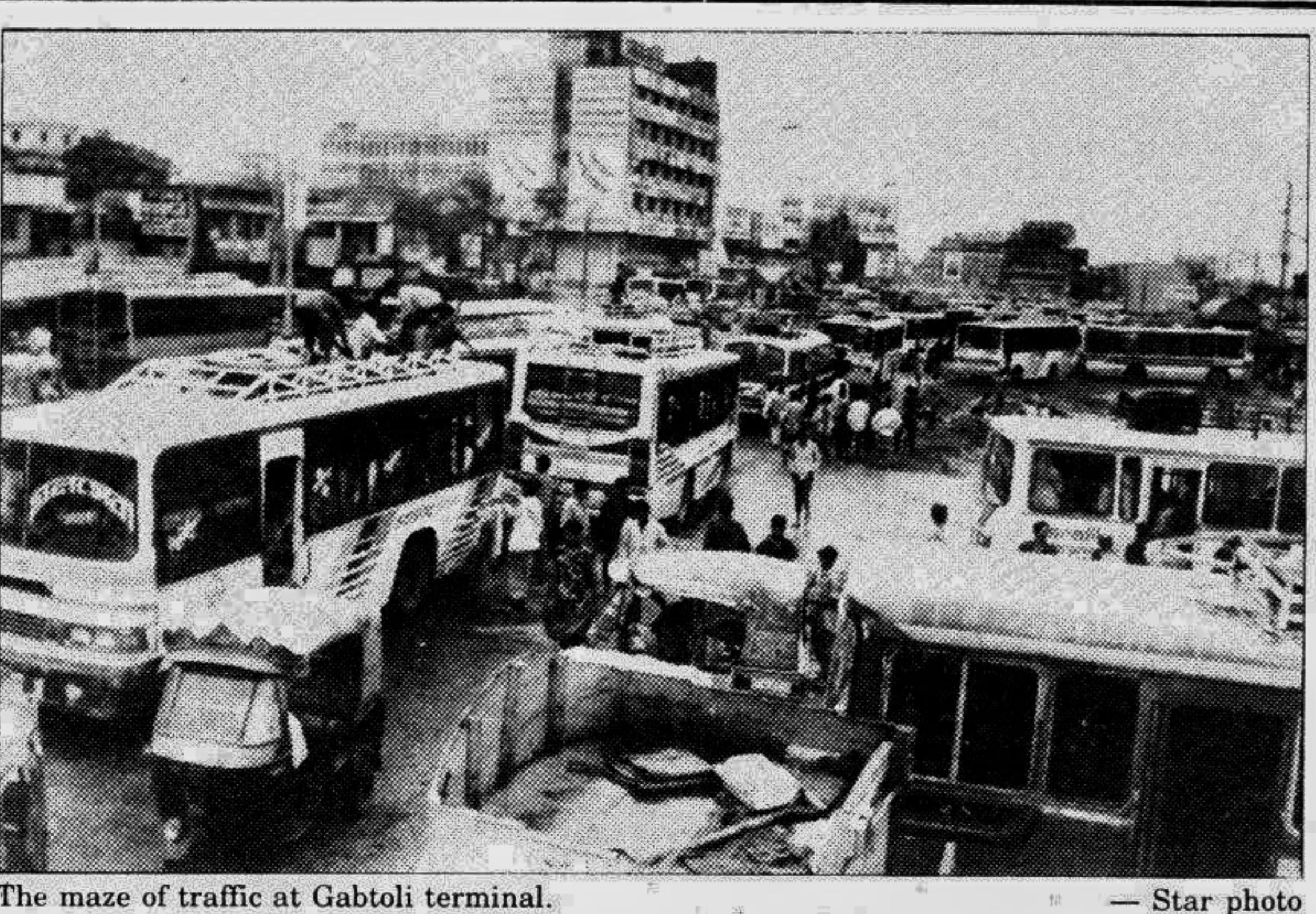
Mud and stinky rubbish lib-

erally dumped on the western side of the highway near the bus terminal have made it more difficult for people to negotiate their way through the maze of traffic that often remains still for hours.

Buses making short trips to Savar, Manikganj and Aricha never use the terminal. These are parked along the road for taking and offloading passengers, the policeman said.

That is the situation on the city side. The road on the other side of the river Turag is no better. A truck stand has emerged on two sides of the highway. Sometimes up to three trucks stand abreast on the road, blocking the highway.

At nearby Aminbazar, shopkeepers prefer the metalled portions of the highway to avoid the slime, making traffic movement difficult. But law keepers ignore the situation as it is the standard practice.



The maze of traffic at Gabtoli terminal. — Star photo

### Decision unlikely to be changed: Tofail

## Free quota system gives way to corruption in garments sector'

By Rafiq Hasan

fail said "We are yet to change our decision."

BGMEA Vice-president Nurul Huda Sikdar in an interview with The Daily Star earlier said that the free quota system was necessary for development of the garments industry and expansion of market abroad.

Meanwhile, the Export Promotion Bureau in a survey found that over 98 per cent of the allotments obtained under the free quota system are sold by their allottees.

Sources in the garments sector claimed that such sale of allotments has created an "unofficial quota market" in the country and growth of some offices in the city which are doing this "illegal business".

The EPB investigation found that less than two per cent of the allotments made under the free quota is exported by the allottees. The rest is transferred or sold to others in exchange of money.

The EPB investigation found that as many as 668 garments companies which got free quota allotments had no export record in the last two years. "These garments companies have nothing to do except selling free

quota" said a high official of the EPB.

Out of 2553 garments companies which renewed their licences during the years, only 1867 exported apparels, sources in the EPB said.

Government officials said that though the amount of free quota was only five per cent of the total export quota for US and Canada, 70 per cent time at EPB's textile cell is spent on the free quota.

If the system is abolished permanently, much of the corruption in the garments sector will go," said a senior official of the ministry of commerce.

The price of an export quota document having a dozen apparels can be as much as USD 60, said a quota trader.

"It depends on the availability of the quota and negotiation between the buyer and seller" he said.

"We had to face lot of harassment and to spend money for transfer of a quota documents," he said. "The EPB officials at quota allocation section never transfer a documents without bribe," he alleged.

There are some full fledged offices in the city to do the quota business and a few hundred people are depended on it, the trader informed the Daily Star.



Foreign ministers of Bangladesh and Myanmar holding official talks at state guesthouse Meghna yesterday. — Star photo

## Rohingya issue unresolved

From Page 1  
the 250,000 who fled their homes in Arakan state of western Myanmar to escape persecution by the military junta in late 1991.

They are facing an uncertain future with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) running out of cash and donors unwilling to take care of them any more. That leaves the prospect of Bangladesh bearing the burden.

Myanmar suddenly put a brake in the repatriation process in July 1997. Later it agreed to repatriate about 7,000 Rohingyas. 50 persons in batches every week, from November last year.

Between November 25, 1998 and June 30, 378 Rohingyas went home in 18 batches across the Naf river that separates the two countries.

On Asian Highway, Aung said his country is preparing roads to make it ready for the project without any aid from any country.

He also claimed that there was no major problem or conflict between Myanmar and Bangladesh. "Whatever problems we have will be resolved through discussions," he said, adding, "We can live together in a friendly atmosphere and work for mutual benefit," according to BSS news agency.

About the prospect of a high level visit by Myanmar president to Bangladesh to improve ties, he said he could not give any answer now, but the visit might take place some day.

According to sources, Bangladesh raised the issue of landmine still left strewn along the 'no man's land' between two countries, which were planted by Myanmar to prevent Rohingyas from going back.

The Myanmar foreign minister is scheduled to meet President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

The two sides also discussed expansion of trade between the two neighbours that now totals some Tk 350 crore a year.

Bangladesh also pressed for formalising the informal 'border trade', taking back over 800 Myanmar citizens, mainly fishermen who had completed their sentences in Bangladeshi jails after intrusions. About 100 Bangladeshi are also languishing in Myanmar prisons whose repatriation was also sought.

Earlier, Aung told reporters on arrival at the airport that he was here on a friendship visit to discuss bilateral matters and issues relating to BIMSTEC, of which both countries are members.

He also claimed that there was no major problem or conflict between Myanmar and Bangladesh. "Whatever problems we have will be resolved through discussions," he said, adding, "We can live together in a friendly atmosphere and work for mutual benefit," according to BSS news agency.

To a question, he said that offer for talks to Aung San Suu Kyi, the Myanmar opposition leader, by the Yangon junta is still valid. "But to have talks, they (Suu Kyi's supporters) have to stop criticism and help create common ground for a dialogue," he added.

Welcoming Aung, Samad Azad said "as neighbours we must have sympathetic outlook for each other's problems".

The Myanmar foreign minister is scheduled to meet President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

### Tangail BCL demands expulsion of Siddiqui from AL

TANGAIL, July 17: Bangladesh Chhatra League, Tangail district unit held a press conference yesterday at district Awami League office and condemned the attack on their meeting on Wednesday by the supporters of Abdul Kader Siddiqui, Bir Uttam, reports BSS.

They also demanded expulsion of Abdul Kader Siddiqui MP from Awami League for his anti-party activities and remarks.

The Chhatra League leaders also urged the government to arrest Murad Siddiqui and Abdul Kader Siddiqui for their heinous activities.

Mamunur Rashid Mamun, district Chhatra League leader read out the written statement in the press conference.

### 50 hurt as rival groups clash in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, July 17: At least 50 people were injured, nine of them seriously, in a gunfight between two rival groups at Kuripara Bazar in Bandar thana over supply of sand to the under-construction power centre in Haripur area today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted as supporters of one group attacked their rivals to rescue two men who had been kidnapped on Friday. The clash continued for half an hour until police intervened and brought the situation under control.

Policemen also arrested two men, Alamgir Bhuiyan and Kamal.

The injured, 20 people received bullet injuries. Seriously injured Jamal, 20, Sohel, 22, Swapan, 18, Hanna, 35, Munna, 20, Kachi, 30, Jamal, 20, Aslam, 30, and Alamgir, 35, were rushed to Dhaka in critical condition.

### Rape: Three policemen closed in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, July 17: Three policemen of Rayganj thana were closed in the district police lines on charge of violating a young woman, reports UNB.

The action against Bharat Kumar Chakma, Ataur Rahman and Chan Mahboob was taken after they went to the house of Aminul Islam in Gurka village at the dead of night on July 12 and violated his wife in his absence, said a police official.

When she cried for help, neighbours rushed to the spot but they failed to nab the armed policemen.

The woman at one stage of scuffle with a cop managed to snatch away his badge inscribed with 'Reserve Police' from his uniform.

She filed a case on July 14 with the Rayganj thana. After investigation, Police Super Officer Rangazeb Mahboob ordered the action against the accused.

The woman at one stage of scuffle with a cop managed to snatch away his badge inscribed with 'Reserve Police' from his uniform.

Chief of Staff of Bangladesh Army Lt Gen Muhammad Mustafizur Rahman received the distinguished guest at the Zia International Airport.

Senior army officers and officials of the US Embassy were present at the airport, said an ISPR press release.

### Sex workers flee

From Page 1  
party to brothel business. We should not ignore them in the drive against it. They may cause a fresh crisis in the society."

Prof. Islam suggested that the government should immediately locate the 'absconding' prostitutes and put them in a safe place. "Otherwise, the situation will go beyond control."

He also said the authorities while going with the rehabilitation drive, should evolve a mechanism for those willing to continue their business.

Meanwhile, reports available from different voluntary organisations show that 80 per cent of the sex workers of Bangladesh and Nimpith brothels are affected by STDs and cent per cent of them have skin (contagious) diseases. Two in every 20 sex workers at Tanbazar are carrying HIV, the virus that causes AIDS," according to a report by the Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA).

BNWLA Executive Director Salma Ali told The Daily Star,