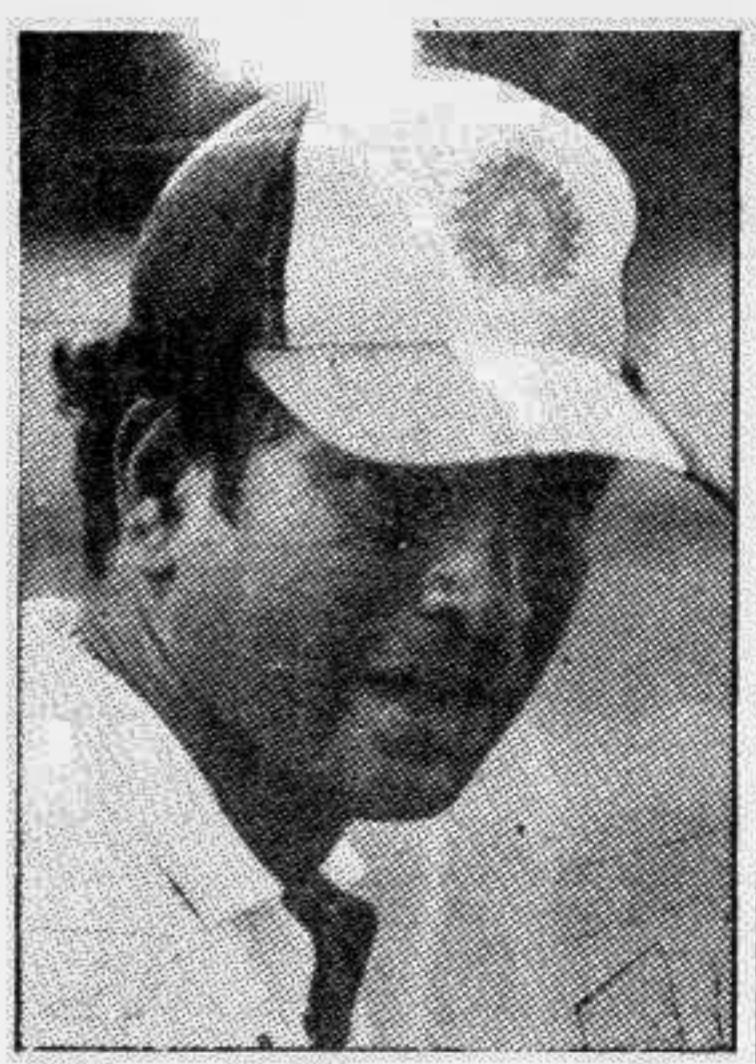




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## Tendulkar made captain

NAGPUR (India), July 28: Batting master Sachin Tendulkar was appointed captain of the Indian cricket team today replacing Mohammad Azharuddin, reports AFP.

"It took us just two minutes to decide. 'We're looking ahead with Sachin Tendulkar as captain,'" said Ajit Wadekar, chairman of selectors at the Indian Cricket Board.

"It was decided in one voice, no other name was considered," Wadekar said.

Cries for Azharuddin's removal reached a crescendo after India's disappointing showing in the recent World Cup in India.

(Details on page 13)

## Police sergeant sent to jail, 7 held from

### Agargaon

By Staff Correspondent Seven people were arrested from the city's Agargaon area yesterday for their "involvement in the incident of attacking police" in the area on Tuesday following alleged killing of a rickshawpuller by a police sergeant.

At least 10 people, including seven policemen, sustained bomb injuries when angry people of the locality hurled bombs at police in two phases in protest against the killing of Masud, the rickshawpuller.

Meanwhile, police sergeant Saroj Kumar Roy, who allegedly shot Masud with his Point Two Two (22) bore service revolver, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail by the CMM's Court.

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Western Zone, told The Daily Star last night that the official revolver of sergeant Saroj had no safety catch which is used to prevent accidental firing.

## Parliamentary body plans probe into default problem

Amid widespread incrimination of loan defaulters, lawmakers observed reasons as to why an industrialist default in repaying bank money should be found out and agreed to institute a probe, into the matter, reports UNB.

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industries, including the Industries Minister, in a meeting yesterday also said the widespread criticisms without considering the reality, even by the President, should stop.

At least two parliamentarians — Hafiz Ahmed Majumdar and A K M Mosharraf Hossain — blamed the banking procedures and other logical reasons for an industrialist to become a defaulter.

They proposed to change the definition of a 'defaulter' and bring some changes in procedures of classifying loans so that none becomes a defaulter while with good intentions of repaying the loans.

BNP MP Mosharraf Hossain, a former industries secretary, was learnt to have proposed to dig out the actual reasons for default, actual default loan of one defaulter and the number of defaulters in the country.

As tax anomalies were blamed for many industrialists becoming defaulters and their industries falling sick, the meeting decided to form a committee to find out the reality.

Meeting sources told UNB that it also decided to prepare a report on whether present banking procedures caused in-

dustrial sickness and an owner to become the much-talked-about defaulter.

The meeting, however, recommended identifying the defaulters under the present definition and rehabilitation sick industries of those who don't fall in that list.

Several Standing Committee members proposed to include an expert in the committee, headed by a judge, responsible to examine the real sick industries as "the judge may not be well aware of the reality."

They took stock of the steps so far taken by the Industries Ministry for rehabilitating and revamping the sick industrial units and held elaborate discussions.

The Standing Committee Chairman, Dewan Farid Gazi, presided over the meeting attended by members Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, Hafiz Ahmed Majumdar, M Rafiqul Anwar, Shahna Sardar, M Golam Hossain and A K M Mosharraf Hossain.

When the setting up of Shahjalal Fertiliser Factory at Fenchuganj under joint venture with foreign entrepreneurs came up for discussion, BNP MP Mosharraf Hossain alleged that government decision was being violated.

He told the meeting that ECNEC on August 9, 1995 had approved the contract with Chinese CNCEC under a tender floated on November 15, 1994 for setting up the factory.

In this respect, Mosharraf Hossain also informed that a committee, headed by Dr Iqbal

Mahmud, was formed on September 19, 1996 to examine viability of the project and it submitted its report on January 1, 1997 recommending that the contract be finalised.

The committee recommended negotiating the loan terms and on September 25, 1998 the rate of interest was lowered by 4.5 per cent, the bureaucrat-turned lawmaker said.

"But," he alleged, "without canceling the contract the government floated a fresh tender and USA-based American Business Corporation for Development and Indian Nagarchuna Fertiliser and Chemicals Ltd had been permitted to set up the factory at Fenchuganj."

Mentioning that a 100 per cent export-oriented fertiliser factory will not be viable in Fenchuganj, Mosharraf Hossain also alleged that rules were violated as the government didn't cancel the contract with the Chinese CNCEC with whom it had also signed letter of intent.

Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed denied the allegations and was learnt to have told the meeting that the government decided not to set up any new fertiliser factory. It'll only permit such factories in private sector, and if possible in joint venture.

Responding to the minister, Mosharraf Hossain then said that the matter should not come up in a meeting of Standing Committee on Industries as it's a matter of the Board of Investment.

## Govt employees continue agitation

By Special Correspondent

Lower class government employees continued agitation yesterday to press for their demands for a 30 percent dearness allowance and change in office hours.

They said they were conducting mass contact programme raising slogans in support of their demands, walking down different floors of the multi-storey Secretariat complex.

Riot police were stationed on the premises. But they did not intervene despite a recent government order to enforce discipline, including attendance in offices.

The order followed recent demonstrations by the employees who had closed their ranks to press home their demands. The employees are planning a major demonstration on August 3.

## Draft law for preserving open places okayed

By Staff Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday approved a draft law for preserving open places, play grounds and natural water bodies in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi metropolitan areas as well as the district towns, sources said.

## 24 hurt as JCD, BCL clash at Sherpur College

SHERPUR, July 28: Sherpur Government College has been declared closed for five days following a series of clashes between Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal today.

Police and witnesses said at least 24 people, including 15 activists of the two rival organisations, were injured in the clashes.

They said the trouble erupted at about 11:15 am when the activists of JCD attacked VP of the college Bayezid Hasan and his friend Ponir following an alteration with them.

Of the injured, seven were rushed to Jamalpur Sadar Hospital while four to Sherpur Sada Hospital and one to Dhaka in critical condition.

During the clashes, the two warring groups traded gunshots. Police fired teargas shells to disperse them.

Traffic on six local roads was disrupted for about four hours.

## Azharul Huq reappointed WASA MD

Khanadar Azharul Huq was reappointed Managing Director of WASA for another three years' term yesterday on expiry of his tenure, said a WASA press release, reports UNB.

Earlier, Dr Huq was the Technical Advisor of Sri Lanka based International Irrigation Management Institute, member-director (Irrigation) of BADC, member-director (Agricultural Engineering) of BARC and Head of the Department of Agriculture Engineering of Bangladesh Rice Research Institute.

## বাংলাদেশ তার ও টেলিফোন বোর্ড

অবৈধ ফোন ব্যবসা বৃক্ষিকরণ এবং  
পিসিসি স্থাপনের লাইসেন্স ধ্বংশের জন্য

### পুনঃবিজ্ঞপ্তি

SYLHET, July 28: Occidental is likely to start drilling a new exploratory well at the abandoned Magurjhara well on August 1, sources close to the company said last night.

All preparations have been taken to start the much-awaited drilling in Kalachara which is only about five kilometers off the Magurjhara site, the sources added. It is about six kilometers off the Kalapu bazar on the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway. The area is a sub-section of Majedee Tea Estate.

The drilling Rig-T78, which was taken from the Kapna Gas Field area in Sylhet, had also been erected at Kalachara. However, the company officials are keeping silence about the matter as it had to change the schedule several times in the past, one source said. A number

### Erratum

Our back page story titled 'Hemingway sung in city' published yesterday gave a weird reading because of misjolns. We regret this inadvertent mistake. The story commences at the eighth paragraph and the first seven paragraphs should go to the tail of the story.

The order followed recent demonstrations by the employees who had closed their ranks to press home their demands. The employees are planning a major demonstration on August 3.

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