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**Strike in garment units Nov 1**

Garment workers have called for a strike in all ready-made garment factories on November 1 demanding implementation of the four-point agreement signed with the BGMEA, reports UNB.

National Garments Workers Federation in its annual general meeting here on Friday, expressed total solidarity with the strike called by Garments Workers Unity Council and urged all concerned to make it an all out success.

The meeting also decided to intensify the ongoing movement demanding minimum wages for all garment workers and employees, recognition of trade union in all garment factories and weekly holiday.

Federation president Majibur Rahman presided over the first session of the meeting while vice president Shabana Rahman chaired the second session.

**Press Council**

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bibur Rahman Khan the roundtable discussion was organised by the Press Council and held at the Jatiya Press Club. Afzal H Khan MP, N K Alam Chowdhury MP, Journalist A B M Musa, Barrister Mainul Hossain, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, Mahfuz Anam, Kazi Saheed Ahmed, Bazlur Rahman, Kamal Lohani, Ramendu Majumdar, Sudhangsu Shekhar Haldar, Akhtar Ahmed Khan, Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, Mohiuddin Ahmed, Advocate Maqsoodur Rahman and Shafiqur Rahman, among others, took part in the discussion while Editor of the Bangladesh Observer Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury moderated.

Afzal H Khan suggested ensuring proper representation of journalists from the sharply divided two camps to formulate any policy or take steps regarding newsmen. There should be scope for editorial in the Press Council, he said.

ABM Musa suggested reviewing the whole format of the Press Council, providing judicial power to the Council and making accountable the editor rather than the reporter for a report. He also suggested appointment of a Press Ombudsman and renaming the Press Council as Press Court.

Barrister Mainul Hossain suggested redefining civil and criminal defamation law to ensure people's right as well. Frequent discussion between ministers concerned and newsmen would be more effective rather than promulgation of any new law to ensure objective journalism, he said.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star, demanded right to write against the judiciary to ensure proper role of journalists as a watchdog in society. He urged the Law Minister to re-think prior to enactment of any law regarding the rights of newsmen.

**Ctg port**

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Authority (CPA) has called an emergency meeting at 11:30 am tomorrow to discuss the crisis.

The meeting will be participated by the merchant workers, C&F agents, CPA members and others concerned with CPA chairman in the chair.

**Vajpayee**

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ern state of Karnataka which had gone to polls in the first phase on September 5.

After BJP had put up Sushma Swaraj against the Congress President, the Congress was in no mood to allow Vajpayee have a smooth sail in Lucknow and the choice fell on Karan Singh because of his standing as a man of letters.

Dr Singh's erudition, it was felt in Congress circles, would make him a "formidable challenger" to Vajpayee.

Dr Karan Singh, who was a key minister in Indira Gandhi cabinet, had quit Congress several years ago but returned to the party recently.

While Vajpayee has already filed his nomination papers for Lucknow, Dr Singh will do the same on September 14. This will be the seventh time Vajpayee will be contesting from Lucknow.

The Congress decision to field Dr Singh against Vajpayee will undoubtedly make the contest in Lucknow a high-profile one after Bellary.

Uttar Pradesh, which sends the highest number (85) of members to Lok Sabha, is generally perceived to be the key for determining which party would rule India. In the 1998 general elections, BJP had won 58 seats in this state.

The 'saffron party' hopes to repeat the feat banking mainly on a divided opposition in the form of Congress, Samajwadi Party led by Mahayam Singh Yadav and Bahujan Samaj Party, the two other major forces in the electoral scene of Uttar Pradesh.

Dr Karan Singh's son Ajatshatru Singh is a minister in the government of Jammu and Kashmir state headed by Farooq Abdullah.

**DG candidate tells The Daily Star**  
**FAO working without priority, resources being misused**

By Naimul Haq

"Bangladesh has exceptional talents whose expertise can be utilised for attaining self-reliance in food and achieving sustainable development in agriculture.

"In fact, Bangladesh has succeeded on its own by putting these talents into service and has set an example for many countries in many respects," Juan Carlos Vignaud, a candidate for the post of FAO Director General told The Daily Star in an interview last week.

The Argentine nominee, now his country's envoy to Sweden, was in the capital in a campaign tour. The election is due in November.

Vignaud was highly critical of "misuse of resources" in the FAO and promises to turn the UN body into a "cost-effective and transparent centre of excellence for the service of humanity."

FAO, created to free the world's poor from hunger and eradicate poverty, is "now working without any priority and is often disconnected from operations of co-ordinating partners."

As a result, there is a lot of wastage of money, he said. "Since there is practically no vision, the money invested is virtually generating no impact".

Vignaud cited Grameen Bank's strategy in utilising resources for alleviating poverty in rural areas. "They have rightly utilised the resources in achieving the mission despite facing so many natural disasters in the country".

Talking about food security in Africa, Vignaud said, the reality is that about three weeks ago, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan had to appeal to the international community for food assistance saying that 16 countries with about 10 million people in sub-Saharan Africa were facing the risk of starvation.

He said despite FAO's "mandate for the enlightened self-interest" of industrialised countries, their commitment is at risk and there has already been a rapid decline in resources for action programmes for the needy developing countries.

"How can resource starved FAO assist the developing nations where over 800 million people suffer from hunger and malnutrition? Almost all of



Juan C Vignaud

also affected by the planned slash. In 1993, there were 20 FAO projects involving 30 million US dollars and nine investment centres in Bangladesh for preparing World Bank financed projects.

These have come down to 12 FAO projects involving 18 million US dollars and three investment centres now, he said.

"Such a FAO can have little credibility either among the developing countries, particularly in Asia, or among donor countries and institutions. No wonder, FAO has undergone a rapid decline in its capacity to respond to the needs of its member countries."

To augment FAO's limited resources and complement activities of its centres of excellence, Vignaud said a Volunteer Programme should be started with participation of youths and other groups of people to create awareness and raise food and funds for combating

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**BDR-BSF talks end**  
**Withdrawal of ban on movement of 2 enclaves' people demanded**

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) at a meeting with Indian Security Force (BSF) has demanded withdrawal of restriction on the movement of the people of Dahagram and Angarpota enclaves through the Indian corridor, reports UNB.

The border conference of the security forces of the two countries was held September 6-9 in Shiliguri, India, where a 9-member delegation of BDR led by Brig Shah Mohammad Mohiuddin took part.

Responding to the Bangladesh demand at the meeting, the Indian side sought time for securing clearance from Delhi for withdrawal of restriction on movement of the people of the two enclaves, said a BDR press release yesterday.

It said issues of smuggling of arms and explosives from India, trafficking of women and children, border skirmishes, trespass by BSF and killing of innocent Bangladeshis came at the meeting.

**India, Russia to talk Afghan conflict**

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: India and Russia will hold talks on the deepening crisis in Afghanistan during a visit to Moscow this month by New Delhi's most senior diplomat, Indian officials said Friday, reports AFP.

Foreign Secretary K Raghunath will meet his Russian counterpart Alexander Audeev and others for talks on the issue during a day's visit to Moscow on September 16, the officials said.

"Raghunath is also expected to cover the entire spectrum of bilateral issues and issues of international and regional concerns," a foreign ministry official added.

India enjoyed close ties with Kabul's former pro-Soviet communist government of Najibullah and now recognises the ousted regime of Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Pakistan is one of only three countries to recognise Afghanistan's ruling Taliban Islamic militia.

India last month held talks with the United States as part of continuing consultations New Delhi has held with the international community on Afghanistan.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Gora Shaheed Maidan in Dinajpur yesterday.

**Hasina**

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ing to resist transit at the cost of blood, which her husband had given to India."

The present government is thinking of giving transhipment to India and carrying Indian goods by Bangladeshian transport, which will be beneficial for the nation, she said.

Hasina alleged the BNP leader was spreading lies against the government to confuse the people. "Why this bluff and falsehood?" she questioned saying that the people do not like lies and the ruling party does not believe in the politics of lies.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation of Dinajpur Hajee Danesh Science and Technology University.

As part of its plan to establish Science and Technology Universities in 12 greater districts, the government upgraded Hajee Danesh Agriculture College to a full-pledged Science and Technology University.

It is the second Science and Technology University in the country after Rangpur. The government has plan to establish four more such universities, one each in Gopalganj, Patuakhali, Tangail and Rangamati, by 2002.

In the second phase, Science and Technology Universities will be established in Bogra, Pabna, Noakhali, Barisal, Jessore and Comilla.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek, State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy, Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu also spoke on the occasion.

**Panels finalised**  
**DU Dean polls Sept 27**

The election of deans for seven faculties of the Dhaka University will be held on September 27, reports UNB.

The DU Registrar's office yesterday sent election schedule to various departments of the university.

Associate Professors or Professors are eligible to contest for the post of Dean.

The polling will be held from 9 am to 1 pm on the day (Sept. 27) at the TSC Games Room on the campus and counting will start soon after the voting is completed.

Intending candidates will have to submit nomination papers to the Registrar by 1 pm on September 16. The last time for withdrawal of candidature is September 19.

The DU Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Shahadat Ali will conduct the election as representative of the Vice Chancellor.

The tenure of the incumbent deans has expired on June 30, but the authorities extended their term by three months as they could not arrange the election in time, sources said.

**Taliban arrest 2 Pak newsmen**

ISLAMABAD, Sept 11: Afghanistan's Taliban Islamic militia arrested two Pakistani journalists saying they were spying for neighbouring Iran, a spokesman for their employers, a private Pakistani news agency, said today, reports UNB.

Salim Saif and Mohammed Azam, two journalists working for the News Network International, were arrested last Tuesday while returning from opposition-held territory in Afghanistan.

The two were arrested in Afghanistan's Kunar province, about 90 miles from the Afghan capital of Kabul, said Tahir Khan, a spokesman for the news agency.

They had visited Afghan opposition-controlled areas in the north and were arrested when they re-entered Taliban territory," said Khan.

Both reporters possessed Afghan visas given by the Taliban.

There was no immediate comment from the Taliban.

The Taliban, who are mostly Sunni Muslims, accuse Iran of aiding their battlefield opponents, some of whom represent Afghanistan's minority Shi'ite Muslim's Most Iranians are Shi'ite Muslims.

**Karachi**

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Earlier today, dozens of heavily armed policemen surrounded the headquarters of the ethnic-based Muttahida Quami Movement in central Karachi and arrested at least 50 of its members, witnesses and MQM officials said. This raid also was seen as an attempt to prevent today's anti-government rally.

"The police ransacked our offices, kicked and punched our members and took away party flags and literature," said Aftab Sheikh, a MQM lawmaker of the Senate, or the Upper House of Parliament.

Sheikh, who spoke to The Associated Press earlier today, was among the opposition leaders arrested from the meeting site where final preparations were being made for the rally.

The opposition accuses Sharif of massive corruption, undermining the constitution and usurping the rights of three smaller provinces in favour of his home province of Punjab.

In his home province of Lahore, Sharif said today that the opposition would not oust him.

"I will continue to serve the people," he said.

**Opposition sit-in**

From page 1

points of the city. Adequate SB, NSI, CID and DFI personnel will also be deployed on the city streets.

The areas where gathering, rally and procession have been banned are: Golap Shah Mazar, Zero Point, GPO Link Road, House Building (HBFC) crossing, Topkhana crossing (UCBL), Kastury Restaurant at Bijoyganj, Topkhana crossing to Foreign Ministry crossing, Matshya Bhanj crossing, Golap Shah Mazar, Phoenix road to Osmany Uddyan, Karmajibi Hospital, Western part of Abdul Gani Road, Old High Court crossing to Doyel Chatter and from the Southern part of Segun Bagicha road to Anti-Corruption Bureau crossing. All roads and lanes in the above areas will also be restricted.

Police sources said last night that security personnel would be deployed in the restricted areas at midnight. Huge barbed wire structures have been arranged to put up strong barricades on those roads.

They said all senior police officials of DMP will remain on streets to maintain law and order.

BDR personnel will be kept stand-by in and around the Secretariat while APBN will be deployed on roof tops of all important establishments. Riot vans, water cannons, fire brigade vehicles, ambulances and dog squads will be kept ready near the Secretariat and the Police Control Room.

The opposition parties have also decided not to break police barricades, sources said.

BNP leaders and activists will start gathering in front of the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) office at 9 am today, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will join the demonstrators there.

Party leaders, activists and supporters have been instructed to stage sit-in in front of the HBFC building, at Dainik Bangla crossing and Motijheel up to the Shapla Chatter in a disciplined way and not to cross the HBFC point.

BNP in a press release yesterday said the party has no plan to proceed towards the Secretariat in a procession. "We want to categorically say that our sit-in programme will be staged in front of the HBFC building and all activists of BNP and its front organisations will assemble there," the press release signed by BNP Assistant Office Secretary Emran Saleh Prince said.

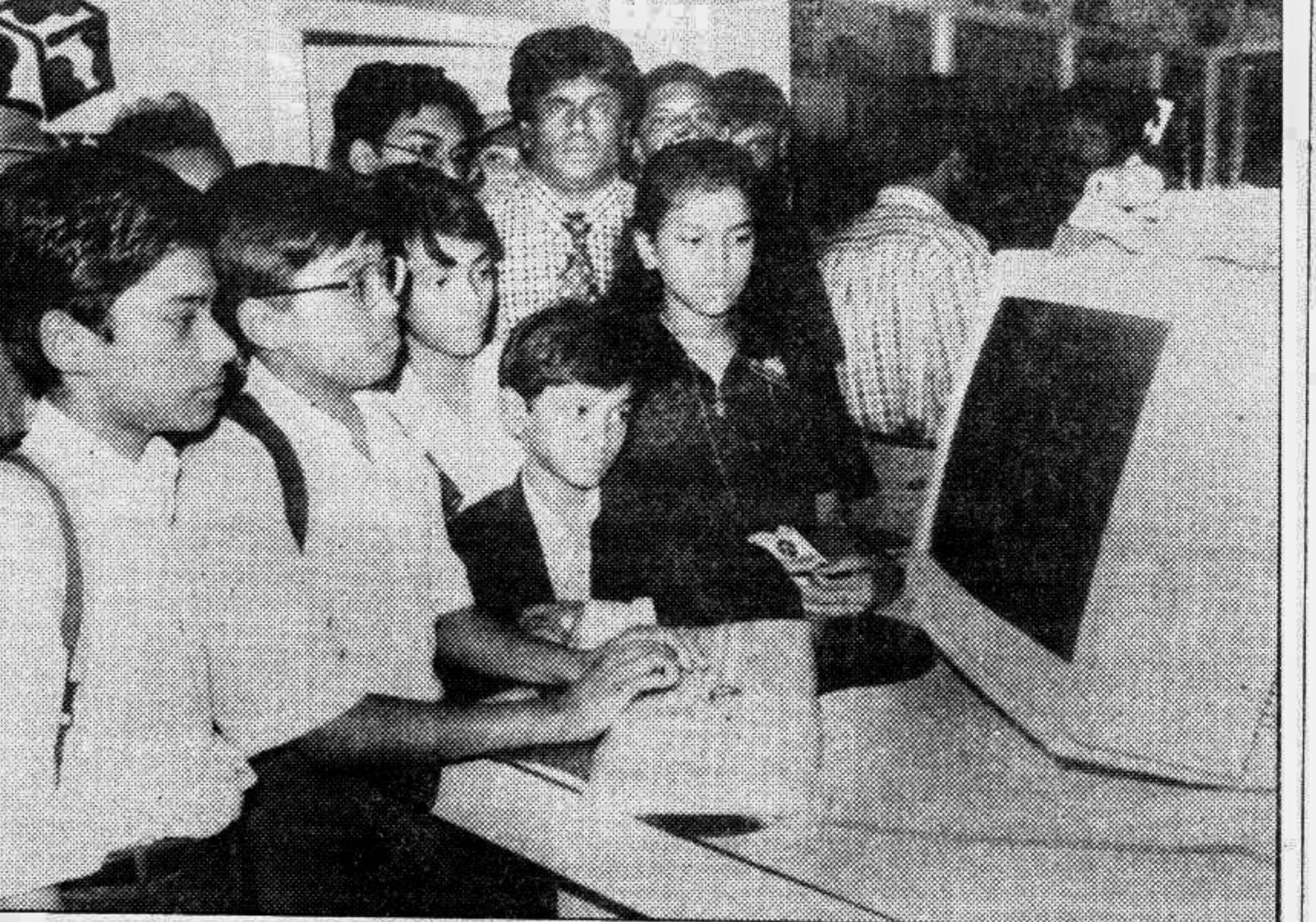
JP leaders and activists led by party chief H M Ershad will stage sit-in at Kakkral and Nightangle Restaurant crossing.

Jamaat and IJO will state their programmes at Bijoyganj and Purana Paltan areas.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia in a statement earlier said that the sit-in would be "completely peaceful and disciplined" and asked party leaders, workers and the people not to react to "any type of provocation" from the government.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim also announced earlier that there would be no obstruction from the government if the opposition stages the sit-in peacefully.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of leaders of all city units of BNP and its front organisations was held at the party central office yesterday to make the programme successful. The meeting was presided over by party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.



Enthusiasts at the Computer Show '99 at IDB Bhaban in the city yesterday. —Star photo

**Latest about black holes**

WASHINGTON, Sept 11: Black holes, those invisible maelstroms that suck in anything that comes near, may be the force behind half the energy released since the universe began, scientists reported yesterday, says Reuters.

Astronomers have presumed for years that black holes emitted a bit of energy, but nothing like the monstrous power spewed by stars. This latest research means that black holes could give stars serious competition in the cosmic power grid.

"Up to now, the thinking was that in the visible universe, all the energy has been released from the centre of stars," said Nicholas White of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland.

This new research suggests that there's a lot more energy being released and it's been hidden by dust and gas," White said in a telephone interview from Bologna, Italy, where he chaired a meeting on X-ray astronomy.

Black holes are high-gravity regions of space that suck in ev-

**Computer show**

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tors free of charge from 11 city points to the fair on two routes every hour.

One bus starts from Motijheel covering Dainik Bangla, Press Club, Curzon Hall, Science Laboratory and Asad Gate.

Another bus will operate from Uttara stopping at Banani, Mohakhali and Bijoy Sharani.

For safe transportation of goods purchased by clients, the organisers have employed a courier company.

Around 500,000 people are expected to visit the show this year with sales hoped to surpass last year's Tk 21 crore.

(More stories on Business Page)

**BNP stages sit-in in front of missions abroad today**

BNP will stage sit-in in front of Bangladesh missions in European and American countries today and tomorrow to protest government's decision to provide transhipment facilities to India," reports UNB.

According to a BNP press release, the party's foreign units will organise the demonstration coinciding with opposition's sit-in in front of the Secretariat in Dhaka today.

**11 hurt as transport workers clash in Bogra**

BOGRA, Sept 11: A fierce clash between two rival groups of transport workers left at least 11 people injured in the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash began when a procession brought out by 'Ibrahim group' came under attack of 'Helal group' at about 11 am over leadership conflict.

They were locked in an hour-long clash in which home made bombs and guns were used. Shops were closed and people ran helter-skelter for safety as panic gripped the whole town.

**5 shops gutted at Narsingdi**

NARSINGDI, Sept 11: Five shops were gutted in fire in the town today, reports UNB.

The fire originated from a shop at around 3 am and soon engulfed the four other shops.

Fire fighters rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze within half an hour.

**Attack on Mubarak**  
**14 police face disciplinary charge**

CAIRO, Sept 11: Thirteen security officers are facing disciplinary charges over their failure to prevent a man attacking President Hosni Mubarak with a penknife on Monday, Interior Minister Habib Al-Adly said today, reports AFP.

Adly pointed the finger at the officers who did not exercise enough caution and "should have been suspicious of the attacker."

But the main factor which allowed the situation to escalate out of control was that "preventative measures were taken to stop this dangerous man," he said.

Mubarak was attacked as he drove in a black Mercedes along crowd-lined streets in the northern town of Port Said.

The minister told parliament's defence and national security committees how the assailant, El Sayed Hussein Soliman, fell over as he jumped over the guarded security cordon but still managed to get up and stab the President.

Adly's report said there were a total of around 2,400 security officers and secret police on duty for Mubarak's visit that day.

Investigators said after the attack that Soliman had been known to police as was mentally unstable and prone to violence.

Adly's deputy was demoted on Thursday, two days after the interior minister ordered the transfer of the three heads of Port Said's police forces to new posts.

**3 killed in bus accident**

GAIBANDHA, Sept 11: Three people, including two college students, were killed in a bus accident at Panthapara in Gobindganj thana here on Dhaka-Rangpur highway today, reports UNB.

Police said housewife Aklima Khatun, 30, of Panthapara village was crushed under the wheels of the Bogra-bound bus while she was crossing the road.

While trying to speed away to escape wrath of local people, the bus killed Shampa, 17, a student of Gobindganj Women's College, and Russe, 20 of Bogra Azilul Huq College.

However, the driver managed to flee the scene with the bus.

**Indian polls**

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litical rivalry was believed to be the motive of the attack.

In the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh, an armed gang killed a policeman returning from an election meeting Friday, the agency said.

Security and fraud concerns are among the main reasons India is holding the staggered elections, with voting in five phases from Sept 5-Oct 4 to allow police and troops to move to potential trouble spots.

In today's phase, an estimated 138 million people spread over eight states are eligible to vote, and 123 seats in the 545-member lower house of parliament will be decided.

According to early estimates, 30 per cent of voters had cast their ballots by noon. UNI said. The vote pits Vajpayee's BJP-led coalition against Sonia Gandhi's Congress party.

After a slow start, voting picked up during the day in two constituencies in the Kashmir region, despite calls for a boycott by a separatist umbrella group. The All Party Hurriyat Conference says the vote will not resolve the issue of independence, which they seek in the northern Himalayan region.

On Friday, separatists opened fire on a candidate in Kashmir's Anantnag constituency, where earlier this week another candidate was shot dead. Mohammad Maqbool Dar, of the United Janata Dal Party escaped unhurt in Friday's shooting.

Police busted a major administrative base of the banned Hizbul Mujahideen group in the Doda area which is voting today, and shot dead two militants. Officials said they found large quantities of arms and ammunition which was intended, most likely, or disruption of the polls.

In the southern state of Kerala an election official was arrested after he took home ballot papers and other polling material in violation of the rules. In Tamil Nadu, also in the south, security was beefed up today after a series of clashes earlier between two caste groups.

Polling was sluggish in Bombay, India's financial capital, where an overcast sky and a three-day Hindu holiday kept most voters away.

A rebel Congress politician, Sharad Pawar, is expected to eat into the party's votes in Maharashtra state. Pawar was expelled from the party in May for saying that foreign-born people should not be allowed to become prime minister, a demand that Vajpayee has promised to make into a law if his party is voted into power.

Results of the polls are expected several days after the last phase of voting finishes on Oct 4.

**Editor: Mahfuz Anam**  
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