

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions and at many places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said moderately heavy falls may occur at places over Khulna, Barisal and Chittagong divisions during the period.

Day temperature may rise by 1-3 degree Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 32.6 degrees Celsius today at Sylhet and the lowest 22.8 degrees at Feni.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:04 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:45 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.5	25.8	83	75
Chittagong	31.6	24.7	85	84
Rajshahi	30.3	25.4	83	93
Khulna	28.0	24.4	100	97
Barisal	30.0	24.5	92	87
Sylhet	32.6	25.1	73	89
Cox's Bazar	30.8	24.0	92	92



Ex-secretary Ayubur Rahman Chy dead

Ayubur Rahman Choudhury a former Secretary of Ministry of Works, former Chief Engineer, Roads & highways Dept. and former Director General of BMDC died of cardiac arrest at 7.50 pm on Sunday. He was 69, says a press release.

He was buried at the Banani Graveyard.

Rahman left behind his wife, three daughters and one son to mourn his death.

His guldastar will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at his residence at 27/1 West Maljagh.

Hartal: Police action

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out any procession in the city, mainly in Nayapaltan, Bijoy-nagar, Shantinagar and Maljagh areas.

Some senior BNP leaders including former Army Chief Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, Maj. Gen. (Retd) Z A Khan, Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Joy-nal Abedin Faruque MP, Lutfor Rahman Khan Azad MP, Barkatullah Bhulu MP and Jubadul leader Jashimuddin Mahmud came under police attack when they tried to bring out a small procession.

The BNP leaders with a small group of about 20 party activists came out of the BNP central office at 11:30am and marched towards Kakrail crossing. When they reached near the Scout Bhaban, 50 to 60 policemen cordoned the processions. Police beat up, punched, kicked and scuffled with the MPs and leaders, witnesses said.

During the same time, police also assaulted former home minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury at Mouchak crossing as he tried to bring out a procession.

Witnesses said a huge contingent of police was deployed around the BNP central office at Nayapaltan at about 6am. Police entered the ground floor of the office at about 6:30am and picked up three people from there.

Since then, police started indiscriminate arrest of passers-by and young people, suspecting them as BNP workers. A about 9 am, a dozen policemen led by DC Aminul Islam and Maruf and AC Hanif took position on the opposite side of BNP office.

Police also checked identity cards of journalists who were on-duty around the BNP office. BNP activists who failed to enter Naya Paltan area took position in different lanes at Bijoygar and started exploding bombs.

Police then fired tear shells and rubber bullets. This continued till 12:27pm. BNP activists Shamsu (20) was seriously injured when he was beaten by police.

Police picked up a number of BNP activists from the spot.

Police also entered the Motijheel Nursing Home near the BNP office after two cocktails exploded at the lane. Police also raided a good number of residential houses at Bijoygar and Nayapaltan suspecting that BNP activists were hiding there, residents claimed.

Although BNP was not allowed to bring out any procession, activists of Jamaat, Islami Oikya Jote, Jagpa and Democratic League were seen parading Bijoygar road. They also staged demonstrations and held rallies.

Sporadic explosions of bombs were also reported from some other parts of the city including Jatrahari.

Movement of rickshaws was almost normal while some autorickshaws, minibuses and BRTC buses plied on some particular roads.

Business houses, shops, private offices, educational institutions remained closed.

There were no transactions at banks and financial institutions at Motijheel.

Biman flights operated on schedule. Some launches arrived at the Sadarghat terminal and a few left. Trains operated normally, railway officials said.

Chittagong remained paralysed.

Death of AL leader condoled

State Minister for Jute AK Faezul Huq yesterday expressed his profound shock at the death of veteran Awami League and labour leader Zahid Hossain Jahangir, reports UNB.

In a condolence message he conveyed his deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul.

BCL

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Motin, Shahabuddin Faraji, Rafiqul Islam Kotwal, Saifuddin Nasir, Proshanta Vhusan Barua, Sajjad Hossain and AKM Ajim.

They also condemned the oppositions for fuelling destructive activities throughout the country in the name of the "so called" anti-government movement and "illogical" hartal.

The BCL leaders urged the opposition parties to refrain from such "undemocratic" political programmes for the sake of country's economy and democracy.

In a joint statement yesterday, Bahadur, Separi and Ajoykar Khokon protested and condemned the attacked on Banglar Bani Bhaban during the opposition's Secretariat-siege programme on Sunday.

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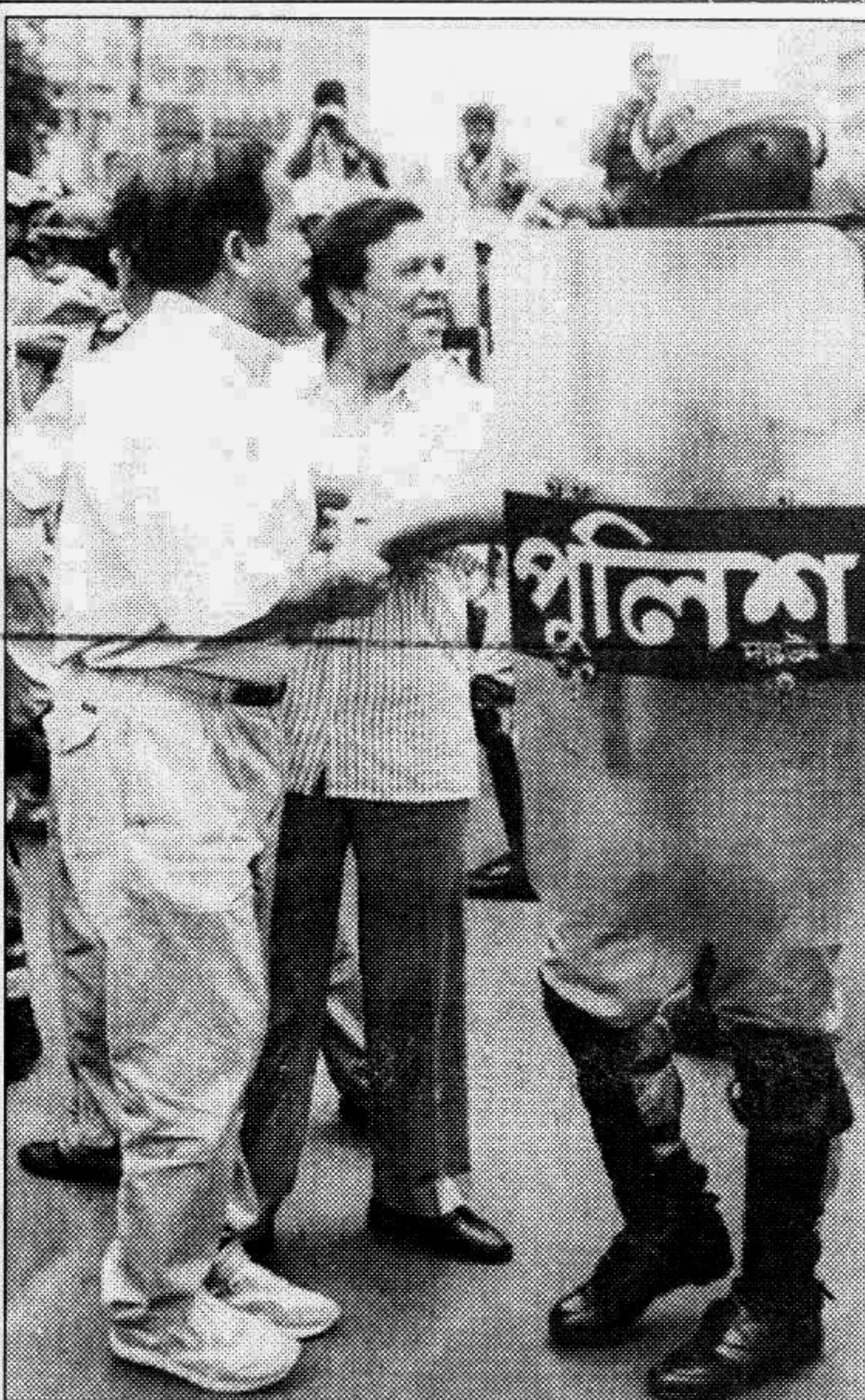
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Zillur Rahman, general secretary of Awami League and Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives addressing an anti-hartal rally at Paltan Maidan yesterday. —Star photo



Police indiscriminately rounded up young men from around the BNP office at Naya Paltan yesterday during the hartal hours. These men are being sent from Motijheel thana to the court custody. —Star photo



Police stopped BNP leaders former Army Chief Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman and Major Gen (Retd) Z A Khan near Scout Bhaban as they tried to lead a small procession towards Bijoygar during the hartal hours yesterday. The picture shows the police manhandling the two leaders by pulling at their shirts. —Star photo



Slum dwellers evicted from the metropolitan city yesterday held a rally in front of Hotel Sonargaon during the hartal hours demanding their proper rehabilitation. —Star photo

New member of UGC

Prof Manjur Morshed Mahmud, Dean of Commerce Faculty of Chittagong University (CU), has joined the University Grants Commission (UGC) as a full-time member, a UGC press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

A professor of Accountancy Department of the CU, Mahmud is the president of Chittagong University Teachers Association (CUTA) and Vice President of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers Association (FBUTA).

He was also member of the Academic Council, Finance Committee, Board of Advance Studies and the Syndicate of the CU.

Mahmud has 10 books to his credit.

Workshop on population control held

MANIKGANJ, Sept 13: A workshop on health and population control jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad was held in Shivalaya Thana Parishad auditorium on September 4, reports BSS.

Harunur Rashid Khan (Monnu Miah), MP, was present in the workshop as the chief guest and Deputy Commissioner Manikganj Sheikh Mozahar Uddin was special guest.

The workshop was presided over by Dr Fouzia Moslem, vice-president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad.

Thana, union and grassroots level population control activists participated in the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion Monnu Miah stressed the need of population control and said people of all walks of life should come forward to check population boom for socio-economic development of the country.

Repeating the history

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"unidentified armed hoodlums" and that the victims were shot at when looting and lawlessness were taking place in Siddique Bazar area.

But the ruling party went further. The then BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukder had claimed that two persons were shot by AL gunmen.

In a statement, he said: "The unruly AL activists, angered by the failure of the party programme, created a reign of terror in the city's Kaptanbazar and Siddique Bazar areas by firing shots, exploding bombs and damaging shops. Two persons were shot by the AL gunmen."

In the evening of April 7, Awami League chief and then Leader of the Opposition in Parliament had announced a package of anti-government action programmes, including two countrywide general strikes on April 10 and 26, in protest against the 'killing' of her party activists during the siege programme.

The then prime minister Khaleda Zia, was scheduled to lay the foundation of Jamuna Bridge on April 10. But it did not stop the then main opposition party from calling a hartal on the day. Rather, many people believe that the strike was called on that day just to disrupt Khaleda's pre-scheduled programme.

As for the BNP-led Opposition's sit-in around the Secretariat on Sunday, one would hardly find any fundamental difference with that of the siege by the AL-led Opposition five years ago — especially in terms of the political target of the Opposition and the government attitude towards its political rivals.

Desperate to oust the government of Sheikh Hasina within a short period, the BNP and its allies took up the programme.

Aware of the objectives, the government of Sheikh Hasina took almost similar steps to ward off any possible trouble: It imposed a 24-hour ban, starting at September 11 midnight, on all kinds of assembly, meetings and processions around the Secretariat and heavy contingents of law enforcing personnel were deployed around the institution. And government officials and employees concerned were asked report to the Secretariat early in the morning.

The trouble started in the morning. As soon as Khaleda Zia started addressing a gathering in the city's Naya Paltan area, some unidentified people exploded a bomb in front of police, standing a few yards from the Opposition leader. Police took little time to fire tear gas shells on the gathering, forcing the BNP chief to leave the place and her supporters to clash with police.

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PM renews offer

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can say that frankly. But there is no point in going for street agitation on such an issue.

Hasina said she was leaving the country at a time when the opposition was out to foment anarchy by hurling bombs, firing bullets and resorting to arson attacks, capitalising on artificial issues to enforce a pre-planned hartal.

It is inconceivable to you as well as to me why and on what issue they are agitating. What the countrymen would gain out of their killing, arson, bullet and acts of terrorism? What would they give the people excepting plight and misery? she asked.

She said: "I feel concerned and much pain to leave the country, keeping you in this situation."

She said she had always struggled for people's right and that they got the fruit of her struggle — the right to franchise.

Hasina told the nation that since taking responsibility of the government, she has been working hard to ensure peace and security in public life.

"Whoever commits offence, actions are being taken against him. Even if one belongs to my party, I am not sparing him."

After 23 years, she said, the trial of the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was held.

Opposition MPs

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At Thursday's press conference when newsmen wanted to know from the foreign minister the costs involved in the trip, he avoided giving a direct reply saying that it had been prepared in segments.

The prime minister's New York itinerary includes her address to the UNGA session on September 20 in Bangla.

The official programme lists five meetings with Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan, Lionel Jospin, Prime Minister of France, K Magne Bondevik, Prime Minister of Norway, Mikulus Dzurina, Prime Minister of Slovakia and Andres Pastrana Arango, President of Colombia.

US President Bill Clinton will also be in New York to attend the UNGA session, but the prime minister's itinerary does not list any bilateral meeting between the two leaders.

Hasina will attend several receptions to be hosted by international leaders and would have lunch with a Senior Editor of Time Magazine.

The nearly two-week long trip does not include an official visit to Washington or to Paris.

The prime minister will meet with French President Jacques Chirac in Paris.

Asked at the same press conference whether sufficient efforts have been made to set up official trips to Washington and Paris in conjunction with the prime minister's New York visit, the foreign minister said the Bangladesh envoys in the two capitals were trying to do so but "has not succeeded as yet."

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Cops also take kids

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Motijheel thana to investigate the allegations.

Seeing so many newsmen, the duty officer became angry as he was taking the motley collection of prisoners, bundled in one rope, onto a prison van from lock-ups while their relatives watched from a distance. It was about 1 pm.

"Don't you see we are busy sending the criminals to court," he shouted when one newsmen asked how many minor prisoners he had in his sardine packed lock-ups that reeked of urine and excreta.

He went on rage when photojournalists tried to take pictures and newsmen asked about the fate of Nasrin, Nayan, Hira, Panir, Roni, all below 16, who work in garments and other factories.

Hollering, he ordered the journalists to come inside and not to talk to the "criminals".

Earlier, one of the correspondents offered himself to be 'detained' so that he could talk to the "criminals" inside the thana hajat.

But the SI suggested that the correspondent should meet the OC who was then in front of the BNP office.

The SI had also prevented photojournalists from entering the police station. Asked if there was any prohibitory order for newsmen, he simply shouted.

Plainclothes policemen who were around said, "He is much bigger than his size and rank. He usually does not talk to any one below the rank of a DIG".

The police officer had played the same role in keeping away newsmen who went to cover the incident of vandalism at the United Commercial Bank head office in the city at the tag end of last month.

Nayan, who is hardly 12, said he works at a small shop, making cartons for sweetmeats at Arambagh. Nayan said he along with Hira and Panir were going to Fakirerpool Bazar to collect discarded carton boxes. They were halted by a "man of dark complexion with a sun-glass, wearing police uniform", Nayan said.

This was corroborated by Beauty, brother of Hira. Beauty was frantically trying to talk to her brother. She said police asked her to go to court with money to get her brother on bail.

Earlier some girls had already been packed off to the court. Witnesses said the girls were garment workers and had been going to their work places.

Some of the newsmen managed to talk to two of the girls who were on a police prisoner van. One of them, Nasrin, said she was hauled from Paltan area. She was not told about the reasons for her arrest.

Sohel, a cameraman working at Sunmoon Photo Studio at Mirpur said he was on his way to work when he was picked up.

Rafiq, a rickshaw van driver, said he was picked up when he was going to Karwan-bazar.

As the prison van left for court, a weeping Shamsunnahar said her husband Nijamuddin was detained on way to his master's house where he works as a domestic help.

Jabbar, another prisoner said he was dragged from his wayside vegetable shop at AGB Colony. He was, trying to touch the head of his two-day-old son through the small grill of the van. The baby was held up by his mother, tears rolling down her cheeks.

As the "prisoners" were being taken into the van, a young garment worker, Roni, who was kicked and pushed inside the lock-up. No one bothered to check his identity card or explain reasons for his detention.

At the lock-up, a young man, Khalequzzaman, waiting to be taken to court, said he works at Danik Sonali Barta at Kushtia. He said he showed his identity card and wanted to know the reason for his arrest. But he was abused.

We did not detain any one who did not commit any offence. They all hurled bombs and rocks. Neither we arrested any garment worker," said a police officer near the BNP office.

The police officer could not be identified as he had taken off his name tag in violation of regulations.

BNP speaks

From page 1

tion leaders and workers in the city and killing of an opposition leader in a northern district, the BNP secretary general warned the government of 'dire consequences'.

The leaders alleged that a leader of BNP's youth front Juba Dal, Mafidul Islam, was chopped to death by 'Awami terrorists' at Gurudashpur in Natore yesterday.

They blasted the government for 'arresting some 700 to 800 people in the city yesterday and robbing one of the leaders of his wrist watch and purse.'

Lt Gen (Retd) Mahbubur Rahman, defence advisor to the BNP chairperson, narrated how policemen maltreated the opposition leaders yesterday when they were proceeding peacefully towards the party central office in the city. Police kept the office under siege, he alleged. When he could free himself from the hands of a policeman, he found that his wrist watch and purse full of money and important papers were lost, he said.

Asked if he has filed a case in this regard, Rahman replied in the negative.