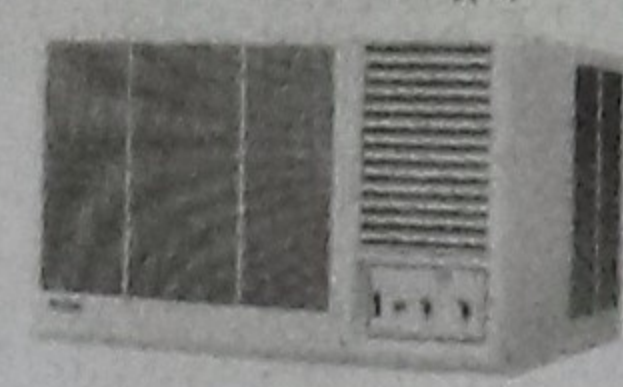


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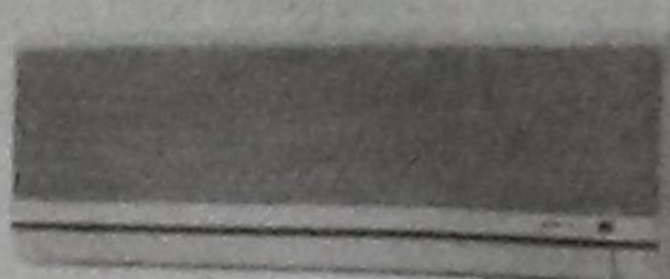
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Fresh clash at AJM leaves 100 injured

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 7: Fresh clashes between two rival groups of workers at Adamjee Jute Mills erupted at midnight last night, leaving 100 more injured.

The trouble first began on Monday night over termination of five workers belonging to Rehanuddin Rehan Group.

The authorities terminated the five workers as they were absent from their duties for the last six months.

The supporters of former CBA president Rehanuddin and incumbent president Ruhul Amin Sardar clashed for and against the termination orders.

The fresh incident began at 11 pm yesterday when a supporter of Ruhul Amin Sardar was beaten up by the rivals at Mill No 2.

Police and witnesses said both the groups exploded over 300 crackers and exchanged gunshots during the clash that

continued at 1 pm today.

Of the injured, 30 were identified as Jahangir 30, Alamgir 32, Alim 22, Mujibur 18, Shafiqul Islam Sumon 22, Joyal Abedin 30, Sobel 25, Nurul Islam 48, Harun 25, Rahman 32, Moktar Hussain 42, Selim 30, Nurunnabi 28, Kaiyum 35, Jasim 25, Rubel 25, Motaheb 35, Khorshed 31, Khokon 30, Babul 24, Fakir 28, Dulal 34, Nur Mia 32, Kabila 40, Chowdhury Mia 55, Tuhin 30, Khabil 22, Razzak 45, Kuddus 43, and Monsur 45, the injured were admitted to DMCH and Narayanganj hospital.

Police and seven platoons of BDR have been deployed in the mill area to avert further clash. Shamim Osman MP and DIG (Dhaka) Range visited Adamjee Jute Mills in the afternoon.

The situation is now under control and the dismissal orders were withdrawn today, police said.

'Ensure economic rights, safe workplaces for women'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on "Women in Labour Market: Impact and Implications of Labour Laws" in the city yesterday emphasised proper implementation of labour and factory laws to ensure safe workplaces for women and steps for economic rights and equal opportunities for them.

Identifying administrative inefficiency as a major impediment to effective implementation of the laws, they said working women in the country were facing manifold problems as a result.

The Ministry for Women and Children Affairs and the Centre for Development and Policy Research (CDPR) of Dhaka University jointly organised the seminar, attended by representatives from NGOs, donor group, trade unions and women's organisations and government officials.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukdar was the chief guest at the seminar and Secretary of the ministry Prof Tehmina Hossain was in the chair.

The discussants stressed that the ministries of law, labour and women and children affairs should be in close touch with each other while framing laws and policies relating to women. Women's issues, particularly their economic rights, should be given top priority, they added.

They called for regular inspection of industrial units and business establishments to verify whether the relevant laws are being violated. They suggested stern action if those lack required facilities.

Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukdar said once women were confined in their houses but now they

are actively participating in various economic activities and challenging professions. Side by side men, they are contributing to economic development of country, she added.

The state minister underscored the need for safe workplaces for women and said, "We can't ensure this unless we ensure equal rights for women. Role of law is very important in this regard."

Labour Secretary Sirajul Islam felt that the existing labour and factory laws should be amended to remove discrimination between men and women workers. "We are facing so many problems as the laws were not amended for long."

Tehmina Hossain said the government alone can't ensure safe workplaces for women. We should come forward to solve the problem."

In a keynote paper, Dr Sumaiya Khair and Dr Borhan Uddin Khan of Law department at Dhaka University, stressed the urgency of a comprehensive labour code covering all labours laws.

They said the government should undertake collaborative initiatives to educate and train women workers, ensure their rights and entitlement and solve their problems.

A national policy on health and safety of women industrial workers is needed, they noted.

The others who spoke at the seminar included Inspector of Factory and Establishment Salamattullah, Rina Ray of ILO, Rina Khatoon of CIRDP, Rina Sikder of Jatiya Sramik Jote, Sultan Ahmed of Bangladesh Joint Workers Federation and Shafiqur Rahman Majumder of Jatiya Sramik Federation.



One side of the Hatkhola road is poorly illuminated with only two sodium lights, while the other is almost dark. The same is the story with every road in the capital city. Although the government claims more than 90 per cent of the sodium lights are operational, random survey has found a lot less. No wonder that muggers rule the dark corners. -Star photo

Housewife strangled to death

By Staff Correspondent

Just four days after marriage, a twenty-year-old housewife was found hanging from the beam of her tin-shed house at North Adabar in Mohammapur thana in the city Wednesday.

Victim's father Sadek Ali informed the police that his daughter Amena Khatun was strangled to death by her husband Sohrab Hossain and was hanged later.

Police arrested Sohrab and a UD case was filed in this connection.

Some neighbours who went to the victim's house, found her hanging from the beam on Wednesday evening and informed the police of the incident. Police recovered the body at about 8 pm and then sent it to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

The victim, who was raped by Sohrab about two months back, was married to him following mediation by the local influential people, said hospital sources quoting the relatives.

Soon after the incident the victim lodged a complaint with the local elites, who found Sohrab guilty and fined him Tk 10,000, sources said, adding that the two were married on Saturday last following negotiations between the two families.

Better late than never WB-aided air quality monitoring project takes off a year later

By Shehab Ahmed

The World Bank aided Air Quality Monitoring Project (AQMP) to tackle air pollution in urban areas including Dhaka city is likely to take off by December after a delay of about a year, sources concerned said.

The project was taken up in late 1998 with a WB assistance of five million dollars amid a growing concern over the high level of air pollution in Dhaka and other cities.

It was delayed due to bureaucratic tangles and interference from the top in selection of consultants and appointment of officials.

The Department of Environment (DOE) signed an agreement with the WB in July for recruitment of manpower. Tenders have been floated for procurement of equipment.

The DOE envisages setting up of 20 monitoring stations and a 'central station' in Dhaka city.

Besides spot monitoring, stress will be given on fitness of vehicles and use of proper lubricants, lead-free fuel and less-sulfur diesel. It includes a plan to phase out auto-rickshaws by 2003 and conversion of automobiles including auto-rickshaws so that those can use compressed natural gas.

Air pollution in Dhaka city is beyond the permissible level. A survey found some 463 Nano gram of lead in the air in certain areas of the city. The pollution is estimated to be 50 tonnes a year.

The pollution is mainly due to smoke emitted by buses, trucks and about 50,000 auto-rickshaws using two-stroke engines, which has been discarded even in the manufacturing country, India.

The engine oil used in auto-rickshaws is also of poor quality. It is often recycled which results in emission of excessive

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Changes in army ranks

Promotion criteria come under criticism

By Special Correspondent

Several changes have taken place in the higher ranks of the Bangladesh Army recently and more are underway, informed sources said.

The Army Promotion Board, which met for two days on August 30 and 31, has finalised a list of officers recommended for promotions to the ranks of Colonel and Brigadier.

Sixteen Colonels have been promoted to the rank of Brigadier and 31 Lt Colonels to the rank of Colonel. Besides these promotions in the Fighting Corps, there have been some promotions in the Medical Services as well.

Names of more than 30 Colonels came up before the Army Promotion Board to be considered for promotion to the rank of Brigadier and only 16 got the nod.

In case of promotion to the rank of Colonel, 31 out of nearly 100 officers considered won the board's approval.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Mustafizur Rahman heads the Army Promotion Board, which comprises most of the serving major generals.

Some of the officers pro-

moted to the rank of Brigadier, who held temporary command positions, now get full command of their respective units with the promotion. Other promoted officers are in the wait for fresh posting.

Brig Mahbub Haider Khan has been given command of 46 Infantry Brigade; Brig John Gomes of 81 Brigade at Savar; Brig Rafiqul Alam of 77 Brigade in Mymensingh; Brig Syed F Rumi of 203 Brigade; Brig Golan Rabbani of 305 Brigade and Brig Shawkat Jamal of 101 Brigade in Comilla.

Brig Shahidul Islam has been appointed as the new Director of Military Intelligence (DMI). Brig Shahid, Brig Fazle Akbar and Motahar Hossain along with six other newly-promoted Brigadiers are yet to get their new assignments.

Earlier, Brig Farid Anwar, Director of Military Intelligence (DMI), was given command of 11 Artillery Brigade in Bogra.

Absence of any written promotion criteria, according to sources, has raised muted criticism over promotion of some officers. In some instances,

promotions were reportedly made at the dictates of higher authorities. In one particular case, serious adverse report about the moral character of one particular officer was overlooked, sources alleged.

It was once again felt strongly that strict professional criteria should be set in matters of promotions and in giving key command positions to keep the armed forces above all political inclinations and controversies. Favouritism and nepotism should not be encouraged so as to maintain the highest standards of discipline and discourage cronyism, military analysts feel.

Meanwhile, it was learnt from sources that Major General Nazrul Islam, the Director General of Defence Force Intelligence (DGFI), is likely to take over command of 11 Infantry Division in Bogra which fell vacant following the retirement of Major General Imamuazzman.

Brig Tarek Siddiqui of the second BMA, now serving as an important Director at the DGFI, is tipped to succeed General Nazrul as the new chief of DGFI.

Hasina signs, ratifies six treaties

NEW YORK, Sept 7: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday signed and ratified six major international human rights and disarmament treaties here.

The treaties are the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights, optional protocol on prevention of sale of children and child prostitution, optional protocol on prohibition of the use of children in armed conflict and optional protocol to the Convention on Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

With the signing of the International Convention on Civil and Political Rights in particular, Bangladesh becomes party to all six core human rights treaties.

The other core human rights

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Court orders attachment of Adel's residence

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, yesterday ordered attachment of the residence of Jahangir Mohammad Adel, charged with hoisting Pakistani national flag at his residence in the old city on the independence day of that country, August 14.

Adel, a former deputy mayor of Dhaka and a leader of Jatiya Party went into hiding after a case was lodged in this connection.

Opposition's rally today Golam Azam's effigy burnt, tension prevails at Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 7: Tension is prevailing in the city over Golam Azam's scheduled visit here tomorrow to address the 'grand rally' of the four-party opposition alliance.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, Jamaat Chief Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Haq will address the rally at Circuit House Maidan at 3 pm tomorrow (Friday).

All front organisations of the ruling party opposing Jamaat chief's arrival burnt his effigy this evening.

The provocative slogans chanted in the procession against Golam Azam and Jamaat-Shibir procession in his favour have created tension in the city.

Youth fronts of the ruling party in a street corner meeting this evening vowed not to allow Golam Azam to enter the city while Jamaat Shibir activists have reportedly decided to accord a warm reception to their party chief.

It is learnt from a reliable source that the Jamaat chief is expected to arrive in the city tomorrow morning.

Meanwhile, seven sub-committees have been formed to make the grand rally a success.

BNP chief and leader of the opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia is expected to announce fresh agitation pro-

gramme from the rally.

All-party action committee and All-party students' action committee jointly brought out a motorcycle procession this afternoon in support of tomorrow's grand rally.

BNP and all its front organisations will also accord a warm reception to Khaleda Zia. She will be accompanied, among others, by Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain and Tariqul Islam.

BNP's 7-day agitation programme in Sylhet Div

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Sept 7: The main opposition BNP has announced a week long agitation programme beginning tomorrow in Sylhet Division protesting chargesheet against Khaleda Zia, Saifur Rahman and 7 others in the Airbus Purchase Case.

The programmes were announced at a press conference by the BNP leaders of four district units of the division at Sylhet Press Club this evening.

Programmes include mass

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Polymer note for paper currency

Aussie company in talks with BB

By Staff Correspondent

An Australian company is negotiating with the Bangladesh Bank (BB) to introduce polymer notes replacing the traditional paper currency.

The polymer notes are made from plastic, introduced first in Australia as a measure to prevent counterfeiting, last longer as these are highly durable. These are also water-proof, dirt proof and recyclable, said Johna Leckenby, Chief Executive of Note Printing Australia (NPA), a division of the Reserve Bank of Australia, at a press briefing in the city yesterday.

Central banks need few reprints of the currency where polymer notes are used and save a lot of money traditionally spent for this purpose, he added.

"We hope to strike a deal soon with the Bangladesh Bank," Hugh Brown, Corporate Adviser of Security Pty Ltd, Australia, told the briefing on behalf of NPA. "Once the deal is signed, it would take about a year to transfer the technology to Bangladesh and train the Bangladesh Bank personnel to use the technology."

NPA which pioneered the introduction of polymer currency notes across the world in

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Garment workers clash with police, 20 hurt, 50 held

By Staff Correspondent

Employees and workers of a garments factory at East Jurain in the city who were demanding payment of their arrear salaries and wages for several months clashed with police, set fire to three police vans and burnt several shops in the area yesterday.

The incident left about 20 people including a police official injured and around 50 others were picked up by police from the spot, witnesses said.

Of the injured, five hit with rubber bullets were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, DMCH sources said.

Police confirmed the incident

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APAC enforces hartal at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 7: Normal life was partially disrupted in the port city during an eight hour hartal till 2 pm today.

All-Party Action Committee (APAC), Chittagong unit, called the hartal demanding release of its leader Mufti Ezzharul Islam. Mufti Ezzharul Islam, convenor of Chittagong unit of IOJ, was arrested on Tuesday for his alleged involvement in subversive activities, police said.

All kinds of vehicles except rickshaws were off the roads and highways.

Railway sources said train service to and from Chittagong was as usual. Shopping complex and markets were closed during hartal hours though large number of roadside shops were seen open.

Attendance in both private and public offices was thin.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port was suspended, but cargo handling inside the jetty was normal, port sources said.

Supporters of APAC organised rallies and processions during hartal hours. No untoward incidents were reported, police said.

Prayer Timings

September 8

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:05
Dhuhr	12:05	1:20
Asr	4:45	5:00
Maghrib	6:15	6:20
Esha	8:00	8:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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