

# Garments factory closed at CEPZ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Labour unrest forced suspension of production of a foreign owned garments factory at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ)

## CMM withdraws

OPPOSING the police claim that the accused are absconding, they said their clients are very much within the reach of the judiciary. So the question of absconding does not arise at all.

The accused include some top lawyers like Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Barrister Nazmul Huda.

The lawyers for Muresh Khan also sent letters, along with copies of the HC order and the writ petitions, to the OCS of Gulshan and Ramna thanas on Monday evening, sources close to the accused said yesterday.

# Ershad a collaborator

FROM PAGE 12 that has aimed to save the country and its people would be branded as "people's betrayers".

It said the government continued propaganda by HM Ershad in an ill attempt to upset the current movement and create confusion among the people. But this ill motive would not be successful.

The CLC in a resolution said Ershad made entente with the government while in jail and is now acting as its stooge. It said Ershad after being released from jail started making untrue and baseless statements. And his mission is to mislead the people and foil the people's movement.

The meeting said the news on Ershad's entente was published while Ershad was in jail. At that time, the alliance categorically told him that he must clear his stance after his release.

The CLC meeting expressed its determination to maintain the unity

yesterday, CEPZ source said.

Lik Fung Garments Ltd., owned by Hong Kong based company, was closed yesterday following clash between agitated workers and management personnel on Monday, CEPZ and police sources said.

About 15 people including five Chinese nationals were injured in the clash.

Police arrested two workers in the connection. A case was filed against them under Public Safety Act.

Monday's clash ensued when the agitating workers gharaoed the factory officials demanding pay hike.

The workers at one stage went on the rampage, CEPZ source said. Additional police force were deployed in and around the factory to avoid fresh violence.

The factory was running in CEPZ with a workforce of about 700 people.

However, trade union activities are banned in the export processing zone.

Earlier, some towel manufacturing industries faced labour unrest in CEPZ.

# One DAG, four AAGs appointed

BSS, Dhaka

President Shahabuddin Ahmed has appointed Syed Haider Ali as deputy attorney general and four Supreme Court lawyers as assistant attorneys general, an official handout said here yesterday.

Haider Ali was an assistant attorney general until his new appointment.

The four new attorneys general are: Saifuddin Ahmed Chowdhury, Reba Kaniz, Bhabesh Chandra Sarkar and Sardar Zinnat Ali.

# Police officer shot in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Miscreants shot a police officer of Sutrapur thana at Dhalpur in the city at 5pm yesterday.

Assistant sub-inspector Shadat Hossain, 32, was on his way to the police station when three miscreants stopped his rickshaw at Dhalpur and shot him in the right thigh. They also hurled crackers at the police officer.

He was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. A case was filed with Sutrapur thana in this regard.

# Shilpi

FROM PAGE 12 admission on Saturday night," said an army officer seeking anonymity.

Without naming the injured the officer said, "Since they are improving, they were shifted to ICU-2 from ICU-1 today (Tuesday)," the officer told the Daily Star yesterday.

Some of the patients who mostly suffered burn injuries required minor surgery, sources in CMH said last night.

# Feni BNP activist

FROM PAGE 12 Manik.

Manik was gunned down by some unidentified assailant at 1-30 pm at village Rampur the same day. According to witnesses, the Jubo League and BCL activists attacked Suraj's house at about 9pm and dragged him out of his house at gunpoint. They beat Suraj mercilessly and shot him point blank. Suraj died on the spot.

Feni thana police recovered Suraj's body at midnight Monday night and sent it to the hospital for autopsy.

District BNP President Mosharraf Hossain, MP, blamed the ruling party for the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

# 33 pc pass

FROM PAGE 12 Of them, 33 students obtained first class, 13998 second class and 9144 third class.

A total of 18317 students appeared at the BSc examinations, of whom 8194 passed. Of the successful candidates, 509 bagged first class, 6345 second class and 1340 third class.

A total of 31737 students appeared at the B Com examinations. Of them, 10478 came out successful. Of the successful candidates, six students got first class, 4281 second class and 6187 third class.

Four students out of 33 passed the BA (Music) examinations.

# Govt appoints

FROM PAGE 12 appointments at the Election Commission, and the previous appointments triggered a lot of controversy.

He said Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleida Zia had earlier demanded that the government not appoint new ECs and suggested that the caretaker government through consultation with all parties could fill the vacant posts.

But the government has ignored it outright. "This fresh appointment has clearly proved that government's intention is not honest at all," the secretary general added.

It may be mentioned that Khaleida Zia at a recent press conference urged the President not to sign the file of appointment of two ECs.



Sammilito Samajik Andolon took to the city streets yesterday with a call to resist enemies of Bengali culture and heritage.

# BDR takes control of Padua

FROM PAGE 1 full-fledged border outpost.

Bangladesh had made several pleas to India to vacate the Padua outpost and the vicinity, the latest at a deputy director general-level meeting of the border forces last year, before the reclamation mission.

The Indian authorities, however, continued to foot-drag on the issue on one pretext or the other. Meanwhile, Bangladesh surveyors and forces had to seek permission from India even to check the border pillars behind Padua. In July 1999 BSF detained and harassed a large BDR patrol.

According to sources, BDR has entrenched its position in the general vicinity of Sonarhat to Tamabil, a stretch of nearly 40 miles. The normal one battalion strength of around a thousand men, which patrols the border line in the north-eastern stretch, has only been beefed up by an addition of around 300 BDR personnel.

Indian border forces at the Padua camp have been surrounded from all sides, as the entire stretch falls within Bangladesh territory. The BSF personnel have been allowed to move in and out for food provisions only under BDR vigilance.

The BSF strength at the Padua outpost has been bolstered to around 40 from a usual 25. Otherwise Indian military activity was not visible in the area till yesterday afternoon. However, tension and Bangladesh border forces were reported to have dug in their respective positions.

We are expecting the Indians to exit safely back to their territory and will not allow them to bring in reinforcements into the Padua camp. We are allowing them safe passage back," a BDR spokesman said.

The Indians reportedly triggered the Bangladesh forces to act to free Padua.

In a gross violation of international rules and the 1975 border

regulations, agreed by both countries, the Indian side started construction of a pucca road six kilometres from Padua near Sonarhat in Lakar area. This was detected by BDR patrol a few days ago. When BDR asked the Indian forces to stop construction, they did not comply but instead built a road on the night of April 11 in an overnight operation.

At a flag meeting of the battalion level Monday, the Indian side was asked to dismantle the road by four o'clock in the afternoon since it fell within 30 metres of zero line. In 1975, it has been agreed mutually that no construction work would be undertaken within 300 metres of the international boundary. However, the Indian border forces displayed utmost reluctance in dismantling the road.

Sector commanders of both countries were holding a meeting that began yesterday evening. The outcome was not known till the writing of this report.



Former finance minister and BNP standing committee member M Saifur Rahman MP addresses a meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday.

# Bangabandhu Murder Case

FROM PAGE 12

"According to the Army Act, a mutiny is a collective insubordination and collective action to resist a military order. In this case neither of the two is applicable," Haq said.

He said in this case a group of army men hatched a plot to fulfil their personal anger and ambition and as the outcome of the conspiracy some civilians (including Bangabandhu) and army personnel were killed. "It is a simple murder case."

On claims of Muhiuddin's (artillery) innocence on the grounds that he did not enter the residence of Bangabandhu along with the killers or was not a party to the plot, the prosecution said one's conviction does not need his personal presence at the spot of offence.

The chief prosecutor, who was assisted among others by special prosecutor Anisul Haq, said according to the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) (article 302 and 34) commission of any offence "in furtherance with a common intention" meant

that anybody who was a party to the common intention committed it "alone".

He said although Muhiuddin did not kill anybody during the August 15 carnage, his very presence with cannons near the 32 Dhamondi and firing artillery shells indicated his role in the killings.

He did not go there to fish in the Dhamondi Lake with cannons, the prosecution said citing several precedences of convictions at home and abroad for assisting in carrying out murder plots.

The case came to the single-judge bench court of the third judge in view of the December 14 split verdict of the previous bench of Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin and Justice ABM Khairul Haque.

The first judge acquitted five of the 15 accused while the second judge sentenced all to death upholding the 1998 verdict of the trial court. They were, however, also split on the charge of a sixth convict, fugitive captain Majed, though they unanimously sentenced him to

death. Currently only four of the 15 Lieutenant Colonels Farook Rahman, Shahriar Rashid and Muhiuddin Ahmed (artillery) and Major Bazul Huda are facing the trial in person from Dhaka Central Jail.

The 10 convicts to face the death penalty under the unanimous verdict are former lieutenant colonels Syed Farook Rahman, Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan, Khondoker Abdur Rashid, Shariful Haque Dalim, BU, AM Rashed Chowdhury, AKM Mohiuddin (lance), SHBM Nur Chowdhury, Mohammad Abdul Aziz Pasha, former Major Bazul Huda and Captain Abdul Mazed.

The five persons acquitted by Justice Ruhul Amin are Lieutenant Colonels Mohiuddin Ahmed (artillery), Major Ahmed Sharful Hossain, Captain Mohammad Kismat Hasmeh, Captain Nazmul Hossain Ansar and Risaladar Muslemuddin alias Moslehuddin.

# DB, other agencies

FROM PAGE 1

Star that they needed more time to net out the culprits. He said they were crosschecking several factors pertaining to the explosion.

The investigation officers have already interrogated the eight injured persons at the Dhaka Combined Military Hospital (CMH). Akhteruzzaman said they strongly believe that at least three people, killed on the spot with the most horrendous injuries, were carrying the bomb.

DB officials said that the eight of the nine people currently under treatment at the CMH would be interrogated on their release from the hospital. They said they were sure that at least some of these people could possess valuable information regarding the fatal bomb explosion.

Meanwhile, autopsy reports of the dead were sent to Ramna police station yesterday afternoon where police have filed two cases of murder.

Nine injured persons were shifted to the CMH from DMCH on Saturday night following a directive from the prime minister. Condition

of Afzal, aged about 15, is said to be critical at the Intensive Care Unit of CMH.

Police sources said that they were not ruling out "internal conflicts" in some factions. They said the investigation was still wide open.

# Ershad's JP

FROM PAGE 1 extended meeting. The party quit the alliance on the basis of their consensus, meeting sources said.

It was announced at the meeting that the party would field candidates in all the 300 constituencies in the coming parliament election. If Upazila elections take place ahead of the general election, the party would contest in all the 467 Upazilas.

JP (Ershad) would form an alliance with the like-minded parties. The party announcement proposed amendment to laws in conflict with the Quranic principles and the Sharia.

The meeting chaired by Raushan Ershad was also addressed by, among others, leaders of different district units of the party.

# Foil plot: PM

FROM PAGE 1

she said, adding that the pro-liberation forces must unite against the anti-liberation elements so that they could not conspire against independence and sovereignty.

Thousands of freedom fighters wearing white T-shirts and white caps and holding miniature flags of Bangladesh, chanted slogans approving the call from the prime minister.

Cabinet Ministers, MPs, Awami League leaders, chiefs of the army, navy and air force, and top civil and military bureaucrats were present to celebrate the occasion.

On this day in 1971, the first provisional government of Bangladesh was formed with nation's independence hero Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as President.

Referring to the killing of nine people in a bomb explosion at Chhayanaut's function, Hasina said those who staged the killing do not believe in the country's independence.

Blaming BNP for sheltering anti-liberation and communal forces, the prime minister said those defeated in the 1996 election and rejected by the people became mad by losing power and indulged in destructive activities.

"Why is this carnage, who staged the killing, who are their patrons?" questioned Hasina.

Narrating the history of Liberation War and the post-75 political scenario, Hasina said the past regimes wanted to erase the nation's history of victory, kept the new generation in the dark and tortured freedom fighters who could not even tell their glorious stories.

The prime minister straightway accused General Ziaur Rahman of freeing Razakars and Al Badrs arrested on specific charges of

arson, killing and rape and giving political shelter to these elements including Golam Azam who was stripped of his citizenship. Even Gen. Zia made a razzakar the prime minister, she said.

"The defeated forces," she said, have become active again and started conspiracy to make Bangladesh a province of that defeated country (Pakistan).

The rally was also addressed by Liberation War veterans Adv. Yunus Ali, Prof. Abdul Mannan Mir, Dr. Toufique Elahi Chowdhury (Bir Bikram), Mahbub Uddin (Bir Bikram), Col (Rtd) AR Azam Chowdhury and Lt Col (Rtd) Abu Osman Chowdhury.

Earlier, the prime minister placed wreaths at the altar of the Mujibnagar Smriti Soudha and stood in silence for a while to show respect to the martyrs of the Liberation War. As she hoisted the national flag a smartly turned-out contingent showed guard of honour.

Leading artists rendered patriotic songs while freedom fighters saluted the prime minister.

BSS adds: Earlier in the morning, the prime minister laid wreaths at the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu Memorial Museum in the city on the occasion of Mujibnagar Day.

After placing wreaths, she stood in solemn silence for few moments as a mark of respect to the departed soul of the father of the nation.

A smartly contingent drawn from the three services gave guard of honour.

Later, Sheikh Hasina, who is also the President of Bangladesh Awami League, placed another wreath on behalf of her party along with her cabinet colleagues and senior party leaders.

# Hartal suicidal

FROM PAGE 12

for the next government to deal with. "The Awami League government is leaving behind the same type of legacy which was left behind by Ershad government."

Although their has been a five per cent annual growth, he said, employment opportunities have not been created and the government borrowed heavily from the banks to meet its fiscal deficits, depriving the genuine businessmen.

"The private sector does not have access to investible funds both from the stock market or from the banks where interest rate is as high as 16 per cent due to heavy government borrowing."

The former finance minister said internal deficit financing is very risky as it leads to monetary expansion.

The government has failed to ensure an investment friendly environment and attract foreign investment. Foreign exchange reserve was going down alarmingly, giving wrong signals to investors, he noted.

The reforms initiated by his government have not progressed at

all. There has not been any reform in the administration and the judiciary and law and order continue to deteriorate, the BNP leader said.

This government, he said, failed to take necessary crucial decisions thinking that the Opposition might take advantage of it.

Regarding the finance minister's recent remark that the previous government had opened up domestic market to India, the former finance minister said they had done the right thing and would do so again if voted to power.

"Following our reform, export growth was over 20 per cent although investment in small industries were closed before we took over. Export shot up during our period and we had more revenues to finance from our internal resources."

Rahman felt that the next two to three months are very crucial for the fragile democracy in the country and said he is not sure what is going to happen in the coming days.

AmCham President Forrest E Cookson also spoke on the occasion.

# Haripur plant

FROM PAGE 12

These tests include initial simple cycle capacity test, reliability run test, automatic voltage regulation droop, turbine governor operation and a seven-day non-stop reactive capacity test.

Like AES, the local Titas gas station is also tuning its equipment in harmony with the AES plant and is yet to start its meter.

"It is a remarkable achievement of AES to begin operation ahead of the schedule because no power plant in Bangladesh begins operation before the schedule," said a source. "In many cases, there are instances of eight years' delay in implementing a power project by the PDB. Even the private barge mount power plants never started operation ahead of schedule."

The plant would consume around 80 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf/d) during full operation. AES would purchase this gas from PDB at the rate of 2.4 dollar per unit more than double the bulk rate.

# Israel retakes parts of Gaza Strip

FROM PAGE 1

Sharon government which has promised to restore a sense of security to Israelis.

"This is unjustified and crosses the line," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israeli radio. "There's a limit to everything."

A top Palestinian security official, Brig. Gen. Abdel Razek Majaidah, denied Israeli accusations that the Palestinian Authority was involved in the attacks.

In response to the Israeli strike, Palestinian security officials cancelled participation in US-sponsored security talks that were to have taken place late Monday.

As part of the retaliation, Israeli troops retook Palestinian-controlled areas in the northern Gaza Strip, from which mortars were fired at Israeli targets, said the Israeli army spokesman, Brig. Gen. Ron

Kitrey.

Army bulldozers also leveled farmland near the northern town of Beit Hanoun, from where the mortars were fired, Israeli officials said.

Kitrey did not say how large an area was taken. Palestinian police officials said three of their positions were seized by Israeli troops.

The army spokesman said troops would remain in the captured areas indefinitely. "Once the mission is fulfilled and the shooting stops or the Palestinian Authority takes action to stop it, I believe we won't need to remain there," Kitrey told Israeli army radio.

In the past few months, Israeli troops briefly entered Palestinian-controlled areas from time to time, including last week when army bulldozers razed part of a Gaza refugee camp. However, yesterday's

operation marked the first time soldiers recaptured land with the intention of remaining there for some time.

Palestinian officials said they considered a recapture of Palestinian-controlled areas a major provocation. Israeli troops withdrew from two-thirds of the Gaza Strip in 1994, as part of interim peace accords.

As part of the Israeli strike, tanks and helicopter gunships also shelled 10 buildings across the Gaza Strip, including eight security installations, among them the Gaza City headquarters of Palestinian police chief Brig. Gen. Ghazi Jabali.

Rockets punched holes in the facade and ceiling of Jabali's compound, and shattered windows in the third-floor conference room. Families in adjacent buildings fled their homes.

Rockets also hit buildings in the towns of Deir el Balah, Rafah and Beit Hanoun. In Hanoun the body of a Palestinian policeman was found in the rubble yesterday morning.

Palestinian doctors said 36 Palestinians were hurt, most by shrapnel.

Since fighting erupted in late September, 472 people have been killed, including 389 Palestinians, 64 Israeli Jews and 19 others.

The escalation of Israeli-Palestinian hostilities coincided with rising tension along Israel's northern borders, after Israeli warplanes blasted a Syrian radar station near Beirut on Monday in retaliation for a Hezbollah guerrilla attack that killed a soldier.

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the raid deep into Lebanon was a signal to Syria - the main power broker in

Lebanon - that Israel would not tolerate Hezbollah attacks.

Speaking from Moscow on Lebanese TV, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk a-Sharaa said Israel was expanding the crisis and would "pay a heavy price" for the strike.

Reuters adds: Before the Israeli assaults, security sources in Beirut said the 35,000 Syrian troops based in Lebanon were on high alert after Israeli planes killed three Syrian soldiers and destroyed a Syrian radar station in east Lebanon's Bekaa valley on Monday.

It was the first Israeli air strike on a Syrian position in Lebanon since April 1996.

The United States and the United Nations urged restraint on all parties.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, in Amman for talks with

Jordan's King Abdullah, told reporters the Israeli raid was a "dangerous escalation that drags the whole region into a very critical, bad and grave situation."

AFP adds: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak issued a blunt warning yesterday to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon not to go "beyond the limit of what is acceptable."

"I am telling him stop, stop, do not go beyond the limit of what is acceptable," Mubarak said in an angry voice on national television after meeting Yasser Arafat.

"This policy will lead to nothing, it will have terrible repercussions and if they believe they are going to halt the violence this way, the violence will increase everywhere," Mubarak added in the interview.

# Bus service

FROM PAGE 12

ing the harassment of bus operators by the local masters of Shimultali. But tempo operators there resisted the move, staging demonstration as they feared losing passengers.

Although BRTC and other operators constantly face similar situations in the city and its adjacent areas, Azmal said the BRTC service did not face such problems elsewhere.

The BRTC is yet to become profitable, but the rate of loss decreased following introduction of new services in the city, said the chairman.

According to him, nowhere in the world is the city bus operation profitable. Asked why, since the bus fare has increased several times, the chairman blamed hartal and traffic jam for hindering bus operation in the city.

"The fare has increased but the frequency of trips has decreased, reducing returns from the service," Azmal added.