

Sedition case

## Dr Alamgir produced in court after 52 days

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Former State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, an accused in a sedition case, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates Court, Dhaka yesterday after 52 days.

Earlier, on several dates, he was not produced before the CMM's court due to "security reasons," court sources said.

Alamgir was produced at the court room of the Metropolitan Magistrate Kazi Meraj Hossain at 11:55 am yesterday. Five other co-accused in the case, now on bail were also present in the court. They are -- former home secretary and incumbent Election Commissioner Shafiqur Rahman, former students relationship officer in the Ministry of Education Abu Alam Shahid Khan, former joint secretary in Women's Affairs Ministry and incumbent member of Public Service Commission Sirajuddin Ahmed, former senior assistant secretary now Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in Establishment Ministry Rabiul Alam Mohammad

Obaidul Muktar Chowdhury and former president of Secretariat Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad Syed Mohiuddin.

After scrutinising the custody warrant of Dr Alamgir, the magistrate fixed August 8 for next hearing of the case.

Mohammad Saifur Rahman, officer-in-charge (OC) of Ramna dhana filed the case with the CMM's Court, Dhaka on April 8 against seven people, including Dr Alamgir.

Alamgir was arrested at Zia International Airport on March 15 on his return home from Singapore under Section 54 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC).

Later on April 9, he was shown arrested in the sedition case.

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka fixed July 14 for hearing on bail petition in the sedition case.

The judge court passed the order following a criminal appeal filed by the defence lawyers on June 20 on behalf of Dr Alamgir against the rejection order of the CMM's court.



The Bangladesh Government Employees' Coordination Parishad, IPGMR unit, staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding revival of the PG Hospital.

## Dhaka to raise Ganges water issue at Earth Summit

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh is eagerly looking forward to the decisions to be taken at the Earth Summit beginning in Johannesburg next month for the solutions of some major ecological hazards facing the country and the region as well.

As water is one of the key issues on the agenda at this year's Earth Summit, the world summit on sustainable development, Dhaka will try to raise the issue of man-made obstructions to the free flow of rivers in the upstream that jeopardise the country's ecological balance and economy.

"We have raised the issue of Ganges water in all the seven preparatory conferences at the Earth Summit. Our point was accepted in every meeting," Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj told BSS yesterday.

He hoped that this year's summit scheduled for Aug 26-Sept 4 will be the biggest and most significant among the conferences held on sustainable development so far in the world.

With the participation of al-

most all the heads of government in the world, the Summit will be able to take some appropriate decisions to save the planet, now under great threat due to environmental pollution," the minister said.

He said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will represent Bangladesh in the Earth Summit. She will lead a large official delegation comprising government officials and experts.

In addition, representatives from non-governmental organisations (NGOs) will also attend the summit.

The summit is taking place at a time when the UN has cautioned that three million people could be facing little or no access to clean water by the year 2025, unless the world takes urgent action.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that currently more than a billion people in the developing world lack access to clean water and nearly three billion have no basic sanitation.

According to some global statistics, preventable water-related

diseases kill between 10,000 and 20,000 children every day in the developing world.

The Earth Summit hopes to add concrete programmes of action to the lofty target set out in the UN's Millennium Declaration.

## 'Make Sept 1 strike at garments units a success'

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Garments Workers Unity Council (BGWUC) yesterday urged the garment workers to form committees in every garment industry belt to make its Septem-

ber 1 daylong strike in apparel factories across the country a success.

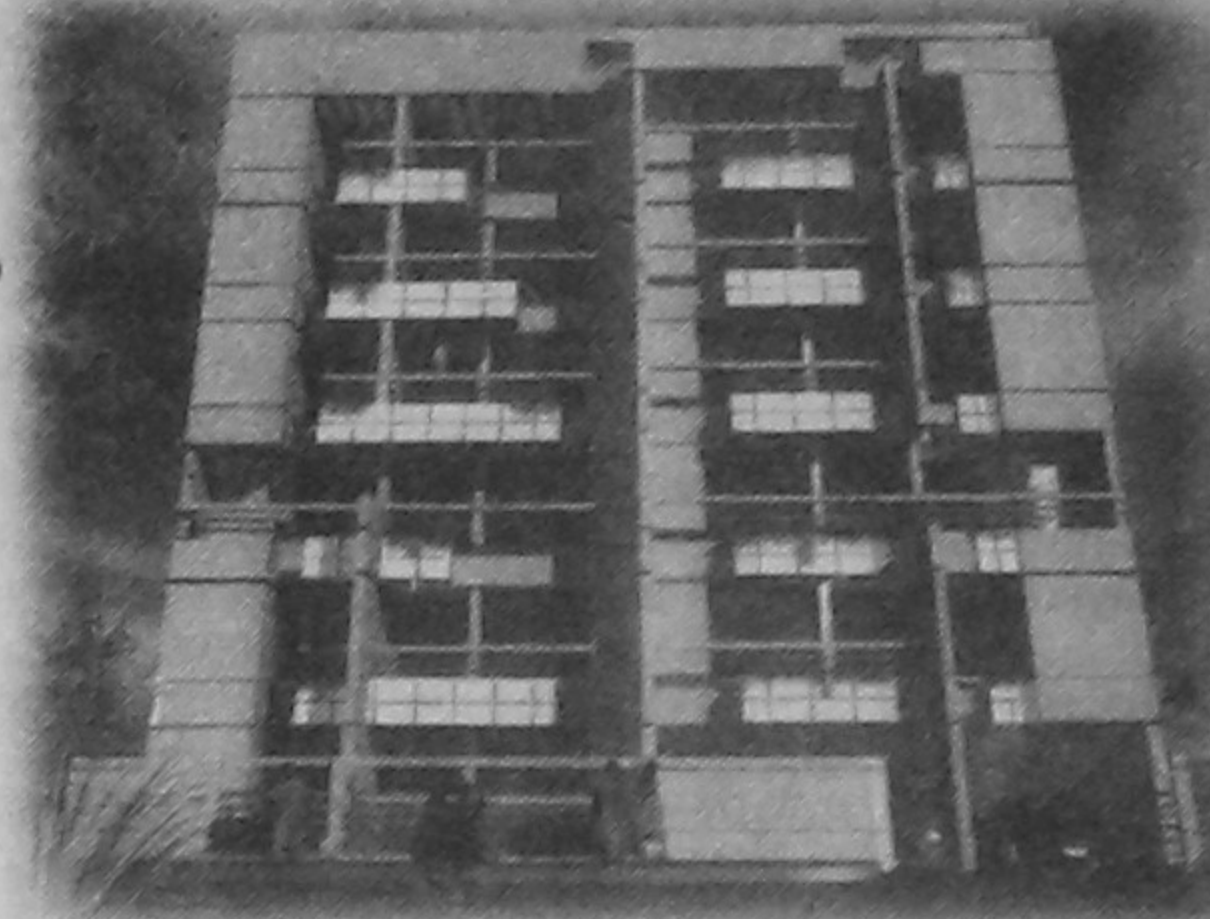
The call came from an emergency meeting of BGWUC's central standing committee held at its office in the city yesterday with its

central coordinator Amirul Hao Amin in the chair.

BGWUC called the strike to realise its six-point demand, including their wage hike after every two years, according to a press release.

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