

Workers remove gutted garments at a sweater factory at Tejgaon Commercial Area in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Sweater factory gutted, property worth Tk 5 cr damaged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A sweater factory was gutted by fire yesterday at Tejgaon Commercial Area and damaged machines and properties worth around Tk five crore.

Locals and officials of the Sydney Fashion Limited said that the fire originated from a short circuit.

The factory was closed during the fire, employees said. They said that a burst in the transformer triggered a short circuit in the factory at around 5:00am.

Firefighters from 11 units brought the fire under control at around 9:30am.

The fire engulfed the factory and damaged sweaters and its machines worth about Tk five crore.

Decision to stop subsidies to public varsities protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Progressive Teachers' Forum (PTF) yesterday protested the government decision to stop subsidies to public universities.

Leaders of the two organisations said the decision would compel the students to pay their tuition fees at commercial rates to study there.

SCF central committee President Khalekuzzaman Lipon and General Secretary Mosharraf Hossain, in a joint statement, said it is the duty of the government to run the public universities.

"It is a conspiracy of the alliance government for commercialisation of education," they added.

The leaders said students of low and middle income families would not be able to pursue higher education if the government stop subsidies to the public universities.

They called on the students to be united to resist the decision.

PTF central committee Convenor Prof Abidur Reza and Member-Secretary Ashraf Uddin said the decision would make higher education available only for the rich.

They urged the teachers' to resist the move.

Muggers stab constable in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons, including a police constable, were stabbed in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Muggers stabbed Md Faruque, a constable of riot police (South), early hours of yesterday at Agargaon.

Faruque was stabbed when he grabbed a mugger as a CNG-run three wheeler passenger was being mugged. Muggers stabbed him in head and legs and fled the scene. Faruque's fellow mates shot four rounds but missed.

He is undergoing treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, muggers stabbed one Golum Kibria, 30, in front of Mirpur Shal Ali School at 7:30am and snatched away his valuables.

Kibria was admitted to the DMCH.

Judicial probe into RU violence demanded

'Remove VC or face tough movement'

RU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday demanded immediate removal of the vice-chancellor and proctor of Rajshahi University (RU).

They also called for withdrawal of false cases against 54 general students. The rally was organised by six left-leaning student organisations at the zero point of the city.

The student leaders rejected the probe committee formed by the university authorities and protested the inclusion of in the committee a teacher who was allegedly involved in the attack on October 30.

They demanded a judicial probe into the incident and exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the attack.

The speakers also called for cancellation of the appointment of the employees involved in the attack.

They threatened to launch tougher movement if the administration does not withdraw the false cases and punish the culprits.

The rally was addressed by Samajtantrik Chhatra Front RU unit General Secretary Sushanto Singha, Chhatra Federation RU unit General Secretary Manisha Mahruha, Chhatra Union President SM Chandon and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) leader Gazi Mozammel Haque Polin.

Earlier, the students brought out a procession led by BCL central Joint Secretary Kamruzzaman Chanchol.

On Saturday, 11-party alliance led by Workers Party Polit Bureau Member Fazle Hossain Badsha met with RU acting vice-chancellor Prof KAM Shahadat Hossain Mondol at his office and submitted a memorandum.

The memorandum demanded immediate withdrawal of false cases, cancellation of the controversial appointment of 54 employees, punishment to the attackers, and formation of judicial committee.

Light rain or drizzle is likely to occur in one or two places over Rajshahi division till 6:00pm today.

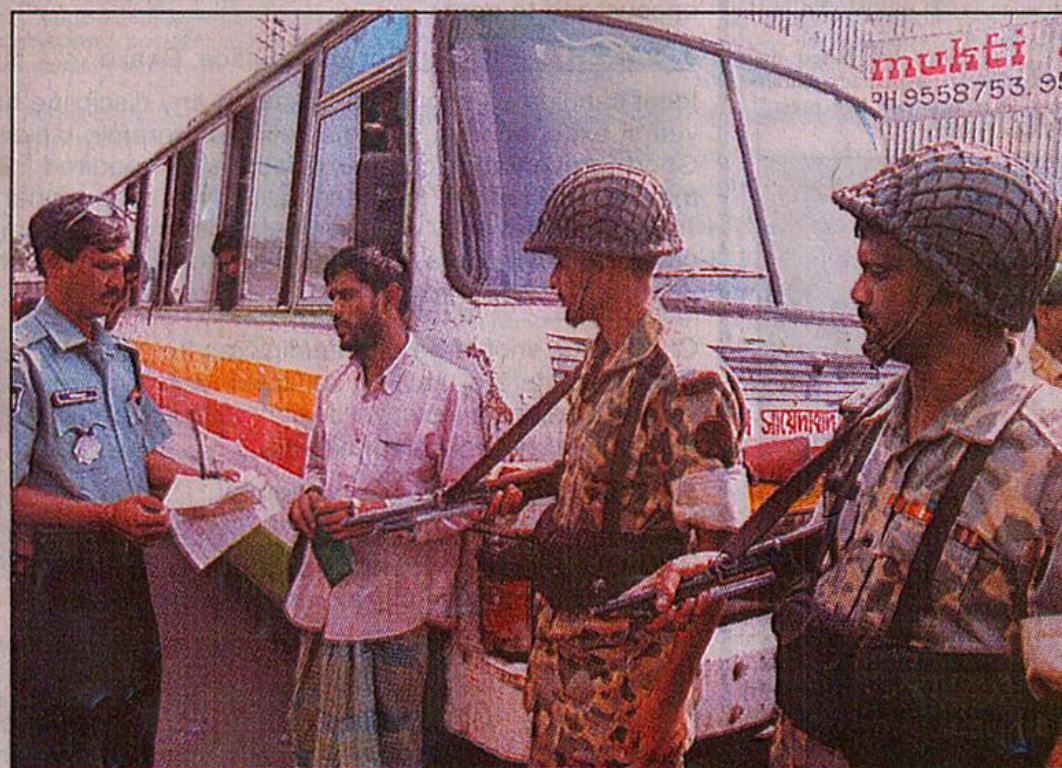
Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rangamati and lowest 17.0 degree Celsius at Myrmensingh.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:10am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest 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	30.5	20.4	63	61
Chittagong	30.8	20.9	66	44
Rajshahi	30.3	18.3	60	--
Khulna	30.6	19.5	75	74
Barisal	30.5	18.5	78	93
Sylhet	30.8	21.6	81	68
Cox's Bazar	--	23.0	67	--



A mobile court checks papers of a minibus at Saidabad in the city yesterday as part of its drive to phase out old vehicles from the capital.

PHOTO: STAR

Zia's emergence in politics was inevitable

President tells inaugural ceremony of Ziaur Rahman Mausoleum Complex

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed said soldiers and patriotic people from all walks of life in a united uprising vested late Ziaur Rahman with the onerous responsibility of running the country by protecting its sovereignty and independence at a crucial time in 1975.

FM leaves for Lanka Nov 10

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan leaves for Colombo on November 10 to hand over Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's letter inviting Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga to attend the coming Saarc Summit in Dhaka.

This would be his third visit to a Saarc capital in a series after touring New Delhi and Thimpu as special envoy of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to deliver the invitation letters to Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh of India and Prime Minister Lypno Yeshev Zimba of Bhutan.

In the second phase of his whirlwind tour, Morshed Khan will go to Pakistan and the Maldives to deliver the PM's invitation letters to the heads of government and state to attend the summit.

Dhaka will host the three-day summit meet of the Saarc on January 9-11 and assume the chair of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc).

Rab nabs listed criminal in city

UNB, Dhaka

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a listed criminal along with a revolver and four bullets from Plassey crossing in Lalbag area of the city yesterday.

The arrested was identified as Jabbar, 32.

Rab sources said that acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-2 raided the area at 7:30 pm, arrested Jabbar and seized the revolver and bullets from his possession.

Jabbar was wanted in a number of cases, including murder, police said.

Garment worker killed in road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One garment worker was killed in a road accident at Airport Road in the city yesterday.

A vehicle ran over Mohammad Kajol, an employee of a factory at Export Import Zone (EPZ) at Savar, at 12:00 noon when he was crossing Airport Road.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

NOOR NAHAR MURDER CASE FIR named accused arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police yesterday arrested one of the five FIR named accused in a housewife murder case.

Khulshi thana police arrested Khaza Moinuddin alias Titu from PO Shaheer Colony at Nasirabad in the early hours.

He was produced before the court and placed on a five-day remand.

HEJFB committee formed

UNB, Dhaka

A 15-member executive committee of Health and Environment Journalist Forum, Bangladesh has been formed on Friday in the city.

Mustafiz Shah, deputy chief reporter of daily Amar Desh and Saiful Islam Shamim, senior reporter of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha, have been elected president and general secretary respectively.

Other office bearers are: Vice-Presidents: Rafiqul Islam Ratan and Abul Khayer, Joint Secretary: Nesar Ahmad, Treasurer: Shamsul Amin Shamim, Organising Secretary: Salahuddin Bablu, International Relation Secretary: Munni Saha, Publication and Research Secretary: Shakil Ahmed and Office Secretary: Shamim Al Amin.

Members of the executive committee are Naimul Huq, Kazi Hafiz, Masud Kamal, Sayed Zahurul Abedin and Sarwar Hossain.

"Zia's emergence in Bangladesh politics was not a mere coincidence, but in an inevitable course of history, the people bestowed the responsibility on him to lead the country caught in a vortex of crisis," he said.

Iajuddin made the observations at the inaugural ceremony of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman Mausoleum Complex at Zia Uddin in the city yesterday.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was also in the function as an audience. Besides, ministers, diplomats, intellectuals, senior citizens and BNP leaders attended the function.

Iajuddin recalled the historic role of late Zia in the War of Liberation and in restoring multi-party democracy, basic rights and civil liberties.

"Shaheed president Ziaur

Rahman is that great man who set the irreversible course of history initiating the war of independence through his proclamation in 1971. A stunned nation regained courage and direction at the call of Major Zia," he said.

He recalled that Zia had initiated politics of production, organised the rural people in productive activities and removed discrimination and oppression from the society and established the rule of law.

He said that Zia had realised that there is no alternative to national unity for development and so propounded the ideology of Bangladeshi nationalism.

Leading the country with the belief that "party is above individual and country is above the party", he was soon able to create national unity, solidarity and became a per-

manent symbol of development.

Highlighting the necessity of the Complex, the president said on the one hand it depicts the respects to the memory of the late leader and on the other reflects the hopes and aspirations of millions of people at home and abroad.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas and State Minister Alamgir Kabir also spoke.

Later, Iajuddin unveiled the plaque of the Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman Mausoleum Complex. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was present at the time.

The President also placed wreath and offered fatiha at Zia's mazar on the occasion of 7th November, the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. This day in 1975, Zia came to the helms of power amid a soldier-mass uprising.

'Observance of Nov 7 sans Col Taher is a farce'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Observance of November 7 as a day of civil-military revolution glorifying Ziaur Rahman as a national hero is a distortion of history, said the speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said the occasion, in fact, calls for paying due tributes to JSD leader Colonel Taher who organised the glorious uprising of sepoy and Gonobahini activists to bring back discipline in the army.

The discussion was organised by Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) in observance of November 7 in the city.

"Observance of November 7 excluding Taher is a farce and betrayal to history," JSD President Hasanul Huq Inu said, adding, "Zia's

family should pay homage to Taher in gratitude as the latter saved the former at a juncture of history."

"November 7 is a historical episode in Bangladesh's political history that testifies Taher as a true hero and Zia as a betrayer who killed at least 2,500 soldiers at different cantonments to suppress a glorious revolution aimed at establishing the ideals of the liberation war," Inu said.

"It is unfortunate that Major Ziaur Rahman resorted to treachery, and hanged Taher to clear his way to state power," said President of Colonel Taher Sangsad Kamal Lohani.

"Major Zia nipped the coup carried out by the gonobahini, eliminated revolutionary forces and

hanged Colonel Taher just to harvest a political gain," said JSD leader Sharif Nurul Ambia.

Sayed Zafar Sajjad of JSD said Zia had a collusion with the rightist fundamentalist forces before he initiated a series of counter coups to foil Taher's revolutionary coup.

"That the revolution failed and counter-revolution succeeded does not mean the ideals of the revolution have perished, said Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon.

JSD Executive President Mainuddin Khan Badal, Meer Hosain, Nazmul Huq Pradhan and Iqbal Hossain of JSD, Karim Shikdar of Jatiya Jubo Jote, and Prof Mezbah Kamal also spoke.



PHOTO: STAR

Taher Sangsad forms a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killers of Col Taher, leader of the civil-military revolution of November 7, 1975.

Smuggled Indian goods worth Tk 26 lakh seized

BSS, Hilli, Dinajpur

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized huge quantities of smuggled Indian goods worth over Tk 26 lakh during the past 48 hours from bordering areas of Dinajpur, Joypurhat and Naogaon.

BDR sources said members of 29 Rifles Battalion of Kalupara, Pagladewan, Bhutapara, Chaklam, Koya, Bostabar, Atapara, Basudebpur, Hatkhala, Hilli CP, Hilli and Dangapara outposts conducted 22 anti-smuggling drives along 72-km long borders under the Battalion in three districts.

Huge quantities of smuggled India potash fertilizers, bicycles, medicines, cosmetics, toilet pans, sugar, motor-cycle tyres, imitation ornaments, pens, vanity bags, saree, spices and phensidyl were seized in the raids.

Biswas visits ailing Rajib

UNB, Dhaka

Former President Abdur Rahman Biswas visited ailing film actor Wasimul Bari Rajib at Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital on Saturday night.

Rajib, president of BNP's cultural wing, JASAS, and managing director of Film Development Corporation (FDC), has been suffering from cancer.

The former president spent some time beside Rajib and inquired about his condition and treatment from on-duty physicians.

DHAKA TODAY

Film show
Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'The Rainmaker' (1997). Venue: 21/C Jigatola. Time: 7:00pm.

Aquarium exhibition
The opening ceremony of a weeklong Aquarium exhibition will be held. Venue: 38 University Market, Katolon. Time: 7:00pm.

Chalcography exhibition
Alliance Francaise organises a chalcography exhibition of Louvre. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise, Dhankondhi. Time: 9:00am to 12:00noon and from 5:00pm to 8:00pm daily. The exhibition will continue till November 25.

Cultural function
Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy organises a discussion and cultural function to mark the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. Venue: Academy premises, Segun Bagicha. Time: 11:00am.

DCC discussion
A discussion on 'Land and housing for the poor in Dhaka' will be held with City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka as chief guest. Venue: Nagar Bhaban. Time: 1:00pm.

CNM discussion
Crime News Media in association with Jhalak Foundation organises a discussion titled 'The positive role of media in controlling drugs'. Venue:

Bangladesh Photojournalists Association Auditorium, 58/1-A Purana Paltan. Time: 4:00pm.

Parishad discussion
Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a discussion to mark the Jail Killing Day. Venue: Institution of Engineers' Auditorium, Ramna. Time: 3:30pm.

Reception
Dhaka-based Comilla Jubo Samity organises a reception and iftar party with State Minister for Housing and Public Works Alamgir Kabir as chief guest. Venue: Ramna Chinese Restaurant. Time: 3:00pm.

Workshop
Human Development Research Centre in collaboration with UNFPA, organises a workshop on 'QA system development for UPHCP'. Venue: BIAM Auditorium, New Eskaton. Time: 9:30am.

Fair
The opening ceremony of a two-day Women Entrepreneurs' Fair, organised by the Young Entrepreneurs' Society of North South University, will be held. Venue: University campus at BTA. Time: 10:00am.

Rally
Institute of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh organises a rally to mark its 35th founding anniversary with Information Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief guest. Venue: IDEB Bhaban, Kakrai. Time: 11:00am.