

## 50 hurt as garment workers, police clash in Gazipur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Clashes between garment workers and police at Chowrasta in Gazipur left over 50 people wounded, 10 factories ransacked and Gazipur-Mymensingh and Gazipur-Tangail highways blocked for hours.

Six policemen including the officer-in-charge of the Gazipur Police Station are among those injured in the violence that began on death rumours.

Witnesses said police fired at least 30 rubber bullets and around 40 teargas shells during the nearly three-hour fight.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

## Law enforcers asked to tackle RMG unrest with iron hand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday directed the law enforcement agencies to check any slide in law and order, and tackle unrest in ready-made garment sector with an iron hand.

The directive came at a meeting of the cabinet committee on law and order in the wake of increasing

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

# Justice Fazlul Huq charged with graft

### He makes desperate effort to move bail petition at HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against former caretaker government adviser Justice Fazlul Huq for amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 89.81 lakh and concealing its information from the commission.

Earlier in the morning, Fazlul Huq sought to file a bail petition and secure bail from the High Court (HC) but failed as the HC bench concerned did not sit.

Huq then remained self-confined for more than three hours in a room at the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA).

Curious about Huq's self-confinement, many commented that the justice stayed in the chamber room to avoid arrest knowing law enforcers would not arrest him on the Supreme Court (SC) premises.

Sources said Justice Fazlul Huq, also a former judge of the HC, went to the SC at 10:30am with a view to seeking bail from the HC. He could not file the bail petition since the HC bench concerned did not sit yesterday.

He stayed in a courtroom for more than one hour and entered the chamber room of his counsel barrister Rafique-ul-Huq at 11:40am. He came out of the room at 2:50pm.

Barrister Rafique, who left his room at 1:10pm, told newsmen that he would move the bail petition on behalf of Fazlul Huq next week.

Justice Huq told the reporters that he would soon

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

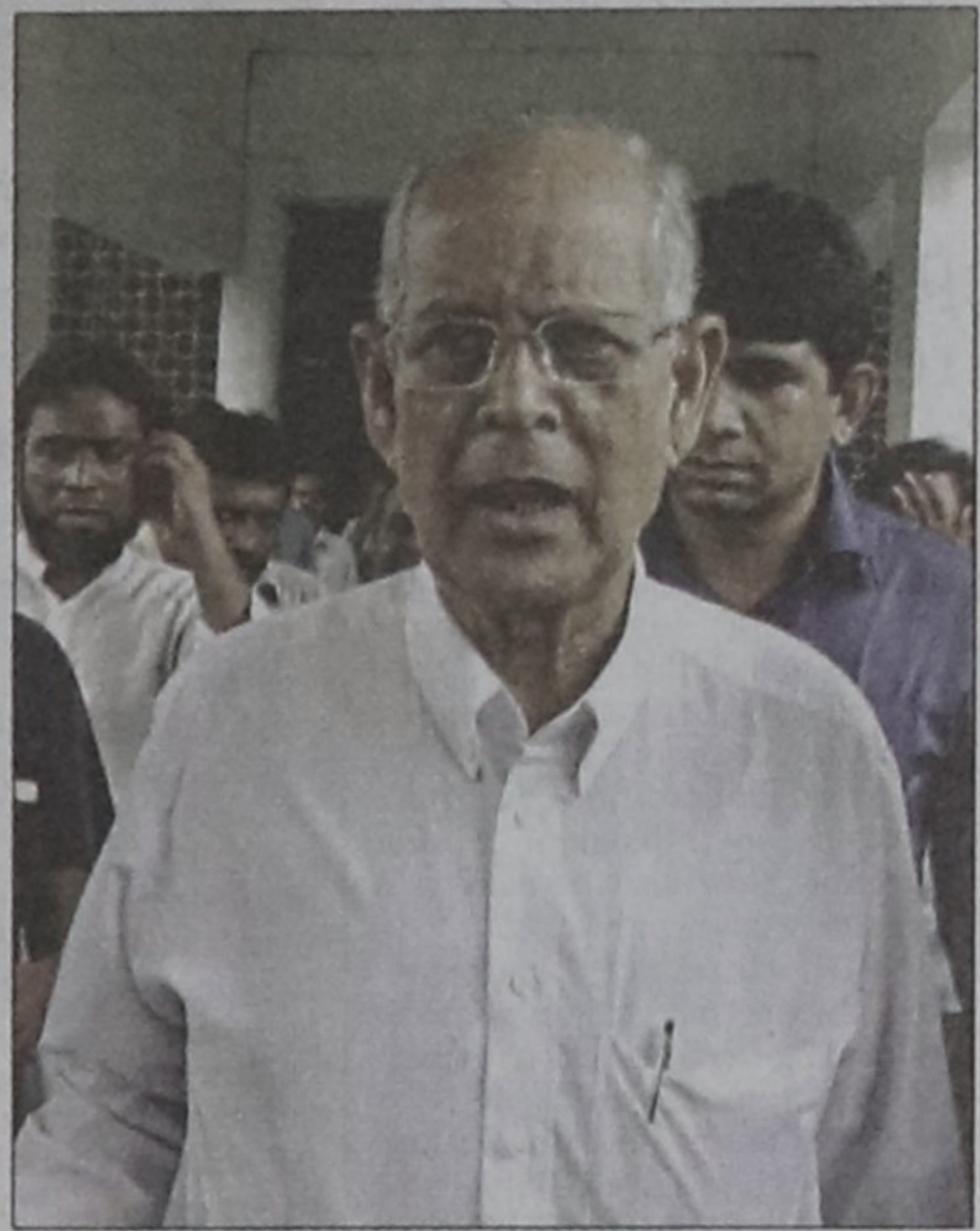


PHOTO: STAR

Justice Fazlul Huq leaves the High Court premises after attempting to move a bail petition yesterday.

## IRREGULAR PAY Jordanian cops club striking Bangladeshi workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police in Jordan yesterday charged baton on Bangladeshi workers out on strike from Sunday in protest at cutbacks in salaries and irregular payments by their garment-factory employer.

The management of the al-Bunayyat-based MRAI Apparel also barred the protesting workers numbering around 400 from entering the factory on the third day of the strike, a worker identifying himself as Nizamuddin told The Daily Star over the telephone yesterday.

He said they had entered the factory in the first two days but refrained from work to protest deducting Jordanian Dollar (JD) 25 from their salaries in the name of meal, accommodation and medical costs which were supposed to be free of costs.

"They do not pay our overtime regularly either," he said, adding that police charged baton on some of the workers on the third day.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Jordan Golam Mohammad confirmed the strike, but put the number of workers taking part in it at around 250.

He said he learnt that the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## JS-UPAZILA POLLS Defaulters may get chance to contest by rescheduling loans

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) might in the end allow loan defaulters to contest upazila and parliamentary polls by rescheduling their loans before filing nominations, said EC sources.

For that, the government will need to relax or suspend the stipulations in the Representation of People Order (RPO) limiting time for rescheduling debt to qualify as a candidate in the local and national polls.

If the EC sticks to its plans for holding upazila elections on October 23 and parliamentary polls in December, the loan defaulters will not be able to reschedule loans in time to be eligible for candidacy.

Long delay in promulgation of the ordinance revising the RPO is the main reason for time constraints.

As per the new electoral provisions, a person with records of loan default in six months preceding the submission of nomination will be disqualified as a candidate in the general election.

Those who want to run in the upazila polls must not have a history of loan default in the year before filing of the candidacy application, says Upazila Parishad Ordinance-2008.

Initially, the commission was planning to declare that those who would pay off their loans before submitting nominations would be eligible for election. It did the same in August 4 polls.

But it might have to back off from the plans for fear that the new provisions would be challenged at courts, an EC Secretariat official said in return for anonymity.

Besides, he added, as the national election is conducted on a much larger canvas, the policies on loan defaulters in the city corporation and municipality polls are far less likely to work here.

Meanwhile, speaking at a seminar Sunday, legal experts warned Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda that the defaulters might take the commission to courts for not allowing them time to sort out loan problems.

The following day the EC met to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## DEPORTED FROM KUWAIT Dhaka to seek compensation for innocent workers

PORIMOL PALMA

Bangladesh will request Kuwait to consider compensating the Bangladeshi workers who were innocent but injured and deported following strikes in demand of pay hike and better working condition late July this year.

Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury, who leaves for Kuwait today, will also seek the Gulf nation's cooperation to make sure that the Bangladeshi cleaning workers get recently declared minimum wage of Kuwaiti dinar 40.

He will also propose signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the two countries to protect workers' rights, a foreign ministry official told The Daily Star.

Iftekhar, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment, is going to Kuwait after over a month of strikes by Bangladeshi workers.

During his two-day visit to Kuwait, home to around 2.5 lakh Bangladeshi workers mostly involved in low-skilled category jobs, the adviser is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Sabah Al-Salem Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

## WORKERS' STRIKE Mongla Port operations suspended

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Activities at Mongla port came to a halt as water transport workers began an indefinite strike yesterday demanding increase in their wages.

This is for the third time that the workers of Inland Water transports stopped work at the port on the same demand in the wake of abnormal price hike of essentials.

Loading and unloading of goods from cargo ships remained stopped due to the strike. A foreign cargo ship, carrying 15,000 tonnes of urea fertiliser, arrived at the port on Monday. But the port authorities could not start unloading of the fertiliser due to work stoppage.

Water transport workers at Mongla port first went on strike on July 11 this year demanding pay rise and other financial benefits. The crisis was resolved with intervention of the shipping ministry and Mongla Port Authority.

In a tripartite meeting held on July 12, it was resolved that water transport workers would be brought under new scale of wages with effect from January next year and also be given ad-interim financial benefit from July 1 this year.

Workers again went on work

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Tarique set to be freed today

### Release delayed due to unsigned bail bond in bribery case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tarique Rahman, elder son of detained former premier Khaleda Zia, might walk to his freedom today nearly 18 months into his arrest on corruption and extortion charges, although there were widespread speculations that he would be freed yesterday.

In a desperate bid to free the senior joint secretary general of BNP, his lawyers shuttled between courts in vain yesterday in attempts to get signed within office hours a copy of the bail bond in a bribery case against him, which is the last remaining impediment to his release.

The bribery case was filed against Tarique and others for burying a case in connection with the murder of Bashundhara Group Director Shabbir in exchange for a bribe of Tk 21 crore. The High Court (HC) granted him bail in the case on August 28.

All other legal barriers to Tarique's release had earlier been removed, except the signing of the bail bond in the bribery case.

His lawyers said they rushed to

the court of chief judicial magistrate with a copy of the bail bond several minutes before the end of office hours yesterday.

But the chief judicial magistrate had already delegated the power of dealing with the matter to the additional chief judicial magistrate.

"We failed to get the sign of the additional chief judicial magistrate despite our desperate attempts," Advocate Nasiruddin Ahmed, one of Tarique's counsels, told The Daily Star last night.

He said a copy of the bail bond signed by the judicial magistrate must reach the prison authorities for getting Tarique freed.

He, however, hoped that a signed copy will reach the jail authorities today paving the way for Tarique's instant freedom.

Tarique will not go to his cantonment home after being released, said his relatives.

His family members said after being released he will stay in Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital until he leaves for London for treatment.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

## 4-party rally on Sept 9 for Khaleda's release

UNB, Dhaka

BNP-led four-party alliance will hold rallies in the capital and elsewhere in the country on September 9 to press home its demands that include unconditional release of former prime minister Khaleda Zia.

Other demands are sending BNP leader Tarique Zia abroad for treatment, lifting the state of emergency, holding parliamentary elections ahead of other elections, bringing down the prices essentials to acceptable level and scrapping the Representation of People Order (Amendment) Ordinance.

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain announced the fresh programme at a meeting of the alliance at the Engineers Institution auditorium.

The meeting was organised to protest police action on the alliance's human chain on August 27. Delwar urged the nationalist forces and the people to prepare for an effective movement to realise the demands.

Referring to the public plight caused by price spirals, the BNP leader said, "The people cannot be suppressed by threats and guns as they are badly hit by the escalating

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



PHOTO: STAR

Crackdown on traffic rules violation, use of substandard CNG cylinders and re-routing of several bus services have eased traffic congestion in the capital. The photo was taken in front of Gausia Market around 1:30pm yesterday.

## New bus routes show signs of easing traffic congestion

SHARIFUL ISLAM

On the first day of Ramadan yesterday, other than the usual traffic congestion during morning and afternoon rush hours, commuters witnessed a comparatively sparse traffic on the streets of the capital throughout the rest of the day.

On Monday the authorities introduced 40 new bus routes in the capital and adjacent areas with some strict guidelines for bus drivers and crews, although many of them were found flouting those yesterday.

However, some buses were following the new rules like stopping close to the curbs instead of screeching to a halt with their rear ends jutting out into flowing traffic.

Some law enforcers and public transport operators said sparse presence of automated public transports on the streets yesterday was due to a crackdown the day

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

## We Mourn

Quamrul Islam Siddique  
(20 January 1945 - 01 September 2008)

We deeply mourn the sad demise of Engineer Quamrul Islam Siddique at 11.30 a.m. Bangladesh time on Monday 1st September 2008 at his son's house in New Jersey, USA in heart attack (Innallillahe Wa Inna Ilahae Rajeun). He was 63 years old. He left behind his old mother, wife, one son, three daughters, relatives and a host of friends and well-wishers to mourn his death. LGED family lost their guardian and are deeply shocked. He was the architect of LGED and was actively associated with LGED's activities till his death. We remember his unique leadership in LGED's advancement. Contribution of Mr. Siddique in Rural Infrastructure Development as well as blooming of Local Government and Rural Economy in Bangladesh is well recognized. His diversified input through working in different capacities under Government of Bangladesh as well as with different Development Partners contributed a lot at National and International Level. He was former President of Institutions of Engineers, Bangladesh and was actively associated with different national and international organizations. Mr. Siddique was a Prominent Freedom Fighter. We convey our deep condolence to his bereaved family and pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul.

**LGED Kallyan Samabay Samity Ltd.**  
on behalf of All Staff of LGED

## RIVERS MARK A FALL IN NE REGION Crisis of drinking water, food mounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People marooned by the flood in the country are facing a serious crisis of drinking water, food, baby food and fodder for their livestock.

Two children drowned in floodwater in Sirajganj yesterday.

Reports from different char areas are grim. Water level rise is continuing at many places including the northern and central parts of the country. Water levels of rivers, however, registered a fall in the north-eastern region.

Experts hope the situation will start to improve after three days as the monsoon active over neighbouring Indian states started to weaken.

"The crucial period is over and I do not think that a devastating flood is going to occur now as the monsoon has become weak over neighbouring Indian states," said Saiful Islam, director of Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

The Water Development Board (WDB) during a press conference a few days ago said they had been monitoring the situation and they thought the flooding could become devastating.

Yesterday, many areas were freshly inundated in central Bangladesh including Tangail,

Munshiganj, few parts of Dhaka, Faridpur and Manikganj districts causing suffering to the poor.

Reports from different districts, including Chapainawabganj, Munshiganj, Sirajganj, Lalmonirhat, say that flooding has forced thousands to leave their homes and take shelter at safer places. The situation in chars was bad.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: At least two children drowned in floodwater in Chalonerbeel area in Tarash upazila yesterday. The victims are Kakoly Khatun, 2, and Sanjida Khatun, 3, of Kuthirgachha.

Pneumonia and diarrhoea and other waterborne diseases are spreading in different flood-affected areas. There is an acute shortage of drinking water and food in those areas, sources said.

Meanwhile, 92 medical teams were sent to different flood-affected areas to handle the disease situation, said sources in the district civil surgeon's office.

Our correspondent in Bogra reports: Hundreds of people in char areas are trapped in floodwater. They are suffering due to lack of drinking water, food and baby food. They do not have fodder for their livestock either.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

শ্রীমতী আমিনা

মাহে রমজান

কেনা আসে অবশ্যই ক্যারেট মিটারে স্বপ্নের মান পরিচালনা করে নিয়া!!

আমাদের প্রতিটি শো-রুমে স্থাপিত বিশ্বখ্যাত ক্যারেট মিটার দ্বারা মাত্র ১মিনিটে আপনার ক্রয়কৃত অলংকারের ক্যারেট নির্ণয় করে সার্টিফিকেট প্রদান করা হয়

World Gold Council ISO & CE সনদপ্রাপ্ত

জার্মানির স্ট্রীট বিশ্বখ্যাত ক্যারেট মিটার

ডাকার আমিনার গুটি শো-রুম

বৌদ্ধ মার্কেট (মিডলস্ট্রীট) ৯০০০৯৮, ৯০০২১০৮

বাজার মোকাবেলা (লিফটলা) ৯২২০৩৭, ৯২২০১৪৪

হি সি সি মার্কেট ওল্ডস্ট্রীট ৯২২০৩৮, ৯২২০২০৮

বাইকেল মোকাবেলা, গার্মেন্ট-২ ৯০১৪২৮, ৯০১২৮৪৪

২১/২২ ক্যারেট স্বপ্নের অলংকার গ্যারান্টি সহকারে বিক্রয় করা হয়

A publication of The Daily Star

## Star FASHION

EID 2008

Hits the stand on 5th September.

This full 4-colour 112-page attractive fashion magazine studded with innumerable colourful trendy designs and latest collections is out to guide your choice for Eid.

Available at the following places in Dhaka:

DHANMONDI: Gyanakosh, Road # 4, Ph # 8623251 and 8623252 and 8623253  
Sobhanbagh Madrasa Market, Ph # 8112441  
Etcetera: Concord Royal Court, Plot-270/G, Road-27, Ph # 9138432  
Nandan: Road#27 (Old), House # 37, Ph # 8127085, 8112471

New Corner: Alta Plaza, Ph # 01819 154848  
Newspaper stall, Road # 3, Ph # 8618230  
Newspaper stalls (New Market) # 9665832 & 9669409  
SHAHABUDDIN: Pathak Samabesh, Aziz Super Market, Ph # 9662766

Bilgoni Bittan (New Corner), Ph # 01712 000568  
Jonaki Sheraton Hotel, Ph # 861191 & 8613391 Ext-4457  
BAILY ROAD: Sugar Publishers, Ph # 9358944  
MOTUHELI: Hotel Purbani (Book Shop), Ph # 9352229 Ext-160  
GULSHAN: Nandan Mega

Shop, Ph # 962637, 8650049  
Etcetera: Gulshan Avenue, Road # 140, Ph # 8626858  
Newspaper stalls, Ph # 813932 & 8618574  
Banani: Newspaper stall (Banani Bazar Bus Stand), Ph # 01712 014929  
PALTAN: Shahityo Prokash, Pritom Bhaban, Ph # 7171410

TEGAON: Pathak Samabesh, 204/B, Tegaon Link Road, Ph # 9861003  
AIRPORT: The Book Worm (Old), Ph # 9312087  
The Earnest Ltd. (New Airport), Ph # 9314258  
KARWANBAZAR: Kiosh, Sonargon Hotel, Ph # 811641 Ext-4938

The Daily Star Office: 19 Karwan Bazar, Ph # 8124944, 8124955, 8124966

Outside Dhaka: Please ask your local newspaper agents/hawkers.

Book your copy with your hawker now