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Last day of Adamjee Jute Mills today

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Just one day before of the formal closure of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM), the biggest jute mills in the world, a gloomy scene was prevailing in the mills and its adjoining areas on Saturday.

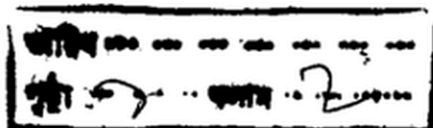
The leaders and activists of the 'Save Adamjee', a committee comprising representatives from

14 trade unions organised a big rally at the Dhaka Baju Workers Welfare Maidan where they hoisted black flag and urged the workers not to leave the mills unless getting their total dues. They also demanded of the Government not to shut down the largest jute plant in the

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Students of Adamjee Girls' High School burst into tears hugging each other when Headmistress Umme Habiba (left) announced on Saturday the authorities' decision to close down the school.



Adamjee Mills

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world. The situation at the three high schools and one madrasah was beyond description as large number of girls and boys were found crying during school hours fearing permanent closure of their educational institutions. Head Master of Adamjee High School Md. Aftab Hossain told the Bangladesh Observer that since its establishment in 1957, the school earned reputation. Now 2100 students are studying at the institution. If the gurdians are made jobless, the school would not run automatically, he lamented.

Head Mistress of Adamjee Girls' High School Umme Habiba was crying at her room and said "I cannot bear the departing sight of my beloved students". The students of the school got fainted in numbers and most of the students were crying. The school has 2075 girl students and 94 attended the last SSC Examination. Many people could not check the tears at the scene of the educational institutions in the mills area run by the AJM authority.

At the entrance of the mills the authority opposed the journalists to come inside the mills but workers with tears in their eyes accompanied the journalists avoiding so called restriction and told "We would become jobless and where we would go? Where our sons and daughters would complete their syllabus. We shall take you to see around all mills area and show how the Government has created a situation by closing down this historic mills." They also alleged that the Government is solely responsible for continuous financial loss of this mill. It was the failure of the successive governments of last 30 years for not making the mill profitable, they alleged.

It may be mentioned that established in 1951, the AJM was nationalised in 1974. Presently 17,093 permanent and 6,100 temporary workers were working and the Government has decided to pay them all dues through golden handshake.