

Dhaka repeats call

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 OIC and the Commonwealth.
 She said the process of converting these inputs into specific objectives that could be implemented remain an urgent task. The current law must also be revitalised to urgently push forward such issues as sharing of trans-boundary rivers, environmental codes of conduct and rights of women and children.
 The Prime Minister said in the world of today, the main targets must be peace and development. "In our quest for peace and development, we need to be result-oriented. Global peace-keeping must be strengthened in new and imaginative ways, and has to be adequately financed."
 She said technology and new mass awareness of rights and expectations had brought about phenomenal changes all over the world. These changes have been constructive, but not uniform. Winds of hope are blowing in the Middle-East, Cambodia, South Africa and Western Sahara, she said, adding that given the past decade, these first steps were indeed encouraging.

counterbalance these developments." Double standards and lack of uniformity in the search for solutions continue to surface, she added.
 The Prime Minister pointed out the Bosnia-Herzegovina situation as a paramount example in this respect. She said, "We must exert all efforts to arrive at a just and comprehensive solution that will preserve the religious, cultural and political integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina."
 Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman were present at the meeting.
 Begum Zia today attended the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) here at the International Conference Centre.
 The Bangladesh Prime Minister arrived in Nicosia after an hour's drive from the port city of Limassol in a motorcade passing through the picturesque background of hills and greenery of the island.
 Begum Zia was received by the President of Cyprus Glafkos Clerides and the first lady Lilla Clerides at the VIP lounge of the Conference Centre.

Begum Zia said there should be greater responsibility, vision and statesmanship for courageous initiatives. She said "the world-wide upsurge of democracy, greater tolerance for differing social and political systems and lesser reliance on the military culture hold great promise for the future." This must be strengthened, she said. "Yet negative impulses

published Thursday in the Georgian-language newspaper Sakartvelo Respublika (Georgian Republic). The US Embassy in Georgia confirmed that the letter was sent by Clinton, but said it could not immediately provide a copy in English.
 The Georgian version, translated by The Associated Press, says: "I am watching the tragic events taking place in your country... and I'd like to remind you that the United States supports your government and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Georgia."
 Clinton offered to assist in peace talks with the Abkhazians.

US offers to help make peace in Georgia

TBILISI, Georgia, Oct 21: The United States is offering to participate in peace talks in Georgia, and President Clinton has invited Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze to visit Washington, the government said Thursday, reports AP.

The Georgian government released a letter from Clinton to Shevardnadze expressing strong backing for Shevardnadze, who faces two major insurrections that threaten to dismember the tiny ex-Soviet republic.

The letter was received by Shevardnadze Wednesday and Farakka: Call to file case against Delhi at ICJ

By Staff Correspondent
 Speakers at a lecture session on the Farakka problem yesterday suggested Bangladesh file a petition against India at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for a solution to the issue.
 On the concluding day of the two-day Dr Z I Chowdhury memorial lecture sessions, organised by the Law Review in the city, different speakers suggested Bangladesh could also seek a third party intervention to resolve the problem. At the same time the authorities should stop making the Farakka issue a political one, which they felt was in fact a technical problem.

The first session of the day-long programme was on "Problems of Repatriation of the Stranded Pakistanis: International Law" which was addressed by Justice K M Sobhan and Dr Akmal Hossain of the Department of International Relations, Dhaka University.

The second session on "The Farakka Crisis and International Law" was addressed by the chairman of I R Ramzul Haq, secretary general of the Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association Dr Mahjuddin Faruk and Advocate of the Supreme Court Tarek B R Chowdhury.

Regarding repatriation of the Pakistanis, Justice K M Sobhan said the Stranded Pakistanis, by the 1951 Citizenship Act, were Pakistanis and they had every right to return to their country.

Authorities also posted doctors and ambulances around the mosque. Angry Kashmiris continued to defy a curfew on Thursday to hold a third day of noisy protests against the siege.

The government formed the body on August 5 to investigate the terrorist act at JU that left scores of teachers and students injured and property of the institution damaged.

Their first batch comprising 10 military observers leaves Dhaka today.

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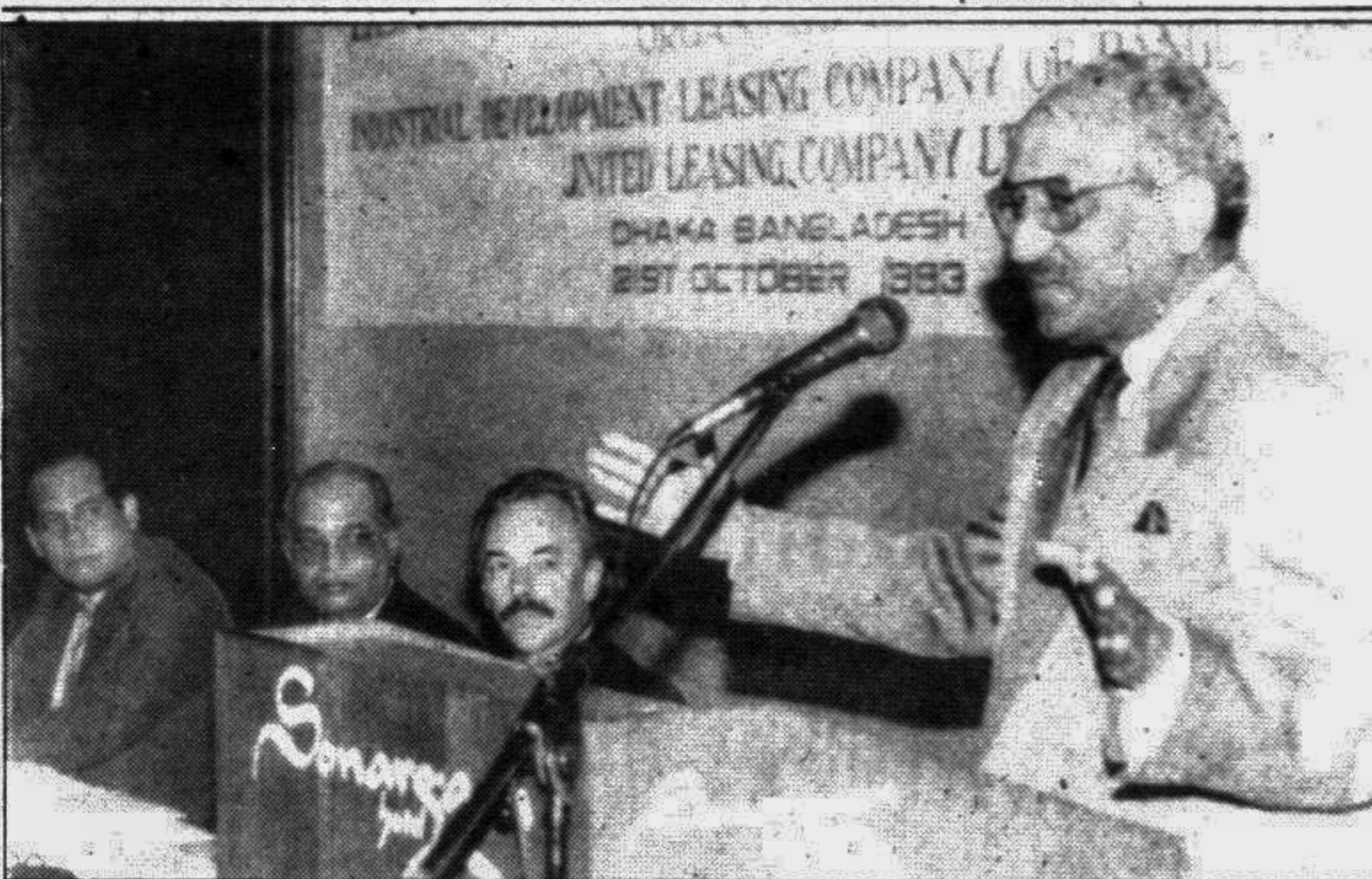
The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) jointly held a meeting to mourn the death of S M Ali, the founder-editor of The Daily Star at the National Press Club auditorium yesterday. — Star photo

BFUJ, DUJ condole S M Ali's death

By Staff Correspondent
 Speakers at a condolence meeting on S. M. Ali, founding Editor of The Daily Star, paid glowing tributes to the late doyen and recalled his contributions to journalism both at home and abroad.
 They also called for emulating Ali's ideals of practising free and fearless journalism. The speakers also demanded publication of his writings, saying emulation of his path was the only way to pay our respects to the late editor.
 Presided over by BFUJ President Gias Kamal Chowdhury, the condolence meeting was organised yesterday evening jointly by the Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ).
 Chief Editor of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) D. P. Barua, Editor of the Financial Express Rezauddin Ahmed, Acting Editor of the Dainik Dinkal Syed Zafar, Executive Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, Secretary General of the BFUJ Amanullah Kabir, DUJ President Zahurul Hossain, DUJ General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi and senior newsmen Syed Abdul Qahhar, Saleh Chowdhury, Manzoor Ahmed, Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, Tofazzal Hossain, Sheikh Rakibuddin, M. A. Aziz and Mohammad Jahangir spoke at the condolence meeting, held at the auditorium of the Jatiya Press Club.
 The speakers discussed contributions of late S. M. Ali as a journalist, particularly his contribution to regional journalism of South-east Asia in his capacity in senior editorial positions in different dailies and newspapers of Bangkok, Hong Kong, Singapore and in the Philippines.
 Late S. M. Ali had earned a unique position as a doyen of journalism in South and South-east Asia, they said.
 Gias Kamal Chowdhury, in his speech, said late S. M. Ali had earned immense name and fame for the country by dint of his exceptional talents.
 Comparing Ali's return to the country to the home-coming of Michael Madhusudan Dutta, Chowdhury said the country's journalism would have been much improved had he come back ten years earlier.
 Amanullah Kabir said the late editor had set a brilliant

example of high standards of professionalism and objectivity when the country's journalistic world was sharply divided on political ideology.
 "Ali Bhai, being a highly professional editor, always gave freedom to his journalists," Kabir, a former News Editor of the Daily Star, recalled.
 Late S. M. Ali never became a stooge to any particular political organisation, recalled Zahurul Hossain. He never compromised, he added.
 Rezauddin Ahmed paid deep respects for Ali's contribution to the First Wage Board for the country's journalists and said he also was the first editor to implement the Fourth Wage Board in his newspaper.
 Mahfuz Anam, on his own behalf and on behalf of the staff of The Daily Star expressed gratitude to the BFUJ and the DUJ for organising the condolence meeting.
 He was the symbol of our pride and inspiration, Anam said.
 Earlier, a minute's silence was observed at the meeting in honour of the late journalist and munajat was offered for the peace and salvation of the departed soul.

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Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman addressing as chief guest a seminar organised by the Industrial Development Leasing Company of Bangladesh Limited and the United Leasing Company Limited at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday. — Star photo

Leasing cos

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 bright future.
 He urged the leasing companies to come forward with positive contributions to the industrial development of the country.
 The Finance Minister said the country's investment-GDP ratio would have to be raised to at least 20 per cent from the present 13.5 per cent to make the economy sustainable.
 He also asked the bankers and lessors to provide funds for the new and innovative entrepreneurs.
 The opening ceremony was also addressed by Abdul Latif bin Yahya, president, Asian Leasing Association, and M Aminul Islam, Managing Director, Industrial Development Leasing Company of Bangladesh Limited (IDLCL).
 The seminar was participated by council members of the Asian Leasing Association, senior bankers and entrepreneurs.
 Pak president election Nov 13
 ISLAMABAD, Oct 21: Pakistan, which held parliamentary polls this month, will elect a president on November 13, the country's Election Commission (EC) announced today, reports AFP.
 Members of the two Houses of Parliament and of the four provincial assemblies make up the electoral college to elect the head of state.

C'wealth Summit opens

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 kilometre human chain from Nicosia to the southern coastal town of Limassol, where the CHOGM will hold the remainder of its five-day session, to call attention to the division.
 Hundreds of school children protesting the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus battled police with rocks and sticks leaving 12 people injured.
 Around 200 Greek-Cypriot pupils burst through police lines and overran the checkpoint at the entrance to the no man's land between the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sectors of this divided city.
 Anyaoku also warned of "new trend of racial bigotry and intolerance" in countries of the former Eastern Bloc, and the former Soviet Union.
 "The Cold War has ended," he said, "but that has not meant an end to ethnic and religious distrust and hostility, nor has it ushered in universal peace."
 South Africa, too, would continue to be a focus of Commonwealth attention, despite the lifting of international sanctions and an end to apartheid.
 "The entire transitional process remains fragile," he said. "There is a need for continued and indeed expanded Commonwealth assistance... in assisting to prepare the way for the 1994 elections, and to consolidate a harmonious non-racial democratic South Africa thereafter."
 And, noting that, "like ar-

Condolences still pour in

By Staff Correspondent
 More organisations and individuals yesterday condoled the passing away of S M Ali, the founder-editor of The Daily Star and a reputed journalist of this continent.
 In separate statements, they recalled the immense contributions of the veteran journalist and highly appreciated late Ali's role in the promotion of the standard of journalism in the country.
French Embassy
 The Ambassador of France in Dhaka Jean-Michel Lacombe, his wife and colleagues in the embassy, in their message condoling the sad demise of S M Ali, felt in his death the world of Bangladeshi journalism had lost a pioneer and a guide.
 They also expressed their extreme shock at the passing away of Ali.

ABEF
 The forum said S M Ali was one of the accomplished champions who tirelessly and fearlessly worked for the cause of an independent and responsible press. It had been undoubtedly a significant job on the part of The Daily Star in critically analysing and making recommendations over the activities and roles of both the government and the opposition at the most desired spirit badly required for the development of democratic values in the country, which was mooted by the illustrious journalist from the day the paper came into existence, the ABEF noted.

Pubali Bank
 The Managing Director of Pubali Bank Limited Kazi Abdul Mazid said in Ali's death he and the management of the bank had lost a very good friend and an eminent journalist. "We will miss him very much," he said.

Dhaka Times
 The Dhaka Times, a national weekly, termed Ali a doyen of journalism and said he was a fearless journalist who upheld the journalistic ethics and norms strictly. His death has caused an irreparable loss to the nation.

Rapport Bangladesh
 The Managing Director of Rapport Bangladesh Limited M Mosharrif Hossain deeply condoled the untimely demise of a great son of the soil and a glittering star of the world of journalism and prayed for his eternal peace for the departed soul.

Dialogue Publications
 The Dialogue Publications Limited conveyed its profound shock at the death of S M Ali. Shahid Doha, on behalf of the organisation, said he had met Ali on only a few occasions, and everytime found him most courteous and a gentleman.

Texfair Limited
 Texfair Limited, a business house, said "We must uphold the high esteemed personality of S M Ali, his uncompromising attitude towards ethics of journalism and dazzling image."

City Publishing House
 The commercial director of the publishing house Abul Fazal, in his message, said Ali's contribution in the field of journalism would be remembered in the media world.

The Midnight File

Flood claims 35 in Karnataka

NEW DELHI, Oct 21: Flash floods triggered by heavy rain have killed at least 35 people and rendered thousands homeless in the southern Indian state of Karnataka. Three of the victims died overnight when their houses collapsed. The body of a 65-year-old man was found late Wednesday in a field, reports PTI.

3 kidnapped foreigners found dead in Algeria

ALGIERS, Oct 21: Three kidnapped foreigners, working for an Italian company in Algeria, have been found dead, the Italian Embassy said today. The men, from Peru, Colombia and the Philippines, worked for the Milan-based Italian firm Abb Sae Sademi. They were seized by three gunmen near Taret, west Algeria, on Tuesday, reports Reuter.

Burundi President, other ministers killed in coup

BRUSSELS, Oct 21: Belgian radio reported that deposed Burundi President Melchior Ndadaye was killed with other cabinet ministers during today's coup, reports Reuter.
 "Not just Ndadaye, but also the Prime Minister of Burundi has been executed and a few ministers," Belgian radio said, without giving a source for its report.
 Earlier AP said: Burundi was captured Thursday in an army coup that halted the tiny Central African nation's transition to democracy and stirred fears of new bloodletting between its two dominant ethnic groups.
 President Melchior Ndadaye, 40, and three cabinet ministers were being held by the rebels at a military base near the capital of Bujumbura. A search reportedly was underway for other leading government figures.
 Burundi's minister of information, Jean-Marie Ngendahayo, told Radio Rwanda in a telephone interview from Bujumbura that he and other government officials had gone into hiding.
 He reported spontaneous demonstrations in favour of President Ndadaye which are apparently being violently suppressed by the soldiers.
 "The entire town is currently tightly controlled," Ngendahayo told Radio Rwanda.

Rao-Benazir talks

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 nine most populous countries in New Delhi on December 15. "That is as early as the two leaders could meet," a Pakistani official said.
 The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which is organising the meeting on "Education For All", said its invitation to Islamabad had yet to be acknowledged.
 But an Indian official said: "There is no reason to believe she (Benazir) will not come."
 Western diplomats say Kashmir, two-thirds of it ruled by India and the rest by Pakistan, could become the next major flashpoint to attract international intervention.

Traditionally bad relations between the old foes deteriorated further when Indian troops besieged the Hazratbal Shrine on October 15.

Ex-JP minister assaulted

NARSINGDHU, Oct 21: A former minister who resigned shortly before the fall of Ershad regime was allegedly assaulted by the Jatiya Party workers in the town when he went to rejoin the JP today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Mainuddin Bhuiyan, a deputy minister of the JP government, went to the Jatiya Party office at the invitation of party's local leaders to rejoin the party.

They said unit leader Abul Hayat Sarker and General Secretary Mesbahuddin Iran invited Bhuiyan while another group led by central leader Mostafa Jamal Babu opposed his joining.

Bhuiyan had resigned along with Dr Abdul Matin one day before the resignation of former President Ershad in the face of a mass upsurge in December 1990.

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