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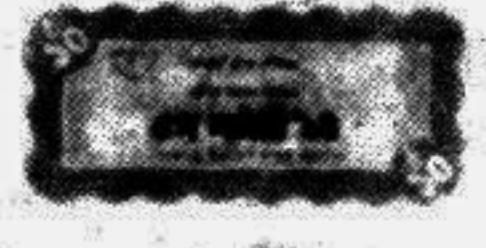
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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda goes to
Jhenidah today

JHENIDAH, Oct 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia arrives here tomorrow to lay the foundation stone of rural nursing training centre at Harinakunda thana. Later, Begum Zia will address two public meetings at the Harinakunda football-ground and Hatgopalpur High School ground, reports UNB.

Hartal observed
in Khagrachhari

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: A half-day hartal was observed today in Khagrachhari to protest the death of a college student. Mosharraf Hossain, 20, a student of Khagrachhari Government College was killed under the wheels of a speeding truck on Sunday. The incident sparked off tension there. The students of Khagrachhari gave the call for today's hartal demanding punishment to the killer. During hartal period normal life was disrupted as traffic movement came to a halt while shops and offices remained shut.

Section 144 in
Moulvibazar

MOULVIBAZAR, Oct 24: Local administration today imposed Section 144 at Kusumkunda in the town following an attack on a Jatiya party meeting allegedly by the JCD activists. The section was imposed at 3 pm to avert further trouble in the area and will remain in force till further order, official sources said. Witnesses said a group of the JCD activists allegedly attacked the party meeting at Kusumkunda at about 2 pm, reports UNB.

1608 more Rohingyas
repatriated

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, Oct 24: Some 1608 Rohingya refugees of 303 families have been repatriated today to their homeland. Myanmar officials received the refugees in two reception centres in Kaningchong and Pimpiew. With this, the number of returnees stood at 88,766. Over one and a half lakh refugees are still staying at various camps in the district.

Emergency: Indefinite curfew: Peace talks suspended

Blast kills Lankan Opposition's president candidate, 56 others

COLOMBO, Oct 24: The government suspended peace talks with Tamil rebels today and gave the army sweeping law-and-order powers after a suicide bomber killed the Opposition candidate for president and about 56 more people, reports AP.

The killing of Gamini Dissanayake, 52, less than three weeks before the election cast doubt over the future of the peace process begun earlier this month to end the 11-year civil war.

More than 34,000 people have died in the conflict, including hundreds who were killed in bombings attributed to an elite corps of suicide commandos of the Tamil Tiger guerrillas.

Dissanayake was critical of the peace talks that were launched after his United National Party, which had governed for 17 years, was ousted in parliamentary elections in August. He told a news conference

The blast killed him and at least three top leaders of his party and sprayed lethal metal pellets into the crowd.

Among the dead was the General Secretary of Dissanayake's United National Party

COLOMBO, Oct 24: Tamil Tiger rebels today denied any involvement in the murder of Dissanayake by a suicide bomber on Sunday, reports Reuter.

several weeks ago that he was on the Tigers' hit list.

Police suspected that a woman bomber detonated a bomb packed with tiny pellets at an election rally as Dissanayake finished a speech and was climbing off the podium.

Khaleda, Hasina shocked

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, condemned the assassination of Gamini Dissanayake. Leader of the Opposition in Sri Lankan Parliament, in a suicide bomb attack Sunday night, reports UNB.

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(UNP); Dr. Gamini Wijesekara and a former minister Weerasinghe Mallimachchi, as well as another key party figure GM Premachandra.

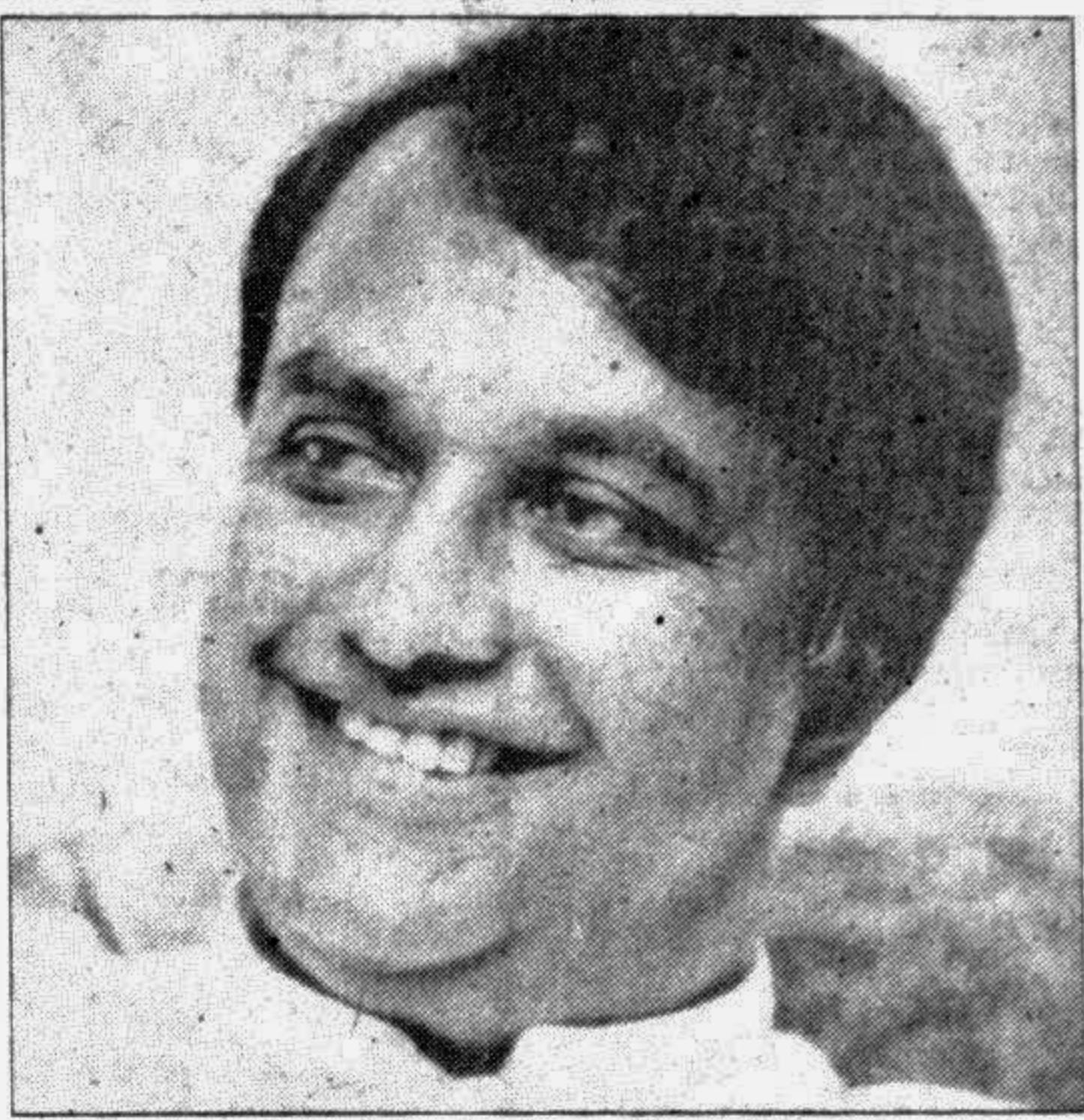
All four men were Opposition members in the Sri Lankan parliament.

Investigators found the severed head of a woman on the roof of a building about 30 meters from the stage.

The head could be the head of the killer. We aren't certain yet, but there are many similarities with previous suicide bombings, said Yogani Mahesan, head of the government's forensic department.

In 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was

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Sri Lanka's opposition leader and presidential candidate Gamini Dissanayake who was killed in a bomb blast while holding a public rally yesterday.

— AFP file photo

Abahani's double delight

Sports Reporter

Winners take it all. Abahani Kriya Chakra celebrated their ninth Senior Division league crown in style when they held off arch-rivals Mohammedans' go at their unbeaten status successfully in the traditional

Match report on page 10.

clash of the Titans of local football at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

The concluding tie of this year's Star Premier league between the new and former champions ended in a one-all draw, pushing Mohammedans to the third place behind star-studded Mukti Joddha Sangsads Kriya Chakra who, for all their pre-season drama in roping almost all the national footballers lured away from other big clubs, managed only the runnings.

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Cabinet approves Suppression of Terrorism Ordn '94

The Cabinet yesterday approved the Suppression of Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance 1994 to make provision for trial of the pending cases under the Anti-Terrorism Act after its expiry.

According to meeting sources, those members of the Standing Committee representing the government in the parliamentary Opposition apprised Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia of the tone and tenor of the talks held so far.

"No agitation ever failed in this country. And in future none of our agitations will fail. Even if the dialogue fails, our agitation will surely be successful and the government will have to meet our demand," she said.

Talking to a group of journalists on board her launch while she was returning to Dhaka after a three-day tour of the southern districts, Hasina said, "I am 100 per cent hopeful that the dialogue will be successful if the government

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Agitation if dialogue fails, says Hasina

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has said, the demand for a caretaker government to hold national polls will be realised through agitation if the dialogue fails, reports UNB.

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Khulna clash Another student succumbs to injuries

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 24: Abu Saeed Khan, 22, a third-year student of MM City College, who was injured during yesterday's gunbattle between two rival groups, died mid-night last night.

He was being brought to Dhaka for treatment.

Saeed is the second victim of the gunfight. Abu Kashem Pathan was the other student shot dead in yesterday's clash.

Rivals pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatri Shibir and pro-BNP JCD brought out processions in the city today, held meetings and called a half-day hartal tomorrow protesting the killing.

Earlier namaz-e-janaza of Pathan was held twice this morning and he was buried at his village home at Kharababad under Botiagata Police Station under the city yesterday.

"We will have to approach India for giving us easy access to its market," he said, adding India will have to give the access, today or tomorrow, since it is one of the signatories to GATT.

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Tributes paid to S M Ali

By Staff Correspondent

Classmates, colleagues, friends and admirers at a memorial meeting in the city yesterday described S M Ali as a titan among Bangladeshi journalists.

Journalists and staff of The Daily Star organised the meeting at the Jatiya Press Club on the occasion of the first anniversary of the death of Ali, founder editor of the newspaper.

Ali's widow, Nancy Ali, attended the function as chief guest while The Daily Star editor, Mahfuz Anam presided over the meeting.

The crammed VIP lounge of the Press Club heard speakers recalling personal anecdotes involving the great columnist-editor and paying eloquent tributes to him for his remarkable qualities of head and heart and as a journalist.

They also lauded the late journalist's independent views and analytical interpretation of many important issues in South and Far East Asia.

Professor Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, a classmate of S M Ali

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BNP standing body reviews situation

By Staff Correspondent

An emergency meeting of the ruling BNP's Standing Committee yesterday discussed the latest political situation in the country.

According to meeting sources, those members of the Standing Committee representing the government in the parliamentary Opposition apprised Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia of the tone and tenor of the talks held so far.

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Bangladesh can have a huge market in India'

By Staff Correspondent

The newly elected President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Salman F Rahman has said the local exporters should consider India as a huge market for Bangladeshi products.

If countries like Mexico and Canada, under NAFTA, can get a huge market in the US despite their weaker economic base, why cannot Bangladesh have a big market in India, he asked.

Salman was addressing a press conference after taking over the responsibilities from outgoing President Mahbubur Rahman at the annual general meeting of the FBCCI held at the Federation Bhaban in the city yesterday.

"We will have to approach India for giving us easy access to its market," he said, adding India will have to give the access, today or tomorrow, since it is one of the signatories to GATT.

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Student found murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Another student was found

murdered near his home in

the city's Bangsal area last night.

Shuman, 18, son of a busi-

nessman Din Mohammad

was found dead with black scars on

his throat and some bruises on

the body near his home at 52

Haji Abdur Rashid Lane

Bangsal, around 9 last night.

Shuman appeared in the

HSC examinations from the Dr

Maleka Science College this year.

He was rushed to the

Mitford Hospital by some local

people where the doctors con-

firmed his death.

He is believed to be

strangled to death by some

local bullies because of enmity.

The body was sent to the

Mitford Hospital morgue for

autopsy. No arrest was made

until midnight last night.

Isha murder: Amjad sent to jail

By Staff Correspondent

Amjad Hossain alias Amjad

Chowdhury, one of the five ac-

complices in the city's school boy

murder case told a Magistrate

yesterday that he did not know

his four other friends would

murder Ishaq Ahmed Isha

Amjad was produced in the