

Withdraw hartal call, BGMEA urges BNP

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has appealed to the main opposition political party, BNP, to keep the garments sector out of the purview of hartal and all other agitation programmes.
Addressing a press conference yesterday BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Qudus urged BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to withdraw her party's half-day hartal programme tomorrow or at least keep the garments sector out of its purview for the greater interest of the country and saving more than 25 hundred garment jobs.
See Page 12 Col 6

Garments sector will be exempted from hartal in future: BNP

By Staff Correspondent
BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday assured the leaders of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) that the garments sector will be kept out of the purview of hartal in future, said a BGMEA press release.
The assurance was given when a BGMEA delegation led by its President Mostafa Golam Qudus called on the BNP Secretary General and requested him to keep the garments sector out of the purview of Sunday's hartal, called by the BNP, the press release said.
Mannan Bhuiyan also told the BGMEA leaders that BNP will participate with the government in any seminar to find a solution to such an issue, the press release added.

Energy seminars: 3 dropped from delegation

By Sharier Khan
A last-minute restructuring of the high-level delegation for holding two international seminars in London and Houston on the prospects of hydrocarbon in Bangladesh has left out some key figures, according to well-placed sources.
The Energy Minister, State Minister for Planning and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, who were originally in the 10-member delegation, have been asked to stay back, the sources said.
Instead of the Energy Minister, the Energy Secretary will now lead the delegation.
Another important person
See Page 12 Col 3

Inside Today

Article
Bangladesh:
Affirmative and
Negative
Perspectives
Column: Beneath the
Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

International

France isolated in crisis
over Zaire
1st UN food shipment
arrives in Iraq
Page 5

Business

Week of price erosion
for capital market:
Investors panic as
forged share certificates
detected
Page 8

Star Literature

Salman Rushdie:
Handcuffed to history;
Commonwealth
Writers Prize '97; and
The first Anniversary
of Liberation War
Museum
Pages 6, 7

Supplement

One page supplement
on 'World Day for
Water '97'
Page 9

AL council deferred again to May 7-8

The national council of the ruling Awami League was deferred again for the third time yesterday.
According to the changed schedule, the already belated council would now be held on May 7 and 8, instead of March 28-29.
The decision was taken at a meeting of the 65-member AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC), held at the Ganabhaban yesterday afternoon with party President Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
The meeting also formed a 101-member National Council Preparatory Committee with Sheikh Hasina as its Chair-

man. Besides, 11 sub-committees were constituted.
The national council was deferred again as councils of some district units including four in Barisal Division could not be held till now. These include the party unit in Gopalganj, home district of Sheikh Hasina, and that in Kishoreganj, home district of party general secretary Zillur Rahman.
Out of 45 districts units, councils of which were held, full committees could not be formed in many units.
An AL press release issued late last night said Sheikh Hasina would open the national council at 3 pm on May 7 at the

Outer Stadium in the city.
The ALCWC meeting resolved that the previous BNP government had signed accord to provide India with transit facilities and "now, it called hartal on March 23 keeping lakhs of examinees hostage and coinciding with visits of the heads of state and government of three foreign countries."
The meeting observed that BNP was pushing the country into a state of corruption and terrorism again by obstructing foreign investments. "It is proved by their (BNP) activities that once they are out of power, they don't want to let the people
See Page 12 Col 4

Police hunt continues Four BNP leaders in Dhaka, N'ganj held

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Mar 21: Three BNP leaders were arrested from different parts of the town late Thursday night.
The arrested leaders are: Nazir Prodhan, General Secretary of Narayanganj town unit of BNP; Anisul Islam Sunny, Joint Secretary of district unit of the party and Nurul Islam, General Secretary of Fatullah thana unit, police sources said.
Nazir Prodhan was arrested from the launch ghat area when he was returning to his residence at Deobhog at about 12:15 am. Police said he was drunk at the time.
Plainclothes police held Anisul Islam from Rail Gate No

2 area in the town at about 12:30 am while he was returning to his house at Ukilpara. Police said that he was wanted in a murder case.
Besides, Fatullah police arrested Nurul Islam from his residence at Dharmaganj at about 1 am. He was arrested for his involvement in anti-people activities, police said.
Meanwhile, BNP activists at Fatullah brought out a procession in the afternoon demanding immediate release of the arrested leaders.
UNB adds: Police yesterday arrested a leader of Mirpur thana unit of opposition BNP
See Page 12 Col 4

Emergency meet of BNP today

An emergency meeting of BNP's different committee will be held at 3 pm today at party's central office, reports UNB.
Members of the Standing Committee, Advisory Committee, executive committee's Vice Chairman, joint secretary general, office-bearers and general secretaries/convenors of front organisations and Dhaka City BNP's convenor and joint convenors have been requested to attend the meeting.
See Page 12 Col 1

Autrickshaw strike today

By Staff Correspondent
The Autrickshaw Drivers' Association has called a strike in the city today protesting the killing of an autrickshaw driver last month, said association leaders.

BNP leaders being arrested to foil hartal: Khaleda

From Ranesh Maitra
PABNA, Mar 21: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia today termed the water treaty with India a bluff and said the flow of water has decreased after signing of the agreement.
She was addressing a mammoth public meeting at Pabna Town Hall Maidan today.
Presided over by Rafiqul Islam Bakul, MP, convenor, Pabna district BNP, the meeting was also addressed by among others, BNP central leaders Fazlur Rahman Patal, Kabir Hosain, Amanullah Aman, Jaimul Abedin Faruk, Mizanur Rah-

man Minu, Alamgir Karim.
Begum Zia in her 30-minute speech mentioned "failures" of the Awami League government — power loadshedding, shortage of water supply and leakage of SSC question papers. She said all these failures have not only made life of the people miserable but also led to "serious crisis" in the industrial sector, hampering production. She alleged that all these crisis were being artificially created to turn Bangladesh into a market of India.
"We will resist every attempt to do so," she asserted.
The former prime minister

refuted the government's allegation that her BNP government did not produce a single kilowatt of electricity. She said the BNP government had produced 2150 megawatt of electricity in March 1996 but in March this year, power generation has been reduced to 1600 megawatt.
"Why, in one year, power generation has been reduced by 500 megawatt," she posed the question. This is only because of the mismanagement and inefficiency of the present government.
The Leader of the Opposition alleged that the government
See Page 12 Col 1



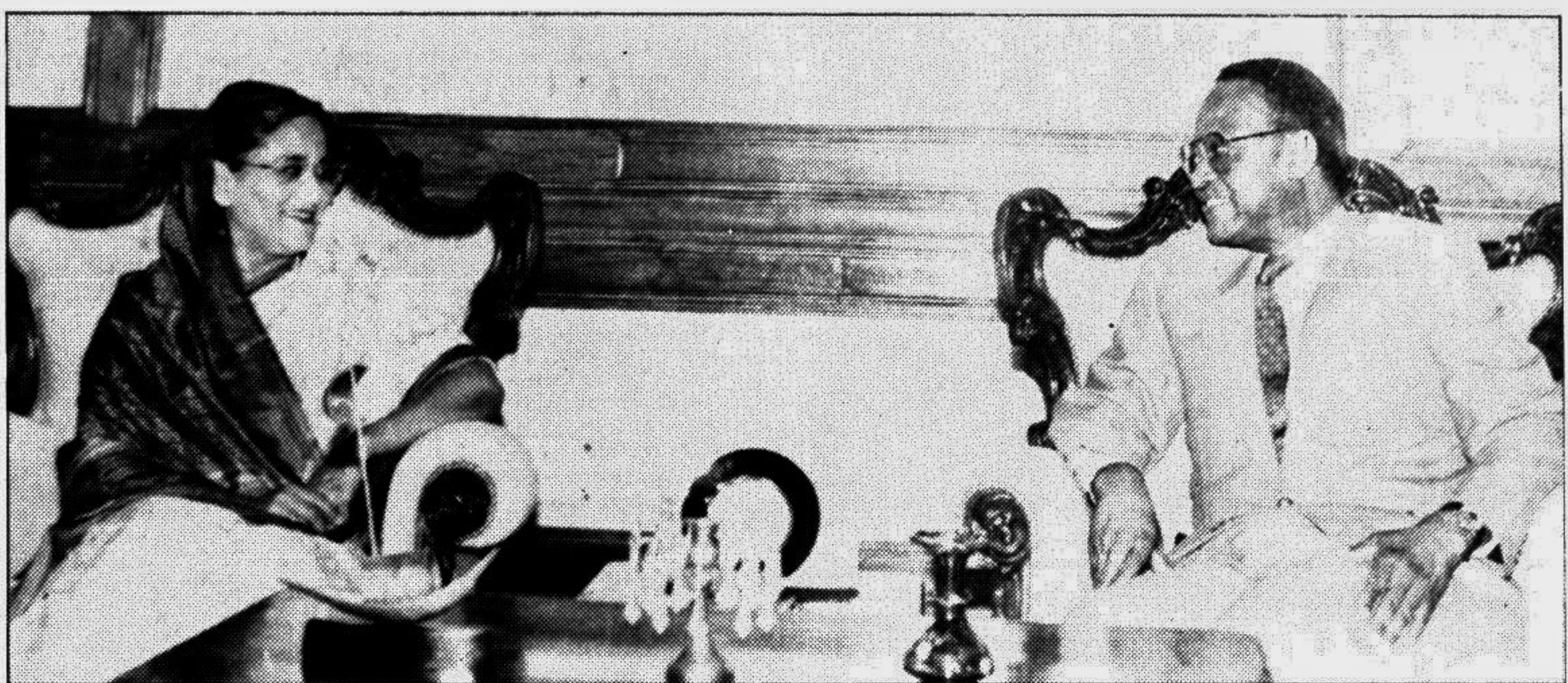
US President Bill Clinton (L) shakes hands with his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin before their bilateral meeting at the Finnish Presidential Residence yesterday in Helsinki. Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin will face tough talks over the issue on how to accommodate a once-mighty and still proud Russia within a new Europe.
— AFP/UNB photo

US, Russia reach 5 accords at Helsinki Summit

HELSINKI, Mar 21: The United States and Russia today adopted five joint statements on European security, arms control and economic issues, Russian presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said, reports AFP.
He announced the agreements between presidents Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin as the two ended an afternoon round of talks at the two-day Helsinki Summit.
The first agreement is on European security, the second on the "parameters of a future reduction of nuclear arms," the third on anti-ballistic missiles, the fourth on chemical arms, and the fifth on American "economic initiatives" to help Rus-

sia, Yastrzhembsky said.
"The Declaration on European Security will contain a passage on NATO," the spokesman said without providing any further details.
Before the talks began today, Yeltsin had said, "I'm not convinced" that NATO is not a threat to Russia. His spokesman said at the close of the talks that one of the statements contained a reference to Russia's opposition to NATO.
Political observers have noted that Russia is aware that it cannot block the Western alliance's plan to co-opt former members of the Warsaw Pact.
Clinton said little as the two presidents got down to business, but prodded Yeltsin into a

handshake. "Boris, we should shake hands," he urged, according to AP.
The two dutifully shook and then cameras were ushered from the sunlit room, surrounded by windows overlooking the Gulf of Finland.
The 66-year-old Russian leader looked thin and old, as he stepped from a Russian airliner yesterday. He underwent quintuple bypass surgery last November and was hospitalized with pneumonia in January.
Clinton, who shifted the summit from the United States to Finland to accommodate Yeltsin, was lifted from Air Force One in a catering van, his wrenched knee and subsequent surgery hobbling him.



Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyaoku called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban yesterday.
—PID photo

Dhaka's contribution sought Efforts on to set up £200m S Asia Fund: Anyaoku

The visiting Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyaoku yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaban, reports BSS.
Anyaoku briefed the Prime Minister about the activities of the Commonwealth, particularly the coming meeting of Commonwealth heads of government and state in Edinburgh this year.
He said the meeting will mainly focus on economic issues, trade and investment and sustainable development.
Anyaoku told the Prime Minister that efforts are on to establish South Asia Fund worth 200 million pound sterling and hoped that Bangladesh would also make contributions

to the fund.
The Commonwealth Secretary General congratulated Sheikh Hasina for taking various steps for resolving different issues including Ganges Water Sharing Treaty with India.
He said Commonwealth attaches great importance to democracy.
The Prime Minister said her government was trying its best to improve the relations with its neighbours and other countries in the region.
She said her government's foreign policy is based on economic diplomacy. Cooperation between the countries of the region will help achieve greater economic development, she added.
Referring to the proposed

South Asia Fund, Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh was willing to participate in it.
Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Dr Masur Rahman were present on the occasion.
The Commonwealth Secretary General also called on Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena at his office in the city.
They discussed different aspects of a scheduled four-day workshop of chief election commissioners of seven Commonwealth countries of the Indian Ocean Rim.
The workshop is due to start in Dhaka on April 7.

Hasina leaves for Pakistan today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves here for Islamabad this morning to attend a summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), reports UNB.
The extraordinary OIC summit is being hosted by Pakistan in its capital on Sunday in celebration of the golden jubilee of its independence.
Pakistan was born as a separate homeland for the Muslims
See Page 12 Col 2

2 policemen shot in clash with terrorists in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Mar 21: Two policemen including a sub-inspector sustained bullet wounds during a gunfight with a group of armed terrorists near MES college last night.
Sub-inspector Mizan was hit by the bullet in his loin while another constable in his hand, hospital sources said.
Police said the gunfight ensued at 10 pm last night after a police team chased a group of terrorists from the MEC crossing. At one stage, the terrorists took shelter behind a hill near the MES college from where they fired on the police.

EUCSU polls today

The elections of the Engineering University Central Students' Union (EUCSU) and nine hall unions of the university will be held today from 8 am to 1 pm, reports BSS.
A total of 49 candidates from several panels are contesting the EUCSU election for seven posts.
Bangladesh Chhatra League
See Page 12 col 5

SSC question papers recovered

Police yesterday arrested five people, including an examinee, and recovered two sets of question papers, reports UNB.
Criminal Investigation Department (CID) picked up one Selim from Zia Colony area in Dhaka Cantonment. Selim was carrying two photocopies of "Ka" and "Kha" sets of question papers of mathematics.
Later, acting on his statement, CID investigators picked up Khalilur Rahman Babu, an examinee from Gulshan Model School, along with the same sets of question papers, from Mahakhali wireless gate area.
Babu mentioned names of several others who might be involved in leaking SSC question papers. CID police then arrested three more people, but could not trace the person who had sold the hand-written copies of the

Five arrested

question papers.
CID investigators also arrested Azizul, an employee of a photocopy shop 'Taj Enterprises' from Mahakhali Columbia Super Market for his alleged involvement in copying leaked questionnaires.
Babu told police that his brother Zia and brother-in-law Farhad took the leaked question papers to Ghorashal for Farhad's daughter. Farhad is a driver of Ghorashal Thermal Power House.
The CID police picked up Zia and Farhad from Ghorashal along with copies of the "Kha" set question paper of mathematics and brought them to Dhaka for interrogation.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: SSC examination of mathematics under the five education boards will be held today as scheduled, according to sources in the Ministry of Education.
The examination is going to be held amidst widespread rumours of leakage of question paper.
A high official of the Education Ministry, talking to this correspondent, said, "Those who pay heed to rumours will be in trouble tomorrow (Saturday)." He, however, declined to elaborate.
Meanwhile, the Ministry of Education had recommended to the Ministry of Establishment stern action against a magistrate at Chokoria thana under Cox's Bazar district and an AS-
See Page 12 Col 8

37 killed on DU campus since independence

By Aminul Islam Sajal
At least 37 people were killed on the Dhaka University campus since independence, 19 of them in the last seven years, according to sources concerned.
The victims included students, outsiders and street urchins. Most of the killings were the results of infighting in student organisations.
Since the gruesome killing of seven students at Mohsin Hall in April, 1974, the highest number of students — seven — were killed on the campus in 1991, followed by five in 1992.
Arif Hossain Taj, a third year student of Bangla department, was the last victim. He was gunned down allegedly by activists of rival JCD faction on March 13.
In 1996, none was killed on the campus. In 1995, Joydip Dutta Chowdhury Bappi, a student of Journalism and a BCL leader, was shot dead at Jagannath Hall.
In 1994, three students — Kamrul Islam Bulbul, Sarwar Hossain Mithu and Gazi Zakir Hossain — were killed.
Bulbul died when a tear gas shell hit him in his neck in front of the Central Library in September. Police lobbed the shell during a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and JSD-backed Chhatra League on the campus.
Zakir was shot dead by some unidentified armed hoodlums at Jagannath Hall in November.
Two students including a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader, Zinnatul Islam Zinnah, was killed alleged in a clash between two factions of JCD.
In September 1992, two activists of JCD — Asraful Azam Mamun and Mahmud Hossain — were killed reportedly by fellow activists. Mamun was killed at Surya Sen Hall on September 4. Police recovered his body from a water reservoir behind the hall.
On January 9 the same year, organising secretary of BCL Muniruzzaman Badal was shot dead near Jagannath Hall. At that time, AL chief Sheikh
See Page 12 Col 4

Israel seals West Bank, Gaza 4 killed, 34 hurt in Tel Aviv suicide bombing

TEL AVIV, Mar 21: An explosion ripped through a downtown cafe with merry-makers dressed in holiday costumes, killing at least four people and wounding 34, according to paramedics. Police said the blast was set off by a suicide bomber, reports AP.
Israel's police chief said the Muslim militant group Hamas has claimed responsibility.
A waiter at the Apropro Coffee House on Ben Gurion Boulevard said he saw a man walking into the patio of the cafe just before the explosion, carrying two bags and moving between tables.
"He looked strange," the

waiter, Gad Ben-Tzur, told the Associated Press. "I was trying to pick up an order. A second later, there was a tremendous flash and he blew up."
The witness said that about 20 or 30 people were near the man when the explosion took place. A reporter looking down at the scene of the explosion from above said that the blast damage blossomed out in a circle with chairs, table and umbrellas scattered in a jumble.
Mayhem erupted when the explosion went off at 1:45 pm (1:45 GMT). A 6-month-old baby, wearing a red-and-blue clown's costume for the Jewish
See Page 12 Col 4

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক প্রকল্প পরামর্শ সেল গঠন


☐ দেশের এবং প্রবাসী বাংলাদেশীদের অনেকেই দেশে শিল্পে বিনিয়োগ করতে আগ্রহী। কিন্তু এ ব্যাপারে তারা যথাযথ পরামর্শ পান না।

☐ তাদের জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক একটি পরামর্শ সেল গঠন করা হয়েছে।

☐ পূর্ণ কার্যদিবসে সকাল ৯টা থেকে বিকাল ৪টা এবং বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ৯টা থেকে দুপুর ১২টা পর্যন্ত এই পরামর্শ সেল খোলা থাকবে।

☐ এই সেল শিল্পে পরামর্শ দেয়া ছাড়াও বড় বড় শিল্প প্রকল্পে একাধিক ব্যাংক সমন্বয়ে সিন্ডিকেশনের মাধ্যমে অর্থায়নের ব্যবস্থা করবে।

☐ দেশের সার্বিক অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নই আমাদের লক্ষ্য।



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অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নের দিশারী

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