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## SKOP's 24-hour countrywide strike today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP), an alliance of country's trade union organisations, will enforce a 24-hour countrywide strike today to press its 8-point demand.  
SKOP decided to go ahead with the strike programme, the first since the Awami League assumed power, as all negotiations between the trade union leaders and the government failed last night.  
Shah Alam, General Secretary of the Jatiya Sramik Federation, a component of the SKOP, told The Daily Star late last night that the talks with the government failed as it refused to make any commitment on the demand for stoppage of disinvestment of public sector enterprises.  
"So, we have decided to go on with our strike programme today," he said.  
See Page 12 Col 3

## Face the People

**BTU assures BNP of conducting programme like that of PM's**  
**By Staff Correspondent**  
Bangladesh Television (BTU) has assured the opposition BNP of presenting the Deshbashir Mukhomukhi (Face the People) programme for Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad in the same manner it was done for the Prime Minister.  
Director General (DG) of BTU Syed Salahuddin Zaki conveyed the assurance in a letter to the private secretary to BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday.  
The BTU letter categorically said the authorities are willing to present the programme for the BNP chief maintaining the same "standard, purpose, method, structure, time-frame and context" as was done in the case of the PM.  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Cargo vessel sinks in Meghna

**From Staff Correspondent**  
BARISAL, July 29: A cargo vessel sank in the Meghna river near the Hizla thana headquarters at about 11-15 this morning.  
According to police, the vessel loaded with 100 barrels of diesel oil, 1060 maunds of rice and 100 bags of iodized salt worth over Tk 5 lakh sank due to strong current in the river.  
Seven crews swam to safety after the incident, local people said.  
A general diary was filed.

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# EU ban on shrimps from Bangladesh

**From Quazi Amanullah**  
firming the news, said that the EU has banned entry of Bangladeshi shrimps on the basis of a report submitted by the high-powered team which recently visited some shrimp processing plants in Khulna and Chittagong.  
The report suggested total ban on the entry of Bangladeshi shrimps into European countries.  
They said report also suggested bacterial test of the shrimps which will reach the importing countries within August 15. After August 15 no consignment will be received as per unanimous decision by the EU countries.  
The reason for such drastic action against Bangladeshi shrimps is yet to be known. A spokesman of Khulna unit of Frozen Food Exporters' Association has termed this action by the EU countries as an "international conspiracy".  
UNB adds: The EU informed the local exporters of the decision on the ban through faxed messages on Monday.  
Lockpur Fish Processing Ltd, which got gold award last year for the highest export of shrimp, is among those who received the EU letter in this regard.  
Its Managing Director SM Amzad Hossain said that export of shrimp to the EU countries stopped from today as a consignment from Mongla Port takes 15-20 days to reach an EU coast.

## Report on alleged misbehavior misleading, says Beximco

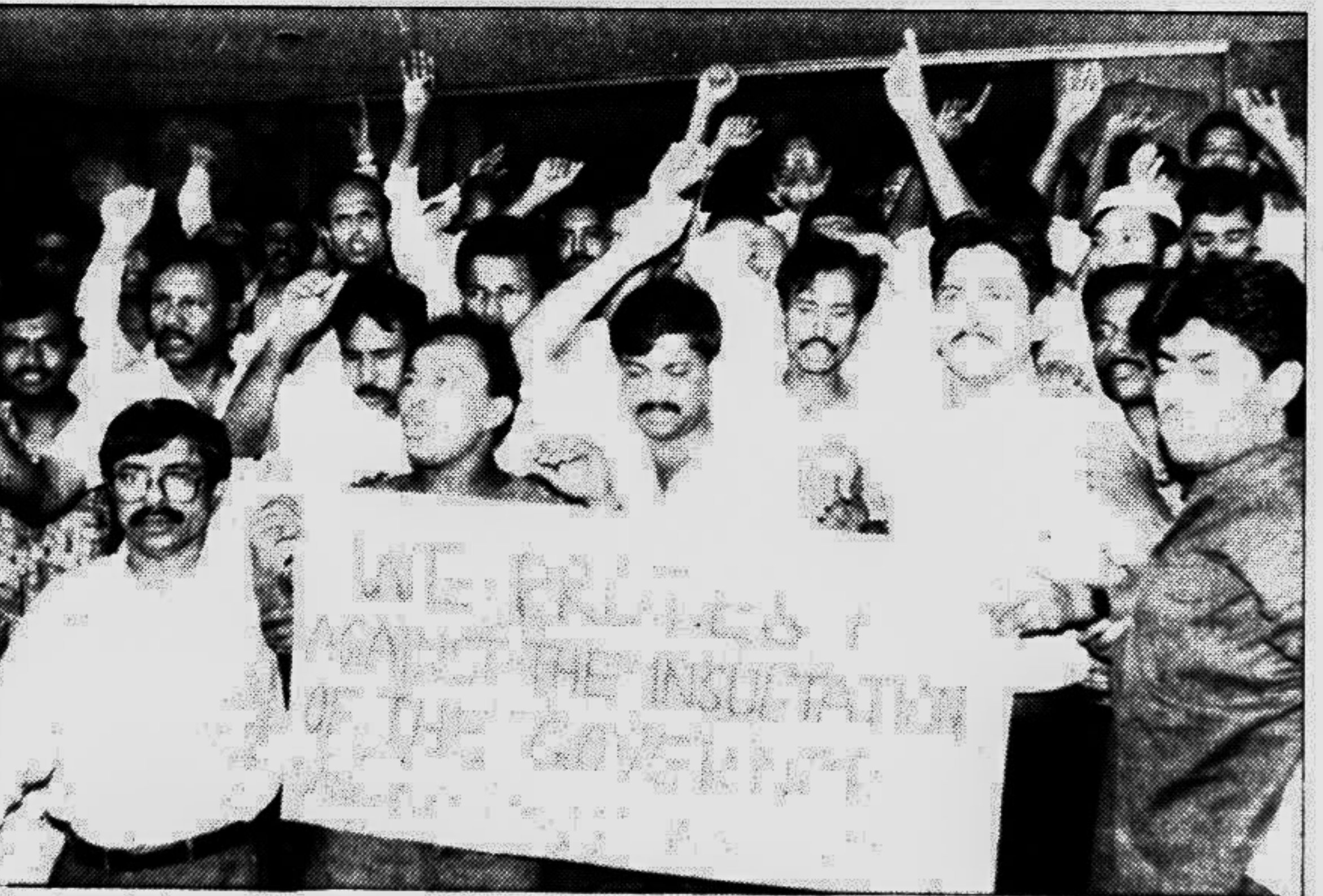
**By Staff Correspondent**  
The Beximco Group in a statement Monday expressed regret at the publication by some newspapers of "misleading news item regarding a meeting with the Governor, and some other officials of Bangladesh Bank with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman" of the Group.  
The statement signed by S M Kamal, Director of Beximco Group, said, "We have proper regard for all government institutions particularly Bangladesh Bank" and stated that the report regarding "inappropriate behaviour is totally due to misunderstanding."  
The statement further said, "The objective of the meeting was to convey to Bangladesh Bank our concern regarding discrimination to Beximco in certain cases and the serious..."  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Tk 29cr loan defaulted by N'ganj-based co

**By Inam Ahmed**  
The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has unearthed a huge amount of defaulted bank loan under different names taken by a Narayanganj-based business house, Fazlur Rahman and Company.  
The owner of the company, Fazlur Rahman, who was a director of Sonali Bank and is now doing various types of business including yarn and textiles, had taken Tk 96.56 crore from Sonali Bank under different names, the investigation revealed, according to sources.  
Of this amount, Tk 29.28 crore has become defaulted loans.  
The BB has ordered for immediate recovery of the defaulted loans and for further inquiry to find out if the loans were approved by Sonali Bank's board.  
The central bank has also ordered that if there had been no approval of the board, the officials concerned should be taken to task.  
The investigation has proved that Rahman had used his influence as a director of the bank and allegedly siphoned off the money, the sources said.  
In addition, the same company has Tk 15.14 crore in outstanding loans with Agrani, Janata and IFIC banks till March 1997.  
The investigators have expressed their surprise as to how this group has managed to take such a huge amount of money from Sonali Bank which is supposed to have an "efficient management system".  
The BB has ordered realisation of overdue loans of the company by selling off the inventory in the warehouse, which has already been damaged.  
See Page 12 Col 8

## JCD strike called off: Accord with DU authorities

**By DU Correspondent**  
The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called off its strike at Dhaka University following an agreement with the university authorities yesterday.  
The eight-point agreement came at a joint meeting of the JCD, Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) with the university authorities.  
The agreement was later approved at a meeting of the DU Syndicate held last night with the Vice Chancellor, Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair, official sources said.  
The JCD called the strike for an indefinite period on July 27 demanding the eviction of BCL activists from the Surya Sen Hall.  
The BCL captured the hall last Thursday taking 'advantage of an internal conflict' of the JCD.  
As per the agreement the Surya Sen Hall will be evacuated.  
See Page 12 Col 2



The Bangladesh Bank Karmachary Samity demonstrated on the premises of the bank yesterday protesting the alleged misbehaviour by the owners of Beximco Group with the Governor of the bank. — Star photo

# Protest against alleged threat to BB Governor continues

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Bangladesh Bank in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet also held demonstrations yesterday demanding actions against the owners of the Beximco Group for allegedly threatening the Governor of Bangladesh Bank.  
In Dhaka, a meeting, presided by Abul Kalam, President of the Bangladesh Bank Employees Association, demanded immediate cancellation of trade licences of all Beximco Group concerns as a punitive measure for their misbehaviour with the Governor.  
The Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya staged a demonstration in the city yesterday demanding trial and punishment of all bank loan defaulters including the Beximco Group owners.  
They held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club after the demonstration. It was addressed, among others, by Karim Shikder and Dipankar Saha.  
Employees and officials of Bangladesh Bank in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet also held demonstrations yesterday demanding actions against the owners of the Beximco Group for allegedly threatening the Governor of Bangladesh Bank.  
In Dhaka, a meeting, presided by Abul Kalam, President of the Bangladesh Bank Employees Association, demanded immediate cancellation of trade licences of all Beximco Group concerns as a punitive measure for their misbehaviour with the Governor.  
Speakers at the meeting opined that such 'audacious behaviour' by the Beximco owners undermined the BB's authority as a central bank and its drive against defaulters to restore discipline in the banking sector.  
Among others, the meeting was addressed by Abul Kalam and Abdul Hadi. They also urged the government to draw immediate proceedings against the two. The demonstrations disrupted the work at the central bank for sometime.  
In Sylhet, the employees and officers of the BB held a meeting to register their protest against the incident.  
According to a press release of the Officers Welfare Council, BB, Sylhet, the employees and officers held a demonstration before the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Mohammad Ismail, president of the Officers' Welfare Council. Speakers at the rally described Salman F Rahman and Sohail F Rahman's behaviour as unprecedented and termed it as the most heinous incident. Expressing their strong protest and resentment, they demanded of the government to take action against them.  
Conducted by Ashraf Hossain, Secretary of the Officers' Welfare Council, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Ashutosh Dhar Choudhury.  
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## Mobilise public opinion abroad against govt misrule: Khaleda

**By Staff Correspondent**  
BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the expatriate Bangladesh nationals to mobilise public opinion abroad against the present government's "misrule and activities opposed to democracy and national independence and sovereignty."  
Addressing the members of her party's Switzerland chapter, who called on the Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad at her Minto Road official residence yesterday evening, Begum Zia observed that the country was now in the grip of devastating crisis.  
There is no move on the part of the government to salvage the country from this crisis or to improve the people's...  
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## 6-hr hartal at Komolganj today

**From Staff Correspondent**  
SYLHET, July 29: The Komolganj Gano Oikya Parishad brought out a procession near the Magurchhara gasfield today to demand support for its six-hour hartal in Komolganj tomorrow.  
The strike has been called protesting against the activities of 'Occidental' and demanding immediate restoration of road and rail communications in the area.  
The procession was intercepted by the police near the Fulbari Tea Garden area. Later, the members of the parishad handed over a memorandum to the Thana Nirbahi Officer.  
Meanwhile, the Sylhet Bibhag Unnayan Parishad, Dhaka, held a rally at Srimangal Choumuhana Chhatra demanding compensation for the people affected by the gasfire at Magurchhara.

# Bangabandhu Murder Case

## Army guards had no ammunition to resist attackers, says PW-4

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The Army guards at the residence of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975 carried weapons with them but did not have ammunition to resist the attackers, the fourth prosecution witness said during cross-examination in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, yesterday.  
Mohammad Quddus Sikder, 58, who was the Guard Commander at Bangabandhu's house on the fateful night of August 15 also said that the body of Bangabandhu was put inside a coffin under supervision of Maj (ret'd) Bazil Huda before it was taken away.  
The bodies of other members of Bangabandhu's family were also put in separate coffins under Huda's supervision, Quddus, now a retired Havildar said.  
BSS reported that during the cross-examination by the state defence counsels of the absconding accused persons, Quddus said, in the early hours of August 15, a group of army officers, in black and khaki uniforms stormed the house firing shots from Chinese rifles and sten guns. The intruders ordered the guards on duty to surrender and forced them to obey the orders at gun point.  
Quddus said, "Though we surrendered, we did not hand over our arms to the intruders."  
He said, "It was true that the responsibility of the guards was to ensure safety and security of the house of Bangabandhu. But we could not get time and chance," he added.  
Quddus also denied the suggestion that he did not challenge the intruders because he knew earlier that Bangabandhu would be killed and because he was a party to it.  
Quddus said, "It is not a fact that the guards on duty on the day of the brutal killings. When the defence counsel suggested that the Havildar who killed Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Bangabandhu, under the instruction of a Major, was none other than Havildar Quddus," Quddus said, "It is not a fact."  
The cross-examination was inconclusive for the day. The court was adjourned till July 30.  
See Page 12 Col 6

## Shima rape case

### CMM orders to send case file to Home Secy

**CHITTAGONG, July 29:** The CMM Court here today ordered the case file of the accusations against three police officers of "concealing cognizance" of Shima Chowdhury rape case be sent to the Home Secretary for permission to start proceedings against them, reports UNB.  
Chief Metropolitan Magistrate ATM Kamaluddin issued the order after hearing the criminal case filed on Sunday by Supreme Court lawyer Elna Khan on behalf of Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of...  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Rohingya issue

### Tripartite talks end inconclusively

**From Abdul Monayem Khan**  
COX'S BAZAR, July 29: A meeting between government and UNHCR officials and leaders of anti-repatriation Rohingya refugees ended inconclusively this evening.  
Relief and Repatriation Commission (RRC), AQM Gannul Huda and head of UNHCR's Cox's Bazar sub-office Gyuen Van To met the Rohingya...  
See Page 12 Col 1

# N-reactor: Work on to pinpoint leakage

**By Reaz Ahmad and Govinda Shil, back from Savar**  
A probe and repair committee comprising nuclear scientists and experts will empty the faulty 'Decay Tank' of the nuclear reactor at Savar to pinpoint the leakage and start repair work within a day or two, officials said yesterday.  
Operation of the 3-MW nuclear reactor of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE) has remained suspended since July 17 as a leakage developed in its cooling system, technically called 'Decay Tank'.  
Meanwhile, experts are divided on the cause behind the leakage. Some say it may be because of a built-in problem while others say it can be due to lack of maintenance.  
Chairman of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) MA Quaiyum declined to say anything about the leakage. Upon repeated requests, he only said, "No further development to tell you". He only added that the committee would start working soon.  
It was learnt that the BAEC had drafted a press release stating the official version about the incident and the latest development. BAEC officials confirmed this but, said the release would be made available to the press today (Wednesday).  
Quaiyum, who, on Monday...  
See Page 12 Col 3

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Directorate of Architecture  
Purto Bhaban, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka  
**Re-notification of Architectural Design Competition for Construction of "Swadhinata Stambha" (Independence Column) at Suhrawardy Uddyan, Dhaka**

It is hereby notified for kind information of all concerned that as per govt. decision arrangement has been made to re-invite the architectural design competition, earlier invited by this Directorate, on "Swadhinata Stambha" to be constructed at Suhrawardy Uddyan, Dhaka, according to the following time-table.

**Revised time-table:**

A) Distribution of papers on invitation of competition	3 August '97 to 10 August '97 (up to 4-30 pm)
B) Date of submitting designs	21 September '97 (up to 3-30 pm)

**N.B.**

- Any architect/architectural consultant's firm in Bangladesh can participate in this competition. Besides, artists, sculptors, engineers, planners can also participate. But they have to submit their design jointly with an architect. Competitors should be nationals of Bangladesh.
- Proposals of those who have submitted designs for competition according to the notice published earlier will be treated as valid. However, the participants may submit new designs, if necessary.
- Individuals/firms who have collected the papers earlier can submit designs as per the time-table of this notice.
- Papers containing detailed information can be collected against non-refundable cash payment of Tk 200/= (two hundred) only from the officer concerned (A S M Ismail, Assistant Chief Architect, Phone: 9550811) of this Directorate.

**S A K Mas-ud Ahmad**  
Chief Architect  
Phone: 9569098

**Salman Shah death case**  
**Another arrested from Neela Chy's house**

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Criminal Investigation Department yesterday took into custody another young man in connection with the Salman Shah death case.  
Palash, 16, was arrested from the New DOHS residence of Neela Chowdhury, mother of the late filmstar Salman Shah yesterday.  
Sources said Palash might know important information about the death of Salman Shah. They said Palash went to the residence of Neela Chowdhury knowing that he would be arrested.  
Son of one Sukkur, Palash is a resident of Zinjira in the city. CID police yesterday visited the Cantonment thana and the residence of Neela Chowdhury.  
They interrogated Neela Chowdhury, Kama-uddin Chowdhury, father of Salman Shah and the security guard.  
UNB adds, Neela Chowdhury alleged that Palash by phone informed her that he has a lot of information on "killing" of Salman Shah.  
As she was confirmed that police would be at her house.

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