

# BLUE DART

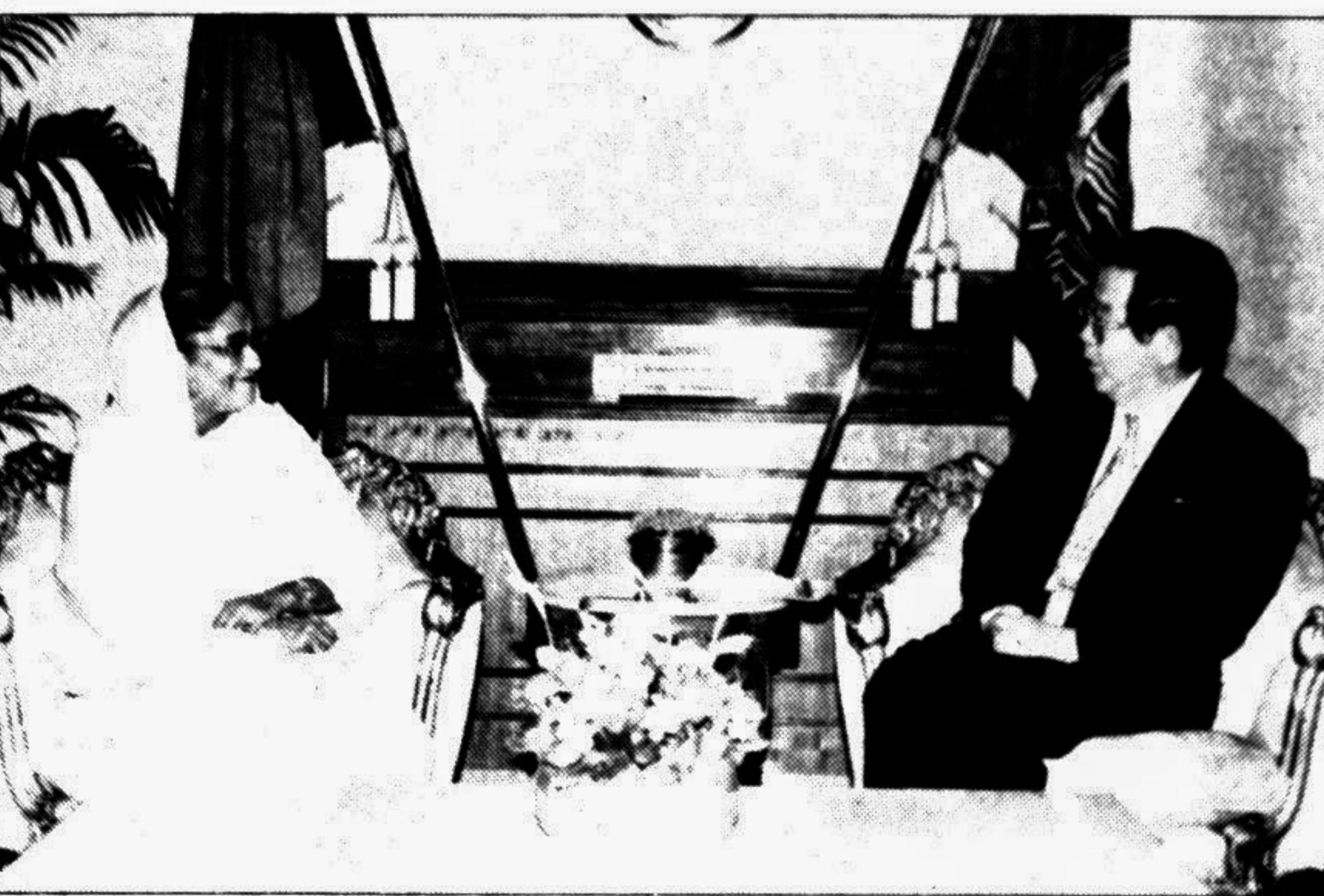
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ON BOARD COURIER  
EACH DAY EVERY DAY  
TO INDIA

ADB President Mitsuo Sato called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday.

— PID photo

## ADB chief calls on PM

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tant projects were underway.  
"And I myself am monitoring the implementation status of some of the very important ones," she said.

The main thrust had been laid on privatisation, poverty alleviation and people's participation in the process of development, she added.

Giving an overview of development endeavours of her government, the Prime Minister said construction of deep-sea port, setting up some agro-based industries and surface water management projects were under active consideration.

The ADB president, whose first visit took place 25 years ago when Bangabandhu was in office, appreciated the strong and dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in building and developing the country.

Mitsuo Sato said ADB had been supportive to Bangladesh for carrying forward the development process and it would continue to provide assistance to financially and commercially viable projects.

The ADB president appreciated Bangladesh's government recent steps for tariff adjustment.

### Police force

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comprising parts of Supur and Demra thanas; Pubali thana comprising parts of Sabujbagh and Demra thanas; Kamrangir Char thana, dividing Lalbagh thana in two parts; Gojmahal thana comprising parts of Dhamondi and Mohammadpur thanas; Baridhara thana and Kafrel thana dividing Gulshan thana and Cantonment thana respectively in two parts each.

The Home Ministry's proposal envisages creation of 432 posts in the proposed thanas, 267 posts in DMP detective branch, 64 posts in DMP court wing, 795 posts in DMP traffic wing, 1086 posts in DMP riot division and 861 posts for high way police outposts, 18 posts for Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), 30 posts in CMP traffic wing, 15 posts for Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP), 25 posts in KMP traffic wing, 37 and 37 posts each for the out posts to be set up at Rajshahi University and Khulna University.

**Dean elections**

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Public Administration (Social Science Faculty), Prof Mahtabuddin of Physics (Science Faculty), Prof Emmanuel Haq of Soil Science (Biological Science Faculty) and Prof Nurul Haq of Law (Law Faculty).

White Panel are — Prof Touhidul Anwar of Mass Communication and Journalism (Arts Faculty), Prof Asaduzzaman of the Department of Public Administration (Social Science Faculty), Prof Moinuddin Khan of the Department of Accounting (Business Studies Faculty), Prof Shafi Chowdhury of Physics (Science Faculty), Prof AKM Sirajul Islam of Bio-Chemistry (Biological Science Faculty) and Prof Idrishadul Bar of Law (Law Faculty).

White Panel will contest only in three faculties. The candidates are — Prof Aminul Islam of the Department of Philosophy (Arts Faculty), Prof AKM Monwaruddin Ahmed of Economics (Social Science Faculty) and Prof Abdul Kalam Azad of the Department of Marketing (Business Studies Faculty).

Prof Akmal Hossain on the Department of International Relations, is the only independent candidate contesting for the post of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Science.

Voting will be held from 9 am to 1 pm at the TSC.

ment in the petroleum sector. He also appreciated structural adjustments and reforms maintaining macroeconomic balance and stability.

Sato further assured that his bank would provide support under OCR (ordinary capital resource) to steps taken by Bangladesh for poverty alleviation.

The Asian Development Bank also strongly supports the sub-regional cooperation, of which Bangladesh is one of the pioneers, he told the Prime Minister.

**Autorickshaws back on streets**

By Staff Correspondent

The auto-rickshaws were back on the city streets yesterday after five days of strike protesting the increase in petroleum prices.

But the auto-rickshaw drivers charged their usual fares yesterday as there had been less number of passengers because of the Janmasti holiday.

**BSS adds: The Chittagong Auto-rickshaw and Tempo Drivers' Owners Oikya Parishad withdrew their indefinite strike last night at the request of Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury.**

**One killed in boiler explosion**

GAIBANDHA, Aug 25: A middle aged man was killed and two others were injured in a boiler explosion in a rice mill at Mohimaganj Bazar of Gobindaganj thana today, reports UNB.

Police said three people — Haider Ali, Motiur Rahman and Hatem Ali — suffered critical injuries when the boiler went off at about 7 am.

Of them, Haider Ali, 35, died on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital. A case was filed.

### Kibria

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revenue collection.

During the meeting, the NBR officials apprised the Finance minister about the legal bars and other problems in revenue collection.

NBR Chairman Shah Abdul Hannan explained the latest situation in revenue collection. Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan also spoke.

### Rally today

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proposal to call another hartal. One leader suggested that, it should be for 48 hours.

BNP is scheduled to hold its rally in front of its Purana Paltan office at 4 pm today, Jatiya Party (Z-M) in front of Jatiya Press Club at the same time and Jamaat at Dainik Bangla crossing after Asr prayers. The other parties are also due to hold rallies to announce the programmes.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, now on a visit to Pakistan, is being kept informed of the latest developments.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaiker Delwar Hossain, Khandaiker Mahbub Uddin, Afzal Siddiqui, Abdullah al Noman, Ahmed Nazir, Syed Nazibul Bashar Majibhandari, Amanullah Aman and Nazimuddin Alam of BNP, Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shamim al Mamun of JP, Oli Ahad and Saifuddin Moni of Democratic League, Rehana Prodhan and Anisur Rahman of Jagat and Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu of PNP.

### Bangladeshi, Kurdish migrants reach Italy by boat

CATANZARO, Aug 15: A boat carrying 467 migrants, mostly Kurdish and Bangladeshi, arrived on the tip of the Italian peninsula, security officials said Monday, reports AP.

Their ship grounded Sunday night just off the town of Badolato near Catanzaro in the Calabria region, and the migrants were taken to two schools in the area, said Salvatore Mottola, an official of the local prefect's office.

He said the boat may have come from a Greek or Cypriot port, but police were investigating.

The Kurdish migrants came from Iraq and Turkey, he said. About one-third of arrivals were women and children.

Illegal immigrants regularly reach Italy's long shorelines, and Parliament is expected to turn its attention to an immigration bill in the coming months.

But the issue has come to the fore in recent days because of several prominent crimes blamed on immigrants and with the approach of an Aug 31 return deadline for 10,000 Albanians who came amid unrest in their country earlier this year.

Premier Romano Prodi's government has said it plans to extend their stay, perhaps by another two months, drawing criticism by the opposition.

The issue also has created some tension with the Albanian government. Some of its officials have said publicly the repatriation should be delayed, creating the impression here that Albania is balking at accepting the migrants.

**Wajedul Islam dead**

Wajedul Islam, vice chairman of Islam Group and younger brother of late business tycoon Zahirul Islam, died in the city last night. He was 68, reports UNB.

Wajedul Islam, popularly known as Bachchu Saheb, left behind his wife, four daughters, a host of relatives and admirers.

Nazim Newaz Chowdhury, a director of the Islam Group, said Wajedul Islam died of old age ailment at Renal Centre at Dhamondi at 9:30 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

The BNP sought permission to take him on reward for 10 days after he was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday evening. The court allowed a three-day remand, officials said.

Motijheel police also sought a separate remand order for Kajim. They were granted one day to interrogate him on remand under the thana custody.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Motijheel thana arrested him from in front of Notre Dame College in the city at about 9 pm on Sunday.

**DUCSU demands release of BNP leaders, workers**

DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP and GS Khairul Kabir Khokan have demanded immediate release of all the arrested leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, they said people will wage a greater movement to oust the government if they were not released soon.

Meanwhile, JCD brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus, protesting the police action on their premises during Sunday's hartal.

Sources close to the CID investigators hinted that after the interrogation of the OC and other police officials, it would also be clear if the DMP Commissioner, AK Al Mamun, was behind the scene.

His name came up on many occasions while the CID investigators went on probing the confessional statement that Mamun had encouraged the OC to go for such acts in his alleged bid to destroy image of the Detective Branch.

The CID investigators, so far, also have interrogated some 30 people, mentioned in the controversial confessional statement of Rezvi. They included business tycoon Aziz Mohammad Bhai, actress Shabnoor, parents of Salman and his wife Samira.

### WB project

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proved. By February, 1997, the total number of sub-projects approved had increased to 43 which involved an amount equivalent to 19.2 million dollars.

## ADB chief assures continued support to private sector

Asian Development Bank President Mitsuo Sato yesterday said private sector development is increasingly important for Bangladesh and assured continued support to "viable" private projects, reports UNB.

"Today, assisting private sector development has become an explicit thematic priority in the pursuit of the Bank's principal development goals," he said in a meeting with leading businessmen at a city hotel.

"Support of private sector development in our member countries has become one of our main tasks," the visiting ADB chief told the meeting, arranged by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

He mentioned that the Bank, which began direct private sector financing in 1983, had so far approved four private sector projects in Bangladesh and three new projects are now in the process.

The projects are Lafarge Islam Cement, Meghnaghat Power Plant and Gramene Telephone projects, Sato said. "The Bank would like to support more viable private sector projects," he added.

The ADB chief mentioned the Capital Market Development Project which "could be very critical to broaden the scope for resource mobilisation by private sector and augment the limited resources currently provided through the banking system."

Sato pointed out the Bank is assisting regional and sub-re-

gional cooperation among the South Asian countries and lauded the signing of treaties by regional chambers for expansion of trade and investment.

Sato said the FBCCI can play a crucial role in bringing together the private sector and government as well as international development partners like the ADB.

ADBCC President Yusuf Abdullah Harun said Bangladesh has been making vigorous efforts to accelerate growth for alleviating poverty and pursuing a strategy of private sector-led growth in a liberalised market economy.

He mentioned that despite progress in many areas of the economy, the growth rate in the industrial sector has remained sluggish.

Harun hoped that ADB would play a significant role in removing the bottlenecks to stimulate private sector investment and identified four areas where the donor agency could extend cooperation and support.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Water Resources Minister Abdul Razzak, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Noon Uddin Khan, Dhaka City mayor Mohammad Hanif, Privatisation Board Chairman Kazi Zafarullah, leaders of different chambers, entrepreneurs and senior government officials were present in the meeting.

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