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BNP calls
day-long
hartal in
city today

By Staff Correspondent
BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has called dawn-to-dusk hartal in the capital today and across the country on Thursday, protesting police action on the party activists and ban on street rallies.

The hartal programme was announced yesterday evening following series of fierce clashes between the police and the BNP activists around the party's central office at Naya Paltan in the city that left scores injured.

The fresh agitation programme, announced from the second-floor balcony of the party office, also includes demonstration at the district and thana headquarters on

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Motijheel thana
OC, ASP sued
alleging attempt
on Khaleda's life

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party yesterday sued police for alleged attempt on the life of BNP chief and trespass on the party office, reports UNB.

BNP Office Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan filed two cases with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court accusing Motijheel thana OC Akhtaruzzaman, ASP Haider Yasin and others.

In one case, the policemen have been accused of making 'attempt to kill' BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and in another of storming the party office on September 18.

It was stated in the petition that on September 18 police lobbed teargas shell which exploded next to the flag-marked car of Begum Zia, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, in front of BNP central office at Motijheel.

Complainant Islam also stated the accused trespassed on the BNP office and broke furniture and "committed theft."

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Police, BNP men clash again: Scores injured, 85 arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police fired volleys of tear gas shells and rubber bullets and used water cannons and batons to prevent BNP supporters from staging a rally in front of the party office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday afternoon.

It turned the area and its neighbourhoods into a virtual battlefield for several hours as BNP supporters retaliated with rocks, home-made bombs, and Molotov cocktails leaving central Dhaka in chaos during the rush hour.

Police arrested 86 people on charge of rioting.

At least 25 people were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment. Most of them sustained rubber bullet wounds, other received clubs and stones on their hands. An

unspecified others received treatment at different clinics, BNP sources claimed.

At least eleven policemen were injured in the clashes, police said.

Two people, including a young rag picker and a woman aged about 35 were injured in explosion of home-made bombs earlier in the morning near the BNP office and at Chand Kha Pool. The causes of the blasts were not known.

Some people were also injured when unidentified persons hurled home-made bombs on a bus at Nilkhel and in Shahbagh area, police said.

Traffic moved at snails pace in a gridlock when police put up barbed wire barricades in Purna Paltan and Segunbagicha

areas in the early afternoon to prevent staging of rallies in front of the Jatiya Press Club and Paltan crossing. It's spillover effect continued late into the evening.

However, the Jamaat-e-Islami held a rally at Paltan crossing. Police did not prevent it from holding the rally but used batons and tear gas when its supporters tried to defy a ban on rallies and demonstrations in and around the Baitul Mukarram mosque at the end of the rally.

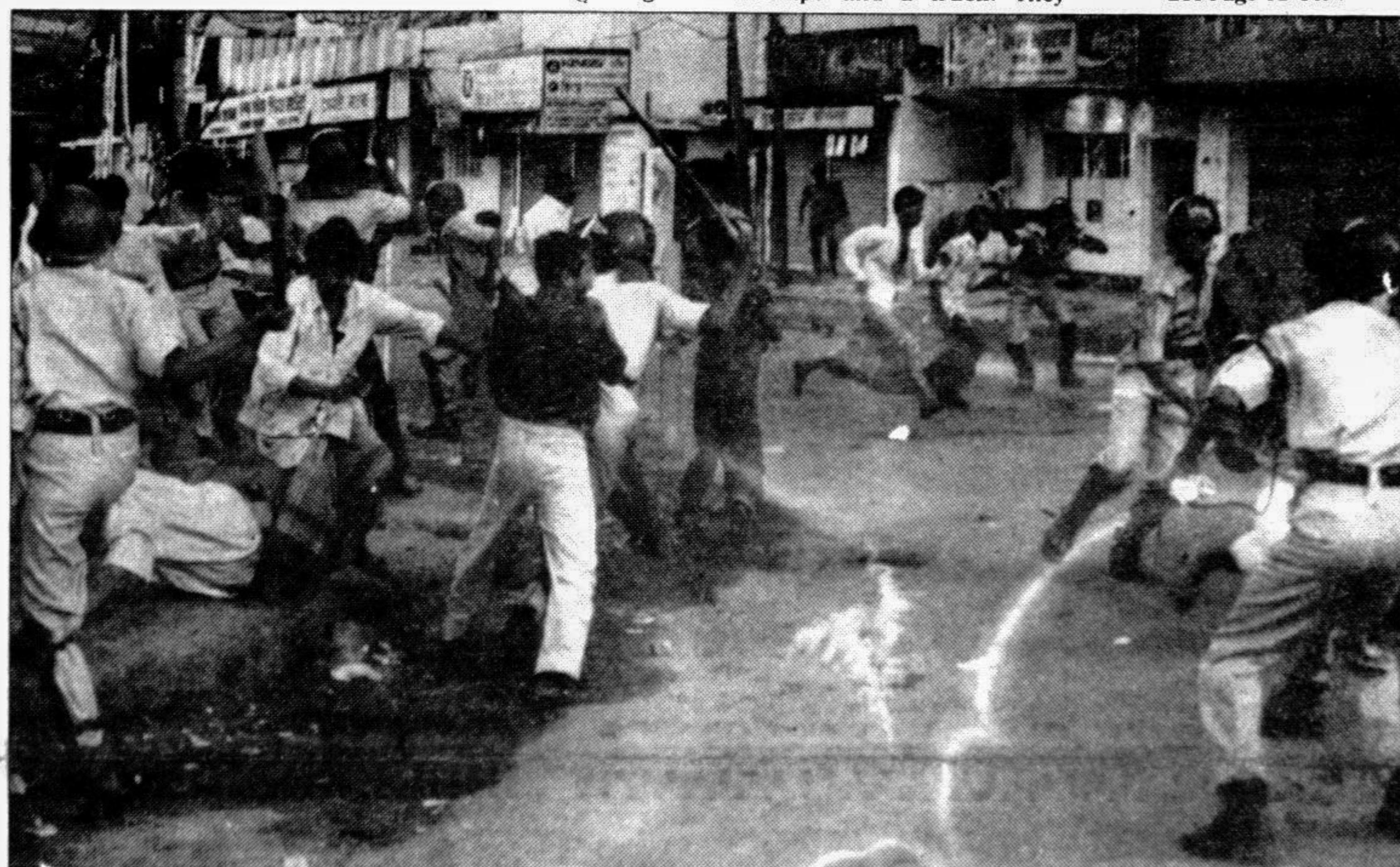
Sporadic violence continued late into the evening. Police played cat and mouse with the BNP supporters who took their wrath on vehicles; torching a police van, a BRTC bus, an auto-rickshaw and a truck. They

smashed windshields of 25 other vehicles and glass panes of a cinema hall, a hotel and damaged several shops and the Employment Exchange office at Kakrail. An office of Awami League at Segunbagicha was also ransacked by the BNP activists, police said. A micro-bus was set on fire at Road 27, Dhanmondi R/A, at 8.30 pm.

Earlier, extra police forces were deployed sealing the roads to the BNP office from Pakir-er-pool crossing to Kakrail crossing to prevent party loyalists from gathering for a planned demonstration to protest police action on Thursday and denounce ban on street rallies.

Trouble began at 4.30 pm

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Police dispersing BNP workers in Bijoynagar area in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

The Daily Star Roundtable JS probe report on Sheema's death 'politically motivated'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a Roundtable in the city yesterday bitterly criticised the Parliamentary Committee Report on the mysterious death of Sheema Chowdhury saying that it tried to suppress facts and evidences of the incident.

They also alleged that the Parliamentary Committee conducted a politically motivated probe into the case. They urged the members of Parliament to challenge the probe report in the House.

Sheema died in 'safe custody' in Chittagong jail in February this year.

The Roundtable organised by The Daily Star was participated by Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, Attorney General KS Nabi, Workers Party leader Rashed Khan Menon, Barrister Rabeya

R&H employees
begin 9-day
strike today

By Staff Correspondent

The Roads & Highways Department (R&HD) Engineers and Sramik Karmachari Oikya Forum yesterday called a nine-day strike across the

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While the Attorney General urged the women's rights activists to refrain from discussing the Sheema murder issue till the Supreme Court gives its verdict on an appeal in the case, the other speakers severely criticised the government for not pursuing the case seriously, and as one that symbolised violation of human rights by the law enforcing authorities.

The participants discussed in detail the parliamentary committee report and pointed out that it was 'full of ambiguity.'

They also questioned the system of 'safe custody' in jail saying that courts allow such safe custody of women although women were the worst victims of the law enforcing agencies.

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DU VC's office searched for terrorists !

By DU Correspondent

The office of the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, the lounge adjoining it and the Senate room of the university were searched by police and leaders of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday to apprehend an alleged terrorist belonging to a faction of the BCL, witnesses said.

Some activists of BCL led by its central committee leaders Iqbal Hossain Apu, Aminul Islam Ratan and Mossarrat Hossain came to the VC's office and claimed that Sada Senta, known as Sada Senta, a leader of the Gopalganj faction of the BCL came to the VC's office at around 2 pm.

But the VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury denied it. The BCL activists then wanted to search the VC's office. The VC locked all the gates of the administrative building leading to his office. Some 100 BCL activists then gathered there and

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Aid sought from donors to privatise SOEs

Allying fear about the future of the disinvestment programme, the Privatisation Board sought package assistance from the donors to carry out the scheme.

In a meeting with a group of donors' representatives in Dhaka yesterday, Privatisation Board Chairman Kazi Zafarullah stressed the need for developing a "package understanding" with donors for the success of the programme.

"We want that the donors make commitments in the next aid group meeting to assist our privatisation programme," he told UNB after the meeting that lasted more than an hour at the Board office.

Zafarullah said assistance from the donors was sought for three tasks — workers' retraining, public awareness programme and payment of liabilities, including workers legitimate claim of the mills to be privatised.

The response of the donors, who participated in the meet-

ing, was "by and large favourable," he said. He, however, informed that they were yet to calculate the cost of the three programmes.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) of the Finance Ministry will place the financial requirements for the programme in the Aid Club meeting to be held in Dhaka November 4-5, he said.

As per the rough estimate of the Board, retraining of each worker will require Tk 1 lakh to 140,000 while retaining cost Tk 4,000-5,000 each in two months.

Zafarullah led a four-member team in the meeting. The other members were Board Secretary Nasir Uddin, Additional Secretary SM Zakaria and Director (Planning) Sarwar Hosain.

The donor group comprised European Commission Ambassador Michael Drury, Canadian High Commissioner Nicholas Etheridge, French Ambassador See Page 12 Col 8

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad yesterday strongly criticised BNP's "destructive" agitation, but said his party will launch a constructive movement to resist the anti-people activities of the government, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally of the Jatiya Krishak Party in Dakhinkhan in the city, Ershad said BNP wants to go to power by unleashing destructive politics while Awami League wants to remain in the chair by any means.

"My party does not believe in politics of destruction ... we don't have any faith in hartal," he said, adding that Jatiya Party would not go for anarcho activities, rather build a con-

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Monajatuddin's
son allegedly
commits suicide

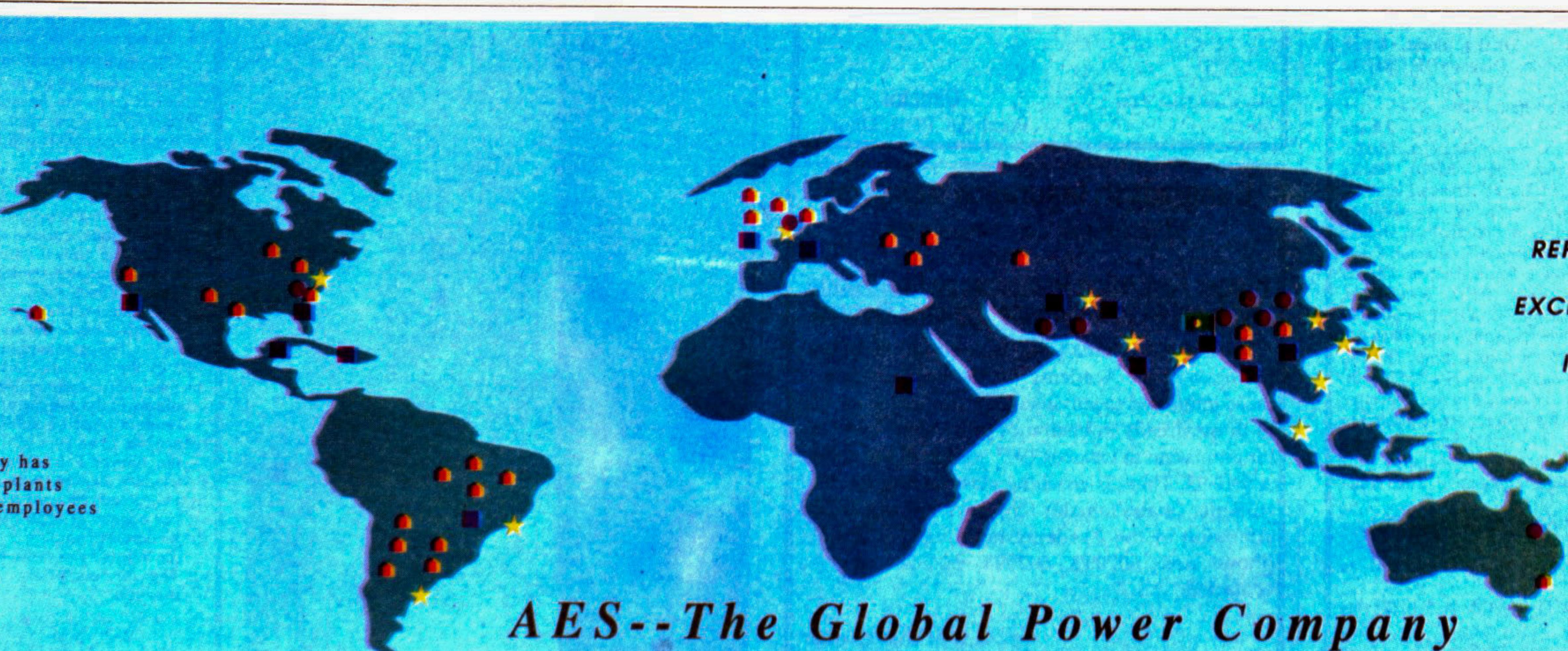
The only son of late journalist Monajatuddin allegedly committed suicide in his room at a BUET dormitory yesterday, reports UNB.

Campus sources said Abu Obaida M Zafar Sadiq was found hanging from a ceiling fan at room no. 107 of Rashid Hall at about 8 pm.

Sadiq was a third-year student of Electrical Department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and magazine secretary of Rashid Hall Students' Union. See Page 12 Col 5

AES currently has
75 operating plants
with 28,000 employees

AES--The Global Power Company



WE ARE

WHAT WE

REPEATEDLY DO.

EXCELLENCE, THEN,

IS NOT AN ACT,

BUT A HABIT.

-Aristotle