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List of cases against BNP men handed over to Home Minister

By Reaz Ahmad

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday handed over the list of 'political cases' against BNP lawmakers, leaders and workers to Home Minister Rafiqul Islam at the latter's office.

Nasim, a key negotiator of the ruling Awami League, had also telephonic conversation

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PARC recommendations submitted to PMO Steps for dynamic, accountable admin

By Shehab Ahmed

The Public Administration Reforms Commission (PARC) has come up with a set of recommendations to make the administration "dynamic, accessible and accountable to the people."

The recommendations, submitted to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) yesterday, outlined a number of steps suggesting modalities of citizen's right to get reply to their queries and grievances from government officials at all lev-

els. The Commission suggested that the recommendations be effective from early next year. A copy of the recommendations was obtained by *The Daily Star*.

It also suggested provisions for voluntary retirement by public servants after completing 20 years of service instead of 25 years with full benefits to help downsize the administration. This was also stressed by a previous reform committee, the Pay Commission Report, '97

and the World Bank.

Options for voluntary retirements after 15 years of service could also be taken by public servants with 64 per cent of pension and benefits, it said.

The commission mentioned the existing Secretariat manual which says, "A citizen or a party... within reasonable time, have the right to get necessary action (if required) and a decision on a letter to the government on any matter."

"In reality, with the excep-

tion of a few cases, ministries/departments or subordinate organisations do not honour the citizen's rights in this regard causing physical and mental harassment and monetary losses to the people, it said.

The existing rules clearly say that within two weeks of receipt of any communication from any quarter, the ministry/department would give a final decision.

If more information is re-

quired they would send a courtesy note, make telephone call or send a message by a messenger.

If it is not possible to take a decision within two weeks, a note should be sent in reply that the matter is under consideration of the government.

The administration's accountability to the people and its efficiency could have been increased manifold if such practices were observed, it noted.

The Commission recommended that henceforth every department/ministry, all government and autonomous bodies at all tiers will give a final decision on the subject matter of the letter.

If it is not possible to give a decision within two weeks, because of time needed for more information, discussion with higher authorities etc, the person or organisation should be given a reply that the matter is

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Modalities for Tk 200cr fund finalised

Foreign banks to provide loan for industries

By Inam Ahmed

The Bangladesh Bank has finalised modalities for a Tk 200 crore industrial development fund to be used by the foreign banks to boost term loans for the private sector.

"All foreign commercial banks will provide medium and long term loans to medium and large scale industries in addition to their present level of industrial financing," a BB circular said. To supplement this additional industrial credit, it has been decided that the Bangladesh Bank will provide refinancing to the financing banks.

The foreign banks will dis-

burse loans from their own resources and claim half of the amount disbursed as refinancing from the central bank. The banks will get the money from the BB at Bank rate.

The move to create the special fund was taken in October by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria amidst allegations by the businessmen that they are not getting long-term loans from banks.

As 50 per cent of the total loans will be provided from the special fund, the total amount to be invested under the special scheme will be Tk 400 crore.

"Once this fund takes off in a

good spirit, more money may be channelled through this scheme," a top finance ministry official told *The Daily Star* yesterday.

The central bank has stressed that loans from the special fund should be given on a priority basis to manufacturing industries in the private sector. Joint venture enterprises including local subsidiaries of international companies will also be eligible for this fund.

The refinancing to the foreign banks will be for a period of two to seven years, depending

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Pre-poll violence kills one in Gopalganj

From Our Correspondent

GOPALGANJ, Nov 10: One person was killed and 30 others injured in a clash between two rival groups campaigning for the union parishad polls at Jatukura village under Kasiani thana of Gopalganj district today.

Witnesses said both sides used lethal weapons during the clash between the supporters of UP chairman candidates Ratan Molla, a former chairman of the Puhshua Union Parishad, and incumbent chairman Enayet Hossain.

The dead was identified as Farid Ahmed Molla, 46. Of the injured, five were admitted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition. Five others were admitted to Kasiani thana health complex.

A case has been registered with Kasiani thana.

'Conspiracy on to disturb peace process in CHT'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday accused opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia of hatching conspiracy to disturb the peace process in Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

Referring to Begum Zia's frequent comment that the proposed peace accord would be a device to sell out the country, she said if peace means selling out the country, then "I want to know from her (Begum Zia) whether unrest and war bring peace."

Addressing a discussion meeting at Ramna Green in the city, marking the 10th death anniversary of Shaheed Noor

Hossain, Hasina said the party (Awami League) which liberated the country would never sell out the country.

"We'll shed our blood as in the past to protect the national independence and sovereignty," she said.

The Prime Minister said her (Begum Zia's) anti-Indian stance was nothing new, it was the same tune played by Ayub-Monem since 1954.

"When we're striving hard for economic progress and to ensure peace in the country, specially in the trouble-torn Chittagong Hill Tracts, she (Begum Zia) has brought up the

See page 2

Preparations for Sunday's CHT meet reviewed

By Special Correspondent

A high-level meeting yesterday reviewed preparations for the seventh round of peace talks between the Parbatya Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) beginning in the capital on Sunday.

The meeting chaired by NCCHT convenor Abul Hasna Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad, also reviewed the progress of the arrangements for repatriation of the tribal refugees from Tripura, likely to begin on November 21, officials said.

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Loadshedding to continue till middle of next year, JS told

There will be no loadshedding from middle of next year when about 1000 megawatt of electricity would be added to the existing generation, Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan informed Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a supplementary question from A B M Abul Kashem (Awami League-Chittagong), he said the government expects the newly generated electricity to be available from June-July next year.

The 1000 MW of new generation would come from the

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Two bills passed

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed two separate bills entitling the Speaker to another Assistant Private Secretary and an additional peon and the Chief Whip to an additional peon at their respective offices.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khashru placed the bills titled, The Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill, 1997 and the Bangladesh (Whips) (Amendment) Bills, 1997. Both the bills were placed in the House after scrutiny by

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Khaleda addresses public meeting at Ctg today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Chittagong Outer Stadium this afternoon, reports UNB.

The meeting has been organised by the Combined Opposition Parties on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Chittagong city BNP convenor Mir Nasiruddin will preside.

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Jute, textile workers put up rail, road barricades

By Staff Correspondent

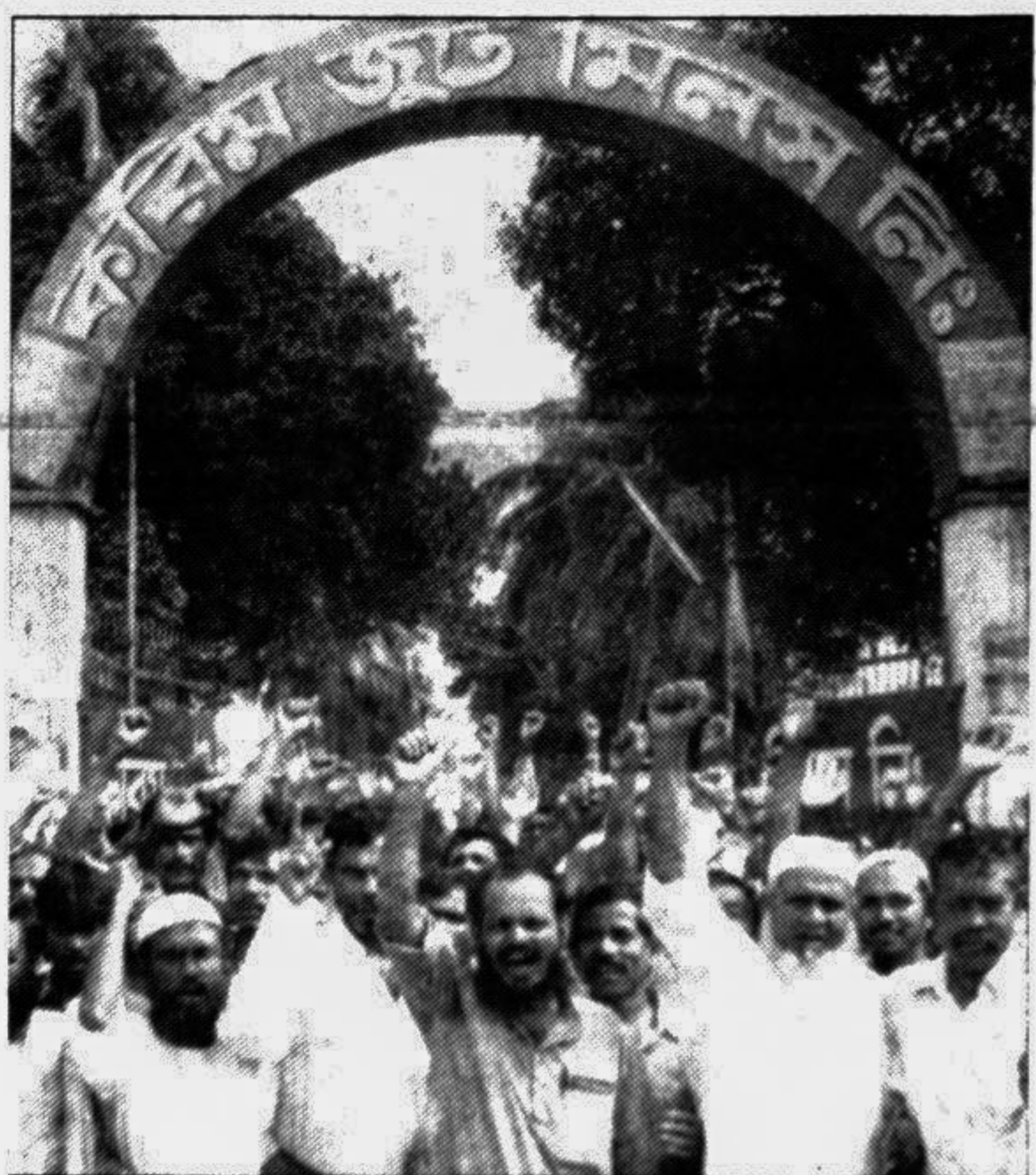
Train communication between Dhaka and some other districts including Chittagong were disrupted on the first day of the 48-hour industrial strike and barricade programme of the workers of jute, textile and cotton mills yesterday. Railway sources said.

Road communications on eight routes including Dhaka-Sylhet, Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Brahmanbaria, Dhaka-Kishoreganj, were disrupted as the workers put up barricades at different points.

Many jute, cotton and textile mills in both the public and private sectors remained closed yesterday. During the strike, the workers held small rallies in different industrial areas of the country.

According to a press release issued by the police headquarters, movements of road transport in parts of Chittagong, Comilla, Jessore and Khulna districts were partially disrupted. The workers created obstructions in the movement

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Workers and employees demonstrating in front of Karim Jute Mills at Demra on the first day of the 48-hour industrial strike yesterday, called by jute and textile workers. — Star photo

Dhaka keen to study draft of 'model nat'l law on refugees'

By Staff Correspondent

A South Asian conference on refugee issue began in the city yesterday with experts from the countries of the region putting their heads together for taking up future programmes to assist governments in addressing involuntary displacement.

The two-day conference titled "Fourth Regional Consultation on Refugee and Migratory Movements in South Asia" began at a city hotel under the auspices of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) with wide participation of 'eminent persons' groups (EPGs) who work closely with the UN body in their respective countries.

After the inaugural session in the morning, EPGs from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and host country Bangladesh discussed drafts of a 'Model National Law on Refugees' and a 'Regional Declaration on Refugees in South Asia'.

The conference is being held in Dhaka against the backdrop of no country in the South Asian region ratifying yet either the 1951 Refugee Conven-

tion' or the '1967 Protocol'. The region experienced many migratory movements including the Indo-Pakistan refugee flow in 1947 which was the largest international flow in world history.

In the opening session, Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad presented the key-note paper with Chief Justice A T M Afzal in the chair. UNHCR's Regional Director Dr Shamsul Bari made opening remarks while former head of the caretaker government Justice M Habibur Rahman addressed as guest of honour. Leader of Bangladesh EPG, Dr Kamal Hossain delivered the address of welcome. The session ended with a vote of thanks by W van Hovell, UNHCR Representative in Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Abdus

Samad Azad said, Bangladesh has been both "a country of origin and also a generous enough country for asylum." "We, therefore, have a clear perspective of the issue and all that it involves. We are not a party to the 1951 Refugee Convention or its 1967 Protocol. No country from South Asia has yet become a party," said the minister.

He said, "However, we do attach importance to both these documents and strive to ensure that our activities and attitude conform to their provisions. In particular, we respect the core aspects of the High Commissioner's mandate, namely asylum and the principle of non-refoulement."

The Foreign Minister showed keen interest in a draft 'model national legislation on

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ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে সরকারী খাতে সকল ধরনের জমা গ্রহণের জন্য ঢাকা শহরে সোনালী ব্যাংকের ২০টি শাখা

জনসাধারণের সুবিধার্থে সরকারী সিদ্ধান্ত মোতাবেক ঢাকা শহরে সোনালী ব্যাংকের নিম্ন-বর্ণিত ২০টি শাখায় ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে বিভিন্ন খাতের টাকা জমা নেয়া হচ্ছে।

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| ১। ফকিরাপুল শাখা | ১১। মোহাম্মদপুর বাজার শাখা |
| ২। বাত্রাবাড়ী শাখা | ১২। লালমাটির শাখা |
| ৩। গুলশান নিউ নর্থ সার্কেল শাখা | ১৩। বিকাতলা শাখা |
| ৪। মালিবাগ শাখা | ১৪। সোনারগাঁও রোড শাখা |
| ৫। সিলগাঁও শাখা | ১৫। মগবাজার শাখা |
| ৬। বাজড়া শাখা | ১৬। লালবাগ রোড শাখা |
| ৭। বনানী শাখা | ১৭। নবাবপুর রোড শাখা |
| ৮। ফার্মগেট শাখা | ১৮। ডিস্ট্রিক্ট কাউন্সিল হল শাখা |
| ৯। বোকেয়া স্বর্ণশী শাখা | ১৯। সদরঘাট কর্পোরেট শাখা |
| ১০। মিরপুর শিল্প এলাকা শাখা | ২০। বঙ্গবন্ধু এভিনিউ কর্পোরেট শাখা |

ট্রেজারী চালানের মাধ্যমে যারা সরকারী তহবিলে টাকা জমা দিতে ইচ্ছুক তাদেরকে সোনালী ব্যাংকের উল্লিখিত শাখাসমূহে লেনদেন চলাকালীন সময়ে এই সুবিধা গ্রহণের অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।



সোনালী ব্যাংক

সোনার বাংলায় সোনালী স্বপ্ন বাস্তবায়নে নিয়োজিত

PW-38 tells court

Betar officials were forced to broadcast news of killing at gunpoint

The 38th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu Murder Case yesterday described how army troops captured the radio station on August 15 morning and forced Betar officials at gunpoint to broadcast the news of President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's killing, reports UNB.

Pronob Chandra Roy also said the army personnel during the pre-dawn operation at Shahbagh radio centre disarmed police and Rakkhi Bahini guards and Major Dalim compelled the officials of Kalyanpur transmitter to go for operation.

Earlier in the day, PW-37 Reazul Haq during his cross-examination told the trial court that the movement of army in the radio station began on August 15, 1975. "They did not come to the radio station before," said the then radio engineer.

Beginning his deposition, the PW-38 said he was then a radio engineer at the Shahbagh broadcasting centre which had six studios and four booths. "Broadcasting any announcement is possible from the studios, controlled by the booths."

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Coaster hit by container ship sinks in Karnaphuli

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 10: One crew remained missing while eight others were rescued from the port channel tonight when a lighterage coaster sank after being hit by an outgoing container vessel, port sources said.

The port authorities continued a search operation at the port channel to find out the missing crew with the help of patrol boats.

Port sources said a private coaster Badura-1 collided head on with the outgoing Singapore registered container ship Kota Bintang at the river mouth of Karnaphuli at around 8 pm tonight.

As a result, the private coaster carrying cement cargo from a mother vessel at the outer anchorage, sank in the port

channel immediately, port officials said. Patrol boats from the port were sent to the spot, rescuing eight out of nine crew members of the sunken coaster.

The ship movement at port channel was suspended after the accident, port officials said. On the other hand, the container ship Kota Bintang was detained by the port authorities at the outer anchorage for its involvement in the accident.

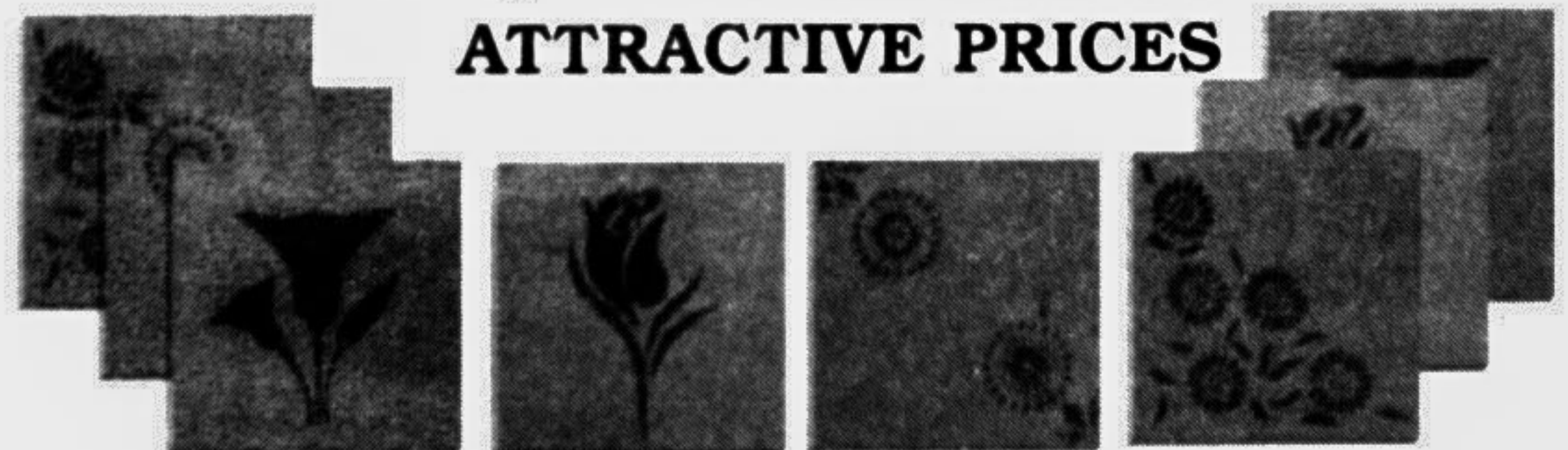
An enquiry committee is expected to be formed tomorrow to find out the cause of accident, they said.

Besides, a survey has been started to locate the sunken coaster, for its salvage operation later, port sources said.

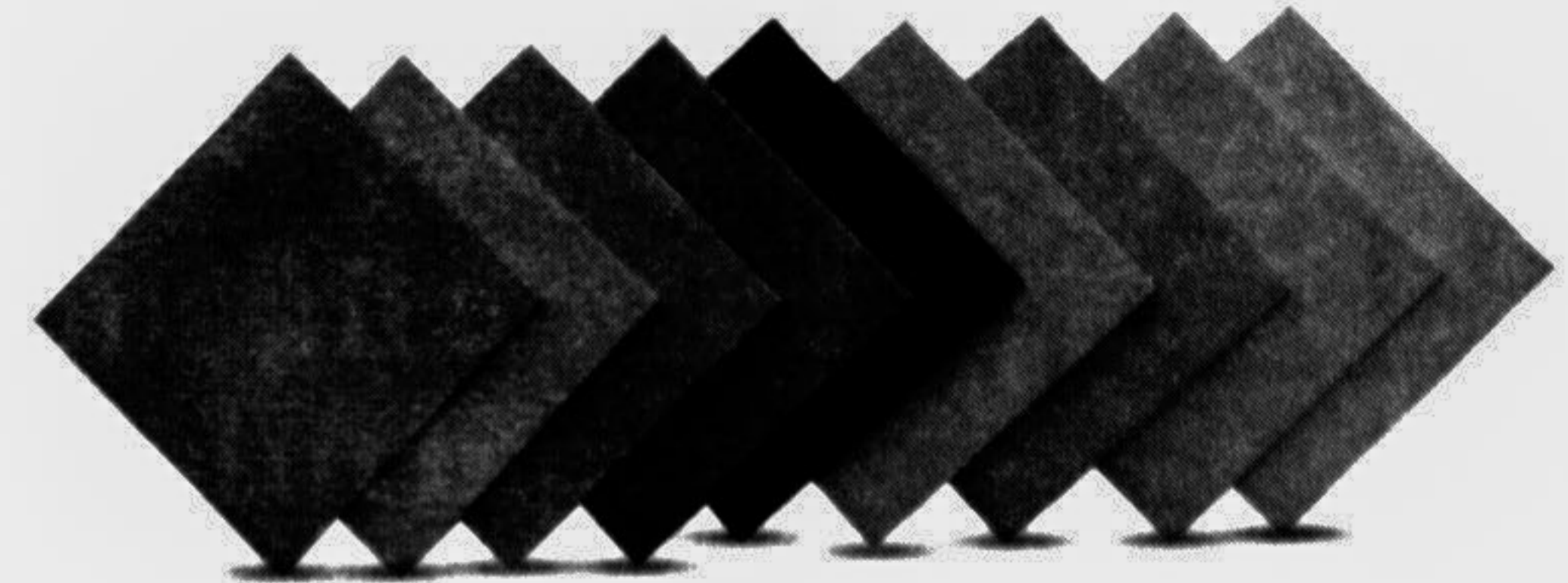
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